

# The Shortest Distance Between Two Points is a Zigzag<sup>1</sup>

Exodus 13:17-22

There are times when God deliberately takes us on a zigzag path. It may not make sense at the time, but in hindsight we can see what God was doing. During the Exodus, God led Israel in the opposite direction of where they should logically go.

- Israel was not prepared for a straight line route (13:17).
  - They needed other experiences God had planned.
  
- God knows that sometimes we are not yet prepared for his plan.
  - God will grow us gradually until we are ready (Exodus 23:27-30).
  
- God provides encouragement along the way. He reminds us of his good intentions through his:
  - Providence – “God will surely visit you” (13:19).
  
  - Promises – “God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob” (Genesis 50:24-25).
  
  - Presence – “the LORD went before them” (13:21-22).
  
  - Provision – “to lead them along the way . . . to give them light” (13:21).

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<sup>1</sup> Title and outline borrowed by permission from Dr. Donald Sunukjian