

Timeline of Truth – God Leads Israel Out – Part 1 (Exodus 13:17 – 14:31)

<p>¹⁷ Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them <i>by</i> way of the land of the Philistines, although that <i>was</i> near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ So God led the people around <i>by</i> way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Archaeology further confirms that this northern route was heavily garrisoned by Egypt.</i></p>	<p>1. God Leads Israel Out the Long Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God led the people a longer way • God gives a reason why He led as He did • God allows problems & difficulties on purpose • God sees all the obstacles we cannot see* • God leads for our benefit (#Joseph) • God knows what He's doing (we may not know) • God allows only what we can handle (1 Cor 10:13) • God may lead away from the obvious (Prov 3:5-6)
<p>¹⁹ And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you."</p>	<p>2. God Fulfilled Joseph's Prophecy & Wish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God will surely visit you • Carry my bones with you when you leave
<p>²⁰ So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness.</p>	<p>3. Israel Continues to Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journeyed from Succoth • Camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness
<p>²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.</p> <p>²² He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night <i>from</i> before the people.</p>	<p>4. God Leads Israel by Day & Night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's presence is His leading (As long as God is there, don't worry about when to "move" – God will make that evident when the time comes) • God "goes ahead" of us, knowing/preparing the way • God leading is not invisible, or hidden • God's leading concerns the present – He normally doesn't give us long term details of where/what/how He wants us to go [illustration of thick fog driving to FBBC one morning – couldn't see 5 feet in front of the car, but upon looking up, could see the stars!] – "Take no thought for tomorrow..." • God's leadership is continual, night and day • God's leading will match your need (light by night)
<p>^{14:1} Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. ³ "For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' ⁴ "Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I <i>am</i> the LORD." And they did so.</p>	<p>5. God Reveals His Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-4 – God will sometimes let us in on His plans [don't, then, be surprised!] "with great tribulation enter the kingdom" • 2 – Appearing confused (south, then north again) • 3 – God uses military "psy-ops" – deception • 4 – God's further strategy to glorify Himself • 4 – Obedience is key
<p>⁵ Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"</p>	<p>6. Pharaoh Changes His Mind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ungodly will not respond logically, but sinfully, and selfishly
<p>⁶ So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. ⁷ Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. ⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness.</p>	<p>7. Pharaoh Pursues with His Army</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharaoh himself • 600 chariots • All the chariots of Egypt & captains • God hardened Pharaoh's heart • Pharaoh pursues Israel • Israel moves out with boldness