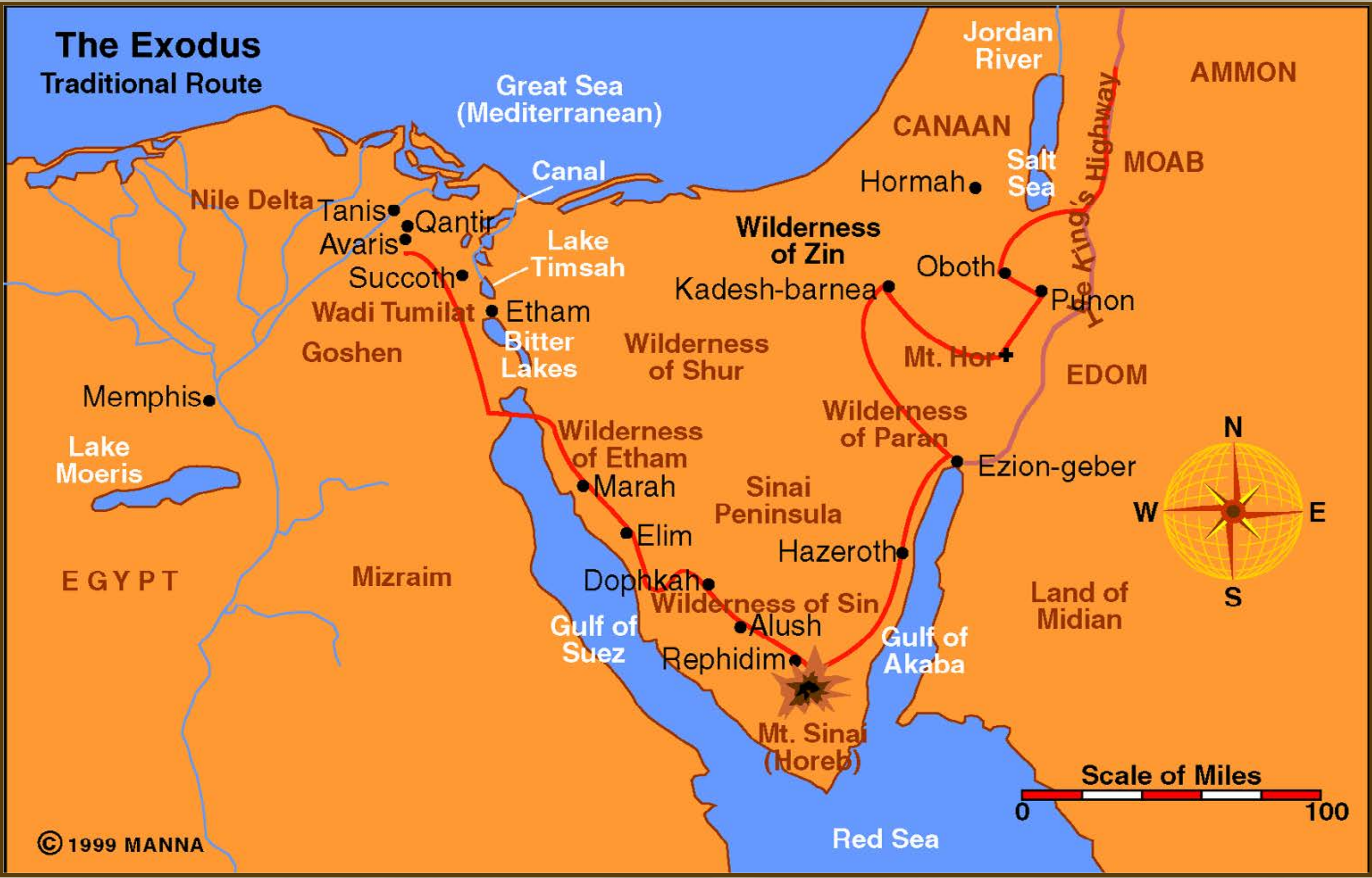


Crossing to Life

PASTOR MIKE YODER • EXODUS 13-14

**When God Takes the
Circuitous Route (13:17–14:4)**

The Exodus Traditional Route



It was not the most obvious way. It was not the shortest way. It was not the most direct way. But it was the best way because it was God's way.

Philip Ryken

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

The whole thing was a ruse. God was tricking the Egyptians into thinking that the Israelites had no idea what they were doing. This would entice them to press what seemed to be their strategic advantage. But once Pharaoh attacked, his army would be destroyed. Then it would be obvious to everyone that God had planned the whole thing...that the glory of the victory belonged to Him alone.

Philip Ryken

“And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” So the Israelites did this.

The purpose of this was not merely to provide additional frustration for the Israelites, but to provide an occasion by which God could demonstrate His own sovereignty to the Egyptians and illustrate the ability of God to care for His people.

John Davis

**When You're Between a Rock
and a Hard Place (14:5-18)**

Pharaoh is a classic example of the real nature of unbelief. Few, if any, have been exposed in a more direct way to God's miraculous power; what else would be needed to prove to him that Jehovah was God? But his unbelief was not intellectual; it was moral.

Tom Julien

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord.

They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?”

“Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians?’ It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

[This] provides a classic instance of what is now called “recovered memory.” When hardship is encountered, the miserable past suddenly looks like the good old days. The Israelites were simply thinking the way most people think of the past when the present seems unbearable.

Douglas Stuart

Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.”

Exodus 14:13

“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Exodus 14:14

“Be still” doesn’t mean you can abdicate responsibility and do nothing. It means you take responsibility for what is your responsibility — but that you leave the rest to God. Our problem is often that we take responsibility for what is not our responsibility.

Tim Chester

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

**When God Does the
Impossible (14:19–31)**

If you have problems believing that God could save His people by supernatural means, then you have issues with the creation, the incarnation, the resurrection, and more.

The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen — the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

*That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians,
and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore.*

Exodus 14:30

And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in Him and in Moses His servant.

*By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land;
but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.*

Hebrews 11:29

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.

They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

1 Corinthians 10:2

The story of the Red Sea crossing is a reminder to every believer that God is fully capable of completing His purposes and plans for those who have committed themselves to Him.

John Davis

Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

*Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare
His praise?*

Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.

Psalm 106:3

We have sinned, even as our ancestors did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly.

When our ancestors were in Egypt, they gave no thought to Your miracles; they did not remember Your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.

Yet He saved them for His name's sake, to make His mighty power known.

He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; He led them through the depths as through a desert.

He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy He redeemed them.

The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived.

Psalm 106:11

Then they believed His promises and sang His praise.

**When God seems most baffling
and life seems most challenging,
prepare to stand and be amazed.**