



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

THE LONG WAY



MY BROTHER-IN-LAW LOVES TO TRAVEL THE BACKROADS. HE PURPOSELY AVOIDS QUICKER ROUTES IN FAVOR OF THE SERENE AND SCENIC COUNTRY LANES. NOT ME. I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE FASTEST WAY TO GET WHERE I'M GOING.

INTERESTINGLY WE READ IN EXODUS 13:17-18, "NOW WHEN PHARAOH HAD LET THE PEOPLE GO, GOD DID NOT LEAD THEM BY THE WAY OF THE LAND OF THE PHILISTINES, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NEAR; FOR GOD SAID, "THE PEOPLE MIGHT CHANGE THEIR MINDS WHEN THEY SEE WAR, AND RETURN TO EGYPT." HENCE GOD LED THE PEOPLE AROUND BY THE WAY OF THE WILDERNESS TO THE RED SEA; AND THE SONS OF ISRAEL WENT UP IN MARTIAL ARRAY FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT." [NASB] GOD SENT ISRAEL TO THE PROMISED LAND VIA THE LONG WAY. THINK WITH ME FOR A MOMENT ABOUT WHY THE LONG WAY WAS BETTER.

THE FIRST REASON FOR THE LONG WAY IS STATED IN THE TEXT JUST CITED. GOD DIDN'T WANT HIS PEOPLE TO QUIT WHEN THEY WOULD EXPERIENCE WAR AND RESISTANCE. THE EASIEST THING FOR THEM TO HAVE DONE IN THAT CASE WAS TO RETURN TO EGYPT AND NEVER AGAIN ENJOY FREEDOM. SOMETIMES THE LONG WAY HELPS US KEEP GOING.

ANOTHER REASON FOR THE LONG WAY WAS SO THAT GOD'S PEOPLE WOULD SEE HIS SALVATION. WHEN THEY GET TO THE RED SEA A DAY OR TWO AFTER LEAVING EGYPT, THEY BEGIN TO WORRY AND FRET THAT THE PURSUING EGYPTIAN ARMY WILL INDEED TAKE THEM CAPTIVE ONCE AGAIN. HOWEVER IT WAS THROUGH THE RED SEA THAT GOD DELIVERED ISRAEL AND IN THE RED SEA THAT THE ENEMY ARMY DIED! (SEE EXODUS 14:13-28).

THE GLORY OF GOD WAS REVEALED BY ISRAEL TAKING THE LONG WAY. EXODUS 14:31 STATES THAT WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE SAW HIS GREAT POWER THEY FEARED AND BELIEVED IN THE LORD. SHORTCUTS CAN BYPASS GOD'S BLESSINGS AND DIMINISH OUR AWE OF HIM.

IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD, HE SENT HIS PEOPLE THE LONG WAY. WHEN THINGS GOT TOUGH AND THE PEOPLE WERE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY GOD PROVIDED. IN THE WILDERNESS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER GAVE HIS PEOPLE MANNA AND MEAT (EXODUS 16:3-18) AS WELL AS WATER (EXODUS 17:1-7).

WE DARE NOT GRUMBLE AND COMPLAIN WHEN GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS ALLOW US TO CRUISE THROUGH LIFE ON THE INTERSTATES. THERE'S VALUE IN THE PATH LESS TRAVELED, THE WINDING BUT COMFORTING COUNTRY ROADS. LET'S SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE LONG WAY.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE