

# Exodus 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

## Analysis

The alternative route 'led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea' seems indirect but serves purposes—testing, training, revealing dependence on God. The phrase 'the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt' has ambiguous Hebrew ('chamushim,' חֲמֻשִׁים) meaning either 'armed' or 'organized by fifties.' Either way, it indicates order, not chaos. Wilderness path produces dependence that prosperity route wouldn't.

## Historical Context

The Red Sea route through the Sinai wilderness avoided immediate military conflict but presented logistical challenges—water, food, travel. This wilderness became Israel's training ground.

## Related Passages

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How has God's 'indirect' path in your life served purposes that a direct route wouldn't accomplish?
2. What does the wilderness route teach about spiritual formation requiring dependence rather than self-sufficiency?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּעֵד יְהֹוָה אַתָּה יִמְלֹךְ  
about But God H853 the people through the way of the wilderness sea

מִן־אֶרְצֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי יִצְחָמֵשׁ יָמִים וּמִן־  
of the Red harnessed went up and the children of Israel out of the land

מִצְרַיִם  
of Egypt

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 14:2** (References Israel): Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

**Deuteronomy 32:10** (Parallel theme): He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.