GPS—God's Positioning System

(Exodus 13:17–22 KJV)

*17And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:18But 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.19And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.20And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness.21And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:22He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.*

(Exodus 14:21-23 KJV)

*21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen*.

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ave you've ever felt that in this life you were traveling in the wrong direction? You've made every step possible to get things on the right track, but without further a due things seem to get worse, wider, and worrisome. If the true is told many of us have had many sleepless night as we rocked and reeled—like a drunken man behind a steering wheel who's also blind folded trying to get home. My brothers and sisters be honest, our lives sometimes feel like a pocket turned inside out, and sometimes we feel like we're upside down with no sense of direction. Well if perhaps we are headed in the wrong direction—authentically we must blame ourselves because our spiritual equilibrium is totally out of sync with God GPS.

We all should be familiar with the GPS, its acronyms means (Global Positioning System) whenever you're traveling and you want to make sure you find your way, you just program your destination and follow the direction on the screen or voice navigation to your desired location. I must inform you that all GPS'S are not accurate. Sometime along the way you'll get lost and have to stop to ask directions that the GPS system won't provide or even pullout a road map. There may be road construction and detours along the way and the route may change but, if you're determined to make it to your destination—you'll make it if you try. So, today I want to introduce you to God's GPS system that'll never fail you!

When it seem as if life is failing you, I want you to remember that life is like a long road trip and to successfully navigate through our years we each need trustworthy guidance. Let me put it this way—life is full of multiple decisions that make our days feel like potholes in the road, one after another and we need help in knowing which way we should go. Here's an example, when we were young, we wanted to know where to go to college and what major to enroll in when we get there.  We wanted to know what career was in line with the good work God had prepared in advance for us to accomplish. Then later we wanted guidance as to who to marry as well as direction when it comes to raising children. We wanted wisdom to help us know how to deal with life’s trials and tribulations. The fact is, we all need guidance in life on a consistent basis. And sometimes it's hard find the straight and narrow one.

Our text and theological research is dealing with the beginning of the exodus from Egypt. The plagues were over and Pharaoh had agreed to let the people go from Bondage to Freedom. The heart of Canaan the promise land was a few hundred miles north. And, it would be a long and difficult journey for the people of God.

It would appear that God would have lead the people as straight to Canaan as possible, but He chose a much different route. The closest distance in God's economy isn't always the best. These verses reveal God's plan for the trip. It reveals several principles that are relevant to the journey that we are on. So, I would like to preach on the thought: GPS- God's Positioning System. As we consider God's GPS there are several aspects that we must recognize.

1. **The Fundamentals of the Detour:**

If you notice the text you should visualize that God is preparing Israel for a much needed detour. After Israel departure from Egypt under the rule of Pharaoh who has decided to release them from bondage to freedom—God led them not through the way of the land of Philistia, although that was near them for a quick escape. God decided as the infinite to deal with the finite by planning a route that required sacrifice and obedience.