

Exodus 13:17-14:31

Leaving Egypt & crossing the Red Sea

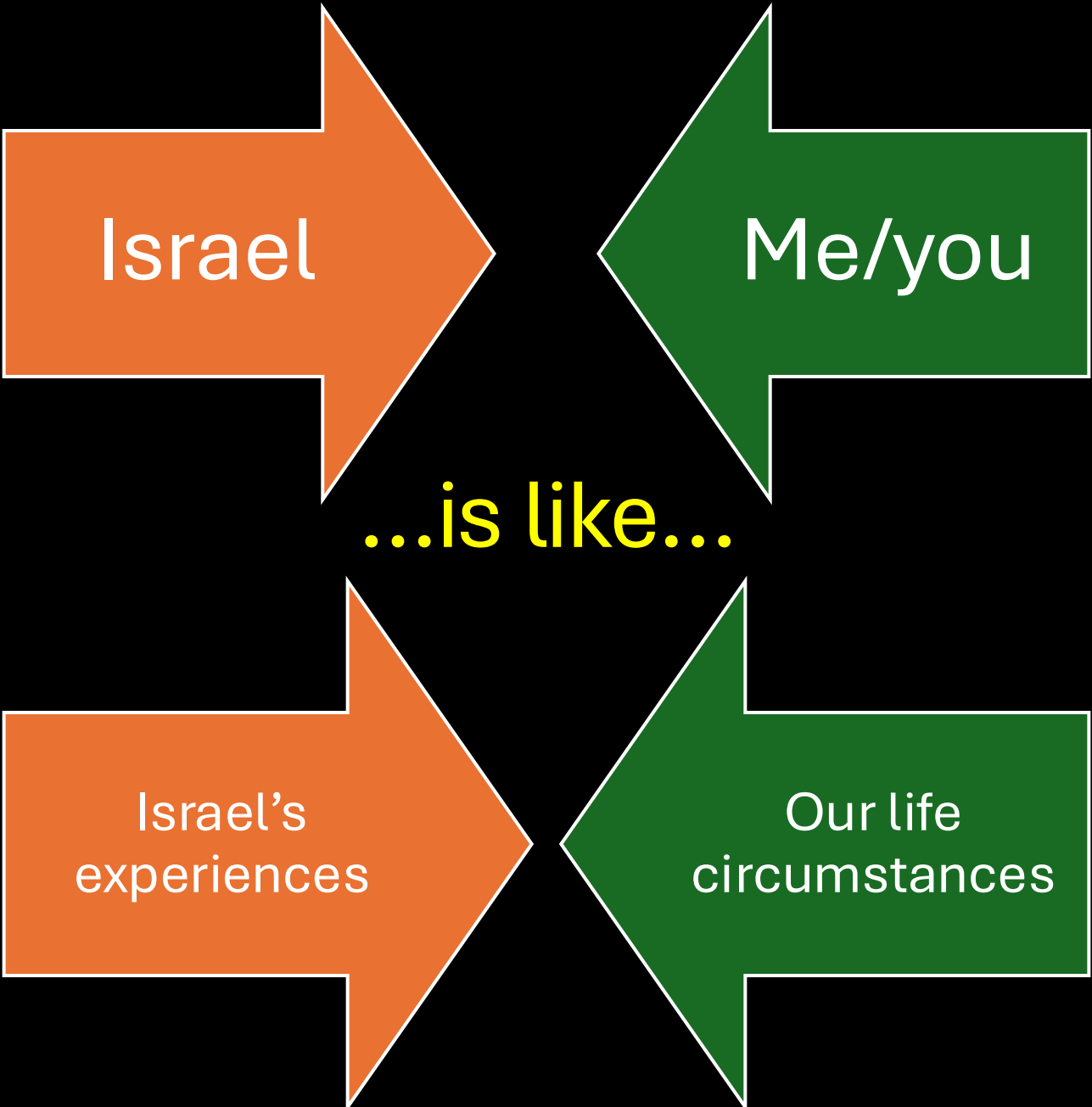
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How do we **learn** from this?

- What might God want to **say** to us through this passage?





The diagram consists of two rows of arrows pointing towards a central text. The top row features an orange arrow pointing right from the left and a green arrow pointing left from the right. The bottom row features an orange arrow pointing right from the left and a green arrow pointing left from the right. The central text is yellow and reads "...is like...".

Israel

Me/you

...is like...

Israel's
experiences

Our life
circumstances

How do we **learn** from the bible?

In sermons & studies, often by **Inductive study**:

- **Observation**
 - What does it say?
- **Interpretation**
 - What did it mean? What does it mean?
- **Application**
 - How does it affect my life?

(c.f. how can the bible change us,
e.g. in meditation, Lectio Divina, etc.)

How do we apply it to our lives?

For example¹ by identifying:

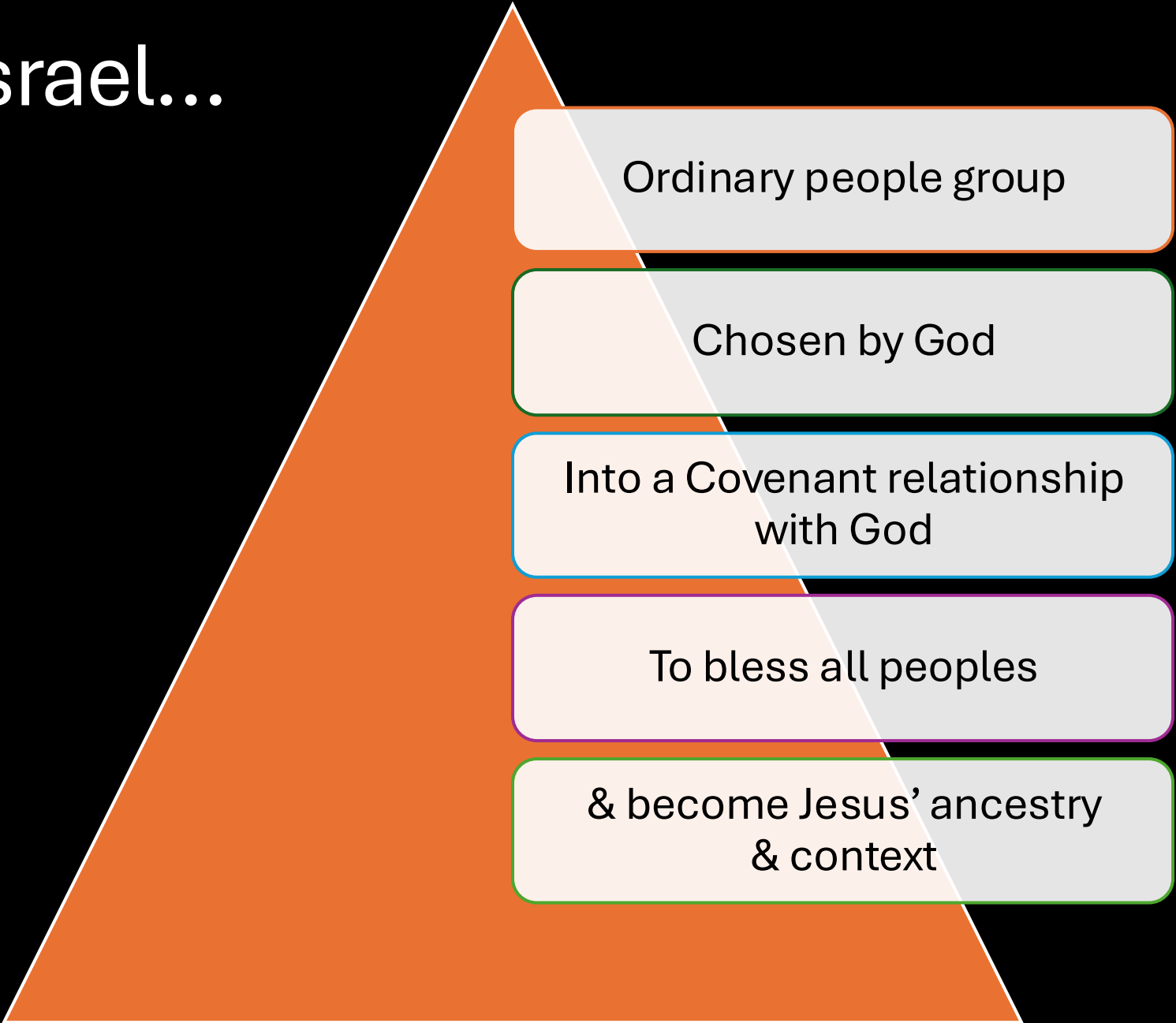
1. Direct commands
2. General truths
3. Direct analogy
 - analogous judgements
4. **Indirect analogy**
 - analogous moral examples
5. **Indirect extension**
 - understanding God & yourself within a bigger story

The map is not the territory



¹<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-ways-to-read-the-bible-for-personal-application/>

Israel...



Ordinary people group

Chosen by God

Into a Covenant relationship
with God

To bless all peoples

& become Jesus' ancestry
& context

Some analogies:

Israel

Ordinary

Chosen

To bless

Ancient tribal
state

Don't know
Jesus

Often fails

Me/you

Ordinary

Chosen

To bless

Contemporary
Individual

Do know Jesus

Often fails

Church

Ordinary

Chosen

To bless

"Body"

Do know Jesus

Often fails

Jesus

Appears
Ordinary

Chosen /
incarnate

To bless

God incarnate

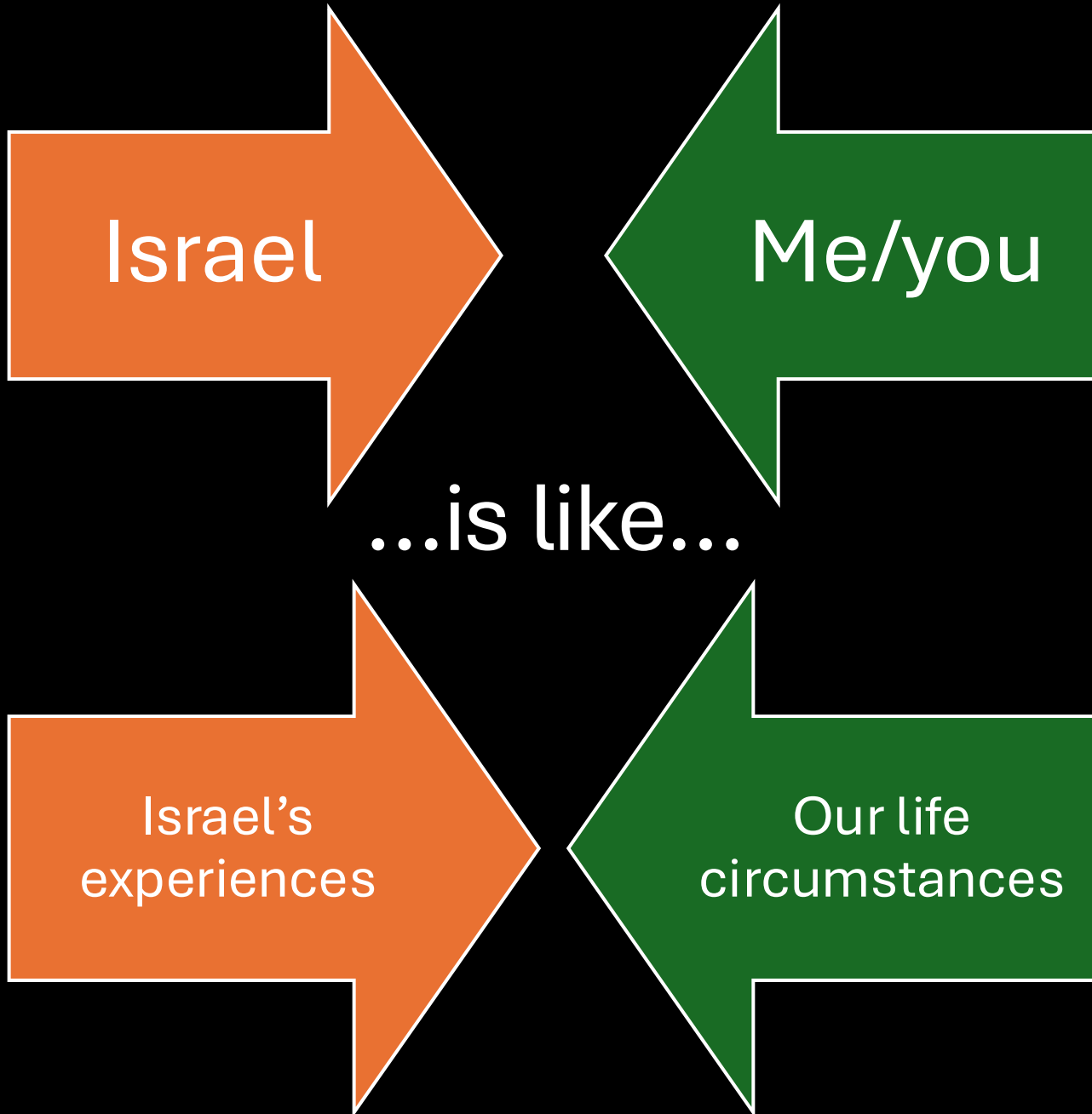
"In the Father"

Triumphs,
unexpectedly

Some Old Testament Challenges

- God is working with a **tribal nation**
 - Which does (and has to do) the things tribal nations do
- In a largely **pagan world** context
 - Which isn't often described but is generally “worse”
- Passed down & written **by the Israelites** themselves
 - Who have a less clear view of God (i.e. **no Jesus** revelation)
 - Sometimes self-serving
- But documents their **failures** as well as their **successes**
 - Descriptive,
not always
normative (right)





Israel's journey...



Go the long way round...

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God **did not lead** them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was **shorter**. For God said, “If they face **war**, they might change their minds and **return** to Egypt.” ¹⁸ So God led the people around by the **desert road** toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt **ready for battle**.



Double back...

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Tell the Israelites to **turn back** and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. ³Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are **wandering** around the land in **confusion**, **hemmed in** by the desert.’



Panic!

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites **looked up**, and there were the **Egyptians**, marching after them. They were **terrified** and **cried out** to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no **graves** in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to **die**?”



Israel's difficult journey...

- Going the **long way** round...
 - They think they are ready... But they aren't.
- Doubling **Back**...
 - An option that seemed impossible is back on the agenda
- **Panic!**
 - Can't see any way forward & want to go back
- Sound familiar?!



Our journey...

- Isn't always what we **expected**
 - Doesn't go as planned
- Sometimes life "**fails**"
 - and goes "backward"
- Sometimes **overwhelms** us
- But...
 - "And we know that in all things **God works** for the **good** of those who love him...." Rom.8:28
 - "I [God] will **repay** you for the **years** the locusts have eaten" Joel 2:25



Just one side of the coin...



Israel



God

Accompanied by God

²¹ By day **the LORD** went ahead of them in a **pillar of cloud** to **guide** them on their way and by night in a **pillar of fire** to give them **light**, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place **in front of the people**.



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Protected by God's presence

¹⁹ Then the **angel of God**, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went **behind** them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming **between the armies** of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought **darkness** to the **one side** and **light** to the **other side**; so neither went near the other all night long.



God makes a way

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night **the LORD** drove the **sea** back with a strong east wind and turned it into **dry land**. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites **went through** the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.



God's presence with Israel...

- **Accompanied** by God
 - God is with them in the fire the cloud
- **Protected** by God's presence
 - God “stands” between them and adversity
- God makes a **way**
 - Where there was no way



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God's presence with us...

- In the **ordinary stuff** of life
 - Less obvious than a pillar of fire or cloud...
 - E.g. discerning through **prayer of Examen**
- In the **challenges** of life
 - E.g. in and through the **Church** & others
 - E.g. intercession & petition, **contemplative prayer**
- In **impossible** situations
 - Sometimes in this life...
 - ...but sometimes in the **life of the age to come**
 - (e.g.)



Back to Israel...



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They learn to trust God (a bit)

³¹ 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.



Can we **trust God** a bit more?

That in spite of...

- Going the **long way** round
- Doubling **back**
- **Panicking!**

We are...

- **Accompanied** by God => look for God
- **Protected** by God's presence => have courage
- And God makes a **way** => have hope
 - Now... and for the age to come

