

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah; Exodus 13:21-22

- I. Guide
  - a. There are guides for just about everything
    - i. Self-help guides
    - ii. Tour guides (maps to the celebrities in Hollywood)
    - iii. "A person who explains points of interest" Merriam-Webster's
  - b. Merriam-Webster's also defines guide as, a person who directs another's conduct or course of life
    - i. Our self-help guide, our life guide
    - ii. The Great I AM is also the one who is our guide
  - c. "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (YHWH)

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- II. I Am Weak
  - a. "I am weak, but Thou are mighty, hold me with Thy powerful hand"
  - b. If you start reading Genesis 1:1, it doesn't take long to see how weak we are
    - i. Only three chapters in and they fail the only command that God gave them, do not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden
    - ii. The very next chapter detail Cain's failure with his brother, Abel
      - 1. "An offering of the fruit of the ground" versus "the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions"
      - 2. Exodus 13:11–12 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> "When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup> you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD'S.
      - 3. Proverbs 3:9 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
      - 4. This is a concept that God desired(s) no matter what covenant humanity is under
      - 5. God gives him an opportunity to repent, but Cain refuses
      - 6. So, Cain kills his brother
    - iii. We get six chapters into Genesis and the whole world is wicked
    - iv. Genesis 6:5–6 (ESV) <sup>5</sup> The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

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- c. God spends the rest of the Old Testament (through Malachi) showing us how weak we are, but how gracious, merciful, and kind He is
  - i. God raises up Judges to guide Israel back to Him
  - ii. Judges 2:18–19 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. <sup>19</sup> But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going

after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

- iii. God raises up prophets to guide Israel back to Him
- iv. Jeremiah 1:4–5 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

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- d. God did not point out our weakness from spite or enmity, quite the opposite
- e. He continually pointed out our weakness to show us our need for Him and His Savior
- f. “Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more”

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### III. Pillars

- a. “Let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey though”
- b. Exodus 13:21–22 (ESV) <sup>21</sup> And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. <sup>22</sup> The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.
- c. The Lord delivered Israel from Egyptian slavery and then led them to the promised land
  - i. Nehemiah 9:18–19 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and had committed great blasphemies, <sup>19</sup> you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go.
  - ii. God started at the exodus, continued through the golden calf into the wilderness for 40 years
  - iii. Even in their weakness, God did not forsake them, but guided them on to the promised land

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- d. God guides (directs our conduct and our course of life) us through our weaknesses and into His strength
  - i. The Scriptures (He has given us) are our pillars of cloud and fire
  - ii. 2 Thessalonians 2:13–15 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.
  - iii. The Scriptures guide us (directs our conduct and our course of life)
  - iv. 2 Timothy 3:14–17 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is

breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- v. We can always find the answer to, “What do we do?”
- vi. 2 Peter 1:19–21 (ESV)<sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,<sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.<sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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- e. The Scriptures point us to our strength and shield
- f. “Strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield

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#### IV. Anxiety

- a. “When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside”
- b. An abnormal and overwhelming sense of apprehension and fear often marked by physiological signs (as sweating, tension, and increased pulse), by doubt concerning the reality and nature of the threat, and by self-doubt about one’s capacity to cope with it<sup>1</sup>

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- c. We can sometimes find it very difficult to deal with life
  - i. “I don’t want to adult today”
  - ii. We get anxious about providing for our families and ourselves
    - 1. Do I have enough to make the rent and car payment?
    - 2. Is there enough to put food on the table?
  - iii. We get anxious about sick relatives
  - iv. You can add anything else you like, there is no complete list
- d. God tells us not to be anxious
  - i. Matthew 6:25 (ESV)<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”
  - ii. Jesus tells us that God feeds the birds and clothes the grass and we are so much more important than them
  - iii. Being anxious will not add one minute to our lives
  - iv. Matthew 6:31–33 (ESV)<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’<sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

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- e. We are to rejoice in our trials, in our suffering

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<sup>1</sup> Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

- f. We are to give thanks to God in our trials, in our suffering
- g. “Songs of praises I will ever sing to Thee”

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V. Guide Me

- a. “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
  - i. The hymn describes the experience of God's people in their travel through the wilderness from the escape from slavery in Egypt, being guided by a cloud by day and a fire by night to their final arrival forty years later in the land of Caanan. During this time their needs were supplied by God, including the daily supply of manna.
  - ii. The hymn text forms an allegory for the journey of a Christian throughout their life on earth requiring the Redeemer's guidance and ending at the gates of Heaven and end of time.
- b. There are so many who would claim to be our guide through life
- c. Cling to the one who can lead us “through this barren land”