

He Will Be Our Guide

"He will be our guide even unto death." – **Psalm 48:14**

Summary:

Believers are like strangers and pilgrims journeying through this world's wilderness, yet they are never without guidance. God knows the entire path, wisely chooses for His people, communicates through Scripture, listens to their prayers, and meets all their needs. His strength shields them from harm, His patience endures their weaknesses, and His constant faithfulness guarantees He will never abandon them. He leads them not only until death, but through its dark valley and into His presence.

Outline:

1. The believer's pilgrimage

God's people are travelling through the wilderness of this world toward their heavenly home.

2. The Guide's perfect knowledge

Though travellers do not know the road, God sees the end from the beginning and cannot mistake their way.

3. Fellowship and provision on the journey

The Lord hears prayer, opens the Scriptures, and supplies every need in every circumstance.

4. Protection and unfailing patience

God defends his people, bears with their weakness, and never abandons those committed to his care.

5. **Guidance through death**

The Lord remains with believers through the final valley and receives them safely into his presence.

Text

This reassurance resonates with our experience and emotions. We are like strangers and pilgrims on earth, similar to the Jews in the wilderness; we are not in Egypt, nor in Canaan, but traveling from one to the other. We have been freed from our natural state, but before reaching glory, we must pass through this desert world, a perilous and exhausting journey.

Just as the Jews were not alone but had a guide, we also have one: "This God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even to death."

He is perfectly suited and exceptionally qualified for this position! During a journey, the traveler does not need to know the path, but the guide must be familiar with it. Once the guide is well-versed and we trust him, we can be assured even if we do not understand ourselves. Abraham left without knowing his destination but trusted in the one guiding him. Similarly, Job, after questioning and feeling confused about his circumstances, finds comfort in the thought: "But he knoweth the way that I take."

"Oh, who is suitable to choose our fate and guide our actions," as one who sees the end from the beginning; who understands our journey through this vast wilderness; who cannot be mistaken about what is good or evil for us; and who has declared, "I will lead the blind along paths they do not know, guiding them in unfamiliar ways; I will turn darkness into light before them, and make crooked places straight: these are the things I will do for them, and I will not abandon them."

A leader who is wise and confident yet sullen and silent would diminish the joy of the journey. However, our Guide

engages with us frequently, permitting us to speak to Him freely and communicating our needs through prayer and supplication. He kindly interacts with us during our walk, conversing and revealing the Scriptures to us.

He is also sufficient for all our needs. Whether we require food, refreshment, or rest, he can provide according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. When storms threaten us, he is 'our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.' Facing enemies, we can recall David's words to Abiathar, who fled to him in danger: 'Abide with me; for he that seeketh thy life seeketh my life; but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.' I would not fear the sights and sounds of the forest, even if a lion were at my side with unwavering loyalty. A lion, the strongest of beasts, does not turn away for any threat.

Our privilege extends beyond this. How much patience could human nature sustain with our manners and provocations? Which creature-conductor would continue their charge until the journey's end? Yet, he does not abandon his people. He never leaves nor forsakes them. This is their comfort, hope, and security—the patience of our God is salvation. "I, the Lord, change not: therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

Yes—he will be our guide "even unto death"; that is, until the journey is complete and all worries end. But is there nothing more essential? Facing death is significant—yet it appears easier with faith. When we reach the entrance of the dark passage, it is comforting to believe he awaits us on the other side and will welcome us to himself, so that where he is, we may also be.

Still, I wonder: how am I to endure this?

If only my Lord would come and meet me—my soul would quickly spread her wings; she would fly through Death’s iron gate without fear, not feeling any terror as she passes.

This case is provided for; all is insured. He will be with us, as it says: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Amen.

This sermon is taken from William Jay’s devotional, *Morning and Evening Exercises* (January 9, Morning), first published in 1854.