

Who does He guide?

a) The humble

You cannot guide someone who thinks they know best!

b) The fearful, i.e. those who revere the Lord

There is no-one greater or wiser than the Lord!

With the Lord's way ahead:

2. HE GUARDS (v20)

The Lord guides with His Word and those who follow with integrity and uprightness of heart are kept safe.

If you are reading through the Bible day-by-day following the Word for Today Plan you will have been reading Ezra and Nehemiah, both give illustration of how the Lord guides and guards:

Ezra 7.28b – Ezra is given safe passage as he takes the treasures to the Temple (in obedience to God's guiding hand upon him).

Nehemiah 2.8b – Nehemiah is kept safe as he fulfils God's revealed plan to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. There is much opposition but he is guided and guarded as the way ahead for him becomes clear.

David faced anguish and distress, feeling lonely in his affliction (v16f)

There was ferocity, and hatred with increased enemies adding to Israel's troubles (v22)

The way ahead was challenging – they are challenging for us today – but with a trusting humility and awe and reverence for the Lord we can move forward guided and guarded by His Word.

Are you finding your strength in the Lord?

Pastor Andrew

Benediction

"Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him" (2 Corinthians 2.14)

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 2nd August

Share with others by reading through these notes at 11am

Hymns (to sing or read)

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand:
Bread of Heaven, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar, Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside:
Death of death, and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.

(William Williams 1717-91)

Teach me Thy way, O Lord, teach me Thy way!
Thy gracious aid afford, teach me Thy way!
Help me to walk aright, more by faith, less by sight;
Lead me with heavenly light: teach me Thy way!

When doubts and fears arise, teach me Thy way!
When storms o'erspread the skies, teach me Thy way!
Shine through the cloud and rain, through sorrow, toil, and pain;
Make Thou my pathway plain: teach me Thy way!

Long as my life shall last, teach me Thy way!
Where'er my lot be cast, teach me Thy way!
Until the race is run, until the journey's done,
Until the crown is won, teach me Thy way!

(Benjamin Mansell Ramsey 1849-1923)

Prayer

Our God and Heavenly Father, how good it is to come before you to seek to know more of you in our lives. Thank you for Jesus, your Son, and our Saviour. Thank you for all your blessings. Thank you for our Church and the way you unite us together by your Holy Spirit. Help those in need, heal with your touch, encourage with your Word.

*Be gracious to those who lead us. May we all depend upon you. Refresh those away on holidays, and us all with your presence today, wherever we may be. Draw close and keep us in the centre of your will.
Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever, amen*

Bible Verses for today

Read Psalm 25

“Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour” (Psalm 25.4-5)

“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way” (v12)

“Guard my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.” (v20)

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead I have called you friends for everything I have learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15.15)

“The way ahead...”

Life is a journey. God's people are pilgrims. There is always a way ahead to find and follow. But which way is best?

Our leaders talk of “following the science” into the way ahead. Psalm 25 encourages us to follow a much more certain path – God's path.

This acrostic Psalm of David is thought to express David's feelings in 1 Samuel 30 when the people sought to stone David for when they returned to Ziklag they found the Amalekites had destroyed the city and taken captive their wives and children. In that moment, **“David found strength in the Lord his God” (v6)**

When you look through the Psalm you find one who is conscious of sin and shame but finds *strength to go on* because of who he knows the Lord to be. He found strength in the Lord his God, for God is:

- i. God, my Saviour (v5)
The sin-taker (v18) and snare releaser (v15)
- ii. The Lord, great in mercy and love (v6)
He is gracious (v16)
- iii. Good and upright (v7b-8)
- iv. Loving and faithful (v10)
- v. A refuge (v20)
- vi. A redeemer (v22)

Knowing what the Lord is like enables David to seek the way ahead. He looks to the Lord (v15) and is comforted to think that the Lord is looking upon him (v16, 18-19)

This Psalm speaks of the Lord's ways and paths (See v4, 8-10)
The Lord's way ahead is revealed as:

1. HE GUIDES (v9)

This guidance includes the Lord's Covenant promises (v10, 14) His instructing (v12) and His confiding (v14) with those who seek Him. There is an intimacy to know with the Lord – as His friends (John 15.15)