



OUR ETERNAL GPS



PREVIEW

Have you ever been lost? Whether as a kid at the mall or a new driver who took a wrong turn, all of a sudden the indicators you expected to see were gone. Your mom or dad were no longer in sight. The landmarks or street signs you anticipated weren't there. You eventually made it to safety but the experience was disorienting, maybe even panic-inducing!

PRAISE

God is under no obligation to inform you of His "travel plans" for your life, but He does ask that you trust Him on the journey. Thank God that He know where He's going, even if you don't. He is your ultimate Guide.

PARABLE

David had been anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next king of Israel when he was a young person. This was because the current king, Saul, had disobeyed God, failed to repent, and forfeited the kingdom. Saul's son Jonathan would never be king despite the custom of royal birthright. In David, God found Himself a man after His own heart.

When it became clear to him that David was God's choice to be king, Saul tried to eliminate the competition. David had to run for his life, so he fled into the wilderness of Judah. This is the context for Psalm 63.

When you're in the wilderness, it's easy for every rock and tree and knoll to look the same. The elements you usually rely upon to guide you in life are missing. You try your best to find your way, but it can feel like you're going in circles. You may know where you want to go, but without knowing where you are, directions are of little use.

This is how David felt when he said, "O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1, NLT).

PRESENT

When David was first anointed by Samuel as a teenager, he may have thought he was on the fast track to the throne. Everything was falling into place. He could see all the signs pointing him to the palace. It was now just a matter of traveling the clear, well-defined road that would lead him to his destination. But things didn't go quite as anticipated.

When David found himself in the wilderness of life, way off the beaten track of his expectations, his example is a roadmap for all of us:

1. He remembered that God was still his God, a personal God, who knew right where he was (v. 1).
2. He remembered a landmark in his life (the sanctuary) when times were better (v. 2).

3. He chose to sing and praise, knowing that while his surroundings had changed, God's love remained the same (vv. 3-5).

He turned his thoughts away from his circumstances and focused on God, his Keeper and Guide (vv. 6-8).

PRACTICE

Using only lines, arrows, circles, and squares, draw a picture of your life's path as you have experienced it and/or expect it.

Was it a straight arrow, ascending directly to success? Or did it have twists and turns, obstacles and roadblocks? Maybe even a dead end or two?

As much as some people try to portray it, especially on social media, no one's life stays continually on "easy street." But while some have no recourse but to fake it, you have a very real God who will guide you through the wilderness times and grow you to fulfill His destiny and anointing on your life.

PRAY

Thank you, Lord, that You are my spiritual GPS. I can consult You in prayer, refer to Your Word as my map, and trust that You will guide me to Yourself.

When I find myself feeling lost and afraid, give me the grace to praise You despite my situation. Help me realize Your love for me and doubt less and less Your destiny for my life.

Thank you for anointing me for great things!

PLUS

This week get a notebook and begin a journal about the good things God has done in your life. If you are intentional about recording the good times, when the wilderness times come, God's goodness will be much easier to remember. Those memories will help you praise God even in a "parched and weary