

- ¹⁹He remembered us in our low estate
His love endures forever.
²⁰and freed us from our enemies.
His love endures forever.
²¹He gives food to every creature.
His love endures forever.
²²Give thanks to the God of heaven.
His love endures forever.

◆ Psalm 137

- ¹By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
 when we remembered Zion.
²There on the papyrus
 we hung our harps,
³for there our captors asked us for songs,
 our tormenters demanded songs of joy;
 they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"
⁴How can we sing the songs of the LORD
 while in a foreign land?
⁵If I forget you, Jerusalem,
 may my right hand forget its skill.
⁶May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
 if I do not remember you,
 if I do not consider Jerusalem
 my highest joy.
⁷Remember, LORD, what the Edomites
 did
 on the day Jerusalem fell.
 "Tear it down," they cried,
 "tear it down to its foundations!"
⁸Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,
 happy is the one who repays you
 according to what you have done to us.
⁹Happy is the one who seizes your infants
 and dashes them against the rocks.

◆ Psalm 138

- Of David.
¹I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart,
 before the "gods" I will sing your praise,
²I will bow down toward your holy temple
 and will praise your name
 for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,

- for you have so exalted your solemn decree
 that it surpasses your fame.
³When I called, you answered me,
 you greatly emboldened me.
⁴May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,
 when they hear what you have decreed.
⁵May they sing of the ways of the LORD,
 for the glory of the LORD is great.
⁶Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
 though lofty, he sees them from afar.
⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
 you preserve my life.
 You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
 with your right hand you save me.
⁸The LORD will vindicate me;
 your love, LORD, endures forever—
 do not abandon the works of your hands.

◆ Psalm 139

- For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.
¹You have searched me, LORD,
 and you know me.
²You know when I sit and when I rise;
 you perceive my thoughts from afar.
³You discern my going out and my lying down;
 you are familiar with all my ways.
⁴Before a word is on my tongue
 you, LORD, know it completely.
⁵You hem me in behind and before,
 and you lay your hand upon me.
⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
 too lofty for me to attain.
⁷Where can I go from your Spirit?
 Where can I flee from your presence?
⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
 if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
 if I settle on the far side of the sea,
¹⁰even there your hand will guide me,
 your right hand will hold me fast.
¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
 and the light become night around me,"
¹²even the darkness will not be dark to you;
 the night will shine like the day,
 for darkness is as light to you.

- ¹³For you created my inmost being;
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
 your works are wonderful,
 I know that full well.
¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you
 when I was made in the secret place,
 when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed body;
 all the days ordained for me were written in your book
 before one of them came to be.
¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts,^a God!
 How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸Were I to count them,
 they would outnumber the grains of sand—
 when I awake, I am still with you.
¹⁹If only you, God, would stay the wicked!
 Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
²⁰They speak of you with evil intent;
 your adversaries misuse your name.
²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,
 and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
²²I have nothing but hatred for them;
 I count them my enemies.
²³Search me, God, and know my heart;
 test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me,
 and lead me in the way everlasting.

◆ Psalm 140^b

- For the director of music. A psalm of David.
¹Rescue me, LORD, from evildoers;
 protect me from the violent,
²who devise evil plans in their hearts
 and stir up war every day.
³They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's;
 the poison of vipers is on their lips.^c
⁴Keep me safe, LORD, from the hands of the wicked;
 protect me from the violent,
 who devise ways to trip my feet.
⁵The arrogant have hidden a snare for me;
 they have spread out the cords of their net
 and have set traps for me along my path.

- ⁶I say to the LORD, "You are my God."
 Hear, LORD, my cry for mercy.
⁷Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer,
 you shield my head in the day of battle.
⁸Do not grant the wicked their desires,
 LORD;
 do not let their plans succeed.
⁹Those who surround me proudly rear their heads;
 may the mischief of their lips engulf their souls.
¹⁰May burning coals fall on their heads;
 may they be thrown into the fire,
 into miry pits, never to rise.
¹¹May slanderers not be established in the land;
 may disaster hunt down the violent.
¹²I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor
 and upholds the cause of the needy.
¹³Surely the righteous will praise your name,
 and the upright will live in your presence.

◆ Psalm 141

- A psalm of David.
¹I call to you, LORD, come quickly to me;
 hear me when I call to you.
²May my prayer be set before you like incense;
 may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.
³Set a guard over my mouth, LORD;
 keep watch over the door of my lips.
⁴Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil
 so that I take part in wicked deeds
 along with those who are evildoers;
 do not let me eat their delicacies.
⁵Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness;
 let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head.
 My head will not refuse it,
 for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.

^a Or How amazing are your thoughts concerning me. ^b In Hebrew texts 140:10-13 is numbered 140:2-5. ^c The Hebrew text lacks the word uncertain-meaning here and at the end of verses 3 and 5.

NAVIGATING THE NIGHT

Current research has proven that deer can see some variations of color. Deer are dichromatic, and see mainly in blue-green and yellow hues. The reason deer have greater night vision than humans is because the anatomy of their eyes is different—they have more rods in their eyes than they have cones, and those rods are the main receptors of light in low-light situations. Thus, they have an enhanced ability to navigate a dark world.

Though we're limited in our nighttime vision, every follower of Christ has a supernatural ability to navigate a dark world, for we live in the light of the truth of Jesus Christ. We have power to see, and therefore interpret, our surroundings in ways that keep us moving toward Christ-likeness because, once we've accepted Jesus' sacrifice for our sin, we receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Through that Spirit-generated power, we can fully trust the paths in which we walk because he has given us everything we need to survive the wilderness of this dark world.



His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

—2 Peter 1:3

THINK IT THROUGH

Every sin starts with believing a lie. Is there any lie you're believing right now that is causing you to misinterpret your situation?

GUIDES

Perhaps the most difficult thing for a veteran hunter to do when on an outfitted hunt is to submit his will fully to the leadership of a guide. There is something inside a man's spirit, somewhere deep in his bones, that simply wars against submission.

Hunters typically want to go it alone, but a guide knows the pitfalls and benefits of what, to you, is uncharted territory. He's been there before, and knows what he's doing, so your best bet for success is to follow his lead.

One of the most high-profile men in the Old Testament was a man named Saul. As a young man he became a king (1 Samuel 9), with free reign to choose his own advisors and make his own decisions. Saul had at his disposal a magnificent asset in the form of a prophet named Samuel. Samuel was a righteous man, and he had been down the road of leadership long ahead of Saul. All Saul had to do was to include Samuel in his inner circle, team up with him and consult him as a guide. Yet throughout the book of 1 Samuel we see Saul engage in a battle of wills with both Samuel and God.

Saul simply could not humble himself to the point of being coachable. Ultimately, his stubborn heart cost him everything, including his crown (1 Samuel 15), and what could have been a beautiful legacy.

The life lesson is simple: don't guide the guide.

The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper.

—Proverbs 19:8

THINK IT THROUGH

Even if you have surrounded yourself with men of God, are you actually letting their wisdom guide your life?