

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y; hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong De - liv - 'rer, strong De - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be Thou still my Strength and Shield; be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
 I will ev - er give to Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

TEXT: William Williams, 1745
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
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Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah may be less familiar to some of us, but it has been well known in Wales since the mid-1700s. You can still hear it sung in churches, royal weddings and funerals, and even by crowds at rugby matches.

William Williams, its author, lived during a major spiritual revival known as the 'Great Awakening.' He became a prominent preacher during this time after being called to Christ and ministry while studying to be a doctor. He was a true wordsmith who loved both preaching and poetry, as evidenced by rich lyricism in over 900 original Welsh and English hymns.

As a traveling evangelist, Williams suffered many long journeys to go and preach the gospel. Perhaps that's why the original title for this hymn was "Prayer for strength for the journey through the world's wilderness." The text captures our desperate need for God's help on such journeys by referencing the journey of the Israelites through the wilderness into Canaan, the Promised Land. God alone proved to be their guide and provider during that time in Israel's history.

In the New Testament, when facing a spiritual wilderness of disbelieving crowds, Jesus declares himself as the bread of life and source of living water. He crossed over "the verge of Jordan" through his death on the cross, yet emerged victorious in the resurrection. Through faith in Jesus, God promises to guide every believer through this journey of life, since he Himself is our Creator, Guide, Provider, Savior, and even our Destination.

Here is one of the Welsh verses not usually sung in English:

<i>Angau creulon yn ei rym,</i>	Cruel death in its force –
<i>Ti est trwyddi gynt dy hunan,</i>	Thou Thyself suffered this before,
<i>Pam yr ofna'i bellach ddim?</i>	Why shall I fear further?
<i>Buddugoliaeth! Buddugoliaeth!</i>	Victory! Victory!
<i>Gwna imi waeddi yn y llif!</i>	Let me cry out in the torrent!

Scripture to consider: Isaiah 43:1-7 John 7:37-38
 Psalm 48:14 John 4:13-15 Revelation 22:1-5
 Psalm 105:39-41, 43 John 6:31-35