

IN THE DESERT

Lord,

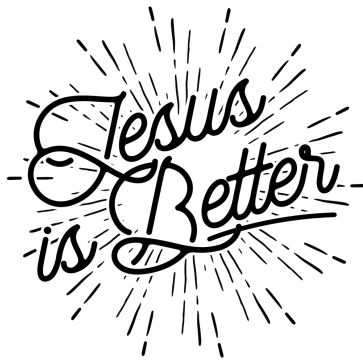
COVID-19 has caused me to realize that I've been putting my hope in everything but you. When the things that I put my hope in are so easily stripped away from me, it's easy to feel hopeless. My job, financial stability, daily routines, and even relationships with my friends and family haven't been reliable since this pandemic started.

It's so easy to make the things that we can see, touch, and feel our rock. We can lean on the tangible. They seemed reliable and sturdy, but it seems like they were all taken away in the blink of an eye.

Now, it's easy to feel like I'm drifting at sea with nothing to cling on. It's easy to start to think that things may never get better, and that there's no hope for the future, because it feels like circumstances are just getting worse and worse. This pandemic is so shocking because everything I thought I knew has changed, and that makes me feel so demoralized.

I think of the Israelites, and how they wandered in the desert. I think of how they moaned about how they didn't have what they needed. It feels easy to relate to the Israelites. I confess that some days I feel like I'm traveling aimlessly, like I'm walking in circles. I confess that sometimes I don't see what you've given me. But you provided for the Israelites. You gave them manna and led them to the promised land.

Help me to remember that you will lead me to my promised land. Help the kingdom of heaven to be in the forefront of my mind, because your son's death on a cross has secured a perfect, forever home for me that even a global pandemic can't take away. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.



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You will never fade away, and help me to know in my heart that you will never fail me. You will never leave or forsake me. Why wouldn't I put my hope in someone who will never let me down, unlike everything else I will ever encounter?

It isn't easy.

God, it's a hard reality to face that things might not get better circumstantially, or they might not for a long time. I admit that thought is alarming, but I know that you can give me peace because you are my one true hope.

Your Scripture says, "For this light, momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but the things that are unseen," (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). This pandemic does not feel like a light or momentary affliction, but it is a mere dot on the timeline of eternity where your kingdom of joy will stretch on forever.

On days when I feel lost or like I have no one to turn to, help me to remember this Scripture instead of turning to what is easy to dwell on. Help me to remember the truth that our future is secure because of you, and we can put our hope in you because your steadfast love endures forever. I praise you because these are truths that no earthly circumstance can steal away from me.

In your steadfast and never-failing name,
Amen