

BUT THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD ISAIAH 40:27-31

Text: Isaiah 40:31

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Introduction:

The 40th chapter of Isaiah appears to be a prophecy in two parts, or for two separate times in history. The thrust of the text are for both: those would undergo Babylonian captivity and spiritually those who are in captivity to sin. At the time of the writing, God speaks comfort beforehand, for those who would eventually suffer the results of Babylonian captivity.

There is not another single Scripture in God's Word that is more current for this generation than this. It serves as both an analysis and an answer for our times.

Note:

1. A WEARINESS THAT IS REVEALED (VS. 28)

Isaiah 40:28-29

²⁸ Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding. ²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

The word “weary” means to feel fatigue. It is the result of labor and toil that reduces strength.

A. Signs of Fatigue

Someone has well said, “We worship our work. We work at our play. And we play at our worship.” We have sold ourselves on the American way of living — at a breakneck pace, in the fast lane, involved in everything that comes our way.

Some proudly say, “I would rather burn out than rust out.” Well, either way you are out!

B. Sources of Fatigue

What are the things that weary us?

The way we choose to live, plan, schedule work, hurry here and there.

There is something about this age that wears on us until we wear down.

Our sinful society can sandblast our souls.

1. People at times causes weariness

Luke 18:5

⁵ Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

2. Trials at times causes weariness

Hebrews 12:3

³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

3. Task at times causes weariness

Galatians 6:9

⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

¹³ But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

2. A WAITING THAT RENEWS (VS. 31A)

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

A. A contrast that is declared – “But...”

God has pointed out the problem and now declares there is another way to live.

1. A condition that is difficult – waiting

Most Christian I know have a serious “wait problem”.

Waiting is not simple idleness.

Note:

Psalms 27:14

¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

In other words we:

- Exchange our weakness for God’s strength
- Exchange our misery for God’s joy
- Exchange sin’s slavery for God’s freedom

- Exchange our foolishness for God's wisdom
- Exchange our poverty for God's riches

The act of waiting upon the Lord involves:

- Searching the Word of God
- Seeking the fellowship of God
- Surrendering to the will of God
- Selling out to the glory of God

B. A consequence that is delightful – renew their strength.

Isaiah 30:1-2

¹Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin: ²That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!

Strength is not found with Pharaoh

Isaiah 30:15

¹⁵For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

We need renewed strength for

- Choices
- Challenges
- Crisis

3. THERE IS A WELL-BEING THAT RESULTS (VS. 31B)

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

This is a strange sequence, an odd order. The normal way would be to have it — walk, run, mount up.

Someone once said;

“The prophet had three stages in mind — youth soaring, middle age running and old age walking.”

God has strength equal to your age and your task.

Note:

A. Spiritual rising – “Mount up with wings as eagles.”

That’s soaring. God wants to give you strength to soar like an eagle.

God’s people need the strength to rise above this world.

This is strength to do the impossible.

B. Strenuous running – “They shall run and not be weary”

We are a part of a great race. It is a rigorous race. It is a distance race, not a dash. And it is a relay race. We are handing the baton to those behind us.

This is strength to do the difficult.

C. Steady routine – “They shall walk and not faint”

We are to:

- Walk in love
- Walk as children of light
- Walk worthy of our vocation

This is the strength to do the common.

Close:

A bone-weary father dragged into his home dog tired late one evening. It had been one of those unbelievable days of pressure, deadlines, and demands. He looked forward to a time of relaxation and quietness.

Exhausted, he picked up the evening paper and headed for his favorite easy chair by the fireplace. About the time he got his shoes untied, PLOP! into his lap dropped his five-year-old son with an excited grim on his face. “Hi, Dad, . . . let’s play!”

He loves the boy dearly, but his need for a little time all alone to rest and unwind was, for the moment, a greater need than with Junior.

What could he do?

There had been a recent moon probe and the newspaper carried a huge picture of the earth. With a flash of much-needed insight, the day asked his boy to bring a pair of scissors and some transparent tape.

Quickly, the dad cut the picture of the earth into various shapes and sizes, then handed the pile of homemade jigsaw puzzle pieces to him.

“You tape it all back together, and then come back and we’ll play, okay?”

Off scampered the child to his room as dad breathed a sigh of relief.

But in less than ten minutes the boy bounded back with everything taped perfectly in place.

Stunned, the father asked: “How did you do it so fast, Son?”

“Aw, it was easy, Dad. You see, there is this picture of a man on the back of the sheet . . . and when you put the man together, the world comes together.”

And so it is in life. When Man is put together, it’s amazing what will happen in our world.