

“BUT THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD...”

Isaiah 40:31

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 well known scripture as well as a very inspiring and powerful scripture.

In the Book of Isaiah we all have heard or read the scripture in Isaiah 40:31 which states, “*But they that wait (hope and trust) upon the*

However, many of us do not realize why this scripture was given to us. To truly understand this scripture we need to understand the Book of Isaiah. The first 39 chapters of Isaiah tell us about the first of the two main reasons why God had given the words we read in Isaiah to the prophet Isaiah. Those first 39 chapters tell us about what the people did in rebelling against the God who 1) brought them out of Egypt, 2) set them free from the bondage of their enemies that surrounded them and then, ultimately 3) allowed David to get the materials and then Solomon, his son, to build a Temple so that the people could worship.

We must realize that God did take the people out of their bondage in Egypt and ultimately brought them back to live in the land that He desired for them. God would then lead and govern them in what became known as Israel. God did this all of that to show His people how He would one day set free all those who would believe in Him. The real purpose was not to simply give them land but it was to show them and us today, through that example, of how God would one day set us all free from our real problem - sin.

Unfortunately, as we all know, the people were not satisfied. They wanted a king to rule them just like the other nations that surrounded them. God relented to their wishes and the people would be ruled by kings. We must understand and grasp the fact that God never wanted that to take place. However, He yielded to what the people wanted. As we know, that was not very good. But God... even though He knew it was not the right thing for them, He yielded to their wishes. Ultimately, they reaped what they sowed.

We must also grasp the fact that God never really intended for them to build a Temple. When David came up with this idea, we know that God immediately went to David and told Him that He did not need or want a Temple. (2Samuel 7:4-7) Again, God relented to David’s desire and allowed Him to get all the materials and that his son, Solomon, would ultimately build it.

We know, through Bible history, that after Solomon died, two of his sons would divide the Kingdom. The ten tribes in the north became known as the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the two tribes to the south became known as the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

By the time of Isaiah's writings, we know that the Northern Kingdom was going astray and they were about to be defeated and taken away captive to Assyria, who were just north of them. The Southern Kingdom, Judah, was not doing much better and they ultimately were to be taken away captive a few years later by the Babylonian Empire.

Ultimately, the nation, the people, whom God had chosen, saved from bondage in Egypt and who gave them their own land to have with Him as their ultimate ruler, fell back into sin. They began to worship other gods and neglected the One who ultimately had set them free.

That is where Isaiah begins. The Northern Kingdom was falling away from God. They were about to be taken away to Assyria. God, in His love and mercy was giving them one last chance to turn from their wicked ways. That is where we meet Isaiah.

If we read Isaiah 6, we see that as Isaiah was ministering in the Temple, God showed up in all of His glory. Isaiah, falls down and worships His God. We read in Isaiah 6:2,3, that the angels and cherubim were declaring *"Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD (Yahweh) of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."*

Isaiah, beholding all of this, fell to his knees and declared, *"Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."* He knew he was in the presence of the almighty God. He recognized his own sin and the sin of the people.

Isaiah was given a hot coal that was placed upon His lips. This meant that He was being purged and being readied to speak the words of the LORD to the people and ultimately to everyone, including us today, who would read his words.

However, here comes the interesting part. We hear the LORD declare, *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"* We must understand that God did not tell Isaiah that he must go and be His ambassador. He gave Isaiah the opportunity to say *"Here am I; Send me!!!"*

God gave Isaiah, as well as you and I, the opportunity to allow Him to use us. We may be in His presence and we may be enjoying His glory... but...He will always give each of us the opportunity to either say yes or no to His call on our lives. Isaiah immediately said yes, "*Here am I; send me!!!*"

From here, God sends out Isaiah to the people but He tells Isaiah that the people will, "... *Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.*" In other words, Isaiah was to tell the people what God wanted them to realize – their wicked ways. They will hear but they will be blind to the truth and they will chose to not walk in the ways of their God.

That is what we read as we continue on to Chapter 39. We read of all the bad things that the people have done and because of that, we read of the things that will happen because of their sin and their walking away from God. The enemy will come and destroy their land and their very lives. They will be taken away as captive to the Assyrians because they did not repent and change from their evil and wicked ways.

But then... starting in Isaiah 40, we read of the second reason why Isaiah words were given to the people and to us, today. God wanted to share His ultimate plan of redemption and salvation to those who will continually turn to Him and trust Him. Isaiah 40:1 starts off with, "*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.*"

Yes, all those that trust in their God **shall be comforted**. For God had a plan. A plan of true salvation to all those who would turn and trust in Him. He will give comfort, forgiveness and incredible blessings to those who will simply trust, love and obey Him.

He starts us off with Isaiah 40:3-5 which speaks first of that "voice" who would be "*crying in the wilderness.*" That voice we know, as it states in the Gospel accounts, is John the Baptist. John declared and proclaimed to "*prepare ye the way of the Lord.*" The preparation was not to be in the physical realm but rather it would be to prepare your heart for the coming of your Savior, your Messiah, the Son of the Living God, Jesus!!!

Any great work of God begins with preparation. John wonderfully fulfilled this important aspect by preparing the people for the coming of Jesus. When each of us heard, for the first time about Jesus, that was the preparation that we needed to ready our heart to receive, Jesus.

Then, as we continue to read, it states, “*And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*” This is referring to Jesus. “*The glory of the LORD shall be revealed.*” Yes, we shall see the Lord in the form of the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, Jesus. Yes, this all came to pass. God’s Word will always, always come to pass.

The Word of our God stands forever. The message is the reality and the permanence of God and His Word. It is in contrast to the frailty and fleeting “glory of man.” “*The grass withers, the flower fades,*” but the Word of our God endures forever – no matter how hard the enemy tries to come against or to stop it.

Below are just a few examples, or I should say, reminders of this as we look back in history.

- In 303 AD, the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, demanded that every copy of the Scriptures in the Roman Empire be burned. This attempt by the devil failed. We see that just twenty five years later, another Roman Emperor, Constantine, commissioned a scholar named Eusebius, to make 50 copies of the Bible at government expense. The Word lived on!!!

- Voltaire, the French skeptic and infidel who died in 1778, declared that 100 years from his time, Christianity would be “swept from existence and passed into history, and that the Bible would be a forgotten book.” Years after Voltaire’s death, the Evangelical Society of Geneva bought his house and used Voltaire’s own printing press in his own house to produce Bibles. The Bible and God’s Word cannot be stopped!!!

The Word of our God stands, and will stand, forever. 1Peter 1:25 tell us “*But the word of the Lord endures for ever. And this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*” Back in Isaiah 40:28, we read that Isaiah declared to us that “...**the Lord is the Everlasting God**...” God **AND** His Word will last forever no matter what man may try to say or do to it.

We must all truly know and remember that. Even today, in this hour, there are many who are trying to pervert the Word. They are trying to teach that some of the Bible is not valid for us today. They teach and even preach that the Word of God is old fashion and not relevant to today’s society. They unfortunately teach that most of the Bible is not true and then they preach and teach a “new and perverted” doctrine.

That, my friends, is total heresy and great will be the punishment to those who teach, declare and even believe such heretical teaching. The Word of God, **all of the Word**, the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation **IS** truth...it is God's forever and unchanging Word for all of His true believers, forever.

As we continue reading in Isaiah we get to Isaiah 40:31, "*But they that wait (hope and trust) 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.*" It starts off with, "*But those...*" Will we be one of those who this is referring and speaking of? Will we be one of those that this scripture is speaking about? Will we be one of those that truly believe God?

The word "but," whenever used in scripture, is always telling us that there is a change or there is a statement of difference that is coming. "*But those...*" Will we be one of those that it tells us in Isaiah 40:30, right before our scripture, that "*shall faint and be weary,*" and will we be like the "*young men who shall utterly fall?*" Hmmm....

Isaiah continues as he writes and tells us to "*...wait on the Lord.*" The idea behind "*waiting on the LORD,*" is not a passive sitting around until the Lord does something. The word "wait" used here literally means to actively and totally believe, trust in and seek after God.

We are not to expect it to come to us as we sit passively by. No...He brings it to us as we seek more and more of Him; as we rely more and more on Him; as we trust Him more and more, every moment of our lives. We must wait on our God and not depend on our selves.

Next, this scripture then tell us that we are to, "*...renew our strength...*" and to "exchange" our weakness for His strengths, His abilities. We are not to rely on our own ability. Our strength should and will come from our God. It will come to us through His Word. It will come to us in and through the power of the Holy Spirit who is the one truly working in and through you. It is in His strength and nothing of our own strength and ability that we may try to walk in.

Here is the key to this whole scripture. It tells us that, "*They shall mount up with wings as eagles.*" This is the measure of strength the LORD gives us. It is in the power of His might that we will be able to have His strength and to soar above everything that may come our way. It is referring to all those who will continually remain faithful unto their God.

God will provide renewed strength and courage to overcome obstacles. We must have patience and trust God's sovereign timing. Joshua 1:6,7,9 tells us that we are to be "*strong and of a good courage.*" Joshua, and therefore each one of us who reads those scriptures, are to be "*strong and of a good courage.*" Why? Because our God is **always** with us.

Isaiah ends this exhortation to the true believers in their God by stating that we will, "*...run and not be weary, walk and never faint.*" This is the purpose of the strength that the Lord gives to us. We shall go forth and do His will, bring forth His Kingdom and bring as many as we can back to the saving knowledge and grace of our loving God. Don't get weary!!! Don't faint!!! Just keep going in the power of His might.

Isaiah 41-66 tells Israel how God will see them through. It tells them How they will be delivered from their captivity. It tells them the process. However, those chapters really reveal God's tremendous love, grace and mercy to all those who truly love Him. He will ultimately give them all His true peace. This true peace refers to a true relationship back with Him through Jesus.

Isaiah 60:1-3 tells us, "*Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*" Here, God includes everyone, not only the Hebrew people but also the Gentile. Yes, that is the loving God that we have and that we serve. God desires none to perish but all to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus. (2Peter 3:9)

Isaiah 61:1-3 tells us, "*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*" This is referring to the one who would come. Jesus, Himself quoted this scripture referring to when He came to this earth to save us from our sins. (Luke 4:18,19)

Isaiah again speaks of the day that will soon be coming as he declares in Isaiah 66:17,18, *“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.”* He is declaring that we will see a new heaven and a new earth. A “New Jerusalem” will be brought to this earth. Yes, that “New Jerusalem” where we will simply be in God’s presence all the time. We will be worshiping our God and we will truly behold the glory of our God!!! (Revelation 21:1,2)

Revelation 21:3,4 says it all, *“...the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”* That is the fulfillment of the entire Word of God, His covenant, to us, His people. We shall be His people; He shall be our God; and He will always be with us and we with Him!!! Every tear, every pain, every sorrow will be taken away. It will be *“...joy unspeakable and full of glory.”* (1Peter 1:8)

I encourage us all to simply heed what Isaiah decrees for all of God’s people, *“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.”*

PS: I have attached the address to a song I wrote on this scripture (Isaiah 40:31). If you would like to listen to it, just click on or copy the link below and place into your browser. God bless you.
<https://simplysimpleworship.com/Audio-They%20That%20Wait%20Upon%20the%20Lord.mp3>