

## Isaiah 40:28-31

- I. Definitions.
- A. renew: To make new, or as new, again; to restore to the same condition as when new, young or fresh.
  - B. wait on (or upon): To observe, watch; to fix one's eyes upon, gaze at. In Bible phrases, to place one's hope in God.
- II. For the person whose hope, trust or confidence is in God, there is a promise of reinvigoration in the face of adversity or weakness. **ISA 40:28-31.**
- A. The man of faith accepts that the Lord is his strength. **PSA 6:2 c/w PSA 28:7.**
  - B. The man of flesh looks to flesh for strength and so invites a curse. **JER 17:5-6.**
- III. Adversity can enervate or energize, depending on one's trust. **NUM 13:32-33; NUM 14:6-9.**
- A. Adversity should teach us humility and drive us to spiritual concerns. **DEU 8:2-3; PSA 119:71.**
  - B. God is pleased to magnify Himself through human weakness, thus teaching us not to rely upon ourselves. **2CO 1:8-10; 2CO 12:9-10.**
  - C. For the person who waits on the Lord, his weakness is an opportunity to flee to Christ and His strength. **1SAM 30:6 c/w EPH 6:10.**
  - D. If our eyes are upon God and His promises, our weaknesses or inadequacies are illusory hindrances. **ROM 4:19-21; HEB 11:11, 34.**
  - E. Heavy burdens and temptations may be more easily borne by fixing our eyes upon the good end of the Lord. **JAM 5:11; 1PE 5:8-10.**
- IV. Our passage in Isaiah is found in a chapter which opens with the announcement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. **ISA 40:1-5 c/w MAR 1:1-4.**
- A. The gospel announces man's weakness but Christ's strength and power to save. **ROM 3:20; ROM 5:6; JOH 10:11, 18; 17:2.**
  - B. There is rest in ceasing from relying upon our own righteousness to earn God. **ROM 10:3-4.**
  - C. There is renewal and refreshing in heeding the gospel's message. **ISA 28:11-12 c/w 1CO 14:21.**
  - D. The word of the gospel is, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people..." (**ISA 40:1**).
    - 1. Comfort is "Strengthening, encouragement, incitement..."
    - 2. Glad tidings of completed salvation, of warfare accomplished, of iniquities pardoned: these are strength (comfort) for the burdened soul. **ISA 61:1-3.**
    - 3. Glad tidings of resurrection power are likewise strength for the soul. **HEB 2:14-15 c/w 1TH 4:13-18.**
      - a. It gives a lively hope of a better inheritance. **1PE 1:3-4.**
      - b. In baptism one identifies with Christ's resurrection to victorious new life. **ROM 6:3-14.**
      - c. There is great comfort in no longer being under the dominion of sin.
- V. Sin drains away our strength. **PSA 31:10.**
- A. The penitent soul finds renewal in confession of sin. **PSA 51:10-13.**
  - B. Personal sanctification tends to increase strength. **JAM 4:7-10 c/w JOB 17:9.**
  - C. The soul that walks in the light has also an uncondemned heart which yields confidence which accords with strength. **1JO 1:7 c/w 1JO 3:21 c/w ISA 30:15.**

- VI. “They that wait upon the LORD” will of necessity have their eyes fixed on Christ, “the Lord from heaven” (**1CO 15:47**), “Who is gone into heaven...” (**1PE 3:20**).
- A. They need not stand gazing with the natural eye *into* heaven (**ACT 1:11**), for the eye of faith sees the unseen Savior *in* heavenly glory. **1PE 1:8 c/w HEB 2:9**.
  - B. Their gaze of faith directs their affections. **COL 3:1-2**.
  - C. They see themselves by grace positionally risen there in Him. **EPH 2:6**.
  - D. Their real treasure cannot be sullied by the strength-sapping corruption of this world. **MAT 6:20-21**.
  - E. With eyes heavenwards, they faint not even though their outward man perish. **2CO 4:16-18**.
  - F. They believe that their God is *the living God* (**1TI 3:15**) and *God of the living* (**MAT 22:32**) Whose goodness they shall see in the *land of the living* and without that hope they would faint. **PSA 27:13-14**.
  - G. In short, they rejoice not in the flesh but in the Lord Jesus Christ (**ROM 5:11; PHIL 3:3**) and thus “the joy of the LORD is your strength” (**NEH 8:10**).
  - H. Regardless of their natural state or of circumstances, they are “I can do” types through Christ. **PHIL 4:12-13**.
  - I. They know there is a good reward in doing well and resolve to not weary in that pursuit. **GAL 6:9**.
- VII. The promise of **ISA 40:28-31** obviously accrues especially to the believer. **1TI 4:10**.
- A. This world will weary us, sap our strength and make us faint.
  - B. Faith is the victory that overcomes it. **1JO 5:4**.