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If you have questions during the week, please drop us an e-mail at [jim@calvaryroswell.com](mailto:jim@calvaryroswell.com) or [phil@calvaryroswell.com](mailto:phil@calvaryroswell.com)

For a digital form of this booklet, an mp3 version of the teaching and/or powerpoint slides from the teaching, visit our website at <http://www.calvaryroswell.com/biblestudies/index.htm>



## Thru the Scriptures 2006-08



### Isaiah 40-48

January 24th-30th , 2008

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Ti 3:16-17)

## Isaiah—

The first thirty-nine chapters of Isaiah have opened up encouragingly. What of the remaining twenty-seven? Do we find similarly clear arrangement in these? We do. In fact there is something more than arrangement merely: there is a most significant grouping. These chapters (40-66) which make up the second part of the book, by their very grouping proclaim a truth of utter importance and preciousness. These twenty-seven chapters are a poem. They are a *Messianic* poem. Their ever-recurrent subject is the coming of Christ, the redemption of Israel, and the ultimate consummation. The chapters are not detachable from each other: they go together to form the greatest Messianic poem in the Bible.

—Baxter, Sidlow, J. (1966). *Explore the Book*

### Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)  
[http://preceptaustin.org/isaiah\\_commentaries.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/isaiah_commentaries.htm)

### Sermon Links:

“The Tenderness of Jesus” by C. H Spurgeon  
<http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/0794.htm>

“Sovereignty and Salvation” by C. H Spurgeon  
<http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/SOVSAL.TXT>

### Commentary:

The commentary used throughout this booklet is  
**With the Word Bible Commentary**

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

# Daily Bible Study

Thursday, January 24th, 2008

*Passage for today: Isaiah 40*

## Questions to Ponder

1. In what ways is this chapter meant to be a comfort to God's people? What are the prophecies in this chapter ultimately pointing to?
2. What comparisons are made in this chapter between the greatness of God and the smallness of man? According to verses 29-31, how do we draw upon God's infinite strength?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Isaiah 40

**Voices (1–11).** Though Isaiah wrote a century before the fall of Judah, his words greatly encouraged the exiles when they read them in Babylon. The voice of comfort (vv. 1–5) tells you that God knows how to measure your chastening and that He forgives and gives you a new beginning. The voice of confidence (vv. 6–8) assures you that His Word stands in spite of the frailty of man. The voice of conquest (vv. 9–11) is your voice as you share the good news with others. Shout it aloud!

**Vision (12–24).** Returning to the land and rebuilding the nation seemed impossible tasks to the exiles, so Isaiah invited them to behold the greatness of God. God is greater than every burden you bear and every challenge you face. Babylon was but a drop in the bucket to God! The world's false gods can do nothing to hinder the working of your great God, so trust Him to see you through.

**Victory (25–31).** You may be weak like grass (vv. 6–8), sheep (v. 11), dust (v. 15), grasshoppers (v. 22), and even worms (41:14); but if you trust the power of God, you can be like an eagle, a runner, and a patient pilgrim (vv. 28–31). In the emergencies of life, God helps you soar; in the daily routine of life, He helps you patiently walk. Both are the working of His mighty power (Eph. 3:20–21).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Is 40:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



# Daily Bible Study

Friday, January 25th, 2008

*Passage for today: Isaiah 41*

## Questions to Ponder

1. What does this chapter teach us about God's use of kings and nations to accomplish His purposes? What do the ungodly trust in for strength? Why is this a futile trust?
2. Notice the contrast between God and false idols. How is God a comfort to His people? What attributes belong to God alone?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Isaiah 41

As the exiles prepared to return to their land, they looked around, saw other nations, and were afraid (vv. 1–7). But God was (and is) in control of the nations, and He raised up Cyrus to do His bidding (vv. 2, 25). The false gods of the nations are no match for the true God of Israel.

Then the exiles looked at one another and asked, “Are we able to travel to our land and rebuild our nation?” (vv. 8–20). But God gave them assurance: “You are My servant! Fear not, for I am with you! I will help you!” He can make a toothless worm into a sharp threshing instrument (v. 15)! He can transform the arid desert into a garden (vv. 17–20).

Finally, they looked ahead and wondered about the future (vv. 21–29). God knows the future (the idols do not!) and has everything under control, so there is no need to worry.

As you contemplate your situation and face an unknown future, are you trusting Him? God's promise is still “I will help you” (vv. 10, 13, 14), and He will keep it!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Is 41:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



# Daily Bible Study

Saturday, January 26th, 2008

*Passage for today: Isaiah 42*

## Questions to Ponder

1. This chapter looks ahead to Jesus. What things does God want us to see about Jesus and His work?
2. What does this chapter teach us about Israel's disobedience? Why is this an important lesson for us today?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Isaiah 42

**God helped His Servant, Jesus Christ (1–13).** Matthew 12:18–21 applies this to our Lord in His earthly ministry to the needy. He was chosen by God and empowered by God, so He did not get discouraged and quit. Jesus Christ lived and served by faith, trusting His Father to meet His needs, and that is the way you must live today. His power is available to you.

**God helped His servant, Israel (14–25).** Weak as they were, the nation returned to the land after their years of captivity. They were spiritually blind and obstinate, but God led them and worked on their behalf.

**God helps His servants today.** When you belong to God's family, your Father is ready to forgive and restore you. Putting life back together again may appear impossible, but the Lord will work for you if you let Him. He can do new things (v. 9), guide you on new paths (v. 16), and give you a new song (v. 10).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Is 42:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



# Daily Bible Study

Sunday, January 27th, 2008

*Passage for today: Isaiah 43*

## Questions to Ponder

1. What does God promise to do for His people Israel in their distress? How will Israel be a witness of God's power to save? Do we have a similar purpose today in testifying of God's power of redemption?
2. What complaint does God bring against Israel in this chapter? How does it apply to us today?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Isaiah 43

There is no reason to be afraid when you realize what God has done for you. He formed you (v. 1) and made you for Himself (v. 21) and for His glory (v. 7). When you trusted Jesus Christ, God redeemed you (v. 1) and blotted out all your sins (v. 25). He is “the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King” (v. 15). He loves you (v. 4) and knows your name (v. 1). What a privilege to belong to such a great and gracious God!

Even more, God promises to be with you (v. 5) and take you through the water and the fire (v. 2). At the Exodus, He took Israel through the Red Sea and defeated the Egyptian army (vv. 16–17). Perhaps the three Hebrew heroes claimed this promise when they faced the fiery furnace (Dan. 3).

In spite of all the ministry He shares with us, God does not get weary as we do (40:28); but we can weary Him with our empty religious ritual and our sins (vv. 22–24). You are precious in His sight (v. 4), so do not cheapen yourself by disobeying Him.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Is 43:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



# Daily Bible Study

Monday, January 28th, 2008

*Passage for today: Isaiah 44-45*

## Questions to Ponder

1. In this chapter God again shows us the futility of trusting in idols. What are some of the things He emphasizes? What do these chapters teach us about the existence of other gods?
2. What is said in these chapters about God's power in creation and human history? What is said in chapter 45 about those who question God's purposes and ways?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Isaiah 44

**The faithfulness of God (1–8).** Once again, God reminds His people that He formed them, chose them, and would help them. There is no need to be afraid, for God meets every need (vv. 2–5) and keeps every promise (vv. 6–8). He knows what lies ahead and helps you prepare yourself to meet it.

**The folly of idolatry (9–20).** Israel learned in Babylon the futility and folly of idolatry. How easy it is to trust something other than the Lord, including the things we manufacture. Those who trust false gods will be afraid (v. 11) and become like the gods they worship (v. 18; Ps. 115:1–8). Their bodies may feast on excellent food (v. 19), but their souls feed on ashes (v. 20). They live on substitutes.

**The future of Israel (21–28).** Just like the exodus from Egypt (Exod. 14–15), the nation's exodus from Babylon would be a time of redemption and rejoicing, and God would confirm His Word to His people. Jerusalem would be restored and the temple rebuilt, and God would even use a pagan ruler to accomplish His purposes! He is the God of the impossible, so do what He commands.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Is 44:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Isaiah 45

God makes declarations to Cyrus (vv. 1–7), to the Jews (vv. 8–19), and to the gentile nations (vv. 20–25); and in these messages, He speaks to His people today.

His message to Cyrus was one of *sovereignty*, focusing on His uniqueness: Jehovah is the Creator and the Lord of history. Cyrus did not even know the Lord; yet the Lord called him by name and used him to accomplish His purposes. When life seems to be tumbling in, remember that God is on the throne and is sovereign.

His message to Israel emphasized *submission*. God can tell the rain clouds what to do, but His own people resist Him. This is like the clay telling the potter what to do (Jer. 18) or the child scolding the parents. If Israel would trust Him, they could share in the great things He was doing. Cyrus would cooperate with the Lord, and he did not even know Him!

The message to the Gentiles was one of *salvation*. God's purpose through Israel was that all nations be blessed (Gen. 12:1–3). One day God will gather His people and establish His kingdom, and then the nations will know the true God and trust the Savior. Meanwhile, we must get the message of salvation to every tribe and nation

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Is 45:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

# Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, January 29th, 2008

*Passage for today: Isaiah 46-47*

## Questions to Ponder

1. Notice the difference between the false gods who are a burden and the true God who bears up His people. Think about how this applies to your relationship with God. What does God call Israel to understand in chapter 46? Are there things in your life which could be considered an idol?
2. What sins brought about Babylon's downfall? What assumptions did she make about her security?
3. How can we learn from this in dealing with our trials and with our enemy Satan?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Isaiah 46-47

The prophet speaks to the Babylonians and warns them that judgment is coming because of their many sins.

He begins with their idolatry (chap. 46) and contrasts Jehovah and the gods of Babylon. The idols must be carried, but Jehovah is a God who carries His people. The false gods cannot predict the future or control history, but Jehovah does both. The idols are all alike, but Jehovah is the only true God and there is none like Him. Rejoice that you can worship the true and living God (Ps. 115)!

God then accused them of being proud (47:1-3), having no humanity (47:4-7), living for pleasure (47:8-9), and depending on occult practices (47:10-15), sins that are prevalent today. The "Lady of Kingdoms" would sit in the dust like a barren widow, and the astrologers and stargazers would be burned to stubble. Why did they not see the fire coming?

Nations and kingdoms have their day, but God reigns as King. Just be sure you are not learning the practices of Babylon.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Is 46:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



# Daily Bible Study

Wednesday, January 30th , 2008

*Passage for today: Isaiah 48*

## Questions to Ponder

1. How does God feel about the spiritual condition of His people? For whose sake will the Lord deliver them? What does this teach us about the holiness of God?
2. How would Israel have benefited if they had heeded God's commandments? How is this a warning for us today?

## With the word Bible Commentary

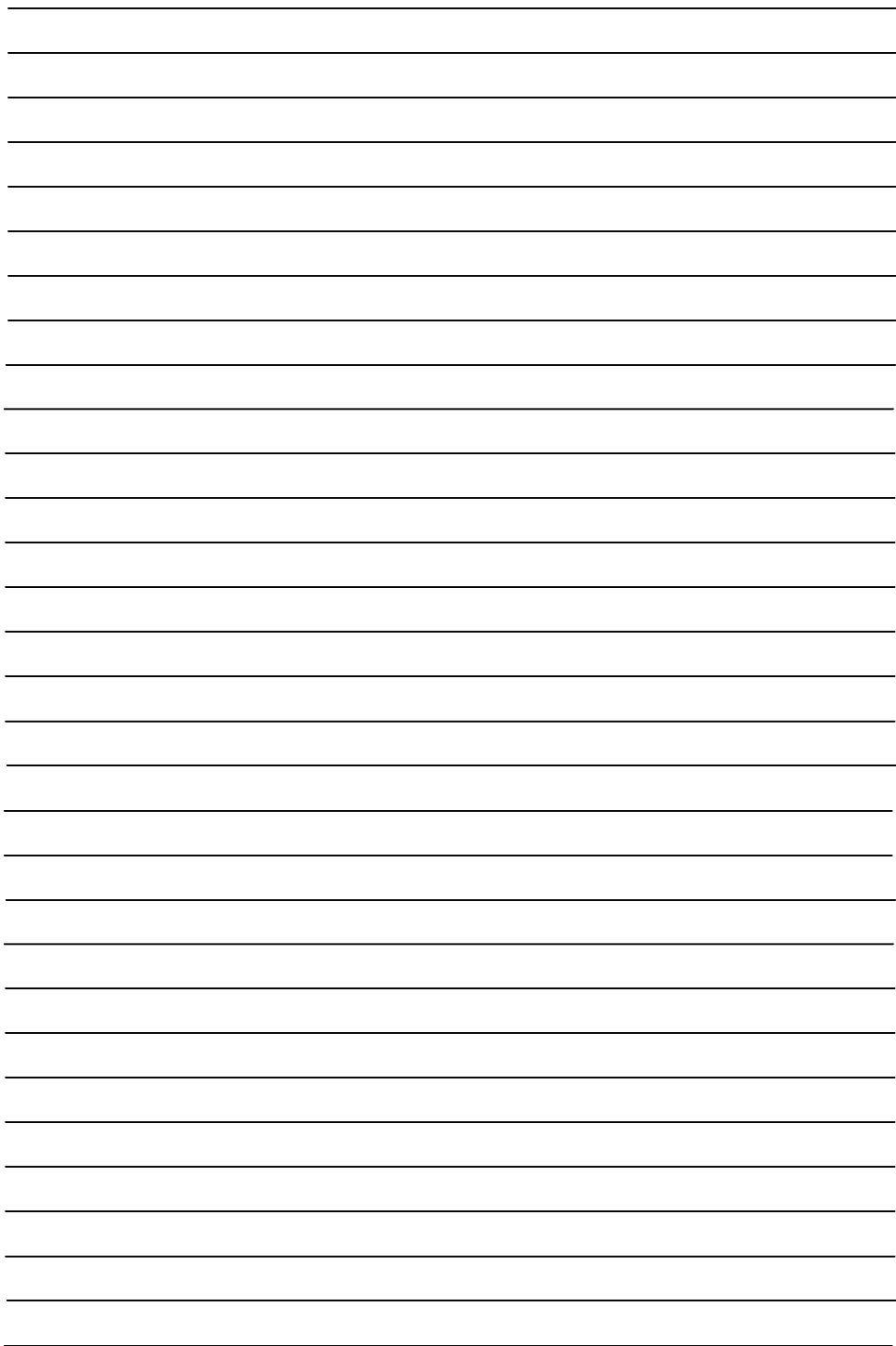
### Isaiah 48

**Rebuke.** When you end up in trouble because you did not listen to sound advice, the last thing you want to hear is somebody saying, "I told you so!" But that is just what God says to Israel in this chapter. He had warned them that their sins would bring judgment, but they hardened their necks and closed their ears. It was time to repent and seek forgiveness.

**Refining.** The captivity was about to end. It had been a time of refining for the nation (v. 10; Job 23:10; 1 Pet. 1:7), but they had learned to turn from idols and trust Jehovah alone. If you resist, the fire will burn you and make you hard; if you submit, the fire will purify you and make you tender.

**Renewing.** God declares new things (Isa. 42:9) and does new things (Isa. 43:19), and His people can hear new things (v. 6). Verse 20 has its parallel in 2 Corinthians 6:14–18. As you obey God, He leads you (v. 17), gives you peace (v. 18), and meets your needs (v. 21). No matter how weak you are, you can lean on Him (v. 2).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Is 48:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



## **Outline of Isaiah**

- I. Condemnation (1–39)
  - A. God’s Judgment on His prideful people (1–6)
  - B. Restoration thru Chastisement (7–12)
  - C. God’s Judgment on other nations (13–27)
  - D. Woes against the sins of the people (28–35)
  - E. Deliverance of Hezekiah: An example for Israel (36–39)
- II. Consolation (40–66) (The remnant returns home)
  - A. Comfort of God’s Greatness (40–48)**)← **THIS WEEK**
  - B. Promises of the Messiah (49–57)
  - C. Promises of the Future (58–66)

## **Outline of this weeks’ section of Isaiah**

- A. Comfort from God’s Greatness (40–48) )← **THIS WEEK**
  - 1. Comfort of God’s Deliverance 40:1–11
  - 2. Comfort of God’s Character 40:12–31
  - 3. Comfort of God’s Greatness 41:1–29
  - 4. Comfort of God’s Servant 42:1–25
  - 5. Comfort of God’s Restoration 43:1–44:28
  - 6. Comfort of God’s Sovereignty 45:1–25
  - 7. Comfort of God’s Uniqueness (Chap. 46)
  - 8. Comfort of God’s Justice (Chap. 47)
  - 9. Comfort of God’s Favor (Chap. 48)

## “*Those Who Wait Upon the Lord...*”

Isaiah 40:31

True waiting upon the Lord is neither slumbering nor striving. The Hebrew word used by God here to describe waiting has at its root the idea of being bound together with something. With that, true waiting as is described here is truly being bound together with our Lord in blessed and sweet connection. It is not *waiting* as one waits for a package to arrive, nor is it *waiting* as a waitress would wait on one who is eating at a local restaurant. It is instead *waiting* that is defined as being bound together with the One whom we are seeking to wait upon. Mary displayed for us a right example of this type of waiting on the Lord. She sat at the feet of Jesus actively watching, listening to and interacting with Him. She was not lazy in this, nor was she striving. She was totally captivated and in love with the Savior. She was fully satisfied with His closeness, not wanting to miss a moment or a word. This is true waiting. Martha, on the other hand, thought herself to be waiting to the Lord; but in her haste to try to minister to what she thought was His every need, she missed the greater part found in the Person of Jesus that her wise and humble sister had chosen. Saint, do you know the joy of this attachment that we call waiting on the Lord?

Isaiah promises God’s people here that if they would be diligent to attach themselves to the Lord, they would soon find their weakness being perfected by His strength. The promise is **renewed strength for those who wait upon the Lord**. The word *renewed* here gives the idea of change. To have our strength renewed is needed as we constantly deal with new and demanding situations in our lives here on earth. In this word *renew*, the Hebrew gives the picture of a tree, which seems to be decayed, sprouting up again out of what appears to be dead and unable to produce. Oh, how life in this world drains the life out of God’s saints, and how they need to be renewed daily. How else can this be done other than by attaching ourselves to the Root or to the Source of nourishing sap which is our Christ through His Spirit? Christian, is your strength sapped? Are your leaves withered and your trunk decayed? Are you finding no fruit in due season? Bind yourself to your Lord and be renewed with life and fruitfulness.

The next benefit promised to those who bind themselves to the Savior is that they will **“mount up on wings like eagles.”** What a picture we find here! Eagles are said to live long lives. And throughout their lives, they actually shed their old feathers as new feathers fill their wings. New feathers are of great benefit to those who are made to fly. The people of God surely find over time that their wings become ruffled, clipped and damaged. Here God promises us that if we wait upon Him, our wings will soon sprout new feathers. In this state the enemy cannot hold us down to the ground as we find new feathers filling our spans and carrying us on the wind to new heights. Today, Christian, are your feathers clipped? Are you engaged on the ground by the enemy of your soul? Or are you soaring in the heights viewing the world and its turmoil from the heavenly view that is available to you in the risen and exalted Christ? Wait on the Lord. Attach your soul to the One who can lift your heart and find your eyes filled with the eternal and heavenly view that they in Christ were made to see.

Further into the verse, we find another promise for those who wait upon the Lord: **“They shall run and not be weary.”** It has been said that our walk with the Lord sometimes breaks into a run. Opportunities and changes mount up. Staying attached to our Source of Strength can bring each of us power that we never thought ourselves to have. Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China used greatly by the Lord, commented in the latter part of his ministry that he felt himself to be so attached to the Lord and so fueled by the Lord that more things were getting done in and through him than ever before. And yet his work seemed effortless. Many other saints who have given all to the Lord could attest to the same—that there is a place of waiting with the Lord where weariness is overcome by zeal and fervent love for the Lord. Christian, does this describe you? Are you one who finds renewed strength in yourself when the Lord moves in and around you in a seemingly rapid pace? Wait on the Lord and you will indeed run, not growing weary, but fueled for the journey by the One who never sleeps nor slumbers.

While it is true that there are times in our walks when the Lord seems to move along at a more rapid pace, there are other times when He seems to move with a methodical and mundane pace that would send even a snail into boredom. How do we endure such a

slow pace? **Those who wait upon the Lord...shall walk and not faint.** There are truly days in our walk when we seem to be sitting still with the Lord, blistering in the sun under an empty sail on a calm sea. Delirium is bound for those who do not know to stay attached to the Lord during such times. We marvel in frustration at the seeming waste of time. We stir about in our hearts seeking a task to satisfy our flesh's need to be busy. Though they are tough, these times are necessary. And for those who wait upon the Lord, there is a promise that they will be able to go slow and not altogether collapse under the weight of waiting. Are you one who stays bound to the Lord even when there seems to be nothing happening? Or do you run ahead like the wild horse into fruitless activity simply to stay occupied? Don't faint, fellow sojourner. Bind yourself to the Lord and find yourself not only refraining from fainting, but even more, actually producing eternal fruit in the slow times.

This week as you endeavor to study this passage of scripture, bind yourself to the Lord and find your strength renewed. As you endure trials (perhaps even given by the Lord for your discipline) know that there is available for you an abiding in the Vine. May He give you vision, as you soar with new wings this week. May He give you strength, as you seek to keep up with all He is doing in and around you. And May You find power and peace to endure, as you walk with Him, even if that walk is slower than what you find comfortable! May you find new strength in Him as you attach yourself to the Fountain of living water, actively and diligently waiting upon Him!

***“The everlasting God . . . neither faints nor is weary”***

Isaiah 40:28

Devotional from My Utmost for His Highest

By Oswald Chambers

Exhaustion means that our vital energies are completely worn out and spent. Spiritual exhaustion is never the result of sin, but of service. Whether or not you experience exhaustion will depend on where you get your supplies. Jesus said to Peter, "Feed My sheep," but He gave him nothing with which to feed them ( John 21:17 ). The process of being made broken bread and poured-out wine means that you have to be the nourishment for other people's souls until they learn to feed on God. They must drain you completely— to the very last drop. But be careful to replenish your supply, or you will quickly be utterly exhausted. Until others learn to draw on the life of the Lord Jesus directly, they will have to draw on His life through you. You must literally be their source of supply, until they learn to take their nourishment from God. We owe it to God to be our best for His lambs and sheep, as well as for Him.

Have you delivered yourself over to exhaustion because of the way you have been serving God? If so, then renew and rekindle your desires and affections. Examine your reasons for service. Is your source based on your own understanding or is it grounded on the redemption of Jesus Christ? Continually look back to the foundation of your love and affection and remember where your Source of power lies. You have no right to complain, "O Lord, I am so exhausted." He saved and sanctified you to exhaust you. Be exhausted for God, but remember that He is your supply. "All my springs are in you" ( Psalm 87:7 ).

***“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.”***

Isaiah 40:31

Devotional from Our Daily Walk

By F B Meyer

It is more than probable that these lines will be read by some who have lost heart. They are fainting beneath the long and arduous strain of life, and ready to give up in despair. It seems as though God had forgotten to be gracious, and in anger had shut up His tender mercies. To all such, Isaiah says: God is not tired: you think He is because you are. Wait upon the Lord, and change your strength. The question is not as to altering your environment, but altering your courage, your power of endurance, your assurance of victory; then, notwithstanding every hindrance and difficulty, you will mount up on wings like eagles, you will run without being weary, you will walk without being faint. The inevitable order. Mounting up--running--walking! We should have supposed that it should have been walking in the beginnings of religious experience; then the walk breaking into the run; and finally the runner leaping on wings into the azure, like the eagle a black speck against the blue! But experience confirms the prophetic order. Isaiah is right! We mount, we run, we walk! Let us claim the promise--"They that wait on the Lord shall change their strength." Too often in the past we have depended on the stimulus of services, sermons, conventions which have made the embers glow again on the heart's altar. We have gone back to our homes, to our daily calling, with a new zeal and impulse that has lasted for weeks or months. Then we have found ourselves flagging again; we have run and got weary; we have walked and become faint. To all such comes the word; if you would once more mount up and run and walk, you must change your strength. Time tells on us! Moods influence us! Circumstances impede us! Satan blows cold blasts on our heart-fires and cools them! Sins pile up their debris between us and God! From all these let us turn once more to Jesus and wait on Him. "My soul, wait thou only upon the Lord, for my expectation is from Him." Look not back, but forward! Not down, but up! Not in, but out! Never to your own heart, but keep looking to Jesus, made near and living by the grace of the Holy Spirit. So shall you change your strength, as you wait upon the Lord.

# ***"Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee."***

Isaiah 41:9

Devotional from Morning and Evening

By Charles Spurgeon

If we have received the grace of God in our hearts, its practical effect has been to make us God's servants. We may be unfaithful servants, we certainly are unprofitable ones, but yet, blessed be his name, we are his servants, wearing his livery, feeding at his table, and obeying his commands. We were once the servants of sin, but he who made us free has now taken us into his family and taught us obedience to his will. We do not serve our Master perfectly, but we would if we could. As we hear God's voice saying unto us, "Thou art my servant," we can answer with David, "I am thy servant; thou hast loosed my bonds." But the Lord calls us not only his servants, but his chosen ones—"I have chosen thee." We have not chosen him first, but he hath chosen us. If we be God's servants, we were not always so; to sovereign grace the change must be ascribed. The eye of sovereignty singled us out, and the voice of unchanging grace declared, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Long ere time began or space was created God had written upon his heart the names of his elect people, had predestinated them to be conformed unto the image of his Son, and ordained them heirs of all the fulness of his love, his grace, and his glory. What comfort is here! Has the Lord loved us so long, and will he yet cast us away? He knew how stiffnecked we should be, he understood that our hearts were evil, and yet he made the choice. Ah! our Saviour is no fickle lover. He doth not feel enchanted for awhile with some gleams of beauty from his church's eye, and then afterwards cast her off because of her unfaithfulness. Nay, he married her in old eternity; and it is written of Jehovah, "He hateth putting away." The eternal choice is a bond upon our gratitude and upon his faithfulness which neither can disown.

***“I will pour water upon him that is thirsty.”***

Isaiah 44:3

Devotional from Morning and Evening

By Charles Spurgeon

When a believer has fallen into a low, sad state of feeling, he often tries to lift himself out of it by chastening himself with dark and doleful fears. Such is not the way to rise from the dust, but to continue in it. As well chain the eagle's wing to make it mount, as doubt in order to increase our grace. It is not the law, but the gospel which saves the seeking soul at first; and it is not a legal bondage, but gospel liberty which can restore the fainting believer afterwards. Slavish fear brings not back the backslider to God, but the sweet wooings of love allure him to Jesus' bosom. Are you this morning thirsting for the living God, and unhappy because you cannot find him to the delight of your heart? Have you lost the joy of religion, and is this your prayer, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation"? Are you conscious also that you are barren, like the dry ground; that you are not bringing forth the fruit unto God which he has a right to expect of you; that you are not so useful in the Church, or in the world, as your heart desires to be? Then here is exactly the promise which you need, "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty." You shall receive the grace you so much require, and you shall have it to the utmost reach of your needs. Water refreshes the thirsty: you shall be refreshed; your desires shall be gratified. Water quickens sleeping vegetable life: your life shall be quickened by fresh grace. Water swells the buds and makes the fruits ripen; you shall have fructifying grace: you shall be made fruitful in the ways of God. Whatever good quality there is in divine grace, you shall enjoy it to the full. All the riches of divine grace you shall receive in plenty; you shall be as it were drenched with it: and as sometimes the meadows become flooded by the bursting rivers, and the fields are turned into pools, so shall you be—the thirsty land shall be springs of water.

# *"I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction."*

Isaiah 48:10

Devotional from Morning and Evening

By Charles Spurgeon

Comfort thyself, tried believer, with this thought: God saith, "I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." Does not the word come like a soft shower, assuaging the fury of the flame? Yea, is it not an asbestos armour, against which the heat hath no power? Let affliction come—God has chosen me. Poverty, thou mayst stride in at my door, but God is in the house already, and he has chosen me. Sick-ness, thou mayst intrude, but I have a balsam ready—God has chosen me. Whatever befalls me in this vale of tears, I know that he has "chosen" me. If, believer, thou requirest still greater comfort, remember that you have the Son of Man with you in the furnace. In that silent chamber of yours, there sitteth by your side One whom thou hast not seen, but whom thou lovest; and oftentimes when thou knowest it not, he makes all thy bed in thy affliction, and smooths thy pillow for thee. Thou art in poverty; but in that lovely house of thine the Lord of life and glory is a frequent visitor. He loves to come into these desolate places, that he may visit thee. Thy friend sticks closely to thee. Thou canst not see him, but thou mayst feel the pressure of his hands. Dost thou not hear his voice? Even in the valley of the shadow of death he says, "Fear not, I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God." Remember that noble speech of Caesar: "Fear not, thou carriest Caesar and all his fortune." Fear not, Christian; Jesus is with thee. In all thy fiery trials, his presence is both thy comfort and safety. He will never leave one whom he has chosen for his own. "Fear not, for I am with thee," is his sure word of promise to his chosen ones in the "furnace of affliction." Wilt thou not, then, take fast hold of Christ, and say—  
Through floods and flames, if Jesus lead,  
I'll follow where he goes."