

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

[www.twojourneys.org](http://www.twojourneys.org)

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

## **The Majestic God Alone Can Strengthen the Weary**

### **Isaiah 40:18-31**

Some of the most majestic verses in the Bible on the infinite vastness of God's majesty are found in this incredible chapter!

This section of Isaiah speaks of a God who rules actively over the events on earth AND over the stars in the heavens... the range of the majesty of God covered in these words is staggering

The God who created each of the stars and calls them each by name... the God who sustains them by His powerful word, this same God establishes Kings and princes in their positions, then blows on them and reduces them to dust in the wind...

This same God is the very one who is able to renew your strength like the eagles... He is able to make you run and not grow weary... to walk and not be faint

Recent research has identified a single star in the cosmos which scientists are calling UY Scuti... a red supergiant... it is 5 billion times the size of the sun! In diameter, if it were at the center of our solar system, it would reach out to somewhere between the orbits of Jupiter and Saturn!! That is HUGE!!

But this one star is dwarfed by the overall size of the universe itself... it cannot be seen by the naked eye despite its immense size

The universe was meant to HUMBLE the pride of man:

***Psalm 8:3-4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?***

But in Isaiah 40, it was meant to encourage the fainthearted that God will never forsake us but will guarantee that each of His elect children will most certainly finally be saved!

This chapter tells us how all the stars continue to exist:

***Isaiah 40:26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.***

The ultimate lesson here is for US, the elect children of God, going through a variety of challenges... to know that not one of us will be MISSING on that final day:

***John 6:39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.***

***Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.***

I. The Context: The Good News is God Himself (vs. 1-17)

A. God Speaks a Timeless Message to a Sinful Human Race

1. Certainly, the immediate context of the restoration of the Jews to the Promised Land should not be ignored
2. But God is speaking also in spiritual language to His people in every generation
3. God has provided ample atonement for all our sins in the person and work of Jesus Christ

***Isaiah 40:1-2 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.***

4. This is a message God wants PROCLAIMED to all His chosen people around the world
  - a. John the Baptist was a messenger sent to proclaim the way of the Lord...
  - b. His ministry was prophesied in verses 3-4

***Isaiah 40:3-4 A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.***

- c. He was sent in the days immediately before Jesus Christ to prepare for His coming

d. But the need for messengers to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ is still just as powerful today

e. And the message is the same:

***Isaiah 40:5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.***

5. The “glory of the Lord” is the full display of God’s attributes... the full display of His nature, His perfections, His descriptions

6. And NOWHERE is God put so clearly on display as in the cross of Christ

a. God’s power and wisdom are displayed there

***1 Corinthians 1:23-24 we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.***

b. God’s love is displayed there

***Romans 5:8 God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

c. God’s justice is displayed there

***Romans 3:25-26 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- <sup>26</sup> he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.***

God is spreading this message to the ends of the earth... The GLORY OF GOD is for all humanity to partake in... to feast on!!

B. We Need this Message Because We are Mortal Sinners

***Isaiah 40:6-8 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."***

C. The Glory of God is the Centerpiece of the Good News...

***Isaiah 40:9 You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Behold... your God!"***

#### D. The Glory of God Spans an Astonishing Range

1. He is the powerful Judge of All the Earth

***Isaiah 40:10 Behold, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. Behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.***

2. He is also the Tender Shepherd who cares for His sheep

***Isaiah 40:11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.***

#### E. Last Week: We Studied the Staggering Majesty of God in these Verses

***Isaiah 40:12-17 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? <sup>13</sup> Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor? <sup>14</sup> Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding? <sup>15</sup> Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust. <sup>16</sup> Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires, nor its animals enough for burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.***

This is the great God who is calling us to repent and trust in Him!!

## II. The Absolute Folly of Idolatry (vs. 18-20)

***Isaiah 40:18-20 To whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare him to? <sup>19</sup> As for an idol, a craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it. <sup>20</sup> A man too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot. He looks for a skilled craftsman to set up an idol that will not topple.***

### A. God Challenges the Idols

1. In these chapters, God is constantly fighting against the idols that are luring His chosen people away from their faithful devotion to Him
2. God is in a bitter warfare for the affections of His people, seeking to show the utter folly of worshiping idols
3. The idolatry of His people was the very reason why the Exile to Babylon would eventually take place
4. So, before it even happened, God was exposing the wickedness of idolatry

5. What is “idolatry”?

***Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen.***

Putting ultimate value in a created thing rather than in God

Relying on created things as the center of existence... as a “functional savior” from this or that trouble

Whatever dominates your thoughts... whatever becomes the center of your daily life

6. Our idols:

#### B. Idol-Makers of Isaiah’s Day

1. They used their imaginations to come up with artistic representations of God
2. They would look around at the world and think about what aspect of the god they would like to represent
3. They would use a bull to represent god’s strength; the gold to represent god’s worth; a conglomerate of various animals... eagles wings, human face, fish scales, lion’s teeth, bear’s mighty legs... who knows?
4. The artists’ activity is highlighted here: especially the selecting of a kind of wood that will not rot... or the making of gold/silver chains to hold it from toppling
5. God is mocking this: He cannot rot, for He is pure and not physical; He need no chains to keep Him from toppling, for no force in the universe can topple Him, nor can any chain hold Him

#### C. God’s Absolute Forbidding of Idols

***Exodus 20:4-5 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God***

1. There is nothing in the universe “like God”
2. Nothing that perfectly captures the essence of all that God is
3. No artist can ever think, ponder, reflect, and then begin to shape some wood, or carve or hammer some metal and come up with anything that even comes close to God

#### D. God Uses Comparisons... But Sets Boundaries Around Them

1. God does use earthly language to teach us about Himself
2. God is mighty and fearless like a lion (Isaiah 31:4), but He is vastly more powerful than any lion... and He isn't only mighty and fearless
3. God is tender and compassionate like a nursing mother (Isaiah 49:15), and protective like a mother eagle over her young (Deuteronomy 32:11)... but he is vastly greater in compassion than any nursing mother, and more protective than any eagle... and He isn't only compassionate and protective
4. God is a warrior... but greater than any warrior... and so much more than a warrior
5. God is a refuge, a strong tower, a solid rock, a mighty wind, a spring of water in a desert... God is a father, a King, a singer; God is light; God is love; God is spirit...
6. Scripture is full of such language... but no one image fully captures all that God is... this is the beauty of the WORD OF GOD... but no representation, no IDOL can ever capture all of this

#### E. So... to Whom Can You Compare God?

1. No one is like Him!!
2. This is the infinite holiness of God... the uniqueness of His person and His position in the universe

### III. The Supremacy of God over Earth and Heaven (vs. 21-26)

#### A. An Appeal to their Theology... to What They've Known About God from the Beginning

***Isaiah 40:21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?***

1. The Scripture build on itself, line upon line, verse upon verse
2. No contradictions... but a steady building of the doctrine of God, little at a time
3. This message has been proclaimed about God from the beginning of our lives, and from the beginning of human history... from the time the earth was founded: GOD NEVER CHANGES!!

#### B. God's Position as Sovereign Over All the Earth

***Isaiah 40:22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.***

1. God's reign as King of kings is focused on here in particular
2. God rules over all nations
3. He's already declared that those nations are a "drop from the bucket" and "dust on the scales"
4. Here, he zeroes in on the rulers, kings, leaders in particular
5. All the people are like GRASSHOPPERS... He is vastly superior to them in power and wisdom... He could squash them all if He willed
6. God is specifically greater than the so-called "great ones" of the earth

***Isaiah 40:23-24 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. <sup>24</sup> No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.***

- a. This language totally rejects the idea of "deism"... that God merely designed the world like a clock, wound it up and let it run
  - b. NO! God gets actively involved in the unfolding of human history!!
  - c. God establishes the rulers of the earth in their positions... lets them flourish for a brief time... but almost as soon as they get established, God begins to bring their reign to an end... He blows on them and they wither and DIE... and the wind blows them away like chaff, leaving scarcely a memory of the brief time they ruled on the earth
7. How apt we are to forget this! How apt we are to stand in awe of human achievement, human intellect, human glory, human power
  8. God rules these rulers with absolute power... including the day of their installation, and the day of their deaths
  9. Isaiah here focuses on the comparative BREVITY of their reigns... so brief a time... a few moments and they are gone! Unlike God
  10. Nebuchadnezzar understood this after God humbled him:

***Daniel 4:34-35 Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. <sup>35</sup> All the peoples of the earth are regarded as***

*nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"*

### C. God's Power Extended Vastly Beyond Anything Man Can Reach

#### 1. God's challenge again

***Isaiah 40:25 "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.***

#### 2. The scope of God's immeasurable power reaches not merely to the ends of the earth, but to the end of the universe itself

***Isaiah 40:22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.***

- a. God created and controls the atmosphere which enables us to live... the air we breathe, the atmosphere which shields us from radiation and meteorites... a fragile bubble in deep space which God sustains to keep us alive

#### 3. And the rest of the universe as well:

***Isaiah 40:26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.***

- a. If you go out to the night sky in a mountainous area, where there is very little humidity... up high, where the air is thinner... you look up and your breath is taken away!
- b. You've never seen so many stars! The Milky Way, our home galaxy, which we view from the edge looking across
- c. God says to you, "Who created ALL THESE?" They didn't get there by accident!
- d. How many are there? Science can only begin to estimate
  - i) The nearest star, of course, is the sun: 93 million miles away; 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit on its surface; 27 million degrees at its core; lighting and warming the earth day after day at a perfect distance away from the earth to keep us alive; 109 times larger than the earth in diameter, its volume could hold 1 million earths; yet cosmologists tell us the sun is just a very average star



- ii) The Milky Way is shaped like a spiral, rotating in space; it would take light 104,000 years to travel across this one galaxy; the Milky Way has over 100 billion stars; if Abraham had been able to see them and began counting them, it would have taken him 3000 years to finish the count
- iii) In recent years, the Hubble Space telescope has greatly expanded our sense of the incomprehensible immensity of the cosmos... there are hundreds of billions of galaxies in outer space... a number of stars that boggles the mind
- iv) The text says that God calls each one out BY NAME, one at a time! Naming shows sovereign power and intimate understanding; when Jesus named Simon “Peter” (Rock) it showed an understanding of what He would be in God’s plan; the stars are merely points of light to us... various sizes and colors, and different positions... and that’s the only way we can differentiate between them; but God sees differences enough to name each one... notice also that God did not give to Adam this task of naming the stars... only the creatures on the earth; man was given dominion over the earth, not over the cosmos... God alone rules over it all!!
- v) This text says that, because of God’s mighty power and vast understanding “NOT ONE OF THEM IS MISSING” God SUSTAINS the stars by the word of His power moment by moment
- vi) Most of the stars we’d never miss if it were missing; but imagine if one of the stars in the Big Dipper were suddenly gone!!
- vii) The fact that, because of God’s power and knowledge not one star is missing points to the doctrine of election, in which not one of God’s elect will be missing from the Kingdom of Heaven
- viii) GOD CANNOT LOSE TRACK OF YOU!!

D.

#### IV. The Lesson Applied: The Majestic God Gives Strength to the Weary (vs. 27-31)

Isaiah takes this amazing chapter and presses it home to the hearts of God’s people

The generation of Jews that were in exile in Babylon may have wondered what had happened to all the power and the promises of God... so this chapter stands to encourage them to trust in God despite their dire circumstances...

But it stands as a timeless message to Christians in every generation as well

It comes in three stages: I) Our Despair; II) God's Greatness; III) Our Renewal

#### A. Our Despair

***Isaiah 40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?***

1. This is where the rubber meets the road... where theology has to get to work: in the hearts and attitudes of God's people
2. God truly cares about the FAITH of His people... their HOPE... their JOY in the midst of trials
3. God truly cares about the ATTITUDE with which His people live their lives here on earth
4. He addresses the despair of His people—the Jews of the exile, but also Christians in every generation
5. He asks them that probing question: WHY
  - a. So often, God's suffering people lift up their tear-stained eyes to heaven, and with anguished voice cry out to God that one word accusation: WHY???
  - b. We don't understand why God would allow such a trial to invade our lives and plunder from us all we cherish
  - c. But even more incomprehensible in the universe is brought to life by God's same question to us: WHY?? Why, O my people, won't you TRUST ME?
6. God asks Jacob why he complains against God... God asks Israel why he laments against God
7. The content of the lament: MY WAY IS HIDDEN FROM THE LORD... MY CAUSE IS DISREGARDED BY MY GOD
  - a. "God doesn't care about me any more..." "God has stopped watching out for me" "God doesn't love me any more"
  - b. Why do you say this?
  - c. Simply: because of the things that have happened
  - d. In Jacob's case, it was the exile and the seventy years of languishing in triumphant Babylon under pagan rulers

- i) They knew that Jerusalem was a pile of rubble
  - ii) They knew Solomon's temple was totally destroyed and all its breathtaking gold and artwork gone forever
  - iii) They knew that most of that generation of Jews was slaughtered by Nebuchadnezzar
  - iv) Now... they live in Babylon, surrounded by evidence of the overwhelming power of the Babylonian Empire... with no end in sight
- e. But God through Isaiah is lifting these words up to a timeless level
- i) For every generation of His people in every nation on earth, there will be times that they will be tempted to say these exact things to God
  - ii) "Why do you forget me, O Lord? Why do you not answer my prayers? Why have you not healed me? Why do you let me languish in pain? Why is my poverty hidden from your eyes? I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, O LORD!!!"
8. Specifically: It seems like God doesn't see me... He can't tell what is happening in my life: GOD DOES NOT SEE... GOD DOES NOT KNOW... GOD DOES NOT CARE
9. This is the language of despair... and Satan loves to feed that poison to every one of God's children in every generation
10. But the verse implies how unreasonable it is to come to this conclusion about God... WHY DO YOU SPEAK LIKE THIS, O MY PEOPLE???

#### B. God's Greatness

***Isaiah 40:28-29 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. <sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.***

1. God reminds His people of their theology... their Bible lessons! "Do you not know? How you not heard? As He said earlier in the chapter:

***Isaiah 40:21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?***

2. As Jesus so often would say, "Haven't you read...?"

3. So much of our trouble is how we forget God and His Word!! You don't need new verses, new teaching, new insights! You need to remember what you've known from the first time you heard of the Lord
4. What have you learned? FOUR THINGS
  - a. God is eternal and everlasting
  - b. God is the Creator of the ends of the earth
  - c. God never grows tired or weary
  - d. God's understanding no one can fathom
5. Lesson #1: The eternity of God: ***"The Lord is the everlasting God"***
  - a. A better translation: "The Lord is the God of ETERNITY..." God has no beginning and no end
  - b. God is not trapped in time as we are... for us, "NOW" is always the issue, and the future is dark and fearsome
  - c. But God is always living in eternity: yesterday, today, and tomorrow equally live in front of His omniscient mind
  - d. God knows the end from the beginning and remembers the beginning at the end
  - e. God is as far above time as He is above the surface of the earth
  - f. Concerning the past: God remembers the covenant He made with us in Christ... the covenant is as alive in His heart as it was the day He said "I do" to us, His bride... He will never forget the sacred vows He took in Christ to save us from our sins
  - g. Concerning the present: God studies each instant of the present as if it were in ultra slow motion:

***2 Peter 3:8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years***

- i) That means God knows EXACTLY what is happening RIGHT NOW... far better than you do
- ii) He is as much an expert in RIGHT NOW as He is in the past or the future
- iii) He knows what we're going through RIGHT NOW and is studying every motion of our hearts and every

- iv) Your way isn't hidden from God... He understands everything you're going through, and is specifically measuring out how much you're enduring
  - v) He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear
  - h. Concerning the future: God has already ordained the future and is working everything out for your final salvation... He has a plan, and everything is unfolding according to that plan
  - i. PAST... PRESENT... FUTURE... all instantly before this God... the everlasting God... the eternal God
6. Lesson #2: God is the Creator of the ends of the earth
- a. God as the Creator is infinite in power, and His sovereign power extends to every square inch of this planet
  - b. There is nowhere God's people can go where they will beyond His power... there is no limit to His jurisdiction
  - c. Whether God's people are in exile in Babylon, or captured in a raid by Vikings, or homesteading in the deep woods of Kentucky during the French and Indian Wars, or lying in a hospital bed during the flu epidemic of 1919, or running through the streets of England for a bomb shelter during the Blitz, or waiting for a lab report from the pathology study on a lump growing inside you... no matter where you are, God is the CREATOR OF THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
7. Lesson #3: God never grows weary or weak
- a. The focus is on God's power to accomplish His plan
  - b. God's arms do not grow weary; God's mind does not wander or get bored or fatigued
  - c. God is immensely active... immeasurably active ALL THE TIME

***John 5:17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."***

- d. God's power is inexhaustible, like the sun... it doesn't get diminished by burning, neither does God get weary from acting
- e. God isn't tired of you; God isn't weary of saving you; God isn't worn out with your sin; God isn't suffering from battle fatigue in defending you from Satan's attacks; God is as FRESH IN THE BATTLE now as He was when it began

- f. And, since the verse is set in the future, GOD WILL NEVER GROW WEARY OR TIRED... it will NEVER happen!!
8. Lesson #4: God is wise and His understanding is unsearchable
- a. God's plan is infinitely wise... it's been carefully measured out in all its details
  - b. God knows exactly what He's doing with your life
  - c. God knows that He is working to perfect His chosen people and conform them to Christ... all the elect in resurrection bodies in the New Heaven and New Earth
  - d. God has never forgotten that final destination... and He has never forgotten the way to get there, down to the smallest detail
  - e. God's plans are perfectly WISE
  - f. BUT His plans are also UNSEARCHABLE... His wisdom no one can fathom... Romans 11 says "***How unsearchable His judgments and His paths beyond tracing out...***"
  - g. This means don't expect to be able to understand perfectly everything God is doing in your life

So... this is our God... eternal and unchanging, the Creator of the ends of the earth; a God who never ceases working for us; a God whose wisdom is perfect but unsearchable

DO YOU NOT KNOW THESE THINGS about God? Haven't you heard them from the beginning of your relationship with Him? So... why are you so depressed? Why do you get discouraged? Why do you say God no longer cares about you?

It's time now for our RENEWAL:

### C. Our Renewal

***Isaiah 40:30-31 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.***

1. Here Isaiah brings up the strongest among us: the youths... the handpicked soldiers, specially trained
  - a. The Hebrew implies that is who Isaiah is referring to

- b. In our age, it would be Olympic athletes or Navy Seals
- c. The cream of the cream of the crop... the absolute best the world has to offer
- d. EVEN THEY grow tired and weary!! Even the best among us has times of weariness and fatigue...
- e. Extend it to the spiritual realm
  - i) Even some of the greatest men and women from church history have had their fainting spells

ii) Charles Spurgeon put it this way in the “minister’s fainting fits”

“As it is recorded that David, in the heat of battle, waxed faint, so may it be written of all the servants of the Lord. Fits of depression come over the most of us. Usually cheerful as we may be, we must at intervals be cast down. The strong are not always vigorous, the wise not always ready, the brave not always courageous, and the joyous not always happy.”

iii) Everyone struggles at certain times with depression in the Christian life

iv) The journey seems so long; the enemies seem so strong

2. The renewal: those who HOPE IN/WAIT FOR the Lord will renew their strength
  - a. Some translations say “hope in the Lord” some say “wait”... it is really the same thing.... WAITING for God’s plan to unfold, and waiting with HOPE
  - b. First of all, it glorifies God for us to realize how different we are from Him: He never gets weary; we frequently do
  - c. And it glorifies God for us to bring our weariness, our weakness, our depression to Him for a time of renewal... we are TOTALLY DEPENDENT on Christ

***John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.***

- d. God has the power to “renew our strength”
  - i) He gives us physical energy... a burst of strength

ii) He gives us spiritual energy too... a fresh zeal to serve Him; renewed joy... renewed perspective

iii) As the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm puts it:

***Psalm 23:2-3 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.***

iv) As John 4 puts it

***John 4:14 whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."***

v) God is able to revive us in the midst of our trials!!

3. Renewed by His Strength... we can do THE IMPOSSIBLE!!!

***Isaiah 40:31 They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.***

- a. This awesome poetic language shows what God can do in ordinary people who wait on Him and hope in Him
- b. They can take the gospel to the ends of the earth and overcome the Satanic strongholds to win the elect, even if it means martyrdom
- c. They can walk day by day while dying from cancer, and give a clear display of hope and joy... trusting in their resurrection in Christ rather than in the latest experimental drug
- d. They can endure the assaults of temptation in the area of a besetting sin and NOT YIELD to what their flesh is demanding from them
- e. They will continue to make progress toward CHRIST-LIKE PERFECTION, and continue to advance the gospel in a hostile world!!

## V. Applications

### A. Come to Christ!!

1. This whole chapter ultimately is GOOD NEWS only because of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross
2. The God who rules over the earth and the heavens with this kind of power and this kind of knowledge would be a fearsome ENEMY and JUDGE if not for Christ



3. We are all idolaters apart from the grace of God... we worship money, power, pleasure, ourselves... we are SINFUL REBELS who need the atoning work of the gospel
4. God sent His Son to save us... and to be our tender shepherd who can carry us in His arms
5. Flee to Him while there's still time!!

B. Cherish Isaiah 40!!

1. Go over its verses holding up each one like a treasure!
2. Cherish the fact that, in Christ, we can be COMFORTED that we have received "double for all our sins"
3. Cherish the fact that Christ is the Savior predicted by John the Baptist, saying "Every valley shall be raised up and every mountain and hill made low"
4. Cherish the truth that all flesh is GRASS and all the glory of it is like the flowers of the field... embrace the mortality that is clearly ours as a punishment for our sins
5. Cherish the fact that the Word of God stands forever... and this is the sweet gospel that was preached to us... IT WILL NEVER FADE AWAY!!
6. Cherish the doctrine of God in this chapter: BEHOLD YOUR GOD!!
7. Understand how mighty He is, the one who comes with power to Judge the Earth... understand how He rules over heaven and earth; understand that He Himself is the one who controls human history by planting princes and kings, then causing them to die; be staggered at the immense power of God in calling each star by name and upholding their very existence!
8. CHERISH THE FACT THAT HE IS A TENDER SHEPHERD to each of His Lambs

- C. Are You Depressed? Discouraged? Know that God is reasoning with you in this chapter! Why do you say that your way is hidden from God? It's not! God is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth! He is the One who is holding you in the palm of His hand!!

D. Allow God to Renew You Spiritually!!

***Isaiah 40:31 those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.***