

They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength" Isa 40:31

Review - how we can live in God's strength

- "Renewable energy" is big today - Barrel of oil / dig ^{pump} / ton of coal / solar panel / ^{capture same amount /} wind ^{mill} turbine / water fall from dam
- Sun - a massive star - enough power in one minute to supply all the world's energy for 1 yr. doesn't reduce sun, wind, river
 - "hot topic" - hot easy to convert entire planet to sustainable power in short period of time
 - Not a new discovery - water wheel

Spiritual side of renewable energy - Isa 8:12 light of world Eph 5:14 Mal 4:2 Psa 84:11 1 Cor 1:16
God put solar reactor panels in our hearts/minds to receive renewable power from the Son of God
united at Jesus - renewable strength for each day's needs - to stay energized we need to soak up "heavenly sunlight", harness fresh wind currents of the Spirit - we can draw perpetual strength from Him w/o diminishing His omnipotence

Isa 40:31 - beautiful Heb poetry, teaching very real truth -

Background: Isa 40-66 to comfort Jewish exiles in Babylon (500 mi from Jerusalem)
(refugees from Middle East) - issue today

- After Assyrian invasion 701 B.C., Jerusalem fell to Babylonian Empire 586 B.C. Jerusalem destroyed, temple collapsed - many died survivors marched 500 mi to refugee settlements. (became permanent towns, villages as time passed) - hope of 70 yrs (Jer. 25)

- King Cyrus (new king) issued decree allowing some of Jews to return (Ezra; Nehemiah) - had to reclaim territory now held by enemies, rebuild city - they needed strength & encouragement, strength to run w/o weariness, walk w/o fainting - needed limitless supplies of renewable energy

Isa 40-66 written to these returnees & their fellow Israelites who were unable to return themselves (Isaiah lived to about 690 - inspired to write these chapters to a generation 150 yrs after him) - He spoke to them as if living among them) - 27 chapters full of tenderness, comfort, messianic hope, optimistic (very encouraging) if you are in a prolonged bleak, read these chapters (1 month)

Isa 40 the opening chapter - sets scene for whole section -

"Richest passage in Bible on Majesty of God" - 1st used comfort - "wings of eagles"

- Comfort, comfort my people (double use) My people - says the Lord - vs 1-5
- Unbreakable Nature of scripture vs 6-8

V9 His great name - Go up on mountain, shout, do not be silenced - HERE IS YOUR GOD!

they felt they had been abandoned by God - they abandoned Him, they thought He ^{abandoned them}
Now Isaiah was shouting - here is your God - Rediscover Him - Recover your knowing Him -

(What He is saying is just as available to you & me) Look at Him / Study Him / His Greatness / Comfort in His Presence
A message of comfort to these distressed, displaced, disoriented in life -
God has forgiven everything in Past. Putting you on a highway of straight road, level highways, good roads, ready His glory, keeps His eternal promises - climb up top of summit, shout to world news

If you are feeling discouraged, here is your God! (Biblical comfort) - you don't need to be in fear, feel alone, heartbroken, downcast - here is your God!

40:10-31 A series of images portraying God who comes to our aid - possibly greatest series of pictures/images of the practical power of our God - words to read often, to turn them into prayer & praise - to visualize, memorize

- Isaiah asks questions (rhetorical questions) - addressed to those returning refugees & those who couldn't make the journey - sending the others,

Q) v12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand? (little bowl in palm of hand, how much water can it hold? try it - one teabspoon spills out)

A) - God can hold all waters of all oceans in hollow of His hand -
- Pacific Ocean - pour in His hand - largest ocean $\frac{1}{4}$ of earth, equal to nearly all land surface at deepest point 35,000 ft deep -
- pour in Atlantic Ocean - between America, Caribbean with Europe/Africa
- Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, Arctic Ocean - He can hold it all - not spill any -
That's the size of the hand holding us/helping us -
He measures the waters in hollow of His hand -

Look at next chapter 41:10,13 I will uphold you with my right hand right hand. For I am the LORD who takes hold of your right hand & says to you "Do not fear, I will help you!"

B) - What does He do with His other hand? - v12 or with the breath of His hand matted off-takeners?

(breadth of hand) - end of thumb to smallest finger - 5" together - 8" stretched out - can't get it around a cola can - palm a basketball -
- The LORD can reach out and cover the entire universe with the span of His hand
- Size of universe - early astronomers discovered we are just seeing one small galaxy - Milky Way
1924 Edwin Hubble suggested there could be other galaxies (many galaxies) beyond Milky Way - now we know billions of galaxies - the size of the universe boggles our minds
- To the LORD it is span of His hand

C) - Who has held the dust of earth in a basket?

- How much dirt can you carry in a bucket? - 5 gallon bucket full with dirt - one in each hand - how far can you carry those? - All the beaches from California to Oregon to Washington - East coast from North Carolina to Florida - how many grains of sand? Mohave Desert Las Vegas to Los Angeles - West Texas, Utah, New Mexico,
The LORD can carry it all like a child carry a sand bucket at beach -

D) Who has weighed the mountains on the scales & the hills in a balance?

- Bathroom scales - goes up to 250/300 - what about putting Mt Rainier on the scale - wonder how much it weighs? - apparently it's a volcano hollow in middle - but doesn't stop there - whole Cascade Range - Sierra Nevadas, Coastal Range - Rocky Mts, Big Horn, Appalachians, Canadian Alps - Himalayas, Swiss & Italy - just a drop in bucket to God -

V13-14 - Who can follow the spirit of the Lord - instruct the Lord as the counselor? Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten Him?

Who taught Him knowledge - Where did He get His education? Who mentored Him - No one! He can teach us, but no one can teach Him - He already instinctively knows every detail of reality, everywhere at every time -

V15 - Surely the nations are like a drop in the bucket -

More 200 nations in world now - some are causing a lot of trouble - wars, treaties, nuclear weapons - Jews ^{then} said there will be wars/pemurs of wars - we're caught up in elections, impost - debates, general elections 52 days - But to God the entire lot of nations is like a drop in bucket

- Water your plants - turn the water can over - just few drops that fall out - that's what the nations are like compared to God - His power, sovereignty - His throne on high - How many empires have come & gone - great rulers rise & fall - one after another - His kingdom is everlasting -

V21-22 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth & its people are like grasshoppers -

"Circle of the earth" - people said the earth is flat - days of Isaiah told us it was a great circle, sphere - the heavens are stretched around it like a canopy, tent - providing a beautiful environment for us to live -

- We love to go canopy - we would use a tent - ruin - drops in, news underneath - the universe is like a tent stretched around our planet to show us His glory -

- We are like grasshoppers - talk of the world leaders - access in news everyday - they make a lot of boasts - power struggle - the masses they make - they live in palaces, fly in private jets, motorcade, make decisions, laws, affect people's lives - to God like grasshoppers -

V23-24 - He brings princes to naught - reduces the rulers of the world to nothing -

V25 ft - another set of questions - To whom will you compare me - Who is my equal? Lift up your eyes & look to heavens - Who created all these?

God created too many stars to count - Milky Way - 300 billion) figure that out
100 billion galaxies

God knows every star - has a name for each one - calls them by name - every star, sun, moon, planet, comet, asteroid, pulsar, meteor, nebula, supernova -

If He knows who should we doubt He knows each of us able to keep up with us -

V27 Why do you say My way is hidden from the Lord - If our God can keep track of a billion galaxies each with billions of stars - don't you think He can keep up with you & your concerns?

Vs 28-31 - they that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength - they will soar on wings like eagles -

Eagles - majestic birds - amazing vision - larger than human eyes - 8 times sharper vision - telescopic vision -

Powerful feet - talons that can grip like a vice, beaks as sharp as a butter knife -
Most of all, built for flying - Soar at incredible speeds - 60, 80, 100 mph - do rolls
like a stunt plane - loops, dives - wingspan 8 ft. They seldom flap wings - they soar which allows
them to travel vast distances - very little energy - catch hot air currents that rise up from ground -
Eagles know how to catch thermals - invisible currents - rise higher & higher - 15000 ft - so high you
can't see them with naked eye - They can go from total calm, soar back & forth -
- That is God's picture of faith in God - if you need strength to get through day - stretch out wings of
faith & believe in God - you don't have to flap wings - you can soar on the promises of God -
- When I am facing a problem - ! open my Bible, look up passages -

v31 - they will run & not grow weary, they will walk and not faint -

Psa 55: 6 Oh that I had wings of a dove I would fly away & be at rest

Isa 40: 31 Those who wait on Lord will renew their strength they will mount up on wings like eagles.

(Some people go on vacations to fly away - escape the pressure, duty, greed - come home exhausted
but when we learn to take a spiritual break by resting/walking on low - we'll mount up
with wings like eagles - we need to take spiritual vacations - come home ready to go back
to work for the Lord)

Whenever you see an eagle soar - think of this verse - God gives us this verse for a
reminder when we see an eagle - it reminds us of God taking care of each one of us - it will
give you a tremendous sense of peace -

Summed up Isa 41: 10 Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God -
I will strengthen you & help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

If you're a little bewildered, overwhelmed by your life today - remember the words of Isaiah -

Here is your God - just turn your back to solar panel, soak up all that clean, renewable energy -
Contemplate how great He is - His specific promise to you -

2 Tim 1: 7