

S. of. March 9, 80 B.M. - W.A.I.

"ON EAGLE'S WINGS"

Isaiah 40:31

The prophet here comes forth with one of the great chapters of his book. In fact, there are so many great chapters in this book - when you think about chapter (one), in which he had his experience. And (he) talks about the whoes and the utter destruction in prophecy - and then moving to chapter (six), he had a call to a hard task. But when he moves on, to chapter (40), he moves us from the many whoes of the nations, and now he tells of blessings that are going to come and he describes the omnipotence of God. The greatest and the glory of God. It is really one of the great chapters. One of the highest in the book of Isaiah.

Handle's Messiah owes much of its inspiration to the 40th chapter of Isaiah.

This chapter was a source of strength for Martin Luther - in the fortress while he awaited his trial. He was moved by the message. As he read this over and over. And his now famous words -- here stand I. I cannot do otherwise, God help me. Amen.

Oliver Cromwell turned to this chapter for refreshment and inspiration in the days of discouragement.

Daniel Webster read this chapter when he was defeated politically and disappointed. He said, that every time he read it - he found new hope and new heart. It is reported that Carlyle and Tennison and Wordsworth all were indebted to what Isaiah wrote in this 40th chapter.

You say, if this is such an important chapter, (what) does he say, And what does it say to us.

v.11
He describes the (gentleness of God.) V. (11) - he talks about God as a loving shepherd. He shall gather the lambs in his arms. And carry them in his bosom and shall gently lead those that need guidance. So he has a message for the church that here is a gentle God. Like a shepherd - he feeds, he loves, he guards, and he guides.

v.12
The second thing he says is something about the (greatness of God) V. (12). He talks about his power as being unlimited. He points out our littleness and our weakness and he reminds us that our boasted strength is reduced and depleted - even young men shall faint. Youth shall become weary. In other words, even the (best) and natural man apart from God is doomed to failure and defeat. So, he says - here is God in all of his greatness. He put the planets up here, he created the world, and he measured the waters in the hollow of his hand.

He has scooped up the water of this earth - and poured it out to make this ocean and that stream.

He says, this great God has weighed the mountains in scales. And the hills in a balance. In other words, God has put this mountain here - and that little mountain there - and the great Rocky Mountains and the Andes. And he has balanced out this universe with his own power.

v. 15 In V. 15 - the greatness of God is compared to the nations - they are nothing compared to God. They are a drop in a bucket. The power and the might of Assyria, of the Egyptian Armies, and all the Roman Armies - and all the armies of the nations of the earth. They are but a drop in a bucket he says. Now this is a great God. That he holds up.

v. 18 And Isaiah in V. 18 says that this God has a contempt for idols.

v. 28 V. 28 - He sums it all up that God is incomparable. "Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard, that the Everlasting God, the Lord of the Creator, the ends of the earth fadest not. Neither is weary. He endures on and on eternally. And there is no searching of his understanding."

The word searching means that there is no way to understand. There is no way that you can catalogue all the knowledge and the power of God. There is no way - you cannot compress the knowledge of God into your little mind. He is beyond your understand^{ING}. He is so great.

What a contrast - he talks about the gentleness of God. And the greatness of God - and he moves on to talk about the weaknesses and the frailty of man. In this chapter.

v. 6-8 V. 6-8 - Why he says there is a passing and an abiding. "The flesh is like grass that withers. The flower fadeth. But he says the word of God - this great God has a word that is going to endure forever. In autumn everything decays. Nature has a

real life which survives. When she gets rid of her leaves and her fruit - and these things perish. But the real life lies deeper. It is within the plant. And so it is with man. The soul of man abideth forever.

√31 So Isaiah proclaims an entirely different story concerning those who will trust in God. The declaration is in this text - they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall walk and not be weary. Run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.

Now these words offer to us a great lesson with a great promise. We shall look for the Holy Spirit to feed us and guide us in discovering some great truths here.

I. WE ALL NEED STRENGTH

We are promised that if we wait upon the Lord, he will give us strength. So the promise of God is bound up in the waiting. The power that will help our weakness.

What does this (waiting) mean? Well, you have heard people say, well, I am waiting on the Lord. I'm just sitting here waiting. Well, there were a group of people who were called "hard shell" - hard shelled Baptist people years ago - who had some beat theology--and they thought they could do nothing to be saved. Until they probably sat in a Revival Meeting and probably said - I'm waiting for God to save me. I'll just sit and wait.

Now what Isaiah is saying here is - does not mean to fold your hands and sit in passive waiting. Saying, now God is going to do it. And I just have to wait for God to do it. Now this word wait is a good old word. As we read it in the King James Version. In the Old English - the very way our forefathers used to use this word. Did you ever hear the old folks talk about a young man waiting on a young lady? That meant that he was courting her. He was pursuing her. Calling on her. And seeking her attention and her affection. And trying to win her to himself. That is exactly what it means here. There is nothing passive, nothing about folding your hands.

In a very real way, it means one clear definite thing. That we are to put our trust in him. And when we come to the New Testament - it talks about belief. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. We are to put our trust in the Lord and we shall be saved. Waiting upon the Lord means - wait always upon the Lord, oh my soul. It is something that we add for expectation in Christ. So in a real way, we are to seek God and to pursue him and to proclaim him and give our love to Him. As this man pledges to the young girl that he is seeking to win. We are to seek God with that kind of love and he says we shall renew our strength. God will give his strength.

Now here is a description of the strength that comes to us. The gift of God.

112 We are to put our trust in a person. We will wait now upon the Lord - a person. When a sailor read about the Lord holding his seas in the hollow of his hand, being a Christian sailor, he said - farewell--I will be in the hollow of God's hand. if I go down in the sea. And will be saved - so I will not worry at all. Ye shall not be afraid of evil tidings - his heart is fixed. Trusting in the Lord, we are to wait upon a person.

Thus our trust is to be put in a person. It is just like a man who is sick. He turns his troubled body over to some dependable, capable Doctor. Just as definitely as a man who has some troubles and worries. And he'll turn his case over to someone who can become an advocate. It is like a student in school - who brings himself to the teacher for his lesson. We are to wait upon the Lord by committing ourselves unto him. Commit thy way unto the Lord. Trust also in Him. And he shall bring it to pass.

The supreme hope and trust then is to wait upon the Lord.

When the little girl lost her mother, her father had already gone. And there was nothing to do but put her in the Orphan's home. They found her evening after evening sobbing to herself. One day, one of the teachers said to her - why are you crying. She replied, "I want somebody to cry too. If my Mama were here - I would cry to her. I want somebody to cry too." She wanted someone to lean on. Someone to cry too.

Through the Bible, there is the union of God and man. They are brought together with blessings. When Israel came to the Red Sea and saw the water in front of them. They were pressed by the army of Pharaoh. And they seemed done for. But the Lord said unto Moses - "speak, unto the children of Israel that they go forward. Lift thou thy rod, and stretch it out over the sea, and divide it. And the Lord opened the way through the sea for the people to safety. There is union of the Divine in human there. In waiting upon God.

When Lazarus lay dead - and two sisters who were broken-hearted, and stood by the grave and people gathered. Jesus said, take away the stone. He could have taken away

the stone by a word. But that is not his method - he uses humanity. He uses individuals for his work. Take away the stone and Lazarus came forth with the grave clothes still about him. The next thing Jesus said was, remove the grave clothes. Now Jesus could have removed them with a command. But what you and I can do - he wants us to do. Let us never forget that. That what God calls upon us to do - he wants us to do.

There is a motto over a hospital gate in Scotland - it says, we dress his wounds and God heals him. And certainly we can help each other. And we can brave somehow the bandages and the medicine. We can dress the wounds. But that is about as far as we can go. And then God heals us. God makes use of human resources. And takes the power we have and the talents we have - and he uses them according to his work.

This blessed promise is that we wait upon the Lord. And the second thing to notice is - that the blessings that he promises. What reward will come? What will follow. Why they that wait upon the Lord - he says are going to mount up as wings of eagles. We will run and not be weary. We will walk and not faint. Now there you have a whole catalog of blessings. Take time and look at some of the blessings here.

First the Lord shall renew their strength. Now that is what you and I need all along this busy way of life. There comes a time when we need a renewal of strength. They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. The batteries of their lives shall be recharged with divine power if they patiently wait upon him. He is glorious promise and a blessed reward.

You know what that means - when you have come to the end of your own strength, and have spent your last power, you come somehow with an unreserved committment to the

Lord and you say, fill thou me up. Put power again within me. Renew thy strength that I may be strong to do thy will to the end of my earthly days.

Now you will remember, that there we are - we go on one day at a time. Now God does not promise us to strengthen us for two days at a time. But he does promise to strengthen us for one day at a time. You know, this is one of the beautiful promises in the Bible. (As thy days - so shall thy strength be.) He does not say as thy year or thy months. But as thy days - one day at a time. We are often offered strength for one day at a time. We are to let it go at that. And live to the best - that one day. Let us live this one day at our best. By serving and working for the Saviour - one day at a time.

One time there was a preacher who was talking to the congregation about this text.³¹ He was trying to get a little money in his budget. And he says, brethren, this church has got to walk. And the brethren said Amen. Let her walk. And then he says, well brethren, this church has got to run. And somebody says, Amen brother, let her run. And then he said, this church has got to fly. As he contrasted with the eagle here. And they said, Amen brother, preach on. But then he says, now if this church is going to fly, like an eagle - it has got to have money. And one of the leading Deacons said -- (let her walk.)

Now, we see here that here is a pattern - that to walk, to run, and to fly. But we think of it completely in reverse. There is the key here to the strength of God. Men walk, they get a little strong. And then they run, and they get a little stronger. And then they fly. And that is the way a man waiting on himself - by his own strength may step up, up, up. But here is the pattern that Isaiah gives. A wonderful pattern when he says - that we must wait upon the Lord. And the Lord will

mount up with eagles, wings as eagles. If we could ever get really committed to God through Jesus Christ, did you know that is going to be the first step to achievement. That we must dream, we must have a vision, and see the unseen, and believe the spiritual. And like an eagle can achieve - we must be able to see this.

What does an eagle stand for? He is a symbol. He is a majestic bird. He is on the great seal of the United States. He is on our American dollar. But he is a symbol of the kind of spirit in man. That when God gets ahold of us - God is going to lift us up. Now we don't know when that (black Friday) is going to come. Kipling came over to this country on a visit and brought his little daughter, Josephine, on the ship with him. They played on the deck. And shortly after their arrival, she became very ill and soon died. In a few days, the father was seriously ill - and he was calling for Josephine. Why does she not come - where is little Josephine. She sleeps now under the snow. But the mercy of God, that the father was willing to play with the child to delight. Just two or three weeks before. Now this may be your last day or your last week - but you ought to be humble and devoted to God in it. They that wait upon him shall renew their strength. He gives strength to those who wait upon him. He shall mount up as wings of eagles.

How high the eagle flies - higher and higher into the sun above the mountains, and the storms and the clouds. Higher and higher. And they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up higher and higher. This is a glorious promise.

One day a man came along and (captured) an eagle from its nest. And put it in the barnyard with the chickens. And every day the farmer fed the chickens. And that little eagle. And it grew up in the barnyard, and thought that it was a chicken.

One day, a man came along, and he said, that is an eagle out there with the chickens in the barnyard. He says, he has probably lost his instinct to be an eagle. The man said I'll prove that he is an eagle. So the next morning, he took the eagle to the mountain peak, early in the morning. And took him, and said you are an eagle now. You are made for the heights. You are made to fly. He threw him into the air and the farmer just laughed and threw some food and scrapes on the ground and the eagle looked down and came to the food. But the man said - I'll show you, let's try again. The sun was breaking over the horizon. He turned the eagle's head into the sun and said that is your destiny. You are to beat your wings against the gates of the sun. And so the eagle looked at the sun, in the blue sky - and its wings began to quiver. And then the man cast it into the air - and the eagle cut his wings for the clouds and soared out of sight. That is the way an eagle is supposed to be. Not a barnyard chicken - but a bird who is given to the high places.

Did you know that we are made to live not in the barnyard muck of this world - but we are to live with God and with a vision. And he gives us eagles wings that we might rise into the clouds. When God strengthens your life - you can soar to the heights.

L. A. Paddock, the President of the American Bridge of Chicago, was an engineer and designer of bridges. He said that in the early days, he dreamed about great bridges. He dreamed how that he could span San Francisco Harbor, Sidney Harbor, and how he could put a bridge across Detroit to Windsor, Canada. Well, you and I know that the remarkable thing is that all of those bridges today stand. And people use them. The Golden Gate Bridge, the man built it. And then he designed Sidney Harbor. But he, as a young man, dreamed about this in his mind. Now this is true with a man, with an individual, and with a church.

Did you know that a church needs to dream. To have a vision, it needs to have faith about tomorrow. It needs to look forward to new goals. And to new things out beyond.

Yonder in Houston, Texas, I remember some years ago, of going to the First Baptist Church. It was located down town. With an old building. And a crowded situation. But in recent years, a man by the name of John Bisagno began to dream. He came to that old church with 400 people in attendance the first time that he preached there. They were ready to quit - fold up. Their resources were gone. Their leadership was gone. But here was a man of vision and dream. And so, with his dream and leadership - they borrowed 8 million dollars. And everybody said they'll go bankrupt. And the first three years interest on the 8 million dollars had to be borrowed to pay on that. Because they did not have the money to pay the interest. But there was a feeling they needed to reach people, and they were able to do this - and they built a new building. And then, after that happened, the attendance averaged 4,000 in the worship services every Sunday. And they have 120 additions to the church every Sunday. New people joining, moving in, and they are receiving over \$60,000 each Sunday in the offerings. They saw they needed additional educational space. So, they are going to construct a million dollars worth of building. God says, you wait upon me. And you are going to mount up on wings.

Do you remember the prodigal son when he came home. He wanted to come home - just as a servant. And he needed to come back that way. He had behaved himself very unwisely. And he said, I will go back to my Father, and I will tell him that I am no longer worthy to be called his son. And all that I will ask is a place as a hired servant. When he returned, he was taken into his Father's arms and loved. He was still a son - although he had lived a wretched life. He was still a son. Bring the best robe, kill the fatted calf. Make a feast. Put a ring on his finger. Put shoes

on his feet. My son, who was lost, is found. That was a glorious thing. They that wait upon the Lord, who come into his presence, will enter into his joy, and rejoice forever more.

That means that God is going to give you strength for every emergency hour or crisis hour in your life.

It says, they shall run and not grow weary. We tire so easily. How quickly our interests wears down. In our churches and in our Christian work, we quit too soon. Our little candle burns out. It gets dim. And why is it. It is because we wait on ourselves. We look at our own strength. And we look, and we say what we can do on our own. (Instead) of looking what God can do with us and through us. And stick to God. Look at God himself. The whole purpose that God has is to bless his family. That is his ultimate purpose. His promises will strengthen us for every day of bereavement or struggle.

And men have found this out through the years.

John Bunyan in Bedford jail for 12 years - he sustained Paul in his prison experiences. He has sustained his children around the world. They shall run and not be weary.

Then he says, they shall walk and not faint.

harder to do that than to run and stop for awhile. We are to walk and not faint. There is nothing spectacular about just walking. But the Lord says, if you will wait on me, I will help you in the average experiences of life - I'll help you in your daily routine of life. When there is the weariness and I will help you in your home and in your church. And in your family affairs. I will help you if you will wait on me. Now this is the promise to us today. It is a promise for us tomorrow. It is a promise for us until we get to the end of our journey. We shall walk and not faint. Now this may be the most dangerous part of our lives - because it is the daily routine. The plodding in our jobs, it is the everyday walking.

What a glorious challenge that he says, if you will wait upon me. You are going to mount up and live a life with wings. You know, it is hard to do this, day by day. I read the story about L. C. Kelley who preached in Pineville, Ky. While he was there, for 24 years - he built a mountain school for preachers called Clear Creek Assembly. He was a man that was persistent in his dreams. And he followed those dreams but he followed the story about his brother Felts. He says his brother could never stick to anything. He went to three different colleges in three different years. He quit after a few months saying - that was not the school for him or some other excuse.

One day he was in the audience when L. C. Kelley was preaching. In which he told the story of Abraham Lincoln ^{Told} about a young man who had a fine piece of hard steel. The young man said, what will I do with this steel. I know it is such a hard piece and so precious, I'll shape it into a razor. Well, he put it in the fire and beat on it a little bit on the anvil. The steel was hard and the work was slow and he decided that he would not make a razor. But he decided that he would make a pair of scissors. So he heated it again - and he shaped and he worked. And it was hard work, so he gave it up. He said, I am going to make a knife out of this. He hammered some more. And

finally he said, maybe I'll make a letter opener. It is not shaped right. So at least, the last thing that he decided on was - that he'd make an (ice pick). So he hammered some more. And he gave up on that - it was too much. And finally he says I'll make a sizzle. So he put it in the fire until it was red hot. He took it out and stuck it in the water and let it sizzle!

When Kelley finished his sermon, his brother Felts, came up weeping like a baby. This describes my life - to stick with it and pay the price - I just haven't been able to do it. By the grace of God, I am going to make something more of my life than a sizzle. He went back to school and he went to the Seminary, and he became a preacher.

Now this is the strength that God has promised - I will give you wings of an eagle. To dream and to reach those goals in life. I'll give you strength to run and to walk. If you will commit your life to me.

Let us make a promise today - let us tell our Lord today - that whoever we are, have thine own way. Whatever it is - I will say "yes". Wherever thou leadeth me, I am ready. Whatever thou hadst prepared for me - I will accept. I will wait upon Thee. This is an hour for real committment and dedication.

There was a great English preacher - John Robinson, who went for months without any token or blessing in his life. Without any souls being saved. And the thought came to his mind - if he was God's divinely called minister - surely he would have some tokens. Months went on without any change. One night, he told his family not to

disturb him - he wanted to be along in his library. He tells us that he got down on his face before God, and he said, I thought thou had called me to be a preacher. But I seemed to have been mistaken. For there have been no tokens, no signs, or blessings on my ministry for a long time. Let me resign my commission Lord Jesus to Thee. Let me resign my commission and turn then to the work of a lawyer, teacher, or a Doctor. Let me resign my commission - and he said, he could hear a small voice saying - no, John Robinson, do not resign your commission. Let me re-sign your commission for you. And he said, that God re-signed his commission that night. I wonder if it wouldn't be good if God re-signed your commission, for you that you might serve him more acceptably. Do you want to follow Christ today? Are there Christians today who ought to link their lives with Christ's people. You need to come, you are welcome. It may be that you have waited a long time. Come for your own sake, come more for the sake of others. If there is a secret friend of Jesus - now this is the time to openly confess him. If you are here today saying I have waited late in life, and I have hesitated, come out on his side and say that I am ready to choose him. And to choose sides. Jesus died for you - follow him.

Have thine own way, Lord
Have thine own way
Thou art the potter
I am the clay.

This is the challenge to become an eagle-winged believer.

If you do this, two or three things are going to happen. You are going to be up in the pure air where there is brilliance. It is just like a force - you will be renewed. You will be recharged.

You'll be in an area of untroubled quiet.

There will be clear and wide vision for you.

And there will be a rare landscape of unclouded sunshine.

How do we get these wings? He tells us. The same way wait!

Fable How Birds got their wings

- 1- made without wings - wingless
- 2, Some wings made & put down by the Birds -
- 3, Told to take up these wings as burdens on their backs.
- 4- Birds could sing but not fly
- 5: 1st took up burdens, seemed heavy -
2nd folded them over their heads
3rd wings grew fast to their bodies.
4th discovered how to use them -
5th - weights had become wings.

Take up cross - Not Burden - give wings -