

MESSAGE

Occasion : Evening Service
Date : June 25, 2017

TITLE : WAITING UPON THE LORD AND ITS REWARDS
Text/s :

Isa 40:31

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

KJV

Bible Reading :

Isa 40:18-31

18 To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

20 He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.

21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

24 Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

25 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

27 Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

KJV

Song/s :

INTRODUCTION

Isa 40:31

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

KJV

Isa 64:4

4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.

KJV

1 Cor 2:9

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

KJV

Rom 8:28

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

KJV

James 1:12

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

KJV

Ps 91:14-16

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

KJV

The Bible is loaded with divine promises, many of which stand out like mountain peaks, and cannot be missed as we journey through the Word. What we find in this verse is one of such mountain peaks and serves as a reminder of the advantages believers have from waiting upon God.

Verses 6-30 of the same chapter is a contrast between God's greatness and man's weakness. In it we have the conclusion that the Creator and Sustainer of earth never faints from exhaustion nor weariness in spite of the heavy burden He carries.

In a different connection, Isaiah speaks of men who try to "weary God"

Isa 7:13

13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?

(KJV)

But because God is the Everlasting One, He cannot experience decay of strength nor can He change. Although He must attend to the countless wants of His people and control the whole universe as well, He is never tired. Not only does He never faint, but He gives power to those who do.

Isa 40:29

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

(KJV)

Isa 41:10

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

(KJV)

2 Cor 12:9-10

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

(KJV)

The great thought in the passage is that the very consciousness of weakness is the condition of receiving strength.

Matt 5:6

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
(KJV)

Those who become faint and weary and utterly fall under the burdens of life soon discover the folly of trusting themselves. We have no might in ourselves; only in Him is there strength and increasing strength. Discovering our weakness upon the way for the reception of divine power.

Youths and young men are strong, but they must not think of themselves stronger than they are and in so doing rob themselves of divine strength. They will utterly fail in spite of their youthful vigor if they do not wait on God. Such waiting produces infinite resources outside of self. The waiting attitude implies an expectant faith, and God never fails to respond to such dependence upon Him. In fact, such waiting brings us TRIPLE rewards.

There are other applications we can make of these three features of waiting on the Lord.

- **Mounting up with wings**
This can represent vitality and exuberance of youth with all its vision and aspirations. As the young with encumbrances think of the future and of all they would like to be and do, how they love to mount up with wings as eagles. What flights of imagination are theirs.
- **Running**
This can represent middle life when one no longer has the zest for soaring high, no longer desires the vigorous activity of youth. Instead of flight, there is the fight to maintain life amid many obligations. Wings are not so much in operation when the feet have to be kept to the ground.
- **Walking**
This can represent old age when flying or running are no longer possible, and pace is considerably slower.

Eccl 12:3

3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,
(KJV)

Yet all ages need God and no matter what period of life we may be in, His grace and strength are ours to claim by faith.

A) Mount up with wings

In every time and age, the praying, waiting child of God gathers fresh strength from Him Who is our strength.

Ps 84:5-7

5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.
6 Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.
7 They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.
(KJV)

The word translated “renew” actually means “exchange” for the Lord does not renew the old, impaired strength of the flesh, but exchanges it for His own’s never failing strength. This means new power in place of old weakness. And this change is seen in the phrase, “They shall mount up with wings as eagles” or as can be expressed, “they shall put forth fresh feathers as eagles.”

2498 chalaph - to pass on or away, to pass through, to pass by, to go through, to grow up, to change, to go on from

a) (Qal)

- 1) to pass on quickly
- 2) to pass away (vanish)
- 3) to come on anew, to sprout again (of grass)
- 4) to pass through
- 5) to overstep, to transgress

b) (Piel) to cause to pass, to change

c) (Hiph)

1) to change, to substitute, to alter, to change for better, to renew

2) to show newness (used of a tree)

Ps 103:5

5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

(KJV)

The eagle does not renew its old feathers. Rather, it molts (sheds periodically part or all of its coatings), and when featherless, it receives a new covering of feathers, and with such fresh, new covering, receives a fresh lease on life. By waiting on God, we receive new feathers as do the eagles. A vigor, or quickened life, not of ourselves becomes ours.

The Christian life is a flights.

- 1) God's sustaining and strengthening power shows itself in various ways and at different times. It enables us to soar above difficulties, disappointments, trials, and failures till we go beyond them altogether.
- 2) God's power makes us to soar far above what can reach us, securing us, that we shall never be separated from Him.

Rom 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(KJV)

Deut 32:9-13

9 For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

12 So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

13 He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

KJV

Ex 19:3-5

3 And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

KJV

Ps 17:8

8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

KJV

Ps 36:7-10

7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

8 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

10 O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

KJV

Prov 23:5

5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

KJV

Rom 15:1

15 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

KJV

1 Cor 10:13

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

KJV

Gal 6:2

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

KJV

Gal 6:5

5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

KJV

B) Run and not be weary

Our life in Christ is not only a flight, but a race, and one that must be run without weariness.

1 Cor 9:24-27

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

(KJV)

Phil 2:16

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

(KJV)

Gal 2:2

2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

KJV

Gal 5:7

7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

(KJV)

Heb 12:1-2

12 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

KJV

Ps 19:1-5

19 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

KJV

C) Walk and not faint

Because our life in Christ is a pilgrimage, we need Him with us to order our steps aright. Walkers do not exhibit the speed of runners. Yet as believers we are to walk, as well as run and mount up.

Phil 3:14-17

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.
(KJV)

Isa 64:4

4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.
(KJV)

2442 chakah - to wait, to wait for, to await

a) (Qal) to wait for

b) (Piel)

1) to wait, to tarry

2) to wait (in ambush)

3) to wait for, to long for

1 Cor 2:9

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
(KJV)

1 Thess 4:1

4 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

KJV

Col 1:10

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

KJV

1 John 3:22

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

KJV