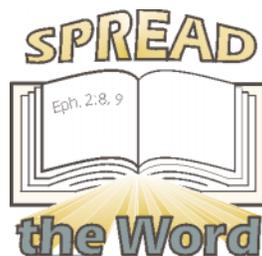


“Mount Up With Wings as Eagles”



**Taken from
Isaiah 40:18-21**

**By
Buddy Dano, Pastor
Divine Viewpoint
www.divineviewpoint.com**



MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES

Isaiah 40:18-21. There is nothing in this world that will ever compare, or be able to bring out the wonders and the glories of the Lord Jesus Christ, the God-man. We have in this context a series of questions substantiating this principle. **Jesus Christ is the only celebrity. He is the only V.I.P.** And that is why we must focus our attention on Him. **He is the unique Member of the universe.**

Verse 18, *“To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness will you compare unto Him?”* By “God” here in context, we mean the Lord Jesus Christ, the God-man. He is the only revealed Member of the Godhead. So, the subject of this passage is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. He appeared the first time as a Servant, and was obedient unto the death of the Cross. But He is coming the second time in all His glory and every eye shall see Him.

The word “likeness” is literally, “what image could exist which would somehow bring out the glories of the Lord Jesus Christ?” Of course, the answer is **“there is no image, there is no likeness that can bring out His glory.”**

At this point Isaiah hits one of the great evils of his day. The Jews were saturated with idolatry. Idolatry is one of the many expressions of religion. The Jews had set up all sorts of idols and they would say, “These idols are god.” They would fashion the idols themselves, and then they would fall down and worship what they had fashioned, what they had worked out with their own hands. And then they’d say, “This is god.” They had made god with their own hands.

It was true that many of the works they had made were very beautiful. Many pagan gods of the ancient world were beautiful works of sculpturing. But, actually, they are just people with wings on them. People glorifying to the maximum, having glorified bodies. But this can’t compare to the Lord Jesus Christ. So, therefore, at this point, Isaiah is going to make a very strong and important principle:

Idolatry is never a bona fide form of worship. An idol is nothing!

You will remember that in the Old Testament there were many things used to represent the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. They had the tabernacle, the temple, the Ark of the Covenant, but there never was at any time an idol in all of the expressions of worship in the Old Testament. There were many kinds of animals. There were articles of furniture, many types of holy days, which were all expressions of worship. But not people, never an idol. *“Thou shalt make no images.”* **No statues of people. No glorified people.**

So we have another principle: **under the true concept of worship, man cannot be glorified and God glorified at the same time.** That is the principle of 666 in the Tribulation – the personification of man. If there is only one percent glorification of man, well, then man is glorified and God is not glorified. **Under the concept of Grace, man cannot do anything for himself, by his talents, or by his works. It must be 100 percent the work of God, and not a thing as far as man is concerned.** If a person does even one percent of the saving of himself, if he does one thing, if he does even a small percent, it is not salvation. **Grace and works do not mix. Works always glorify man.**

Now you will notice the beautiful sense of humor of the Lord here. Verse 19, *“The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold.”* In other words, they set up some kind of a cast, and they poured the metal into the cast or the mold, some type of metal base. At the time that Isaiah lived they were in the “Iron Age.” So, it would be some type of iron. And then after the statue came out, it cooled, and it was brought out of its mold and then the goldsmith took over. He did his job and it was a sort of an assembly line of production in the ancient world.

Then someone comes along and makes silver chains. Verse 19, *“And casteth silver*

chains." What are these silver chains for? Well, it is very simple. You manufacture a metal image of a man, and then you cover it over with gold, and now we add silver chains.

In the ancient world, the engineering was not too well developed, at least at that time the Jews weren't too good in the field of engineering. Every time they made an image, it would not stand up but rather it would topple over. How can you keep on looking up to something and worship something that cannot stand up on its own two feet? It would keep falling down, and just about the time you wanted to bow down to it, down it falls. In other words, god fell down.

Now we can't have god falling down. So you have to prop it up, and then you are able to bow down to it again. By the time you bow down again, over it falls. So what they did was to chain it to the wall. The silver chains were to anchor this image down so that it wouldn't fall over.

Now, that is the beautiful part of it all. Isaiah was quite an observer of what was going on at that time. Now, can you imagine anything more ridiculous than this? You mold an image, and you cover him over with gold, and you chain him to the wall to keep him from falling down. He can't stand up by himself.

So, verse 19 gives us the production of idols in the ancient world, and this one was an expensive idol. But, everyone could not afford those expensive idols of gold and silver. Now, in the Iron Age, iron was almost as valuable as gold. They hadn't at this time discovered all the great iron mines of the 19th and 20th centuries, the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century, and so only the rich could afford this kind of an expensive idol.

So, in verse 20 we have a poor man's idol, or an inexpensive idol. You will notice that a great deal of thought went into this. Verse 20, "*He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot.*" No oblation means he can't afford the money for an expensive idol. So, what does he do? He chooses a tree that will not rot. Isn't that interesting? He

tries to pick out a good hard wood that will not rot, and yet it can still be shaped and formed into an idol.

You can't have god rotting! Verse 20, "*And he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.*" "A cunning workman" is a skilled laborer. "Not to be moved" is literally that it will not fall down. Why does he need a cunning workman? Because when he carves this idol out of wood, it has to be carved with a wide base so that it won't fall over. He can't afford the silver chains of the expensive idol. He can't anchor his idol to the wall to keep it from falling.

So he has to be a cunning worker, to make a base on his idol so that it will stand up. Only a skilled craftsman could carve out an idol of wood that would not fall flat on his face. It would never do to have god fall on his face. See, that is the idea here. Now, this is just sheer humor, God's sense of humor and even sanctified sarcasm.

You can begin to see that if all of the animal sacrifices which are bona fide worship, and all of the burnt offerings in the world could not express the glories of the Lord Jesus Christ, then an idol that has to be anchored to the wall doesn't express anything, except the vanity of man, and shows man's egocentricity.

Idolatry is always an expression of man's ego, but **never** a bona fide expression of worship, because again, an idol is nothing. **So that wherever you find idols, you find that which is false, and that which is evil, and satanic, and egocentric.**

Now, verse 21. This brings us to the principle of heathenism. **We have heathenism in America today.** We have heathenism in every country of the world, because they have idolatry in every country of the world.

Verse 21, "*Have ye not known? Have ye not heard? Hath it not been told you from the beginning? Have ye not understood from the foundation of the Earth?*" What are these questions all about? This is one of the points of the Doctrine of heathenism. The question that so often

comes up: "What about the people who have never heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?" "What about the people in various isolated areas of the Earth today who worship idols?" "What about the primitive aboriginal type of characters, who are always worshipping something like a bird, a snake, an animal, they who carve an image of one of these?" "What about the people who haven't heard the Gospel?" "How can they know any better?"

Isaiah answers that question right here. *"Have ye not known? Have ye not heard? Hath it not been told you from the beginning? Have ye not understood from the foundation of the Earth?"* **The answer is yes, because of the faithfulness of God.** In each case, these questions state the principle that **there is no one in this world, and there never will be, who does not have a chance to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and be saved.** This is the Biblical Doctrine of heathenism.

There are basically five principles concerning the question "What about the people who have never heard?" The first three principles deal with the character of God. This would be the application of the essence of God to the question. This primarily would be the application of the righteousness and the justice of God. **God is fair and God cannot be unfair. Therefore He has never been unfair to any member of the human race.**

The second principle under the Doctrine of heathenism is the application of the unlimited atonement applied to the whole world. **When Jesus Christ died on the Cross, He died for the sins of the whole world, and He therefore died for every person who lived or ever will live. So, everybody is included in the opportunity to be saved.**

The third principle is the application of God's Divine sovereignty to the situation. It is stated in the Word that it is not *"God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to a change in mind about the Lord Jesus Christ,"* 2 Peter 3:9. **Therefore, since it is His will, then all can be saved.**

Now, obviously when someone is not saved, it is because they can superimpose their free will, their volition, over God's volition. In other words, you have free will and you can make a choice for yourself. But, if you say you haven't heard the Gospel, at what point do you then make a choice? The answer is at the point of God-consciousness.

So, point 4 says: **anyone who desires a relationship with God, after he or she reaches God-consciousness, they will be given information which will give them an opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour.** There are three passages in the Word of God that deal with volition and free will at the point of God-consciousness. John 7:17, *"If any man will do His will, he shall know of the Doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself."* Jeremiah 29:13, *"And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me will all your heart."* Acts 17:27, *"That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us."*

There are at least five ways in which anyone can reach God-consciousness. Every normal member of the human race reaches God-consciousness somewhere between the ages of five or six, up to 30 years of age, depending upon their area, and the primitive conditions under which they exist. When they reach God-consciousness, they have to make a decision. They can make a positive or a negative decision. They either desire a relationship with God or they do not. If they do not desire a relationship with God, then we have an illustration of this in Romans 1:18 and following. We will see what happens to them.

Here are the people who reach God-consciousness but they haven't heard the Gospel as of yet. If they reach God-consciousness and they put up positive signals, if they desire a relationship with God, then they will be given information on which to make a decision for Christ. Somewhere along the line, God will give them the Gospel. **It doesn't make any difference where they are geographically, or linguistically, because there are no barriers**

because God is omnipresent and He is also omniscient. God will get the Gospel to them so they can believe in Christ and be saved.

Romans 1:18. Here we have God's disposition of those who reach God-consciousness and they are guilty of negative volition. Verse 18, "*For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the Truth in unrighteousness.*" Literally this says, "who suppress the Truth in unrighteousness." KATECHO, which is translated in your King James Bible as "hold." But it is not hold. It means to suppress or reject. This then is the verb of negative volition.

Let's take a member of the human race to explain this. We will say that he lives in a primitive area and he is 22 years old. He arrives at the point of God-consciousness. This happens through one of five ways in which anyone can do it. He reaches God-consciousness without as yet hearing the Gospel. The Gospel is never involved in God-consciousness, nor is the Bible, as such.

When he reaches God-consciousness he says no, he throws up negative signals. In other words, he does not desire a relationship with God. And because he throws up negative signals, he becomes the recipient of the wrath of God. You see it says here: "*The wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness, those who suppress or hold down the Truth,*" negative volition, "*in unrighteousness.*" They are in status quo unrighteousness, which means they are unbelievers. They have not received the righteousness of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:21, "*For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*"

Verse 19, "*Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them, for God hath showed it unto them.*" "*God is manifest in them,*" means that they arrive at God-consciousness with all the faculties on the inside and with their mind they have the ability to arrive at God-consciousness.

"That which may be known of God is manifest in them: for God hath shewed it unto them."

Every person, then, who is normal, in the human race, comes to the point of God-consciousness. Verse 20, "*For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead: so that they are without excuse.*" "*The invisible things of Him are clearly seen,*" means that God is invisible. When have these things been clearly seen? "*From the creation of the world they have been clearly seen.*"

Man has been reaching God-consciousness since the beginning of creation. "*So that they*" refers to those who reach God-consciousness and send up negative signals.

"*They are without excuse.*" Why? Verse 21, "*Because that when they knew God.*" See, they came to a knowledge of God. This is God-consciousness. Verse 21, "*They glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became empty in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*" Literally, "*their foolish mind was darkened.*"

Verse 22, "*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.*" Wise is an expression of their negative volition. "*The world by wisdom knew not God.*" Fools! "*A fool has said in His mind there is no God.*"

Verse 23, "*And exchanged the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.*" "*Into an image.*" **When you reach God-consciousness and you are guilty of negative volition, then you substitute something for God, and that something you substitute is an expression of your own ego.** "Wise," and you may express it in many ways. Your ego may be overcome if you live in a primitive area, by some of the animals around you and you admire them, and you fashion some figure to represent an elephant, or a snake, etc. And you worship that. Or you may worship other men, so you fashion a strong man, and worship that.

Verse 23, "*And exchanged the glory of the uncorruptible God.*" "*Uncorruptible God*" refers to His essence. His glory cannot be corrupted.

"Into an image, made like to corruptible man." Some image of a man. *"And to birds, and four-footed beasts and creeping things."* And then the passage goes on to declare the indictment of the heathen.

Now back to our study in Isaiah. These people are fashioning images.

Verse 19 ... The rich man's image. Gold, silver.

Verse 20 ... The poor man's image. A tree, wood.

Verse 21 ... *"Have you not known?"*

Yes, they have known. They have reached God consciousness. *"Have ye not heard?"* Yes, they have heard. These are the Jews. They have heard the Truth. They not only reached God-consciousness, that is the first phrase, but they have also heard the Gospel. The Jews had the Gospel in written form. *"Hath it not been told you from the beginning?"* Yes. *"Have ye not understood from the foundation of the Earth?"* Yes. We have here the whole story from Genesis chapter one on.

Verse 22, *"It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the Earth."* "Circle" is the vault of the Earth. The Earth is round and God comes into the picture again. And again the principle that God has no comparison. *"And the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers that stretched out the Heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in."* "Curtain" is literally "like a piece of gauze."

How can you compare man with God the Creator? How can you set up these images when the Lord Jesus Christ sat upon the circle, the sphere, the vault of the Earth, and He stretched out the universe as a gauze? The Milky Way is that gauze. That is a Biblical description of it. *"And the Earth as a tent to dwell in."* How can you compare anyone to Him? How can you fashion that?

Verse 23, *"That bringeth the princes to nothing; He maketh the judges of the Earth as vanity."* There is no great ruler that has been able to survive God's sovereignty. If God says a ruler is through, he is through, i.e., Daniel's image. God sets up rulers and He sets them down. Judges likewise are vanity, emptiness compared to Him. **There is no comparison.**

Verse 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 whither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble."*

All of these images will be destroyed. All their economy will be destroyed. Sowing and planting, all that will stop. Now, you must remember in the time that this was written, the basic economy was agricultural and it was based upon sowing and reaping. In other words, **He will destroy their economy. He will destroy their images. Not one of these things will survive because of His sovereignty and His omnipotence.**

Verse 25, another question. *"To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? Saith the Holy One."* "The Holy One" is the Holy One of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now the Lord Jesus Christ invites the Jews to look up.

Verse 26, *"Lift up your eyes on high, and behold Who hath created these things."* Once again Jesus Christ is in focus here because He is the Creator. *"That bringeth out their host by number."* "The host" by the way are the galaxies, the stars. He brings them out by number. *"He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth."* "Not one faileth," literally means "not one of them is missing."

Notice something about the entire great universe. All the stars are there. They move at unbelievable speeds, and they all move within orbits. There are no collisions and there is a tremendous amount of space out there. Billions of celestial bodies of gigantic magnitude, and yet they move in a perfect traffic pattern, all because of the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ. There is none like Him in all the world. **He is definitely unique.**

Verse 27, Israel's rationalization. *"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?"* **Jacob is the Jewish unbeliever and Israel is the Jewish believer. Jacob the unbeliever became Israel the**

believer when he was born again. It is now used here to indicate this is being addressed to both believer and unbeliever, as it was in Isaiah 1, the ox and the ass indictment. This is God's division of the human race.

Why do the unbeliever and believer say, *"My way is hid from the Lord?"* In other words they are saying, as many have since, the Lord doesn't care about me. And they also say, *"My judgment is passed over from my God."*

Now you have two statements here. The first statement is made by the unbeliever. This is the Jacob crowd. *"My way is hid from the Lord."* To say, as if somehow they are putting something over on God, God doesn't see what they are doing, their way is hid from Him. But He is omnipresent and omniscient. In other words, **they are setting up their idols and God doesn't see them. They think they are fooling God.** It is like saying, "I will hide my idol in the closet and He (God) won't see it."

In other words, they have a very limited concept about the Lord. And they think they can fool Him. So, the unbeliever here in context, Jacob, always thinks he can fool God. But, the believer in Israel said something else: *"My judgment, my cause, is passed over from my God."* In other words, the believer says, "God doesn't care about me. He is not concerned about me." This is what the believers were saying in Israel at that time of Isaiah.

I wonder how many believers today have not sometime or another said, in your own way, in your own soul kink, "God doesn't care about me. God isn't interested in me. He isn't interested in my problems." Or some say, "Why did God let this happen to me?" Well, God didn't let it happen to you. **You brought it about yourself.** You made a decision. And now you want to blame God for your own decision. But you can't make a scapegoat out of God.

Then the discipline comes and now it is "all God's fault. And He really doesn't care about me, or I wouldn't be in this condition." "If He were God, He wouldn't let this happen to me." It is the dumbest distortion of mental

activity that has ever existed for people to have the colossal gall to make their own decisions and very bad ones at that, and then to turn around and say, "Why did God let this happen to me?" Well, God didn't let it happen. **You just told God to take His volition and go elsewhere and you are going to work out of your own little volition and do what you want to do, until, of course, you get hurt and then, of course, you come back screaming to God, "Oh help!"**

Now, this happens all of the time. It has been going on for a long time. We haven't changed very much. Isaiah lived a long time before the Lord Jesus Christ, 700 B.C. So you can see that things haven't changed much. Now, man may have improved a few things in his circumstances, **but man himself hasn't improved one bit.**

So the believer says, "God doesn't care about me. He is not interested in me." Now, you have God revealing Himself and an answer to that principle. Verse 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."*

See if you can get the point here. When we are faithless, and even blame God for things that we have made by way of trouble, we make our own trouble, because God cannot make trouble for you. It is impossible for God to make trouble. We make our own trouble. Because He is perfect righteousness and He cannot do it. Now, the Creator, here again, is the Lord Jesus Christ, and He is here called *"the Everlasting God,"* meaning that He has eternal life.

"And the Lord, Jehovah, fainteth not." Which means He cannot change. This refers to another one of His characteristics – immutability. **He cannot become unfaithful to you!!!** A person receives Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, and then he turns around and denies Him. And then he turns around and he blames God, or says there is no God, or some other stupid thing, and he blasphemes. You know what? Well, no change has been made be-

cause God is faithful. God the Son here is faithful. He is immutable. So, Jesus Christ cannot change because *"He is the same yesterday, today, and forever."* In other words, **He is stable.**

The Creator of the universe is not going to change because you change. That would be petty. God is not like people, petty. See, petty people always change their attitudes every time someone else changes their attitude toward them. These are little petty people. These are people who are moved by every whim, or by someone else. **But, Jesus Christ isn't like people. He is not petty.** That is blasphemy. **And Jesus Christ doesn't become faithless because you become faithless. He cannot turn His back on us. He can't deny us. We deny Him, but He can't deny us. We can reject Him, but He can't reject us.**

Notice it says, *"He fainteth not."* This means He is not faithless. *"Neither is He weary."* He doesn't get tired. Jesus Christ doesn't get tired. We get tired many times, and we change many times, but He doesn't change. **He is not weary when it comes to listening to you. You cannot wear Him out by coming to Him.** *"His ear is not heavy that He cannot hear. His arm is not shortened that He cannot deliver."*

"There is no searching of His understanding." Do you know what that means? This means there is no examination, or judging His omniscience. Do you know what that means? It means, simply, **you cannot judge God's attitude toward you by simply comparing it with the attitude of people toward you.**

Now, you do something to hurt someone and so they try to get back at you. The human attitude is to fight back, retaliate. But that is not right. And the person who always fights back gets into a rat race. **What happens is that you lower yourself to the same level of that petty person.** If you have any hatred, jealousy, or if you have any pettiness in your attitude toward others, you might as well forget it and move on.

Let the other people be that way if they want to. **But if you are controlled by God the Holy Spirit, the one thing that the Holy**

Spirit will do for you is He will produce the character of Jesus Christ and that means that you will not respond to pettiness and fight back and start bickering, and have quarrels, and gossip and malign.

Now, Jesus Christ cannot do those things. **He is perfect. He can't possibly do that. He can't be faithless.** You can deny Him even a hundred times a day, every day, and until you die, and you can die with denial on your lips, and you will go straight to Heaven, *"absent from the body and face to face with the Lord."* 2 Timothy 2:13, *"If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful; He cannot deny Himself."* Why? Because He is faithful. Immutable. He can't change.

Do not try to squeeze the Lord Jesus Christ into the mold of people. He won't squeeze in there. He is God. He is unchangeable. And everything that we have from Him is Grace. We have never earned it, even though some people still think they can earn blessings from Him. And they still think they can earn Heaven from Him. They think they can do that by keeping their noses clean during a certain period of time. **But it is all Grace, and it is 100% His work, and not 99.9%. That is the faithfulness of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now, since verse 28 says that Jesus Christ never changes, we follow in context that in verse 29 He therefore sustains us. Verse 29, *"He giveth power to the faint."* We faint many times. Hebrews 12:2 calls it fainting in the mind. So, we faint many times, but Jesus Christ doesn't faint, not even once.

"He giveth power to them who are fainting, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." Now, this passage says that God helps the helpless. And that **God never helps those who help themselves. As long as you are helping yourself, God will not help you.** That is why life is such a mess. *"The Lord is my help. From whence cometh my help?"* You will never get to first base by helping yourself. God helps the helpless. He helps those here who are fainting. He helps the weak.

2 Corinthians 12:7, *"And lest I should be exalted above measure, through the abundance of*

the revelation, there was given unto me a thorn in the flesh, a special messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."

Verse 8, "*For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*" And the Lord said to Paul three times, No, No, No. Verse 9, "*And He said unto me, **My Grace is sufficient for thee.***" Now, **Grace means that God does 100% of the work.** "*My Grace, My work, is sufficient,*" not Paul's. This is not that the Lord does 99% and you just come along and do 1%. Not a bit! "**For My strength is perfected,**" completed, "**in weakness.**" God helps the helpless. "*My strength is completed in weakness,*" Paul's response. Paul got the point. And he said, "*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*"

Grace, then, is the power of Christ. Paul knew enough of the Word of God to understand this that is being said unto him. And he applied the Word to his infirmity. "*Glory in my infirmities, in my weaknesses that,*" result clause, "*the power of Christ may rest upon me.*" I will rejoice in my weakness, because then, His power rests upon me and therefore I am strong.

Verse 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.*" Weak, helpless, useless, hopeless, then I am strong. Why? **Because Paul has become Grace oriented, and he is nothing and God is everything and then God and the Grace of God and the power of Christ come in.**

People are just kidding themselves with these glowing testimonies, how that they became tithers and their business increased. Now, you may tithe, and your business may increase, but it is **not** because you tithe. This is an erroneous conclusion.

No one is ever blessed because of doing something. **We are blessed because of the Grace of God.** Not because we tithe. No one is blessed because they make prayer meeting week after week. No one is blessed because they witness to so many people a week. No

one is blessed because they become a tither, not one. **No one is blessed because they become good. We are blessed because of what Jesus Christ is, the Grace of God.**

Now some distort this and get it in their mind to get out of line. But, when you do get out of line, you can do something to get spanked. You can count on it!! **You can do nothing to get blessed, but you can do something to get spanked.** That is a picture of the Grace of God. **If you want to get spanked, just step out of line and God will spank you. But, if you want to be blessed, do nothing.** It is Grace all the way. **Because blessing and Grace don't depend on you, they depend on who and what Jesus Christ is. It depends on His essence.**

We are not surprised, then in verse 30, that there was a great deal of human strength in Israel. Verse 30, "*Even the youths shall faint and be weary.*" The word "youths" is a Hebrew word for "athlete." Even athletes faint. This is used for a man of great power and great athletic strength. And yet he faints. And yet he becomes weary.

Verse 30, "*And the young men shall utterly fall*" Now, the words "young men" mean literally soldiers. They have gone through a very difficult training program, basic training, and even the strong soldiers shall utterly fall. Men with great muscle, men with great power, men with marvelous training, they too fall flat and become casualties. **But, if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you latch on to the Grace of God, you will never become a casualty. And you will never fall.**

Verse 31, "*But,*" a conjunction of contrast, the greatest conjunction of contrasts, "*they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.*" There are a few things here that need to be correctly translated. The word "*wait*" is one of five Hebrew words for faith.

The first Hebrew word for "faith" is AMEN, AHMEN. Now, this word is a word for faith that means to use God as a prop. **This is the believer who leans on the Lord and uses the Lord as a prop.** "*Abraham*

believed in God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness,” Genesis 15:6. The word “believed” here is AHMEN. Here is a word to believe and it means to lean on God.

The second word is BATACH and this word means that there are two wrestlers and one of the wrestlers slams the other wrestler on the ground, BATACH. Eventually it came to mean **“to take your troubles and slam them on the Lord.”** This is the same concept that we find in 1 Peter 5:7, *“Casting all your cares on Him because He constantly cares for you.”* This word BATACH is used in Psalm 37:3, *“Commit thy way,”* but the word “commit” means to cast everything on the Lord, BATACH.

The third word is KATHSAH which is a bunny rabbit that is being chased by a fox. He is crawling into a hole so that the fox can’t fit in and get him. This is a word that simply means “to face something bigger and greater than you are.” This is the illustration of the rabbit being chased by the fox and to fit into a little crack in the rock so the fox can’t fit in and get you.

If you have ever seen the Road Runner, you know all about this. The coyote gets creamed all the time in the tunnel. But the point is: **That the weak and helpless fit into a crack where they are protected. Now God is the Rock. It means to use God as the Rock, to depend on Him.** That is found in Psalm 57:1.

The fourth one is the word JACHAL and this means to be in extreme pain and to find relief. Finding relief in extreme pain. So this is a word for trusting the Lord under great pressure.

None of these words are used in our verse here. Verse 31, the word “wait” should be translated “trust” or “believe.” *“They that believe, that trust, in the Lord, shall renew their strength.”* The word “wait,” or trust, or believe looks like this: KAWAH. This is a small thread that can very easily be broken or snapped. Then what you do is to take many other strands and wrap them, and it makes a thread

that you cannot break. If you take this thread that is easily broken and braid it, and weave it with hundreds and hundreds of other threads, you weave it into a great rope that you cannot break. You take a thread and weave it into a great rope and now the thread won’t break, just a simple little thread, or a piece of a string. You can break that piece of string, **but when woven into the rope, you cannot break it.** So, this word “wait” means to trust in the sense of depending upon that which is unbreakable, and to depend upon the strong only.

The thread is you and you can be broken, or faint. But the Strong One, the Rope, is verse 28, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Strong One. Verse 31, *“They that trust in the Strong One, they that trust in the Lord.” “Shall renew.”* The word “renew” means literally **“to exchange something old for something new.”** **So we exchange our human strength and our human ability for Divine power and for Divine strength.**

In other words, **this is what happens when you as a believer, put your faith in the Promises of God. This is what happens when you claim the Promises of God.** This then is that technique. Verse 31, *“Shall exchange their strength.”* **Then when you have Divine power, then what will happen? You fly!!**

Here is our illustration: Verse 31, *“They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”* Run and you will not be weary. Walk and you will never faint. Running the race and walking in the Truth are principles of the Christian way of life here on this Earth.

Wings of eagles. The Scriptural definition of an eagle declares that the eagle is of great size and strength. **It speaks of the Lord’s provision for the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.** *“I bare you on eagle’s wings,”* Exodus 19:4. The eagle is also depicted in Scripture as being swift and with great ability to fly. *“Fly swiftly like an eagle,”* Jeremiah 49:22, Obadiah 1:4. Another characteristic of an eagle is the eagle knows when to launch out their young on their own. *“An eagle stirreth up her nest.”*

This is the principle of being as a believer spiritually self-sustaining.

The eagle also depicts the vigorous life of a Christian. *"Thy youth is renewed like the*

eagles," Psalm 103:5. It also declares the power of God. *"The Lord shall bring a nation against thee, swift as an eagle flieth,"* Habakkuk 1:8.

Buddy Dano, Pastor
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