

International Bible Lessons

“Teaching the Truth in Love”

Sending International Sunday School Lessons and Bible Studies Around the World
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

What Will God Do For His People?

The *International Sunday School Lesson* for Sunday, December 5,
2010 Isaiah 40:1-5, 25-26, 29-31

“Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary” (Isaiah 40:31—NASB-U).

“But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31—NRSV).

“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” (Isaiah 40:31—KJV).

Because God’s people in Judah practiced evil, worse than the pagans who dwelt in the Promised Land before them, God sent prophets and warned them many times. Instead of changing, they often ignored and even killed God’s messengers. Therefore, in 586 BC, God purified the temple they had desecrated with their offerings to idols, and the palaces in which they had desecrated their bodies, by burning them to the ground. Then, God began the purification process of His people by sending them into exile in Babylon.

Even though they had abandoned God, God did not abandon them. He designed His discipline and their suffering to modify their behavior. After He succeeded, God reminded them of His words through the prophet Isaiah, “Comfort, O comfort my people” (Isaiah 40:1). How wonderful! To think that after all their horrible deeds, God still considered them His people and wanted to comfort them. God brought them to repentance through their suffering, and He promised them that if they waited for His perfect timing (after seventy years of captivity), He would renew their strength and return them to Jerusalem.

Today, God’s people can still trust His promises through Isaiah. The explanation for our suffering may be God’s discipline for our sins, the sins of others against us, or the nature of our fallen world; however, if we pray, God will renew us. Isaiah described our remarkable spiritual restoration as mounting up “with wings like eagles.” Then, as we serve the Lord with gladness, God will give us the strength to achieve His purposes.
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