

# Isaiah - Study 2

## Student Outline

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This study is part of a full college-level course on the Book of Isaiah taught by Dr. Ian Bond. The complete Teacher's Guide, Student Notes, illustrative Power Point, the lectures in MP3 format, and Dr. Bond's book *Insights into Isaiah*, Revised 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, are available for purchase and download from Teach the Nations, Inc. For more information go to [www.free-online-bible-study.org](http://www.free-online-bible-study.org)

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## “Those Who Wait upon the Lord.”

But those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.  
Isaiah 40:31

### I. A NEW REVELATION OF YAHWEH

- A. Dr. Harold Wilmington identifies 8 attributes of Yahweh described in Isaiah chapter 40:
1. His *mercy* (40:1–2)
  2. His *glory* (40:3–5)
  3. His *eternity* (40:6–9)
  4. His *gentleness* (40:11)
  5. His *omnipotence* (40:10, 12, 26)
  6. His *omniscience* (40:13–14)
  7. His *sovereignty*: (40:15–17, 21–22, 23–24)
  8. His *uniqueness* (40:18–20, 25)
- B. Yahweh asks, “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?”
1. The prophet replies, “Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing” (40:25–26).
- C. So why do believers say, “God doesn’t know what I’m going through. He’s so far out there that he doesn’t see the struggle that I am having.”
1. “Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God?’” (40:27).
  2. “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom” (40:28).
  3. Isaiah identifies three classes of people: the weary, the weak and the fallen.
    - a. “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall” (40:29–30).
    - b. These are the unaware, the unable and the unavailable.

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## II. THREE CLASSES OF PEOPLE

### A. The Unaware

1. People who are weary and faint are unaware.
  - a. Isaiah uses the word *ya'aph*, to be or grow weary, be fatigued, be faint.
2. There are many believers who have spiritually fainted.

### B. The Unable

1. The weak are “unable.”
  - a. The Hebrew word used is *yaga*.
  - b. These people are aware but they are unable to do anything about what they are aware of, because they are exhausted.
2. Believers must learn how to move from being the unable to becoming the able, because those who wait upon their God shall renew their strength and shall mount up on eagles wings.
  - a. Comp. Philippians 1:6

### C. The Unavailable

1. This is the young men that have fallen.
  - a. Isaiah uses the noun *bachur*, which means youth or young man, which is derived from a verb meaning to choose.
  - b. There are times when even those who are strong, even the ones with ability, are apt on occasion to fall.
    - i. The verb is *hashal*, meaning to stumble, stagger, totter.
2. Isaiah warns that it is the strong and virile who can be those that fall.

## III. WAIT UPON THE LORD

- A. The question of Israel in crisis echos the lament of the Psalmist: “Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression?” (44:240).

- A. One does not have to be unaware (faint), unable (weak) or unavailable (fallen), because even if one’s strength is gone, Isaiah declares that it is renewable.

1. “But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” (40:31).
  - a. The Hebrew word translated “renew” is *chalaph*, the basic meaning of which is to pass on or away, pass through.

2. The key verb translated “hope” or “wait” *qavah*, the root meaning is “to wait or to look for with eager expectation.”
3. Dr. Cornwall argues that the truth in this text for believers is that when they bind together by twisting themselves around the Lord Jesus Christ they shall exchange their weakness for his strength.
  - a. This aspect of *qavah* may be understood by thinking of the way that a vine or ivy twists its way around a tree. Jesus—one has not learned to wrap one’s self around him.

#### IV. THE DIVINE EXCHANGE

- A. The exchange of man’s weakness for his strength is described more fully by Isaiah 61:1-2 and applied by Jesus in Luke 4:18-21 directly to his Messianic ministry.
  1. Most scholars agree that the evidence indicates the Servant of Yahweh depicted in the earlier Servant Songs.
  2. Isaiah enumerates the several purposes for declaring the Good News.
    - a. It will be Good News to the poor—the message of deliverance from bondage.
    - b. To “bind up the broken hearted.”
    - c. “To proclaim liberty for the captives” is an idea drawn from the Year of Jubilee (Lev. 25).
    - d. To “release for the prisoners.”
      - i. The Hebrew expression used is *peqach-qoach*.
        - a) It simply means “opening” and is used most often for opening eyes and ears, hence the Septuagint renders it has it “open eyes to the blind.”
    - e. “To proclaim the year of the LORD’s of favor.”
- B. The Exchange (Isa. 61:3-4)
  1. “Ashes” refers to the Ancient Near Eastern practice of people putting ashes on their foreheads while mourning.
  2. The “crown of beauty” is possibly drawing upon some festive clothing that replaced the ashes (cf. Zech. 3) and implies the change of estates.
  3. The “oil of gladness” would refer to oil used to welcome guests to festive occasions
  4. The “garment of praise” would be the natural clothing worn to such affairs, in contrast to funeral clothing.
  5. This is the divine exchange implied in the word *chalaph*.

- C. In verse 4, those who *will rebuild* are *those who grieve in Zion*.

## V. APPLICATION

- A. Sparrows, Pigeons or Eagles
1. “But those who hope in the LORD...will soar on wings like eagles.” (Isa. 40:31).
  2. Believers are likened eagles.
- B. Soar, Run, Walk
1. Having soared like an eagle believers “will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” (40:31).
  2. The New Testament describes the Christian life as a walk 36 times.
    - a. Most Christians live and minister not in the soaring, nor even in the running, but in the walking.
    - b. Jesus’ greatest ministry occurred in the slow, common place experiences.