

## **GOD'S WORD TO THE WEARY**

### **Isaiah 40:29-31**

**Int:** In chapters 1-39 Isaiah SHOCKED the citizens of Judah with word that God would send them into exile in Babylon. In chapters 40-66 he SOOTHED them with the message that God one day would end that exile and bring them home. Hard years lay dead ahead, but Israel has a mighty God. The LORD cups the seas in his palm, measures the heavens with the span between his thumb and little finger, holds this mighty planet as dust in the bottom of a basket after the grain is emptied, and weighs mountains and hills as a jeweler weighs tiny gems in a pan balance. Tremendous things to men but trifles to God! That mighty God was committed to give strength for the long haul to his people God's promise through his prophet repays close attention. It speaks of

#### **A PERIL 40:30**

The ordeal the nation faced would wear them all out, even the youngest and strongest among them. First weary, then weak, then they will collapse.

Exhaustion is a peril everyone faces at one time or another. Human strength has its limits. It is not that some may wear out but that all will!

#### **THE PRINCIPLE 40:31a**

To all who run out of strength God offers fresh, new, different strength, i.e. his own! When human strength fails, God offers to exchange human exhaustion for his own divine strength.

To whom does God promise to give his strength? To those who "wait upon the LORD!" The Hebrew word translated "wait" suggests the tension of a rope and gives the idea of "hanging on" or depending on God. He who waits on the LORD links up with God so that, when his own strength fails, he can rely on God's strength.

#### **SOME POSSIBILITIES 40:31b**

God matches his strength to the specific need at hand.

Strength for soaring is strength to meet exceptional moments of great demand. The three Hebrew youth needed strength to soar to face the flames of the Babylonian furnace. Daniel needed strength to mount up with wings as eagles to dare Darius' lions and go on praying. When strength fails in mid-flight, God gives his strength to those who "hang on him!" Strength to rise above when you want to just throw up your arms and go down!

Strength for running is strength to meet less exceptional but still crucial times. When stress and strain, pressures and problems drain God's people, they need strength to run. When strength fails in mid-race, God gives his strength to those who "hang on him!" Strength to carry on when you "hit the wall"!

Strength for walking is strength for everyday, ordinary activity. It is hard not to think Isaiah had things reversed. Surely it is harder to soar than to run and anyone can walk. Not so! It is the long tramp, the daily drudge, that is most difficult of all. Why? Because people tend to rely on their own strength for daily walk and work. All who do will fail! When strength fails in mid-step, God gives his strength to those who "hang on him!" Strength to stick it out mile after monotonous mile.

**Con:** "Teach me, Lord, teach me, Lord, to wait!"