

31 but they 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.

God Chosen and Promised Redemption
Fear Not, for I Am with You

41 Listen to me in silence, O coastlands;
let the peoples renew their strength;
let them approach, then let them speak;
let us together draw near for judgment.

2 Who stirred up one from the east
whom victory meets at every step?
He gives up nations before him,
so that he tramples kings underfoot;
he makes them like dust with his sword,
like driven stubble with his bow.
3 He pursues them and passes on safely,
by paths his feet have not trod.
4 Who has performed and done this,
calling the generations from the beginning?
I, the LORD, the first,
and with the last; I am he.

5 The coastlands have seen and are afraid;
the ends of the earth tremble;
they have drawn near and come.

6 Everyone helps his neighbor
and says to his brother, "Be strong!"

(A) Even though our strength may fail, God's Does not. He is the source of renewed strength. This is about God's Timing. Luke 2:25 & 38 Simeon and Anna waited and counted on God to provide answers to His promises. Strength is also about patience. Physical strength fails even the strongest. Here the prophet promises we can exchange our weakness for God's strength. Those who trust & follow God become stronger & stronger. The image of the Eagle is one of freedom, being above the fray. God is seen being the source of continued strength. Those who wait or rely on God are promised His presence.

1 The nations are told to prepare to hear from God. Even as God prepares for judgment, He challenges the nations to get ready for what is coming. Here God will address those who rely on idols as their God. Nature is called on to be silent while God deals with these sinful people. God is calling the nations to appear before Him to present their case. He challenges them to use all their strength and to say what is on their minds.

2 From the East James p 113, "It is safer not to seek to make specific what the prophet has not made so, but to interpret this in general terms." The judgment of verse one is in verse 2 a coming army that cannot be stopped. The destruction will be total leaving nothing untraced.

3 This army will not follow the traditional paths but will use a new route.

4 It is pointed out that this only happens because God has ordained or allowed it to happen. Here this army serves as the judgment of God. The opening line has two verbs showing the task is in God's hands from beginning to end. In the end God declares He is everywhere in time at the same time.

5 The coming enemy is more than a prophecy. His deeds and conquest of others is known. They have been warned God is doing this to them. Israel is small but not their God.

6 The nations join together, believing they will prevail. They deny the power of God and rely on human strength and determination.

- 7 The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith,
and he who smooths with the hammer him who
strikes the anvil,
saying of the soldering, "It is good";
and they strengthen it with nails so that it
cannot be moved.
- 8 But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
9 you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, "You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast you off";
10 fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right
hand.
- 11 Behold, all who are incensed against you
shall be put to shame and confounded;
those who strive against you
shall be as nothing and shall perish.
12 You shall seek those who contend with you,
but you shall not find them;
those who war against you
shall be as nothing at all.
13 For I, the LORD your God,
hold your right hand;

① THE nations turn to their idols for protection. THESE manmade
GODS are made Gold to Give them value. Some how they think that
nailing them securely will give them strength. Some how they are
supposed to deliver them and stop God. God who is everywhere and
cannot be restrained is going to be stopped by these nailed down idols.
Isaiah is showing the contrast between the real God & manmade idols.

② THE people of God & their nations are here called out. Jacob is
the lineage through which THE promise is passed. ABRAHAM is the
father of this faith and to whom all the promises were given.
THESE are identified clearly through their heritage.
servant Yahu 3 p 81 "This is THE FIRST OCCURANCE in ISAIAH of
the term servant to designate someone as a servant of the Lord."
THIS concept is new. THIS is the true covenant relationship God
seeks WITH HIS PEOPLE. God is more than a source or supplier
for them. He does more than answer prayers. He seeks to have
a relationship WITH THEM AS THE Living God. It is God's
will they must discover as His servants. It will not be till
THE coming of Jesus this servant fellowship will truly be
possible. ISRAEL & Judah will pay for refusing to serve God
under Assyria & Babylon. They will BE FORCED TO SERVE others
because they would not serve God willingly.

③ 11-12 Here is a promise that the enemies of ISRAEL
will perish. They will disappear because OF their going
against God's people. no particular nation is named here.

④ THE reason is stated clearly. It is God who watches
over them. They should remember God and reject fear
from their lives.

Hold my THE right hand. places God in the superior position
where He can fight for them. Like a child walking with A
FATHER.

it is I who say to you, "Fear not,
I am the one who helps you."

- 14 Fear not, you worm Jacob,
you men of Israel!
I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD;
your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.
- 15 Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge,
new, sharp, and having teeth;
you shall thresh the mountains and crush them,
and you shall make the hills like chaff;
- 16 you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry
them away,
and the tempest shall scatter them.
And you shall rejoice in the LORD;
in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.
- 17 When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the LORD will answer them;
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
- 18 I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys.
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.
- 19 I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive.
I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together,

14) Here God is the redeemer. He is the kinsman from Lev. 25:48-49
Num 35:19ff; Ruth 4:1-11 who redeems or pays the price. Isaiah
applies the term to God 13 times and four times calls Israel, the
redeemed ones." (35:9; 51:10; 62:12; 63:4) ISRAEL may seem to
themselves as a worm to be crushed. IN GOD'S sight they appear
very differently.

THE worm reference can be linked to Ps. 22:6 and the
messianic prophecy of Jesus in our place.

- 15) Instead of being a worm here they are seen a ready for
battle and as a formidable force. Nothing will stand in their way
or slow them from victory.
- 16) Their enemies shall be blown away as if they never
existed. This is why they should not fear and why they
should rejoice in God.

17) The most basic need is water. When nothing else matters
being thirsty will bring answers to their prayers from God.
When things are at their worst God will be there for them.

18) Here the contrast is mighty. A thirsty person would a
drink and God opens rivers as answers to their prayers.
He provides for them in abundance. Water is life and here
he promises it abundantly even in places it is not normally
found or expected. He provided water from a rock 2x's
in the wilderness journey of the Hebrews.

19) There will be so much water forest will grow in the
wilderness. Every type of tree will grow to provide
for all of their needs. It is almost as if God is promising
the Garden of Eden to the faithful or Heaven itself.

20 that they may see and know,
may consider and understand together,
that the hand of the LORD has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

The Futility of Idols * - IF THEY ARE REAL GODS THAN PROVE IT.

21 Set forth your case, says the LORD;
bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob.

22 Let them bring them, and tell us
what is to happen.

Tell us the former things, what they are,
that we may consider them,
that we may know their outcome;
or declare to us the things to come.

23 Tell us what is to come hereafter,
that we may know that you are gods;
do good, or do harm,
that we may be dismayed and terrified.

24 Behold, you are nothing,
and your work is less than nothing;
an abomination is he who chooses you.

25 I stirred up one from the north, and he has come,
from the rising of the sun, and he shall call upon
my name;
he shall trample on rulers as on mortar,
as the potter treads clay.

26 Who declared it from the beginning, that we might
know,
and beforehand, that we might say, "He is right"?

20 So here we see why God is doing so much for them. He wants them to know Him through the blessing He share w/ them. Their praise and thanks will led them to appreciate and to worship the Holy One the God who watches over Israel.

in verses 1-7 he challenged the nations, now He challenges their idol Gods to do something to prove they are real.

21 IF THE GODS (idols made by man) are real they will need to do something to prove it.

22 Men are challenged to bring them forward. He challenges their idol gods to speak. He wants them to explain themselves. IF THE IDOLS ARE REAL let them predict the future. Let them speak of the past. IF THEY ARE REAL let them defend themselves.

23 Let the idols predict the future. A real God can do this. Let the idols do something other than sit there and accept the prayers of their followers. God taunts them to do anything much like Elijah on mt. Carmel to the priest of Baal.

24 Here is the ultimate put down. THESE idol Gods are nothing, no, they are less than nothing. Being an abomination makes them even useless to God.

25 Now God speaks. THE IDOLS SAY NOTHING BUT GOD NOW SHOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN. An unnamed conqueror will come from the North. His path brings him to them from the east ("from the rising of the sun"). The destruction will be total. This prophecy points at no certain person or country.

26 Again referring to idols God want's to know which one predicted this to happen. which idol saw this coming and warned them? Only God HAS shown this to them. ALL THE IDOLS were silent, no one heard them speak.

There was none who declared it, none who
 proclaimed,
 none who heard your words.
 27 I was the first to say to Zion, "Behold, here they are!"
 and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good news.
 28 But when I look, there is no one;
 among these there is no counselor
 who, when I ask, gives an answer.
 29 Behold, they are all a delusion;
 their works are nothing;
 their metal images are empty wind.

CHAPTERS 42-53 FOCUS ON THIS SERVANT
 OF THE LORD, MENTIONED 20 TIMES

The LORD's Chosen Servant

42 Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
 I have put my Spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.
 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
 or make it heard in the street;
 3 a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged
 till he has established justice in the earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his law.

5 Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes
 from it,

27-29 God is speaking & asking about the idols & what

THEY were able to do

27 God spoke first is a paradoxical expression when you know
 THE IDOLS CANNOT even speak. God is the one who warns
 and who gives the good news.

28 AS IF mocking the idols He looks to see if anyone is
 there, but there is no one. The idols have no advice to share
 there is no one to answer God's questions.

29 Behold is meant to draw attention to them. Everything
 about them is fake, made up, imagined by their makers.
 THEY in the end are merely inanimate objects made by men.

Behold the audience is not identified here. Some say Israel is
 to see this, but more likely this is for all to behold. All creation
 will look and see the works of Christ.

1 For the Jewish audience the servant is Israel who is seen
 in a personification of being a chosen individual. THE CHRISTIAN
 sees the Messiah though unnamed here it is clearly about Jesus.
 Matthew sees this prophecy in Jesus as His ministry unfolds.
 Verse one shows His mission. Justice starts with Him
 and goes out to the nations.

2 His approach was different than the prophets who preached
 (cried out) about sin & punishment alone w/ God's justice.
 He came teaching a new way to replace the old. His ministry
 was uniquely based on a new covenant replacing the old one.

3 His suffering is alluded to here as well as his rejection
 of evil and standing against attacks of the enemy.
 Two negatives show His personal strength while the one
 positive shows His commitment & purpose.

4 Here His strength is shown as endurance which overcomes
 all that is thrown at Him. In verse 2 He proclaims the message
 and no results are listed. In verse 3 this is a glimmer of success and
 hope. In verse 4 victory follows His commitment and endurance.

5 Shows God is speaking here. THE creator has a message
 for and about His servant He is sending.

121 Servant Song

Quoted in Matthew 12:18-21 about Jesus