

John Baker - Renewing Strength

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Well, friends, our signed scripture is Isaiah 40, 31, and we're going to focus on the portion that has to do with renewing strength, and, friends, I don't know about you, but as you look around the world, does it seem very tired and weary to you? How they struggle with the problems of life today, and they don't see a way out. They're really puzzled by what's happening in the earth today, today.

And friends, the Scriptures have a focus on our renewal. That I believe is very important, and I appreciate that the friends here in Wilmington chose this subject in Isaiah 40. Okay, now, if it will cooperate. There we go.

So our theme text is, they that wait upon the Lord shall renew strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. Now, there's something very special about the eagle, friends, that we have pointed out to us that the eagle is the symbol of the Lord's people.

And we'll be looking into the characteristics here of an eagle in a moment. But the particular focus on this text in my heart is the waiting on the Lord, the renewing strength, and the point behind waiting on the Lord is you're waiting for the Lord. You're waiting for his promises, you're waiting for answers in his experience. You're not just waiting to pass time, you're waiting in expectation of his promises and the fulfillment of his word.

That kind of waiting renews strength, and the eagle is a symbol of that renewal. Now, the last portion is interesting. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. I've never seen an eagle running, and they only walk a very little bit.

But I think there's an important point here we'll look at, as well as to why run and walk and weary and faint are both mentioned here. Now, I'd like the new living translation on this as well, because instead of using renew strength, it says, find new strength, and we've talked with some, you know, sometimes brethren who've come out of the world. They've lost all their strength and hope, and they find new strength in becoming a child of the Lord.

Now, we're indebted, friends, to many brethren. The eagle's been studied quite a bit by the friends, and there's a discourse that Brother West gave many years ago called the way of the neshar. The word here in Hebrew for eagle is neshar, and in Job 30, verse 19, there's an interesting point.

Excuse me, it's Proverbs 30, verse 19, that there are things that man does not understand, and one of those four things is, is the way of a neshar or the way of an eagle in the air? Now, there's some controversy over this neshar. Is it a vulture? Because as you'll see, there's some characteristics about that.

Or is it an eagle? I'm going to take the position. It's an eagle. The word neshar is also for any bird of prey natural to Israel. The two largest ones, one is the griffin vulture and the other is the golden eagle, which we also have in North America.

You're going to see pictures. This is a bald eagle. They're only in North America, but their habits are very similar. So you'll see some illustrations of this.

One moment, friends, as I get my notes out so I can give you the correct scriptures, I'd like to read the context in Isaiah 40. We're going to start with verse 28. Have you not known? Have you not

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heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, and then our theme.

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength or gain new strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. Well, friends, just to give the essence of this, the Lord here is saying, if you strive to do things in your own efforts, which is very typical of the young, you know, we look at young people and their whole life is ahead of them.

They have this wonderful potential. They have plans and ideas. They haven't experienced some of the hard things of life often yet, and it's easy. I know I did this.

I trusted my own strength, and we have to learn to rely upon the Lord. So a lot of this lesson is really about that heart, reliance upon our master. Again, that's Proverbs 30, verse 18 and 19, about the things that are too wonderful to understand, and, friends, I like to think about in creation, when the eagle was designed, the Lord had these lessons in mind for us that they're particularly designed for us and we believe for this day and age in particular.

You recall, I'm sure, how Isaiah 40, comfort ye, comfort ye, my people. There's a second advent application we believe, to Isaiah 40, which really underscores this day would be one of weariness and faintheartedness if we didn't have the renewal from the Lord, and we'd like to share the characteristics of an eagle, ones that we think the scriptures point to. This mounting up to the sky is really, you could say, soaring into the heavens. The eagle flies high above the earth.

It's one of the highest flying among the birds. It also dwells on high, and it's swift to the prey. You know, friends, some of the lessons here I think you get right away, dwells on high, that it nests above predators. The eagle is what they call an apex predator. It is at the top of the food chain.

Nothing preys upon the eagle. It's the king of birds. It preys on other birds and animals, but nothing preys on it. Swift to the prey, they can reach top speeds. Depending upon the type of eagle, they could reach top speeds of 150mph to 200mph.

So when they dive, it's an amazing fast strike. The keen, focused eyesight which you'll see. Eagles have eyes as large as human beings, but they look bigger because the eagle is actually smaller. The eagle's eye is actually larger than its brain, dear friends, and it has a million and a half light receptors in its eye, which is like eight times what human beings have.

It's able to see parts of the light spectrum that we can't see on both ends of the light spectrum. It sees so well. If an animal is camouflaged, it can detect that camouflage and know there's an animal there. It's just a really amazing bird. There's a lengthy period of time it cares for its young.

It's rather remarkable how long they do. I'm sure you're familiar with the Scripture. Matthew 24, 28 gathers to the carcass. Here's where the controversy is. Is it a vulture or is it an eagle?

And we'll talk about that, and this last point about renewing strength will be our focus. Well, friends, they that wait upon the Lord mount up with wings as eagles. How is it that eagles mount up? Have you ever seen the birds flying in the sky and they're not flapping their wings, but they're rising?

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How does that happen? Well, what happens is it's really air turbulence. It's warm air currents that rise that they use, and you'll see the pattern here. You often see birds circling.

They're rising or they're descending based on the warmth or the coldness of the air current. So this is what makes the birds so efficient and how they can have great strength and yet, you know, be rested, basically because they're lifted by these Air currents, and we'd just like to show you for a moment how this soaring works, and we won't say a whole lot here. We just want you to see.

You've probably seen these things before. This is a golden eagle, and see how it's using the air turbulence. Notice the wings aren't flapping, it's turning. Just with a little twist of its tail, dear friends.

And I'm going to stop that because I don't want the next thing to go. One moment, please. All right, well, maybe I have to do that.

Not what I wanted, friend, sorry. One moment. You know, things that work at home often don't cooperate.

One moment. Okay, this is what you get sometimes for using technology. No, well, I'm sorry, friends, one moment, please, and I will fix that.

Ah. You know, my mom told me that patience is the thing she appreciated most later in life because she recognized everyone is in a hurry and everything was slow for her. All right, one more time. You know what? I'm going to skip the next.

I'm going to skip the next video that I have. Apologize to you about that.

Okay, here we go.

All right, here we go. So flying high above the earth. Now this to me is one of the most remarkable things about the eagle, and there are descriptions of eagles that also apply to those that are wicked. Brethren, it's very interesting.

Flying high above the earth. You remember Satan wanted to ascend high above the heavens. The eagle can be used in that kind of context. But as a whole, we believe the eagle is the picture of the Christian. As we said, something that's not known about eagles, at least I didn't know they can fly above storms, dear friends.

They can fly above the mountains, as you'll see in a moment. Brethren, think about this. Have you ever seen a storm come to your home? And perhaps you live in an area where there's a lot of birds? And what do the birds do?

They go find a place of safety. The eagle's different. Remember, it uses those air currents which, when there's a great deal of air turbulence before a storm, they rise in the sky and they rise above the storm. Now, can you think of the application for us that when we see turbulence coming in our lives, do we put the matter in the Lord's hands? Do we rise above that storm is the point, friends.

And the eagle is specially equipped to deal with high altitudes. It's able to have a 90% efficiency at absorbing oxygen in its lungs and its hemoglobin especially designed to absorb that oxygen, brethren. So I've read it can go as high as 11,000ft, dear friend. I mean, it's really remarkable. So those air turbulence can lift you into the heavens?

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Brethren, near to your father in your experience.

I'm glad you said patience, sister. I won't show you, though. I don't think I'll show you this one. We'll see what this does. But this shows you how high the eagles can fly.

It's quite interesting.

Yeah, I'll stop that, friend. You get the picture of how high they can fly. Now let's see if I can forward it. No, boy, it works so well at home.

Oh, boy.

Technology is wonderful when it works.

One moment, please.

Okay, brethren, thank you so much. I hope that means you're absorbing the lessons because these are precious things. The eagle has very keen focused eyesight, and a couple scriptures here where it's mentioned, it swoops upon its prey from on high, and they swoop like an eagle.

They fly like an eagle, swooping to devour. These are also, if you read the scripture, these are kind of negative aspects that, you know, how evil would swoop or how time flies away from us. Like an eagle swooping to its prey. Friends, if you think about the eagle, its eyesight, they could see a snake in the grass from a mile away, and they're so speedy, they can strike so quickly.

And the force of the strike, the impact is just tremendous. Many times their kills are immediate as they're seeking food. But you can see the keenness of the eyesight and the focus and the talons here and the way that the bird finds its food in caring for its young. Deuteronomy 32:11. The eagle is described as hovering over its nest.

Now, the phrase stirring up its nest, I think we often misunderstand the thought. There is more of like the bird bringing food to the nest and then how the eaglets react, and it's not that the lesson of the Lord stirring up our nest isn't true, brethren, it is very much so. But the picture here is really of how the eagle cares for its young. When the eaglets are born, they can't lift their head, they cannot stand on their legs, but they grow very rapidly.

The nests are like six feet across when they start, and each year the eagle adds to it. The eagles, as they grow, before they leave the nest, they get a wingspan of seven feet across. So it becomes quickly a very crowded nest. But they stay with their parents for quite some time.

It's actually five years before they mature as a juvenile. It takes them some time it's not that they spend five years with a nest, but they take several months before they actually leave the nest, and the parents continue to bring them food, even sometimes while they are learning to fly. It's rather interesting, this point about the eagle hovering over its nest. How do eaglets learn how to fly?

Well, they have an example. The parents also give them motive because they withhold food at times from the eaglets, which actually makes them lighter to fly, and of course, the flapping of their wings as they're trying them out strengthens them to be able to fly. But it's a wonderful picture of the caring of an eagle for its young. It says a lot, brethren, to us, as we see new ones coming in the truth, how we should assist them, and also how we have to teach them to find their own food.

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We can assist and support new ones that come in, but it's also important for them to find a way to learn to prove and make the truth their own. Gathered to the carcass. Now, friends, here is a picture of a North American bird, and sometimes friends will say, well, only the vulture will consume a carcass. The point about eagles, friends, that I think really makes this picture.

Eagles normally hunt to pray, and they normally do it by ones or twos. The male and female male sometimes will cooperate to do that. But in times of hunger, they will eat a carcass. They will go to a fresh carcass, brethren, and Sister Karen and I have gone on eagle watch weekend. Some states will have this in the winter when the lakes and the rivers are frozen because the food sources are less.

And they will often put out like a deer carcass or something, and eagles will gather and you'll be able to see them. Now think about this picture. When would Christian people have suffered from famine? Wouldn't that be during the gospel age, during the time of papal power and before our Lord returned, so that the eagles at the time of the Lord's return as a picture of the Lord's people hungry for truth.

They were served meat in due season, food that was prepared for them. They didn't have to hunt and gather it. It was set aside and provided for them, and friends, this is our returned Lord who said he would lay the banquet table and he would share the meal with us, and it's our Lord who pointed to the servant who would give that food.

Now we say that, friends, we would not know a word of truth if we did not have the studies of Scripture. I'm speaking for myself personally. The meat in those volumes are really critical to us and to our growth. If you really want to understand the Scriptures and what the Bible is about, there's your guide. Dear friends, that to me is gathering to the carcass.

Psalm 103:5 speaks about our youth being renewed as the eagles. Now, I didn't know this about eagles at all, but the juvenile eagles actually change their feathers out every year, the first five years, and the commentators think that that is what this verse is talking about, that until they mature, these feathers are being let go and being constantly replaced. So in one sense, this picture is a little harder to make an application to. I prefer to think of the renewing of strength as that soaring in the air.

You know, it's much harder for them to fly near the ground. You're going to have to flap your wings to get off the ground and to find an air current to catch and to rise. But this does seem to be a picture of, you know, we want to be young and be continually learning and continually growing.

Now, friends, we'd like to look at the Scripture itself. Those who wait for the Lord. I think one of the most precious texts in scriptures is Psalm 27:14. Wait on the Lord, be of good courage. He shall strengthen thine heart.

And as I mentioned, this waiting on the Lord is an expectation. It's waiting for fulfillment of promises. Notice what it says. You're going to need good courage, friends. You face life as experiences.

You don't know what the Lord will permit, and friends, our Father permits things. Put it in this context, to bring out the beauty of Christian character. If you have strong challenges in your experiences, things you absolutely didn't expect would ever happen in your trials, the Lord has some special lesson for you, and you need to be of good courage and keep holding on to those

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promises, whatever it is that you're looking at in your trial, whatever promise you're holding on to, and the Lord promises he will strengthen your heart.

He will do that. This is a part of this renewal if we're truly waiting for him hanging onto those promises. Now, I put a picture here of a cord or a rope. That word weight has the idea of binding together or twisting together, and if you take a look at behind my notes, if you take a look at the scripture that deals with rope, well, this is Ecclesiastes 4:12.

It speaks to how hard it is for one sometimes to withstand, but two together are able to withstand. We bind ourselves to the heavenly Father, friends, is the point. That is a strong cord. It goes on to point to marriage, really Brethren, that a threefold cord is not easily broken in your marriage. If it is you and your spouse and the Lord wound together, truly trusting, then that is not easily broken.

But that's the thought behind this word weight that we're bound to our Father, wrapped in him, trusting in Him.

The word mounting up. Our theme talks about mounting up as eagles. This is a very fascinating word. How many of you know what the word aliyah means?

You know, it's the word that is used for. It's actually ascend. When you read in the Scriptures where it says go up to Jerusalem, like Isaiah 2, 2, the mankind will go up to Jerusalem. That's aliyah. Okay?

Excuse me. It's actually the root for aliyah. It's the word Allah, A L, a H. That is the word here. Get thee up into the high mountain, or the word for the eagle that soars.

If you go to the tabernacle, friends, or the temple, it's ascend. It's this word Allah. If you immigrate to Israel today, you make aliyah. Basically the same word, dear friends, but the Lord invites us to ascend. That's a part of our renewal.

We noted on weary and faint, brethren, it's rather interesting. Why are there two words here and why are they repeated? We just marked out here. We read this earlier. God doesn't grow weak or weary.

The young will faint and grow weary. Those who wait on the Lord and renew their strength, they're not going to be weary and not going to be faint. Well, friends, we struggled in our study to understand this, why these two words, weariness seems to have more the thought of enduring a long trial, an experience. You know, sometimes we have experiences. Sister Karen and I, we had the care of sister Isabel for 24 years.

Okay? You have the same experience for quite some time, and it's important to really put that in the Lord's hands and to see it, because it becomes more difficult as you're caregiving, and so it is important to be able to renew that strength. Now, fainting seems to have more to do with the sudden attacks of the adversary, where, you know, we might be tempted to turn tail and run.

You know, something happens at work and you think your job is going to be lost, what do you do? You know, sometimes you may be tempted to compromise a principle, but you don't want to faint and let go of your principles. Brethren, even in those contexts, the Lord knows all about those experiences. These two words are very similar. There's a word yahwah and a word yaga.

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Sorry, it's not the best pronunciation, but I believe it speaks to these two aspects that whether you have a short sharp experience or you have a long enduring experience, this renewal of strength covers both those types of situations. Now run and walk. Friends, I think you probably know the first picture seems like when I was looking at this I thought run and walk, one is faster than the other. Don't you want to be faster? Don't you want to run and meet your experiences and you know, don't you want to make your collection, sure, in six months like Stephen did.

But it also mentions walk. Why does it mention walk? Well, brethren, we believe the point here, you look at it scripturally, running has to do with a race, and so it implies a goal and it implies a time that you're going to run for that race. Walking again has more of the thought of the long term endurance, not knowing the time, trusting the Lord when the way is long.

I think it's important that both words were used because we have these varieties experiences and it's important for us not just to run and become exhausted. There's times you have to run really hard for a particular experience with the Lord, but there's others where you need to be consistent in meeting that experience over a long period of time. So again, I think that's why they're running and walking. Friends, if you look in the scriptures, I was amazed. I thought, oh, it'll all be about running.

There are many more scriptures about walking than about running. We're told to walk in love, to walk worthy, walk not after the flesh, walk after the spirit, walk in the light, walk honestly as in the day, walk worthy of your vocation, walk in wisdom, walk humbly, walk as children of light, walk by faith and not by sight. So don't think if you're walking in your experience, you're unfaithful because you're not running. It's an interesting, interesting point that helped me quite a bit. Friends.

Now friends, we just wanted to share. I don't know if anybody here recognizes the sister in the middle of the picture. This is Sister Mary Jane Burns. This dear sister had the experience. Quite a vivacious sister, known for staying up all night, fellowshiping at brethren's homes.

Really knew the truth. Very vivacious, she would engage you in fellowship. Just a very sweet sister. She had a stroke and lost the ability to speak and to walk all at once, and that was a short, sharp experience for her to start.

She had difficulty when she's first in the nursing home. Brethren would come to visit her and sing hymns. She would take her one good hand and close the hymn book. You know, she was asking herself, why did this happen? Why did the Lord allow this?

What did I do wrong? You know, the adversary will do a number on your brethren. When you have difficult experience. He'll make it all your fault, and he'll point out everything wrong that you've done, and that's when we really have to look to the Lord.

He knows the timing. He permits that, and some of these very hard experiences, brethren, are advanced lessons, and I think there's a dear sister, after one of those times, we went to sing hymns and the hymn book got closed. She went up to Sister Mary Jane and got in her face.

And I don't know what she said, brethren, but I believe it was along the lines of, sister Mary Jane, what if this is your final experience? The Lord is finishing you, and this is the test. Are you going to be finally faithful? And you know, Sister Mary Jane, after a few months, you could go in. She couldn't speak to you.

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But you'd find brethren, Sister Kara and I would take a chart and we'd show her the chart, and we would talk about various aspects, and I would say something obviously wrong. If, you know, you were a new Bible student, you would know. Oh, that's wrong.

Because you don't know, does she understand or not? And you'd say, make a face right back at you. So you know, brethren, the mind was there, but it didn't have the ability to express.

So, brethren, we don't know. I hope this dear sister was faithful, but I just say that because we don't know the depth of experience and how deeply we may need to trust our Father in our experiences.

Dear friends, another example. I don't know how many of you might have known Brother Marion Schrock. This dear brother, I found out I had to be careful asking questions. Friends, I love to ask questions. You ask him a question?

I was trying to figure out the Parable of the Penny, and I mentioned that to him. A week later, I got a packet in the mail of all the notes that he put together on the Parable of the Penny. Well, I don't know. The friends know the story, and Brother west can probably tell it better than I can. But he grew up as a Mennonite, and I believe it was World War II.

And he went to one of the conscientious objection camps. Now, Brother Rawson told me when he was in the conscience objection camp, it was a hotbed of argument, of doctrine, of every Stripe, and I guess it was kind of ugly sometimes. But brother Marion comes in and the Mennonites are a peace church, so that's why he's there, and he learns the truth.

He's writing home about the truth and telling his parents all the wonderful things, the beauties of truth that he's finding. Now what happens when he gets out of co camp? He comes home, his sister meets him at the door with a box. Well, she meets him actually on the sidewalk with a box. All of his possessions, his parents won't even see him, friends, because he learned the truth and he had to live with that his whole life.

Some of the brethren have very lonely experiences where they go their whole life without their family friends. But they're renewed by the truth, as this dear brother was, and he was, if you ever talked to him, he was very renewing in fellowship with him. We just want to give a few practical examples, friends, and you can probably, you can probably think of many others. So on the subject of renewing strength, friends, for me, the overall lesson is that living near the Lord, which comes through the feeding on truth and through this rising above our experiences.

One other thing that's interesting about eagles is they apparently can look into the sun. They have a third eyelid, and I think that may say something about the great discernment. They have to even understand the gospel truth very deeply.

I would say the first thing in renewing strength, and friends, this is our special season of renewal when we have lumborium. You know, brother Russell makes a comment that Jesus could have memorialized the raising of Lazarus. He could have memorialized the feeding of the 5,000. There are so many things he could have memorialized.

What did he memorialize? His death, and it's the memorial that helps us the most, friends. It's the memorial that points us to his sacrifice, the blessings that come to us. I think brother west was getting at you.

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Think how different the memorial would have been if Jesus had taken the cup and the bread and never handed it to his disciples. That simple act was the invitation to share with him in his experiences and also the future cup of joy. Dear friends, this scripture to me is so helpful. Have you ever experienced contradiction of sinners? You mean to help someone and they think evil of what you're doing?

That happens often in the world. Sometimes it happens. We're misunderstood. Even amongst the brotherhood friends, Jesus had his experiences. You think of the great patience with how they misunderstood his teachings.

And yet he knew with the Spirit they would get the lesson later. But he endured and Here it tells us, don't be weary and faint. In your minds. Have you ever had the experience? You go to the Lord in prayer to complain about something, and then suddenly you think, wow, Jesus, what he suffered.

And what I'm suffering is so small in comparison. Or you see one of your brethren's experiences similarly, and why am I letting it bother me so much? I love an illustration Brother Edmund Jesuit used to give. You know, you can take a little piece of gravel from the ground, and you can hold that piece of gravel right in front here of your eyes, and you know what happens? It looks like a boulder, but if you drop it to the ground, what is it?

It's a little rock. So don't hold your trials and experience this so close. Brethren, I think a lot of our help is gaining the Father's perspective. It's letting go of the experience and looking on it, so to speak, from on high, as the eagle does. But it's thoughts of the Master, brethren, that are especially sanctifying and especially put our experiences in perspective.

Romans 12:2 also mentions renewal. Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed. The word there is metamorpho, transformed by the renewing of your minds. Again, an emphasis upon, you know, these wonderful truths, these high promises that we have, and like the eagle, then we can discern clearly.

And here it's discerning the will of God. What is perfect, good, and acceptable for us. Friends, you know, the picture I have here is of how caterpillar has changed into a butterfly. This is another one. I think this was so beautiful in design that the Lord intended us to have an illustration of how much we would be changed.

Transfer your hopes from earth to heaven to go from an ugly caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly. Friends, you know the world is afraid of change, and, friends, among the brotherhood, the change can be very daunting. I think about Sister Mary J. What would you do if all of your experience stopped one day?

You know, we're thinking a lot about Brother Tim's experience because he was serving the Wilmington class here. I'm amazed at the things that he did for the class, brother, and the Lord allowed him to experience where it all came to a stop one day. That is really difficult, friends. You feel useless.

And yet here is this example of this gentle shepherd who's so concerned about his class, who still wants to do everything that he can for them. You know, the Lord sees that heart. What does he do? He counts the desires of the heart. Friends, now the adversaries will keep kicking you and say, well, this is your fault.

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You failed, and so this privilege was taken away. Don't listen to the adversary, brethren. Anytime you get these accusations, just take it to the Lord, let it go, and see his perspective on your experience. We fail.

So admit your failures, too, but don't let them hold you down. Learn the lesson. Move on in the experience if you see it's a failure when you take it to the Lord. Now we wanted to close with Psalm 84, 4, 7. This has an amazing point in it.

This is speaking of Christians again. The Lord's people. How blessed are those who dwell in thy house. They are ever praising thee. How blessed is the man whose strength is in thee in whose heart are the highways.

Friends, we think this is two highways. There's the highway to Zion and there's the highway to Jerusalem. That the Lord's people are prepared to help others on their way to the heavenly courts. But we're being prepared to help mankind to a perfect earth as well. Those are the highways.

And when we pass through the valley of Baca, which is weeping, they make it a spring. Those trials and experiences become a well of experience, friends, where we see the high principles of the Lord. You know, I think Brother West mentioned earlier something about the discipline that comes from the trials and experiences we have. I heard a brother say one time about the hardest experience he had had. It was a very difficult experience, and he learned a great lesson out of it.

And his comment was, you know, I couldn't have learned that lesson any better way than through that hard trial. That's a victorious faith, dear friends. When we can see the Lord's higher purpose in those trials and experience, so change those valleys of weeping into springs of experience. You'll be able to use that to help others now, and especially in the kingdom, and then it mentions they go from strength to strength.

And here I picture that eagle riding those aircraft, continually renewing their strength. Now think about the warm air that is lifting them up. Friends. I think of this as the comforter, the Holy Spirit, that as we're gaining more of the Spirit, we're gaining those higher perspectives and seeing through the Lord's eyes what those experiences and what is happening in the earth also, and then it ends.

Every one of them appears before God in Zion. One last note, friends. We would encourage you also. I think when you look at Isaiah 40, I was really struck because I think the focus there in the whole chapter is on Israel and that it's like the Lord is saying. If you look at Isaiah 40, verse 20, 7, he's speaking to Jacob when he makes this point about, I don't tire you young.

You know, you're going to get tired and weary. I look at the nation of Israel, friends, and I think, you know, they're trusting in their military or they're trusting themselves, many of them. Some are trusting faith. There are those who look to the promises, and they're the ones I mentioned earlier, those who wait on the Lord, they renew their strength. I think there's an earthly application to that.

And frankly, friends, Isaiah 40 starts out with the comfort message, and I believe this end is also a part of that comfort message to Israel. To say, you have to trust the Lord. You can't trust your own military. You can't trust the other nations, but you have to trust him, and those who do, brethren, I think, will have their strength renewed, especially when the ancient worthies come and are accepted by those who are ready.

So, dear friends, thank you for your attention. We pray the Lord will bless your considerations and forgive anything that we've misspoken, and I have no idea on time, I completely ran ahead of my

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notes.