

RENEWED LIKE EAGLES

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I. ISA. 40:25-31 (NIV):

²⁵To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift 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.** ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God?” ²⁸Do 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. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹**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.**

A. “God doesn’t notice me or care about me” (v.27)

1. Their complaint is a common one: God doesn’t see what I’m going through; He’s not doing anything about my situation.
2. [MSG]: Why would you ever complain, O Jacob, or, whine, Israel, saying, “**GOD has lost track of me.** He doesn’t care what happens to me?”
3. God’s response: “Are you noticing? Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens.” He made one septillion stars, He knows each one by name and “not one of them is missing!” If God can keep track of 10²⁴ stars, surely He is aware of each one of the 7 billion people on planet Earth today!
4. **Mat. 10:29-31:** ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet **not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.** ³⁰And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹So don’t be afraid; **you are worth more than many sparrows.**
5. **Luke 12:6:** Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.
6. **Isa. 49:13-16:** ¹³Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the LORD

comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. ¹⁴But Zion said, **“The LORD has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.”** ¹⁵“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, **I will not forget you!** ¹⁶See, **I have engraved you on the palms of My hands;** your walls are ever before Me.

7. After 400 years in slavery, Israel had good reason to question whether God still cared about them; but all that changed at the burning bush (**Ex. 3:7-9**): ⁷*The LORD said, “**I have indeed seen the misery of My people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.** ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.* ⁹*And now the cry of the Israelites has reached Me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.*

B. God wants us to have hope (v.31)

1. “Hope in” or “wait upon” the Lord
 - a) Lit. “to look expectantly”
 - b) God has given us promises so we know what to expect from Him!
2. God is called the “God of Hope” (Rom. 15:13); His Word gives us hope (Rom. 15:4); Abraham hoped when all hope was gone (Rom. 4:17-18) because the God he knew can raise the dead and call into being things that do not exist: *Is there anything too hard for the Lord?*
3. “Hope is here...” (Song: *Jesus Saves*)
4. “*Faith is being sure of what we hope for*” (Heb. 11:1), so without hope we cannot have faith!

C. God wants us to exchange our strength (v.31)

1. “Renew their strength”
 - a) Lit. “to exchange”
 - b) 2 kinds of strength are mentioned: natural and supernatural

- c) God wants us to trade in our old natural strength and receive His supernatural power and strength
- 2. [AMP]: *But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall **change** and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.*

D. God wants to renew us like eagles

- 1. “Soar [“mount up with”] on wings of eagles”
 - a) The eagle’s secret is harnessing the power of the wind (thermals) rising up
 - b) They don’t flap – they soar!
 - c) Our “wind” is the Holy Spirit
- 2. **Ps. 103:5:** *Who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*
 - a) Even literal youths will wear out (v.30)
 - b) Each year the eagle’s “youth” is renewed by molting – it sheds all of its old feathers and grows new ones (which are its secret to a soaring life!)
 - c) We need to put off the old man, shed every weight, and let go of the past (Minoli’s message yesterday: forgive, forget, stop dwelling on, thinking & talking about the past & get ready for a new thing)

II. CONCLUSION

- A. God sees me and knows what I am going through
- B. He is Creator & Everlasting God with unequalled power, strength & understanding
- C. Look to Him in faith, wait patiently and expectantly for Him, and put your hope in the Lord
- D. Let go of the past and let Him renew you
- E. Exchange your strength for His – learn to walk and live by the Spirit