

Those Who Wait on the Lord Is. 40:27-31

Introduction:

We all suffer with problems in this life. We all feel that things are not going our way some of the time. In this passage, Israel is wondering why God has not answered their prayers in the manner that they think they should be answered. In response to that question, Isaiah tells them of the greatness of God. He then reminds them of their weaknesses as humans in comparison with the strengths of God.

I. Sometimes we wonder if God is really there for us (27).

- A. When things are going bad in our lives, we may wonder if God really cares about us.
 - 1. No where in the Bible do we read that the Christian will not suffer.
 - 2. We may feel that God is not listening to our prayers; or at least that He is not answering them the way that we would like them to be answered.
 - 3. However, we know that God is with us and that He cares about us.
 - a. **I Pet. 5:6-7** - Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, {7} casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
 - b. One of the ways in which God shows us that He cares for us is that He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear.
 - 1) In I Cor. 10, Paul begins to talk about some of the sins of Israel.
 - 2) **I Cor. 10:13** - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
- B. Notice two examples of Old Testament characters who questioned God.
 - 1. **Num. 11:10-15**
 - 2. Gideon questioned the very presence of God in Israel.
 - a. **Jud. 6:12-13** - And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" {13} Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."
 - b. Of course, we remember what Gideon did to those Midianites when he realized that God was with him.
 - 3. Both Moses and Gideon were great leaders for God and the people of Israel.
- C. We need to remember that good things happen to bad people, and bad things happen to good people.

1. God sends the rain on the just and the unjust; and sometimes, bad things happen to good people.
2. **Mt. 5:45b** - for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
3. It is difficult when we see sin (or evil) seem to prevail; but we need to remember that God is in control.

II. We need to be reminded of the greatness of God (28-29).

- A. Notice again what is said about God in these two verses.
 1. All throughout this chapter, the greatness of God is being shown.
 2. Notice the greatness of God in **Is. 40:10-26**
- B. Because of His greatness, we may not understand His ways.
 1. **Is. 55:8-9** - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. {9} "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.
 2. **Ecc. 11:5** - As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything.
 3. **Rom. 11:33-36** - Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! {34} "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" {35} "Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" {36} For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.
- C. When we begin to wonder about the presence of God in our lives, we need to step back and look at what He has already done for us.
 1. We need to remember His greatness.
 2. We need to remember that He is in control.

III. We then need to be reminded of our own weaknesses (30-31).

- A. We are human and are subject to the limitations of humans.
 1. When compared with the greatness of God, we are very weak.
 2. **Is. 40:6-8**
- B. There are promises made to those who put their trust in the Lord.
 1. If we wait upon the Lord, we will be renewed (**31**).
 2. **II Cor. 4:8-10; 16**
- C. We, in and of ourselves, can do nothing.
 1. **II Cor. 12:7-10**
 2. **Phil. 4:13** - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Conclusion: