

With Wings as Eagles

By

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Isaiah 40 begins with the announcement of comfort to be received by the appearance of Christ and the forgiveness of sins. First, John the Baptist was to come as the “voice of one that cried. ‘Prepare you in the wilderness the way of Jehovah.’” (Verse 3). Next Isaiah writes of the temporal nature of man compared to the world of God which “shall stand forever” (Verse 8). Beginning with verse 12 the prophet bursts forth in great praise to the power of God to accomplish His work:

“Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are accounted as the small dust of the balance...they are accounted to him as less than nothing, and vanity...He sits above the circle of the earth...that brings princes to nothing; that makes the judges of the earth vanity” (Verses 15, 17, 22, 23). The climax of praise is reached in the last paragraph: “He gives power to the faint...they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Man was not made for the world, but the world was made for man, and placed under his dominion. (Gen. 1:26–28). Man lost his high estate by submitting to Satan and rejecting God’s word. It was given to Christ to reclaim it, to come into the world as man and conquer Satan (Heb. 2:14–15), to keep God’s word totally and perfectly, to pay the penalty for man’s sin in His own death, to be raised and given dominion. “All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth” (Matt. 28:18). Following His perfect obedience as a son, God raised Jesus from the dead, “and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:20–21).

The comfort offered by Isaiah is the same as that offered by the apostles, that the Lord is in power, that His power is so great that the nations are as nothing, and that we have nothing to fear who are committed to Him.

POWER BY HIS WORD. It was by God’s word that He created. “He spoke and it was done.” It is by the same power that all things are maintained, for Christ is said to be “upholding all things by the word of his power” (Heb. 1:3).

“This is a marvelously scientific statement, and one that gives tremendous assurance in our troubled day. Dr. Ulric Jelinek, a space scientist, made the statement that “God does not need to press a button to destroy the world. All He needs to do is quit doing what He is doing — holding it together.” The expression “upholding all things” means just that; holding things together.

“I can think of nothing more factually comforting to the Christian than this, that the very One to whom I belong is the One upon whom the whole world, even the whole universe, depends for its existence. Others may worry over nuclear weapons and the possibility of getting blown to bits by them. But the God I serve is the one who holds the atom together, and that by the ‘word of His power’.” Think of it. The very book you are holding is just so many atoms — numerous mysterious unidentified particles made mostly of energy — all held together at this moment by God’s word! Even life itself is

'held together' by God. It is believed by scientists that if the power that holds the atom together should be relinquished for a second, the whole universe would fly to pieces and disintegrate. What POWER resides in this word which holds all things together. And it is His word of power upon which we rely, in fact, upon which we stake life itself. Now, if God's word is so great that all things are held together by 'the word of His power', where is there any room for us to doubt the least of His promises? Is there evidence of the truth of His word? Where is there NOT evidence of such? Everything that meets our gaze, everything that we touch, even the air we breathe, all of it exists by the word of His power! By His word he spoke it into existence, and by His word He will bring it to an end (II Pet. 3:5-7). What is there for us to do but trust implicitly in His word now!" (From "Commit Yourself to Life", page 52.)

Not only is all creation sustained by Christ's word, but every person who enters into God's grace does so by that same word of power. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17).

Pagan religions, such as Buddhism, Hinduism and others, are based on inner-directed desires which are developed into a faith-system. But Christian faith is based on facts revealed from outside ourselves, quite contrary to natural desires. God speaks in words written down by His chosen vessels. Prime evidence of modern man's rejection of God is his obsession with inner-directed revelations rather than the outer-directed truth of the Word. The power of God is not in personal testimonies and recitations of the experiences, trials and blessings of other men, but in the truth of the Gospel as revealed in Scripture (Rom. 1:16).

Every day we read or hear the words of men in power, the promises and threats of men who are rulers of nations. Their words often threaten our faith, our freedom and our very lives. But they have no power compared to the power of Christ's word. He "brings princes (kings) to nothing." He "makes the judges of the earth as vanity."

POWER OVER UNBELIEVERS? Christ's power is not limited to the church of which He is the head. To say that Christ is Lord is to say that He has dominion over all, Satan and his evil followers included. This is impossible for the unregenerate to see. They cannot believe that Jesus would allow poverty, violence, tyranny, sickness, disease and suffering. So they busy themselves with trying to gain control so they can change things. Not only does the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission seek to gain world-wide control in order to reshape society under their own dominion, but many well-intentioned people seek to do the same thing with the idea of improving the world. Their idea is to make the world a happier place in which to live, to remove obstacles, difficulties, hardships and differences, and give security to all, although no one can define just what is meant by "security". Another empty cliché is "human rights", which is only a camouflage for human control. It is an obvious fact that before anyone can change the world, re-build it, or secure rights for anyone, he must have control of all others! Before the ecologist can control the use of land, water and air, he must have dominion over men. He must wrest power from Christ and enslave humanity in order to control man and his environment.

The same is true of everyone who sets out to re-style the world. Christ is in power. He brings droughts, and floods as part of His judgment that is continuously being exercised over the world. He has power over the kings and presidents, and evil governments now in power are there because of the wickedness of those who are

governed. “Blessed by the name of God for ever and ever; for wisdom and might are his. And he changes the times and the season; he removes kings, and sets up kings” (Daniel 2:20–21).

The fact that men do not recognize Christ’s rule is further fulfillment of Scripture, that the wicked citizens refuse to recognize their king (Luke 19). Their official rejection and continuous rebellion does not affect His rule. He allows the wheat and tares to grow together until He returns. He is longsuffering, toward all, giving men room for repentance (II Pet. 3:9). Nevertheless He rules in the midst of His enemies (Psa. 110:2). In the last day He will show “who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of lords, who only has immortality...to whom be honor and power eternal” (I Tim. 6:15, 16).

David advises, “Fret not yourself because of evil-doers...for they shall soon be cut down like the grass” (Psa. 37:1–2 — See also verses 20, 38). This is not to say that we are to have no concern for them and their works, but that we are not to allow their evil to frustrate us and create anxiety. We are to resist evil, to cry out against it and uphold righteousness. But we are not to despair over evil and allow it to dominate our thoughts as those whose every effort is a reaction to the working of evil-doers. They forget that Christ has power over these conspirators and will expose them with a great overthrow in His own time.

OUR DOMINION. Man lost dominion over the earth by refusing to submit to the dominion of God. While Christ has regained dominion in man’s place, as the Second Adam, man has not yet been restored to his exalted deathless state. The earth itself was cursed, and has never been restored to its Eden condition. Even though we are redeemed from sin and the ultimate judgment, we are not yet in dominion, as at the first. There is no promise of a post-millennial period with man again ruling as did Adam before the fall. That time will come only at the final restoration of all things, after the curse-stricken earth is destroyed, and redeemed men live in the “new earth wherein dwells righteousness” (II Pet. 3:13).

In the meantime there is a certain dominion given to the redeemed. “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under law but under grace” (Rom. 6:14). There is still a law against sin, but that law does not keep us from sinning. It is the fact that we are now under the grace of God through the forgiveness wrought by Christ in His death, that gives us such power over sin. Christ took the curse for all the law-breaking and paid the penalty for all our sin on the cross. Having received such grace we now are privileged to serve God, to present ourselves to Him as servants of righteousness, to do His will, and thus walk in His fellowship. When temptation to sin arises, it is strictly our decision as to whether or not we will surrender to it. Sin shall not have dominion! It isn’t the temptation that decides; it isn’t sin that has power to determine. We are under grace and it is entirely according to our own wills whether to sin or not to sin. Those who serve Satan are bound to be under the dominion of sin. Try as they may, they cannot fully break its bonds. But for God’s elect the power of sin is broken by Christ. We do not have to give heed to Satan nor sin, for in this field, dominion is ours.

As to the world, it is subject to Christ. All the nations are as nothing before Him. “Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket” (Isa. 40:15). The nations may rage, and the devil may go about as a roaring lion, but they are subject to the world of Christ’s power. We are advised by Christ to have no fear of what men can do (Matt. 10:28, Luke

12:4–5). Neither are we to glory in men (I Cor. 3:21. “for all things are yours; whether Paul or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and you are Christ’s and Christ is God’s” (I Cor. 3:21–23).

Christ’s word is power; power over all. It is given to us to obey and to announce to the world. Let us cease our timidity, fear and anxiety over that which Christ rules, and claim the blessings He bestows. “He gives power to the faint...they that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up **with wings as eagles.**”

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