

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



Study Guide

Week #5

“On Eagles’ Wings”

Isaiah 40:21-31

Bruce Humphrey

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www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-isaiah/

“Mark Up Isaiah”
Isaiah 40:21-31

Read and reflect on the following scriptures:

Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ *Do you not know?*

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

²² *He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.*

*He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.*

²³ *He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.*

²⁴ *No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.*

²⁵ *“To whom will you compare me?*

Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

²⁶ *Lift up 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.*

²⁷ *Why do you complain, Jacob?*

Why do you say, Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD;

my cause is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ *Do 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.*

²⁹ *He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.*

³⁰ *Even 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.*

Notes

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

⁹ *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Notes:

Discussion Guide

Scripture

1. In Isaiah 40:22, Isaiah says that God is “enthroned...” Why does Isaiah use this kind of royal image to communicate what God is like?
2. Who is the audience for this scripture?
3. What images does Isaiah use to show how much greater God’s power is than the power of the kings on earth?
4. Why do the people need to be reminded of God’s power?
5. How often do you need to be reminded of God’s power?
6. What promises are revealed to you in this scripture?

7. In 2 Corinthians 12:9, Paul is telling the Corinthians what Jesus said to him in a vision. Jesus repeated this three times. Why is it important for Paul to accept His grace?
8. Does “*power made perfect in weakness*” seem confusing to you? Explain.
9. How might this scripture help you rely on Jesus in your everyday difficulties? What do you do to engage His help?

Sermon

“Isaiah 40 declares that most of the time God answers our prayers by strengthening us and then delegating the work back to us.” Bruce Humphrey

1. What does it look like to “soar on eagles’ wings?”
2. What do you have to do before God will put you on those wings? What does God require of you?
3. Why doesn’t God just miraculously “fix” things, instead of asking for our participation?

Prayer

Personal: Ask Jesus to help you honestly and willingly admit your weaknesses. Ask Him to guide you and work mightily through your weaknesses.

Group: Take a moment to thank God for the opportunity you have had to study His Word together, and that His Word never fades, never grows old, and stands forever. Amen.

Note: This is the last study guide for the Mark Up Isaiah series. As we finish up an entire year of reading through the Bible, we would like to hear your stories: did you have a transformational moment(s), a special time of sharing, an encounter with Jesus, a new spiritual discipline, a new direction in your life? Anything related to digging deeper into the Bible – we want to know about it! Please send your story to Rochelle Castillo, rochelle@rbpc.org, (858) 487-0811, ext. 213.

Thank you!

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