



Renewed, Revived, and Restored Pt 1: Restoration is the Heart of God!

January 5, 2020!

Text: Isaiah 40:28-31

Restoration is a central Theme in Scripture

- Genesis to Revelation
- Mount Sinai to Mount Zion (Jerusalem Past and future...the New Jerusalem)
- Captivity to Christ
- Paradise lost to Paradise Restored

Background

Isaiah, the son of Amoz, wrote chiefly to Judah. His ministry extended through the reigns of four kings: Uzziah and Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, from approximately 739-686 BC.

MacArthur notes that Isaiah "...evidently came from a family of some rank, because he had easy access to the king ([Isa 7:3](#)). He was married and had two sons who bore symbolic names: Shear-jashub ("a remnant shall return," [Isa 7:3](#)) and Maher-shalal-hash-baz ("hasting to the spoil, hurrying to the prey," [Isa 8:3](#)). When called by God to prophesy in the year of King Uzziah's death (c. 739 B.C.), he responded with a cheerful readiness, though he knew from the beginning that his ministry would be one of fruitless warning and exhortation ([Isa 6:9-13](#)). Having been reared in Jerusalem, he was an appropriate choice as a political and religious counselor to the nation."

The meaning of Isaiah's name captures the main theme of the book: "Salvation is from the Lord" or "The Lord is Salvation."

Our Text is situated in the first chapter of what many call the second section of Isaiah. This is because of the difference in content and style. Even though there is hope and prophetic inspiration throughout the Book, the first 39 chapters mostly demonstrate the need for the renewal, revival, and restoration of God's people. It starts early... 😊

Isaiah 1:1-24 (KJV) *The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. 3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. 4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. 5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. 7 Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. 8 And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. 9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto*

Gomorrah. **10** Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. **11** To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. **12** When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? **13** Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. **14** Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. **15** And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. **16** Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; **17** Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. **18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. **19** If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: **20** But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. **21** How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. **22** Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: **23** Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them. **24** Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies:

But even in this beginning rebuke, there is hope:

Isaiah 1:25-27 (KJV) And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: **26** And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. **27** Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

It continues throughout the first section:

Isaiah 3:1 (KJV) For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, **Isaiah 3:8 (KJV)** For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory. **Isaiah 5:13-14 (KJV)** Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. **14** Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it. **Isaiah 5:20 (KJV)** Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

However in chapter 40, there is a definite shift:

Isaiah 40:1-5 (KJV) *Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. 3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

Some even say that “the viewpoint of chapters 1–39 is definitely pre-exilic (Judah was exiled to Babylon beginning in the late 500s BC) and that of 40–66 is prophetically *post-exilic*...Isaiah looking forward to the restoration of God’s people.

Isaiah 42:1-9 (KJV) *Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. 2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. 4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law. 5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: 6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; 7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. 8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. 9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.*

Isaiah 53:3-5 (KJV) *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah 55:1 (KJV) *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV) *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Isaiah 57:15 (KJV) *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

Isaiah 58:8 (KJV) *Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.*

Isaiah 59:1 (KJV) *Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:*

Isaiah 60:1 (KJV) *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*

Isaiah 61:1-4 (KJV) *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; 3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. 4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.*

Basic Exegesis of our Text

1. I love the initial question, essentially, “Don’t you know? Have you forgotten?” This language, in my opinion, is both a prophetic encouragement and a prophetic judgement...a way to remind them on God’s goodness but also rebuke spiritual deadness, not having ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts that understand. (Isa 6:10) Saints, be reminded how great our God is!
2. Know that our God is everlasting! He is eternal. He has no beginning and no end. He is uncreated and uncaused. He exists in all places at once and perceives all things, from the smallest to the largest.
3. Know that He is the Creator of ends of the earth, for “In the beginning, God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen 1:1) The Scriptures say of our LORD Jesus: “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...” (Heb 1:3) **Colossians 1:16-17 (KJV)** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
4. He never gets weak! He never gets weary! No one can fully understand Him; He’s too great! **Isaiah 55:8-9 (KJV)** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith 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.
5. And this holy, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, God “giveth power to the faint!” Although the Scripture says, “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Ps 8:4), He nevertheless commands us to “(Cast) all your care upon him; for he careth for you!” (1 Pet 5:7)
6. For those who have no strength, who don’t think they can make it any further, He gives strength! **2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (KJV)** And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure

in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

7. God's mercy is irrespective of age. Young or old can become weary. Youthful vigor doesn't always equate to spiritual perseverance. But God!
8. Beloved, those that "wait upon" or patiently trust the LORD will have their strength renewed. This is a promise! And this renewal, this revival, this restoration is dramatic!
9. The prophetic expression call to mind the strength and freedom of one of the most powerful birds of prey God ever created! The image is one of spiritual endurance!
10. Matthew Henry said, "*those that wait on the Lord*, who make conscience of their duty to him, and by faith rely upon him and commit themselves to his guidance, shall find that God will not fail them. [1.] They shall have grace sufficient for them: *They shall renew their strength* as their work is renewed, as there is new occasion; they shall be anointed, and their lamps supplied, with fresh oil. God will be their *arm every morning*, [Isa 33:2](#). If at any time they have been foiled and weakened they shall recover themselves, and so renew their strength. Heb. *They shall change their strength*, as their work is changed - doing work, suffering work; they shall have strength to labour, strength to wrestle, strength to resist, strength to bear. As the day so shall the strength be. [2.] They shall use this grace for the best purposes. Being strengthened, *First*, They shall soar upward, upward towards God: *They shall mount up with wings like eagles*, so strongly, so swiftly, so high and heaven-ward. In the strength of divine grace, their souls shall ascend above the world, and even enter into the holiest. Pious and devout affections are the eagles' wings on which gracious souls mount up, [Psa 25:1](#). *Secondly*, They shall press forward, forward towards heaven. They shall walk, they shall run, the way of God's commandments, cheerfully and with alacrity (*they shall not be weary*), constantly and with perseverance (*they shall not faint*); and therefore in due season they shall reap. Let Jacob and Israel therefore, in their greatest distresses, continue waiting upon God, and not despair of timely and effectual relief and succour from him."

Amen!!!!

Restoration is the Heart of God! Our God is...

1. **Merciful** to His People
 - **Psalms 86:15 (KJV)** *But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*
 - **Ephesians 2:4-7 (KJV)** *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*
 - **Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV)** *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*
2. **Kind** to to His People
 - **Isaiah 54:8 (KJV)** *In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.*

- **Titus 3:3-6 (KJV)** *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;*

3. **Good** to His People

- **Psalms 31:19 (KJV)** *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!*
- **Psalms 145:5-10 (KJV)** *I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. 6 And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. 7 They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. 9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. 10 All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.*
- **Psalms 107:1 (KJV)** *O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

4. **Longsuffering** towards His People

- **2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)** *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

5. **Forgiving** towards His People

- **Jeremiah 33:8-9 (KJV)** *And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. 9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.*
- **1 John 1:8-9 (KJV)** *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Beloved, receive God's mercy today. Allow Him to restore, revive, refresh, and renew you. I'd like to pray Peter's prayer over CRCC:

1 Peter 5:8-11 (KJV) *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. 11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*