

# Revitalize and keep going



## Isaiah 40:18-31

<sup>18</sup> To whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare him to?

<sup>19</sup> As for an idol, a craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it.

<sup>20</sup> A man too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot. He looks for a skilled craftsman to set up an idol that will not topple.

<sup>21</sup> 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? <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. <sup>24</sup> 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.

<sup>25</sup> "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift 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. <sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

<sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. <sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup> 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.

## Isaiah's message to the weary and worn...

### 1. Idols are insubstantial

#### ▲ Idols are fashioned and formed by mere men

<sup>18</sup> To whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare him to? <sup>19</sup> As for an idol, a craftsman casts it,

#### ▲ Idols are fashioned from mere materials

<sup>19</sup> As for an idol, a craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it. <sup>20</sup> A man too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot. He looks for a skilled craftsman to set up an idol that will not topple.

### 2. People are puny

#### ▲ Princes and potentates are puny

<sup>23</sup> He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. <sup>24</sup> 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.

#### ▲ People in their prime are puny

<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

#### ▲ Pooped people are particularly puny

<sup>29</sup> the weary — the weak. <sup>30</sup> — tired and weary,

### 3. God is great and good

#### ▲ God is sovereign

<sup>21</sup> 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? <sup>22</sup> He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.

#### ▲ God stretches out the stars

<sup>22</sup> He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. — <sup>25</sup> "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift 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.

#### ▲ God is strong and steady

<sup>28</sup> 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.

#### ▲ God sees and surveys

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

#### ▲ God strengthens

<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

### 4. We are welcome

#### ▲ We've been informed

<sup>21</sup> 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? — <sup>28</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard?

#### ▲ We've been invited

Matthew 11:28 *Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

### 5. Revitalization is really recommended

#### ▲ Our strength can be renewed

<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

#### ▲ Our sights can be refocused

<sup>31</sup> They will soar on wings like eagles;

#### ▲ Our speed can be rejuvenated

<sup>31</sup> they will run and not grow weary,

#### ▲ Our stride can be recalibrated

<sup>31</sup> they will walk and not be faint.

#### *Those who hope in the LORD...*

- 1. Hope awakens** as we secure and affirm and declare our covenant relationship with the LIVING LORD by committing ourselves exclusively and entirely to Him.
- 2. Hope arises** as we flood our minds with the the LORD's promises to us—promises for this life and promises reaching beyond this life; hope becomes our anchor to the future and to our forever.
- 3. Hope abounds** as we pray and praise and worship and rejoice in the LORD, thanking the LORD for who He is, what He has done, what He is doing now, and what He is going to do in the days ahead.