

K.E.Y. Bible Study (2012-2013/Year V)

K.E.Y Bible Study is a systematic study of Scripture that equips participants to become acquainted with the major truths of the Bible over a five-year period. Each lesson is self-contained, so, you can join the study at any time during the five years.

Purpose: To teach the most significant events, passages, and doctrines of the Bible in a manner and using methods that encourage and empower the student to:
Keep the Faith We Have Received
Be Equipped to Serve the Body of Christ
Become Yoked in Ministry with Other Believers

Session 9 October 17, 2012

“Turning Weakness Into Strength”

**Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 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 40:30-31**

Why are Isaiah 40:30-31 K.E.Y. verses in the Bible?

When we live the obedient, faithful Christian life, it often requires all of our strength and mental fortitude leaving us feeling physically, emotionally, and spiritually drained. These verses promise us renewed strength that will help us continue with hope and passion.

Who?

God is the central character.

The prophet **Isaiah** was born in Jerusalem in approximately 765 B.C. While it is speculated that he may have been the cousin of King Hezekiah, it is evident from prophecy that he was related to royalty. Isaiah prophesied in the reigns of four kings of Judah: Uzziah, Johatham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. The style of his writing suggests that he was well acquainted with rhetorical training and was educated. His style of writing is comparable with the best in ancient times. His role was greater than that religious leader; it is evident he was a counselor to the nation and to the leaders of the southern kingdom.

The name “Isaiah” means “salvation is of the Lord.” His name also conveys a central theme of his message. The Book of Isaiah is quoted 411 times in the New Testament. Even though his prophecies are historically specific, they also apply to the universal condition of humanity.

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When?

Isaiah prophesied from approximately 744 B.C. to 701 B.C. However, much of his prophecy involves later generations. Chapters 1-39 are directed more to his era and chapters 40-66 speak more to issues related to the Babylonian captivity from about 606 B.C. to 538 B.C. This has led some to believe that these two sections of Isaiah are separate books written by different authors and later combined by an editor into one book. While this interpretation does not negate the truth of Isaiah, this study is based on the assumption there was only one prophet Isaiah, and God gave him the knowledge and understanding to be able to address the generations after his death.

In the early chapters of Isaiah, the prophet tried to persuade the people that God could be trusted when their strong, adversarial neighbors were threatening their nation. Chapter 40 was written for a people who had rejected God's way and experienced the consequences. Isaiah wrote that God could still be trusted not to forsake his own. God had allowed them to experience the consequences of their rejection, but it did not mean God had abandoned them.

Where?

These verses addressed the people who were scattered or those who lived in Babylonia.

Context:

These words were read by those people living in exile who were beginning to wonder if there would ever be an end to their suffering. The Babylonian exiles reading Isaiah would have been impacted much the same way as modern persecuted Christians are when they read the Book of Revelation.

Word Study

- **"youths grow tired and weary, and young men"** - could be paraphrased "young and the very physically fit young men." The point is that both those who are young and those who are young and in outstanding physical condition reach a point where they become weary. If they based their energy and passion for life on their age or physical condition, they will feel and be overwhelmed by life.
- **"but"** - this conjunction is important because the choice of the word clearly suggests that these two verses should be read together.
- **"those who hope in the Lord"** - the more familiar translation is "wait upon the Lord." The Hebrew words suggests "wait in anticipation" much like the way a farmer plants

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seeds and waits or hopes for the harvest. It is not waiting to see if it happens, but waiting knowing it will happen. This is a faith statement.

- **“will renew their strength”** - The verb means “to exchange.” The idea is that through trusting God we exchange our weariness for strength. Trusting God refreshes us, while depending upon self depletes us.
- **“they will soar on wings like eagles”** - At the time, there was a common belief that when eagles molted, they gained new strength.
- **“they will run and not grow weary”** - While running usually result in eventually declining speed, the longer we trust God, the stronger we trust God.
- **“they will walk and not be faint”** - This is the word picture of walking a very long distance in the hot desert without fainting or falling to the ground.

What am I to *know* as a result of having read and studied these K.E.Y. verses?

God provides strength to those who trust Him.

What am I to *be* or *become* as a result of having studied these K.E.Y. verses?

Be a person who relies daily and totally on God.

What am I to *do* in order to apply these K.E.Y. verses in my private and public life?

Live daily as a victor not as a victim.