



LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH: SERMON SERIES HANDOUT

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ISAIAH

Sunday, August 3rd, 2025

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 41:14-16

Anchor Verse: Isaiah 41:10 – *“Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”*

CHAPTER SIX: GRACE FOR THE WORM: STRENGTH FOR THE WEAK

In a culture that celebrates strength and self-reliance, God’s Word offers a radically different message: He meets us in our weakness and transforms us by His grace. In Isaiah 41:14–16, God calls His people a ‘worm’ not to shame them, but to remind them of their utter dependence—and to declare His commitment to help and redeem. This is not weakness to be overcome by self-effort, but the kind of weakness God uses for His glory.

1. God Addresses the Weakness of His People (Isaiah 41:14)

- *“Fear not, thou worm Jacob...”* The word “worm” (Hebrew: תולד, *tôla*) conveys weakness and helplessness.
- God acknowledges their condition but also reassures: *“I will help thee.”*
- He identifies as *“thy redeemer”* (*goel*, kinsman-redeemer; cf. Ruth 3:9; Leviticus 25:25) and *“the Holy One of Israel”* (cf. Isaiah 43:3, 15).
- NT Parallel: 1 Corinthians 1:27, *“God hath chosen the weak things... to confound the things which are mighty.”*
- Application: Weakness is not a liability in God’s kingdom; it is a place of divine encounter.

2. God Promises Transformation and Power (Isaiah 41:15)

- *“I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth...”* God’s work is not cosmetic but transformative.
- Threshing instruments (cf. Amos 1:3) were used to separate wheat from chaff; a metaphor for spiritual victory and discernment.
- *“Thou shalt thresh the mountains...”* Mountains represent overwhelming obstacles (cf. Zechariah 4:7).



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- Application: God makes the weak into instruments of power and purpose.
- NT Parallel: 2 Corinthians 12:9, “*My strength is made perfect in weakness.*”

3. God Turns Victory into Worship (Isaiah 41:16)

- “*Thou shalt fan them... the wind shall carry them away...*” Imagery of complete and divine deliverance (cf. Psalm 1:4; Job 21:18).
- “*Thou shalt rejoice in the LORD...*” Rejoicing (Hebrew: אָלַז ‘ālaz) denotes exuberant praise.
- “*Glory in the Holy One of Israel...*” To boast in God alone (cf. Jeremiah 9:23–24; Galatians 6:14).
- Application: The ultimate aim of every spiritual victory is the glory of God.

Reflection: When You Feel Like a Worm

This passage is not about self-improvement: it is about divine intervention. God does not demand strength from you; He offers His strength to you. Just as He called Jacob and transformed him into Israel, He can take your worst failure and make it a testimony of grace.

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Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.