

Title: Why Worms  
Text: Is 41: 14-20  
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In Isaiah 41, Christ declares what he is to his church and what he is doing as he uses us to preach the gospel. It is the same message as found in 1 Corinthians 1.

**Isaiah 41: 14** 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. **15:** Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat *them* small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. **16:** Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, *and* shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel. **17:** *When* the poor and needy seek water, and *there is none, and* their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, *I* the God of Israel will not forsake them. **18:** I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. **19:** I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, *and* the pine, and the box tree together: **20:** That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

**Proposition:** The Lord declares that he shall take us who are worms and make us a threshing instrument by making us preach Christ and his works—and he declares the works he will do through the gospel.

He declares the reason he uses us worms to do this work.

**Isaiah 41: 20:** That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

Another reason is that all in the Lord's house shall glory only in the Lord.

**Isaiah 41: 16:**...and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, *and* shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

#### WORMS CALLED OF CHRIST

**Isaiah 41: 14** 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.

Those Christ calls and uses to preach his gospel are 'worms'—*thou worm Jacob*. What is more powerless than a worm? When you think of the king of the jungle you do not think of a worm.

But our Strength is Christ. He says, "*Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel, I will help thee, saith the LORD.*" He promised in verse 13, "For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." The right hand is the hand of fellowship. Many times when our Lord walked this earth we see our Savior take his people by the hand.

Peter's mother.

Mark 1: 31: And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

The twelve-year-old daughter of the ruler of the synagogue.

Mark 5: 41: And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. 42: And straightway the damsel arose, and walked;

The blind man.

Mark 8:23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

When the LORD Jesus takes his child by the hand, he never lets go. He said in verse 13, "*For I the LORD thy God will HOLD thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.*"

John 10: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

We are "worms" in ourselves. But we are of Christ—we are "*men OF ISRAEL*" Christ is Israel. Those born from above are men of Christ. We are men OF Israel, of Christ, the Prince of Peace who has power with God and men and has prevailed. Our assurance is, he says, "*I am THY REDEEMER*" AND *THY HOLY ONE—"THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL"* Our assurance is that Christ is our Righteousness and our Sanctification. He our Redeemer and our Redemption. He is our Sanctifier and our

Sanctification. The Son of God came down and took flesh like unto his brethren without sin. Christ is holiness and righteousness. He is the holiness and righteousness of his people.

Christ is our Righteousness: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us; he made his people the righteousness of God in him; he purchased us with his own blood; we are his; so our Redeemer assures us by declaring, “*I am THY Redeemer.*”

Christ is our Holiness: he reminds us he is also our Sanctifier and our Sanctification; “*I am the Holy One OF Israel*”; Christ is declaring a “separating” work here; to be sanctified is to be separated; our Savior is declaring he is the Holy One of Israel; Christ is Head of the church who does the sanctifying; the Lord Jesus is the Sanctifier and the Sanctification of his people; he separates us and he separates us into himself; Christ is “the Holy One of Israel”; he is our Fortress into whom he separates us so that we are safe.

## CHRIST SANCTIFIES US

**Isaiah 40: 15: Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat *them* small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. 16: Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, *and* shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.**

Among many reasons, one reason we need Christ to be our righteousness and our strength is because of the sanctifying work Christ works through the preaching of the gospel. He calls us to preach his gospel—that is what he means by making us a new sharp threshing instrument. They would pile up the corn stalks and run a cart over them. It has sharp teeth that separated the wheat from the chaff. Christ makes his people a threshing instrument by making us preach the gospel of Christ—we preach Christ’s person and works giving Christ all the glory.

In our text, he says *we will* do this but it *is Christ* who does it. We are worms. He merely gives us grace to preach Christ and his works and he does this work. Through the preaching of the gospel Christ separates the wheat from the chaff, “*thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.*” The reason thou shalt rejoice in the LORD and shalt glory in the HOLY ONE of Israel is because he does this separating, sanctifying work. There is only one Redeemer and one HOLY ONE in Christ’s church—only one Righteousness and one Sanctification in Christ’s church. It is Christ himself.

Paul declares this in 1 Corinthians 1. The LORD will not have men compete with him for what he is to his church. He works this in his people; the believers flesh is only chaff. And Christ works it in any that try to fill his offices and what he is to his church.

Christ is the Wisdom of his church so he promises,

1 Corinthians 1: 19...I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20: Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

Christ is the Redeemer, the Righteousness, of his church. He will not have any in his church who attempt to be their own righteousness. As he declares here Christ is the Sanctifier and Sanctification of his church. He will not have competition from men. He is *the Holy ONE of Israel*. Christ declares in this passage that he alone separates his people to himself and scatters them that are not. He is the Redemption of his church. He declares here what Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 1. In his church,

1 Corinthians 1: 29: No flesh shall glory in his presence. 30: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

So any sinner who tries to take any of his offices, Christ’s “fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire” (Mt 3: 12). But Christ teaches you and me to never attempt to separate the tares from the wheat. Christ is declaring what he alone does. We would root up the wheat and leave the tares. He simply uses us to preach Christ and him crucified and he works this work. Christ gave the parable of the wheat and tares. An enemy sowed tares among the wheat.

Matthew 13: 28...The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29: But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

He has chosen us weak worms to preach Christ. Paul said he did it to confound the wise. He chose us who are nothing to bring to nothing people who think that they are something.

1 Corinthians 1: 27: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28: And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

As the preaching of the gospel of Christ goes forth, only the Holy One can make a sinner hear this word as being for us. Until then sinners always hear the gospel as being against them. They hear election as leaving them out. They hear particular redemption as being unfair. They hear the irresistible call of the Spirit as stripping them of their will and their sanctifying works. The carnal mind is enmity against God, incensed against Christ, so they will be enraged against us. They will say, ‘You are saying I will be carried away.’ No, we are merely preaching the word of the Lord.

It is Christ alone who makes the difference. Only the Lord can sanctify and make us believe on Christ and hear this word as being for us. But when he does so then he promises, “*thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.*”

He said in verse 11, “those that are incensed, enraged, against you shall be ashamed and confounded and be as nothing.” Remember Acts 19: 29, 32? When gospel threatened Demetrius’s works, he stirred up the people. “And the whole city was filled with confusion:...Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.”

But he promises you that believe on Christ shall never be ashamed and confounded. In verse 16, Christ promises you “*shall rejoice in the LORD and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.*”

Isaiah 45:24: Surely, shall *one* say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: *even* to him shall *men* come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.

James 3: 13: Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14: But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15: This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. 16: For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work. 17: But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18: And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

## CHRIST FEEDS US

**Isaiah 41: 17: *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. 18: I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.***

Christ makes us rejoice because through this gospel our Shepherd feeds us and nourishes us weak worms. This is all a spiritual work that Christ works in the new spirit that the Spirit of God gives to us. Christ must make us “*the poor and needy.*” He makes us hunger and thirst for Christ to be our Righteousness. That is what Christ does for his people. Then he says, “*I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.*” He promised each of us he redeemed, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. I have engraven thee on the palms of my hands. Your walls are ever before me (Is 49: 16).

Christ is himself the Water of Life. He promises through the preaching of the gospel, “*I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*” These “rivers in high places” flow from the throne of God and the Lamb. Remember, our sinful flesh is the wilderness and the dry land. He promised, “Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water” (Jn 7: 38).

Psalm 36:8: They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. 9: For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

It is by the Holy Spirit blessing the gospel of Christ to our new hearts, renewing our inward man with fresh supplies of grace. He renews us to behold the love of God for us in giving his only begotten Son that we might live through him. Our Sanctifier renews strength and comfort in us by giving us fresh views of pardon and righteousness by Christ. He reminds of this very word, that he is working in the midst of his church, keeping us as the apple of his eye.

## CHRIST PLANTS US

**Isaiah 41: 19: *I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:***

We rejoice in the Lord because through the gospel he plants us. Our Lord plants us so that we cannot be moved from trusting him. He will not permit it.

Isaiah 27:6: He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.

Psalm 92:13: Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14: They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

## THE PURPOSE

Why worms? Why does the Lord use us worms as his new sharp threshing instrument? What does he bring us to do by feeding us, planting us and making us trees of righteousness? Verse 20, “*That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.*” Verse 16, “*Thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.*”

Each time he speaks of this work of planting his people, it is to make us give him all the glory and all the praise--

Isaiah 60:21: Thy people also *shall be* all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3... that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

1 Corinthians 1: 18: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19: For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20: Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21: For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22: For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24: But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25: Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26: For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*: 27: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world [US WORMS] to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28: And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29: That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

**Amen!**