

## GOD AND A WORM

### TEXT:

**Isaiah 41:14-16a:**

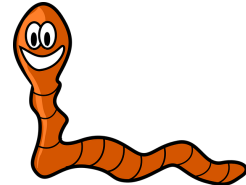
***14 Fear not, thou WORM Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.***

***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.***

***16a Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them:***

**INTRODUCTION:** What a strange combination, God and a worm!!! Can you imagine a worm united to the omnipotent God??? You will take notice that God is not insulted to be associated with *thou worm Jacob*. He is the One, in fact, Who calls one of His choice children a worm.

**QUESTION:** I am wondering, is it offensive to God's "Jacobs" to be called worms?



**ANSWER:** Yes, by all means, if one is stuck on himself and is puffed up with pride. This carefully selected word *worm* is disgusting and intimidating to a person or persons who are filled with self, vanity, and pride.

**QUESTION:** What can be more insignificant and seemingly worthless than a WORM?? This is what many people would be quick to think if they did not know the true value of worms. They are more than fish bait. They are one of God's most valuable creatures.



This text is not the story of a man, Jacob, or of the Jewish Peoples in general who are the descendants of Jacob. Jacob and his descendants have been looked upon and despised by many nations, but God loves him and his descendants. Listen to what God said in Malachi:

**Malachi 1:1-2:**

***1 The burden of the Word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi:***

***2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Let ye say, Wherein hast Thou***

**Loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? Saith the LORD: I loved Jacob.**

Again in Jeremiah:

**Jeremiah 31:3: The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, "Yea, I have Loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.**

God has a specific purpose in using this expression "A WORM" in reference to the Children of Israel. In **1 Corinthians 1:26** you will see again God's strange choice:

**1 Corinthians 1:26: For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:**

God has chosen:

**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;**

**1 Corinthians 1:28:**

**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:**

Why? So that no flesh should glory in His Presence.

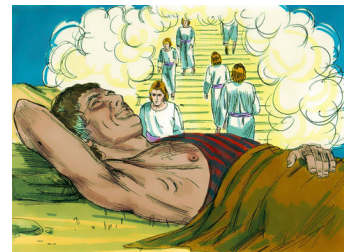
God takes this worm, Jacob, and does mighty things which seems to be so little, insignificant, and disregarded by much of mankind. God took this worm and made a prince out of him. We see Jacob fleeing from the presence of his brother, Esau, and God reveals Himself to him in a dream, saying:

**Genesis 28:10-15:**

**10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.**

**11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.**

**12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set**



**up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.**

**13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;**



Jacob sees his descendants in a dream.

**14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**

**15 And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.**

In the next scene, I desire to call your attention to God appearing again to Jacob while he is living in Syria with his family, his wives being the daughters of Laban, the Syrian. He only wanted to marry Rachel, but by subtle scheming on the part of Laban, Jacob was given Leah — the first-born daughter — instead, and had to work another seven years to obtain Rachel, the one he loved. However, it seemed like only a few days because of the great love he had for her.

It was now time for Jacob to return to his homeland, and God appeared unto him and told him to pack up and leave. While on the way home, some bad news nearly knocked Jacob off his feet. Esau was coming to him with an army of 600 men. Jacob was afraid, and sent his family over the brook while he spent the night in prayer, thereby wrestling with the Angel of the LORD until daybreak. The Angel called out, “Let me go!!!” Jacob replied: “I will not let thee go until Thou bless me”. The Lord asked Jacob his name, and after Jacob told the Angel of God his name, He said, “Thy name shall no longer be called Jacob but Israel, for a **prince with God hast the power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.**”



Jacob wrestles with the Angel of the Lord.

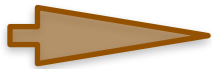
Now listen to how GOD and A WORM got its history. We have to turn back to **Genesis 25:23:**

**Genesis 25:23: And the LORD said unto her, two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.**

This is a typical scene in the life of every believer. First, we discover that we cannot face our adversaries without God's help and His special manifested Presence. We are utterly helpless and plainly failures in ourselves to win the battle over our foes. Just like Jesus said, "Without Me ye can do nothing . . . ."

**We cannot face our adversaries without God's help and His special manifested Presence.**

***John 15:5: I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.***



**Two natures are ever struggling within us, and only God can handle this fleshly nature.**

### **A Journey back to the Birth of Jacob and Esau**

Let us go way back to the time before Jacob and Esau's birth. Rebecca is expecting, and she is rejoicing that God has answered her prayers for a child, for she had been barren. Now she is puzzled. She feels a conflict within her, and she takes this to the Lord in prayer.

***Genesis 25:23: And the LORD said unto her, two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.***

Now, turning to our text once again:

***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.***

**I will help thee . . .** God stoops down to help us bear this awesome burden of getting deliverance from our carnal nature — our *old man nature*. He did not say He would do all this delivering work by Himself, for He wants our cooperation. "*I will help thee*" is what He said.

**You and I furnish the will  
and  
God furnishes the power.**

Putting the two together, we have *WILL POWER*. Most of us know from childhood the *WANT POWER*, but we lack the *WILL POWER* to *live holiness unto the LORD*.

***Psalms 29:2: Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.***

**NOTE:** **If we, through the Holy Spirit,** do mortify the deeds of the body, we shall live.

**Romans 8:13: For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**

**1 Peter 1:22: Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:**

**A WORM IS SPINELESS . . . it lacks a backbone.**

God, in His marvelous wisdom, chooses and selects this WORM by special design to help us to see who HE wants to help. Namely, the SPINELESS, the weak, and the wobbly children of God. GOD CALLS US WORMS!!! What an insult to spiritual pride!! Do you take an offense to this??? The more proud you are, the more you will resent this VERSE of Scripture. But wait a minute. We need to listen to more of God's Word to get the full picture.



**Job 25:4, 6:**

**<sup>4</sup> How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?**

**<sup>6</sup> How much less man, that is a WORM? and the son of man, which is a WORM?**

**Psalms 22:6-8:**

**<sup>6</sup> But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.**

**<sup>7</sup> All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,**

**<sup>8</sup> He trusted on the LORD that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in him.**

**Mark 9:43-44:**

**<sup>43</sup> And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into Hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:**

**<sup>44</sup> Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.**

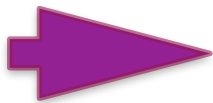
**Proverbs 3:5-6:**

<sup>5</sup> ***Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.***

<sup>6</sup> ***In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.***

**FEAR NOT THOU WORM JACOB.** There is only one true way for a worm to be made strong, and that is to lean on the Everlasting Arms of the Lord for His help.

After this self-slaying, self-crucifying work of God is done, then look what happens when we become lowly before God, where we are out of the flesh and into the Spirit. Before the exaltation is HUMILITY.



**We cannot live a victorious life without God's help. We will not seek that help until we can see how bankrupt we are in ourselves — how helpless we are. We cannot possess God's grace so long as there is any SELF or PRIDE in us.**

***1 Peter 5:5b: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.***

God will never give His Grace except to the humble.  
GOD'S GRACE IS POWER and MIGHT.

**God will never give His Grace except to the humble.**

God told Paul:

***2 Corinthians 12:9b: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.***

The Scripture does not say: He giveth grace to the talented, the strong, the experienced, the capable, **but to the weakest, and the most ignorant, inexperienced, and faltering.** God will pour out His Grace when we turn wholly to Him. Therefore the weakest, the most insignificant, and the helpless can be the greatest success if he or she receives God's strength.

There needs to be a real humbling down where we confess our faults one to another, and pray one for another to be healed, not only in body but also in our spirit. We need to get those hurts healed in the things we have said and done to hurt one another. These are the things which are hurting God's work from going forward.

So many Christians lack the grace to overcome temptation and sin. They lack the grace to pray through to get victory. They lack the grace to be kind, to keep in unity, to return good for evil, and to bless those who curse them.

Why is there such a lack of grace today? There can only be one answer — the lack of real humility. We must recognize this and face it before we can get God



to help us.

To humble ourselves is to oppose self, to abase ourselves, to break our stubborn wills, and to do what self does not want to do. We must also confess our faults and acknowledge our wrongs. We have done the opposite. We have confessed the faults of others, but not our own. Nothing short of this can bring real humility into our hearts. Pride needs to be stepped on and crushed. We need to break it above all, even expose it.

Pride needs to be stepped on and crushed.

Then we will be a worm — which we must be if we want God to use us.

### LOOK WHAT GOD WILL DO WITH A WORM!!!

*Fear not thou worm Jacob . . . I will help thee.*

***Isaiah 41:15: 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.***

***Isaiah 41:16a: Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them:***

All these obstacles which are in your way and my way can be totally destroyed by a worm. The MOUNTAINS and THE HILLS will become like chaff. God will help us as we fan them, and He will send the wind and the whirlwind to drive them away.

Christ was the very best example of humility and self abasing. He cried out in:

***Psalms 22:6: I AM a worm and no man.***



**Christ Himself took this attitude of a worm. A WORM has no TONGUE to GOSSIP and BACKBITE, does no MURMURING, CONDEMNING, COMPLAINING, or cause CONTENTION.**

***Proverbs 13:10a: Only by PRIDE cometh CONTENTION:***

***Proverbs 28:25a: He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife:***

A worm has no teeth to devour, or bite, or tear others to pieces. A worm has no hands to greedily grasp what doesn't belong to it. A worm has no feet to lead it into paths of sin and shame.

A worm has no neck bone or will of its own to be stubborn, self-willed, or obstinate.

It must resign itself to its Creator's Will entirely.



A worm has no beauty to get puffed up over. It is common and almost unnoticed. Worms often get stepped on and get hurt, but it doesn't sulk and pout or pity itself. A worm has no ability to fight back and retaliate. A worm is often resigned to self sacrifice.

A worm is always busy, hidden away in the earth out of sight, and gets little credit for what it does. Yet, you may not know it, but it is the greatest blessing to all plant life in the world. It opens up the earth so the air can get down into the roots and help it grow, and it opens the earth for the rain to get down into the roots of the plants. The worm, though weak, does mighty things.

A worm shall thresh a mountain and beat it small. Hills shall become as chaff.

***Isaiah 41:16a: Thou shalt fan them and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them:***

You and I know when we are ready to be used by God in this way, when we no longer resent it if we are called a worm by God or anybody else. God must empty us before He fills us.

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before He fills us.**

A little ole worm: Think on this!!! How little we actually are. We let such little things bother us and upset us, even overthrow us. We can talk big in prosperity or when things are going well for us. But let a little pain come, and we want to die. Just a little toothache, and we fall apart. Just a little corn on our toe, and we are crippled up.

A worm . . . Yea, remember:

***Psalms 119:165: GREAT PEACE have they which love THY LAW: and nothing shall offend them.***

Samson, when he was little in his own eyes, was given power by God to carry away the gates of the city of Gaza. When he lost the power of the Holy Spirit, he lost the supernatural strength he had been given by God.

Oh, to be but a worm in the Master's hands!

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