

# Verse by Verse: Isaiah 40:28

By J. Arthur Mouw

[Musical introduction]

Announcer:

Biola Productions presents the program with the enthusiasm of teenager (cutoff)

[Musical introduction]

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The Bible Institute of Los Angeles Incorporated, half century old Christian training center of the West, presents Verse by Verse with Dr. Louis T. Talbot Biola chancellor and one of America's great evangelical leaders. Now, once again your radio Bible teacher Dr. Louis T. Talbot.

J. Arthur Mouw:

Good morning my radio friends. This is Arthur Mouw speaking on behalf of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Dr. Talbot, my good friend and yours, will be back on Monday to give a verse by verse study of the Book of Revelation. In the meantime, I trust that you will remember the institute in prayer and the work and the financial needs of this great institution day by day. It has been a joy and a privilege to be with you these last three mornings to tell you a little bit of what the Lord has done in a land called Borneo. And this morning, again, we want to look at God's word and then tell you a little bit about this land. This is Thursday, a rainy start of a cold day, and tomorrow Friday will be the last time that I will be giving forth a message here for a while.

I'd like to read a few verses this morning from Isaiah the 40th chapter and beginning to read with the 28th verse. Isaiah 40 verse 28: "Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of- of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth of strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

In this busy age in which we live, how can one wait upon the Lord? It seems like everyone is busy, not only the man that's out in the world but the Christian is busy. And we are running hither and yon trying to do this and that. And I'm afraid that many of us are not waiting upon the Lord as we should. It's just a short prayer at breakfast, and then a short prayer at noon, and on Sunday we go to church, on Sunday morning for an hour, and then at night for some reason or other. Well, church isn't inviting so we stay home, and maybe wha- we look at the television or something else. And we do not take the time that- as we should even as Christians to wait upon the Lord.

You know, my friend, it takes time to be holy. And we often sing that song "Take time to be holy; the world rushes on." I'm sure you realize with me that that song was written some seventy years ago. It was copyrighted in 1890. And at that time, the writer wrote "take time to be holy; the world rushes on." And if the world was rushing on in 1890, what is it doing today? They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. And the only way we, as Christians, can renew our

strength is to wait upon the Lord. This was brought out in prayer meeting last night, Pastor Collard said "to the world it is ridiculous to wait upon the Lord and the world can't understand why someone would sit with their Bible and wait upon the Lord, wait in prayer. I'm sure that the devil keeps us so busy with so many things and legitimate things, good things, that they rob us of being quiet and waiting upon the Lord.

You know, Mary sat at Jesus feet. But Martha was busy about many things. They were good things. And the Lord said to Martha, "Martha Martha thou are troubled about many things. And Mary has chosen the good part." You know, it's possible for ministers to become too busy. And it's certainly possible- possible for missionaries to become too busy. I remember as we labored for the Lord in the land of Borneo, in that first term we were busy but not as busy as we were the second term. And in that first term, God blessed his word. And as we traveled up and down those trails and through the swamps and the jungles, God gave us, on that first term, two thousand six hundred and forty souls. And I'm sure they came to the Lord because there were people at home that pray- prayed.

As we returned for our first furlough in the year 1937, we came and we told the people here in California of what the Lord had done over there in that land of Borneo. You know the first time we went to the field, we went to the field with three trunks and that was it. Two beds; that's all we had. But as we went from place to place and told of what the Lord had wrought in the hearts of the people there, for some reason or other, people opened their pocketbooks and wanted to give us this and that. And one party gave us an organ. Another gave us a public address system. And someone else gave us an accordion. And as we went back to the field that second time, we

had, I would say, a pretty good outfit. But you know that organ and that public address system and that accordion might just as well have been dropped in the Pacific on our way over because they didn't do us a bit of good. For after we took them and got them over there into that tropical atmosphere, well they just didn't work. It just didn't work out, and we just had to discard them.

But there was one thing that we took along and it was a pump. We bought it at Sears and Roebuck. And the reason we took the pump was because we had to drink river water. And we thought that if we'd put in a well that we could drink that well water. And so I was busy putting in a pump the second term; busy establishing schools and building and erecting the churches and organizing the work, and there was so much to do, after all here were nearly three thousand Dayak Christians. They needed help. They needed to be educated. The churches needed to be built. There was a lot to do. And it seemed like I was the one to do it. And so I tried to do it and I was busy, just as busy as I could be. But I'm sure I was busier than I ought to be.

And you know, one night in one of the churches, there was a young man by the name of Noel. It was a church that was only about 20 minutes away from our home where we lived. And the name of the church was Ebenezer. But that Saturday night, in the- right in the middle of the meeting, one of the believers, a man by the name of Noel, acted queerly, and he seemed to go completely off. And some men, realizing what had happened, took a hold of him and grabbed him and took him out of the church. And they took him to his village. The next day I went to the village after the service of the morning, and I saw him there, and I prayed with him. But nothing happened. How did this man happen to go berserk. He just went completely out of his mind, all of a sudden.

Well this young man was a believer, no doubt about that. But one day his eyes were roaming around and he saw a young lady that lived in a heathen village. And he shouldn't have taken her to his wife- to be his wife but he did. And the father in law, his father in law was so angry with him that he went to a witch doctor and asked him to cast a spell upon this young man by the name of Noel. And though we in America may not understand very much about this, these witch doctors really have power, and that witch doctor performed his arts and there right in the middle of the meeting Noel sort of went berserk. Well they took care of him there in the- in the home. And I went on one other occasion to be with him for they asked me to come, and while I was there I noticed that his feet were in stocks. They had taken a big log and split it in two, and then dug a hole out of the top of the log, the upper half of the log, and then two holes out of the lower part of the log. And there he was, sitting with his feet fastened in a log which was about eight feet long and probably about ten or eight- eight to ten inches in diameter.

And as I went into the log- into the longhouse and sat there and looked at him, he looked at me and really he didn't understand very much, and I said to him "Noel, the reason I have come is because they don't want you to stay in this stock. They want you to put- be put in a little cage which they have built for you." And I said "I've come to help to bring you and take you to that cage." And so I asked the men to release the heavy rattan rope that was tearing this- these two halves of the log together, and they released it and Noel pulled his feet out of that log and started to rub his ankles. And I helped him to his feet, and little by little we led him over to the cage that had been built right there in the longhouse.

It was about six feet high; maybe about six feet wide, and eight or ten feet long. And as we stood at the outside, I said to the people now "be calm. Everyone be calm." And then I asked Noel to get into that cage and the only way he'd get into it was through a little opening about 30 inches by 30 inches at the bottom. It was just a little gate, little doorway. And he refused to get in, and he said-, he shook his head from left to right. And then I got down on my hands and knees and I said, "I'll get in here with you. Don't be afraid. You come on in with me." And so I crawled into the cage first, and then little by little I coached him into the cage. And we sat there and talked. And as we were talking, gradually, little by little, I moved and moved until I was finally out of the cage. And the people were so excited that the moment I was out of the cage, they took the gate and put it to the opening and started to fasten it with the rattan rope. And all of a sudden, this lad realized that he was a prisoner within that cage. And while this was the best place for him to be, it is a terrible feeling to be trapped.

And here he was, in the middle of the cage, and he started to scream and to yell, and we could hardly carry on a conversation because of what was going on. The people all looked to me, and so, I bowed my head and asked them to bow their heads and we prayed. While that man was screaming in the cage, we tried to pray. And after a while, I left. And you know I was busy building these schools, trying to erect churches, organize the work. And one afternoon, I was working out under the hot tropical sun with some men, trying to pound a two inch pipe down into the ground, where I was trying to put that pump in order so that we could have well water to drink.

And while we were working there, along about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, maybe three thirty, all of a sudden someone came and put their hand on my shoulder, and I turned around and I looked. And here was the mother of the boy that was in the cage. And as I turned to her I said "How is your son?" And she said, "He's worse. And he's yelling and screaming all the time. And Mister, we can hardly sleep at night." And then she looked at me and she said, "Mister, would it be all right for us to go to the Mohammedan witch doctor? We understand that he has power to help people in these circumstances."

And I looked at her and my heart ached. I said "Why do you want to go to a Mohammedan witch doctor? Why don't you trust the Lord? Why don't you look to the Lord?" And she looked me right- straight in the eye and she was very very courteous and nice about it; but she looked at me and she said, "Mister, we have been trusting the Lord. And you have been there two or three times to pray for my son. And the elders have been there to pray. But my son doesn't get any better. And night and day he screams and cries." And she looked at me and she said, "Mister, is it all right to go to the Mohammedan witch doctor?" I said "I can't tell you what to do. I'm-. I don't order people around. But don't go. Why don't you just trust the Lord and believe the Lord." And she gave me one more look and just looked at me with her searching eyes, turned her head and walked away.

Well you know I tried to keep on pounding that pipe down into the ground. I tried to work with those men. But you know, all I could see was a man in a cage. And that woman had preached a sermon to me that afternoon, and I realized that I was too busy about many things. They were good things. They were legitimate things. But I was just too busy. And I wasn't taking time like I

should, to wait upon the Lord. And I was convicted. And those that were working with me I said, "gather up the shovels and the tools and let us go home." And so we went home.

And after having a bath in the river, my wife prepared a good meal. I sat down at the edge of the table there to try and eat it. But that night, seemingly, I wasn't hungry. And after a while, I turned to my wife; I said, "Dear, I don't think I'll eat anymore. I'm going to go someplace to pray." And so I did. And I said to her "After the children are put to bed, and the dishes are washed, if there's anyone else that comes, won't you have them come. And as we gather, we will pray."

So along about eight o'clock, my wife joined me with some of the Dayaks. And as we knelt there on the floor, I said, "Now tonight, let us pray for one thing. Let us just concentrate and pray for Noel because he's there in the cage and he's screaming and he's yelling. And he needs help. Don't pray all around the world but let us pray for Noel." And you know, my dear wife and those dear Dayaks and myself, we prayed there. And I suppose we prayed until about eleven o'clock that night. And all of a sudden, about that hour, things grew quiet and we almost all stopped praying at once. And there such- seemed to be such quiet and such peace. And there, as we had prayed and prayed for one thing and waited upon the Lord, the Lord gave us the confidence and the assurance that He had heard, and that someday somehow, something was going to be done concerning this boy Noel.

Well that happened to be on a Thursday night. And the next day, Friday, along about 9 o'clock in the morning, there walked up onto the porch two of the most dejected people that you would ever want to look at. It happened to be the father and the mother of Noel. And we watched them as



they walked up the bank and then up the steps, onto our crude barn of a house. And they came with their heads bowed and their hands stuck out. And as they tried to shake hands with us, they didn't even look at us but they just put out their hand. And of course, the first question that was on my lips was "how is your son Noel?" They said, "Mister, he's worse." And then I said, "did you go to the Mohammedan witch doctor?" "Yes Mister, we both went. And we asked the Mohammedan witch doctor to come to our longhouse to perform his arts on our son. But he said he wouldn't come. He said there was no use to come because he had no power in a Christian longhouse. And he refused to come."

And then I did something I had never done before in my life. I rebuked his father and mother a little bit. And it seemed as I was rebuking them that it was too hard. And you know, as I was rebuking them in as nice a way as I could, I was saying "why didn't you trust the Lord? Why didn't you look to the Lord?" And you know, their heads went down and down and down and finally, the chin of the father's- his chin was down there on his chest. And finally, just after just maybe a few seconds of saying what I was saying, he lifted his head and he said "Mister, (spoken in Dayak dialect). Mister, I can't take it anymore. (Dayak dialect) I want to repent!" And the mother said "(Dayak dialect). I want to repent also." And they didn't wait. They just dropped to their knees and there they started to pray and sob.

And of course, my wife and myself knelt with them. And if you could have listened to that father and that mother praying and asking the Lord to forgive them, for putting their trust in the arm of flesh, for wanting to go to a Mohammedan witch doctor. And they asked the Lord to forgive them. And of course, the Lord did. My wife couldn't pray (inaudible) tried to pray but it was

difficult to pray for we were all choked up. Finally, we finished praying. They stood to their feet. And my wife put her arms around that mother and I put my arms around that man, and we tried our best to rejoice together. And as they were walking off the porch, I said to the father and mother, I said, "don't worry. Trust the Lord. The Lord has heard and answered prayer. And your son will be all right. God has heard and answered."

You know, my friends, when God reveals something to you, it's real and it's as sure as sure can be. And there's some things we're not sure of but when God reveals something to you then you are sure. And as I spoke those words to him, I was sure for God had given us this confidence that some way somehow He would take care of his son, of their son. Well, that was Friday morning. The next day was Saturday, and the next day was Sunday. And we walked to that church, the Ebenezer Church, that Sunday morning. And as we walked up into the front of the church and sat down on the bench there in front, we had prayer, I bowed my head in prayer. And when I finished praying, I lifted my head, and as I looked over the congregation over to my left, in about the middle of the congregation, there sat the mother and the father of Noel. And in the middle of the both of them was their son sitting there perfectly clothed and in his right mind. And you know, his wife left him while he was in this condition. But she came back to him later on and now they have three or four children.

And my friend, we might not understand how a man that is a believer, how this could happen to him. But it did happen to him. He gave an opportunity to the devil, and he went to a place where he shouldn't go. And like the- like Esau in the long ago, he took a couple of wives of the Hittites and it was a grievous thing to his father and to his mother. And even David one day, you

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remember, said "one day, I will yet die at the hand of Saul." And you know for 16 months David had a terrible time. And we can read about that in the Book of Samuel.

Oh my friends, we need to watch our lips and we need to watch the places that we go. And we need to watch the things that we do. For the devil can take advantage of the things that we do as he took advantage of Noel because he went to a heathen longhouse and took unto himself a wife from among the heathen.

Friends, this morning, it takes time to be holy. And we are to wait upon the Lord and trust upon Him with- trust in Him and trust upon Him with all our hearts. And remember this as we read in Isaiah 59 in the 19th- 19th verse that "when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him." This morning, my friends, I'd like to have a song recorded and the name of this song is "Throw a Line." And as we've gone to the ends of the Earth, our business has been to throw a line, to throw a line to those that have never heard. And of course the line that we have brought to these people is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. And now, my friends, we will hear a few verses from this song "Throw a Line."

[Hymn playing]

My friends, that's why we've gone to the ends of the earth to throw a line through bringing the Gospel to people that have never heard. And this morning we've told you about a man that was in a cage and that an answer to prayer was released and restored to his right mind. And I do not believe that the Evil one can touch us unless we give him an advantage. But Noel gave him an

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advantage. And my friend, you and I have to be careful that we do not give the evil one an advantage. For if we neglect, just neglect and do not take time to wait upon the Lord or we deliberately put ourselves in a place of danger, why, like the Enemy gave David that hard time for 16 months of his life, the Enemy can give us a hard time.

Where is our hope? Our hope is in the Lord, of course. We are to wait upon the Lord. And as we read this morning, "But they that wait upon the Lord, they shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." And this is Arthur Mouw speaking on behalf of the Bible Institute in the place of Dr. Talbot. And shall we now close in a word of prayer.

Our gracious God and heavenly Father, we thank Thee this morning for the privilege of coming to Thee in prayer. We thank Thee, Lord, that as we come to Thee in prayer, and as we wait upon Thee and take time to be wait- to wait upon Thee, that Lord, Thou dost renew our strength. And help us to remember this morning, our Father, that when the Enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. We praise Thee for this. In Jesus' name, Amen.

[Musical closure]

Announcer:

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You've been listening to your radio Bible teacher Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc. Address all mail to Dr. Louis T. Talbot 558 South Hope St., Los Angeles 17, California.

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