

Gems of Grace

Five Facets Reflecting
God's Heart in Isaiah 1-39

Isaiah never minimizes holy judgment, yet he continually magnifies grace.

The Context of Crisis

1. Judah stands guilty before a holy Judge.
2. Assyrian and Syrian invasions loom.
3. Rituals remain intact, but hearts are far away.

The Discovered Gems

Embedded within the darkest chapters of Isaiah 1–39 are verses that have comforted believers and pointed generations to Christ.

Like rough stones polished in a tumbler, these five facets reveal the unyielding character of God's mercy.

The five facets perfectly answer the human condition.

The 5 F's	The Crisis	God's Provision
Forgiveness	Guilt and Permanent Stain	Snow-white Cleansing
Future	Global Turmoil & Temporary Kingdoms	Everlasting Peace & The Righteous King
Foundation	Shifting Alliances & National Threat	An Unshakable Sanctuary
Faith	Frantic Panic & Exhausting Self-Reliance	Quiet Rest & Active Confidence
Forgotten Sins	The Record of Wrongs & Bitter Regret	Sins Cast Behind God's Back

**Come now, let us reason together,
says the LORD: though your sins are
like *scarlet*, they shall be as *white as
snow*; though they are red like
crimson, they shall become like *wool*.**

— Isaiah 1:18

Forgiveness is measured by the completeness of His payment.

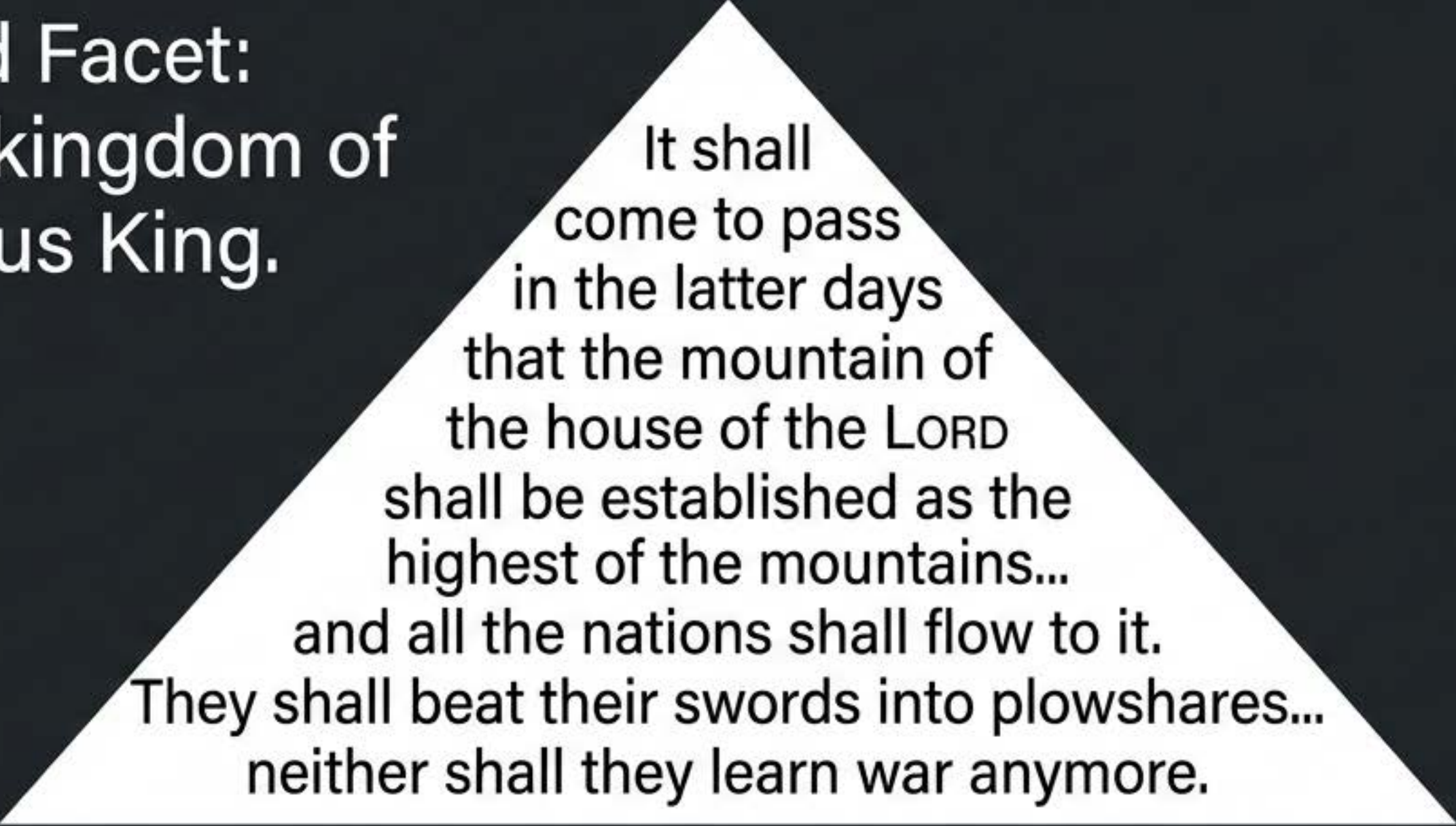
It is not thy hold of Christ
that saves thee—**it is Christ.**
It is not thy joy in Christ that
saves thee—**it is Christ.** It is
not even faith in Christ,
though that be the
instrument—**it is Christ's**
blood and merit.
— Charles Spurgeon

HISTORICAL PARALLEL

In 1829, George Wilson was sentenced to death but received a full pardon from President Andrew Jackson. Wilson refused it. The Supreme Court ruled a pardon must be accepted to take effect, and Wilson was executed.

Synthesis: Grace is freely offered, but it must be received by repentance and faith. If God calls you clean, stop living stained.

The Second Facet: The future kingdom of the righteous King.

A white triangle is centered on the slide, containing the following text:

It shall
come to pass
in the latter days
that the mountain of
the house of the LORD
shall be established as the
highest of the mountains...
and all the nations shall flow to it.
They shall beat their swords into plowshares...
neither shall they learn war anymore.

— Isaiah 2:2–4

Context: Isaiah's audience knew only political turmoil and military threat. He lifts their eyes past the headlines to a day when nations stream willingly to Jerusalem for worship, not conquest.

History moves not toward chaos,
but toward His visible reign.

1945: The United Nations

Delegates from 50 nations founded the UN to prevent future wars through diplomacy. The desire was sincere, yet wars have continued. Human institutions cannot remove the sinful hearts that produce conflict.

The Latter Days: The Righteous King

Nations beat swords into plowshares. Lasting peace is achieved not by treaty, but by the physical reign of the King.

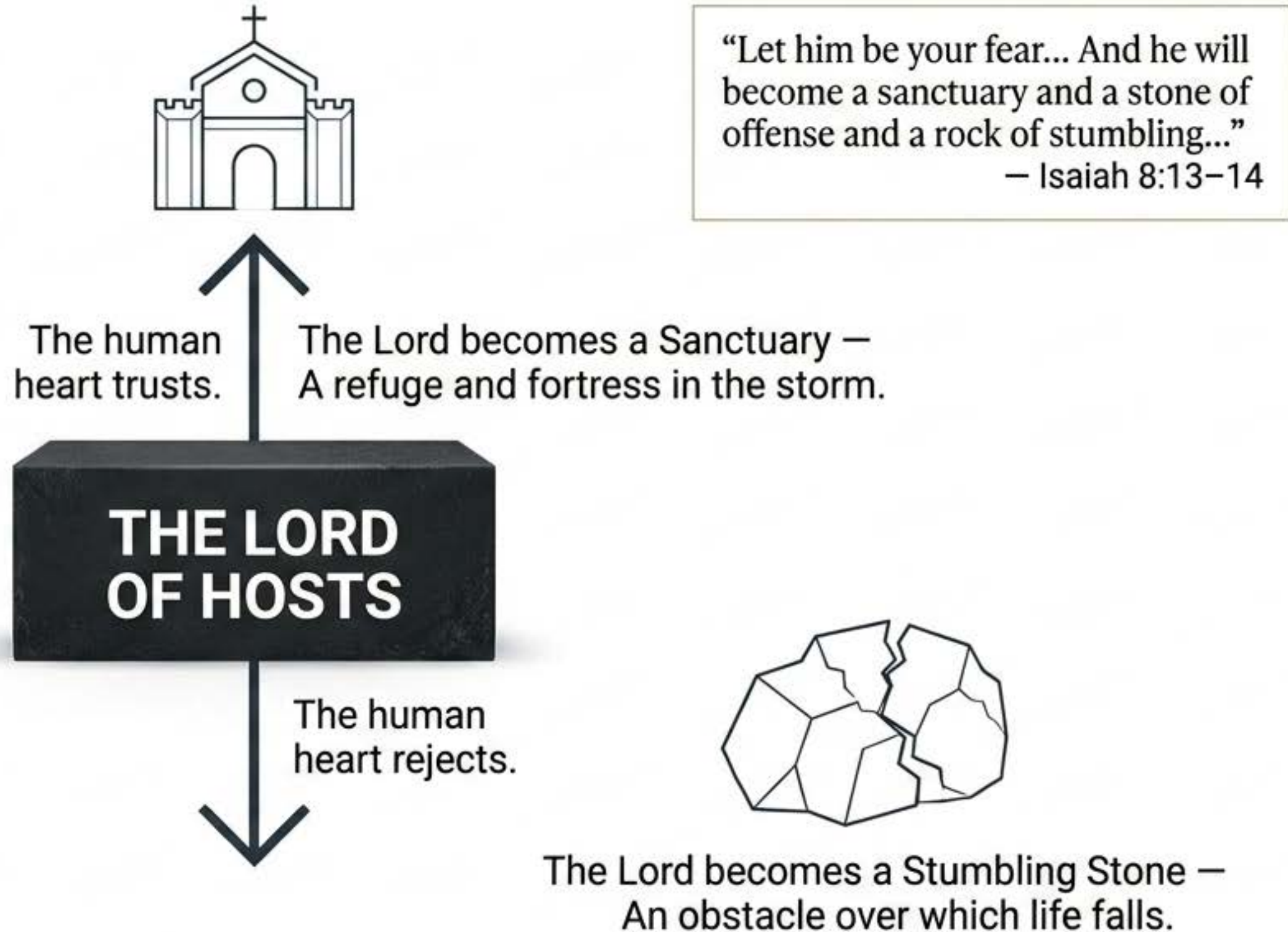
Only when **Christ** returns to establish His
earthly kingdom will **lasting world peace**
become a reality.

— **John MacArthur**

Synthesis: Work for peace wherever you can, but never mistake temporary political optimism for the everlasting peace only Christ will bring.

The Third Facet: The foundation we must choose.

The Two Responses Bifurcation Diagram.



Synthesis: The same God, the same truth, two opposite responses.
The difference lies entirely in the human heart.

Storms reveal exactly
what we have built upon.

HISTORICAL PARALLEL

Earlier wooden lighthouses on the Eddystone reef were repeatedly destroyed by storms. In 1759, engineer John Smeaton designed a tower anchored directly into the solid rock beneath the sea, and it stood for over a century. The secret to enduring storms is being anchored to an unmovable foundation.

Christ is the sure Foundation, the tried
Stone, the Rock of Ages. Happy are they
who build on Him. — J.C. Ryle

Synthesis: Savings vanish, health fails, careers change. The question is not whether storms will come, but whether we are anchored to Christ before they arrive.

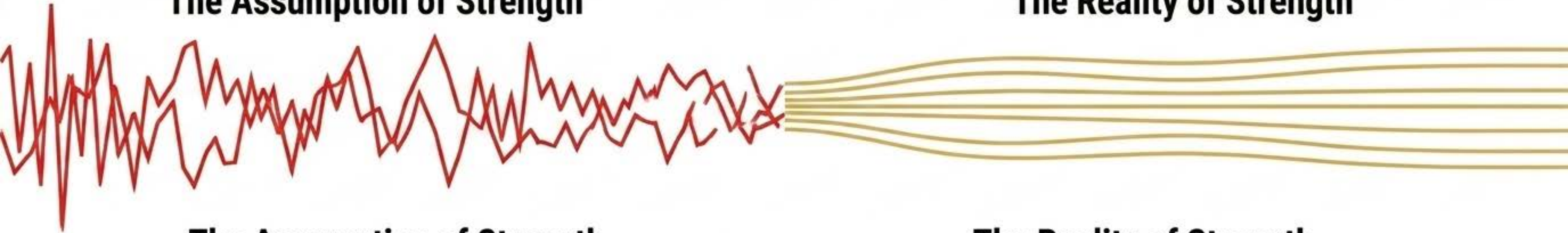
The Fourth Facet: The faith that becomes our strength.

“In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your
strength. But you were unwilling.”
— Isaiah 30:15

Strength Spectrum

The Assumption of Strength

The Reality of Strength



The Assumption of Strength

- Doing More
- Worrying Harder
- Frantic Activity
- Trusting “Horses and Chariots”

God offered peace; Judah preferred panic.

The Reality of Strength

- Returning
- Resting
- Quiet Trust
- Relying on the Sovereign God

Active confidence in the character of God.

Biblical trust is active confidence in the character of God.

The man who
has God for his
treasure has all
things in One.
— A.W. Tozer

HISTORICAL PARALLEL: DUNKIRK

In 1940, over 330,000 Allied soldiers were evacuated from Dunkirk. Winston Churchill noted this rescue depended on conditions no planner could have guaranteed—unexpectedly calm water in the Channel that blunted air attacks. Planning and courage were real; so was a providence beyond human control.

Synthesis: Planning wisely is biblical; worrying continually is not. Real strength is rooted in God's faithfulness rather than favorable circumstances.

The Fifth Facet: Sins forgotten forever.

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness;
but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction,
for you have cast all my sins behind your back....
the father makes known to the children your faithfulness.
— Isaiah 38:17–19

Context: God is omniscient; He does not literally forget. Instead, He chooses never again to bring those sins to mind or hold them against His people.
Mercy becomes a message, and grace becomes a legacy.

God never asks His
children to carry what
Christ has already borne.

Your worst days are never so bad that you are
beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best
days are never so good that you are beyond the
need of God's grace. — Jerry Bridges

THE TRADITION OF BUNYAN

John Bunyan was once asked how he
could preach with joy while remembering
his terrible past sins. He replied that
when God forgave those sins, He buried
them in the deepest ocean of His mercy.

THE SYNTHESIS

It is neither wise nor humble to go fishing for
what God has chosen to remove. Believe
God's verdict rather than your feelings.



The Final Setting:
Judgment gives way
to absolute comfort.



THE CULMINATION

These hidden gemstones prepare the way for the turning point of the entire book in Isaiah 40:

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.”

The comfort was there all along, waiting to be found.

The gems of Isaiah are fully realized in one person.

If your sins seem scarlet — **He is the cleanser.**

If fear is your constant companion — **He is the sanctuary.**

If you are weary from heavy burdens — **He is the quiet rest.**

If you doubt His mercy — **He has cast your sins behind His back.**



The same Lord who invited sinners through Isaiah has revealed Himself fully in **Jesus Christ**. Come to Him, rest in Him, and look for the day when the King establishes His kingdom forever.