



January 1, 2023  
Worship Service  
Pastor Bruce Adrian  
WeAreLifeBridge.com

## Strength and Hope for the New Year

*Isaiah 40:25-31*

### When You Need a “Bigger Boat”

God’s supreme STRENGTH is our sure HOPE  
for the new year and every year.

*Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah,  
“Behold your God!” Isaiah 40:9 ESV*

### God’s Strength and Our Hope

## 1. Judah’s Problem: Wrong HOPES and False FEARS!

### Wrong Hopes and False Fears

- Judah was trying to live off wrong HOPES.
  
- Judah was being overcome by false FEARS.

## 2. God’s Question: “Who Is My EQUAL?”

*“To whom then will you compare Me, or who is My equal?” asks the Holy One.  
Isaiah 40:25 CSB*

### “Who Is My Equal?”

- One arm of God is POWERFUL, winning the battle as a “Mighty Ruler” (vs. 10).
  
- One arm of God is GENTLE, caring for the weak as a “Loving Shepherd” (vs. 11).

### As a *Mighty Ruler and Loving Shepherd*

God is GREATER than you can imagine, but He is also CLOSER than you think and CARES for you more than you realize (vs. 27-28).

## 3. Our Need: Put Our Hope in GOD!

### Put Your Hope in God

- God knows you—so TURN to Him in faith (vs. 26).
  
- God cares for you—so RELY on Him for strength (vs. 29-31).

### God’s Strength Is Our Hope!

*From ancient times no one has heard, no one has listened to, no eye has seen  
any God except You who acts on behalf of the one who waits for Him.  
Isaiah 64:4 CSB*

### Making It Personal

- What wrong hope or a false fear is sabotaging your life? Ask God to embrace you in His arms as a “Mighty Ruler” and a “Loving Shepherd.”
- In light of God’s might and mercy, have you surrendered your life to Him? Or are you still trying to live your own way in your own strength?
- Are you willing to wait and totally depend on the Lord for new strength? Turn to God in prayer and tell Him you’re putting your hope in Him and relying on Him for strength in 2023.