

Templates of Truth with Rick Smith
Audio Script – April 17, 2009

The fear most often expressed by senior adults is that of becoming a burden to family as their age increases and their health, resources & strength decrease. Even though the challenges of growing old may seem threatening, in today's Templates of Truth, God gives His aging children four promises in which to place our trust and confidence.

Through Isaiah, God said, *Listen to Me...even to your old age, I shall be the same, and even to your graying years I shall bear you! I have done it, and I shall carry you; and I shall bear you, and I shall deliver you* (Isaiah 46:3-4). The words, *I shall*, express a commitment by God to His people that is firm, trustworthy and dependable. What God says, He will do. Through the prophet, God says He will take care of us throughout life, and especially in our aging years. Notice the four specific promises God makes.

I shall be the same – Life is full of surprises and changes. We never know what is around the next corner. We've learned that we cannot depend on the stability of our economy, our health or other people. But the one factor in our life that never changes and always remains consistent & dependable is God. He maintains that we *have been borne by (Him) from birth and (have) been carried (by Him since) from the womb* (46:3). God insists, *I have done it* (46:4), and He will continue to do it. He remains unchangeable. The writer of Hebrews affirms this truth: *we confidently say, the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid...Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever* (Hebrews 13:6,8). The God who was faithful to you in the teenage years will remain faithful to you in the twilight years. The God who took care of you in the honeymoon stage will continue to take of you in widowed stage. His care and compassion for our life never changes.

I shall bear you – God acknowledges that *the things (we) carry are burdensome* (46:1). They are *a load* that will *stoop* us over. Nothing we turn to can *rescue the burden*. God can, however! He promises to bear our burden. Remember the words of Jesus – *come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest...and you shall find rest for your souls* (Matthew 11:28-29). God not only lifts the burden of sin from our lives through forgiveness and salvation, He also lifts the burdens of the cares of life and gives us a peaceful, restful assurance that all will be well, regardless of the circumstances.

I shall carry you – This Hebrew phrase is chocked full of reassurance and meaning. In it, God promises to accept us with honor and respect. He promises to lift us up, exalt us and advance our lives forward in His will, plan and purpose. He promises to help us, ease our burdens and hold us up when life gets hard and the days uncertain. He promises to forgive us when we fail, and strengthen us when we are weak. Just like a mother who carries her infant child and cares for its every need, God will carry us throughout all of life.

I shall deliver you – This Hebrew word has a root meaning having to do with smoothness. Earlier, Isaiah declared, *the way of the righteous is smooth; O Upright One, make the path of the righteous level* (26:7). God clears a path for our life through the rough places. He makes smooth

the ruts and potholes we encounter and brings balance to the often challenging terrain. Deliverance also includes rescue and escape from danger. It would stagger our minds to know of all the occasions when God graciously rescued us or spared our lives from harm & danger, and we were never even aware of it. It was His protective, abiding presence going before us, behind us, beside us and all around us that kept our feet from stumbling and our lives properly directed. Ultimately, deliverance brings us into His glorious presence for eternity when the aging years of our life bring to an end the purpose for which He has kept and preserved us.

We have no guarantees that our closing years of life will not find us in assisted living environments or convalescently dependent on others for the basic needs of life. We are never promised days without sickness, pain or weakness. But Isaiah reminds us that we never face these challenges alone. God is with us, and we will make it somehow, because God promised we would.

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in Christ Jesus.

© Copyright 2009 – All Rights Reserved – Renewal Resource Services, PLLC