



Bible Reading and Words of Encouragement

Elder Carvel Bennett

*Interim Director, Christian Education and
The Center For Afrikan Biblical Studies @ First Afrikan Church*

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Isaiah 40:27-31; Psalm 46:1-3

- This week's narrative is set against the backdrop of the Israelite's exile in Babylon, a period of 48 - 70 years (depending on the writer). What we have here is a people who feel they have been abandoned by their God, and that their God has treated them 'unjustly'. I think this is where some of us are today.
- As we continue to feel the economic and social stress and strains of this pandemic, a lot of us feel "abandoned" by our God (vs 27). But though we feel this sense of loss in the midst of this "captivity", verses 28 and 29 remind us that we have a history of being in relationship with our God and know that the God of our fore-parents is 'aware' and 'able'. As Afrikan peoples across the diaspora who have and continue to endure our own Babylonian captivity, we know this.
- I think what we are struggling with is in verse 31a, "but those who wait on Yahweh shall renew (ya.hali.pu) their strength". Waiting on the Lord is not to infer we sit idly by and wait for a miracle. Ya.hali.pu exchanging or renewing. I think what the writer is suggesting is that when we wait on Yahweh - when we maintain our faith in the midst of stress and adversity - we will find renewed energy, access to resources, gain clarity of thought and inner strength.
- Waiting on the Lord allows us to find our energy renewed when the Lord allows us to exchange some of our weakness for some of his/her strength.
- Verses 31b,c give us hope. Let us maintain hope in the midst of despair. We did it in the past, so let us continue to walk in faith so we will not faint; run, and not be weary, and be comforted by Psalm 46.