

## Isaiah Lesson 43

Isaiah Chapter 43

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

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### **Introduction:**

In chapter 42, we studied Isaiah dealing with Israel regarding their idolatry (continuing from chapter 41). He then describes the beautiful description of Jesus Christ as God's servant.

In chapter 43, the Lord comforts His own people in their afflictions with many precious promises. He proclaims His Deity over the idols of the nations. He promises great redemption and forgiveness of sin. The chapter closes with a prediction of the destruction of the Temple as chastisement for repentance of their sin.

### **I. Israel's Only Savior**

*Isa 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.*

The chapter begins with great assurance from God to His people and major truths are upheld in this one verse. First, God proclaims Himself as the Creator. He created not only the heavens and the earth, but all who dwell thereon. He also reminded Israel of "he that formed thee." Then God assures them by announcing "fear not." This blessed pronouncement can be found many times in the Bible.

Furthermore, God gives the reason why His people need to fear not. He lists three reasons to begin with.

(1) "I have redeemed thee." The context clearly is of Israel. God redeemed them from the bondage of Egypt. However, there can be no question that Christ has redeemed us of the New Testament church as well. He has purchased us with His precious blood (I Peter 1:18-19).

(2) Then Jehovah notes that (2) "I have called thee by thy name." What a blessed thought. The God of this universe knows my name. Moreover, He has called me to Himself. See Matthew 11:28).

(3) Finally, He gives this assurance, (3) "thou art mine." We belong to Him. He has redeemed us to Himself. We are not to fear what lay ahead before us. We belong to Him. He will take care of His own.

*Isa 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

Jehovah continues to affirm His long-kept promises. There is no question that God took Israel through the Red Sea and across the Jordan River. However, the thought here seems to be more of a representation of the crises of life. Whether it was Israel then or the New Testament church now, God has promised that when His people go through deep water in life that He will be with them. In a similar fashion, God promised that He would protect His people from times of fiery judgment.

It is likely that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego claimed this promise when they faced the fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar. Their day was certainly after the writing of Isaiah and they undoubtedly were aware of this promise. The promise remains to this day. God will take care of His people.

*Isa 43:3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.*

*Isa 43:4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.*

The guarantor of these promises is clearly revealed. Notice the three-fold apposition.

- (1) God identifies Himself as Jehovah (Jesus in the New Testament).
- (2) He also is “the Holy One of Israel.” Throughout the Scriptures, God is identified as the Holy One on more than fifty occasions. Without question, the primary attribute of God is holiness. He is infinitely pure and free from sin.
- (3) He is our “Saviour.” That was true for Israel. It is true for the New Testament church. It is He who has saved us from our sin.

The text, of course, is directed to Israel and God reminds them that He sacrificed the Egyptians instead of the Israelites. He destroyed the firstborn of Egypt and saved Israel His firstborn. Likewise, other nations were sacrificed in battle for the preservation of Israel. See II Chronicles 14:9-13.

*2Ch 14:9 And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and*

*came unto Mareshah.*

*2Ch 14:10 Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.*

*2Ch 14:11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.*

*2Ch 14:12 So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.*

*2Ch 14:13 And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil.*

God's people are precious in His sight. Because He has redeemed us, we have become honorable before Him. What a blessed thought. God said: "I have loved thee." That was true for Israel. It certainly is true for the church. He loves us. What cause for encouragement and reason to praise His name. The fact is that other nations fell before Israel because God had promised to preserve Israel. In similar fashion, that truth remains for the church. The ultimate fulfillment for both the church and Israel will be during the Day of the Lord.

*Isa 43:5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;*

*Isa 43:6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;*

*Isa 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

Once again, God encouraged Israel to "fear not" is set forth. The reason is stated, "for I am with thee." In approximately sixteen places in the Bible, God has promised the same. The thought then shifts to the future restoration of Israel. Though scattered to the four winds, the day will come when God completely restores Israel to their land.

Though there certainly has been a foreshadow of this promise in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the ultimate regathering of Israel will not take place until the Day of the Lord. Speaking of Israel, God promised, for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. Again, the creative work of God is at hand. The purpose of God's creation is made clear. We have been created for His glory.

*Isa 43:8 Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.*

*Isa 43:9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.*

All peoples are summoned, including even those with impairments. They are called to bear witness of God's goodness to His people. Verse 9 indicates that no nation can fully testify to the eternity and singularity of God more than Israel. They, of all people, have experienced the power and love of God.

## **II. Ye Are My Witnesses**

*Isa 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.*

*Isa 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.*

The people of God who have known the blessing and salvation of God are the chief witnesses of God's greatness. That was true for Israel. It remains true for the church today. We are, as they were His servants and His witnesses. He has chosen us (both Israel and the church) for His own eternal purpose in order that we might know Him and believe in Him. Specifically, God has called us to understand that He is the only God.

- (1) There never has been another God nor will there ever be so.
- (2) He is eternal, and the only true God and we have been called to be witnesses of Him.
- (3) There is no other Savior and there never will be another.
- (4) He is the one and only Savior of men. We are called to bear witness thereto.

*Isa 43:12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.*

*Isa 43:13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?*

It was Jehovah God who delivered Israel from Egypt and from various other calamities through the centuries. He had declared that to His people and demonstrated to them that idols were nothing before Him. They were eyewitnesses of this. Therefore, it is the duty of God's people to this day to witness the truth of God. That was true for Israel and it remains true to this day. Before there ever was a day and before there ever was time, God announced, "I am he." From that day to this, there has never been anyone who can deliver from His judgment. When He works, who can hinder it? The answer is apparent.

*Isa 43:14 Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.*

*Isa 43:15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.*

Again, God refers to Himself in a three-fold fashion. He mentions Himself as (1) Jehovah, (2) our Redeemer, and (3) the Holy One of Israel. Implicit in these three names is His eternality and power, His salvation, and His holiness. Though the threat of recent concern for Judah was Assyria, God now looks beyond the Assyrian incursion to the Babylonian captivity more than one hundred years in the future. Clearly implied is the ultimate overthrow of Babylon. The reason for such ultimate victory is that He is the LORD, the Holy One, the creator of Israel, and the King.

A fourth level of authority is added. To the previous titles of God, He here refers to Himself as King. The final fulfillment of this will be when Jehovah God, in the person of Jesus Christ, sits upon His throne in the Millennium. For the present, He is our nonresident King. One day, He will be in our very midst and all will bow before Him.

*Isa 43:16 Thus saith the LORD, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters;*

*Isa 43:17 Which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power; they shall lie down together, they shall not rise: they are extinct, they are quenched as tow.*

*Isa 43:18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.*

God reminded Israel how He made a way for them in the Red Sea. Though the Egyptian army pursued them, they were destroyed, never to rise again. They were extinguished

like a wick on a candle (tow). God reminds them, “Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.”

*Isa 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.*

*Isa 43:20 The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.*

*Isa 43:21 This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.*

Consider all the great things that God had done for His people in days gone by. God now announces, “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” The day is coming when the land of Israel will be developed with life-giving waters in the deserts of the land. That day will be when Jesus returns to rule and reign.

An irony is also presented. The wild creatures of the earth honor their Maker. Even the lizards and unclean fowls such as owls praise their Creator. God provided water for them to drink. God has created Israel, redeemed them, and provided for them. Surely they will praise Him.

### **III. People Failed to Call on The Lord**

*Isa 43:22 But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel.*

*Isa 43:23 Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense.*

*Isa 43:24 Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities.*

All that God had done for His people came to no avail. He laments that they ignored Him. Not only had Israel failed to thank and praise their God, but they were also even weary of Him. The kids and the lambs which, according to the Law, should have been brought for burnt offerings each day (morning and evening) were not offered.

Israel had become careless and negligent in honoring their God with the prescribed sacrifices. The word translated as offering (hxn̄m minkhaw') refers to the meal-offering which was a free-will offering. The various offerings specified in Leviticus were not burdensome or such they could not be afforded. The thought is how that God had not been oppressive to His people.

They had insulted God by failing to offer the perfumed incense prescribed in the Law (i.e., "the sweet cane"). They had refused to offer the best (i.e., the fat of their sacrifices) to God. They forced God to deal with their sins which were many. He was weary with their sin.

*Isa 43:25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*

*Isa 43:26 Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.*

Despite the stubbornness of Israel, it was God who continued to blot out their transgressions. See also Isaiah 44:22.

*Isa 44:22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.*

David also prayed for God to so blot out his transgression in Psalm 51:1. The word translated as blotteth out (hxm̄ mawkhaw') also has the sense to 'wipe out' or to 'obliterate.' Moreover, His removal of their sin was ultimately for His own sake. When God is merciful in removing our sins, it brings glory to His name. Furthermore, He promised to not remember our sins. See Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17.

*Heb 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

*Heb 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

God's plea to His people is simple. Remember all that I have done for you! He in effect says, "Come now and let us reason together." Let's sit down and talk about it all. He directs Israel to present their case that they might be justified from their error.

*Isa 43:27 Thy first father hath sinned, and thy teachers have transgressed against me.*

*Isa 43:28 Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches.*

The chapter ends with a sad conclusion. From their very beginning to Isaiah's day, the leaders of Israel had transgressed against God. God certainly had chastened His own

people over the centuries. Implicit is the thought it would happen again. Likely in view is the upcoming Babylonian captivity. Though God had been good to His people, they continued to ignore Him. Therefore, they faced bitter times ahead.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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