

NEWSLETTER 2021-3

To: My Fellow Saints

Date: June 1, 2021

Re: **The Assurance of Restoration**

Originally, “The Assurance of Restoration” was intended solely for June’s Newsletter. However, in process of developing the first main point, I realized that it was necessary to present this study as an individual lesson. Another matter developed and after much prayer I became convinced of how God was leading; **“The Assurance of Restoration”** will be presented as follows:

1. Excerpts from the first main point will be used for June’s Newsletter
2. A summarized presentation of the first main point will be used for a message.
3. The study on the text will be completed and published on the website.

In all that we do, may God be honored and glorified!! Thank you for your continued prayers.

Signs of the times are everywhere, filling men’s hearts with fear (Luke 21:26). Troublesome times are here and we live in a world characterized by uncertainty, wars and rumors of war, hate and bitterness, families falling apart, God’s standards for family being demoralized, and the list goes on and on!!

Countries like North America are experiencing a drastic decline in Christianity and the yearning, the earnest desires, the deepest cries of many hearts is for **recovery!** Many look for restoration from the politicians, celebrities, etc. but the real solution lies in God and if man sincerely meet God’s conditions real and meaningful changes will be experienced. God be praised, He is **never** without a witness and despite certain prevailing conditions the Church is alive and well and moving on!!

As noted above, in this Newsletter, I will be sharing excerpts from the first main point of the lesson based on Isa. 43:1-7.

The Assurance of Restoration Isa. 43:1-7

Introduction

Undoubtedly, God is a merciful, caring and compassionate God; **one** of Jonah’s problem was with God’s graciousness, His mercy, not easily angered and of great kindness (Jonah 4:2). In Isaiah chaps. 1 to 39 we note the judgments of God but in this latter section (Chaps. 40-66), we are seeing God’s tender mercies, His compassion and care.

Beloved, if God be the Author of His people’s punishments (Isa.42:25), He is also the Author of their redemption, ingathering and transformation. **In spite of Israel’s deliberate rejection of the LORD as their rightful king, God reassures them, “Fear not: I have redeemed you” (Isa. 43:1).** The theme of redemption appears 22 times

in the Book of Isaiah (Isa. 41:14; 43:1, 14; 44:6, 22, 24; etc.); it indicates a recovery from physical and spiritual bondage.

Israel was in captivity because of their transgressions (Example 2 Kings chaps. 24-25; Jer. chaps. 27-29; etc.) and the darkness of hopelessness loomed over them. Despite man's depraved disposition, the sun suddenly breaks out from behind the dark, thick clouds and gloriously shines brighter and with an overwhelming and glorious surprise! Oh! Beloved, this manifestation is the wonderful expression of God's unmerited favor and His good will to His people and it declares an abundance of comfort and assurance to enlighten the people showing them that there is a way out of their seemingly hopelessness.

Heb. 4:2a Amplified Bible

"For indeed we have the glad tidings [Gospel of God] proclaimed to us as truly as they [the Israelites of old did when the good news of deliverance from bondage came to them] . . ."

The Main Points for Isa. 43:1-7

1. Preservation Promised Vv. 1-2
2. Price Paid v. 3
3. Prized Possession v. 4
4. Promised Rehabilitation Vv. 5-7

Today we will briefly discuss some highlights from verses 1-2.

A. Preservation Promised Isa. 43:1-2

1. **Connection** (Isa. 43:1a)

"But now . . ." (v. 1a)

(a) *" . . . But now . . ." (v. 1a)* shows that chapter 43 is connected with the preceding chapter.

(1) Several factors can be noted from the preceding chapters, for example: Israel was referred to as **"blind"** and **"deaf"** (Isa. 42:18-19).

(2) Because of the spiritual blindness and deafness of God's people (Israel), they were being plundered and devastated by their enemy; there was no one to deliver and restore them (Isa. 42:22).

(b) As noted before, God allowed them to be afflicted but is now reaching out to them in mercy and grace . . . **restoration will be realized!! (See Amos 9:14).**

2. **Creator** (Isa. 43:1b)

" . . . that created thee . . ." (v. 1b KJV)

" . . . who formed you . . ." (v. 1b NKJV)

(a) *"Created"* (KJV) is here used to denote the fact that as a peculiar people of God, they owed their origin and their all to God as the universe owed its origin to His creative power.

- (b) He is the Transcendent Creator and Sovereign King!!
- (1) He is above and beyond! He is superior! There is none like Him! Etc.
 - (2) He is the Creator and remains independent of **all** His creation!
 - (3) **Ex. 15:11 NKJV**
 “Who is like You, O LORD among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

3. **Courage/Redemption** (Isa. 43:1c)

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you . . .” (v. 1c NKJV)

- (a) Do not be disheartened, intimidated or overcome by fear! (v. 1c).
- (1) The Israelites were captives and had suffered long but they had nothing to fear especially in regards to their destruction as a people.
 - (2) Their redemption from captivity would be realized and they would be returned to the land of their fathers.
- (b) **They were the redeemed of the LORD!!**
- “For I have redeemed you” (v. 1c)*
- (1) Matthew Henry notes:
 “They are the people of His purchase; He has redeemed them. Out of the land of Egypt, He first redeemed them, and out of many other bondage, in His love, and in His pity (Chap. 63:9); much more will He take care of those who are redeemed with the blood of His Son.”
 - (2) To be redeemed means, deliverance from danger, oppression, or captivity, and involves a price being paid, of valuable consideration, or something was given in the place of that which was redeemed.
 - (3) Believers are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ (Isa. 53, NB Vv. 6-9; Luke 22:44; Heb. 13:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

4. **Called** (Isa. 43:1d)

“I have called you by name; You are Mine” (v. 1d NKJV)

- (a) “Called by name”
- (1) In general usage, *“to be called by name”* indicates intimacy of friendship. As used in Isa. 43:1, it means God had particularly designated Israel to be His people.
 - (2) Calling by name is also an act of God exercising His sovereignty.
 - Easton Bible Dictionary defines **God’s sovereignty** as His absolute right to do all things according to His own good pleasure.
 - He is the Creator and remains in control **Psalm 24** (See also 1 Chron. 29:11-12; Psa. 103:19; 135:6; Col. 1:16; etc.)
- (b) He created us! He knows us! He cares for us!!
- “You are mine” (v. 1d NKJV)*
- (1) **God knows my name**, means that I matter to Him. It means He cares about me. It means that what I do and who I am is important to Him. In this vast

and enormous universe filled with millions of people, I matter to Him because **He knows my name!!**

(2) God be praised for His goodness, mercy and grace. **He knows my name!**

- He cares (1 Peter 5:7)
- He covers (Psa. 5:12; 91:1, 3)
- He comforts (Psa. 34:18; 147:3)
- He carries us through (Isa. 46:4; 2 Tim. 2:12)
- He corrects (Psa. 94:12-15; Heb. 12:6-11)
- He changes not (Isa. 40:8; Heb. 13:8; Mal. 3:6)
- He is a constant companion (Psa. 48:14; Matt. 28:20)

5. Coverage (Isa. 43:2)

Read Isa. 43:2

(a) The promise of God

(1) In this verse (Isa. 43:2) Israel received a general promise and it meant that whenever and wherever they should pass through water of fire, God would protect them.

(2) **Fire** and **water** are often used in Scriptures to symbolize calamity and danger.

- **Water** because it overwhelms—**fire** because it consumes!!
- Note Psa. 69:1 and 66:12.

(b) Irrespective of any danger, I am there with and for you!!

(1) He took Israel across the Red Sea on dry land! (Ex. 14, NB Vv. 10-12 and 13-20).

(2) He took them across the overflowing, raging Jordan River on dry land (Josh. chaps. 3 and 4, NB 3:14-17).

(3) Note also Psa. 66:6

(4) **“When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned . . .”** (v. 2 NKJV)

- Literally fulfilled in the case of the three Hebrew youths who were cast into the fiery furnace by Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 3, NB Vv.19-25 and 26-30)
- Note again Isa. 43:2, observe: **“ . . . nor shall the flame scorch you” (NKJV)**. It shall not only not consume you, but it shall not even burn or injure you. **(Now note again Daniel 3:27 . . . glory to God!!!)**

Oh, Beloved! Despite the conditions of the time, do not be disheartened! Do not become fearful! **In Jesus Christ** we are more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37) and He is leading us all the way!!

The hymn: **God Leads Us Along** (Partial Quote)

Verse 3

Though sorrows befall us and evils oppose,
God leads His dear children along;

Through grace we can conquer, defeat all our foes,
God leads His dear children along

Refrain

Some through the waters, some through the flood. S
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.

Don't we all hurt sometime or the other and sometimes we wonder why or we ask "God how long?" or "God when will things change?" Etc. But beloved! be strong in the LORD and in the power of His mighty power (Eph. 6:10; 1 Cor. 15:58; etc.

Another great song that I encourage to download is "Not Afraid" by Jesus Culture

Refrain Only:

When I walk through the water, I won't be overcome
When I go through the rivers, I will not be drowned
My God will make a way, so I am not afraid
When I am in the fire, I will not feel the flame
I'll stand before the giant, declaring victory
My God will make a way, so I am not afraid

Website Update

I continue to give God thanks for this opportunity to share His Word, especially in these days. I am also thankful for you as you continue to access these lessons. It is my prayer that you will continue and encourage others to do likewise. I am thankful to my family members who assist me in various ways that help with the continuation of what God has laid on my heart to His honor and His glory!

I have started a new series of study lessons: "**Selected Psalms Phase 1**". It is currently on hold due to material that I have been working on and which God has laid on my heart to process as a complete lesson and to be presented as a message. I will resume normal development of our series studies as soon as I have completed the lesson on Isa. 43:1-7 (the passage been presented for the Newsletter and a message)

Please note that this, as well as past Newsletters, can now be found on our website at livingwaterstudies.com. If you are unable to download lessons or newsletters when using the Chrome browser on cell phones, please use an alternate browser such as Internet Explorer or Fire Fox.

Please help us confirm that all email addresses are up to date by replying to this email with a "Received".

God continue to richly bless you!!

Yours-in-Christ
Bishop K. Wright