

Subject: The Assurance of Restoration**Text: Isa. 43:1-7****Today's Study:**

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

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 the preceding section of Isaiah, we have the judgments of God but in this section, we are seeing His tender mercies, His compassionate love and care for His people.

NOTE: An analysis of Isaiah's prophecy ...**Isa. chaps. 1-39**, deal with "*Judgment*". **Isa. chaps 40-66**, deal with "*Consolation*". In this latter section you see will an emphasis on "*deliverance*", for example as noted in chapters 41 (Vv. 8-20 and 42 Vv. 14-17). Definitely, God will chastise but ultimately it's for our benefit (Heb. 12:6-11). This was the situation with the Jews being in Babylon which you will observe as we continue in the lesson.

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 her rightful King, God reassures them, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you." (Isa. 43:1 NKJV). The theme of redemption appears 22 times in specific passages of the Book of Isaiah (Isa. 41:14; 43:1, 14; 44:6, 22, 24; 47:4; etc.). It indicates a recovery from physical and spiritual bondage; there is also an emphasis on the doctrine of the **latter redemption**, that is yet to come (As relates to Israel's deliverance Isa. 43:5-7; 44:22; 49:16, 17) (**NOTE:** The term "latter redemption" also referred to as "*eschatological redemption*". Eschatological" in summary means the doctrine of the last things ... John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; 2 Peter 3:10; 1 John 2:28; Jude 14, 15).

As indicated above there is a connection with Isaiah chapters 42 and 43 and there is a surprising fact observed. It can be seen that the people of God, Israel, did not walk in the ways of God, and as a result they were afflicted. Israel was stubborn, stiff-necked and steadfastly, purposely oblivious of the commands of God (note for example 42:18-25). The great news and somewhat surprising fact is that despite Israel's rebellion against God's will; in this account we are witnessing the rich mercy and grace of God, as He consoles and encouraged *them not to fear because He has rescued them!* (Isa. 43:1). Indeed, mercy there was great and grace was free, pardon there was multiplied to everyone, the whosoever will can freely come!! God be praised, the sin loaded, sin

burdened soul can obtain liberty in Jesus Christ!! Assurance is guaranteed just as God did for the Israelites!!

Israel may have been in exile and were afflicted but their restoration was assured. They would in turn be God's witness, among all the nations, to the fact that He is the **true and living God** (Jer. 10:10-18; Matt. 16:15-16). He has chosen them (Ex. 19:5; Deut. 7:6-8; etc.) and made them His historical "showcase" to prove that He alone is God and Savior (2 Sam. 7:23-24; 1 Kings 8:53). Note also that in addition to redeeming Israel, God also announced that all the nations (Gentiles) will be gathered to Him for salvation.

Isa. 43:9 NKJV

"Let all the nations be gathered together, And let the people be assembled, Who among them can declare this, And show us former things? Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified; or let them hear and say, 'It is truth.'"

Although many among the Israelites were obstinate and impenitent, God would continue to outpour His love and care for His people and the nation itself would still be reserved for mercy. Our weakness makes God's strength more obvious and necessary (1 Cor. 1:27; 2 Cor. 12:9-10); this is also a fact in regards to man's moral delinquencies as they bring to light the awesomeness of God's abundant mercies and goodness. Oh, beloved, we **do not glory in sin**, neither do we habitually sin (God forbid!! Rom. 6:1-4; 1 John 3:1-10). "But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more ..." (Rom. 5:20 NKJV); this is not condoning wrong but it's the extended hand of God's grace (Psa. 86:5; Eph. 2:4-5; Heb. 4:16).

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 amazing good will to His people. 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 had the glad tidings [Gospel of God] proclaimed to us just as truly as they [the Israelites of old did when the good news of deliverance from bondage came to them] . . ."

The darkness of sin and its destructive consequences overshadow the entire world but bless the LORD there is light! There is a way out of the awful darkness for the whosoever will!! (Isa. 9:2; Matt. 4:16; John 8:12; etc. **Isa. 55:1**; etc.).

TODAY'S STUDY: "The Assurance of Restoration" Isa. 43:1-7

1. Brief definition of "restoration"

(a) General definition

- (1) Restoration is the act of returning something to its former condition.

- The process results in making new again.
 - Restoration results in making things better than they were originally.
- (2) The Bible has a lot to say about restoration and God has the power to make it possible.
- David knew what was necessary to heal his damaged relationship with God . . . note his innermost cry to God (See Psa. 51).

Psa. 51:12 NKJV

“Restore to me the joy of Your salvation . . . “

- In the hymn: “Nothing but the Blood”, Robert Lowry in verse 1 notes
What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus:
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
- (b) The KJV Dictionary explains restoration as:
- (1) The act of replacing in a former state . . . for example: restoring a man back to his job.
 - (2) Renewal; revival; re-establishment; as the restoration of friendship between enemies.
 - (3) Recovery; renewal of health and soundness; restoration from sickness.
 - (4) Recovery from a lapse or any bad state; as the restoration of a man from apostasy.
 - (5) In theology, universal restoration, the final recovery of man from sin and alienation from God, to a state of happiness; universal salvation.

2. The Main Points . . . Isa. 43:1-7

- (a) Preservation Promised Vv. 1-2
- (b) Price Paid v. 3
- (c) Prized Possession v. 4
- (d) Promised Rehabilitation Vv. 5-7

Isa. 43:1-7 NKJV

“But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you O Israel: ‘Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Sheba in your place. Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, give them up! Bring my sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth – Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes I have made for him.”

A. Preservation Promised Isa. 43:1-2

1. Connection (Isa. 43:1a)

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

(a) Connected to the previous chapter.

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

(2) The fact is, God allowed Israel to be afflicted by their enemy . . . note Isa. 42:24-25. *Details not possible at this time . . . note a few pointers:*

- Israel was referred to as a **"blind"** and **"deaf"** servant.
 - Israel could not bring light to anyone because she was **"blind"** and **"deaf"** (Note Isa. 42:18-19).
 - Neither could she (Israel) bring forth deliverance because she, herself is **"robbed"** and **"plundered"** as **"prey"** (42:22, 24).

(b) Briefly look at "spiritual blindness" and "spiritual deafness".

Ezek. 12:2 NKJV

"Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; for they are a rebellious house."

The verse speaks clearly: Israel had eyes and ears that refused to look or listen to the LORD (Isa. 6:9-10).

(1) **Spiritual Blindness**

- Spiritual blindness is a condition that an individual has when he is unable to see God, or understand His message.
- Although God is working all around us and reaching out to us showing us His glory, unfortunately man remains obstinate and still cannot recognize His divine manifestations (Acts 28:26-27)
- **Note a few highlights . . . "Spiritual Blindness":**
 - It is a grievous and incriminating condition (Rom. 2:8; 2 Thess. 2:12).
 - It is to be identified with those who are perishing (2 Cor. 4:3-4; Rev. 3:17).
 - To them the things of God do not make sense (1 Cor. 2:14).
 - Spiritually blind lack accurate self-examination (Gen. 42:10-11). *An honest and accurate self-examination was lacking in King Saul's life . . . see his awful end (1 Sam. chaps. 15 to 31).*

(2) **Spiritual deafness**

- Physical deafness is an unfortunate situation, yet how sad and devastating that millions choose to be spiritually deaf. **Adam was made to hear God (Gen. 3:8-10) but sin has damaged this capacity and power of our body and soul so man has become morally reprehensible and wounded.**
- Man has become absorbed with man-made religion and the pleasure of doing things their way instead of paying attention to and obeying the Word of God.

- They are more concerned with technology, academics degrees, great orators, goal to entertain and be entertained, etc. than to sincerely hear from God.
 - So many do not have time nor are they interested in exploring the Word of God (John 5:39; Acts 17:11; etc.). There are too many who do not take time, quality time, to study the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16; etc.). **There is indeed a spiritual famine (Amos 8:11-12); in this situation it is man's decision not to hear from God.**
 - See Isa. 6:10; Jer. 6:10; Ezek. 12:2; Zech. 7:11; 2 Tim. 4:4.
- (3) The **“Good News”** is, just as God **redeemed** Israel out of physical and spiritual insensitivity, bondage and hopelessness, even so His arms of mercy and grace are outstretched for the whosoever will, while there is still time (Example see Isa. 55, NB Vv. 6-7).
- (c) As noted before, even though God allowed Israel to be afflicted, He will now have mercy and deliver them.
- (1) For them it may seem hopeless and all has been lost, **but now** they would be delivered from Babylonian captivity because of God's great love for His people!!
- (2) **Amos 9:14 NKJV**
“I will bring back the captives of My People Israel; They will build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.”
- (3) Suffering, especially the loneliness of suffering is never a pleasant experience (*This is an early stage in our lesson but we will have to repeat as necessary, as long as God has His way*).
- David speaks of the depth of his suffering: note Psa. 69:19 . . . he speaks of **“reproach”**, **“shame”** and **“dishonor.”**
 - In verse 20 (Psa. 69) David speaks of the agony and terrifying experience of lowliness of suffering.
 - You will also notice that David knew the value and power of praise and despite all challenges he was confident that God will give the victory (see Psa. 69:29-36).
 - *You will also observe the Messianic element, for example verse 21 (Psa. 69).* Oh, Beloved, Jesus Christ went through it all for us! You can cast all your cares on Him because He cares!! (1 Peter 5:7). What are your concerns? What are your challenges? Jesus is able!!!
 - **Testing and temptations** . . . He is able to take you through (Heb. 4:15).
 - **Tears** are temporary!! (Psa. 30:5; Rev. 21:4).
 - **Times of Distress** ... no better way of deliverance (Psa.56).
 - **Thronged, threatened and terrorized** you are in His comprehensive care (Psa. 3. 57).
 - **Thorns in the flesh!!** His grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

- **Tribulations will come** ... they are all overcome through Jesus Christ because He overcame it all ... **in Him we are conquerors!!!** (John 16:33; Rom. 8:31-39, NB v. 37).
- **Tomorrow's challenges should not depress you** . . . maintain your focus on God and give Him the preeminence at all times (Luke 21:26; **Matt 6:19-34, NB Vv.28-34**).
- Beloved! Whatever may be your situation, sincerely commit yourself to God; He has promised not to ever leave nor forsake you and His promises are reliable!! (Ex. 33:14; Matt. 28:20; 2 Peter 3:9).
Take it to the Lord and "Leave It There"
"Leave it there, leave it there
Just take your burden to the Lord Oh and leave it there
If you thrust Him through your doubt, He will surely bring you out
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

2. Creator (Isa. 43:1b)

"... thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel . . . (Isa. 43:1b NKJV).

(a) **"... that created thee . . ."** (v.1b KJV). Other translations: **"... who created you."**

- (1) **"Thee" or "you"** as used here is in a collective sense, signifying the "Jewish people".
- (2) The usage of the names "Jacob" and "Israel" are applied to the Jews.
 - Originally, the term "Israel" came about in reference to Jacob (Gen. 32:28 and 35:10); who was the father of the twelve patriarchs of Israel the nation (Gen. chaps. 29-30).
 - A few general references (*you may not see the name Israel, etc. mentioned but you know who are being referred to*): Isa. 11:11; Amos 9:14-15; Zeph. 3:20; etc.

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

- (1) **"Created"** is here used to denote the fact that, as the peculiar people of God, they owed their origin to Him, as the universe owed its origin to His creative power.
 - It means that as a people, their institutions, laws, customs, and privileges and whatever they had that was valuable, were all to be traced to God.
 - Just as He made Adam and Eve, even so He made Israel (Gen. 1:27, note also Isa. 43:7, 15 and 21; 44:2, 24). **"I am JEHOVAH—the Creator of Israel your King."**
 - Note also Isa. 44:1 and Psa. 100:3.
 - This thought of God our Creator and Owner will be carried through the remaining portion of this verse . . . He is the Creator!! (Isa. 43:1).
 - Beloved, God is the **Transcendent Creator and Sovereign King!!**
 - He is above and beyond . . . He is superior! There is none like Him!!

- *“To transcend” means: “to exist above and independent from; to rise above, surpass, succeed.”*
- The LORD God Almighty (El Shaddai . . . Gen. 17:1; 35:11; etc.) created the earth and all that is in it, He created all that is beneath and in the heavens above, **however, He is above and independent from them all!!**
- See Gen. 1:1-31; Psa. 97:9; 113:4-5; Isa. 55:8-9; Rom. 11:33-36.
- I must also note (briefly) that the transcendence of God also includes other factors, for example His holiness (Lev. 11:44-45; Lev. 19:2; Psa. 99:9; Isa. 6:3; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Rev. 15:4).

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?”

- Moses made the above statement in his victory song (Ex. 15:1-19, NB v. 11) **“Who is like you?”** Absolutely no one!! The song: **“Nobody Greater”** (*Partial quote*)

Nobody greater . . .
 Nobody greater than you
 Searched all over . . .
 Couldn't find nobody
 I looked high and low . . .
 Still couldn't find nobody
 Nobody greater . . .
 Nobody greater no . . .
 Nobody greater than you

- The Word of God declares:

Psa. 89:6 Amp. Bible

“For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the mighty [heavenly beings] can be likened to the Lord?”
(See also Ex. 8:10; Deut. 33:26; 1 Kings 8:23; Isa. 40:18; Etc.).

- **Deut. 10:17 NKJV**

“For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.”

- (2) The people of God are His workmanship, created by Him unto good works.

Eph. 2:10 NKJV

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for Good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

- God created us and formed us, not only giving a life, but this way of life formed us into a people that are commissioned whose manner of living are incorporated by the authorization of **His covenant**.
- This new creature (person) (2 Cor. 5:17) is of God and He will not forsake the work of His own hand (Psa.138:8).

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) Brief definition of “courage”.

- General definition

Courage is a call for mental or moral strength to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

- Biblical definition

➤ Most importantly, fearlessness and bravery come from God.

2 Tim. 1:7 NKJV

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

➤ The Bible teaches that we are to take courage from the fact that He never leaves us or forsakes us. *Note carefully the charge given to Joshua:*

Josh. 1:9 NKJV

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you.”

(2) In our study series, “**Accept the Challenge and Move On**”; we saw throughout the lessons an emphasis on the need for courage. *Note the following four main points for Lesson 1 Part A. Observe the necessity for courage as Joshua prepares for the task ahead.*

- Josh. 1:1-4: **Assignment**

The willingness to undertake, rest upon a clear assignment.

- Josh. 1:5, 9: **Assurance**

Courage to persevere rest upon the assurance of God’s presence.

- Josh. 1:6, 7, 9: **Attracted Determination**

Courage rest upon focused attention.

- Josh. 1:7-8: **Anchored**

Loyalty, strength, dedication, etc. are anchored by God’s Word.

(3) Israel in Babylonian captivity was told “**Fear not!**”

- In reality, they were in captivity in a foreign land and had suffered much evil at the hands of the Babylonians.

- Although they were captives and had suffered long, they had nothing to fear in regards to their final destruction as a people . . . such would not be allowed!

- Their redemption from captivity would be realized and they would be returned to the land of their fathers.

➤ They were the chosen people of God and they were ordained for a very important purpose which must be accomplished.

➤ With this fact in mind they (Israel) had to be redeemed from captivity and be restored again in their own land.

(b) The redeemed of the LORD! (v. 1c)

"For I have redeemed you" (v. 1c)

Introduction: *Quote by Matthew Henry:*

"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 bondages, 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."

(1) Briefly defining "redeem".

Redeem has been used in a variety of ways, I will highlight a few ...

- A brief definition of redeem: "To obtain the release, or restoration of, as from captivity, by paying a "ransom". This act also means to deliver from sin and its consequences by means of a sacrifice offered for the sinner.
- As noted before, there are a variety of usages of the word "redeem".

Some examples are:

- To act as a redeemer for a deceased kinsman (Ruth 3:13).
- To redeem or buy from bondage (Lev. 25:48).
- To redeem or buy back a kinsman's possessions (Lev. 25:26).
- Etc.

(2) Theologically, this word (**redeem** Isa.43:1) is used to convey God's redemption of the nation of Israel from bondage and also from exile (Ex. 6:6; 15:13) (*The "Good News" is, God offers redemption for the whole world through Jesus Christ!!*)

(3) As noted above, redemption speaks of 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.

- Israel's deliverance from the destructive path of Egypt, Ethiopia and Sheba (Isa. 43:3). These countries paid a price in order for Israel to be free (*this will also be briefly noted below*).
- Likewise, Israel's deliverance from Babylonian captivity meant Babylon's destruction, so Israel might be redeemed.
- **Oh! Beloved! We must not take our redemption lightly and frivolously!!**
A great price was paid for our freedom!!
 - God, the Father, if we may so state it, destroyed the life of the great Redeemer Jesus Christ (*at least so the enemy of God thought*) when He experienced Calvary! The death of Christ was the ultimate price for our redemption!!
 - Isa. 53, NB Vv. 6-9; Matt. 8:17; Luke 22:44; Heb. 13:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19.
- Partial quote of: "**Let the Redeemed Say So**" by Ricky Dillard and New G
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so
Redeemed of the Lord say so

The devil tried to steal my life away,
 But He freed me, (let them say so),
 I shall live and shall not die,
 'Cause He freed me, (freed me from the hands of the enemy).

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

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

Introduction

The Israelites are God's distinct people who He has separated from others and appointed them for Himself. He has called them by name because it was intended for Him to have a particular intimacy with and concern for them. Israel's distinctiveness was of uttermost importance because they are God's, they are connected to Him and He has a special interest in them. Similar, all God's people are distinctive and of special interest to Him (Deut. 32:10; Psa. 17:8).

(a) Called by God

"I have called you by your name . . ." (v. 1d)

(1) In general usage "**To be called by name**" indicates intimacy of friendship. In this particular situation (Isa. 43:1), it means that God had particularly designated Israel to be His people.

(2) Calling by name is also an act of God exercising His sovereignty.

- The following statement was used earlier but it is worthwhile repeating and it is factual and has deep meaning: **God is the Transcendent Creator and Sovereign King** (earlier we briefly placed some emphasis on His transcendence here we briefly note on His **sovereignty**).
- Irrespective of how great, mighty and powerful so many may seem to be, the earth is God's. it is His and He is in control of it!! (Psa. 24). He is LORD of ALL!!
- Easton's Bible Dictionary defines God's sovereignty as His "absolute right to do all things according to His own good pleasure."
 - **Psa. 115:3 NKJV**
 "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."
 - See also 1 Chron. 29:11-12; Psa. 103:19; 135:6; Jer. 32:17; Col. 1:16; etc.

(b) Cared for by Him!!

"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) Note a few Scriptures: Ex. 33:17; Isa. 41:10; Jer. 1:5; Matt. 10:29-31; John 10:3, 11-15; Rev. 3:5; etc.
- (3) "Thou are mine."

- Israel was His, because He had formed them!
 - Because He had formed them as a people.
 - He had originated their institutions.
 - He had redeemed them.
 - He had particularly designated them as His.
- The same may be said of His Church and in a still more important sense the Church is His!
 - He has organized it.
 - He has appointed its unique businesses.
 - He has redeemed it with His precious blood.
 - He has called His people by name, and dedicated them as His own!!

(4) As I meditate on these comforting words: **“He knows my name”**; the following pointers came to mind . . . this is not a comprehensive listing and not presented in a chronological order . . . **God be praised for His goodness, mercy and grace! He knows my name!!**

- He cares (Isa. 41:13; 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. 1:12)
- 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 (Gen. 28:15; Psa. 48:14; Matt. 28:20).

(5) God takes care of His own!!

Partial quote: “God Will Take Care of You”

God will take care of you

Through every day, O’er all the way

He will take care of you

God will take care of you.

5. **Coverage!!** (Isa. 43:2)

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor the flames scorch you.” (Isa.43:2 NKJV)

Introduction

Water, river and **fire** (Isa. 43:2) are symbols of calamity and danger. However, to be in the presence of the Great Companion, Israel had nothing to fear. Bridges were lacking in the **ancient Near East**; Biblical Hebrews has no word for bridges. Despite the facts, God’s promise to the Israelites (Isa. 43:2) is that swollen rivers shall not wash them away, nor shall fire pass through and destroy them.

NOTE:

“Ancient Near East”, refers to the home of early civilization within a region roughly corresponding to modern Middle East.

- (a) The promise of God.
- (1) This is a general promise (Isa. 43:2) and means that whenever and wherever they (Israel) should pass through water or fire, He would protect them.
 - It is an established fact that as a nation, Israel had experienced many difficult and hurtful situations and at the time were still in exile.
 - The assurance here given to them was for them to be comforted, taking in consideration the calamities they were suffering in Babylon.
 - (2) **Fire** and **water** are often used in Scriptures to symbolize calamity and danger.
 - **Water** because it overwhelms – **fire** because it consumes.
 - Note the following references:
 - **Psa. 69:1 NKJV**
“Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.”
 - Also Psa. 73:10; 124:4,5.
 - **Psa. 66:12 NKJV**
“You have caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; **But** you brought us out to rich fulfillment.”
- (b) God was saying: “Irrespective of any danger, I am there with and for you!!”
- (1) The calamity and danger of deep and rapid streams ***shall not overflow you!***
 - The **Red Sea** was a disturbing and troubling challenge to the fearful Israelites but God took them across on dry land . . . God made a way although originally they saw no way (Ex. 14, NB Vv. 10-12 and 13-20).
 - The swelling, raging, overflowing **Jordan River** and its torrential waters, to the natural eyes was a disastrous and troubling sight but God took Israel across on dry land (Josh. chaps 3 and 4, NB 3:14-17).
 - (2) Fire is also symbolic of calamity and danger but Israel’s safety was assured.

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

 - While we speak of symbolic usage, this fiery experience was literally fulfilled in the case of the three wholeheartedly committed Jews who were cast in the fiery furnace by Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 3, NB Vv. 19-25)
 - Note again Isa. 43:2: *“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 Dan. 3:27).
- (c) **God’s presence guaranteed His continued care, protection and providence.**
- (1) He would be present with them in their greatest difficulties and danger (v. 2)
 - (2) Matthew Henry notes:
“When thou passest through the waters and the rivers, through the fire and the flame, ***I will be with thee***, and that shall be thy security; when dangers are imminent and threatening, thou shalt be delivered out of them.”
 - (3) Though they (Israel) went through fire and water which would be to them as the valley of the shadow of death, while they had God with them they need fear no evil (Psa. 23:4).

- (4) Despite who you are, where you are: “Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7)

Psa. 33:4 KJV

“For the word of the LORD is right; and all His works are done in truth.”

Psa. 91:4 ESV

“He will cover you with His *pinions*, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.”

(pinion: the end part of a birds wing)

2 Thess. 3:3 NIV

“But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”

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

Though sorrow befall us and evil 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,
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.

B. Price Paid! Isa. 43:3

1. FREE but Not Cheap!! (Isa. 43:3)

Introduction

As we know that “salvation” is deliverance or redemption; it is the saving of human beings from sin and its destructive and damning consequences. We also define “restoration” as the act of returning something to its former condition.

Israel throughout its history, experienced restoration on different occasions, for example as seen in the Book of Isaiah, and here we have the assurance given of their deliverance from exile in Babylon. **This is the essence of the mission of Jesus Christ to earth, that is to deliver lost and hopeless man (Luke 19:10; 2:8-20, NB Vv. 10-11; etc.).**

The song “Love Lifted Me”, notes... “I was sinking deep in sin sinking to rise no more!! It goes on to testify:

“But the Master of the Sea
Heard my despairing cry
From the water lifted me

Now safe am I

Indeed! Indeed, beloved!! Redemption cometh!! Praise the Lord! Let the whosoever will come, taste and see that God is good!! (**Psa. 34:8**; Isa. 55:1-2; Matt. 22:9; Rom. 10:13; Rev. 22:17; etc.)

- (a) The liberty that man needs is not accomplished by human endeavors!!
- (1) Salvation from sin is solely by God's grace
Eph. 2:8-9 NKJV
 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast."
 - (2) Not limited to the privileged few but to all men!
Titus 2:11 NKJV
 "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."
 - (3) Despite who we were, He poured out His love for us!!
Rom. 5:8 NKJV
 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
 - (4) Indeed, it is poured out **FREELY and to ALL MEN!!**
 - **Rom. 6:23 NKJV**
 "For the wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"
 - In the hymn, "**At Calvary**" we note:
 Mercy there was great and grace was free;
 Pardon there was multiplied to me;
 There my burden soul found liberty at Calvary.
 - (5) Our **restoration/transformation . . . is a reality because of His grace which definitely restores what sin has robbed from man!! The better is yet to come!!**
 - Note this quote from Ordained Bishop Licensure Study Guide (Church of God)
 "**Salvation re-creates the moral image of God in people and opens the door to God's work of sanctification and growth in holiness.**"
 - **Rom. 15:10 NKJV**
 "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."
- (b) **Briefly** noting what is grace.
- (1) General definition:
 We say "grace is God's unmerited favor." It is getting what we did not deserve!
 - (2) We associate "mercy" and "grace" because they are somewhat akin.
 - In simple term: "Mercy" is not getting what we deserved. (*Grace is getting what we did not deserve*)

- The result of sin is eternal damnation but because of the grace and mercy of God we can experience forgiveness and eternal life in the presence of God.
- (3) By God's grace and mercy, we are justified by our faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ (for example see Rom. 5). Think of victory as a result of our redemption . . . *just **a few** examples:*
- The penalty of sin has been removed.
 - The load of sin has been lifted.
 - The chains have been broken.
 - The prison doors rent asunder.
 - The old corrupted man died and a new man risen.
 - The emptiness within now filled with the very presence of God!
 - We are no longer hopeless but have a hope that makes us not ashamed.
 - The lost and wandering are now in the sheepfold.
 - Etc.
- (4) Grace is also explained as a **spontaneous gift** from God to people – it is generous, free and totally unexpected and undeserved – that takes the form of divine favor, love clemency, and a share in the divine life of God. As noted before, it is freely offered providing deliverance from the enslavement of sin.
- (c) **FREE BUT NOT CHEAP!!**
- (1) Today many preach Christ and fail to call man to repentance (Luke 13:5; Acts 17:30); they also ignore the necessity for transformed lives (2 Cor. 5:17); the imperativeness of the old carnal way to go and be replaced with the new standards of righteousness (Col. 3:1-17, NB Vv. 1-3, 5, 8, 10 ... *read the chapter*). In fact, some preach in such a way that makes the habitual practice of sin as a norm, **beloved this is still missing the mark!! (1 John 3:1-10).**
- **Remember this thoughts:**
 - "A person's character is shown through their actions in life **NOT** where they sit on Sundays"
 - "Character is who you are in the dark not who you profess to be!!"
 - **There is a powerful testimony in this song (Partial quote)**
 I 'm a new creation
 I'm a brand new man
 Old things are passed away
 I'm born again
 More than a conqueror
 That's who I am
 I'm a new creation
 I'm a brand new man.
- (2) One was worthy to pave the way for our deliverance (Isa. 53:6)
- (3) God gave us His very best! (John 3:16).
- (4) Grace is not a license to continue in sin! (Rom. 6:1-13, NB Vv. 1-8, 12; 1 John 3:1-10; Isa. 1:16; 2 Thess. 2:12).

(5) The list goes on . . . but as we saw before, man's restoration begins with salvation, that is possible because the price was paid (Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 2:24).

2. **Freedom Assured!** (Isa. 43:3)

God reassured Israel of their deliverance from captivity in Babylon and did so by noting some examples (Isa. 43:3). The fact is, if He did it before, He is able to do it again! How great is our God! How great is His name! He is the greatest one forever the same!!

He is able more than able!

To accomplish what concerns me today

He is able, more than able

To handle anything that comes my way.

(a) In this verse (v. 3) we notice the self-revelation of the LORD

"For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior" (Isa. 43:3a NKJV).

(1) His servants name also reveals, His awesome power and ability to deliver.

- Isaiah means *"Yahweh is salvation" or "God is salvation."*
- The name Isaiah is saying: salvation of God, the LORD helps.
- The Psalmist notes:

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills . . . From whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth . . ." Psa. 121:1-2 NKJV).

(2) Isaiah's predictions regarding God's people:

- He warned Judah (Southern Kingdom) would be defeated because of their sins (Isa. 1-39, NB Chaps. 1-12, highlight chap. 5).
- He also saw an ultimate redemption and restoration . . . God would deliver Judah out of Babylon (Isa. 40-66, NB Chaps. 40-45, highlight chap. 43).

(3) **"Your Savior . . ."** (43:3)

- **In general**, most of the words for salvation are military terms, in this situation it is the verb form basically means "to deliver, save, help, rescue, get victory."
 - The underlying idea of this verb is bringing to a place of safety or broad pasture as opposed to a narrow strait (a place of distress and danger).
 - The word "savior", conveys the concept of deliverance from tribulation (Judges 10:13, 14). **"savior" carries the meaning of:**
 - of deliverance from death (Psa. 22:21)
 - of being rescued from one's enemies (Deut. 28:31; Judges 6:14).
 - of victory in times of war (1 Sam. 14:6)
 - of protective duty of a shepherd (Ezek. 34:22; 2 Chron. 16:9).
 - Etc.

- **“Savior”** also give the understanding of the salvation that only comes from God (Isa. 33:22; Zeph. 3:17).
 - **“Savior”** can also refer to an answer to a prayer. a healing, rescue, deliverance from trouble, death or disease – as well as from sin and its punishment.
 - **“Savior” as used in this passage (Isa. 43:3), refers to a deliverance from bondage, it’s getting them (Judah) out of the hands of the enemy, although this deliverance includes the fact that sin was the reason for the exile.**
- (4) *“I gave Egypt for **your ransom** . . .”* (v. 3)
- As noted earlier in the lesson redeem involves restoration, for example restoration from captivity or danger which involves paying a price, ransom, for the redeemed.
 - Note the following ... Briefly noted:
 - The **verb** means: atone, expiate, pacify, set free.
 - The **noun** means to set free through some means of expiation (redemption, atonement, compensation, etc.)
 - In this context (Isa. 43:3) the term is applied somewhat differently: God will set His people free from bondage!
 - It should be noted that they would be delivered at the expense of the oppressors. In this situation the enemy’s destruction will be the ransom price – the exchange given to set Israel free.
3. **Facts . . . He Delivered Before!!** (Isa. 43:3)
- (a) Covenant with God
- “For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior . . .”* (Isa. 43:3a NKJV)
- (1) There was an established covenant with God and the nation of Israel.
- It was established with Abraham (Gen. 12:1-2; 13:14-18; 17, NB 1-4; etc.).
 - This covenant was kept alive throughout Israel’s history . . . for example:
 - Ex. chaps. 19, 20, 24, etc. Deut. 29; Josh. 5:7-9; 8:30-35; 23:1-24:33.
 - A new approach was promised ... see Jer. 31, NB Vv. 31-34, highlight v. 33.
- (2) Israel’s worship was due wholly and solely to God (Ex. 20:1-7) and He was committed to them by promise (Gen. 13:14-18; etc.) . . . *He is the Holy One of Israel, the God of Israel (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; etc.)*
- He, the true God of Israel is holy (1 Sam. 6:20; Psa. 99:9; Isa. 6:3; etc.) and holiness becomes His house (Psa. 93:5).
 - From the beginning phase of the covenant God promised Abraham His favor and ultimate care ... example
- Gen. 12:3a LASB**
- “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt . . .”*

- (3) He is not only the true and Living God (Jer. 10:10-18), but He is the God who had entered into solemn covenant with them and would therefore protect them (See **Deut. 31:8**; Ex. 19:5; Isa. 54:10; etc.)
- Taking these factors in mind, He has the right to instruct Israel **“Fear not” (v.1)** and again **“Fear not” (v. 5)**.
 - The glorious news and well established fact: **“Those who have God, need not fear who or what can be against them.” (Rom. 8:31; Psa. 91:5; Heb. 13:6; etc.).**
- (4) **“The Holy One of Israel”** (Isa. 43:3).
- This is one of the characteristics that distinguishes the God of Israel (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; etc.)
 - Other nations worshipped other gods . . .
 - They were associated with gross evil, immorality and an abominable life style.
 - Israel, a distinctive people, was to remain separate, destroy these nations, their idols and altars, etc. and they were to destroy the people of these nations as well (**Deut. 7:1-5**; 9:5; 12:1-4; 13:12-18; etc. see also the Book of Joshua).
 - He is their God, **“The Holy One of Israel,”** and by right He would protect His people . . . He would deliver them from Babylon!
- (b) Continued care assured . . . reminder given.
- (1) God reminded Israel of His deliverances and care and this affirms the fact that He is mindful of His people and is able . . . more than able to meet all their needs!
- Egypt . . . a price was paid for the release of the Israelites.
 - Egypt was definitely laid to waste by one plague after another.
 - Even more devastating, all their first born sons died by the final plague.
 - Another grim and horrifying situation was the destruction of the men of war who pursued the Israelites into the Red Sea.
 - God demonstrated that Egypt shall be sacrificed rather than the Israelites continue in slavery.
 - God promised their deliverance from Egypt (Ex. 6:6) and such promise was fulfilled (Deut. 4:34) (*God’s powerful deeds during the Exodus are recorded many places in the Bible . . . Deut. 5:15; 7:19; 9:29; 11:2; 26:8; Psa.136:12; etc.*).
- (2) We can summarize this pointer (as in v.3) by noting . . .
- God had devastated Egypt, Ethiopia and Seba to the point of desolation and ruined cities in order to bring about Israel’s deliverance (v. 3)
 - As a result of such acts of God, Israel had nothing to fear from Babylon or any other nation, because He would bring about their deliverance even at the expense of the overthrow of the mightiest kingdoms.

(3) The song: **“What a Mighty God We Serve”** (*Partial quote*)

What a mighty God we serve

Angels bow before Him

Heaven and earth adore Him

What a mighty God we serve

What a mighty God we serve

(4) A price was paid by the enemies of Israel (Egypt, Ethiopia and Seba . . . Isa. 43:3) in order for Israel to be delivered. It was a demonstration of God’s great love for His people.

- Let us not forget God’s great love for us demonstrated by giving His Son as a ransom to liberate us from the bondage of sin.

1 John 4:10 NKJV

“in this is love, not that we love God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.”

- **NOTE:** The word “*propitiation*” . . . (a) atonement or (b) to expiate.
 - **Atonement:** The reconciliation of God and man through the death of Jesus Christ.
 - **Expiate:** (a) make amends for, pay the penalty (b) or atone for (guilt of sin).
- See also Rom. 3:25; I John 2:2; 4:10.
- Oh, how He loves us! Oh, how He loves you and me!!
 - No wonder, John Newton calls it “Amazing Grace!” Beloved, through His sacrificial death Jesus Christ released us from the guilt and penalty of our sins.
 - We owed a debt that we couldn’t pay and He paid a debt He didn’t owe . . . God Himself, paid the price for our salvation (Rom. 3:25-26)
 - The way out of darkness, despair, doom and hopelessness is through Jesus Christ (John 1:4; 10:10-11; 11:25; Rom. 5:21; 1 John 5:12, 13). It is up to man to believe, repent, and receive what God offers (John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:8-10)
- A great price has been paid for man’s deliverance. The price is beyond silver, gold, etc.; if we combine all the riches of the world it would still not be adequate to redeem one soul from sin
 - See Psa. 49:7-8; Matt. 16:24-26.
 - **Rom. 5:9 NKJV**
 “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”
 - See also Matt. 26:28; Acts 20:28; Heb. 9:14.
- God freely offers the gift of eternal life, it’s for each person to make their individual choice!!
 Would you be free from the burden of sin?
 There’s power in the blood, power in the blood;
 Would you o’er evil a victory win?

There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

C. Prized Possession Isa. 43:4

1. Theme of Deliverance Continues (Isa. 43:4)

Note these two powerful reminders given to Israel:

*"You were **precious** in my sight . . . and **honored** (precious and honored) I have **loved you** . . ." (Isa. 43:4 NKJV)*

(a) Their deliverance was assured because they were precious and honored in God's sight.

(1) God saw them as being highly valuable because they were rare and a chosen people (Deut. 7:6; 14:2; etc.)

(2) Throughout their history they were always under God's watchful care, provided for and loved . . . it was all because of His goodness (Deut. 7:7-8).

(3) It was also solely by God's goodness why they experienced deliverance, triumphs and all that they acquired (example see Deut. 9:5).

(b) The fundamental motive for their deliverance was the abiding love God had for them: **"I have loved you" (v. 4).**

(1) The term love can convey different ideas:

- The idea of choosing spontaneously . . . as opposed to the idea of "hating", which mean among other things "reject" –Jacob I loved, but Esau have I hated (Mal. 1:2-3).
- Other words for love will emphasize the covenant loyalty, God has for His people (Deut. 7:9; Psa. 89:3-4, 28-29).

(2) "Love" as used in our text (Isa. 43:4), indicates that God chose Israel and His love for them remains constant.

(3) Beloved, God dearly loves His people and in Israel's situation, these factors must be remembered:

- He loved them but He didn't overlook their idolatry, rebellion and unbelief against God's laws.
- They were in exile because of their apostasy, and their captivity was intended to purge and purify them from evil.

2. Truly Loved (Isa. 43:4)

(a) Notice how God addressed:

Isa. 43:4 Amp. Bible

"Because you are precious in My sight and honored, and because I love you, I will give men in return for you and people in exchange [for your release]."

(1) Note some highlights from the hymn "Amazing Grace"

- Amazing grace how sweet a sound that saved a wretch like me.
- I once was lost but now I am found.
- Was blind but now I see.
- T'was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved!!

(2) John Knox notes on verse 4 as follows:

“So prized, so honored, so dearly loved, that I am ready to give up mankind in thy place, a world to save thee.”

- (b) The essence of the message (Isa. 43:4): God is willing to sacrifice all the world for this little people. In the eyes of others, they may be insignificant but they are mine and they are near and dear to my heart . . . they are loved with an everlasting love!!

3. Tenacity and Triumph (Isa. 43:4)

- (a) Israel was under God’s care and would not be trodden down, tarnished or torn-down; they will triumph and remain tenacious.
- (b) They will endure and they will be victors . . . note the following:
- (1) The nations and armies are in the hand of God and at His disposal (Psa. 22:28; 46:8-11).
 - (2) His people are dear to His heart, and it is His purpose and continued desire to protect them (Psa. 145:18; Isa. 54:17)
 - (3) The revolution among the nations, the rise of one empire, and the fall of another often happened in order to promote the welfare of God’s people, to defend it (their welfare) in times of danger and deliver it in time of calamity (Psa. 37; 32:7; 34:17)
 - (4) God’s people should put their utmost confidence in God, knowing that God is able to continue defending them and there was a purpose to preserve and save them (Prov. 3:5-6; **32:7**; Isa. 43:18-19).
- (c) The welfare of the people was secured and ultimate protection against all enemies was assured.

Isa. 43:4b Amplified Bible

“I will give men in return for you; and people in exchange for your life.”

- (1) The interest of the children of Israel will receive top priority.
- (2) Other nations will be cut off instead of the children of God because they are precious and honored in His sight (Isa. 43:4; 49:16; Jer. 31:3; Zeph. 3:17).
- (3) King Asa did well for a while but then he looked to the wrong source for help when faced with threat of war from the king of Israel. He was rebuked by the prophet . . . note the following:

2 Chron. 16:19a Amplified Bible

*“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth **to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are blameless towards Him . . .**”*

- (d) “You are precious in my sight and honored . . . I love you.” (Isa. 43:4a Amp. Bible)
- (1) Too often the people of God, belittle themselves, tend to be hopeless, etc. when certain negative situations set in!
(This matter we have discussed in other studies . . . and will make only brief comments at this time.)

- Elijah, in his desperation, sought solitude as he sought a way of escape from the life threatening wrath of Jezebel (1 Kings 19:1-3); it was not only solitude he sought but the desired to die (Vv. 4-8).
- Study carefully Psa. 42 and note Vv. 5, and 11; see also 43:5.
 - **NOTE:** “. . . the help of His countenance.”
 - Beloved, the presence of God is the essential source of encouragement.
 - The gospel song: **“You’re All I Need”** also carries a good message.
 - The words expressed in Psa. 42:5, 11 and 43:5, give the appropriate response to every temptation and trials in moments of despair. (*I will follow up with this Psalm in our new series “Selected Psalms Phase 1”*).
- (2) Beloved! **All** of God’s people are precious and honored in His sight (Isa. 43:4)

Matthew Henry notes:
“True believers are precious in God’s sight, they are his jewels, his peculiar treasure (Ex. 19:5); he loves them, his delight is in them, above any people. His church is his vineyard. And this makes God’s people truly honorable and their name great; for men are really what they are in God’s eye.”
- (3) God’s people are precious and there is absolutely no discrimination as to class, color, creed, culture or other choosing of men (Gal. 3:28). Note the following: Deut. 32:10; Isa. 62:3; Zech. 2:8; 9:16; Mal. 3:17; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25. **All God’s People Are Precious and Honored in His Sight!!**

D. Promised Rehabilitation Isa. 43:5-7

Introduction

In verse 5, we have a repetition of the importance for the people of God to be courageous . . . **“Fear Not!”**. They were assured of God’s divine presence which means that God will intervene for their protection and provision and this fact is the foundation for their comfort. In verse 5 as well as verses 6 and 7, God is making it clear that He will regather His people from all over the world. Not all of the Hebrews were taken to Babylon but they were dispersed all over. Here we see the Creator, the God of Israel will speak to the north, south, east and west and the world will give up His people. (*Please note that Isa. 43:5-6 are interwoven, however, I am separating the first part of v. 5 for emphasis, as will be seen*)

1. Continued Emphasis for Courage (Isa. 43:5a)

“Fear not . . .” (v. 5a)

(a) Courage is compulsory.

“Courage” was discussed earlier based on 43:1; I will briefly note a few pointers for emphasis and reinforcement.

(1) Why do we need courage?

- Courage gives the ability to put aside fear of failure or any negative factors and it enables us to do what must be done.
 - It helps us to overcome the fear of rejection and undertake our necessary goals.
 - Courage is a motivating force that pushes us on and with God's enabling we are equipped to face any danger, current or future.
 - Courage is a call for boldness and confidence, fully relying on God's promise, presence, power and perseverance.
- Among the many references, note a well-known and frequently used verse:

2 Tim. 1:7 ESV

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

(2) Israel was in captivity but God knew the plans He had for them and He encouraged them not to be afraid, not to be dismayed!

- Note again Isa. 41:10 . . . NOTE: *"I will strengthen you, . . . I will uphold you."*
 - The assurance was given as it is when one is called into service.
 - The fact is: ***"The will of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us."***
 - He is able!! See Deut. 31:6.
- As we saw earlier, Joshua was given similar charge at the commencement of his leadership (See Josh. 1:1-9 NB Vv. 6, 7,9, 18).
- See also Isa. 35:4; 40:29; 44:2.

(b) Israel was chosen for a specific purpose that must be fulfilled. Isa. 41:8-20, NB Vv. 9-10, 13-16.

(1) In Isa. 41:10 we also note: *"I will uphold you with my right hand."* (NKJV)

- This is the hand of power and deliverance.
- God's presence with us assures us of victory.
 - He imparts the grace and strength needed to face all circumstances of life.
 - He helps us through times of crises as our source of peace.
 - He sustains us and remains our advocate and continuous present help.

(2) **Ex. 15:6, 12** (*From Israel's song of triumph over Pharaoh's army . . . the Red Sea crossing*)

"Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD has dashed the enemy to pieces . . . You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them."

(3) See also Psa. 20:6; 48:10; 89:13; 98:1.

2. Coming Home (Isa. 43:5b-6)

(a) Scattered people (Isa, 43:5b-6)

(1) Strong and powerful nation crumbles (*a few highlights*)

- King Solomon started his reign superbly well but eventually gave in to violating God's commands which resulted in the division of the Kingdom of Israel (Example see 1 Kings 11 and 12).
- That experience was followed by the nation continued plunging deeper and deeper into a sinful lifestyle, ignoring warnings from the prophets of God (Read the Prophetic Books, for example Jeremiah, etc. Note Jer. chaps 11 and 26 . . . highlight 26:5; etc.
- Eventually, both the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) were taken in captivity (Israel to Assyria . . . 740BC some say 732, 722 etc.; and Judah to Babylon in 586 to 516 BC).

(2) **Beloved, sin destroys!!**

- Sin in the Garden of Eden produced some damaging, destructive negative effects . . . a few examples:
 - Human nature is weakened in its powers.
 - Man became subjected to ignorance, blinded by Satan.
 - Man has been exposed to suffering and the damnation of death.
 - Man became sin inclined (this inclination is referred to as "concupiscence" man has become morally depraved (Psa. 51:5; Rom. 3:23; etc.).
- The Bible clearly speaks of the effects of sin and its cure (*limited comments*):
 - Sin is a reproach (Prov. 14:34)
 - Sin is a dominant tyrant (Rom. 6 and 7)
 - Sin is a hereditary evil (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9)
 - Sin is a downward drag (Rom. 8:2)
 - Etc.
- It is God's desire for all to have victory over sin: Rom. 8:12-13; 1 Cor. 15:34; 2 Cor. 2:14; Col. 3:5; Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15-16.

(3) Make no mistake, sin has its awful consequences but there is help.

- Note a few consequences of sin
 - Man is separated from God, resulting in experiencing dissatisfaction and guilt in their lives.
 - When we look around, we are seeing genocide (mass murder), war, hate, cruelty, exploitation, abuse and the list goes on and on!!
 - Supporting Scriptures are many, note a few: Gen. 3, NB Vv. 14-24; 4, NB Vv. 8-15; 6, NB Vv. 1-7; Rom. 1:18-32, NB Vv. 24, 26, 28; Rom. 6:23; Isa. 59:1-15; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:7-8; etc.
- **The cure for sin is found exclusively in Jesus Christ, who God sent to redeem lost mankind.**
 - It is very important to remember John 3:16-17, *however, there are many who have rejected the Light of the World because they love the dark deeds of sin rather than the way of righteousness (John 3:18-19).*

- This is yet another subject that we have frequently discussed, man's deliverance from sin: Lev. 17:11; Psa. 51, NB Vv. 16-17; Isa. 55:6-7; Rom. 5; 8:1-17; Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 1:1-2; 9:7; etc.
- One of my regular reference (used before) **1 Peter 1:18-19**.
- Oh, Beloved, Israel was in captivity because of sin; our current world is plagued with the consequences of sin.
 - God promised restoration to Israel (Isa. chaps 40-66; Ezek. chaps 25-48).
 - There is restoration today for the whosoever will!!

"Life for a Look"

There is life for a look at the crucified one,

There is life at this moment for thee;

Then look sinner, look unto Him to be saved, Unto Him who was nailed to the tree.

(b) Secure Everyone!! (Isa. 43:5-6)

(1) The eternal God will claim His sons and daughters (v. 6) from the four corners of the compass.

(2) By the time of Isaiah, the Hebrews were widely scattered.

- Just as God had commanded Pharaoh, to let His people go, so He promises here to command all nations . . . **"Let My people go!"** (Ex.5:1).

- John Knox notes on Isa. 43:5-6:

"I will **restore** whosoever owns my name is my creature (creature or creation... my insert) made and fashioned for my glory."

(3) All the Hebrews that were scattered and dispersed in other nations were to be gathered in and in the blessings of the public.

- Although they were scattered all over, it was necessary to focus on returning home.
- Those who were stirred by God should be assisted in returning, even those in the remotest areas and greatest distance.
- Nothing should be spared in fulfilling the desire of all who want to return home, as such is the answer to prayer!!

Psa. 106:47 NKJV

"Save us, O LORD our God, And gather us from the Gentiles, To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise."

- Two thoughts ... noted briefly:

➤ We need to **go all out** for the salvation of souls (Luke 14:15-24, NB v. 23).

➤ The convicted and penitent should take positive steps in seeking restoration (Luke 15:11-32, NB Vv. 17-21)

(4) *"I will bring your descendants . . ."* (Isa. 43:5 NKJV)

- I will re-collect my scattered people from all parts of the world!
- God promised restoration after their disobedience; definitely a loving compassionate God (**See Deut. 30:3-4**).

(c) **Sweet By and By!!**

(1) Isaiah's primary focus.

- Isaiah was speaking primarily of Israel's return from Babylon.
- While Israel's restoration was assured, we must note an even deeper meaning to Isaiah's account: **Beloved! All God's people will be regathered when Christ comes to rule peace on earth!**
- There will be a great stir one of these days a move that is possible only because of God . . . it will be an awesome time!
- A partial quote of the hymn: **They Come.**

Verse 1

They come from the East and West,
 They come from the land afar,
 To feast with the king, to dine as His guest,
 How blessed these pilgrims are!
 Beholding His hollow'd face
 A glow with light divine'
 Best partakers of His grace,
 As gems in His crown to shine.

The great ingathering of the Church is a wide subject . . . we have time only for a few highlights.

(2) Christians are pilgrims but we are not homeless!! All born again believers do have a heavenly home.

- Jesus, Himself said: ". . . if it were not so, I would have told you" (John 14:2).
- It is specially prepared and there will be room for all (John 14:1-4).
- It is a safe place to store your treasures (Matt. 6:20).
- It contains a register of the saints (Luke 10:20).
- Built by the Master Contractor, The Creator Himself (2 Cor. 5:1; Heb. 11:10).
- The redeemed of all nations are settled there (Rev. 7:9) (*This is not 144,000 as taught by some, those are Jewish Evangelist Rev. 7:3-8. This great number is a numberless multitude Rev. 7:9-17, NB v. 9).*
- *Conditions for entry is obedience to the will, way and Word of God (James 1:25; Rev. 22:14)*

Read carefully Rev. chaps 21 and 22.

(3) There are many benefits as a result of Christ's resurrection . . . at this time I am noting only a few.

- The resurrection of Christ secures our justification (Rom. 4:25)
- It shows that Jesus defeated death (Rom. 6:9).
- It gives Christians a hope (1 Peter 1:3-4)
- Etc.

- It also guarantees that we will be raised like Christ (1 Cor. 15:20-21)
- (4) **The resurrection of Christ also assures believers that our hope in Christ is not limited to this life.**

1 Cor. 15 is a great study, at this time details are not possible; I will be highlighting five of the main points and hope you will see the continuation of what we have been discussing.

- Raised from the Dead (Christ resurrection) was Validated Vv. 1-11
- Relevance of the Resurrection Vv. 12-19
(Carefully observe all these verses)
- Reality of Christ's resurrection Vv. 20-25
- Resounding Power of the Resurrection Vv. 35-50
(Emphasis on verses 41 to 44)
- Relieved of the Power of death Vv. 51-58
(careful attention to all these verses)

Christianity is not a dead-end street!! An old Gospel Chorus years ago: "It's joy unspeakable, full of glory and the half has not yet been told!!

(5) **The Final Ingathering of the Church 1 Thess. 4:13-18**

- **NOTE**
 - In this situation (1 Thess. 4:16-18); you will observe that Christ is not ascending into heaven (Acts 1:1-10) but He is descending from (Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16). **It is home gathering time!! Time to trim the lamps the bridegroom is here!!**
 - The death and resurrection of Christ makes this ingathering a possibility (Luke 13:29; Rev. 7:14).
 - Christ had made that priceless promise (John 14:3) . . . note also what is shared in 1 Thess. 4:17 NKJV: "And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

*At this time, I am only noting **the main points in 1 Thess. 4:16-18** . . . you are encouraged to add the sub-points and pointers.*

- **1 Thess. 4:16-18**
 - Shepherd of Souls Leads (v. 16a)
 - Shouts (*Christ's, Archangel, trumpet*) (v. 16a)
 - Saints Exalted (Vv.16b-17a)
 - Solace of Christ's Presence (v. 17b)
 - Satisfactory Reason for Consolation (v. 18)

*This is one of the old and great hymn: **Sweet By and By** (Partial quote)*

There's a land that is fairer than day
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way

To prepare us a dwelling place there.

Refrain

In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore,
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore

3. **Created for Special Purpose** (Isa. 43:7)

Introduction

You will notice that verse 7 (Isa. 43) has a repetition of the creation theme and here we note that God's purpose for Israel was ". . . **for my glory.**" In the New Testament we have seen that Jesus Christ always did things that the Father may be glorified. Later references in Isaiah and Ezekiel, it has been made clear that the gathering of Israel is not because Israel deserved it, but because God's reputation (His name) was at stake. God will not let the sins of the people rob Him of His good name and steal His glory. The victories realized by God's people are powerful testimonies of the Almighty God who acts on behalf of His people and this also brings glory to His name (Josh. 2:9-11; 9:9; Neh. 9:5; etc.). Beloved, when we glorify the LORD it is meant in part to draw people to His love.

(a) Who would be among the carefully chosen? (*For the rehabilitation of the nation*).

(1) They are called by His name!

"Everyone who is called by My name . . ." (Isa. 43:7a NKJV)

- They demonstrate association with God and are distinguished from the rest of the world by their covenant relationship with the true and living God (Example Ex. chaps. 19, 24; Deut. 7:6-11; etc.).
- Their distinctiveness is quiet apparent that they are God's people (Deut. chaps. 12 to 14; etc.)

(2) They are created for His glory!

"Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." (Isa. 43:7b NKJV).

- They are by God; of God; committed to live for Him in obedience, wholeheartedly.
- The will of God is imbedded within them; it is the very pulse of their existence and they shall be gathered in for that great day of deliverance.

(b) **The broader application** (of the ingathering ... Isa. 43:5-7)

*As noted before, the blessings of the gathering of the people is not limited to the Hebrews but a look forward to the day of the redeemed of the Lord. This will involve all who have been delivered (a) **present application:** whether from Babylonian captivity (Isa. 40-66; note also Psa. 107:2; etc.) or (b) **future application:** deliverance the form the bondage of sin, set free through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18-20; Heb. 9:11-15; Rom. 3:23-26; etc.).*

*I am closing this lesson with a solemn reminder of our hope and briefly noting what is necessary to be included among the great ingathering that will take place **(A brief reminder)**.*

(1) **The great ingathering will consist of those only who are fit to be called by God's name, who are created by His grace and for His glory.** *It's very strange that man has special requirements for everything else in life, for example who forms the Olympic team, who are qualified doctors or other professionals, etc., but when it comes to eternal abode with God we tend to minimize the standards of God.*

- **Note again Isa. 43:6-7**

Isa. 43:7 Amplified Bible

"Even everyone who is called by My name, who I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, whom I have made."

- We referred earlier to 1 Thess. 4:16-18.
 - Please note v. 16 "... the dead in Christ . . . "
 - Note the criteria for those among the great ingathering continues to be emphasized in verse 17, which is, that a person MUST be definitely "born again" (John 3:3-8, highlight verses 5 and 6; etc.).

(2) Beloved, those who God has created (the new birth: John 3:1-18; 2 Cor. 5:17; etc.) are His workmanship and shall be gathered to Jesus Christ the head of the Church and we shall ever be with Him!!

Mark 13:27 NKJV

" . . . He will send His angels, and gather His elect from the four winds, from farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven."

(See also Matt. 24:31)

(c) Beloved, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of God! There are too many around us who are falling away, going under!! Stand up, Beloved! Stand in Jesus and for Jesus Christ! Lean on Him, He will see you through (Jude 24-25; etc.).

(1) **The great ingathering (noted before) will be of God's people who have sincerely and continuously subjected themselves to the will of God.**

- Unfortunately, there are many, too many that are externally Christians, they have a form of godliness but they are not of God (**2 Tim. 3:5**). Note carefully 2 Tim. 3:1-9; Isa. 1:13; Col. 2:20 and other related references.
- Our objective at this time is to focus on encouraging everyone to be ready for that great day!!
 - We must lay aside legalistic religion which disqualifies anyone from the kingdom of God.
 - It is such an unfortunate situation to see so many go through the rituals of worship and other church activities but do not have that which is most essential (at this time see **Matt. 5:17-48, NB v. 20**).

(2) The necessity for commitment.

- In our study on the Book of Joshua, “Accept the Challenge and Move On” (available on our website: livingwaterstudies.com) much emphasis was placed on “commitment”, For example see Lessons 12 and 13; etc.)
 - Staying committed to our goal is one of the most fundamental principles of success.
 - It is one thing to say “We will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15) but only our commitment will keep us going when the challenging moments are being experienced.
 - Joshua was wholeheartedly committed, strong, etc. and an optimistic leader who remains a most outstanding example to all believers, on all levels. **Moses was the only person before Joshua to be referred to as “servant of the LORD” (Josh. 1:1) and this title was conferred to Joshua (Josh. 24:29)**
 - Another outstanding example of commitment was Caleb (example see Num. 14:6-12, 30; Josh. 14:6-15).
 - Beloved, the encouragement is for us to be wholeheartedly committed, fully relying on God’s grace and continue serving in obedience.
 - Closing this thought on commitment by noting the following:

“Total commitment to God means that Jesus is our sole authority, our guiding light, and our unerring compass. Being committed to Christ means being fruitful; it means being a servant. Our principle (motto) is simple and concise: “For me to live is Christ” (Phil. 1:21).
- (d) These verses, in particular Isa. 43:1-7, have such powerful reminders of our hope in Jesus Christ. Definitely, God was addressing the Jewish exiles in Babylon and they likewise had their victories.
- (1) The Church, the Bride of Christ is greatly blessed and highly favored especially focusing on our hope of eternity with Jesus Christ (*Briefly discussed earlier*).
- (2) We, the Church, are definitely in a hostile world but Christ overcame all the odds and circumstances and on Him we stand!!
- He called us! (Matt. 4:19)
 - He cleanses us! (1 John 1:9)
 - He commissions us! (Matt. 28:16-20)
 - He corrects us! (Heb. 12:6-11)
 - He covers us! (Psa. 91:1-16)
 - He is carrying us through! (2Tim. 1:12)
 - He is coming for us! (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

In closing I dedicate these two songs . . . if you are interested, download them and Be Blessed!!

The hymn: **God Leads Us Along** by D. A Young (*Partial quote*)

Though sorrow 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,
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.

Another great song: **Not Afraid** by Jesus Culture (Partial quote)

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

Before me, behind me, always beside me
No shadow, no valley, where you won't find me
No, I am not afraid
Before me, behind me, always beside me
No shadow, no valley, where you won't find me
No, I am not afraid
I am not afraid.

DO NOT JUST READ THE BIBLE STUDY IT (2 TIM. 2:15; 3:16, 17)

2 Tim. 2:15 NKJV

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Tim. 3:16, 17 NKJV

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

THE ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION (Isa. 43:1-7) REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the two divisions in the Book of Isaiah; note the chapters of each division and in summary, what is discussed in each section.

2. What Scriptural proof do we have as evidence that Israel's disobedience was the reason why they were ravaged, afflicted and taken in captivity by the enemy (Briefly with references).

3. What prophetic note is made in Isa. 43:9?

4. Briefly define "restoration" and give Scriptural a example where such was desire and received.

8. In Isaiah 43:1, we note God communicating to Israel: “. . . **the LORD who created you.**” Briefly explain the usage of “created” in this text.

9. Briefly explain “transcendence” as applicable to God. (*Discussed in our lesson*).

10. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“God created us and formed us, not only giving a life, but this way of life formed us into a people that are commissioned who manner of living are incorporated by _____.”

- (a) the peoples’ will and desire.
- (b) the standards loved by men.
- (c) the dictates and worldly desires.
- (d) the authorization of His covenant.

11. In regards to “**courage**”, (a) briefly define the word. (b) What does the Bible teaches about courage (**briefly**)? (c) Give one example when such a charge was given to be courageous (with reference).

12. Match the statements on the left with their correct references on the right (*noted in our lesson on courage*)

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCE	JUMBLED REFERENCES
Assignment: The willingness to undertake, rest upon a clear assignment.		Josh. 1:5, 9
Assurance: Courage to persevere rest upon the assurance of God’s presence.		Josh. 1:6, 7, 9
Attracted Determination: Courage rest upon focused attention.		Josh. 1:7-8
Anchored: Loyalty, strength, dedication. etc. are anchored by God’s Word.		Josh. 1:1-4

13. Complete the following (*Matthew Henry’s comments on “I have redeemed you.” ... Isa. 43:1c*).

“They are the people of his (a) _____; he has redeemed them. Out of the (b) _____ of Egypt he (c) _____ redeemed them, and out of many other (d) _____, in his (e) _____, and in his (f) _____ (chap. 63:9); much (g) _____ will he take care of those who are redeemed with the (h) _____ of his (i) _____.”

14. Explain what is indicated in the following statement: **“I have called you by your name.”** (Isa.43:1).

15. In Isa. 43:2, we have reference to **“water”, “river”, and “fire.”** (a) What do these terms symbolize? (b) give brief examples of how Israel experienced each (with references).

16. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.

“The liberty that man needs are not accomplished by human endeavors!”

17. What is revealed about the LORD in Isa. 43:3 and how is it applicable to Israel’s deliverance from bondage?

18. **Briefly** explain the covenant God had with Israel (*brief reference was made in our lesson*).

19. Briefly explain the significance of the statement: ***“The Holy One of Israel”*** (Isa. 43:3).

20. In Isa. 43:4, the theme of “deliverance” continues; what two powerful reminders were given to Israel?) Briefly explain).

21. God promised to regather His people (The Hebrews) (Isa. 43:5-6). Briefly note what important lesson was taught in regards to regathering the widely dispersed nation?

22. Briefly note five benefits of Christ’s resurrection (with references).

23. What are some significant facts noted in 1 Thess. 4:16-18?

24. In Isaiah 43:7, what are the qualifications mentioned for those to be gathered for rehabilitation?

25. Complete the following:

“Total (a) _____ to God means that Jesus is our sole (b) _____, our guiding (c) _____, and our unerring (d) _____. Being committed to Christ means being (e) _____; it means being a (f) _____. Our principle is simple and concise: **‘For me to live is (g) _____.’** (Phil. 1:21).”