Thursday Evening Bible Study Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 59

Isaiah Chapter 43

While chapter 42 ends in judgment, chapter 43:1 through 44:5 announce the Lord's redemption of His chosen and beloved people.

This section unfolds in five movements. We will **read each section** in turn.

First, the Lord tells His people that they are **precious** to Him, and proceeds to reassure them that He will protect them and deliver them from bondage no matter what. **Isaiah 43:1-7**.

Second, the Lord conducts **a trial**, calling on two groups of witnesses: the nation of Israel, and the foreign nations with their pagan "gods". The Lord states His case: He is utterly unique. He is the one and only God and only Savior. He is eternal; sovereign; all-powerful. He promised that He would save His people; He will do it, and the whole world will see His glory. Nothing can stop Him. **Isaiah 43:8-13**.

Third, the Lord describes His coming actions to deliver His people out of Babylon. Isaiah 43:14-21.

Fourth, the Lord tells the nation that they do not deserve to be redeemed. Therefore, He must act in **pure grace**, for His own sake, for the glory of His own name, fulfilling the promises He made. **Isaiah 43:22-28**.

Fifth and finally, the Lord tells the nation that He will pour out **His Spirit** and His blessings upon their descendants. **Isaiah 44:1-5**. This will occur in the end times.

Verses 1-7 form the first unit; verse 1 is the topic sentence

Isa 43:1 But now, thus says the Lord, **your Creator**, O Jacob, And He who **formed you**, **O Israel**, "**Do not fear,** for I **have redeemed you**; I have called you by name; **you are Mine**!

In light of Isaiah 42:18-25, chapter 43:1-7 is bursting with the **incredible grace of God**.

Verses 1-7 are intimate and personal.

"**You/your**" are said 19 times in these 7 verses. "**I/my**" are said 17 times in these 7 verses.

He created them. He formed them into a nation. Now He redeems them in spite of their sins. He called them to be His chosen nation out of all the peoples in the world. "You are Mine. I created you for My glory. You are precious in My sight, and I love you." "And I am yours: your God, your Creator, your Savior. I am always with you."

The Lord's message is unmistakable: You are loved, comforted, protected, and secure.

Notice that 42:24-25 are written in the past tense. The Lord acted in judgment in the past. On the other hand, 43:2-7 are written in the present and future tenses. The Lord will now act in **grace**.

Judgment is past, and blessings are coming.

By the way, past, present, and future are all from the point of view that Isaiah adopts in chapters 40-66. As we have seen many times, Isaiah's prophecies usually contain both a near and a far fulfillment.

Near: the judgment will be the Babylonian captivity. The blessing will be the return of exiles to Jerusalem.

Far: The judgment will be the Tribulation period. The blessing will be the return of Christ and the kingdom He will inaugurate.

Notice verses 5-6.

This passage clearly points to the near prophecy of the Lord delivering His people from the hands of the Chaldeans. See **Isaiah 48:14-20**.

Yet it also points, ultimately, to <u>the second coming of Christ</u>, when the Lord will gather Israel from the four corners of the earth. See **Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:12; Matthew 24:31**

Isa 43:7 7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

What the Lord says to Israel in verse 7 He can also say to us as the church, the body of Christ.

In fact, He has done these things for us in a **much greater** way than He did even for Israel.

CALLED: Saints! Romans 1:7; Colossians 3:15; 1 Peter 5:10,11 CREATED: The NEW creation! 1 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:24 FORMED: The Body of Christ! 1 Corinthians 12:18,27; Ephesians 2:20-22; Colossians 2:6-7 MADE: righteous, complete, heirs! Romans 5:19; Colossians 2:10-13; Titus 3:7

Rom 8:28-30

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.