Thursday Evening Bible Study

Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 62

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.

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**. The other witnesses do not give any testimony. Therefore, the LORD provides all of the evidence. Then the verdict is announced. **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, to fulfill 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.

We have now completed the first two units. Tonight we continue with the third one.

Verses 14-21 form the third unit.

The Lord describes His coming actions to deliver His people out of Babylon.

Once again, Isaiah starts with a near prophecy, and turns to a far prophecy.

The <u>near prophecy</u> is found in verses **14-17**

The <u>far prophecy</u> appears in verses 18-21.

Verses 18 and 19c serve as the transition from the near prophecy to the far prophecy.

The near prophecy is that the Lord will rescue His people from Babylon and restore them to the land of Judah.

The far prophecy is the same as that of verses 5 and 6, namely, the Second Coming of Christ. At that time, He will defeat the enemy nations and transform the wilderness into a flowered garden. Then, nature will join His chosen people in praising and glorifying Him.

Verses 22-28 form the fourth unit.

The Lord tells the nation that they do not deserve to be redeemed. Therefore, He must act in **pure grace**, for His own sake, to fulfill the promises He made. But first.....

In verse 22, Isaiah returns to the present to address the people of Judah at the time he was preaching. The nation is in rebellion. Verses 22-24 describe this very well.

In verse 25, the Lord breaks in to announce His gracious plan for Israel. "I am the One who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake". Later on, in chapter 53, we learn HOW He accomplished that – through the suffering of His Servant.

The Lord has forgiven our sins on the same basis – the blood of Christ. Romans 3:21-26; 4:5-7; Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:13-14. We too have been dealt with by the Lord in pure grace

In verses 26 - 27, the Lord completes His indictment of the present nation. His chief complaint is directed at the leaders of the people, the false prophets and the wicked priests.

In verse 28, he pronounces the sentence: they will go into exile in Babylon for 70 years.

Since the rebellion centered on their neglect of the Law concerning worship in the Temple, the Lord will "pollute the princes of the sanctuary". These are the Levites and priests who were responsible to perform the sacrifices and lead the people in worship.

Finally, He will discipline His people. He will banish them to Babylon and make them the object of revilement.

Verses 44:1-5 form the fifth unit.

Isaiah returns to the far prophecy of the end times.

The Lord tells the nation that He will pour out **His Spirit** and His blessings upon their descendants.. This will occur in the end times when the Messiah redeems the remnant of Israel. They will never again rebel against Him.