

Isaiah 43:1–13

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> 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 shall the flame scorch you.
- <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west;
- <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth—
- <sup>7</sup> Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”
- <sup>8</sup> Bring out the blind people who have eyes, And the deaf who have ears.
- <sup>9</sup> 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.”
- <sup>10</sup> “You are My witnesses,” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.
- <sup>11</sup> I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.
- <sup>12</sup> I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you; Therefore you are My witnesses,” Says the LORD, “that I am God.

<sup>13</sup> Indeed before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"

## ***You Are Mine*** ***Isaiah 43:1-13***

INTRO:

Have you found yourself in need of encouragement? **Isaiah 43** is a passage the LORD gave Judah to encourage them. While it is important that Israel understand the horribleness and the consequences of her disobedience to God, it is equally important that she understand God is still for the remnant of Israel who believes. This is why He gives great encouragement to His genuine people. Listen carefully to how God encourages those who belong to Him, for this encouragement is not just for Israel, but also for us.

***I. HE ENCOURAGES THEM BY RECITING WHAT HE HAS DONE (v. 1)***

***II. HE ENCOURAGES THEM BY GIVING THEM A PROMISE (v. 2-5)***

***III. HE ENCOURAGES THEM BY SHOWING THEM HIS CHARACTER (v. 10-13)***

***I. HE ENCOURAGES THEM BY RECITING WHAT HE HAS DONE (v. 1)***

**Isaiah 43:1** *“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.’”*

A. God was encouraging Israel. He began by reciting for them what He has done. The list is a fascinating one. He began at the beginning. He encouraged Jacob, because I created you.

1. They existed as individuals and as a nation because God made them. David also found great comfort in this truth.

**Psalms 139** *“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.”*

2. The evolutionist would tell us that we should rejoice for we are the product of a fortuitous joining of amino acids in some primordial pond. We are a freak accident of nature. Some comfort that is. God said, I personally made you.

B. Second, He formed them. This could just be the rhyming of thought in Hebrew poetry, or it very likely is referring to His creating them as a nation. He promised Abraham,

**Genesis 12:2-3** *“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

They were not a great nation because they had great ancestors. They were a great people because they had a great God.

C. Third, He redeemed them and called them His. We could explore how God delivered His people out of Egypt. No sooner do they get to the other side of the Red Sea, than Moses described the LORD’s deliverance as their redemption.

D. There is a great parallel to all of these for us, His New Testament people. He has created us. We must not forget God made us the way we are for a reason. He formed us into His church. Remember what Jesus said to Peter,

**Matthew 16:18** *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”*

Finally, He redeemed us. Not by our passing through the flood of the Red Sea, but through the shed blood of our Savior!

**1 Peter 1:18-19** *“You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

Because of all of this we indeed are His.

## **II. HE ENCOURAGES THEM BY GIVING THEM A PROMISE (v. 2-5)**

**Isaiah 43:2–5** *“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 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 Seba 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;”*

A. We’ve learned God did not promise us a suffering free life. Like others we are sometimes called to difficulties. The big difference for the one who knows the Lord is the essence of this promise.

*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.”*

This had to do with fording streams. They did not have bridges in those days. Instead, they would have to wade through the water. The LORD promised when the road to the celestial city leads through a river, we know He will be with us and He will keep our heads above the water. When the fires of trial come upon us, He will make sure we will not be burned.

B. This brings to mind a blessed New Testament promise in **1 Corinthians 10:13**. ***“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”***

### **III. HE ENCOURAGES THEM BY SHOWING THEM HIS CHARACTER (v. 10-13)**

Isaiah 43:10–13 ***“You are My witnesses,’ says the LORD, ‘And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. I even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior. I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you; Therefore you are My witnesses,’ Says the LORD, ‘that I am God. Indeed before the day was, I am He; and there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?’”***

A. If you ever get a prospectus from some investment firm you will inevitably find two things. First, you will read there a record of the past performance of that mutual fund. And second, you will find a disclaimer that past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Were it not for this passage at the end of this paragraph we could say this of God. Sure, You were with Your people in the past, and sure You make a promise of what You will do in the future, but how do I know that You will do what You said You will do? Here, beloved, is the answer.

B. God promised because of Who He is. First, we are His witnesses that He is the only true God (v.10). There is no God who existed before Him. I positively love the beginning of Moses' Psalm,

**Psalm 90** ***“LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”***

There is no other God. There never has been or will be any other God. This kind of shoots in the head the JW theory of Jesus being "a god" doesn't it? We can trust Him because He is God alone.

C. We also must trust Him because He alone is the savior (v.11-12). This applies to physical deliverance and to their spiritual deliverance from sin, too. They also needed salvation from sin. We see the fulfilment of this statement in the New

Testament when God sent forth His Son, born under the Law to redeem those who were under the Law. When He was born, His name was to be called, ***“Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*** If you do not have the Lord Jesus, you do not have the Savior, because beside Him there is no other who can save.

D. Finally, we can trust Him to do what he said He will do because He is sovereign (v.13). He existed before time and space, and He is supreme in power and authority. Nothing can surprise Him. Nothing can frustrate His plan. Nothing can keep Him from doing what He has promised to do. Some of the most wonderful truths about God are expressed in the rhetorical questions. God asked Jeremiah in **Jeremiah 32:27** ***“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”***

The obvious answer is no to this question. So, also we find the LORD asking His people in the end of **verse 13**, ***“I work, and who will reverse it?”*** There are times when I have done something, and someone who did not understand what I was doing undid what I did. While this can happen to us, who are humans, no one can do this to God. What He does cannot be undone.

Do you know this God, beside whom there is no other God?

Are we always aware of how Great He Is? When we see Him in His glory, we find ourselves responding as David did in **Psalm 145:3** ***“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.”***

Hymn #206 ***There Is a Redeemer***