

The Restoration Promise to God's People

Text: Isaiah 43

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Truth: God's promise remains that though the people appear in dismal condition, the nation will one day enjoy the glorious redemption by Jehovah through His Servant, their Messiah.

I. God promises His people protection and deliverance (Isa. 43:1-7).

****Fear not for I am thy Creator and Redeemer**

Why should the people not fear?

- Jehovah was their Creator
- Jehovah was their Designer
- Jehovah was their Redeemer
- Jehovah called them by their name Israel

For the many fires and waters of afflictions that would come Israel's way, God reassures them that He would not forsake, fail, or leave them (Deut. 31:6, 8; Psa. 91:3f).

"In water and fire this world will come to an end, but those whom God has redeemed will pass through such judgment in safety" (Young 142).

The promise is clear: the redeemed will be delivered and saved not from individual trials and struggles, but from the overall judgment hand of God!

****Fear not for I love you**

- *I am the Lord thy God* – powerful, covenant-making, sovereign Jehovah
- *I am the Holy One of Israel* – set apart from the people's sins and perfect in holiness
- *I am thy Savior* – the deliverer from distress and oppression to safety and peace

****Fear not for I will regather you**

"So great are the difficulties in which God's people are found and so unbelievably wondrous is the redemption God will perform that against He consoles and encourages them with the command *Fear not*" (Young 144).

Every single one of God's people, who are called by God's name, which He created for His glory, whom He formed and made, will be recalled and regathered to the land. This is a certain event for God always keeps His covenant word. While the nation had gone into exile, God was promising the nation would be brought back in its totality. The first step in that would be the nation's initial return to its land under Cyrus. That though was just a foretaste, a foreshadow of what is to come. In the future second coming of Christ, the nation will be regathered from all directions to its land (Matt. 24:31). It is also clear that not every Jew names the name of the Lord.

Truth: "Isaiah is speaking of an utterly new and supernatural work, a new creation from an Israel that was such in name only and hence no Israel, to an Israel that is one in deed and truth. To compare this work with the original work of creation is to stress its magnificence and importance" (Young 146).

II. God's challenges His people to be witnesses to the heathen nations (Isa. 43:8-13).

Was there anyone who could foretell events and proclaim the former things which the idols brought forth to pass? The answer is obvious: No one among the nations or its idols could do that.

Only the God who now predicted the regathering of the people could truly predict the future.

What is it that Israel testifies of? That Jehovah is God. That God has loved and blessed them. The nation is a living testimony to the hand of God upon them, that God keeps His Word, and that He is in fact the One who created, formed, and will deliver them. God has chosen Israel to be a witness to His Person, His character, and His acts.

III. Examples of God's power in delivering His people (Isa. 43:14-21).

God's promise was that Babylon would be totally destroyed His people would be freed from captivity.

**He sent Cyrus to Babylon to conquer the empire.

**He made a path through the sea

**He caused the Egyptians to pursue them into the sea and then caused the sea to close around them and down them

The people are implored to look to the future and not to dwell the past.

IV. Israel's failures and God's grace (Isa. 43:22-28).

For all that God had done and promised to do, the nation remained indifferent towards Him and stooped in their iniquities.

They had wearied Him with their love of false worship, and if they were to be delivered, it would truly be an act of God's grace.

Though God would forgive and deliver the nation, they still would face His punishment. Israel, chosen by God, acted as the unchosen. Yet, through it all God's grace alone and not any of the nation's merit would provide deliverance and salvation. While wholly abandoned to depravity, God was wholly abandoned to His character of justice and mercy all met in the Person of the Servant at the cross.