

The Redeemer of Israel

Isa 43:1-7 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 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; 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 — everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

In the closing remarks of Isaiah 42 God has pointed out the deafness and the blindness of His servant Israel. We are by this title made to understand that the people are a chosen people, chosen by God through whom He will in His time bring forth His Anointed One. But because there are hypocrites and rebellious ones within this "church visible" even though they have seen many things with the eye but do not observe (shamar) take note of, or respond. Also, they have heard with their ears, but they do not hear." Therefore because they do not respond in faith to these miracles they have seen or heard of (cf. Isa 42:20) One cannot help but note how similar they are to The Pharisees, the Sadducees, the hypocrites of Jesus day who rejected Him, how Jesus, quoting Isaiah said of them, "You hear but do not understand, literally do not put it together mentally, you see but do not perceive. And because of their deafness because they simply refuse to hear and blindness because they refuse to see, He once again warns them of a coming judgment wherein the land will be spoiled, they will be imprisoned in their own homes. That is, the land of Israel will come under foreign domination, not by chance, but by God's decree. When they are asked who brought this upon you, Isaiah provides them with an answer, "was it not the Lord, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, nor were they obedient to His law, therefore He has poured on him the fury of His anger (Isa 42:24-25)

Thus God warns the nation of Israel whom we may refer to as the "church visible", that their rebellion and disobedience will bring judgment upon the nation; they will be carried away into captivity and that the earthly kingdom of David will be no more. However, at the same time, once again we shall hear words of comfort to the "church invisible" within the nation. The "church invisible" is that remnant which God has reserved for Himself within the "church visible". Now as we come to the 43rd chapter of Isaiah God speaks to His elect with words of promise and comfort that they might not be discouraged by the difficult times before them. Once again we may understand that a remnant will return, that stump within the decimated forest will bring forth a shoot, a Redeemer, a Savior. God and His elect will be victorious. Understand, this is a message to the elect in Isaiah's day, it is a message to His church in our day, to His church in every age. We shall hear the message of Christ, the message of salvation as strongly here in the Old Testament as you might hope to find it anywhere in the New Testament. Once again, we shall find Christ and His Church and His message of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone as clear here in the Book of Isaiah as one finds it in the letter of Paul to the Church at Rome.

A. The Church is a creation of God - *thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel*

1. God here is not speaking of creation in general but of regeneration to the hope of a heavenly life
 - a. Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth calls them a "new creation"
- 2 *Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**.*
 - b. We may speak of self-made men, but can never speak of being self-made saints
 - c. God makes it clear here, He is not speaking of physical citizenship as one is born a citizen of a nation.

d. We are reminded of the words John the Baptist told the Jews of his day

Matt 3:7 - and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

e. Neither circumcision nor baptism avails nothing, one must be born again, born of God

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

f. Even as God's elect we too were, by nature, children of wrath even as others (Eph 2:3)

g. The message is the same in all ages, "You must be born again" whether we be Jew or Gentile – *you He has made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins* – Eph. 2:1

3 God here is speaking of redemption - *Fear not, for I have redeemed you*

a. To redeem is to ransom by means of a price

b. So here in the Old Testament we are given as it were a hint of the coming Christ and the price He would pay for our redemption

1 Peter 1:18-19 Knowing that 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

c. Here it become quite clear that Isaiah is not promising a restored nation, but a coming Redeemer who would save His people from their sins

4 We are given three reasons here why we are not to fear – Fear not:

a. God has redeemed us – we were captives of sin, we have been purchased out of our captivity

b. He has called us by name, this declares a close relationship

c. We belong to Him – *you are mine* – God can say, I made you, I purchased you

5 All the above tells us that God knows us, we belong to Him

a. This sets us apart from the reprobate

b. On that great day they will hear this words, *'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'* (Matt 7:23)

c. Whereas by grace alone we shall hear these words, *'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'* Matt 25:34

6 At the same time, God does not promise a life without trials, but He does promise to bring us safely through every trial

a. When you go through the waters, God says, "I will be with you"

b. When you go through rivers –God says, "They will not overflow you"

c. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you

d. Fire and flood are destructive elements, but nothing can separate us from the love of God

*Rom 8:35-38 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors through Him who loved us.***

CONCLUSION: Without question we have heard an evangelical message of grace and mercy.

I close with these glorious words of comfort

'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 him.'

It is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone that, *"you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's".* 1 Cor 6:19-20

Rejoice Christian – We belong to Jesus