

## **We are His Witnesses to the Glory of God**

Isa 43:8-10 Bring out the blind people who have eyes, and the deaf who have ears. 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." "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.

In the passage before us this morning we shall see the privileged place of God's people. And once again we will hear God's challenge to the ungodly world to give evidence in behalf of the gods of their making. Whether it be gods of molded clay or stone work or gods of their imaginations he challenges not the gods themselves since they are nonexistent but those who place their trust in such. This challenge is not limited to the Jews and the Gentiles of Isaiah's day, but extends to the whole of mankind. Nor is this as much a challenge to them as it is a witness by God to His church declaring His greatness and His glory. I trust you will be blessed this morning as you come to understand your glorious status in Christ this morning. Not in a self boastful manner but in humble thankfulness before God that you are privileged to be witnesses of the Most High God before the world.

### A. First God gives a call to the blind and the deaf

1. It is a call to those who have eyes but are blind, and have ears but are deaf
  - a. Calvin sees this as a call to the blind and deaf that He may grant them sight and hearing
  - b. Not as an imperative, commanding them to come, but as a work of God gathering them to Himself
  - c. This fits well with the general call God has made in the previous two verses

*Isa 43:6-7 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."*

- d. Even as Jesus did not require the deaf and blind to heal themselves nor does He require the sinner to heal himself
    - e. We are all like the man who was born blind from birth
    - f. We are recipients of the word of promise given to Paul at his conversion

*Acts 26:17-18 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'*

2. Without question Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners
  - a. Jesus would remind us that the well have no need of healing
  - b. When Jesus heard that the Pharisees were upset with Him for eating with publicans and sinners He said to them, *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Matt 9:12*
3. This is what took place on the day of Pentecost, God gave understanding, repentance and faith to the very ones who had denied and rejected Him.
4. As God brought, the remnant of His elect out of Babylon even so God delivers all His elect from their bondage of sin - He led captivity captive

*Eph 4:8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."*

5. The deliverance of the Church is here called the *ascension* of God.
    6. In a very real sense our salvation was fully completed by our Lord, after he subdued sin on the cross, conquered death at His resurrection, and having put Satan to flight rose majestically to heaven, when He now exercises His glorious reign over the church
  7. Indeed, let the nations be gathered and let the people be assembled

B. God puts forth a challenge before all as a witness by God to His church declaring His greatness and His glory

1. Previously He had made the challenge to the gods of this world

*Isa 41:21-23 "Present your case," says the Lord. "Bring forth your strong reasons," says the King of Jacob. "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; let them show the former things, what they were, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare to us things to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods;*

2. Now God calls for any man wherever he may be to bring forth a witness in behalf of their gods in order to offer evidence that their idols or idle theories are worthy of confidence
  - a. Did your gods really create all things in the foolish manner you have described?
  - b. Have you seen your gods declare the end from the beginning?
  - c. Have your gods deliver a people from their enemies
  - d. Have you gods provided a pathway thru the depths of the sea
  - e. Have you proven by your theory that, out of nothing, all the galaxies came into being by means of a great bang?
  - f. Can you prove that a cell can design itself?
  - g. Can you prove that a plant can design itself?
  - h. Can you prove that a wolf can return to the sea and become a whale?
3. Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified, that is, proven correct
  - a. I want to see your evidence not just listen to your myths
  - b. I want to see your evidence not just listen to your theories

C. Then God gives us this glorious title, *"You are My witnesses," says the Lord*

1. The evidence abounds proving the Bible to be true over and over again
2. The nations prophesied by Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream came into being as prophesied
3. The evidence of the history recorded in Scripture has been proven in archaeology time and time again
4. The more science delves into the mysteries of creation, the more the evidence of a Self-existing, Self-sufficient, eternal, all powerful, all wise Designer of all things becomes evident
5. It is the privilege of the church to proclaim that the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows forth His handiwork (Ps 19:1)
6. It is the privilege of the church to proclaim, God is, His word is truth
7. It is the privilege of the church to proclaim, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners

CONCLUSION: God calls us His servant whom He has chosen saying of us, *"that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He."*

We may know and believe God, and understand that He is the "I am"

We know this to be true because His Spirit bears witness with our spirit and instruct us in this truth

We understand because we have been taught of God (cf. Jn. 6:45)

Creation clearly reveals that God is

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse Rom 1:20*

We alone as God's people

Proclaim – the God of scripture is alone the true God

There are no other gods before Him

We have been taught of God therefore we have the privilege of bearing witness before the world the very words of God Himself; *"Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me."*

It is our greatest privilege to be His witnesses before the world