

You Are Mine *Isaiah 43:1-5*

INTRO:

Isaiah is a book of prophecy. Sometimes Isaiah spells out God's condemnation upon Israel's sin, and at other times he is God's mouthpiece to announce God's grace upon His people. Isaiah clearly presents God as both holy and gracious. As we jump into the context here in **Isaiah 43**, Isaiah has just recorded in **Isaiah 42** the LORD's judgment upon Israel's sin and idolatry.

As harsh as the judgment seems, God is still merciful to His covenant people. He turns the people's attention to God's grace. In chapter 43, Isaiah wrote God's very words as God called on Jacob not to fear, then promised to deliver them, finally, the LORD told them why He will deliver them.

I. Do Not Fear (v. 1)

II. I Will Deliver (v. 2)

III. I Will Deliver Because of My Name (v. 3-5)

I. Do Not Fear (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. Yahweh's first command is ***“do not fear.”*** He gives Israel several reasons to not be afraid. First, they did not need to fear because Yahweh created them. The LORD said it twice. This is Hebrew poetry and the repetition underlines how important this truth is to God and how vital it must be to Israel. The two names He called Israel by are synonyms yet each are loaded with history. Jacob was the name of their father that spoke of his sordid past. Israel was the name given to him when he overcame by surrendering to Yahweh's will. The second reason they need not fear was because of God's grace.

B. Third, they need not fear because Yahweh redeemed them. **(v.1)**

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you”

The LORD rhymes this thought again in **verse 3**;

“I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.”

This is parallelism again, Ethiopia (Cush) and Seba were probably places in southern Egypt. Yahweh wants them to remember what He did at the Exodus to deliver them from bondage and make them His nation.

C. Fourth. They should not fear because they are uniquely His. Several times the LORD repeats how unique Israel is on planet earth. **(Deuteronomy 4:32–35)**

“For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to

the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard. Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live? Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.”

No other peoples have ever known Israel’s blessing. The only others who know the privilege of being God’s covenant people are we, who have come to God by faith. The Apostles in **Acts 15** remind us that God was and is calling out a people for His name.

II. I Will Deliver (v. 2)

Isaiah 43:2 *“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.”*

A. Lastly, they need not fear because Yahweh promised He would see them through the worst of times. The all-powerful, creator, faithful covenant God of Israel would see them through the most difficult of trials. God never promised us a rose garden, but He did promise His covenant people that He would be with them in the trial and take them through it.

B. The three images conjure up vivid pictures from Israel’s past. First, the waters allude to the crossing of the Red Sea. It took faith to walk between the towering walls of water. God got them through. Second, the rivers most likely were the crossing of the swollen Jordan River when Israel came into the Promised Land. Finally, the fire makes us think of something yet future when Isaiah wrote. Remember the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace in Daniel?

III. I Will Deliver Because of My Name. (v. 3-5)

Isaiah 43:3-5 *“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.”*

A. Yahweh is going to do all of this because of who He is. He is first Yahweh your Elohim. This is to bring to Israel’s mind the prayer God had with Moses in Exodus 6. The LORD answered Moses’ fears by teaching Him about His name. Everything that the LORD God did in Egypt was to teach Egypt and Israel that He is Yahweh.

B. Yahweh your Elohim is also the Holy One of Israel. This is one of Isaiah's favorite phrases. Let me give just one example, **(Isaiah 41:14)**

“Fear not, you worm Jacob, You men of Israel! I will help you,’ says the LORD And your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”

The point is that the Yahweh whom we must give and account to is Holy. He also cannot treat us sinfully.

C. Yahweh is their Savior. He provided and delivered Israel. He is also our Savior. We can be His because He sent His Son, Yahweh saves (the Lord Jesus) to die for us.

D. Yahweh loves His people. This is the greatest comfort of all. Our God is not an impersonal God. He loved Israel. He loves His children today.

Do you know this Lord as your Lord and Savior? You can.