

## A Trek Through Isaiah 53: 43:1-21

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July 9, 2017

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For this week: Israel's captivity and liberation (part 2) 43:1-21

### Context

- The book of the King (6-37)
  - Who is the Lord of History?
  - Ended with a prophecy of Israel going into captivity in Babylon.
- The book of the Servant (38 - 55)
  - How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?

<b>Universal Consolation (40:1 - 42:7)</b>	
<b>The LORD's Plan Unfolded (42:18 - 44:23)</b>	
<b>Israel's captivity and liberation 42:18 - 43:21</b>	<b>Israel's sin and redemption 43:22 - 44:23</b>
Diagnosis: in captivity 42:18-25	Diagnosis: in sin 43:22-24
Remedy: unchanging divine care 43:1-7	Remedy: redemption and the Spirit 43:25 - 44:5
The LORD, Savior and only God 43:8-13	The LORD, Redeemer and only God, contrasted with idols 44:6-20
Redemption from Babylon 43:14-21	Redemption from sin 44:21-23

Remedy: Unchanging divine care 43:1-7

- The LORD **redeems** His people. 43:1

1 But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

- But now thus says the Lord,
  - Another "But God"
  - Here God's character is revealed: He will not abandon His people even though they have abandoned Him.
- Three basis
  - Created you...formed you.
    - He created them as a people.
    - The existence of the nation Israel is a continuing witness to the true God.
  - redeemed you.
    - He is their kinsman-redeemer: the next-of-kin who takes upon himself the obligation of a helpless relative and delivers them from bondage by paying a price
    - Looks forward to the Cross
  - Called you by name...you are mine.
    - He has a personal relationship with them.
    - In Hosea pictured by the marriage relationship.
      - Hos 2:14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.
      - Hosea 2:20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.
    - Being unfaithful to the LORD is pictured as adultery
      - Dt 31:16 Then this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them.

- The LORD **preserves** His people. 43:2

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

- Diverse trials are coming
  - When you pass through the waters...through the rivers...through fire
- God's people will be preserved
  - They shall not overwhelm you...not be burned...not consume you
- Why?
  - I will be with you.
- Contrast the Egyptians at the Red Sea

- Five reasons for His **care** 43:3-4

3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. 4 Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

- I am the Lord.
  - Yahweh.
  - Revealed in the exodus as the One who delivers His people.
- Your God.
  - Has a personal relationship with His people.
- the Holy One of Israel.
  - Divine and separate from evil.
  - In covenant with His people
- Your Savior.
  - The One who saves them from their sins.
- I give Egypt as your ransom
  - In the Exodus when it came to a choice between Israel and Egypt, the LORD chose Israel and gave Egypt up.
- (I give) peoples in exchange for your life.
  - Other nations are conquered and disappear, while Israel continues
- Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you
  - Israel's position with God
  - (1) precious in my eyes (2) honored (3) I love you

- The LORD **gathers** His people. 43:5-7

5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. 6 I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

- Fear not, for I am with you
  - Repeating the comfort
- Your offspring.
  - Offspring. The nation Israel.
- everyone who is called by my name
  - The elect.
  - As Ro 9:6 For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel...
- East...west...north...south
  - Indicates the totality of the dispersion
  - A picture of being estranged from God.
- I will bring
  - Worldwide gathering
- Created...formed...made
  - Their Creator
- For My glory.
  - God's honor is at stake

No other **Savior** 43:8-13

- Many gods. Practical question: Who can save? Courtroom scene.
- Court convened 43:8-9

8 Bring out the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! 9 All the nations gather together, and the peoples assemble. Who among them can declare this, and show us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to prove them right, and let them hear and say, It is true.

- V8-9a Call to assemble.
  - Bring out the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears!
    - Judah who had God's word could have seen and heard
  - All the nations gather together, and the peoples assemble.
    - All the nations with their false gods.
- V9b The issue announced
  - Who among them can declare this, and show us the former things?
    - Same test: who can tell the future?
    - If "this" is the coming conqueror then "former things" are former prophecies.
    - If "this" is past events then "former things" are former fulfilled prophecies.
- V9c Call for witnesses.
  - Let them bring their witnesses to prove them right
    - The case will be decided according to the evidence.
  - let them hear and say, It is true
    - Them.
      - The assembled court.
    - hear and say, It is true.
      - Deliberate and decide.

- The LORD's witnesses 43:10a

10 "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. ...

- "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen,
  - The servant nation of 41:8
  - The blind and deaf of v8
- that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.
  - The ideal: what Judah should have been.

- Verdict. 43:10b-13

10 ... Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. 11 I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. 12 I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and I am God. 13 Also henceforth I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?"

- V10-11 God's uniqueness
  - In nature. Not formed as pagan gods,
  - In works. No other Savior.
- V12 The former events
  - I declared and saved and proclaimed
    - Recalling the Exodus
    - God gave His word.
    - God delivered His people
    - Moses explained what had happened and what it meant
  - You are my witnesses
    - These works are part of Israel's national history
- V13 The future events
  - Henceforth. Going forward
  - there is none who can deliver from my hand
    - Sovereign
  - I work, and who can turn it back?
    - Does all according to His will.

Liberation and exodus 43:14-21

- **Babylon** defeated. 43:14-15

14 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I send to Babylon and bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice. 15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."

- Redeemer.
  - Delivering from bondage
- the Holy One of Israel...your Holy One
  - Emphasis on God's holiness may look past political liberation to the greater problem of being right with a holy God..
- For your sake.
  - For His people
- I send to Babylon and bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice.
  - This did not happen when Babylon fell.
  - General description of the fall of the world city.
- Four titles
  - The Lord. Yahweh. Personal name
  - your Holy One
  - the Creator of Israel
  - your King

- A **way** in the wilderness. 43:16-21

16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 17 who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 18 Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20 The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, 21 the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

- V16-17 The future illustrated by the past
  - Pictures from the Exodus and the journey through the wilderness
- V18-19a The future is not bound by the past
  - Remember not...nor consider
    - Not “don’t remember or think about”
    - Rather, the new things are so great that the old things are no longer dwelt upon.
  - I am doing a new thing.
    - Near term: the return under Cyrus
    - Final fulfillment in Christ’s redemption of believers
- V19b-21 Deliverance to praise
  - The LORD’s works
    - A way in the wilderness
    - Rivers in the desert
  - His people’s response
    - Chosen, formed
    - To declare His praise
    - As 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

This concludes the first track of God's plan to deal with His people's captivity

- The problem 42:18-25
  - 42:22 But this is a people plundered and looted... with none to say, "Restore!"
- The LORD's unchanged care of His people 43:1-7
  - 43:1 Fear not, for I have redeemed you
- The LORD's sovereign ability to save 43:8-13
  - 43:11-13 I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior....I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand;I work, and who can turn it back?"
- The LORD's deliverance 43:16-21
  - 43:19 ...Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

## Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

1. **Unchanging divine care 43:1-7**
  - a. **The Lord redeems His people**
  - b. **The Lord preserves His people**
  - c. **The Lord gathers His people**
2. **No other Savior 43:8-13**
  - a. **All the nations assemble.**
  - b. **Who can declare these things?**
  - c. **I am the Lord.**
3. **Liberation and exodus 43:14-21**
  - a. **Babylon defeated**
  - b. **A way in the wilderness**
  - c. **Declaring His praise**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week: Israel's sin and redemption 43:22 - 44:23

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