

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 261 – He That Formed Thee Through Israel Reproached (Isaiah 43:1-28)

### 1. What reasons did God give Israel that they should not have feared?

Redemption, God being with them, God protecting them, God gathering the dispersed, and a reminder of why He created them for Himself: *“But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him” (Isaiah 43:1-7).*

- God created all of mankind (**Genesis 1:27**, **Deuteronomy 4:32**, **Isaiah 45:12**, and **Malachi 2:10**).
- Specifically, and specially, He created Israel for Himself (**Deuteronomy 32:9** and **Isaiah 44:21**). This does not nullify the fact that He created all of us for His pleasure (**Revelation 4:11**). Israel just had a special part in His plan (**I Chronicles 16:13-23**; cf. **Genesis 22:18**).
- He was their redeemer physically (**Exodus 6:6**, **II Samuel 7:23**, and **Psalms 25:22**) and now spiritually (**Galatians 3:13** and **I Peter 1:18-19**).
- He was there for His people when they obeyed Him (**Exodus 19:4-6**).
- He loved them and sacrificed other nations for them (**Proverbs 11:8** and **Proverbs 21:18**).
- With God, they should not have feared (**Isaiah 41:10**, **Deuteronomy 20:1**, **Deuteronomy 31:6**, **II Chronicles 20:1-17**, and **Psalms 46:1**).
  - Be mindful that under the Old Law these things meant physical protection. For us, we have a spiritual relationship with our Father. His not forsaking us (**Hebrews 13:5-6**) is about spiritual blessings (**Romans 8:28-39**). Physically speaking, Christians are very vulnerable to attack (**Matthew 5:10-12**, **Acts 12:1-2**, **Acts 14:22**, **Acts 16:23-25**, and **II Timothy 3:12**).
  - Remember, the seed of Abraham had to remain alive to bring Christ into this world (**Genesis 22:18**).
- He would gather the scattered people He created (**Jeremiah 3:14-19**, **Hosea 1:10-11**, and **Acts 2:1-41**).

2. Did God want witnesses to His words and actions?

Yes: *“Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears. Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth. Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God. Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it”* (Isaiah 43:8-13).

- Spiritual blindness and deafness (Isaiah 6:9, Isaiah 44:18, Jeremiah 5:21-22, Ezekiel 12:2, and Acts 26:18).
- God wants the world to see and hear His challenge (Isaiah 45:21-22 and Isaiah 46:8-10).
- God wanted His people to testify of His works as witnesses (Isaiah 44:8-9, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:32, Acts 3:15, Acts 10:39, and I John 4:14).
- There is no other Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Zechariah 14:1-9, Mark 12:29, and Ephesians 4:4-6; cf. John 10:30) or Savior (Hosea 13:4 and Acts 4:10-12).
- He is the declarer, not any other god (Isaiah 48:1-6).
- God is the eternal one (Psalms 90:1-4, Habakkuk 1:12, I Peter 1:18-20, and Revelation 1:8).
- None can deliver out of His hands (Deuteronomy 32:39, Psalms 50:22, and Hosea 5:14). His is Almighty (Genesis 17:1, Isaiah 13:6, Joel 1:15, and Revelation 16:7).

3. Why did God bring down the Chaldeans?

For the sake of His people: *“Thus saith the Lord, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships”* (Isaiah 43:14).

- **Jeremiah 50:17-18 and Jeremiah 51:24.**

4. How did God describe His power and might as the King of Israel?

Able to make paths in mighty waters and to destroy armies: *“I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King. Thus saith the Lord, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters; Which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power; they shall lie down together, they shall not rise: they are extinct, they are quenched as tow”* (Isaiah 43:15-17).

- God’s power displayed through this imagery, which is also accurate with His past actions (Exodus 14:4, Exodus 14:21-31, and Exodus 15:4).

5. Why did God tell Israel not to remember the former things?

Because He was going to do something new: *“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise” (Isaiah 43:18-21).*

- Rightly dividing the word of truth (**II Timothy 2:15**) requires us to conclude that God is not telling them to literally forget the past (**Deuteronomy 4:9, Deuteronomy 4:23, Deuteronomy 6:12, Deuteronomy 8:19-20, Deuteronomy 9:7, Psalms 78:5-7, Proverbs 3:1, Hosea 4:1-6, Romans 15:4, and II Corinthians 10:1-12**).
- Rather, He is establishing that He was going to add to the things with He did something new so that their might see again His might (**Isaiah 42:9**).
- This could even point forward, because of the imagery of things formed in the desert, to the preparations for Jesus coming (**Isaiah 40:1-5**; cf. **Luke 3:1-5**).
- His people have a purpose, to show forth His praise (**I Peter 2:5-9**).

6. Had the children of Israel been distancing themselves from God?

Yes: *“But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel. Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense. Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities” (Isaiah 43:22-24).*

- They weren't calling upon Him (**Daniel 9:13**).
- Calling upon God would have been good for them (**Zechariah 13:9**).
- They had a history of when they did sacrifice, it was not right (**Malachi 1:13**).
- Instead, they burdened the Lord with their sins (**Isaiah 63:7-10** and **Malachi 2:17**).

7. For whose sake did God blot out the transgressions of Israel?

His own sake: *“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isaiah 43:25).*

- He is the one that blots out transgressions (**Isaiah 44:22** and **Micah 7:18**).
- Why? As addressed earlier, for His sake (**Isaiah 37:35-38**). Not that they weren't benefits of this as we addressed earlier (v. 14).
- The time wherein He forgot their sins is surely not under the Law of Moses, but rather a looking forward to the New Testament of Jesus Christ (**Jeremiah 31:31-34** and **Hebrews 10:1-18**).

8. What/whom did God want them to put in remembrance?

Him: *“Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified” (Isaiah 43:26).*

- God wanted them to reason with Him (**Isaiah 1:18**).
- This is a plea from God to them that they might remember Him (**Isaiah 44:21**).
- They would be the beneficiaries of remembering the Lord by receiving justification (**Isaiah 45:25**). Realizing that justification did not come through the Law (**Galatians 3:11**).

9. Why did God give Israel the curse and reproaches?

Because of the continued errors of those before and present from fathers to teachers: *“Thy first father hath sinned, and thy teachers have transgressed against me. Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches” (Isaiah 43:27-28).*

- The language of “first father” very well could point back to Adam (**Romans 5:14**).
- Sin in Israel went back to the fathers and continued in a like manner (**Numbers 32:13-14** and **Psalms 106:6**).
- Their teachers were like their fathers (**Zechariah 1:4-6**).
- Their sins and those of their fathers (**Daniel 9:16**).