

16 Reasons to be Thankful

Isaiah 43:1-7

→ Good evening, Truth Bible Church! It is a blessing to be with you to reflect on the many reasons we have to be thankful.

→ And while there are SO many things we could talk about, I want to direct your attention to one of my favorite OT passages...

** Open your Bibles to Isaiah 43:1-7*

→ As you're turning there I want to remind you that this chapter is addressed to ancient Israel, so the wonderful promises given in this chapter were given to THEM.

→ But because we have been "grafted in" to the Messianic Hope by grace through faith...

...because the NT says that what was written in the OT was written for our instruction and encouragement...

...and because each of the things taught in Isaiah 43:1-7 are repeated in the New Testament...

= We can draw application for ourselves from these amazing portions of Holy Scripture.

[Isaiah 43:1-7]

** This amazing text gives me 16 reasons to be thankful:*

1. I should be thankful...Because I am redeemed

[v.1b: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you"]

- To "redeem" someone is to pay the price necessary to release them from bondage and give them freedom.

- I am no longer a slave to sin, for Christ paid the price to free me, and ["If the Son sets you free you are free indeed -John 8:36].

2. I should be thankful...Because I've been called by name

[v.1c: "I have called you by name"]

- God called Abraham by name. He called Moses by name. He called David by name. He called the apostles by name. And the NT teaches He calls us each by name:

[John 10:3 "He calls His own sheep by name."]

3. I should be thankful...Because I belong to God

[v.1d: "you are Mine!"]

- When God redeemed me from my slavery to sin, He didn't leave me out in the cold on my own—He brought me into His family as an adopted son.

[Rom. 8:14-16]

4. I should be thankful...Because God will never leave me

[v.2a: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”]

- In this life, we pass through some really dark, stormy seas. And like the disciples, we can begin to fear that we’re going to sink.

[Mark 4:35-40]

- Beloved, when we pass through dark and stormy seas, we need to remember that the Lord is with us.

= He will never leave us or forsake us. He cares. And even the wind and the waves obey Him!

5. I should be thankful...Because temptations will not overwhelm me

[v.2b: “And (when you pass) through the rivers, they will not overflow you”]

- If you’ve ever fallen overboard while whitewater rafting, you know what it feels like to be swept downstream by a powerful current, and you know how hard it can be to pull yourself back into the raft.

- That’s how it can feel when we’re struggling against the powerful pull of our temptations.

[1 Cor. 10:13] = If you’re sinking, grab God’s hand!

6. I should be thankful...Because God will protect me

[v.2c: “When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.”]

- Like the first two phrases in v.2, this phrase uses powerful illustrative language to tell us that God will protect and preserve us until the number of days ordained for us have been completed, and He calls us home to heaven.

- But while the language is illustrative, many years after this was written, God proved to the exiles in Babylon that when He wills, He can literally nullify the power of the flames.

[Dan. 3:13-27]

7. I should be thankful...Because Yahweh is my God

[v.3a: “For I am Yahweh your God”]

- The name of God, Yahweh, encompasses all of God’s attributes, but it especially emphasizes His lovingkindness and covenant faithfulness.

- When He makes a promise, He keeps it.

[Deut. 7:9a: “Know therefore that Yahweh your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness...”]

8. *I should be thankful...Because the Holy One is my Savior*

[v.3b: "The Holy One of Israel, your Savior"]

- I am not righteous, and neither are you.
- So in order to be saved, we need a righteousness that is not our own.

[Rom. 3:10-24] [Phil. 3:7-9]

9. *I should be thankful...Because God ransomed Israel*

[v.3c, 4b: "I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place...I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life"]

- What does this mean? What seems strange at first makes sense when you study the historical context.
- The ancient world had its own form of international law, and one of those is that when a nation was defeated in battle, a ransom had to be paid in order to free them from captivity.
- That ransom could be paid in money, in land, or in providing servants or soldiers, but it had to be paid.
- These verses are saying that Israel will be delivered from the Babylonian captivity, but instead of Israel paying the ransom by giving up their land, God would substitute land from Egypt, Cush, and Seba instead.

- There is sharp irony here: Egypt, the nation that had enslaved Israel would now have to pay the price of Israel's redemption by taking their place as subjects of the Medo-Persian empire.

- This prophecy came true over 150 years after it was written. After the Medo-Persian king Cyrus allowed the Israelites to return to their land, his son Cambyses annexed Egypt, Cush, and Seba.

Tim Dane cites Pfeiffer: "[God] had granted to the Persians, beforehand, as a reward for releasing captive Israel from Babylon, the country of Egypt and a portion of Ethiopia as additions to their empire (these being added in the reign of Cambyses, son of Cyrus)." (Dane, 348).

= That historical fact should remind us that God is sovereign over the nations, and that He always keeps His promises.

10. *I should be thankful...Because I am precious to God*

[v.4a: "Since you are precious in My sight..."]

- The OT describes Israel as "the apple of God's eye." As His chosen people, they are precious in His sight.
- And since NT believers have been "grafted in" to the Messianic Hope, we too are precious to God.

[Mt. 10:30-31: "The very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows."]

11. I should be thankful...Because I am honored by God

[v.4b: "You are honored"]

- I don't need to fear the opinions of men, because what God thinks of me outweighs every human opinion.

- And by grace, God has made me His child and therefore clothed me with eternal honor.

[1 Pet. 2:9: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"]

12. I should be thankful...Because God loves me

[v.4c: "...and I love you."]

- 1 John 4:18 says that perfect love casts out fear. And God loves me with a perfect love!

[Rom. 8:35-39]

13. I should be thankful...Because God is with me

[v.5a: "Do not fear, for I am with you."]

[Ps. 46:2-3: God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride."

14. I should be thankful...Because God will fulfill the end-times prophecies

[v.5b-6: "I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth."]

- The eschatological promises to Israel are a reminder that nothing can thwart God's plan or keep him from fulfilling His covenant promises.

[Heb. 6:13-20]

15. I should be thankful..Because I'm called by God's name

[v.7a: "Everyone who is called by My name"]

- In this verse, we get a glimpse of the inclusion of the gentiles in the blessings of the gospel.

- EVERYONE who is called by God's name will be gathered in to Messiah's kingdom.

[Acts 15:6-18] [Rev. 3:12]

16. I should be thankful...Because I was created for God's glory

[v.7b: "Whom I have created for My glory"]

[Ps. 139:14: I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

*****16 reasons*****

I should be thankful:

- 1. Because I am redeemed: v.1b**
- 2. Because I have been called by name: v.1c**
- 3. Because I belong to God: v.1d**
- 4. Because God will never leave me: v.2a**
- 5. Because temptations will not overwhelm me: v.2b**
- 6. Because God will protect me: v.2c**
- 7. Because Yahweh is my God: v.3a**
- 8. Because the Holy One is my Savior: v.3b**
- 9. Because God ransomed Israel: v.3c, 4d**
- 10. Because I am precious to God: v.4a**
- 11. Because I am honored by God: v.4b**
- 12. Because God loves me: v.4c**
- 13. Because God is with me: v.5a**
- 14. Because God will fulfill the end-times prophecies:
v.5b-6**
- 15. Because I am called by God's name: v.7a**
- 16. Because I was created for God's glory: v.7b**

= May we be truly thankful for all that God has done for us!

Isaiah 43:1-7

I should be thankful...

1. Because I am redeemed: v.1b

I should be thankful...

2. Because I have been called by
name: v.1c

I should be thankful...

3. Because I belong to God: v.1d

I should be thankful...

4. Because God will never leave
me: v.2a

I should be thankful...

5. Because temptations will not
overwhelm me: v.2b

I should be thankful...

6. Because God will protect me: v.2c

I should be thankful...

7. Because Yahweh is my God: v.3a

I should be thankful...

8. Because the Holy One is my Savior:

v.3b

I should be thankful...

9. Because God ransomed Israel:
v.3c, 4d

I should be thankful...

10. Because I am precious to God: v.4a

I should be thankful...

11. Because I am honored by God: v.4b

I should be thankful...

12. Because God loves me: v.4c

I should be thankful...

13. Because God is with me: v.5a

I should be thankful...

14. Because God will fulfill the end-times prophecies: v.5b-6

I should be thankful...

15. Because I am called by God's
name: v.7a

I should be thankful...

16. Because I was created for God's
glory: v.7b

I should be thankful...

1. Because I am redeemed: v.1b
2. Because I have been called by name: v.1c
3. Because I belong to God: v.1d
4. Because God will never leave me: v.2a
5. Because temptations will not overwhelm me: v.2b
6. Because God will protect me: v.2c
7. Because Yahweh is my God: v.3a
8. Because the Holy One is my Savior: v.3b
9. Because God ransomed Israel: v.3c, 4d
10. Because I am precious to God: v.4a
11. Because I am honored by God: v.4b
12. Because God loves me: v.4c
13. Because God is with me: v.5a
14. Because God will fulfill the end-times prophecies: v.5b-6
15. Because I am called by God's name: v.7a
16. Because I was created for God's glory: v.7b