

October 5, 2025

## Study Guide: *Isaiah – Longing for Home*

Text: Isaiah 43:14–28

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### 1. Setting the Scene

Isaiah writes as if God is on trial. Israel (Judah) is about to enter exile in Babylon, and the people question whether God is truly good, powerful, and their Redeemer. In this “courtroom drama,” God declares His character, reminds them of His past works, and promises something new.

Just like a John Grisham novel with unexpected courtroom twists, this text calls us to wrestle with hard questions and find hope in God’s surprising ending—His promise of redemption.

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### 2. Key Themes

- **God our Redeemer (vv. 14–21)**
    - A Redeemer is one who has the right and power to buy back what is His.
    - God reminds His people of His past deliverance (the Red Sea) but warns them not to cling only to past experiences—He is doing something new.
    - The Redeemer is not just about past acts, but about His person and ongoing work.
  - **Our Rejection (vv. 22–24)**
    - Israel failed to honor God in worship. Instead, they turned to idols.
    - They wearied God with sin, refusing His gift of redemption.
    - Sin places humanity in a hopeless condition, unable to save itself.
  - **Our Redeemer Still (vv. 25–28)**
    - God confronts the futility of trying to reach Him apart from Him.
    - Yet, in mercy, He declares: *“I, I am He who blots out your transgressions ... and I will not remember your sins.”*
    - God’s ultimate “new thing” is revealed in Jesus—our Redeemer who rescues us from sin and gives us new life.
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### 3. Scripture Focus

- **Isaiah 43:14–15** – God’s opening statement: “I am your Redeemer, Holy One, Creator, and King.”
- **Isaiah 43:16–19** – Past redemption (Red Sea) vs. new redemption (streams in the desert).

- **Isaiah 43:22–24** – Israel’s rejection and misplaced worship.
- **Isaiah 43:25** – God’s closing statement: “I blot out your transgressions ... I will not remember your sins.”

Cross references: Exodus 14; Jeremiah 2:13; Luke 22:19–20; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

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#### 4. Discussion Questions

1. Why does Isaiah present God as if He were “on trial”? How does that relate to our own doubts in hard times?
  2. What does it mean for God to be our Redeemer? Which part of the definition resonates most with you?
  3. Why do you think God tells Israel both to *remember* His past works and to *forget* them (vv. 16–18)?
  4. How do we sometimes treasure God’s past acts more than God Himself?
  5. In what ways do we reject God today—choosing “other gods” or self-sufficiency?
  6. How does Isaiah 43:25 point us toward the gospel and the work of Jesus?
  7. How does communion serve as a reminder of God as Redeemer, not just His acts of redemption?
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#### 5. Life Application

- **Personal:** Identify one area where you have placed God “on trial.” How does this passage reshape your view of Him as Redeemer?
  - **Spiritual:** Ask God to show you where you are clinging to past experiences instead of seeking Him in the present.
  - **Community:** How can you remind others that God is still redeeming and doing new things today?
  - **Worship:** When taking communion, focus not only on the cross event but on Jesus Himself—our Redeemer.
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#### 6. Key Takeaway

God is not just the One who redeemed in the past, but the Redeemer who is still at work—doing new things. Our sin may weary Him, but His grace is greater: “*I, I am He who blots out your transgressions ... and remembers your sins no more.*”