

The Book of Isaiah

Chapter 43

God Confirms His Covenant with Israel

In the midst of God's condemnation of Israel for their worship of other gods in the form of idol worship, God underscores His continual care and relationship with His chosen people, Israel. And though they have forsaken Him, God will not forsake them. Though they denied Him in word and deed, God will not forsake them.

I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. ... (Ro 11:1-2)

Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD. (Jer 31:35-37)

God's Creation and Care for Israel (vs. 1): Notice the verbiage in this verse:

- 1. Created thee:** God created the nation of Himself, it was a creative sovereign act in choosing one man Abram. (cf. vs. 15 cf. Genesis 12:1-3).
- 2. Formed thee:** Out of Jacob came the 12 tribes but these twelve tribes God will form a **GREAT NATION**. This forming Israel into a nation took place after coming out of Egypt.

And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, here am I. And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: (Ge 46:2-3)

It was following Egypt in preparatory to going into the land among the nations that God gave them a national Law, Statutes, and Commandments to govern them. It was also at this time that God called them to be not only a Holy nation but a kingdom of priest to the rest of the nations:

And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: (De 26:5)

For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? (De 4:7-8)

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Ex 19:6)

3. Redeemed thee: God redeemed them from their house of bondage¹:

But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (De 7:8)

4. Called thee: God gave His nation a specific calling a calling that God will not revoke:

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. (Ro 11:26-29)

The closing summary statement, "Thou art mine" (vs. 1)

¹ God redeemed Israel by thus, the institution of the slaying of the Passover lamb Exodus 12. It is also worthy to note that in sparing the firstborn of Israel that God purchased the tribe of Levi to be His (Numbers 3:12-13).

God's Preservation of Israel (vs. 2-4): Just as God has brought Israel through the Red Sea and the Jordan River and delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace so He will do for the Remnant in the coming Tribulation period.

Israel is "precious" in God's sight (vs.4). The apple of God's eye.

He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. (De 32:10)

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. (Zec 2:8)

God's Regathering of Israel (vss. 5-7): God will regather the people of Israel from among the nations, from the "east" from the "west" the "north" and the "south".

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. (Isa 11:11-12)

Following the Lord's return and establishment of His kingdom, He will gather His people, the Remnant of Israel, from among the nations from which they were "hid" and "scattered" upon the persecution of the antichrist (Matt. 24:15-21).

God's Witness, Israel (vss. 8-13): God starts off with the challenge to the Gentile nations who are as their idols, blind and deaf (vs. 8). They are unable to produce any witnesses of those who among them (idols or otherwise) can show the "former things" the future (vs.9).

But Israel is God's witness to the foretelling and majesty of God (vs. 10). They are to be a witness of the all-knowing all-powerful God (vs. 10).

Israel witnessed: 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 (stop) it? (Isa 43:11-13)

Israel had seen all the might works of God. They have witnessed to the reality of a multitude of prophecies that came true. Who among the nations could stop one of them from coming to pass. Does this not witness to the reality that all prophecy that is yet to be fulfilled will be. Thus, look at the next verse (**vs. 14**).

God's Prophecy Concerning Babylon (vss. 14-17): Babylon did not rise up as a world power until a century after the time of Isaiah. This would hint at what is *historical* concerning Babylon for us, as well as that which is *prophetical* concerning Babylon (**Revelation 18:17-19**).

God's Prophecy Concerning the land of Israel (vss. 18-21): The challenge is God will do a "new thing" something prophetical. It is concerning the "highway" for God's people in which God will provide a "way" for them to come into the land. Once in the land, the land will be rejuvenated, and God's chosen people will show forth praise.

God's Complaint Against Israel (vss. 22-25): The complaint against Israel is that of there worship and adoration of Idols. There is complete and utter neglect for their God.

Israel's Failures:

1. Not called on God (**vs. 22**)
2. Not given to God even the smallest offering (**vs. 23**)
3. Not honored God with acceptable sacrifices (**vs. 23**)
4. Not given God anything "sweet" or that cost them money (**vs. 24**)
5. Not given God their best (**vs. 24 cf. Gen. 4:4; Num. 18:12, 29**)

God has been drug through the mud and filth of Israel's sinfulness (**vs. 24**). God is wearied of their continual sinning:

Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. (Isa 1:14-15)

However, the Lord will remember their sins no more and blot them out **(vs. 25)**. Notice this was done for His name's sake the "I AM". **(Exodus 3:14-15; 5:22-23 – 6:8)**.

God's Plea to Israel (vss. 26-28): "Put me in remembrance, let us plead together" The cry from a broken heart can almost be heard here as God pleads with His people to **"remember"** Him **(vs. 26)**.

God is asking Israel to call to remembrance all that they have done and what God has done and see if there is any self-justification on Israel's part. For from the time of their creation (Abraham²) they have sinned, and their teachers have transgressed **(vs. 27)**.

Therefore, Israel merited all the curses that befell her **(vs. 28)**. These are the curses stated under the Law contract according to **Lev. 26 and Duet. 28:15-68**

² Abraham was their first father (51:2; Ezekiel 16:3). He sinned and lied about Sarah (Gen. 12:13; 20:2, 13).