

ISAIAH 43

Israel Precious to Yahweh

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1 But now thus says Yahweh, he who created (ברא)¹ you, O Jacob, he who formed (יצר) you, O Israel:

Fear not, for I have redeemed² you. I have called you by name. You are mine. 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.³ 3 For I am Yahweh your God (יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ), the Holy One of Israel (קִדְוֵשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל), your Savior (מוֹשִׁיעֶךָ). 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. 5 Fear not, for I am with you. I will bring your seed (זָרַע) 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 (יצר) and made (עשה).

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.

Israel to Witness Yahweh Is God

10 You are my witnesses, declares Yahweh, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. 11 I, I am Yahweh, and besides me there is no savior. 12 I declared, saved, and proclaimed when there was no strange god among you. And you are my witnesses,⁴ declares Yahweh, and I am God. 13 Also henceforth

¹ Yahweh specially created Israel as his vehicle to redeem and bless the nations. Israel does not derive from the nations.

² Israel, the redeemer of the nations, needed herself to be redeemed.

³ Judgment of flood and fire will not destroy Israel.

⁴ See *Witness Testimony*.

I am he (אֲנִי הוּא). There is none who can deliver from my hand. I work, and who can turn it back?

14 Thus says Yahweh, 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 Yahweh, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.

Yahweh Is Doing a New Thing

16 Thus says Yahweh, 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.

Yahweh Burdened with Israel's Sins

22 Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob. But you have been weary of me, O Israel!
23 You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings or wearied you with frankincense.
24 You have not bought me sweet cane with money or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins. You have wearied me with your iniquities. 25 I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Yahweh Will Temporarily Deliver Israel to Destruction

26 Put me in remembrance. Let us argue together. Set forth your case, that you may be proved right. 27 Your first father sinned, and your mediators transgressed against me. 28 Therefore I will profane the princes of the sanctuary, and deliver Jacob to utter destruction and Israel to reviling.

Notes