

Segment 3: Isaiah 43 and 44

God's Promised Redemption for His People

Isaiah 43:1 "But now...

This section will cover God's redemption of His people and comes after the prophecy at the end of chapter 42. In that chapter, we read that God's people, His servant Israel, were blind. They were trusting in other gods, and therefore they were laid waste, plundered, despoiled. They had become a prey with none to deliver (Isaiah 42:14-25). These truths had been revealed time and time again for the people of God. If they put their trust in Yahweh, they would be blessed. However, if they forsook the commandments of God and followed other gods, they would have consequences for their disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:1ff). The nation of Israel had experienced this truth throughout their history. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was at this time in captivity in the land of Assyria. Judah had recently suffered greatly at the hands of the Assyrians. Under King Hezekiah, they experienced a brief revival, only to turn again to idolatry under King Manasseh. At the time this was written, Judah was not yet in that condition. The judgment on the nation of Judah actually takes place during the Babylonian captivity, about 100 years after the prophecy in Isaiah.

Not only does God declare judgment that would come upon the people of God, but He also had promised redemption/restoration if they would repent. Furthermore, He promised that the persecutors of God's people would be punished (Deuteronomy 30:1-7).

Here in Isaiah, not only does God declare punishment for idolatry, but He also prophesies of His promised redemption. In about 100 years after the prophecy of Isaiah, the nation of Judah is brought into captivity into Babylon. Then, after about 70 years in captivity, the Judeans return home to their promised land under King Cyrus, the Persian Emperor.

Isaiah 43:1-2 God has redeemed His people.

Isaiah 43:3-4 "I have given Egypt as your ransom; Cush and Seba in your place." Cush and Seba also represent this area of Egypt. Under King Cyrus, his son Cambyses II conquered Egypt, and Persian rulers were in charge in the land. Egyptians never ruled their own land again until the 20th century.

Isaiah 43:5-7 God will gather His people from the ends of the earth.

Isaiah 43:8-13 Yahweh is God.

Isaiah 43:14-21 Deliverance from Babylon

Isaiah 43:22-28 But the children of Israel sinned and transgressed. In the midst of incredible prophecy about future deliverance, God reminds the nation of their transgression.

- Consign (give over) Jacob to the ban (the curse). Deuteronomy 13:12-17
- Israel to revilement. Psalm 79:1-9; Ezekiel 5:14-15

Isaiah 44:1-8 God will bring a blessing on descendants of Israel. He is God, and He has declared it.

Isaiah 44:9-20 Idolatry is futile.

Segment 4: Isaiah 45 and 46

Yahweh's Redemption; God's Calls Cyrus by Name to Subdue Nations

Isaiah 44:21-23 Remember and return to me, O Jacob, for Yahweh has redeemed you.

Isaiah 44:24-28 Jerusalem was not yet destroyed by Babylonians. The temple was still standing, but God's justice was coming upon His people. Through King Cyrus, Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt again.

Isaiah 45:1-17 This is an amazing prophetic declaration about King Cyrus, the Persian (Ezra 1:1-4). Again, this prophecy was made before Jerusalem was destroyed. It was made before the temple was destroyed.

Isaiah 45:18-25 God had declared it. None other could declare these things.

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God and there is no other."

Isaiah 46:1-2 Bel has bowed down. Nebo stoops over.

Bel or Bel Marduk is the chief god of Babylon. Nebo or Nabu is the Babylonian god of wisdom and writing. These gods of Babylon bow down in disgrace (Is 21:9).

Isaiah 46:3-7 False gods, idols are compared to the one and only true God.

Isaiah 46:8-13 God declares the end from the beginning. He declares things from ancient times, things that have not yet been done. He is God, and there is no one like Him.

The immutable counsel of God

Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:17-19; Psalm 33:8-11; Isaiah 14:24-27

We can have hope because God's Word is true and faithful (Revelation 19:9; 21:5; 22:6).