

Part II, Lesson 10

# Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

Fear

Not

Israel

Isaiah

44:1-8

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex*

*Curriculum*

# Isaiah Part II, Lesson 10

## Fear Not, Israel

### Isaiah 44:1-8

God called Israel to attention. He said, “But now listen...” He said, “This is what the Lord says— He who made you...” We might have said, “Listen up!” Read Isaiah 44:1-5.

He called them servants, chosen ones, His creation, those who He will help. God calls and knows His people. He knew them from before the time that the world was created. He knew them when they were the dream of Abram. God promised Abram that he would be the father of a great nation. God has been with them every step of the way. He has known them as no one else could know them.

In Isaiah 43:27, God had called Israel a sinner from the beginning. Now Isaiah declares that Israel is God’s chosen nation, the people God had chosen for His purpose. God said that He had shaped them, before they were born, to be His servants. In Galatians 1:15, Paul said that he also was shaped for God’s service before he was even born. God can, and will, see to it that His people are ready for service...and it seems that He makes us ready while we are still being carried by our mothers.

Jacob’s name was changed by God to *Israel*. That name probably means something like “one who prevails with God.” Here He refers to Israel as Jeshurun. (Jes’-U-run) This name, though there is disagreement among Bible students, most likely means “honorable one.” So God called Israel by the name Jacob, which means “supplant,” or “to come from behind,” like a runner who overtakes the front runner. And He also calls them the honored ones whom He has chosen.

God told Israel not to be afraid. Though things look bad right now, there is no reason to fear. God is about to rescue them. Right now it seems as if they are living in a desert, “a thirsty land.” It is a barren place. God promised that their descendants would be many; like blades of grass in a meadow or like many trees that grow at the edge of streams of water.

This promise would have cheered the Babylonian captives. The greatest blessing a man could have in those days was many children. It was a sign of good fortune. It was a sign of God’s blessing on a family. As captives, servants in Babylon, they were limited, but God’s promise was that there would be a time when there would be no more limits.

These descendants would, at some time in the future, see a pouring out of God’s Spirit. It would be a blessing from God. This, according to most Biblical students, is speaking of the end of time, when Jesus returns to take His people home to Heaven.

It should be noted that this great expansion of numbers includes the fact that they will not all be Israelites. In chapter forty-five, verse fourteen, there is the prediction that many other nations will join Israel in their belief in God.

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## Fear Not Israel

We find two important statements in verse five. First, there is the fact that many will state their belief in God. One will say, “I belong to the Lord.” Another will say that he or she has joined the ranks of God’s people, that is “call himself by the name of Jacob.” Another will have “the Lord’s” tattooed on his hand. He will call himself or herself one of God’s chosen. This is the Old Testament way of saying that these people will be “saved” by their statement of faith in God, their testimony.

This is the second fact: When a person comes to God in faith, they will want to join the people of God. At that time the people of God were the people of Israel. Today, the people of God are the church. When a person comes to God in faith, they will want to be with God’s people. When people come to God through faith in Jesus, they will want to be part of God’s people, the church.

God then assures the captives 1)Who is talking and 2)what He is able to do. This is reassurance that God can keep His promises. Read Isaiah 44:6-8. There is no god but God.

They can depend on God. There are five strong statements about God’s dependability:

1. God said that He was Israel’s king. (Verse 6) He is their redeemer, He brought them out of Egypt, and He is going to bring them out of Babylon. He is the first and the last. There was none before Him and there will be none to outlast Him. There is no other God. He is the only one.
2. God dared any other god to show himself. (Verse 7) If any god can claim to be like God, just speak up. If there is a god who can do it, let him tell the history of this world and what God had done in it. And, oh yes, let that god tell what is in the future. Any worthwhile god could foretell the future.
3. God wanted Israel to quit trembling with fear. (Verse 8a) Actually, God commanded them not to tremble in fear. That was the wrong thing for the people of the great and only God to do.
4. God is dependable because He knew what was going to happen before it happened. (Verse 8b) God not only knew what was going to happen, but He told His people what He knew before it happened.
5. Israel was to be God’s witnesses to His greatness and His uniqueness. (Verse 8c) There is no other God. There is no other rock. God is the strong defender of Israel. He is their rock.

If God is your God, all this applies to you. He is the God you can trust, and you can tell others that they can trust Him also.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** “I am the first and the last; apart from me there is no God.” Isaiah 44:6b

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to know that they have nothing to fear, when God is their God.

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## Fear Not Israel

### Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. What four things did God call Israel?
2. Why would the promise of many children have cheered the Babylonian captives?
3. It should be noted that this great expansion of \_\_\_\_\_ includes the fact that they will not all be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Another will have “the Lord’s” \_\_\_\_\_ on his hand.
5. What are the five strong statements about God's dependability?

#### Page Four

**Scripture Memory:** “I am the first and the last; apart from me there is no God.” Isaiah 44:6b

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.