

Part II, Lesson 8

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

Israel's
God And
His
Assignment

Isaiah
43:1-13

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex
Curriculum*

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 8

Israel's God And His Assignment

Isaiah 43:1-13

Israel knew that God had chosen them. God continues the poem which began in Isaiah 42. The poem has changed from accusation to encouragement. Read Isaiah 43:1-7.

God calls Himself their Creator; He “formed” Israel. This sounds like the first verses of Genesis. God *formed* the earth. Later He met with Abram, whose name He changed to Abraham, to discuss his future. God told Abram that he would be the father of a great nation. Abraham’s great-grandson Joseph brought his family to Egypt where they grew in number until they were a group of people who Egypt’s rulers began to fear. Then God delivered them from slavery in Egypt and gave them a homeland. He *formed* Israel.

Next God says that He redeemed them. They had been in slavery in Babylon and now God is going to set them free again. He said that He knew their name and that they were His. What a wonderful thought. God-of-all-there-is says that He knows your name and claims you for His own. Wow!

Then God promises that He will be with them. He said, “When you are in over your head, I’ll be there with you. When you are in rough waters, you will not go down. When you are between a rock and a hard place, it won’t be a dead end—because I am God, your personal God, The holy of Israel, your Savior.” This is the translation of the Bible called “The Message.” The short version—God had their backs. They were going to make the long journey back to Judah. Nothing would be able to stop them.

God called Himself their Savior. This picture is used many times in these last chapters of Isaiah. He is the one who is going to bring them out of captivity or save them from suffering. God said that He would pay any price for them (like giving the nations Egypt, Cush and Seba as a ransom).

Then, God speaks one of the most beautiful promises in the whole Bible. He said that this small bunch of slaves, trapped in a foreign land, with no greatness or power of their own were to Him: precious, honored and loved. He would reunite families. He will tell the whole world that they are to free the sons and daughters who have been spread to the four winds. He declares that everyone who is called His children, all those He created and made for Himself is now to be known and respected as His.

The fact that God speaks of individuals in verse seven, points out that during this period of Israel’s history there was a shift from thinking of God’s relationship as being with the nation to God’s relationship being with individuals. Verse one in this chapter speaks of God’s relationship with Israel, where verse seven speaks of God’s relationship being with individuals.

The next verses speak of God’s assignment to Israel. Read Isaiah 43:8-13. This is a new poem, but one on the same subject as the one in the verses preceding it. This is the next step. God redeems us and then we become His witnesses.

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Israel's God And His Assignment

This poem begins with a trial scene. All the nations and Israel are called before the court. God is the judge. This reminds us of the fact that our church, or our Bible Study Group, is only a small part of the Kingdom of God. All the nations of the world are called...not just Israel. Israel is described as “those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears, but are deaf.” They had been witnesses of all that God had done in the past, but they did not understand or recognize God’s presence among them.

The other nations, not Israel, are invited to present their case, to prove that they are right. This was a challenge to the false gods worshipped by these nations. They got to speak first. They were to explain what, according to their gods, was the meaning of history. What did their gods say about what had happened in the world up to that point? When all the nations are in court, and they have opportunity to make their case, the court is to hear and say, “It is true.”

Then God called on Israel. He said that Israel was to occupy the witness box and be God’s witness. Israel could testify to God’s purpose in history and how He was carrying out that purpose. This was their story. They were the chosen of God. They were the ones who had experienced what God had done and what He would continue to do. From His call to Abram to that very day, He had moved in the life and history of Israel. They knew what God had done and this history made sense to anyone who would listen.

Every Christian is chosen by God and that honor comes with responsibility. Each of us, in our day, are witnesses as to what God can do. We should consider it an honor to be assigned this task by God Himself.

Finally, God said that He was speaking to the nations through the Israelites. He gave them words to use in their description of Him and their testimony of who God is. First, He said that He was their redeemer. This word is also translated savior. The Christians used that word to describe Jesus, who came to save the lost.

He said that He was the “Holy One of Israel.” We remember that title as being used by Isaiah and many of the other prophets to refer to God. He said that He was the Lord, their Holy One, Israel’s Creator, their King. He said that He was the One who made a way through water and who conquered armies...blowing them out like they were a candle.

His last word was “forget the past.” They were about to be freed by King Cyrus and sent back to Judah. It was time for a new beginning. God had a beautiful plan for them. God’s advice is for Israel and for us.

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

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Scripture Memory: “You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He.” Isaiah 43:10

Lesson Goal: To let students see the picture of who God really is, and understand His challenge to be His witnesses.

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Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. God said that He knew their _____ and that they were His.
2. They were going to make the long journey back to _____. Nothing would be able to _____ them.
3. What is “one of the most beautiful promises in the whole Bible.”
4. What is the trial scene?
5. Israel is described as “those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears, but are deaf.” What does that mean?
6. Every Christian is _____ by God and that honor comes with _____.
7. God said that He was the _____, their _____ One, Israel's _____, their _____.

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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.