

Part II, Lesson 9

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

God Is
Merciful,
Israel Is
Not Faithful

Isaiah
43:14-28

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex
Curriculum*

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 9

God Is Merciful, Israel is Not Faithful

Isaiah 43:14-28

The Scripture lesson today begins with a greeting from “your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.” This is an unmistakable message from God to His people who are captives in Babylon. Read Isaiah 43:14-21.

Isaiah was preaching to those who were being held in slavery by Babylon. They had been there for many years and many of them had prayed for God to rescue them. In these verses God is telling them how He will accomplish that.

First, He said that the Babylonians would be attacked. (Isaiah is not specific here, but in history, we know that King Cyrus II of Persia invaded Babylon and conquered them in 540 BC.) The Babylonians would try to escape, God said, in “the ships in which they took pride.” These ships were probably the decorated boats used to float their idols down the Euphrates river during their New Year Festival.

It is very interesting to see things in verses sixteen through twenty-one that remind us of what happened in the exodus of Israel from Egypt. The “way through the sea” reminds us of the parting of the Red Sea. The chariots and horsemen lying there, never to arise again, reminds us of the drowning of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea. The “way in the desert” reminds us of God’s leadership of Israel through the desert with a cloud by day and a fiery column by night. The “water in the desert and streams in the wasteland” remind us of God’s provision of water in the desert as the people of Israel spent forty years there.

Probably when the people heard this message, they, too, were reminded of the exodus and heard God promising them just such a successful escape from the Babylonians. They should also have heard God’s challenge to them to sing His praises. God doesn’t need our praise and Israel was not created in order to praise God. Praise for God just bursts forth from grateful hearts when we recognize all that God has done and experience His love. Praise is for our benefit.

Remember in the second verse of this chapter God said that they would not drown in high water nor be burned by fire. Their promise, in that case and in our reading today, was that God, their God, would be with them.

In verse eighteen, God told Israel to “forget the former things.” He did not want the people to get stuck in the past. He wanted them to look forward to their own exodus. This was going to be glorious. It was going to make them think of what happened in the past as old stuff. God told the captives that something new was in the air. He said, “Look, it is happening right before your eyes.”

Notice the way God refers to Himself. In verse fourteen He refers to Himself as Redeemer. In verse fifteen He refers to Himself as Creator and King. It would seem that even the order of these titles is important. First, God redeemed Israel from the Egyptians. They were just a bunch of slaves making bricks. God sent

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Moses to Egypt to lead them out. He worked out what would be necessary to get them free and get them out of Egypt. He was their Redeemer. Then He organized them and gave them their own law by which to live. He was their Creator, “my chosen, the people I formed (created) for myself...” (Verse 21) And, when they would let Him be, He was their King. Do you see the order? God was reminding them again, in this way, that they owed their life and their freedom to Him.

We could apply this order to God’s church today. He redeemed us and we are saved. He brought us together in fellowship and created the church. He rules over the church, in Christ. He is our King. We should find in this our mission. We are His redeemed people, created to do His work and looking to Him, our King, for guidance and strength.

Next, God said that Israel had disappointed Him. Read Isaiah 43:22-28. God must remind His people of their sin. He lists numerous failures, like a prosecutor would present crimes to a judge or jury:

1. They had not “called on God.” He had chosen them, but they had not chosen Him. It is interesting to know that in Hebrew the order of the words is, “Not me did you call on.” They had called on other Gods, but had not called on the true God.
2. They had not followed through with His instruction for worship. The sacrifices were not being made.
3. They had become “weary” of God. Doing what they understood that God expected of them made them tired of it all, and they had just quit worshipping, praying to and praising God.

God invited the Israelites, children of Jacob, to bring evidence before Him. He uses language that reminds us of His invitation earlier in Isaiah to, “Come let us reason together.” He is willing to listen to their side of the story, but He reminds them that their “first father sinned.” This probably refers to Jacob. He also said that their spokespersons (kings, prophets and other leaders) rebelled against God.

The future of Israel looked pretty bad, Israel could even have been subjected to scorn (ridicule). It was only what they deserved. They had brought it upon themselves, as the judgment handed down in this trial.

However, look at what is placed in the very center of this bad picture. God said, “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions.” God is emphatic, “I, even I.” Their sins are not visible anymore...blotted out. And, God assures them that He is doing this “for My own sake.” It does not depend on them or their goodness. They could never earn it.

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

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Scripture Memory: “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.” Isaiah 43:25

Lesson Goal: To show students the mercy of God, even when His people disappoint Him.

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God is Merciful, Israel Is Unfaithful

Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. Who would attack Babylon and conquer it?
2. What things in verses sixteen through twenty remind us of the exodus from Egypt?
3. Praise for God just bursts forth from _____ hearts when we recognize all that God has _____ and experience His _____.
4. What three things did God list as the failures of Israel?
5. What did God place in the center of the bad things recorded in verses twenty-two through twenty-eight?

Page Four

Scripture Memory: "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more." Isaiah 43:25

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.