

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Lesson #6 January 3, 2023-January 8, 2023

Unit II. GOD’S Promises

Subject: Fear Not!

Text: Isaiah 43:1-4, 10-12

Key Verse:

Now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine (Isaiah 43:1, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

1. **GOD’S Love Extended (Isaiah 43: 1-3)**
2. **GOD’S Love Explained (Isaiah 43: 4, 10-12)**

Key Terms:

1. **Chosen-chosen ones; divinely elected, selected.**
2. **Honored -distinguished; glorified; respected; “honorable” (KJV).**
3. **Redeemed: acted as kinsman; bought back; claimed.**

Background:

Despite Judah’s unfaithfulness, GOD never wavered in His faithfulness toward them. GOD stood by His promises to restore the nation after the Babylonian captivity, assuring them that because of His love there was no reason to fear. Even in captivity, the people of Judah were still GOD’S people, His own creation. They were the natural descendants of the Israelites whom GOD led out of Egypt through the Red Sea. GOD’S word to the people through Isaiah was that He would keep every one of His promises to them. He would bring them out of Babylon, through the wilderness, and safely back to their homeland-Judah-the land He had given them. In acknowledgment for His blessings, GOD expected that His people would turn toward Him, and away from idols once, and for all, and that they would be a faithful witness to the world that He is the one true GOD.

Introduction:

What is it that connects us as believers to GOD? Is it our righteousness, our holiness, or our spiritual heritage? Or is it GOD Himself? In our lesson today, the LORD spoke to His people through the prophet Isaiah to remind them of the ties that bind them to GOD. We as believers are mere recipients of what GOD has given and done on our behalf. GOD created, redeemed, and called us (verse1); GOD watches over us with His omnipresent care (verse 2); and GOD covers us with divine love (verse4). Believers though we are like the people of ancient Judah, are connected to GOD not by our merit or goodness, but because of the unfailing love and mercy of a GOD who loves us despite ourselves and our shortcomings.

Lesson Pointer #1

- **GOD’S Love Extended (Isaiah 43: 1-3)**

The opening words of the text, “But now” (verse 1), marks a transition from the message of chapter 42, which closes with the fury of the LORD’S anger and punishment (Isaiah 42:7). By contrast, chapter 43 begins with a tender message from the GOD who “created,” “formed,” “redeemed,” and “called” Israel (verse 1). Isaiah 43-45 stresses that GOD alone would free His chosen people from captivity and restore them to the promised land. In Isaiah 43:1-4, Israel’s GOD declared that He brought “Jacob” (Israel) into existence. Also, it was the LORD who formed Israel. *GOD is worthy of our attention, trust, and obedience.* In (Isaiah 43:1 KJV) we see how GOD as not only Israel's Protector not only called them by name but also in doing so signaled that they belonged to Him.

The all-powerful LORD of Israel stood in sharp contrast to the powerless and lifeless idols of Babylon. In (verse 2) the all-powerful LORD pledged that His people would not drown, even in the deep waters of difficulty. This likely alludes to Israel's crossing the Red Sea and Jordan River (Exodus 14: 21; Joshua 3: 14-17). GOD in His Protection prevented the Israelites from being consumed by the flames of oppression (Psalm 66: 12; Daniel 3: 25-27). We further see in (Isaiah 43:3), that GOD proclaims that He alone was the LORD and GOD of His chosen people. GOD pledged to give the nation of Egypt as a "ransom" to free His people. In exchange for their deliverance, the Creator would offer up "Cush" (the territory south of Egypt), or "Seba" No cost was too great to make on behalf of Israel to secure its well-being.

Lesson Pointer #2

- GOD'S Love Explained (Isaiah 43: 4, 10-12)

In (verse 4), GOD made the threefold declaration that His people were "precious," honored, "and "loved". This being the case, the LORD would not hesitate to hand over people such as their Babylonian oppressors, in exchange for the life of the exiles. Judah's sins had made them undeserving of such honor, But GOD is forever consistent with His Word. "(Love) keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13: 5, NIV), and "love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4: 8, NIV). As a nation, the Israelites had experienced the great works of the LORD did on their behalf. So, they were a logical choice to be GOD'S "witnesses" (verse 10). It was reasonable to expect them to serve their Maker. After all, the LORD had graciously chosen His people to know and trust Him, as well as to understand that He alone is GOD. The pagan world regards many false gods (2 Kings 23: 13; Ezekiel 20: 32). Only the eternal, living GOD, the Redeemer of Israel is real and able to deliver people as "savior" (verse 11). No other entity can claim to be the LORD, and no other could assert to be the rescuer of Israel. Only GOD can declare what He will do and then successfully bring it to pass. Judah knew this to be true and was called upon to affirm it. The nation was to testify that the LORD alone is GOD (verse 12). Throughout the Israelites' history (verses 10-12), they were tempted to abandon their faith in the LORD and give their allegiance to other gods and goddesses. And yet none of the idols the other nations venerated had ever foretold and executed the deliverance of His people such as GOD had alone.

We as believers in CHRIST should not forget that only GOD can save and therefore, truly protect us. Isaiah makes this clear by GOD'S own statement: "I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior" (Isaiah 43: 11, KJV). Each of us has a special and unique story. It may not be as dramatic as the story of others, but our story is precious to our LORD and should have been told us. Describing the things GOD has and is doing for us may not seem newsworthy, but helping us see the beauty around us, relieving our fears, and calming our angers are just a few of the blessings that the LORD bestows upon us, and those blessings can be what touches others' hearts and reaches their souls.

In conclusion, consider the following nuggets.

- Is it difficult for us to talk about JESUS to others?
- Is it important to JESUS that we tell our "story" to others?
- Do we have a "story" to tell?
- Can telling our "story" draw us as well as others closer to GOD?

Boldly tell your "story" and vow to testify.

Remember, GOD'S love for us restores and protects us as well as inspires us to share HIS LOVE with those who need His LOVE.

DON'T BE AFRAID! "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your GOD. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41: 10)