

ISAIAH STUDY GUIDE
The Future Redemption of Israel
Isaiah 43

The theme of a righteous remnant of God's people has been promised and mentioned many times in Isaiah. Now, in chapters 43-45, Isaiah discusses the theme directly, showing how Israel will come out of captivity and begin to fulfill their purpose as God's witnesses to the nations. Ultimately, this purpose really did not begin to be fulfilled until Jesus came and established his church, beginning with the twelve apostles.

Isaiah 43 may be outlined as follows:

- I. Israel redeemed (vv. 1-7)
- II. Israel revived (vv. 8-13)
- III. Israel restored (vv. 14-21)
- IV. Israel rebuked (vv. 22-28).

Israel redeemed

Ironically, Israel would be delivered *through* the experience of captivity in Babylon. The Book of Daniel shows how that those who decided to heed Isaiah's message, and turn to the Lord in repentance, were shown favor by their captors. Egypt and the surrounding nations did not fare so well. The people of God would return to their land.

Israel revived

While in captivity, God's people would experience a revival of heart and mind. Again Isaiah speaks in terms of a lawsuit to see whether Israel will agree with God. Isaiah knows that when God's people are reminded of the Word of God in the place of captivity, they will turn and be witnesses to the world that there is only One True God.

Why is tragedy often the springboard for revival?

Israel restored

God delivered Israel from Egypt at the beginnings of the nation. Now, Isaiah declares, God will deliver his people from Babylon as well. Isaiah said before, "Who can recall the former things?" But he preaches a message for the future and says, "Do not recall the former things." God is going to do something new, a complete restoration. It will begin with deliverance from Babylon and end with deliverance from the world. His people will praise the LORD, as they were created to do.

Israel rebuked

In verse 22, Isaiah returns his focus to the present time and gives a strong rebuke. The people have not yet turned to God. He reminds the people that only the Lord can forgive sins, but the people are listening to false prophets who tell them what they want to hear. God will allow the temple to be defiled in order to shock the people back to the truth.

How can you be sure to hear God's Word in times of prosperity?