

THE PEOPLE GOD WILL NOT GIVE UP  
Isaiah 43

Intro: In this chapter Isaiah was continuing with his messages of comfort.

We see some repetition.

- 1) Repeatedly the people are told not to fear!
- 2) Also, we have the Lord saying over and over, "I am the Lord." This expression is very prominent in the OT, and suggests that the failure of His people to remember this was the reason for many of their troubles.
- 3) Another thing that we see is that the Lord had chosen them, had redeemed them, and had kept them. This thought recurs here in chapter 43.

If we want to build up our assurance as the people of God, this section of Isaiah's prophecy is a good place to do just that. In Isaiah 43 we are confronted with a God Who would not give up with His people. There is no greater comfort from this.

Many would say that this contributes to the looseness, the disobedience, and to other sins in the people of God, but just the opposite is true. The people who are most assured of their relationship to God are the people who are the most faithful. The Lord knows that, and so never ceases to lavish His love upon His people.

And so here in Isaiah 43 we have more words of comforting assurance as we see how intent God was on keeping His people.

There are four parts to the chapter:

- 1) Vv. 1-7.
- 2) Vv. 8-13.
- 3) Vv. 14-21.
- 4) Vv. 22-28.

I want to follow those divisions in this message--each showing that God would not give His people up.

- I. GOD WOULD NOT GIVE HIS PEOPLE UP TO THEIR TROUBLES (Isa. 43: 1-7).

Vv. 2, 4, and 6 seem to indicate that these are troubles which have come upon the people of God because of their sins. In Israel and Judah's cases they were scattered because they had been disobedient to the Lord. Warning after warning had been given to them, starting with Moses himself, and then continuing with the prophets, but the people had not listened to the warnings. Consequently, the hand of God had moved against them. But even then God would not give up on them!

Note the comfort in v. 2. What child of God has not had a time in his life when these verses have kept him going?

Not only does the Lord promise His presence, but He promises that the troubles of His people will not really hurt them.

Why did the Lord feel this way about them?

The answer is manifold.

First, notice the similarities between verses 1 and 7. Five times in these two verses the Lord speaks of the fact that He had created Israel for Himself: twice in v. 1; three times in v. 7. They were a special creation for God!

Not only that, but look at the expressions that are used to describe what the Lord has done for them, and how He feels about them:

- 1) V. 1 -- "I have redeemed thee."
- 2) V. 1 -- "I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."  
This is the effectual call of God, particular in nature, as the Lord claimed for Himself those whom He had made for Himself.
- 3) V. 4 -- "I have loved thee."
- 4) Vv. 3, 4, leading on to vv. 5, 6 -- in v. 3, "I gave"; in v. 4, "therefore will I give"; in v. 5, "I will bring"; in v. 6, "I will say."

The Lord was saying here that He had sacrificed nations before for His people, and that He would do the same thing again!

- 5) V. 7a -- the Lord had placed His Name upon them.

Third, these promises are made even more wonderful when we realize Who is speaking! Cf. v. 1a, v. 3. And contrast these names of our Lord with what He called them in v. 1.

Finally, we see the unfinished purpose that the Lord had had in choosing them: "I have created him for my glory" (v. 7m).

## II. GOD WILL NOT GIVE UP HIS PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF THE NATIONS OR WHO THEIR GODS MAY BE (Isa. 43:8-13).

Sometimes we feel that other people may stand in the way of the plans and purposes of God. Not so!

Where did those "former things" come from? Cf. vv. 9, 12.

What a climax to this challenge to the nations and their gods is v. 13!

A third line of encouragement for them to remember in the coming days:

## III. GOD WILL NOT GIVE UP HIS PEOPLE TO THE FUTURE CAPTORS (Isa. 43:14-21).

Here, actually before Babylon had become the major power of the world, her defeat is foretold.

Three things are mentioned:

- A. The Lord would do to Babylon as He had done to Israel's enemies in the past, using Egypt for an example (vv. 14-17).
- B. The Lord would not work in exactly the same way in the future as He had in the past (vv. 18-20). This is the reason that they were told now not to remember "the former things." God is always doing something new. He does not restrict Himself to any one course of action. This keeps His people looking to Him, not to the way in which He has acted in the past.
- C. The Lord never gives up on His purposes (v. 21). Note the positive statement: "They shall shew forth my praise."

In addition to these, note Who was speaking, and how He identified Himself in vv. 14, 15.

How important it is for us in reading and/or hearing the Word of God to remember that it is the Word of GOD!

#### IV. GOD WILL NOT GIVE UP HIS PEOPLE TO THEIR OWN SINS (Isa. 43: 22-28).

Note the contrast which is introduced in v. 22. And it continues through vv. 23, and 24.

The idea seems to be this. The Lord can deliver us from our afflictions. He can deliver us from our present and past enemies. He can deliver us even from our future enemies. But is it not possible for us to ruin it all by our own refusal to do His will, and to worship Him as we should.

People sometimes make a very foolish comment about John 10:28, 29: And I give unto them (my sheep) eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

This is the comment: "Yes, but we can take ourselves out of the Lord's hand."

Can we?

Isaiah did not think so. Read Isa. 43:25, 26. It is true that God will judge us for our sins (see vv. 27, 28), but

the Lord has created us for His glory (v. 7), and He will not give up until we show forth His praise (v. 21).

Concl: Paul stated this in Phil. 1:6.

- He declared it again in Rom. 8:35-39:  
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us take comfort from this chapter. Our troubles, regardless of the reason for them, our present circumstances and the people involved in them, our future difficulties, even our own sins-- none of these things can ever make the Lord give up on us!

And these are revealed to us in the Word, not that we may give ourselves to sin, but that we may be strengthened for holy lives, and that we may set our hearts on the very purposes for which the Lord in His grace has redeemed us and said, "Thou art mine."