

BOOK OF ISAIAH

Outline

Chapters 42-43

1. CHAPTER 42 (cont'd)

Verse 9: "Behold, the **FORMER** things are **come to PASS**, and **NEW** things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Isaiah is speaking for God and is saying the FORMER things will come to PASS and something NEW is coming in the future!

QUESTION: What is this **BIG NEWS**? What is the **FORMER** that will serve its purpose and "come to pass," because it is the "schoolmaster" leading us to the **NEW**?

2. CHAPTER 43

Through Isaiah, God is saying that He and He ALONE created the nation of Israel for HIS PURPOSE in the Earth, even though the nation has been rebellious from the beginning. (A fitting picture of ALL humanity--rebellious by nature!)

Verse 1: "But 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**."

Do you remember when Jacob, (in returning to meet Esau and not knowing if Esau planned to kill him and everyone with him), wrestled with God all night? (Genesis 32) It was there at Peniel that God changed Jacob's name to Israel because something inside of Jacob had changed. He was no more the deceiver, the supplanter, but was now "Israel" for "as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed."

QUESTION: Why do the inspired scriptures say that God "**CREATED**" Jacob, but "**FORMED**" Israel?

Notice that God has "**called** thee by **thy name**." This is not just God "speaking out" a name, as in "calling out" to someone and saying the name of that person, like, "Hey, John." The Hebrew word for "**call**" in this scripture means "**to summon**." The Hebrew for "**name**" means "**position**." It is the **same Hebrew word for the son of Noah, "Shem,"** through whom the "Semitic" race would come--Abraham's lineage. Certainly God knows each person's name, but, more than that, He summons us by virtue of our position in Christ. That "position" or "name" makes us **HIS**.

Verses 2-3: "When thou passest through the **waters, I will be with thee**; and through the **rivers**, they shall **not overflow thee**: when thou walkest through the **fire**, thou shalt **not be burned**; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour..."

IMPORTANT: This is the Old Testament version of Romans 8:28. God did **not** say we would **never** encounter the deep waters and rivers. He did **not** say we would **never** encounter **FIERY TRIALS**. He did say He would be with us and that HE was in control of it all! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were LITERALLY thrown into a LITERAL FIRE. God gave us a PHYSICAL DEMONSTRATION with them, in that they were unharmed by the fire.

God was SEEN walking in the fire with them, just as He had declared through Isaiah. As Romans 8:28 promises, IF we are THE CALLED according to HIS PURPOSE, then even the most fiery trial will work together for our good. As with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, the fire only served to burn off the BONDAGES the pagan king had placed on them.

QUESTION: Can you think of a past **FIERY TRIAL** in your life that, in hindsight, you can now see God was working out a **PURPOSE** greater than the trial? Can you see any **BONDAGES** that were burnt up in that fire? (*Think about the stoning of Stephen...think about Paul being shipwrecked then bitten by the deadly "two-step" snake...think about when Paul himself was stoned and left for dead...think about John exiled on the Isle of Patmos...think about the greatest FIERY TRIAL of all--the FIERY JUDGMENT the Lord Jesus took upon Himself at the cross--THE Altar of Burnt Offering.*)

Verses 5-6: "...I will bring **thy seed** from the **EAST**, and gather thee from the **WEST**; I will say to the **NORTH**, Give up; and to the **SOUTH**, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the **ENDS OF THE EARTH.**"

Not only did the nation of Israel see a **physical** fulfillment of being brought out of **physical captivity** and back into their homeland in Old Testament times, but they saw an historic regathering as a nation in 1948. However, this scripture has a **GREATER spiritual fulfillment** in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the Cross. Because of Calvary, ANYONE from ANYWHERE--**ANY "CAPTIVE"** could be **BORN AGAIN** (that's Jacob becoming Israel--a change of NATURE) through the incorruptible SEED of the Word of God. (I Peter 1:23) Isaiah is prophesying the Gospel going to the **WHOLE WORLD**.

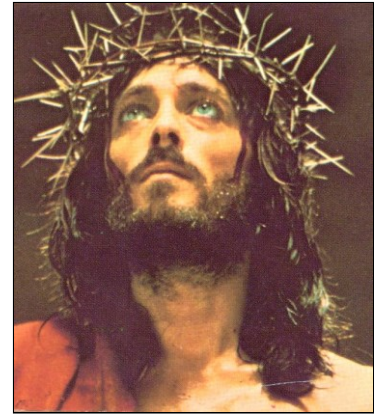
Verses 9-13: "Let **ALL** the nations be gathered together...Ye are my **WITNESSES**, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and **understand that I am He**: before me there was **NO GOD FORMED**, neither shall there be after me. **I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me THERE IS NO SAVIOUR.** I have declared, and have **SAVED**, and I have shewed...therefore **ye are my WITNESSES**, saith the LORD, **that I AM GOD.** Yea, before the day was, **I AM HE**; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?"

Again, not only is this scripture speaking to God's physical nation of Israel, but the greater fulfillment is found in those from **all nations coming to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation**. God says of physical Israel and of His Church, "ye are my **WITNESSES.**" In the New Testament, Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit is given, "ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be **WITNESSES UNTO ME** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the **utmost part of the earth.**" (That's scripture interpreting scripture, again.)

Verse 15: "**I AM** the **LORD**, your **Holy One**, the **CREATOR** of Israel, your **KING.**"

Through Isaiah, God is establishing that **HE**, the **Holy One** of Israel, will be **KING** one day. He was, indeed, **CROWNED KING** with a **CROWN OF THORNS** and was declared to be their **KING** on the Cross when Pilate had "**THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS**" written in **3 languages** (**Hebrew**--the religious language of **Covenant or the Law**; **Greek**--the

international language of **culture**; and **Latin**--the language of **human government, power and conquest**) above His crowned head. It is not without significance that it was written in the 3 major languages of that time.



His crown was **THORNS**. He, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, **CONQUERED** the **CURSE** and redeemed us from the original curse in Genesis of "THORNS and THISTLES shall it (the ground) bring forth." Remember, **2000 years earlier**, Abraham brought Isaac, his **ONLY son of the Spirit**, to **Mt. Moriah**, to offer him to God at the **future site of Calvary!** Isaac was spared because there was a **RAM** caught in the **THICKET** (thorns and thistles) by his horns.

Verses 18-19: Remember ye not the **FORMER** things, neither consider the things of **OLD**. Behold, I will **do a NEW thing**; now it shall spring forth, shall ye not know it? I will even **MAKE A WAY** in the **WILDERNESS**, and **RIVERS** in the **DESERT**."

Again, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit and speaking for God, Isaiah says that the **FORMER** is giving way to something **NEW**. He is pointing to Calvary, 700 years in the future, that the **OLD COVENANT** was leading into. The New Testament tells us that we are **NEW CREATURES** in Christ. **WE ARE NOT JUST AN IMPROVEMENT** or even an "extreme makeover," or an upgrade! We are **not "Adam VERSION 2.0!"** WE ARE, IN OUR SPIRIT MAN, SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW--SO NEW THAT THE SCRIPTURES TELL US WE EVEN HAVE A **FIFTH PART ADDED!!!** Christ is **IN** us! We've been made **ALIVE** unto God. His Holy Spirit **indwells** us! God says in Isaiah that **He is making a WAY** in the wilderness. **JESUS SAID HE IS THE WAY**. As in the Old Testament, the wilderness was named the "Wilderness of Sin." Jesus is the **WAY OUT OF THE WILDERNESS OF SIN**. God says in Isaiah that He will give **RIVERS** in the **DESERT**. Jesus said that for those who believed on him "out of **your bellies** shall flow **RIVERS OF LIVING WATER**." (John 7:38)

Verses 25-26: "I, even I, am **He that blotteth out thy transgressions FOR MINE OWN SAKE**, and will **NOT REMEMBER thy SINS**. Put Me (God) in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified."

Reaffirmation of the Covenant with Abraham: God could swear by no greater, so He swore by Himself. For **"HIS OWN SAKE"** God does **not remember our sins**. That's the **ETERNAL COVENANT** cut by God the Father with His only begotten Son upon Calvary's tree. This is **JUSTIFICATION**--just as though we never sinned!!! That's **COVENANT POWER** and **EFFICACY!!!**