

# The Book of Isaiah

## Trusting God More #23

Some of the outlines are taken from Melissa Spoelstra's book, *Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting More*.

Review of Isaiah Chapters 41. What do you remember?

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:1 KJV, Comfort ye, Comfort ye my people, saith the Lord."

### Chapter 43

Opening Discussion- What is idolatry? Why does God hate idolaters?

In chapter 43, we will see the chosen and redeemed nation **restored**. Read verses 1-7 and hear God's faithfulness to His promises. Note the promise dates to Abraham.

Read verses 8-10. Do this sound like a challenge to you? If so, to whom?

Read verses 11-12. What did God expect them to do regarding idolatry? What did God promise after they eliminated idolatry? What does idolatry look like in 2024?

When you read verses 13-15 you hear the ultimate destruction of Babylon foretold (the word Chaldeans is used).

Notice in 16-19 the reference to the crossing of the Red Sea is mentioned. Yet, we hear the word forgetting. The new thing would outshine the former thing.

- How much light does a candle provide?
- How much light does the sun provide?
- How do you compare the two?

Read Isaiah 43:18-19 KJV

Isaiah 43:18-19 KJV 18 **Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.** 19 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.

What were the former things? What are the new things?

The "new thing" speaks to the miraculous way God would regather Israel. Remember, they were in exile.

In verse 27, what do we know about Abraham? How many other people of God had faults and sins? Name a few.

In verse 28, we hear of their present condition. Thank God their present condition is not their final state.

**Chapter 44** continues the theme of chapter 43. The last chapter closed with the mention of a coming judgement. This chapter moves into the light of the coming kingdom.

Where do you hear the recurring theme of idolatry?

Today, we may not go after graven images but anything or anyone to which a person gives himself, instead of to God, is an idol. We can make idols out of money, fame, pleasure, sex, alcohol, self-adoration, and even business and family. The high point of idolatry will come in chapter 46.

Read 44:3. Here we have the promise of God to pour out His spirit upon Israel. Do NOT let this confuse you with the Day of Pentecost. This passage corresponds with Joel 2:28-32.

- All these things were not fulfilled at Pentecost.
- All that Peter said was like what Joel had promised. Joel's context is in the future.

The Spirit was not poured out on all flesh at Pentecost. We have not reached the "all" as of yet. The "all" will come in the kingdom both Joel and Isaiah spoke of.

Verse 5. The nation of Israel will confess that they belong to God in that day.

In verse 6, we hear the assertion of monotheism. Notice the title God claims in relation to His people: "King of Israel," "Redeemer," "Lord of Hosts," "the first and the last" He concludes by saying, "Beside me there is no God">

Discussion: What does that statement mean to you (or us)? What does it mean regarding idol gods? In verse 7, the Lord does what He has done so many times in the past in the book of Isaiah. He says, in essence, "If there is another god, let him come forward and declare the future." This is the REAL test.

Discussion: What differentiates God from images?

Read verse 10. How much sense does it make that the people were creating their gods instead of the gods creating the people.

Why should god makers and idol makers be ashamed?

If we are committing idolatry, should we be ashamed? Why?