

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 43 — Fear Not, For I Am With You

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 43 is one of the strongest chapters in Scripture concerning:

Identity.

Redemption.

God's presence.

Divine protection.

Witness.

Salvation.

Restoration.

Forgiveness.

The chapter begins with some of the most personal words God speaks to Israel:

“I have called you by name, you are Mine.”

This is covenant language.

Israel had failed.

Israel had been disciplined.

Israel had been described in Isaiah 42 as:

Blind.

Deaf.

Disobedient.

Yet Isaiah 43 opens:

“But now.”

Those words matter.

Judgment is not:

The end.

Failure is not:

The end.

God reminds Jacob:

I created you.

I formed you.

I redeemed you.

I called you.

You are Mine.

Then comes the famous promise:

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”

Notice:

God does not say:

You will never encounter water.

You will never cross rivers.

You will never walk through fire.

He promises:

Presence in the trial.

Protection through the trial.

The language deliberately recalls:

The Exodus.

The Red Sea.

God’s past deliverance.

Later in the chapter He explicitly reminds Israel that He made:

A way through the sea.

Destroyed:

Chariots.

Horses.

Armies.

But then He says something surprising:

“Forget the former things.”

This does not mean:

Forget God’s faithfulness.

Ignore history.

It means:

Do not imprison your expectation of God inside yesterday’s method.

The God who once made:

A path through the sea.

Can now make:

A road through the wilderness.

The old miracle involved:

Water opening.

The new miracle will involve:

Water appearing.

God is not limited to:

Repeating Himself.

He says:

“See, I am doing a new thing!”

Isaiah 43 also develops Israel’s calling as:

God’s witness.

The courtroom imagery from Isaiah 41 continues.

The nations and their gods are challenged:

Who predicted history?

Who saved?

Who declared beforehand?

Then God says to Israel:

“You are My witnesses.”

Why has God acted in Israel’s history?

So they may:

Know Him.

Believe Him.

Understand Him.

Testify about Him.

The central testimony is:

“Apart from Me there is no Savior.”

God alone:

Saves.

Declares.

Acts.

Redeems.

No one can reverse:

His work.

The chapter then exposes another painful truth.

The same people whom God:

Created.

Redeemed.

Loved.

Protected.

Called.

Did not faithfully:

Call upon Him.

Worship Him.

Honor Him.

Instead, God says:

“You have burdened Me with your sins.”

Yet immediately after exposing their guilt comes one of the greatest statements of grace in Isaiah:

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

Israel cannot claim:

Innocence.

Its fathers sinned.

Its leaders rebelled.

Its worship failed.

Its history includes:

Judgment.

So salvation cannot rest upon:

Human merit.

It rests upon:

God’s grace.

The central truth of Isaiah 43 is:

The Lord reminds His redeemed people that they belong to Him, promises His presence through waters and fire, gathers them from the ends of the earth, calls them to witness that He alone is Savior, promises a new work of restoration in the wilderness, and offers forgiveness not because Israel deserves it but because He graciously blots out transgression for His own name’s sake.

I. “YOU ARE MINE”

Isaiah 43:1 — Created, Formed, Redeemed, Called

“But now, this is what the Lord says—the One who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: ‘Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.’”

Four foundations are given:

Created.

Formed.

Redeemed.

Called.

Then:

Possession.

“You are Mine.”

Cross References

Exodus 19:5

God told Israel that if they listened to His covenant voice, they would be His treasured possession among all peoples, because the whole earth belongs to Him.

John 10:3

Jesus describes the shepherd as calling his own sheep by name and leading them personally.

1 Peter 1:18

Believers are reminded that redemption is not accomplished through temporary material wealth but through God’s costly saving work.

Spiritual Principle

Identity begins with:

Whose you are.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fear loses power when the redeemed remember:

“I belong to God.”

II. GOD DOES NOT PROMISE A TRIAL-FREE LIFE

Isaiah 43:2 — Waters, Rivers, and Fire

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not consume you.”

Notice the repeated word:

When.

Not:

If.

God's people may encounter:

Waters.

Rivers.

Fire.

But:

God is with them.

Cross References

Psalms 23:4

Even when walking through the valley of deepest darkness, the believer need not fear because the Shepherd is present.

Daniel 3:25

In the fiery furnace, a fourth figure appeared with the three faithful Hebrew men, showing God's presence in extreme danger.

Psalms 66:12

God's people speak of passing through fire and water before being brought into a place of abundance.

Spiritual Principle

God often saves:

Through.

Not merely:

From.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The promise is not:

"No fire."

It is:

"The fire will not have the final word."

III. THE HOLY ONE IS THE SAVIOR

Isaiah 43:3 — The Lord Your God

“For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I gave Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.”

God identifies Himself as:

Lord.

God.

Holy One.

Savior.

Israel’s safety rests in:

Who He is.

Cross References

Hosea 13:4

God reminds Israel that He alone has been their God from Egypt and that no Savior exists apart from Him.

Luke 2:11

The angels announce the birth of a Savior, Christ the Lord.

Exodus 15:2

After deliverance at the Red Sea, Israel praises the Lord as strength, song, and salvation.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation is not merely something:

God gives.

It reveals:

Who God is.

IV. “YOU ARE PRECIOUS IN MY SIGHT”

Isaiah 43:4 — Loved by God

“Since you are precious and honored in My sight, and because I love you, I will give nations in exchange for you, and people in place of your life.”

This is remarkable covenant language.

Israel had:

Failed.

Yet God still speaks of:

Love.

Preciousness.

Honor.

Cross References

1 Peter 2:9

God’s redeemed people are described as chosen, royal, holy, and called to proclaim His excellencies.

Zephaniah 3:17

God rejoices over His people with gladness, quiets them in His love, and delights over them.

Matthew 16:26

Jesus teaches that one human soul is worth more than gaining the whole world and losing oneself.

Spiritual Principle

God’s discipline does not erase:

His covenant love.

V. “DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I AM WITH YOU”

Isaiah 43:5 — Gathering from East and West

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.”

Again:

Fear.

Again:

Presence.

The gathering of Israel is rooted in:

God's commitment.

Cross References

Matthew 28:20

Jesus promises His disciples His continuing presence to the end of the age.

Psalms 107:3

God gathers His redeemed from east, west, north, and south.

Ezekiel 36:24

God promises to gather His scattered people from among the nations and bring them back.

Spiritual Principle

Exile cannot:

Outdistance God.

VI. GOD COMMANDS THE DIRECTIONS TO RELEASE HIS PEOPLE

Isaiah 43:6 — Sons and Daughters from Afar

**“I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back!’
Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth—”**

The directions become like:

Servants.

North:

Give them up.

South:

Do not hold them.

Cross References

Isaiah 49:22

God promises to signal the nations so that His sons and daughters are carried home.

Deuteronomy 30:4

Even if Israel is scattered to the farthest horizon, God promises that He can gather them.

Revelation 7:9

John sees a redeemed multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language before God's throne.

Spiritual Principle

Distance never becomes:

Defeat.

Before God.

VII. CREATED FOR GOD'S GLORY

Isaiah 43:7 — Formed and Made

"Everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made."

Why were God's people created?

"For My glory."

This gives life:

Purpose.

Cross References

Ephesians 1:12

God's redeemed people are saved so that their lives result in praise to His glory.

Genesis 1:27

Human beings are created in God's image.

1 Peter 2:9

God calls His people out of darkness so they can proclaim His excellencies.

Spiritual Principle

Human life finds its highest purpose in:

God's glory.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You were not created merely to exist.

You were created to reflect the glory of your Creator.

VIII. BLIND PEOPLE ARE CALLED FORWARD

Isaiah 43:8 — Eyes Yet Blind, Ears Yet Deaf

“Bring out the people who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf.”

This continues Isaiah 42.

Israel possesses:

Eyes.

Ears.

Revelation.

Yet remains spiritually:

Blind.

Deaf.

Cross References

Isaiah 6:10

Isaiah's commission included confronting a people hardened in seeing and hearing.

Jeremiah 5:21

God addresses people with eyes who do not truly see and ears that do not truly hear.

Mark 8:18

Jesus asks His disciples whether they still fail to perceive despite possessing eyes and ears.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual blindness can exist inside:

Religious privilege.

IX. THE NATIONS ENTER THE COURTROOM

Isaiah 43:9 — Let Their Gods Produce Witnesses

“Let all the nations gather together and let the peoples assemble. Which of their gods foretold this and proclaimed to us the former things? Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right, so that others may hear and say, ‘It is true.’”

The divine courtroom returns.

God challenges:

False gods.

Produce evidence.

Show prophecy.

Provide witnesses.

Cross References

Isaiah 41:22

God previously challenged the idols to explain past events and predict future ones.

Isaiah 44:7

False gods are again called to announce future events if they truly possess divine knowledge.

Deuteronomy 32:37

God mocks false gods that cannot rise to provide help in the moment of need.

Spiritual Principle

Truth can withstand:

Examination.

X. “YOU ARE MY WITNESSES”

Isaiah 43:10 — Israel’s Purpose

“‘You are My witnesses,’ declares the Lord, ‘and My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me no god was formed, nor will there be one after Me.’”

Israel’s calling has three inward purposes:

Know.

Believe.

Understand.

And one outward purpose:

Witness.

Cross References

Acts 1:8

Jesus tells His disciples they will receive power from the Holy Spirit and become His witnesses throughout the world.

Isaiah 44:8

God again calls His people witnesses to the truth that no other God exists.

John 8:58

Jesus declares His existence in language that strongly evokes divine identity and preexistence.

Spiritual Principle

A witness speaks from:

What he knows.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely want informed spectators.

He wants faithful witnesses.

XI. THERE IS NO SAVIOR BESIDES THE LORD

Isaiah 43:11 — Exclusive Salvation

“I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from Me there is no Savior.”

This is absolute.

No:

Alternative savior.

Competing deity.

Parallel deliverer.

Cross References

Hosea 13:4

God tells Israel that they know no true God and Savior besides Him.

Acts 4:12

The apostles proclaim salvation in Jesus Christ alone and no other saving name given among humanity.

1 Timothy 2:5

There is one God and one Mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical salvation is:

Exclusive.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If God alone is Savior, then salvation cannot ultimately be found in anything that is not God's saving provision.

XII. GOD HAS REVEALED, SAVED, AND PROCLAIMED

Isaiah 43:12 — Israel as Witness to God's Acts

“I have revealed and saved and proclaimed—I, and not some foreign god among you. You are My witnesses,” declares the Lord, “that I am God.”

Three acts:

Revealed.

Saved.

Proclaimed.

Then:

Witness.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:10

God reveals His saving power before the nations so the ends of the earth may see His salvation.

Deuteronomy 4:35

Israel was shown God's mighty acts so they would know that the Lord alone is God.

Acts 2:32

The apostles bear witness that God raised Jesus from the dead.

Spiritual Principle

Witness grows from:

Experienced grace.

XIII. NO ONE CAN REVERSE GOD'S WORK

Isaiah 43:13 — “Who Can Reverse It?”

“Yes, and from ancient days I am He. No one can deliver out of My hand. When I act, who can reverse it?”

God's sovereignty is:

Irreversible.

Cross References

John 10:29

Jesus says no one can snatch His sheep from the Father's hand.

Job 9:12

When God acts, no creature can simply stop Him and demand an accounting as though superior to Him.

Psalms 90:2

Before the mountains existed and from eternity to eternity, God is God.

Spiritual Principle

God's hand is:

Unchallengeable.

XIV. THE REDEEMER WILL BRING BABYLON DOWN

Isaiah 43:14 — Babylon Becomes Fugitive

“This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: ‘For your sake I will send to Babylon and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians, in the ships in which they took pride.’”

Babylon looked:

Powerful.

Future.

Threatening.

God already speaks of:

Its defeat.

Cross References

Jeremiah 50:2

Babylon's fall is announced and its idols are exposed as shamed and broken.

Jeremiah 51:11

God raises powers against Babylon as part of His judgment and purpose.

Isaiah 47:1

Babylon is pictured descending from royal pride into humiliation.

Spiritual Principle

God can announce the fall of an empire before the empire reaches:

Its peak.

XV. CREATOR AND KING

Isaiah 43:15 — The Lord's Identity

“I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.”

Four titles:

Lord.

Holy One.

Creator.

King.

Cross References

Psalms 149:2

Israel is called to rejoice in its Maker and celebrate its King.

Zephaniah 3:15

The Lord, King of Israel, is present among His people and removes their cause for fear.

Isaiah 44:6

God identifies Himself as Israel's King, Redeemer, First, and Last.

Spiritual Principle

The One who created Israel also has:

Authority to redeem and rule Israel.

XVI. GOD MADE A WAY THROUGH THE SEA

Isaiah 43:16 — The God of the Exodus

“This is what the Lord says—He who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,”

God reminds Israel:

Remember the sea.

Remember the path.

Remember what looked:

Impossible.

Cross References

Exodus 14:21

God parts the sea so Israel can pass through on dry ground.

Psalms 77:19

God’s path went through the sea and mighty waters even though His footprints could not be traced.

Exodus 15:19

Israel passed safely through the sea while Pharaoh’s forces were overwhelmed.

Spiritual Principle

The God of the impossible past remains God in:

The impossible present.

XVII. EGYPT’S ARMY WAS EXTINGUISHED

Isaiah 43:17 — Chariots and Horses Fall

“Who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:”

Egypt appeared:

Unstoppable.

Then:

Gone.

Cross References

Exodus 14:28

The returning waters covered Pharaoh's chariots and horsemen.

Exodus 15:4

Pharaoh's chariots and army were thrown into the sea.

Psalms 118:12

Enemies may surround like swarming danger yet be suddenly extinguished under God's power.

Spiritual Principle

Yesterday's unbeatable army can become:

Today's testimony.

XVIII. "FORGET THE FORMER THINGS"

Isaiah 43:18 — Do Not Live Only in Yesterday

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past."

This cannot mean:

Erase God's works from memory.

God just reminded them of the Exodus.

The point is:

Do not expect God's future work to be limited to:

Past patterns.

Spiritual Principle

Remember God's faithfulness without:

Imprisoning God inside yesterday's method.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Faith remembers the past but looks forward for the God of the past to work again in new ways.

XIX. “I AM DOING A NEW THING”

Isaiah 43:19 — A Way and Streams

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert.”

Old miracle:

Way through water.

New miracle:

Water in wilderness.

The same God.

A different method.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 5:17

Anyone in Christ is a new creation; the old passes and new life appears.

Revelation 21:5

The One seated on the throne declares that He makes all things new.

Isaiah 35:6

God’s restoration causes waters to burst forth in wilderness and streams to appear in desert.

Spiritual Principle

God specializes in:

New roads.

New streams.

New beginnings.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not stare so long at what God did yesterday that you fail to perceive what He is beginning today.

XX. EVEN THE WILD ANIMALS HONOR GOD

Isaiah 43:20 — Water in the Wilderness

“The wild animals honor Me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen ones,”

Creation responds to:

Provision.

The desert becomes:

Habitable.

Cross References

Psalm 104:11

God provides water for wild animals and satisfies the needs of creation.

Job 12:7

The animals and birds can teach humanity about the Creator’s hand in the world.

Exodus 17:6

God provides water from the rock for His thirsty people in the wilderness.

Spiritual Principle

The God who leads through wilderness also provides:

Water there.

XXI. FORMED TO PROCLAIM GOD’S PRAISE

Isaiah 43:21 — The Purpose of Redemption

“The people I formed for Myself that they may proclaim My praise.”

God formed Israel:

For Himself.

Their vocation:

Praise.

Witness.

Glory.

Cross References

1 Peter 2:9

God's chosen people are called to proclaim the excellencies of the One who called them from darkness into light.

Psalm 102:18

God's saving work is recorded so a future people may praise the Lord.

Ephesians 1:12

God's saving purpose results in people living for the praise of His glory.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption creates:

Worshipers.

XXII. ISRAEL DID NOT CALL UPON GOD

Isaiah 43:22 — The Redeemed Neglect the Redeemer

"Yet you have not called on Me, O Jacob, you have not wearied yourselves for Me, O Israel."

After everything God says:

You did not call.

What a contrast.

God:

Called Israel by name.

Israel:

Did not call upon God.

Cross References

Malachi 1:13

God's people later treated worship as burdensome and wearisome.

Amos 5:25

God questions the heart and faithfulness behind Israel's sacrificial history.

Micah 6:3

God asks what He has done to burden His people and calls them to answer.

Spiritual Principle

Grace can be:

Received.

Yet worship neglected.

XXIII. SACRIFICE WITHOUT HEART IS NOT THE ISSUE

Isaiah 43:23 — God Did Not Burden Them

“You have not brought Me sheep for burnt offerings, nor honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with grain offerings nor wearied you with incense.”

The deeper issue is:

Relationship.

Honor.

Heart.

Cross References

Psalms 51:16

God is not satisfied by sacrifice detached from a broken and repentant heart.

Micah 6:6

The prophet asks what offering could truly satisfy God apart from righteous obedience.

Hosea 6:6

God desires covenant love and true knowledge of Him above empty ritual.

Spiritual Principle

Religious activity cannot replace:

Love for God.

XXIV. ISRAEL BURDENED GOD WITH SIN

Isaiah 43:24 — The Great Reversal

“You have not bought any fragrant calamus for Me, or lavished on Me the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened Me with your sins and wearied Me with your offenses.”

Israel complained worship was:

Burdensome.

God says:

Your sin has become the burden.

Cross References

Amos 2:13

God describes being pressed down under the weight of Israel’s accumulated sin.

Ezekiel 6:9

God speaks of being grieved by hearts that turned away toward idols.

Malachi 2:17

The people wearied the Lord with corrupt words and distorted moral claims.

Spiritual Principle

Sin is never:

Light.

It grieves the God who loves.

XXV. GOD BLOTTING OUT TRANSGRESSION

Isaiah 43:25 — Grace for God's Own Sake

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

One of Isaiah's greatest grace verses.

Who forgives?

God.

Why?

“For My own sake.”

Not because Israel has:

Earned it.

Cross References

Psalm 51:1

David asks God, according to His steadfast mercy, to blot out transgressions.

Jeremiah 31:34

God promises a new covenant in which He forgives wickedness and remembers sin no more against His people.

Hebrews 8:12

The New Testament repeats the new-covenant promise that God will be merciful and no longer hold sins against His people.

Spiritual Principle

Forgiveness rests in:

God's grace.

Not:

Human merit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not forgive because we become worthy.

He forgives according to the greatness of His mercy and His redemptive purpose.

XXVI. “I WILL NOT REMEMBER YOUR SINS”

This does not mean:

God loses knowledge.

It means:

He does not hold forgiven guilt against His redeemed people.

Spiritual Principle

Forgiven sin no longer stands as:

A condemning charge.

XXVII. GOD INVITES ISRAEL TO STATE ITS CASE

Isaiah 43:26 — Prove Your Innocence

“Review the past for Me, let us argue the matter together; state your case for your innocence.”

Can Israel prove:

Innocence?

No.

The courtroom exposes:

Guilt.

Cross References

Isaiah 1:18

God summons His people to reason with Him regarding sin, cleansing, and repentance.

Micah 6:1

God brings a covenant case against His people and calls them to answer.

Job 13:3

Job longs to present his case before God, using courtroom-style language.

Spiritual Principle

Grace becomes clearer when:

Self-justification ends.

XXVIII. SIN RUNS THROUGH THE HISTORY

Isaiah 43:27 — Fathers and Leaders Rebelled

“Your first father sinned; your leaders rebelled against Me.”

Israel cannot appeal to:

Perfect ancestry.

Perfect leadership.

Perfect history.

Sin reaches:

Back.

Cross References

Romans 5:12

Sin entered humanity through Adam and death spread because all sinned.

Hosea 6:7

God compares covenant-breaking behavior with earlier transgression.

Jeremiah 2:8

Priests, rulers, and prophets all failed in their responsibilities before God.

Spiritual Principle

No generation is saved by:

Ancestral innocence.

XXIX. JUDGMENT CAME

Isaiah 43:28 — Dignitaries Disgraced

“So I disgraced the dignitaries of your temple; I consigned Jacob to destruction and Israel to scorn.”

God explains:

Judgment.

It did not happen because:

He lacked power.

It came because:

Sin had consequences.

Cross References

2 Chronicles 36:17

Persistent rebellion eventually resulted in devastating conquest and judgment upon Judah.

Lamentations 2:2

Jerusalem’s strongholds and kingdom suffered under divine judgment.

Ezekiel 7:22

God allowed His sanctuary to be profaned as part of covenant judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Grace does not make sin:

Meaningless.

XXX. TWELVE GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 43

1. God Knows His People Personally

Principle:

He calls them by name and says, “You are Mine.”

2. God Is Present in Trials

Principle:

Waters and fire do not imply abandonment.

3. God Alone Is Savior

Principle:

No created substitute can perform the work of redemption.

4. God Loves His People

Principle:

Discipline does not erase covenant affection.

5. God Gathers the Scattered

Principle:

No distance is beyond His reach.

6. We Were Created for God's Glory

Principle:

Life's highest purpose is to reflect and proclaim Him.

7. God's People Are Witnesses

Principle:

Those who know His saving acts should testify to them.

8. God Is Sovereign Over History

Principle:

No one can reverse what He determines to accomplish.

9. God Does New Things

Principle:

His faithfulness is consistent even when His methods are new.

10. Redemption Produces Praise

Principle:

The people formed for God should proclaim His glory.

11. Sin Burdens and Grieves God

Principle:

Grace should never make us casual about disobedience.

12. Forgiveness Is Entirely Grace

Principle:

God blots out sin for His own sake, not because humanity proves itself innocent.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT IDENTITY

Created.

Formed.

Redeemed.

Called.

Mine.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Your deepest identity is not what happened to you.

It is your relationship to the God who created, redeemed, and called you.

XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT FEAR

Twice:

“Do not be afraid.”

Why?

God is:

Present.

Savior.

Gatherer.

Spiritual Principle

Fear is answered primarily by:

Who God is.

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT TRIALS

Water.

River.

Fire.

All appear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's promise is not exemption from every trial but preservation according to His purpose within and through trial.

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S PRESENCE

"I will be with you."

Spiritual Principle

Presence is often God's greatest promise because it means no crisis is faced:

Alone.

XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT REDEMPTION

God says:

"I have redeemed you."

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Redemption means the life of God's people is no longer defined merely by bondage but by belonging.

XXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

“Because I love you.”

Direct.

Personal.

Covenantal.

Spiritual Principle

God's love is not inferred only from easy circumstances.

It is declared by:

God Himself.

XXXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT PURPOSE

Created for:

God's glory.

Formed to:

Proclaim His praise.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Life becomes disordered when self-glory replaces God's glory.

XXXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT WITNESS

Israel knows:

History.

Deliverance.

Prophecy.

Spiritual Principle

Witness is testimony to:

What God has revealed and done.

XXXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT SALVATION

“Apart from Me there is no Savior.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every true saving work ultimately comes from the God who alone bears the identity of Savior.

XL. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT GOD’S HAND

No one can:

Snatch from it.

Reverse its work.

Spiritual Principle

Divine sovereignty gives:

Security.

XLI. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT BABYLON

Babylon will appear:

Dominant.

God already speaks of:

Its defeat.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never interpret an empire's present strength as evidence of permanent sovereignty.

XLII. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT THE PAST

God reminds Israel of:

The Exodus.

Then says:

Do not dwell on:

Former things.

Spiritual Principle

Remembering is healthy.

Living backward is not.

XLIII. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT NEW THINGS

God's new thing is:

Already springing up.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God may begin restoration before His people have developed eyes to recognize it.

XLIV. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT THE WILDERNESS

Wilderness becomes:

Road.

Desert becomes:

Streams.

Spiritual Principle

God can make the place of deprivation become:

The place of provision.

XLV. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT WORSHIP

Israel was created to:

Praise.

Yet failed to:

Call upon God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Purpose can be known intellectually and neglected practically.

XLVI. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT SIN

Sin:

Burdens.

Offends.

Brings consequences.

Spiritual Principle

The God of grace still takes sin:

Seriously.

XLVII. WHAT ISAIAH 43 TEACHES ABOUT FORGIVENESS

God says:

I blot out.

I do not remember.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The final answer to guilt is not better self-defense.

It is divine forgiveness.

XLVIII. CALLED BY NAME

God's relationship is:

Personal.

Spiritual Principle

You are not merely:

A number.

A category.

A crowd.

God's covenant knowledge is personal.

XLIX. “YOU ARE MINE”

Ownership can sound threatening in human contexts.

Here it is:

Comfort.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Belonging to the Redeemer means you are held by the One who paid the price to claim you.

L. WHEN, NOT IF

Waters.

Rivers.

Fire.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical faith prepares people for:

Difficulty.

Not fantasy.

LI. THROUGH THE WATERS

The water does not always:

Disappear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes God parts the sea.

Sometimes He walks with you through the water.

LII. THROUGH THE FIRE

Daniel's friends later experienced:

This imagery vividly.

Spiritual Principle

The presence of fire is not evidence of:

God's absence.

LIII. PRECIOUS AND HONORED

God's valuation differs from:

The world's.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Your worth is safest when rooted in God's covenant love rather than public opinion.

LIV. SONS AND DAUGHTERS

God speaks:

Family language.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption gathers:

People.

Not merely territory.

LV. FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Scattering looks:

Final.

God sees:

Gathering.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's reach extends farther than human exile.

LVI. CREATED FOR GLORY

God does not create people merely for:

Self-centered existence.

Spiritual Principle

We flourish most when our lives point beyond ourselves.

LVII. BLIND WITNESSES

Israel's calling and blindness exist:

Together.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's calling does not excuse blindness; it makes restored sight all the more necessary.

LVIII. KNOW, BELIEVE, UNDERSTAND

The order is striking.

God wants His witnesses to:

Know.

Believe.

Understand.

Spiritual Principle

Public witness should arise from:

Personal knowledge of God.

LIX. NO GOD BEFORE OR AFTER

God is not:

One deity in a sequence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Lord is not the latest religious option.

He is the eternal God.

LX. NO SAVIOR BESIDES HIM

This excludes:

Every idol.

Every empire.

Every self-salvation project.

Spiritual Principle

Only God can solve the deepest human problem.

LXI. GOD HAS PROCLAIMED BEFOREHAND

The idols cannot.

God can.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Prophecy demonstrates that the future belongs to God before it belongs to history.

LXII. “WHO CAN REVERSE IT?”

A rhetorical question.

Answer:

No one.

Spiritual Principle

God’s ultimate purpose does not require:

Permission.

LXIII. BABYLON’S SHIPS

What they take pride in:

Fails.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The vehicle of human pride can become the stage of human humiliation.

LXIV. “YOUR KING”

God is not merely:

Creator.

He rules.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption brings people under:

God’s rightful kingship.

LXV. A WAY THROUGH THE SEA

No road existed.

God made:

One.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not need an existing path in order to lead His people forward.

LXVI. THE CHARIOTS THAT NEVER ROSE AGAIN

Egypt’s strength ended:

Suddenly.

Spiritual Principle

Human power may look permanent until God reveals:

Its limit.

LXVII. DO NOT LIVE IN THE EXODUS FOREVER

The Exodus was:

Glorious.

Yet God says:

Look for:

Something new.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Past revival can inspire faith, but it cannot substitute for present obedience and present expectation.

LXVIII. THE NEW THING SPRINGS UP

Growth can begin:

Quietly.

Spiritual Principle

God's greatest new works may begin before they become:

Obvious.

LXIX. "DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?"

Sometimes the problem is not:

God's inactivity.

It is:

Our inattentiveness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Ask God for eyes to recognize what He has already started.

LXX. A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS

No highway.

God creates:

One.

Spiritual Principle

God's guidance is not limited by existing routes.

LXXI. STREAMS IN THE DESERT

No water.

God supplies:

It.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The wilderness may describe your environment.

It does not define God's resources.

LXXII. ANIMALS HONOR GOD

Creation notices:

Provision.

Spiritual Principle

God's generosity displays His glory beyond:

Humanity.

LXXIII. MY CHOSEN ONES

God's people remain:

Chosen.

Even after discipline.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace restores identity before circumstances have fully recovered.

LXXIV. FORMED FOR PRAISE

Praise is not:

Extra.

It belongs to:

Purpose.

Spiritual Principle

A redeemed life should become a vocal testimony to the Redeemer.

LXXV. “YOU HAVE NOT CALLED ON ME”

A painful accusation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

It is possible to belong to a history of grace while personally neglecting prayer.

LXXVI. WORSHIP AS WEARINESS

Israel treated:

God.

As burdensome.

Spiritual Principle

When love grows cold, worship begins to feel like:

Weight.

LXXVII. GOD WAS NOT THE BURDEN

Their:

Sin.

Was.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

We often accuse obedience of being burdensome while carrying heavier burdens created by disobedience.

LXXVIII. SIN WEARIES

God uses relational language.

Spiritual Principle

Sin is not merely:

Rule-breaking.

It is relational:

Offense.

LXXIX. “I, EVEN I”

The emphasis falls entirely upon:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When the sinner cannot defend himself, grace says:

“I will act.”

LXXX. BLOTS OUT

Sin is pictured as:

A record.

Removed.

Spiritual Principle

Forgiveness is not divine denial.

It is divine removal of guilt through His gracious provision.

LXXXI. “FOR MY OWN SAKE”

God’s mercy rests ultimately in:

His character.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Our assurance is strongest when grounded in God’s name rather than our performance.

LXXXII. “I WILL NOT REMEMBER”

God does not repeatedly reopen:

Forgiven charges.

Spiritual Principle

Grace refuses to make forgiven guilt the believer’s permanent identity.

LXXXIII. STATE YOUR CASE

Israel cannot:

Prove innocence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The courtroom must expose guilt before grace can be understood rightly.

LXXXIV. FIRST FATHER SINNED

The problem is:

Deep.

Historical.

Human.

Spiritual Principle

Sin is not merely a surface behavioral problem.

It belongs to fallen humanity's history.

LXXXV. LEADERS REBELLED

Leadership did not:

Escape guilt.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Religious office does not create moral immunity.

LXXXVI. JUDGMENT ON THE TEMPLE DIGNITARIES

Sacred office did not protect:

Unfaithfulness.

Spiritual Principle

Religious privilege increases:

Accountability.

LXXXVII. ISAIAH 42 AND 43

Isaiah 42

Israel is:

Blind.

Deaf.

Disciplined.

Isaiah 43

God says:

You are Mine.

I redeemed you.

I will gather you.

I forgive you.

Key Truth

God confronts His people's blindness without abandoning His redemptive commitment to them.

LXXXVIII. ISAIAH 40, 41, 42, AND 43

Isaiah 40

God comforts.

Isaiah 41

God strengthens.

Isaiah 42

God sends the Servant.

Isaiah 43

God redeems and gathers.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah's message of comfort keeps expanding until comfort becomes redemption, mission, witness, and forgiveness.

LXXXIX. TEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 43

- 1. Fear → Belonging**
- 2. Waters → Divine Presence**
- 3. Fire → Preservation**
- 4. Scattering → Gathering**
- 5. Blindness → Witness**
- 6. False gods → One Savior**
- 7. Babylonian Power → Babylonian Defeat**
- 8. Former Things → New Thing**
- 9. Wilderness → Way**
- 10. Sin → Blotted-Out Transgression**

Key Truth

Every major movement in Isaiah 43 replaces fear, exile, helplessness, and guilt with belonging, presence, gathering, testimony, renewal, and grace.

XC. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who created and formed Israel?

The Lord.

Question 2

Why does God tell Israel not to fear?

Because He has redeemed them, called them by name, and claimed them as His own.

Question 3

Does God promise Israel will never face trials?

No.

He speaks of waters, rivers, and fire.

Question 4

What does He promise within those trials?

His presence and preservation.

Question 5

How does God identify Himself in verse 3?

As the Lord, Israel's God, the Holy One, and Savior.

Question 6

How does God describe Israel in verse 4?

As precious, honored, and loved.

Question 7

What will God do with His scattered people?

Gather them from every direction.

Question 8

Why did God create His people?

For His glory.

Question 9

What role does Israel have before the nations?

To be God's witness.

Question 10

What are God's people to know?

That the Lord alone is God.

Question 11

How many true Saviors are there?

One.

The Lord declares that apart from Him there is no Savior.

Question 12

Can anyone reverse God's ultimate work?

No.

Question 13

What future empire does God promise to bring down?

Babylon.

Question 14

What historical event does God remind Israel of?

The Exodus through the sea.

Question 15

Why does He then say not to dwell on former things?

Because He is preparing a new work and His future action should not be restricted to past patterns.

Question 16

What new thing does God promise?

A way in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Question 17

Why does God provide wilderness water?

For His chosen people.

Question 18

Why did God form His people?

That they might proclaim His praise.

Question 19

How had Israel failed in worship?

They had neglected calling upon and honoring God.

Question 20

What had they burdened God with?

Their sins and offenses.

Question 21

Who blots out transgressions?

God Himself.

Question 22

Why does He do it?

For His own sake.

Question 23

What does He promise concerning forgiven sins?

He will not remember them against His people.

Question 24

Could Israel prove itself innocent?

No.

Its history showed sin from fathers and leaders alike.

Question 25

What is one of the chapter's central truths?

God's grace is greater than Israel's failure, yet His grace never treats sin as insignificant.

XCI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 43 asks several searching questions.

Do I Know Whose I Am?

Can I rest in:

“You are Mine”?

What Waters Am I Passing Through?

Am I interpreting difficulty as:

Abandonment?

What Fire Am I Walking Through?

Do I believe God can be:

Present.

Even there?

Do I believe God knows me:

By name?

Am I living as though I were created for:

My glory?

Or:

God's?

Am I acting as a witness?

Do people hear from me:

What God has done?

Do I really believe:

There is no Savior besides God?

What “Babylon” looks permanent in my life?

Have I forgotten God can:

Reverse empires?

Am I living in yesterday’s miracle?

Has the past become a substitute for expecting:

God’s present work?

What new thing might God already be beginning?

Is there a wilderness where I need:

A way?

Is there a desert where I need:

Streams?

Has worship become:

Weariness?

Have I blamed God for burdens created by:

Sin?

Do I believe God can truly:

Blot out transgression?

Am I still remembering against myself what God promises not to hold against the forgiven?

XCII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The God Who Calls You by Name Will Walk With You Through the Fire”

God does not merely say:

I know:

Israel.

He says:

“I have called you by name.”

Then:

“I will be with you.”

Principle:

God’s knowledge is personal, His redemption is relational, and His presence remains with His people in the very places where fear says they have been abandoned.

XCIII. “BUT NOW”

Isaiah 42 ended:

Judgment.

Isaiah 43 begins:

Grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never assume the darkest final verse of one chapter is the last chapter God can write.

XCIV. CREATED AND FORMED

Israel exists because:

God acted.

Spiritual Principle

Creation itself creates:

Dependence.

XCV. REDEEMED

God does not merely:

Own as Creator.

He rescues as:

Redeemer.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who made you is also the God who acts to rescue what sin has broken.

XCVI. CALLED BY NAME

Specific.

Personal.

Known.

Spiritual Principle

God's people are not anonymous to:

God.

XCVII. WATER, RIVER, FIRE

Different:

Trials.

Same:

Presence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's presence is not limited to one type of crisis.

XCVIII. "I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD"

The promise is rooted in:

Identity.

Spiritual Principle

Security grows out of theology.

XCIX. PRECIOUS IN MY SIGHT

God's people had been:

Scorned.

Yet:

Precious.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human rejection does not determine divine valuation.

C. "BECAUSE I LOVE YOU"

One of the simplest and strongest statements in:

The chapter.

Spiritual Principle

God's covenant dealings cannot be understood apart from:

His love.

CI. DO NOT FEAR

Again.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God repeats comfort because frightened hearts often need repeated truth.

CII. EAST, WEST, NORTH, SOUTH

Every direction:

Answered.

Spiritual Principle

There is no compass point outside God's reach.

CIII. SONS AND DAUGHTERS

God gathers:

Persons.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Redemption is not merely moving populations.

It is bringing sons and daughters home.

CIV. CALLED BY MY NAME

Belonging creates:

Representation.

Spiritual Principle

Those who bear God's name should live for:

God's glory.

CV. CREATED FOR MY GLORY

Purpose explains:

Existence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Self-centered living is a misuse of a life created for God-centered purpose.

CVI. BLIND PEOPLE AS WITNESSES

God intends to restore:

Their testimony.

Spiritual Principle

God can call flawed witnesses while continuing to correct their blindness.

CVII. THE COURTROOM OF HISTORY

False gods cannot:

Explain.

Predict.

Save.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

History itself becomes evidence in God's case against idolatry.

CVIII. KNOW, BELIEVE, UNDERSTAND

Faith involves:

Mind.

Heart.

Recognition.

Spiritual Principle

God desires more than verbal loyalty.

He desires real knowledge of:

Him.

CIX. BEFORE ME NO GOD

No predecessor.

No successor.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God is not part of a divine family tree.

He alone is God.

CX. THERE IS NO SAVIOR BESIDES ME

What idols promise:

God alone performs.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation requires the One who possesses actual authority over sin, history, death, and judgment.

CXI. MY WITNESSES

The people who experienced:

Deliverance.

Must speak.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Silence is a poor response to remembered redemption.

CXII. NO ONE DELIVERS OUT OF HIS HAND

God's grasp is:

Final.

Spiritual Principle

The safest place is not outside danger but inside:

God's hand.

CXIII. BABYLON WILL FALL

God announces:

Its future.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The thing that looks like tomorrow's master may already be under tomorrow's judgment.

CXIV. CREATOR, HOLY ONE, KING

God surrounds Israel's identity:

Above.

Below.

Around.

Spiritual Principle

The Redeemer possesses every qualification necessary to save.

CXV. GOD OF THE SEA

Israel knows this God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Past deliverance is evidence of divine character, not a formula limiting future methods.

CXVI. “FORGET THE FORMER THINGS”

Not:

Forget gratitude.

But:

Stop restricting expectation.

Spiritual Principle

Nostalgia can become spiritually limiting when it refuses to believe God can work differently now.

CXVII. “SEE”

The new thing requires:

Attention.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Some new works of God are missed because people keep looking backward.

CXVIII. SPRINGING UP

Growth begins:

Before maturity.

Spiritual Principle

Do not despise the first signs of divine renewal.

CXIX. ROAD IN THE WILDERNESS

The wilderness no longer means:

No way.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not need favorable terrain to lead.

CXX. WATER IN THE DESERT

The desert no longer means:

No supply.

Spiritual Principle

God's resources are not produced by the environment.

CXXI. CREATED FOR PRAISE

The destination of redemption is:

Worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The rescued should become the praising.

CXXII. “YET”

After all the grace:

Israel neglected God.

Spiritual Principle

Grace received does not automatically produce gratitude expressed.

CXXIII. EMPTY WORSHIP

The issue is not merely:

Missing ritual.

It is:

Missing love.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God wants the worshiper before He wants the offering.

CXXIV. BURDENING GOD WITH SIN

An astonishing phrase.

Spiritual Principle

Sin is personally offensive to:

The holy God.

CXXV. GRACE ANSWERS GUILT

Immediately after:

Sin.

Comes:

Blotting out.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who names sin most clearly also announces grace most beautifully.

CXXVI. FORGIVEN FOR GOD'S SAKE

The foundation is:

God Himself.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation ultimately magnifies:

The Savior.

CXXVII. NO CLAIM TO INNOCENCE

The courtroom is:

Lost.

Grace is:

Needed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The sinner's best hope is not winning the argument.

It is receiving mercy.

CXXVIII. THE HISTORY OF SIN

Father.

Leaders.

People.

All implicated.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption must address a problem deeper than one bad generation.

CXXIX. ELEVEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 43

- 1. Blindness → Witness**
- 2. Fear → “You Are Mine”**
- 3. Water → Presence**
- 4. Fire → Preservation**
- 5. Scattering → Gathering**
- 6. Idols → One Savior**
- 7. Captivity → Redemption**
- 8. Old Exodus → New Thing**
- 9. Wilderness → Highway**
- 10. Desert → Streams**
- 11. Transgression → Forgiveness**

Key Truth

Isaiah 43 moves repeatedly from what threatens God’s people toward what God Himself supplies: belonging, presence, salvation, gathering, direction, provision, and grace.

CXXX. SEVEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 43

1. God Claims His People

Created, formed, redeemed, called, and owned.

2. God Promises His Presence

Through waters, rivers, and fire.

3. God Gathers the Scattered

Sons and daughters return from every direction.

4. God Calls Israel His Witness

They are to testify that He alone is God and Savior.

5. God Promises Babylon's Defeat

The future oppressor will not rule forever.

6. God Announces a New Exodus

A way appears in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

7. God Exposes Sin and Offers Grace

Israel cannot prove innocence, yet God Himself blots out transgressions.

Key Truth

The chapter begins with belonging and ends with forgiveness, placing Israel's entire hope in the redeeming character of God rather than in Israel's own record.

CXXXI. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 43 begins with words every fearful heart needs:

"Do not be afraid."

But God does not leave the command:

Unsupported.

He gives reasons.

"I created you."

"I formed you."

"I redeemed you."

“I called you by name.”

“You are Mine.”

That is identity.

Then:

The waters come.

Notice God does not say:

Because you are Mine, there will be:

No water.

No rivers.

No fire.

He says:

“When.”

When you pass through.

Some trials are:

Avoided.

Some:

Removed.

Some:

Passed through.

But the great promise is:

“I will be with you.”

That changes everything.

Water with God is different from:

Water alone.

Fire with God is different from:

Fire alone.

Then God says:

“You are precious.”

“I love you.”

Maybe circumstances have made you wonder:

Does God still care?

Israel had been:

Disobedient.

Disciplined.

Scattered.

Yet God speaks:

Love.

Then He gathers:

East.

West.

North.

South.

No matter how far:

God knows how to bring home.

Then He tells Israel:

“You are My witnesses.”

What should a witness say?

Tell the truth about:

God.

He saved.

He delivered.

He proclaimed.

He alone is:

Savior.

Then the chapter moves toward Babylon.

Babylon looks powerful.

God says:

I will bring it:

Down.

That means the power frightening you does not own:

The future.

God does.

Then God reminds Israel:

Remember the sea.

Remember Egypt.

Remember the chariots.

Remember how I made a road where there was:

No road.

Then:

“Forget the former things.”

Why remind them only to say forget?

Because God does not want them worshiping:

A method.

Yes:

Remember the Red Sea.

But do not think:

“I can only be delivered if God parts another sea.”

Maybe this time there is:

No sea.

Maybe there is:

A desert.

Then God says:

Fine.

I will make:

A road through it.

Maybe there is:

No water.

Then:

I will make streams.

The lesson is:

Trust the God of the miracle.

Not merely:

The form the miracle took.

Then:

“See, I am doing a new thing!”

Could it be that God is already doing something:

New.

And you have been too busy looking backward to:

See it?

Then the chapter exposes:

Israel’s sin.

This is important.

Grace does not say:

Your sin never mattered.

God says:

You burdened Me with it.

That is strong language.

But then:

Grace speaks.

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions.”

Israel cannot:

Argue itself innocent.

Neither can we.

The answer is not:

Self-defense.

The answer is:

Grace.

God blots out:

Sin.

God refuses to hold forgiven sin:

Against His people.

That is where Isaiah 43 leaves us.

Not with Israel saying:

Look how faithful we were.

But with God saying:

Look how gracious:

I am.

So:

When you are afraid—

Remember:

You are His.

When you enter the water—

Remember:

He is with you.

When you walk through fire—

Remember:

It does not decide your final destiny.

When you feel scattered—

Remember:

God gathers.

When you face an impossible future—

Remember:

God declares it before it arrives.

When the wilderness has no road—

Remember:

God makes ways.

When the desert has no water—

Remember:

God makes streams.

When your past condemns you—

Do not pretend:

Innocence.

Run to:

Grace.

And remember:

The God who called you by name is also the God who says:

“I am doing a new thing.”

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You are:

Creator.

Redeemer.

Savior.

King.

Holy One.

Thank You that You know Your people:

By name.

Thank You for saying:

“You are Mine.”

When we are afraid:

Remind us:

We belong to You.

When we pass through:

Waters.

Rivers.

Fire.

Be with us.

Keep us from assuming that trials mean:

Abandonment.

Father, thank You that Your presence is greater than:

The water.

The current.

The flame.

Thank You for Your love.

Thank You that Your people are:

Precious.

Honored.

Known.

Gather us from every place where sin, fear, and sorrow have scattered:

Our hearts.

Father, make us:

Witnesses.

Give us courage to tell others:

Who You are.

What You have done.

How You save.

Teach us to confess:

There is no Savior besides You.

Thank You that no one can reverse:

Your ultimate purpose.

Father, when Babylon looks strong:

Remind us that empires:

Rise.

Fall.

But You remain.

Thank You for the Red Sea.

Thank You for every past deliverance.

But keep us from living:

Only in the past.

Open our eyes to:

The new thing.

Make a way where we see:

No road.

Bring streams where we see:

No water.

Provide in:

The wilderness.

Father, You formed us for:

Your praise.

Forgive us when worship becomes:

Neglected.

Cold.

Wearisome.

Forgive us for every sin that has:

Grieved You.

Thank You for Your promise:

“I blot out your transgressions.”

We have no defense apart from:

Your mercy.

So cleanse us.

Restore us.

Renew us.

And help us stop carrying forgiven guilt as though Your grace were:

Insufficient.

Teach us to live as people who are:

Created for Your glory.

Redeemed by Your grace.

Called by Your name.

Kept by Your presence.

And sent as:

Your witnesses.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.” — Isaiah 43:1

Central Truth

The Lord assures His redeemed people that they belong to Him, promises to remain with them through waters and fire, gathers them from every direction, calls them to witness that He alone is Savior, announces the defeat of Babylon and a new work of restoration in the wilderness, and graciously blots out the sins of a people who cannot prove themselves innocent.

Isaiah 43 in One Sentence

Isaiah declares that the Creator and Redeemer has called Israel by name and claimed them as His own, promises His presence through waters and fire, gathers His scattered sons and daughters, appoints them as witnesses that He alone is Savior, foretells Babylon's defeat, announces a new exodus with a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert, and finally reveals that although Israel has burdened Him with sin, He Himself graciously blots out their transgressions for His own sake.