

Tokens of the Liars

Isaiah 43:1 – 44:28

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XLIII

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.

2 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.

~ This second major division in the prophecy of Isaiah - which runs from chapter forty through sixty-six - is an awe inspiring, magnificent, and just plain generally wonderful portion of the Word of God. It is a prophetic promise that applies only to the nation Israel in that land. God protected them and delivered them when they crossed the Red Sea *AND* when they crossed the Jordan River. It does, however, have a beautiful application for all of God's children at all times in God's history. In Scripture, the "waters" speaks spiritually of the Word of God. Fire *almost* always speaks of judgment – with limited exceptions. We can sing, "safe am I, safe am I, I'm on the Rock...." - all day long – and I go along with that, because it is a wonderful truth, however, maybe it is just me with this problem but, sometimes, in my life experience, I find myself having gotten into deep waters where I can't reach the bottom. I feel like I am going to drown most of the time; just to be perfectly honest with you dear readers. Of course God intervenes, and delivers me every time I need Him; but, again, just being completely honest with you dear readers, because I always am honest with you, along with my belief comes my *unbelief* and, sometimes, my unbelief is a whole lot bigger than my belief. You likely never have that problem, do you?

This is another section of Scripture that we could easily bog us down for hundreds of reports; so, we're going to move along fast from here; because

we still have quite a ways to go in the Isaiah leg of our expedition through the entire Bible. Reading this part of Isaiah after praying for understanding is a much worthwhile endeavor. Try it. It's easy to praise God and shout for joy when everything is going well. However, when the bottom falls out of our lives, then Bible study can easily turn to a despising hate for God. The main objective now: pray for wisdom, judgment, and discernment, and then read your Bible with the leading of the Holy Spirit; teaching through His particular man that He sends to you. That's the only way God will ever teach us, and that's the only way we will ever learn anything about God....

3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

~ Verse three seems to flagrantly contradict other Scripture. However, we read in Proverbs chapter twenty-one at verse eighteen, *"....the wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright...."* Proverbs chapter sixteen verse four reads, *"....The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil."* Do you know why God allowed that adversity, sorrow, heartache, trouble, trial, and persecution to come into your life? Well, God did it to bring you into line in your life: your life for His line – and to further develop you. There's some doctrine you won't hear every day. God gave His Son for *OUR* deliverance! Put that in context with verse three from Isaiah chapter forty-three, and you have something that's just not very nice. Well, that's the way God does business, friends.

Here's another Proverb for you: *"....the righteous is delivered out of trouble and the wicked cometh instead and takes his place...."* God has allowed several people to thoroughly mistreat me in this world. Look, I'm just keeping it real and honest. So, if God is going to give me justice, then someone is going to be judged — severely. As it turns out, I have seen how the Lord deals with some of those people and, while I forgive them, I am quite satisfied with God's handling of matters. Maybe we should keep moving along now? You might not want to read any further, because I am going to be brutally honest now.

God created, called and chose Israel; and the nation will be restored as His witness on earth during the Great Tribulation period. God is talking to Israel here – not to America, nor Australia. Again, some of these writings can only apply to Israel *specifically*, and some exclude others wholly — even in the spiritual sense. While this particular section of Scripture irrefutably reveals that God is not through with the nation Israel, I, personally, do *NOT* believe that their present day return to that land is a fulfillment of prophecy in any way, shape or form; and I have provided my Biblical doctrine regarding that topic myriad times, so I'll not be tedious. Now, I will add this: if the nation Israel were to disappear from the face of the earth completely, we still rest in God's promises — because God is doing two totally different things in terms of eternal reward: one for the church, and one for the nation Israel. They are two utterly and completely separate and distinctively different Scriptural promises that must be accounted for when rightly dividing eschatology.

Well, when I say Israel is not back in the land today according to the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy, almost everyone translates that as hateful, anti-Semitic – and other bad things. Well, from my perspective, those who argue with me about this never seem to cite any Scripture except perhaps, from time to time, Ezekiel chapter thirty seven – of which they have no earthly idea what they are talking about – and their position is tantamount to unbelief of Holy Writ. It's either unbelief or an abject willful ignorance; neither of which are acceptable, and neither of which are an excuse for their hypocrisy. Actually, to say that Israel is back in the land today according to fulfilled prophecy is to say that God is through with the nation Israel. That's exactly how confused they are with that religious philosophy. Has God cast away His people? No, friends, not at all. Look, I'm just telling you what the Bible says with a Scriptural answer. I recognize the uber-dogmatism associated with my theology but, it makes sense. God is not finished with the nation Israel; and that is made more than clear in this chapter....

4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

~ Thus far in the Bible, we have seen creation, redemption, and the miraculous preservation of the nation Israel by God. Now, we're seeing judgment, deliverance, and redemption of Israel *IN THAT DAY* – not today. The only way to misunderstand this passage is to deliberately decide to misinterpret the Word of God to support your own personal agenda and religious philosophy. God took dust and breathed life into it. Then, He took a rib from that creature and made the sweet and beautiful woman. We can't even begin to imagine how precious we are to God when we are in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We'll never know how much He really loves us down here; and we may never know. God took Jacob – whose name means “*crooked*” and “*supplanter*” – and made from Jacob His chosen people, the nation Israel. Today, God is calling out a people of all kindred and nations to His Name in the church body of Christ – making lost rebellious sinners His righteous sons, simply by His free gift of grace, and only for His Names sake – and only for those who will trust and obey Christ Jesus – *ALL* others are excluded....

5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

6 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;

7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

8 Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.

9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

10 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.

11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

~ No other religion of the world guarantees salvation for anyone. The others draw up quite a contract and present a pious program – but no guarantees. In other religions, if you fail, then you didn't have enough faith – that's all. If you cannot attain to some utopia-like achievement by willing it into the universe, then there's something wrong spiritually with you, according to them. God says here, *"listen to my man, you atheists; listen to my man, you Preterist; listen to my man, you – whoever you are...."* Interestingly, that brings us right back to the subject of idolatry in the next chapter. Those are the tokens of the liars. Remember, Israel went into captivity for two main reasons: not keeping the Sabbatical Year where the land was left fallow — and *IDOLATRY*....

12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.

13 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?

14 Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.

16 Thus saith the LORD, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters;

17 Which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power; they shall lie down together, they shall not rise: they are extinct, they are quenched as tow.

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.

20 The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

21 This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

22 But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel.

23 Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense.

24 Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities.

25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

26 Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

27 Thy first father hath sinned, and thy teachers have transgressed against me.

28 Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches.

XLIV

1 Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen:

2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

4 And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.

5 One shall say, I am the LORD'S; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel.

6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

7 And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.

8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

9 They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed.

10 Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?

11 Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together.

12 The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint.

13 The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house.

14 He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it.

15 Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto.

16 He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire:

17 And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

19 And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?

20 He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?

21 Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

23 Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.

24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

25 That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;

26 That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:

27 That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:

28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

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