



12/10/25

*I went over to my daughter's house and she had absolutely powerful and beautiful Christmas music playing. I asked her what it was and I immediately added it to my Spotify playlist. I have listened to almost nothing else ever since. I'm listening to it as I type these words. It's Tommee Profitt's "Birth of a King." Have you heard it? It's beautiful. What's your favorite Christmas music?*

*Merry Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Isaiah 43:1-4, 16-21*

*When I think of Peter walking on the water to Jesus, I feel the conviction that I need to do the same... to keep my eyes on Him and not on the waves. But why? What can I hold to about Him, especially in the midst of the storm? I can hold to the fact that He has made me His own, as Paul said in Philippians 3:12, "I press on to make it (the resurrection from the dead) my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own." Christ Jesus has made me His own. That's the hope of Isaiah 43.*

*Vs. 1-4 ~*

*This passage is directed to the people of Israel, but I know that through Jesus, it's for me as well. All who put their faith in Christ are called "sons of Abraham through faith" (Galatians 3).*

*Vs. 1-2 ~ "But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."*

*This is what the Lord Yahweh says to me... When He speaks to Jacob, He speaks to his biological name... the physical. When He speaks to Israel, He speaks to His spiritual name. He speaks to me... body, soul, and spirit. Not one part of me is forgotten by Yahweh, Abba, the God who has personally adopted me and invested Himself into every detail of my life.*

*What does He say to me? "Fear not." Why would I be afraid? I'm being surrounded by waters, overwhelmed by rushing rivers, walking through fire. Left to myself, I will be lost in these dark places. But Yahweh created me, fearfully and wonderfully made in my mother's womb. He formed me, and He promised to transform me.*

*Why should I not fear? The river and the fire are scary! But... You have redeemed me... bought with the blood of Jesus. You have called me by name. I am Yours. You have made me Your own. Yes, I will pass THROUGH the waters and I WILL experience the rushing rivers... but You won't let them overwhelm me. I need to keep my eyes fixed on You. I will walk through the heat of the fire as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did... without being consumed.*

*Lord, I feel like I'm walking through fire right now, and like the river wants to pull me under. But You are my Creator and Father and Savior. You are my protection. Help me to trust You through this. You never let me go. Whether I go through the waters because of my own selfish flesh or because I am experiencing trials to shape my spirit, You don't abandon me in it. I deserve Your judgment and condemnation. But I cling to Your word that says You don't condemn me... You say, "Why did You doubt me, O You of little faith?" Yet You still take me by the hand and lift me up from the water.*

*Vs. 3-4 ~ "For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in My eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life."*

*Here You spoke these words to Israel, Your chosen people. But Jesus takes it way beyond what's written here. You are Yahweh Elohim... personal, powerful. You are the Holy One of Israel... and the Holy One who has sealed my heart with Your Spirit. You are my Savior, not just of the temporary physical, but of the eternal. You didn't just give a geographical location in exchange for me. You gave Your Son. He is my ransom! You call me precious and honored because You love me. Lord, as David wrote in Psalm 139:6, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is high. I cannot attain it." I cannot comprehend it, but I will not deny its truth... I will embrace it and rest in it. You are my hope.*

*Isaiah 43:16-21 ~*

*Vs. 16-19 ~ "Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

*Just like You brought down the chariots and army of Egyptian soldiers to stop the Israelites from leaving Egypt, You are able to split the sea and make a way for me. You are the same God with me that You were with them. They were not perfect or righteous people. They rebelled against You over and over. But You still protected them and delivered them. You do the same for me. If I had to be worthy by my own works in order to be in Your presence, I would have*

*zero hope. But You still take me as I am. O Lord, I need to be reminded of this more than my mind reminds me of how I fail You. As the psalmist writes in Psalm 130:3-4, "If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared (worshiped)." Praise Your name. I can only be here with You because of Your mercy. Let me not waste Your mercy by continuing to assume Your condemnation.*

*Please help me not to remember the former things of old, how I rebelled against You... how I was in slavery to my own flesh. Please help me to trust that, every single day, You're doing a new thing in my life because Your mercy is new every morning. Help me to perceive it! Help me to know it, to recognize it!*

*Am I in the current of the river? You will make a way. Am I walking through fire? You will make a way. Am I thirsty in the desert? You will show me where to go. You will provide me with rivers in the desert, living water I can drink from and have my thirst quenched. Jesus said in John 7:37-39, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive." I believe in You, Jesus. The Spirit dwells in me. He will continue to quench my thirst. Let me not quench His work in my life by believing lies.*

*Vs. 20-21 ~ "The wild beasts will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people, the people whom I formed for Myself that they might declare My praise."*

*Wild beasts and jackals can be viscous enemies. But whatever the enemy's intentions, You will use them to bring You honor... and to satisfy my thirsty soul. In the hands of my Savior, even the jackals become Your servants to draw me closer to You and to lead me to Your living water.*

*I WAS no one. But You chose me... 1 Peter 2:9-10 says of all who put their faith in You, "But you are a CHOSEN race, a ROYAL priesthood, a HOLY nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." Both in 1 Peter and in Isaiah 43:21, I see that You chose me, that You satisfy my thirsty soul. And I also see that You created me for a purpose, to declare Your praise, to proclaim Your excellence... of which You are more worthy than my words could ever express.*

*My thirsty soul is not satisfied by being prevented from wading through the river or walking through the fire. My soul is not satisfied by being kept from the jackals or the wild beasts. My soul is satisfied by Yahweh Elohim, my Redeemer, my Savior... the One who calls me by name, who honors me though I don't deserve it, who loves me. Lord, please help me to fix my eyes and my mind and my heart on YOU no matter how scary the river seems or how hot the fire gets. You are Lord over it all. You are in control, in charge, and in me.*