

II. Israel as God's Witnesses to His Uniqueness (43:8–13)

Key theme: Courtroom Trial—God vs. idols/nations.

Isaiah 43:8 Bring out the people who are blind, even though they have eyes, and the deaf, even though they have ears.

Isaiah 43:9 All the nations have gathered together so that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them can declare this and proclaim to us the former things? Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified, or let them hear and say, "It is true."

Nations cannot declare "former things" or future; Israel (and the ideal "servant") are witnesses that "I am he...besides me there is no savior...no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me."

Isaiah 43:10 "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 there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me."

Isaiah 43:11-13 "I, even I, am the Lord, and there is no savior besides Me. It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, and there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And I am God. Even from eternity I am He, and there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

III. Announcement of a New Exodus: Deliverance from Babylon (43:14–21)

Key theme: God brings Israel out of Babylon much like the Exodus from Egypt generations before.

Isaiah 43:14-15 Thus says the Lord your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, "For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and will bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, into the ships in which they rejoice. "I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."

Isaiah 43:16-17 Thus says the Lord, Who makes a way through the sea and a path through the mighty waters, Who brings forth the chariot and the horse, the army and the mighty man (They will lie down together and not rise again; They have been quenched and extinguished like a wick):

Isaiah 43:18-19 "Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:20-21 “The beasts of the field will glorify Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I have given waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people. The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise.”

IV. Confrontation of Israel’s Sin and God’s Gracious Forgiveness (43:22–28)

Key theme: Grace is not earned—God forgives for His own sake.

Isaiah 43:22-23 “Yet you have not called on Me, O Jacob; But you have become weary of Me, O Israel. You have not brought to Me the sheep of your burnt offerings, nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, nor wearied you with incense.”

Isaiah 43:24-25 “You have bought Me not sweet cane with money, nor have you filled Me with the fat of your sacrifices; Rather you have burdened Me with your sins, you have wearied Me with your iniquities. I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

Isaiah 43:26-28 “Put Me in remembrance, let us argue our case together; State your cause, that you may be proved right. Your first forefather sinned, and your spokesmen have transgressed against Me. So I will pollute the princes of the sanctuary, and I will consign Jacob to the ban and Israel to revilement.”