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I Have Created You, O Jacob: Fear Not, for I Have Redeemed You, You are Mine 43: 1-7

I have created you, O Jacob: fear not, for I have redeemed you, you are mine DIG: Compare 42:23-43:2 with Romans 3:19-24 and Ephesians 2:11-13. What does the “but now” in each of these passages emphasize about your relationship with God? In what ways do you see Yeshua Messiah as your Kinsman Redeemer?

REFLECT: Which side of the “but now” are you on? If you were to set these passages to music, what type of music would you use for the material before “but now”? For the material afterwards? What waters or fire in 43:2 seem to be fearfully close to you at the moment? What does it mean to you that the LORD says He will be with His people through these things? How have you experienced that in the past? Why doesn't He just let us avoid them? How does it make you feel to know that while you were still a sinner, Christ died just for you (Romans 5:8)?

Spiritually **deaf and blind**, **Judah** had ignored and disobeyed the Torah (**42:18-25**). As a result, **the Israelites** would have to endure the exile (see the commentary on **Jeremiah, to see link click Gu - Seventy Years of Imperial Babylonian Rule**) until **her hard service had been completed (Hd)**. In this section, however, **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** revealed that **God** was not through with **Isra'el**. Denying that **the LORD** has a future purpose for **her** is the same as unbelief. In the B'rit Chadashah, **Spirit of God** asks the question: **Did God reject His people?** And *His* answer is: **By no means (Romans 11:1)**! And the fact that **He** is not through with **her** is clearly seen in this chapter.

Once again **Isaiah** will prove **himself** as a **prophet**. Remember, according to **Deuteronomy 18**, the way you test a **prophet** is to first see if **his** near historical prophecies are reliable, then you can trust **his** far eschatological prophecies. But here **Isaiah** will start out with the opposite motif, a **far eschatological prophecy** of the final deliverance from the Babylon of the Great Tribulation.

He starts out with the promise of redemption. **Chapter 42** ended with a question. **Who handed Jacob over to become loot, and Isra'el to the plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against Whom we have sinned (42:24)?** The reason for the Babylonian captivity and the worldwide dispersion of **the Jewish nation** is because **Isra'el** had sinned. **She** had sinned by committing spiritual adultery (see **Hosea**) and breaking the Torah. Therefore, **God** had turned **her** over to robbers to be plundered. **Chapter 43:1** starts out by saying: **But now**, In contrast to former days when **God** had turned **Isra'el** over to robbers, as **God** looks to the future through **His** prophet **Isaiah**, **He** sees the coming time when **Isra'el** will once again return to **Him** and be fully redeemed. In contrast to the end of **Chapter 42**, in **Chapter 43** we have the return of grace. **God** has not forgotten, nor is **He** unable to deliver **His** children that **He** brought into existence. **Isra'el** need not fear; redemption is absolutely certain.



The kinsman redeemer concept of the Torah is embedded in the first four verses (see the commentary on **Ruth Ax - Ruth and Boaz on the Threshing Floor**). If a Jew got himself so far into debt that he could not pay, according to the Torah, there was only one option. He had to sell himself into slavery for a period of seven years. After the seventh year, the sabbatical year, he would be released. But after selling himself into slavery there was another option. Another man could come and pay the redemption price to free that man out of slavery. Three stipulations were required for one to be the redeemer of a slave. First, he had to be a near relative or kinsman redeemer. Secondly, he had to have the price of redemption. He had to be able to pay the debt off. Thirdly, he had to be willing to pay the price. The Torah did not require the kinsman redeemer to pay the price; it only permitted him to do so. It was left up to the man's free will. All three stipulations are spelled out in **43:1-4**. Because of **Israel's** sin against **Ha'Shem**, **He** had sold **her** to **robbers** and had become a slave to the Gentile nations. But now **God** is going to function as **the Kinsman Redeemer**.

The first requirement was that of being a kinsman. Whatever misfortunes life may have brought the Israelite, no one needed to be ensnared in them forever. A way was made for a

family member, a friend, or even oneself to pay back the debt, to set the slave free, to commute the sentence. In **ADONAI's** world chance did not have the last word. The verb *ga'al* means *redeemer* (35:10). **The LORD** made **Himself Next-of-Kin** of the people **He** created. They are **His** family and **He** shoulders all their needs as if they are **His** own. They would be **redeemed** by **Him** (see my commentary on **Exodus Bz- Redemption**).

Whatever **Judah's blindness and deafness** was in the past, **ADONAI** said that they were to forget that and concentrate on *whose* they are. **But now, this is what the LORD says - he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Isra'el: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine (43:1).** This is about as clear as it can be. It was **God who created, formed, and redeemed Jacob**. I do not think you could be confused about **God's** unconditional love for **Isra'el** unless you deliberately *wanted* to be confused. **The LORD** declared: **I have called you by name**. This expression in Hebrew always means being **called** for a specific task. You will find this to be true everywhere in the TaNaKh. **Have redeemed and have called are prophetic perfects, expressing a future action with absolute certainty as if it had already taken place. The latter verb indicates the creation of a special relationship between God and Isra'el. He** also adds **you are Mine**, meaning that there is a special, intimate relationship between **ADONAI** and **Isra'el**. Because of this relationship, **God** fulfilled the first requirement of **the redeemer** - that of being a **kinsman**.

The second requirement was the willingness to pay. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you (43:2a). When the Israelites passed through the Red Sea, **the Angel of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, who had been traveling in front of Isra'el's army, withdrew and went behind** to protect **them (Psalm 105:39;** and also see my commentary on **Exodus Ci - The Waters Were Divided and the Israelites Went Through on Dry Land**). This **Angel of God** would eventually become **the Suffering Servant of Isaiah** (see **Hp - Here Is My Servant, Whom I Uphold**). **He was pierced for our transgressions on the cross, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed of our sins (53:5).** In other words, **He** was willing to pay the price.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze (43:2b). The prophet **Dani'el** and **his** three **Jewish** friends experienced this first hand. As some of the best and brightest of **Judah, Hanniah, Mishael and Azariah**, had been given the Babylonian names of **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego**. **Dani'el** had also been renamed **Beltshazzar**. **They** had been taken captive and exiled in Babylon. Because

they refused to worship the idol of gold set up by King Nebuchadnezzar (**Dani’el 3:16-18**), they were thrown into **the blazing furnace** that was **heated seven times hotter than usual (Dani’el 3:19)**. But they were not alone in the fire, **one like the son of the gods** was with **them (Dani’el 3:25)**. Although Nebuchadnezzar did not know **the Son of God**, he did recognize that **the Person** appearing with the three **Jews** was **God** in human form. That preincarnate **Messiah** would ultimately pay the redemption price: **For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)**. After the king of Babylon called for **them** to come out of **the furnace** he and his royal court realized that **the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair on their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them (Dani’el 3:26-27)**.

Like **Dani’el** and **his** friends, **God** said to **the Israelites** of **Isaiah’s** day: **When you walk through the fire you will not be burned (43:2)**. The same can be said of us. To refine and purify us, **God** sometimes uses **the furnace** of affliction. **He** didn’t say *if*. And Peter said: **Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you**. None of us knows when we’ll be called on to **walk through the fire** or how hot **the furnace** will be. But we do know this: **ADONAI’s** purpose for the flames is to purify us, not to destroy us (even though the world might just do that). Sometimes, the only way **God** hurries holiness is by turning up the heat.

The third requirement was the ability to pay the price of redemption. The **redemption** price was the nations mentioned in **43:3** and mankind in **43:4**. Now **the LORD** gives **His** own names to **Isra’el** as an indication of **His** support for **His** people no matter what may come in the years ahead. **For I am ADONAI, your God, the Holy One of Isra’el, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush (Ethiopia) and Seba in your stead (43:3)**. As much as **Isra’el** is **the LORD’s**, **the LORD** is **Israel’s**. That was what the Covenant was all about (see my commentary on **Exodus Dd - The Mosaic Covenant**), **Isra’el** was committed to **God**, and incredibly, **God** was giving **Himself** to **Isra’el**.

In **43:3** He mentions three names; **Egypt, Ethiopia, and Saba**. **These** are three nations all in the continent of Africa. So, **God** was willing to sacrifice an entire continent like Africa to bring about the final redemption of **Isra’el**. **For I am ADONAI**. Here **God** calls **Himself ADONAI**, and whenever you see this name, it is always describing **God** as a covenant keeper, **your God**, uniquely **Isra’el’s God; the Holy One of Isra’el, your Savior, the One** who is both willing and able to pay the price of **redemption**.

Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give

men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life (43:4). The reason **God** will pay the price is because **Isra'el** had been **precious and honored in His sight, and because He loved her.** In spite of **Israel's** sinfulness **she** has been precious, honored, and **loved** in **God's** sight. For those reasons, **God** is both willing and able to pay the price of **redemption.**

There is a chiasmic relationship, or a parallelism, in these verses where the first letter is parallel to the second letter, and so on, with the letter **C** being the key point:

A I have created and formed you; fear not, you are Mine (43:1)

B When you pass through the rivers and through the fire, I will be with you (43:2)

C For I Am ADONAI, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior (43:3)

C Because I love you, I will give people in exchange for your life (43:4)

B Do not be afraid, for I Am with you and will bring you back from the ends of the earth (43:5-6)

A I created everyone who is called by My name for My glory (43:7)

Isaiah describes **the** final, worldwide **regathering of the scattered exiles.** Three major points are made in these three verses. First, we are told that this regathering is from the *four corners* of the world. **Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, "Give them up!" and to the south, "Do not hold them back."** (43:5-6a). **Isaiah** is not prophesying about the return from Babylon because that was from only one area of the world. **Isaiah** is describing the far eschatological regathering after the Great Tribulation in preparation for the Messianic Kingdom.

Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth (43:6b). In words similar to those of **11:11-12, 27:13, 49:12** and **60:4**, **ADONAI** promises to bring **Jacob's** children back from every corner of the earth. This promise confirms the same promise Moses made in **Deuteronomy 30:3-6.** Furthermore, this regathering will be aided by the Gentile nations who will be called upon to bring **the Jews** back (see **DI - The LORD will have Compassion of Jacob**).

But perhaps the most significant thing is that **God** views the final gathering of **Isra'el** on the magnitude of the original creation of man. **Everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made (43:7)**. The only time you see the words **created (Genesis 1:27)**, **formed (Genesis 2:7)** and **made (Genesis 1:26)** together is in the creation passages. **They** were brought into existence for one purpose, to glorify **ADONAI**. Consequently, **the people of God** could not be left in exile. **His** name was on them. Whatever would happen to them or not happen to **them** was directly attributable to **Him**. If **they** were disgraced, **He** would be disgraced. **They** are called by **His** name, **they** belong to **Him**, **they** are part of **His** family (**Deuteronomy 28:10; Jeremiah 14:9, 15:16; Ezekiel 36:20**).

In the final analysis, **Isra'el**, had sinned. But one of the fundamental principles of the Kingdom of **God** is that **His** grace precedes everything else. The most concise statement of this truth in the New Covenant is found in **Romans 5:8. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us**. That is, **the LORD** did everything necessary to deliver us from the consequences of our **sin** before there was any indication that we would respond to **Him**. The Adversaries lie that **God** is somehow holding out on us; that in some way **He** doesn't really **love** us and want the best for us, is refuted by this one verse. **The LORD's** character radiates free, self-giving love, without the slightest taint of selfishness, the "what's in it for me" attitude of the human nature. The ultimate proof of that is the cross. **ADONAI** comes to us in **Messiah**, offering **Himself** to us (**53:10**). There is nothing we have done or ever could do to merit such an offer. It is free. It is the grace of **God**.¹⁶⁰