

The Promises of God

Title – Do Not Fear - You Are Mine

Prayer

Purpose/Review

Series... The Promises of God

Last week we touched on a common theme that is found in the bible...

Hebrews 13:5

Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you...

This morning we will look at that same theme but from a slightly different angle...

Our reading this morning is out of the Book of Isaiah...

Isaiah being one of the three major prophets...

Jeremiah and Ezekiel being the other two...

When we read the historical books of the Old Testament

We see the Jewish people drifting from God

God would send prophets warning the people to straighten up

And we know now that they ignored God's warnings

One of those prophets was Isaiah... sometimes called the Prince of Prophets

SIDE NOTE-

Priests would deliver the words of the people to God

Prophets would deliver the Words of God to the people

Isaiah Background

Isaiah's writing took place between 750 BC and 700 BC

As a prophet God had somehow given him a vision of the future

At the time of his writings the Kingdom had, had a civil war

And had divided into 2 kingdoms

The Northern Kingdom... Israel

The Southern Kingdom... Judah

SLIDE- Northern and Southern Kingdoms

He prophesied that the Northern Kingdom would be destroyed by Assyria

And he lived to see it happen

He gave the same warning to the Southern Kingdom... Judah

It would be the nation of Babylon that would destroy them

Again... prophesying... speaking of a future event...

In His mercy God reminds His people

That even though they had turned from Him

Even though this resulted in them being taken into captivity

Through Isaiah, God reminded the people that He would not forget them

That one day He would restore the both kingdoms

Our reading reminds the Jewish people of this promise

Giving them hope for what was about to come

Isaiah 43

1 But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.

Doctrinal

So let's break our reading apart to understand the hope that we find in our God...

Isaiah 43

1 But now, **thus says the Lord...**

NOTE-

This phrase is used in the Bible to introduce
A direct declaration or a command or a prophecy from God

This phrase is asserting that the words that follow
Are divine revelation rather than human opinion

Isaiah 43

1 But now, thus says the Lord, **your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel**

NOTE-

Who was Jacob... who was Israel

NOTE-

Jacob refers to the patriarch Jacob whose name was changed to Israel
Symbolizing the entire nation of Israel

Jacob represents the natural family, the Jewish people
Who descended from the patriarch

God is highlighting His role as their Creator
Emphasizing their identity as His chosen people

Listen to this verse again...

Isaiah 43

1 But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel

NOTE-

This is God speaking to the Jewish people
And by default... to us

Your Creator... He who formed you...

The use of "created" and "formed" underscores God's intimate involvement in the origin and development of the nation of Israel. "Jacob" and "Israel" refer to the patriarch Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, symbolizing the transformation and covenant relationship with God.... **Berean Study Bible**

Isaiah 43

1 But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel... **Do not fear**

Why... because you are Mine...

So let's look at the depths of this truth...

Application

Do Not Fear - You are Mine

1) I have redeemed you

Remember.... God had given Isaiah a vision of a future

NOTE-

The Northern Kingdom, Israel had been conquered by Assyria

Judah would survive for another 130 years

At the time of this writing Judah was still free

Yet through Isaiah, God told the people that Judah would be taken into captivity
But here God is telling that I have redeemed you

Redeemed - the act of deliverance or buying back, often used in the context of freeing someone from slavery or bondage

God said to them... Yes... you will be taken into captivity because of your sins
You will become slaves once again in a foreign land

But do not fear... even though you have sinned against me I will redeem you
Just as I delivered your forefathers from Egypt

I will deliver you from Babylon

In the New Testament Paul reminds us...

Romans 15

4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

It was written not just to teach us theological truths, but also to be a source of practical instruction for Christians concerning how to live... **Jack Cottrell**

NOTE-

God is telling us that we have been redeemed in the same way
That He redeemed the captives from Babylon

Titus 2

14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO 1 Peter 1:18-21

1 Peter 1

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

NOTE-

Not only have you been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus
God has called you by name

Our second bullet point...

Do Not Fear - You are Mine

1) I have redeemed you

2) I have called you by name

Pause for a moment and ponder what the bible is teaching us...

I have called you by name

NOTE-

The idea that God called you by name

Signifies a personal relationship and intimate knowledge

Just as God was personally involved in creating Adam and Eve

So too is He intimately involved when He created you

Jeremiah 1

5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...I have called you by name

QUESTION-

What's in a name?

ANSWER-

What's in a name...

The question originates in Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” These words were spoken by Juliet, with the feud between her family and Romeo’s family in mind. She expresses her love for Romeo and asserts that his name—Montague—is inconsequential to their love.

In “The Matrix,” the character Neo questions the significance of his birth name, Thomas Anderson, as he discovers a deeper understanding of his identity beyond the labels imposed upon him.

NOTE-

A deeper understanding of our identity

What’s in a name...?

God took Abram’s name and gave him a new one... Abraham
God took Jacob’s name and gave him a new one... Israel

Signifying a new beginning...

Jesus took Simon’s name and gave him a new one...
You shall be called Cephas (which is translated Peter)

We are told of a man named Saul in the book of Acts
Who would come to be known as Paul

Why... why did God change the name of so many people in the bible...

NOTE-

God changed names in the Bible primarily to establish a new identity
To mark a significant life transition, a specific divine calling

A name change often meant a completely altered life
From the one the person had lived before

You might be thinking... Pastor I've been a Christian for many years
I haven't had my name changed

To which I would reply.... Not yet

Revelation 2

17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.

To those who overcome... to those who have been redeemed

To those who I have called by their name.

Do not fear... You are Mine...

Third bullet point...

Do Not Fear - You are Mine

- 1) I have redeemed you
- 2) I have called you by name
- 3) I will be with you**

Isaiah 43

1... Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! 2 ...I will be with you...

Here is the same theme that we looked at last Sunday...

I formed you... I called you... I will always be with you...

We know that this is a recurring theme in the bible
Stated in one form or another over 300 times

This promise is almost invariably linked to a command to have courage

In every major instance where this phrase appears
It is immediately followed by an instruction not to fear or be discouraged

Notice what God promises to us...

Isaiah 43

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,
Nor will the flame burn you.

When you pass through the water... I will be with you

Through the rivers... I will be with you

When you walk through the fire... I will be with you

Notice what God does not promise...

God does not promise to bypass the waters...

Or to by pass the fires of life...

NOTE-

The safety of the believer is not found in the absence of danger
But in the presence of God within the danger.

John 16 JB Phillips

33 I have told you all this so that you may find your peace in me. You will find trouble in the world—but, never lose heart, I have conquered the world!

Our peace does not come from the world... but from Jesus

Inner peace is conditional; it can come only through Jesus. The world offers only trouble that need not plague Jesus' followers. We belong to the one who overcame the world. Fear turns to peace when we learn how to apply Jesus' victory in our lives... **Kenneth Gangel**

We must live in the world with all of its challenges

We know that all Scripture is God breathed

God gave us the bible as a reminder of His great love

He has been intimately involved in your life

He will never leave you nor forsake you

No matter where we find ourselves... let us always remember this truth

God tells us... Do Not Fear... for you are mine

CLOSE