

SUPERIOR GUARANTEE

Isaiah 43

INTRODUCTION:

God addresses the nation. It is a live hook up with a peculiar people. Stubborn people, but not going to destroy them. Continues to love them - preserve by mercy.

Dark storm - sunlight appears - forgiveness of sin is offered.

OUTLINE

- I. Scattered Nation 1-7.
- II. Suggestions For Witnessing 8-21.
- III. Superior Forgiveness 22-28.

I. Scattered Nation - V. 1-7.

V. 1. - Addresses Israel and reasons for this message.

- A. Created - Founded their government - covenant with.
- B. Redeemed - From Bondage in Egypt.
- C. Peculiar - Called and set apart for fellowship. Adam names all creatures of earth. Know intimately - He called by name.
- D. Covenant - Mine - Adoption - Brought with great price - John 10:27-29.
Why be afraid - Thou art mine.

Redeemed - Dr. Sutherland Bonnell, pastor, 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church, N. Y. writes in a book the story of lady of his church who had been ill for a long time. Nervous and filled with fear at first when he visited the hospital. The doctors hesitated to let him see her. When he finally began his visits with the consent of the doctors, he taught her the words of this text "Fear not, for I have redeemed Thee; I am the Lord Thy God, Thy Saviour".

And with these words in her mind, she would slip off to peaceful sleep when all else failed to quiet her. At the close of her lingering illness - He took her hand and softly and quietly quoted the words -- she opened her eyes and smiled. Then gently

fell into the arms of death - blessed - unafraid.

Fear is everywhere.

Verse 2 - E. Protection - Care - Did they pass through deep waters? Did they walk through fire? Fear not he said - what things should they fear? Opposition - hatred of the world - Devil?

Your pathway - temporal troubles - waters - rivers - affliction often deep.

Protection - "Man who is born of woman is of few days, but they are full of trouble".

"Man is born unto trouble as the sparks to fly upward".

Don't look at the world - look at yourself - pass through.

Fact - when you pass through - I will be with Thee. Where is God in troubled times? With us in wild rapids of life - to end of the age.

Redeeming - transforming - rescuing us.

You won't always be there - takes us through - on, out.

We can sing with the saint"

"When through the deep waters,

I cause Thee to go,

The rivers of sorrow shall not

Overflow;

For I will be with Thee, Thy sorrows

to bless,

And sanctify to Thee, Thy deepest distress.

When thro' fiery trials Thy pathway shall lie,

My grace, all sufficient, shall be Thy supply;

The flame shall not hurt Thee; I only design,

Thy dross to consume, and Thy gold to refine".

Friends come in time of sickness. God comes - His people walked through the deep waters of the Red Sea and the Jordan and the furnace of fire. (Heated 7 times hotter - intensity)

Verse 3 - F. Perplexity - Given Egypt as a ransom - It was either Israel or Egypt! King, type of ransom. Judgment on the earth - ransom for oppressed Israel. I Thes. 1:6.

Verse 4 - G. Precious. To him - dear to his heart. Honourable and loved. Church object of his love.

Verse 5 - H. Preserve - Return. Scattered nations will be gathered. Seed of Israel from East, West, North, South.

Verse 6 - "I will say" - Address scattered nation.

Verse 7 - They are called by my Name - created for his Glory.

II. Suggestions For Witnessing - Verse 8-21.

Verse 8 - Challenge the idolatrous nations - eyes blind. Come say what you have to say.

Verse 9 - Publicly let them answer - foretell things. 400 false prophets of Ahab. Smooth words. 2 Chron. 18:5. Falsehoods - False Prophets until this day continue to preach peace to an impenitent church.

Verse 10 - God's Witnesses. Summoned. Called. Tell of goodness of ~~God~~ - living God.

Verse 11 - Tell that He is only Saviour.

Mt. Carmel - Elijah and people had one witness at close of contest - "Jehovah, He is God, Jehovah, He is God".

One Saviour to witness too - no other.

31 times Jehovah speaks in first person.

Verse 12 - Tell and give evidence in favour of their God / God had declared promises and no failure. Be ready.

First, a witness is to speak the truth. Whole truth - nothing but the truth.
(Life is to be the truth.)

Second, the witness was to give direct evidence. (I have shewed Thee). Second hand Christianity is one of the worst things in the earth.

Third, the witness must not damage his own case. (Ye are my witness). Whole life is a witness.

Fourth, the witness will expect cross examination. Solomon says "a man is first in his own cause and seemeth just but his neighbor cometh and searcheth him".

Charles Spurgeon said "Christians make your lives clear - be not as a muddy creek. You need to tell men you love them, but make them feel it."

Verse 13 - Tell of God's deliverance. Irresistible power - not His performances - shown - saved - when there was no way out.

God's work - none can hinder!

Before the day - creation - from eternity I am God - Idols were made yesterday. No God formed ahead of me.

Verse 14 - Tell of His Gracious Ways - Even in Babylon - I will be your Redeemer - My work.

Ships of commerce a joy - fostered wealth - Babylon a foe and conqueror.

Verse 15 - Tell Who Does This

I am Jehovah - the one unchanging, ever-existing, covenant - keeping God of Israel.

He is the Holy one - abhorrence to all that is contrary to his standard of holiness.

The creator of Israel - made them a people.

Your King - Protection of his Throne - forbids them to remain captive in Babylon.

Impossibility of one single redeemed individual to remain captive to sin.

Verse 16 - Tell of him doing the impossible - path through the sea - Red Sea - Violent east wind.

Verse 17 - Chariots and horses - past event.

Against their enemies.

Verse 18 - Tell of Faith of Fathers - mercies never exhausted - former things - old days. Don't stop with the old things and let that be it.

Verse 19 - Tell of New Things - New promises - new proofs that the Lord liveth.

Conduct them safely to their own land. Make Path in desert - provide - mighty worker - always doing new things.

Verse 20 - Tell how everything makes way for chosen people. This looks back to trip through wilderness - even beast - dragons - idols were made to serve him.

Verse 21 - Tell forth your witness with praise. He has formed the church - all the living members should sing forth with praise.

He formed it for himself - therefore praise Him with your lips, lives, giving, service.

He is the Superior Guarantor - gives security - undertakes for us - Praise him.

III. Superior Forgiveness - Verse 22-28.

Verse 22 - Weary of Religion

Left things undone - omission of the good which God commanded. Frustrated God's expectations.

Cast off Prayer - not called - lived without prayer.

Like telling God they were tired of religion.

Verse 23 - Weary of Sacrifice

Giving Grudgingly to the expense of the church. Told God they could not afford to give the best offering.

Little sense of their great obligation to the Lord - could not spare the small or great. What sacrifices were made did not honour God so it was like no sacrifice at all.

God had appointed a sacrifice and they thought it a burdensome thing.

They complain of serving God.

They thought of it as drudgery - wearisome service. Christ requires cheerful service - joy in religion -- Give with joy.

Verse 24 - Wearied God - Turn around - you weary of God and religion. Now, your true position - about to wear God's patience out with your sinfulness.

Sweet cane - holy oil - incense - not willing to pay for that. No free will offerings! Sign of hospitality.

Not fill the altar of-GOD. Lean sacrifices!

Tired of their wickedness. God's gifts turned into lust.

Verse 25 - Do you long for deliverance from sin? God considers this his task.

Israel delivered from Principle of sin - Egypt a type - slavery, no freedom, hope, or future. Sin does the same. Enslavement - wages of sin.

Israel delivered from destruction of sin. Dangers of false gods. Military battles. Delivered from Babylon.

Israel needs deliverance from presence of sin. Back in Promise Land --- Glorious church must be without spot or wrinkle. Christians must battle with fears without.

God is ready to pardon sin!

What is sin? Word of God gives the answer. Human heart is vile.

Thy sins - Thy transgressions - Often boast of my possessions but seldom of my sins! They are ours, if we die with them, take us to unquenchable fire.

Must a man perish in sin?

Forgiveness - I am He - Blotteth out - Figure like dark cloud covering the Heavens. Expression blot out a speech - a sentence.

Completeness - blot out all transgressions. Present blessing - do so even now. I will not remember - forgotten. For his sake. Only God can forgive sin. Never know any peace until you know that-God forgives.

If-God forgives you may rest on it forever.

Reason - For mine own sake. Not because you done anything to merit it. He delights in mercy.

You may say a creed - I believe in the forgiveness of sin and not conscious of any great sin.

Law of God awakens us to sin - past offences.

There is forgiveness - garden.

That is why he instituted the sacrifices.

That is why he exhorts men to repent.

That is why he sends out Preachers.

That is why he taught model prayer - He did not intend for you to play at forgiveness but really forgive all those who have done evil towards you in any way.

Forgetting - Lord forgets - man lays up in his mind a thing, like a storeroom, preserve it. - GOD will not do that with our sins.

As a judge - forgets the transgressions of the pardoned ones. They are not before Him in court.

A man meditates on things - broods over offences like a hen gathering her chickens under her wing. - GROWS worse as they think on - nurse their wrath - son demand vengeance.

God buried your sins when forgiven. Day of atonement - once for all.

Forgiven sin - never be punished for. Forgiven sinners used - Peter - Pentecost - Denied!

Forgiveness can be had - GOD's appointed way. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

One thing God always does with sin - Removes it out of His presence - Cast away from guilty soul.

He is always waiting - same yesterday - today - forever - Wickedness in your heart blot out.

Verse 26 - Plea for Justification

1:18 - Come now let us reason together. Pharisee - stands upon his own justification.

Merits - own favour.

Plead your cause with me.

Publican - Is God ready to pardon sin -- let us mention our sins before him,
put him in remembrance.

Verse 27 - Beginning of our sin problem - 1st Father. Trace back to poor erring
man.

You are children of disobedience. Passed on through his loins - Ezra 9:7.

Corruption of Adam - Up stream.

Verse 28 - God Displeased With Sin.

A. Sanctuary trampled on.

B. Honour of state ruined. World reproached them for their little good and
much sin.