

Series: Isaiah Series 2024

Title: How Do We Know

Text: Is 42: 9-17

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Isaiah 42: 9: Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. 10: Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof. 11: Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up *their voice*, the villages *that* Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. 12: Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands. 13: The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies. 14: I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: *now* will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once. 15: I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools. 16: And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. 17: They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye *are* our gods.

As we look at these passages in Isaiah, we should remember this is the word of the Lord. This is the message the Lord gave Isaiah to preach. These are the things the Lord would have declared to his people. When Christ's preacher preaches verse by verse through God's word, men who charge him with not preaching as he ought, merely manifest they do not want to hear the message God has given for us to preach. We cover every subject preaching verse by verse. When men hear one of Christ's preachers preach today, they may try to cast doubt that God gave us the message. Well, there is no doubt this is the message God gave Isaiah to preach.

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

Subject: How Do We Know?

How do we know God shall fulfill every covenant promise to his people? The Lord says, "*Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.*" God says, "Look back over history." Everything God promised to do, God did. God says, "*and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.*" In this chapter God is declaring new things before they spring forth. These new things had not yet come to pass in Isaiah's day. But we have the benefit of looking back and seeing that God brought these new things to pass, as well as the former things.

Proposition: God saves according to his purpose. The gospel is the covenant promise of God. God shows his people beforehand what he will do then God brings it to pass. God has never failed to fulfill his promises. That is how we know he shall fulfill every promise in the future and save us according to his covenant promise.

FORMER THINGS

God commands us to behold the former things. So let's consider a few former things.

Before Abraham even had a child, the Lord promised, "*I have made thee a father of many nations.*" (Gen 17: 4-5.) In time, the Lord gave him a son, Isaac. From Isaac the Lord produced Jacob. From Jacob the twelve tribes of Israel. Now, Galatians 3: 16 declares that the promises made to Abraham, were promises made to Christ.

Galatians 3: 16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Before God created the world, he promised our Savior, "*I have made thee a father of many nations.*" God our Father chose who he would save and gave them to his Son to save.

Another former thing we see is this. Four hundred and thirty years beforehand, the Lord declared to Abraham that the children of Israel would become slaves in Egypt. But God also declared the exact time he would deliver them. And God brought it to pass He delivered them by a Passover Lamb. Before creating the world, God chose his Son to be the Savior of his elect—Christ is our Passover Lamb. The same as God declared beforehand that the children of Israel would come into bondage, by choosing our Savior before the world was made, God declared in eternity that his elect would come into bondage by the fall.

The Lord did not say to Adam, 'If you eat of the tree you shall die'—he said, "*in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*" (Gen 2: 17). Adam's transgression plunged all who he represented into sin and death. But it was according to God's purpose to glorify his Son in the salvation of his elect. By design, God made Adam the head of all who would be born of Adam to typify Christ the Head of God's elect who shall be born-again of him.

Romans 5: 14...[Adam was] the figure of him that was to come... 18: Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men [who Adam represented] to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all

men [Christ represented] unto justification of life. 19: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Before there was a sinner, God chose who he would save and provided our Savior. That gives us great comfort! God is working all thing together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according TO HIS PURPOSE. (Rom 8: 28).

Another former thing is that way back there in Abraham's day, God promised to deliver the children of Israel into the land of promise. God did it. Christ shall do the same for all who he redeemed.

John 14: 2:...I go to prepare a place for you. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

John 6: 39: And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Christ our Passover redeemed each and every one of God's elect on the cross. Each one shall be granted repentance and delivered into the new heavens and the new earth (Rev 21: 9-27.) God saves according to his eternal purpose.

Ephesians 1: 11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Isaiah 46: 9: Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10: Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11:...yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Isaiah 42: 9: Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

NEW THINGS

Next, let's hear the new things that the Lord declared he would bring to pass.

The first new thing declared here is that God will save his elect, not only in Israel, but in all the world—*v10: Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth.* God puts a "new song" on our lips. It is a song of his praise. A new song of electing grace. The Lord declares he will save his elect, not only in Israel, but from the end of the earth. He will save his elect from all nations and all walks of life. Sailors—*v10: that go down to the sea.* Gentiles—*v10...the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.* Some rough country folk in the wilderness, some refined city folk—*v11: Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice.* And this next word would have been a surprise to Isaac's natural descendants; the Lord declared he even has elect amongst the children of Ishmael—*v11...the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.* Kedar was the second son of Ishmael (Gen 25: 13).

Isaiah 60: 7: All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

This declares salvation is not based on anything in us but by God's grace. This is a new song of God's electing grace. All God's elect have this in common—"we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God." Salvation must be by God's electing grace, "that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth" (Rom 9: 11).

And all those God saves have this in common. We all sing this new song of praise and glory to God our Father and his Son, Christ Jesus for he alone redeemed us by his blood and made us righteous—*12: Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.*

Revelation 5: 9: And they SUNG A NEW SONG, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood OUT OF EVERY KINDRED, AND TONGUE, AND PEOPLE AND NATION; 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Secondly, this is the new song of our triumphant Redeemer. It is the new song of redeeming grace—*v13: The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man [that was new, God manifest in the flesh], he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.* Our Lord Jesus Christ is never spoken of in scripture as "trying" but only as "prevailing"—"*he shall prevail against his enemies*"

Isaiah 42: 4: He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth:...

He prevailed in redeeming his people on the cross.

Revelation 5: 5: And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, HATH PREVAILED to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. 6: And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain,...

Hebrews 1: 3...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

He prevails to make his enemies his footstool. Every fallen son of Adam was an enemy in our minds by wicked works. But those Christ redeemed, he prevails to reveal himself and bring us to his feet in faith and praise and glory to him. Others he prevails to use to fulfill his purpose and teach his people then cast them off. There are no “maybe’s” in this passage, only “I will, I will, I will!”

Thirdly, this is the new song of quickening grace. The new song about Christ calling and keeping his people unto the end—*v15: I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools. 16: And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.*

We are proud mountains and hills by nature. But Christ reveals he alone is the Righteousness and Sanctification of his people and he brings the mountains down.

Zechariah 4:7: Who *art* thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel *thou shalt become* a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone *thereof with* shoutings, *crying*, Grace, grace unto it.

He dries up our vain fountains that he alone might be our Water of Life.

We were spiritually blind, he gave us sight to behold him and we follow the Lamb—*v16: And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known:*

Isaiah 29:18: And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

John 10: 27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Isaiah 48:17: Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; *I am* the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way *that* thou shouldest go.

He is the Light and the Way—*v16...I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.*

2 Corinthians 4:6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

He turned us from the crooked ways of trying to save ourselves by our own works. He turned us to himself and made himself All unto us so that we see he alone is the Way to God.

Child of God, whenever you come into dark providence and do not know what to do—our Lord commands us what to do:

Isaiah 50:10: Who *is* among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh *in* darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

By his Spirit, we wait on the Lord. By his Spirit, we look to none but Christ. By his Spirit, we heed his word. This is how he approves them that are his. We have his promise, “*I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.*”

He shall not lose one—*v16...These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.* He paid for us with his precious blood. We are his purchased possession. For the Father’s glory he shall keep his people.

Psalms 94:14: For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

Romans 5:8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9: Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10: For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Hebrews 13:5: *Let your* conversation *be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Those that Christ has revealed himself in, shall not depart from him. Our confidence is Christ alone. But—*v17: They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods.*

Christ does all this through this song I am singing to you now, the preaching of Christ and him crucified, the preaching of Christ and his marvellous works! This is the word God would have preached! The new song of the new everlasting covenant of grace. The new song of electing grace, redeeming grace, regenerating grace, preserving grace. The new song of new mercies made new every morning. All by our faithful covenant God.

Brethren, we have assurance that the Lord will bring all his future promises to pass by beholding how he brought all these former things to pass according to his promise. Trust in the faithfulness of our Infinite God. Faith in Christ is the death blow to our anxious worry. God brings to pass what he purposed from the beginning.

Great is thy faithfulness, o God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with thee
Thou changest not
Thou compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever shalt be

Morning by morning new mercies I see
Al I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Amen!