

Series: Isaiah 2024
Title: For Our Sake
Text: Isaiah 43: 14-21
Date: March 17, 2024
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Isaiah 43: 14: Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel;

Notice who is speaking. *Thus saith the LORD*--Jehovah God. *Your Redeemer*--Jehovah is the Redeemer of his elect--manifest in the GodMan, Christ Jesus. *The Holy One of Israel*--the Holy One of his elect Israel.

Isaiah 43: 14...For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

We take small objects and use them illustrate something to our children, God uses whole nations and kingdoms. God used the nation Israel to typify God's elect chosen from among all nations. And God raised up the empire of Babylon/Chaldeans to typify the great spiritual enemy of God's elect.

Revelation 17: 1: And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Spiritual Babylon is all falsehood, especially false religion. She allures everyone whose name is not written in the Lambs book of life before the world was made. She attracts sinners to her. "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." But God says in our text,

Isaiah 43: 14...For your sake [for the sake God's elect scattered among all nations] I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

God sent forth a king named Cyrus, through whom God brought down Babylon and her mighty men. It typified the Lord Jesus. Christ came forth and brought down Babylon. Right now, our King is sending forth the gospel and calling his people to faith in him. He is preserving us through the gospel. When he has called all his elect out of this world then God shall judge Babylon at last.

Revelation 14: 6: And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7: Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. 8: And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

So everything the LORD has and is doing in this earth is for the sake of his elect children. God says, "I do this *for your sake.*"

Subject: For Our Sake

Proposition: Our text shows us four things God is doing for the sake of his elect in this earth.

GOD ALONE TO BE WORSHIPPED

Isaiah 43: 15: I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.

Our great Savior is teaching us that he alone is to be worshipped. He is teaching us "*I am the LORD.*" Christ Jesus is the LORD. He is God in human flesh.

Colossians 2:9: For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

When he calls his elect, he makes us know I am "*YOUR HOLY ONE.*" Christ Jesus is the Holy One of his elect Israel. He is the One in whom and by whom his elect are sanctified--set apart and made perfect--in election, in redemption, in regeneration and at last in glorification.

"*The Creator of Israel.*" God our Father created spiritual Israel in eternity when he chose in his Son. Christ Jesus created his elect Israel through his broken body and shed blood. He creates us anew by the Holy Spirit in the new birth and shall make us entirely new in the end when he raises us with a glorified body, without sin.

Revelation 21: 1: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

When he calls us he makes us know in our new heart, "*I am Your King.*" Christ has been the King over his holy nation from the beginning—he is the King of Righteousness and the King Peace. He is seated upon his throne in the heavens ruling and reigning with all power over all!

Our fall in Adam was FOR OUR SAKE. Our being born in sin was for our sake. Every trial we have in this life is for our sake. Why? That the Lord might make us know more and more, "*I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.*" He alone is to be worshipped. No other man. No other thing. Christ alone is to be worshipped!

THE VICTORY WON

Isaiah 43: 16: Thus saith the LORD, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters; 17: Which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power; they shall lie down together, they shall not rise: they are extinct, they are quenched as tow.

Everything our Lord works in our salvation is for our sake to remind his people the victory was won by our Lord.

He points us back to when the Lord brought Israel out of Egyptian bondage. The LORD made a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters. The LORD brought forth Pharaoh with his chariots and horses and mighty army full of power.

He did it for two reasons: one, to show Israel their utterly inability to save themselves--all flesh is grass! Two, to show Israel he alone destroyed their enemies Pharaoh and his army--"*they shall lie down together, they shall not rise: they are extinct, they are quenched as tow.*" He put them down and extinguished them as easily as you blow out a candle.

That is why the Lord let us fall in Adam. That is why he let the devil rage. That is why he sends every trial. It is to teach us our Lord is ruling all, even our enemies. It is to teach us the Victory is our Lord's.

Romans 9: 17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. 18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will *have mercy*, and whom he will he hardeneth. 19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? 20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? 22 *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to

make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

OUR SAVIOR IS THE LORD JESUS

Isaiah 43: 18: Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. 19: Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, *and* rivers in the desert. 20: The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, *and* rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

For our sake, our Lord works all things in providence and all things in salvation to teach us our substitute and savior is the Lord Jesus. What is the new thing the Lord creates?

Jeremiah 31: 22:...the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.

Isaiah 7: 14: Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Christ is that New Thing. What is this he says shall "spring forth"--v19...*now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?*

Isaiah 61: 11: For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

It is Christ our Righteousness to whom all praise is given.

Isaiah 53:2: For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him.

Christ is the Way to God our Father--"*I will even make a way in the wilderness.*" When he brought them out of Babylon they had to travel back to Jerusalem. God said, "I will even make a way in the wilderness." When the Spirit of God calls us out Babylon, he makes us know Christ is the Way through this wilderness to heavenly Jerusalem, to God our Father.

John 14: 6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Christ Jesus is the Way who brings us from Babylon into heavens Jerusalem. He is the Way God can be just and Justify his people. Christ is the Way God's holy law can be satisfied and God show mercy to his sinful people. The Lord Jesus is the Way "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*" (Ps 85: 10).

Christ is the Rivers in the desert. He says in our text, "*I will make rivers in the desert.*" We are the desert. There is no life in us until Christ the Life is formed in us. We are only dry dead sinners.

Romans 7: 18: For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

Christ formed within his elect is the Rivers--the Life--in the desert. He says, "*to give drink to my people, my chosen.*"

Isaiah 32: 1: Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. 2 And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

John 7: 37: In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

1 John 5: 11: And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

John 15: 16: Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

FOR OUR SAKE

Isaiah 43: 21: This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

Everything our Savior is bringing to pass is for our sake, child of God. It is all for this purpose. God says, "*This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.*"

Beholding our God our Father in his Son determined the end from the beginning. Beholding how he ruled the devil and all Babylon for our sakes. Beholding how Christ came forth and redeemed us from Babylonian captivity. We are learning everyday how Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life who leads us and protects us every step through this wilderness. Right now and forever in glory we cry out,

Psalm 115: 1: Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, *and* for thy truth's sake.

May God give us grace to behold him and believe him and worship and praise only our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

Amen!