

# **Safely Through The Waters**

**Isaiah 43:1-13**

# Introduction

- Today there is growing satanic antagonism toward Christians (Eph. 6:10–12; 2 Tim. 3:1–5).
- Weariness in the battle can leave one wondering if there is a refuge for my soul.
- No matter what we are going through, God wants us to know that He is for us, and nobody or no weapon formed against us can stand or succeed (Isa. 17; 54; Rom. 8:31)!
- He's the source of hope in the face of trouble.

# THIS IS WHAT THE LORD IS SAYING

- "But now, thus says the Lord," states Isaiah, "the one who created you, O Jacob, the one who formed you, O Israel" (v. 1a). Here the Lord speaks to the lost and rejected. "Remember the one who created you, the one who has chosen you," says the Lord.
- This section of the book of Isaiah was addressed to the Jews living in exile in Babylonia as a result of the conquest of Judah by King Nebuchadnezzar in the sixth century B.C. The Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. City walls were left in ruins. Families were separated. The entire nation was in chaos

# ISRAEL IN EXILE

- All the symbols of identity as a people and nation were demolished.
- They were exiles and losers, a forgotten people.
- The once proud name of Zion became a symbol of shame and degradation. Sound familiar?
- The word of the Lord came to them and the Lord comes to us today, through this passage in Isaiah.

# GOD CREATED US

- The Lord created and formed Israel and Judah.
- They would not be forgotten.
- They have been chosen first, elected and selected to bear God's creating and redeeming word to all nations.
- Through Jesus Christ, the Lord has created and formed you and me.
- We are not forgotten.
- We, too, have been elected and selected to bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

# *The love of Jehovah to Israel*

- IT IS THE LOVE OF A PARENT. “Thy Creator, O Jacob; he that formed thee, O Israel.”
- We cannot but love our children; and scarcely less dear to us are the children of our brain and of our heart.
- — our schemes, our books; the house whose structure we have planned, whose arrangements have been made after ideas of our own;
- the flock we have overseen; the little body of disciples or friends whom we have made an organization for the diffusion of our views of life.

# GOD HAS CHOSEN US

- What a text to remind us that God has chosen us!
- The word of the Lord continues: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you" (v. 1b).
- No more bondage to the forces that separate and humiliate.
- No more bondage to the power of sin.
- Here is deliverance.

# Being called by name

- Isaiah continues, addressing the Jewish exiles and using images of the Exodus from Egypt.
- Because God has chosen them, they will not live in exile forever.
- Because God has chosen them, they will not lose their identity as God's named and claimed people.
- Their return to Zion will be made smooth.
- Their protection is assured.

# God is our refuge

- The word of the Lord promises them, "When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you" (v. 2).
- This is also the word of the Lord to us today. We are baptized!
- The Lord has named and claimed us as adopted children of God.

# God is still our refuge

- Certainly there are now, and will be in our future, times when we perceive ourselves to be drowning in the troubles of life.
- Certainly there are now, and will be in our future, times when it seems as if we are either burning out or dropping out from the pressures of daily existence.
- But God is with us. God has chosen us.
- God did not abandon the exiles. God will not abandon us. We are baptized!

# God is the only source of security

- He's a safe place of protection to which we can run to.
- The God of the universe says, "I'll be your refuge when you're defeated, depressed, and in despair! You can come to Me and I'll wrap My arms around you and won't let any harm come to you, for I am your refuge!"
- In hyperbolic language He says even if the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the sea and floods come and the earth quakes, I'll still be your safe place.
- If all the pillars of your life leave you, it really doesn't matter, because I am the God of transcendent stability (Heb. 13:8).
- Nothing can erode His protective fortification. The psalmist says God, and God alone, is our only source and security (Ps. 62:5).

# Blazing fires of problems

- There are certainly times when it seems as if the blazing fires of family problems or work or school conflict are about to consume us.
- It would be easy to surrender. But God is with us. We are baptized!
- The Lord has called us by name.
- The Lord has chosen us. We belong to the Lord

# He's a Present Help

- THE SUPREME CLAIM. To every human soul, as to Israel of old, God says, “You are mine.”
- He requires of us that we shall consider ourselves as belonging to him.
- So that he may employ us in his service
- May direct our will, may command our affection, may control our life.

# God is always there

- He's a helper who is always there who is attentive to our needs.
- He's there when we're sick!
- He's there when we're well!
- He's there when we're rich!
- He's there when we're broke, shattered, and disgusted!
- He's there when we're happy, He's there when we're sad, so I will bless Him at all times and His praise shall continually be in my mouth

## *God, in trouble.*

- When you passes through the waters, I will be with you: and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.”
- *When. Then it is certain that such* experiences will come. It is only a question of time.
- Tribulation is common to all the children.
- When? We do not always know when the desolating floods of life are coming, but presently they will rise to our breast and to our throat — deep waters.

# TRIBULATION DOES NOT DESTROY PROGRESS

- *We pass through* these waters; they are part of the way in which the Lord our God is leading us.
- “Ever onward” is our motto.
- We are “a day’s march nearer home,” even in the days of desolation and distress.
- We need not hope to escape the waters.
- No *detour will take us out of the way of the floods.*

We pass through the waters, we walk  
through the fire

- **1. When heavy *losses reduce our possessions and make us face narrowness of* means, hard toil, or dependence on the charity of men.**
- **2. When grievous *disappointment overtakes us, extinguishing the bright hopes* by which our path had been lighted and our hearts had been animated and sustained.**

We pass through the waters, walk  
through the fire

- **3. When *sickness assails us, and our strength fails, and we lie long on the* couch of helplessness or pain.**
- **4. When *bereavement throws its dark shadow on our homeward way.***
- **5. When the *failure of those from whom we looked for good or even great* things sends a pang through our soul.**

# TRIBULATION BRINGS CHRIST NEAR

- “I will be with thee.” A brief sentence. But it is enough.
- We have but to study the little word “I” *It speaks of*
- One who has all power in heaven and in earth;
- One who is human and Divine.

# TRIBULATIONS DO NOT DESTROY

- “The rivers, they shall not overflow thee.” It is life the Saviour seeks for us, not death.
- Neither faith nor hope shall be destroyed.
- And if these water floods be death — which they are so often taken to mean — then they do not destroy.
- No; we pass through them to everlasting life.

# THE ENEMY

- So thank God for enemies.
- For the God we serve will not withhold one good thing from those who walk uprightly (Ps. 84:11*b*).
- What God has for you, it is for you (Jer. 29:11)!
- He'll bless you right in front of your haters and they'll sit and scratch their heads and wonder how you received what you have.
- Then they'll talk about you and say you think you're somebody.
- The truth is, you're a nobody whom God took and made somebody (1 Cor. 6:9–11).

# You are GOD WITH US.

- Then the psalmist says, “I will fear no evil; for You are with me” (Ps. 23:4*a*).
- David is saying that when you are going through something that makes you feel like you’re going to die.
- Don’t worry because the Lord is with you!
- You see, the Shepherd whipped the shadow (John 11:25–26). What the valley will do is show you who you can really depend on.
- Most of us will try to use our own mental muscle, but God has a way of showing us that life doesn’t consist of the abundance of the things a man possesses (Luke 12:15).

# Only God can comfort you

- You'll find out that your fat bank accounts can't purchase healing.
- Your Brass bed, Sealy mattresses with new and improved springs, and you still can't sleep at night.
- Your House alarmed, insurances in place, but you still can't purchase security.
- Even your familiar friend will turn his heels up against you in the valley (Ps. 41:9).
- But God's greatness—that He is, always was, and always will be—shows up in the valley (Ps. 90:20).

## *His limiting power.*

- The rivers may rise high, but they shall “not overflow” the person whom God is befriending.
- His hand is on the adverse forces which oppress us, and there is a mark beyond which he will see that they do not come.
- The fire may rage around his children, but such will be the resisting strength within that they “will not be burned.”
- Their faith and love will not fail; they will triumph, in spirit, over the worst distresses.

# Be under his security

- It's mighty to be under the pastoral care of Jehovah!
- When the Lord is your Shepherd, He'll soothe your doubts and calm all your fears (Ps. 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7).
- If you're lonely, He'll be your company keeper in the midnight hour (Acts 16:25–26)!
- That's what a shepherd does for his sheep! We have security in our Shepherd.<sup>1</sup>

# conclusion

- Thank You, the Lord, for being our Shepherd.
- You're a true foundation that never shakes.
- A faithful friend that never forsakes.
- A High Priest that never fails. An eternal fountain that never ceases to flow.
- An ark that never leaks, an anchor that never lets go. A rock that never moves, truth that never lies.
- A bridge that never collapses. A judge that never misguides.
- A promise that never defaults. A true vine that never withers. A companion who never departs. A counselor who never betrays.
- But most of all He's King of kings and Lord of lords!<sup>1</sup>

# Take your time

- Who created me?
- Whom do I ultimately trust?
- Whom do I look to for ultimate truth?
- Whom do I look to for security and happiness?
- Who is in charge of my future?