

## The Way Maker

Isaiah 43:14-28

Phil de Martimprey

11/12/23

When Anne and I got married on January 5th, 2008, we entered into the holy covenant of marriage. Now, till death do us part, we are husband and wife. That is our new reality. However, every day provides opportunities to experience or forfeit the blessings of this relationship. We can choose to follow sound and wise Godly principles, and as a result, we will not just BE married, but we will ENJOY BEING married. If we choose to live selfishly and reject Godly principles, we will NOT ENJOY being married. God's plan for His chosen people Israel shared some similarities. They were not just simply to BE His chosen people, but if they would obey Him, they would ENJOY BEING His chosen people. The related truth that we will see in our study today is that:

**To be rescued, we must believe;**

**To be blessed, we must obey.**

### Babylon Overcome (vv 14-15)

God gave an explicit promise to Israel. He would bring down the mighty nation of Babylon and turn them into refugees and fugitives. The ships that they once took pride in will be used to help them flee from the destruction God would bring on them at the hands of the Persians. God desired for His people to be free and to worship Him, so He promised to bring low the mighty nation of Babylon for their sake.

This section is also filled with titles for God to help remind the nation of Israel just who it is that is making these promises to them. The LORD, redeemer, Holy One of Israel, your Holy One, Creator of Israel, and your King. As we continue to study Isaiah, it will become increasingly apparent that Israel had begun to relate to YAHWEH as just another god among the pantheon of gods. Their hearts had become hardened against the God who chose them, created them, redeemed, rescued, and loved them. Due to this hardness of heart, there would be many of them who simply would not trust God or His prophets when they were called to return to and rebuild Jerusalem.

### The Way Maker (vv 16-21)

God again uses the Exodus account to remind His chosen people that He has the power to do what He promises. The same God who delivered them from Egypt will bring down the Babylonian nation. Interestingly, God reminded them of the Exodus, then immediately instructed them to forget the past events because He would do a "new thing" (vs. 19). This time, rather than rescuing them *out of* captivity, He was going to make a way for them to *come back into* their homeland and rebuild the Temple and their community. In order for them to experience the promised rescue and subsequent blessings, they would need to believe the Word of God and obey Him. If they did, He would provide for them in miraculous ways! They would have water in the desert and declare His praises! If they did not believe and obey, they would remain lost in their sin

and idolatry. God is and has always been the great Way Maker, making a way for people to know, hear, and follow Him for their blessing and His glory!

### **The Actual Burden Bearer (22-24)**

The miraculous and blessed way God provided would be for those who understood God rightly and believed and obeyed Him. We read that Israel was relating to the sacrificial laws as a burden. It wasn't that they were failing to make sacrifices; instead, it was their heart condition in relation to them. They related to the law like the teenager asked to take out the trash who responds sarcastically with an "ok...whatever". In their hearts, they were accusing God of placing all these burdens and wearying them, while in reality, their sinful attitudes and resulting actions were placing the burden on their loving God. As we studied earlier in Isaiah, the Israelites had picked up the pagan practice of using their religious duties in an attempt to manipulate God and get what they wanted out of Him. This was prideful, idolatrous, and sinful and would only result in further disappointment and discipline.

### **Judgment for the self-righteous (25-28)**

This section can be challenging to understand, but it appears God is sarcastically inviting the hard-hearted Israelites to come and explain why they are to be "proved right." God is the one who cleans the stains of sin, God is the one who doesn't hold forgiven people's sins against them. Israel, however, has not repented and feels like they are being mistreated. But Israel has no claim on righteousness, and in their silence following His "invitation," God pronounces judgment, and even the things they considered holy and sacred will experience His discipline in the destruction of the temple of Solomon.

There has always only been one way to enter the life God has for His people:

**To believe and obey Him.**

*Grace News and Needs*

---

#### **Womens Ministry**

- **Christmas Gala Tickets On Sale:** Dec 8th and 9th, tickets are on the patio.

#### **Mens Ministry:**

- Servers needed for Gala nights. Sign up on the patio.

**Pregnancy Care Clinic:** Adopt-A-Mom Tree will be on the patio next Sunday. Help to provide for a new or expecting mother this holiday season!

**VOM Needs for November:** Bath towels, washcloths, anti-septic wipes

Helping Hands is here to serve the body! If you have a need, grab a form from the foyer and drop it in one of the grey boxes. For more information on our events and ministries, visit [www.gccramona.com](http://www.gccramona.com)