

Who is blind as my dedicated one,
 or blind as the servant of the LORD?
 20 He sees many things, but does not observe them;
 his ears are open, but he does not hear.
 21 The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
 to magnify his law and make it glorious.
 22 But this is a people plundered and looted;
 they are all of them trapped in holes
 and hidden in prisons;
 they have become plunder with none to rescue,
 spoil with none to say, "Restore!"
 23 Who among you will give ear to this,
 will attend and listen for the time to come?
 24 Who gave up Jacob to the looter,
 and Israel to the plunderers?
 Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned,
 in whose ways they would not walk,
 and whose law they would not obey?
 25 So he poured on him the heat of his anger
 and the might of battle;
 it set him on fire all around, but he did not
 understand;
 it burned him up, but he did not take it to heart.

Israel's Only Savior

43 But now thus says the LORD,
 he who created you, O Jacob, the deceiver, the heel grabber
 he who formed you, O Israel: God present, contends, strives
 "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.

(19b) Here the priest and leaders are scolded for their blindness to God, His truth, and His message. Here those who should be closest to God's truth see nothing. God is wanting them to see.

(20) They are wise in earthly knowledge but cannot see the truth of God that they all point to. All their learning has not allowed them to hear God clearly.

(21) God is pleased, in that He has done His part. He has provided righteousness or a holy path for His people. He has given them written truth and exalted it before them.

(22) BUT what God intended is not what the people have become. The people have been robbed of truth as if they were attacked by bandits. They have been tricked, captured, and are prisoners with no hope of being restored.

(23) THE QUESTION IS ASK WITH AND UNDERSTOOD. "NO-ONE" THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE NOT LISTENING TO GOD.

(24) THIS IS CLEARLY THE REASON THEY ARE IN TROUBLE. BY IGNORING GOD THEY HAVE FORCED HIM TO WITHDRAW HIS PROTECTION. THEIR SIN HAS SEPARATED THEM FROM GOD. THEY CANNOT HOLD GOD ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING.

(25) HE HERE IS THE SERVANT, THE NATION OF ISRAEL WHO HAS REBELLED AND TURNED AWAY FROM GOD. ALL THE BAD THAT HAS HAPPENED WAS INTENDED TO INSTRUCT AND CORRECT THEM, INSTEAD THEY HAVE LEARNED NOTHING. THE NATION WILL BE CONQUERED BY BABYLON AS JUDAH WAS BY ASSYRIA BECAUSE OF THEIR SINS, AND BECAUSE THEY TURNED AWAY FROM GOD. IF THEY HAD REMAINED FAITHFUL THERE IS NO EARTHLY POWER THAT COULD HAVE DEFEATED THEM. THE PEOPLE (NATION OF ISRAEL) SAW ALL THIS AS MANIFESTATIONS OF EVIL AGAINST THEM INSTEAD OF HOW IT WAS INTENDED, TO DRIVE THEM BACK TO GOD.

(1) Here we see through the two names the old man (nation) that is replaced with the new man (nation). They were deceived but because of God's persistence a new hope is coming to them. Redeemed - paid the full price, or one they could not afford. Here we see the value of His name and the reason He protects it. Misusing His name is to reject God. Those who are called by God's name are His and must protect it with how they live daily.

2 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.

3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

4 Because you are precious in my eyes,
and honored, and I love you,

I give men in return for you,
peoples in exchange for your life.

5 Fear not, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you.

6 I will say to the north, Give up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar

and my daughters from the end of the earth,
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

8 Bring out the people who are blind, yet have eyes,
who are deaf, yet have ears!

9 All the nations gather together,
and the peoples assemble.

Who among them can declare this,
and show us the former things?

Calometries, but have special protection through the presence of God. Water & Fire are also pictures of Judgment. Water & Noah's Flood of Judgment & Fire and Christ Return & all being consumed. God's people passed through the sea while Pharaoh's army drowned. We pass through this world with God's help and ultimate deliverance.

① God shows in 3 word pictures who He is and what He does for His people. Each carries a double meaning. One for Israel, the other for those redeemed by Jesus. This shows most clearly in Savior. He saved Israel from Egypt while he saves the believer from sin. The ransom or replacement for Israel was 3 nations. A price had to be paid so he sacrificed them to redeem Israel. There is always a sacrifice for sin.

② Israel is precious as the vehicle of the coming promise of a deliverer. Abraham's seed (CHRIST JESUS) has made them a special people. His love for them is not based on their love, but their purpose. God protects them & sacrifices others so His love can ultimately be displayed in Christ.

③-7 Here we see the promise of God gathering His people from all points of the compass. The language is prophetic in nature and extends beyond just the nation of Israel. The ends of the earth shows an outreach beyond just the Jewish nation. The name of God signifies and separates people into 2 groups. Believers and non-believers. The purpose of these peoples is declared. "Created for my glory." Too many think of being His people selfishly or w/out considering that we are less than nothing w/out Him. Thus Philippians 2:10 shows the ultimate purpose of the name of God/Jesus. Everyone will bow and confess but only the believers will glorify Him through His name. This is a new creation, bringing together the saved as the Church.

⑧-9a Is a taunt to all unbelievers who are seen as blind to His truth and who have deaf ears and do not hear His voice. He call them to appear before Him and show all that has transpired in the past. Can they show His creation, His workings. God challenges them to come forward and try and school Him on creation or the history of their relationship. These stand in direct contrast to those who in the previous verses came from every corner of the earth to serve and Give Him Glory.

- Let them bring their witnesses to prove them right,
and let them hear and say, It is true.
- 10 "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.
- 11 I, I am the LORD,
and besides me there is no savior.
- 12 I declared and saved and proclaimed,
when there was no strange god among you;
and you are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"and I am God.
- 13 Also henceforth I am he;
there is none who can deliver from my hand;
I work, and who can turn it back?"
- 14 Thus says the LORD, (see also 13.1-14.27 & 47.1-15)
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
"For your sake I send to Babylon
and bring them all down as fugitives,
even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they
rejoice.
- 15 I am the LORD, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King."
- 16 Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,

10 He challenges the ungodly to prove they are right and He-God is wrong. What proof can they present in their defense and against God? He will hear them speak.

10 In contrast God's people are His witnesses. Those who He called and who have responded. His people know the truth about Him. They are called (or chosen) and have believed. They stand in contrast to those who have not believed and are called before God. He makes it clear that no God preceded Him, and none have appeared since.

11 This declaration of His absolute sovereign nature is stated emphatically. Jesus does this in Jn. 14.6 also. There is only one God & only He can save and deliver. (Period!!!) This is also a rebuke of the people turning to Egypt for help when they were told not to.

12 Again God speaks emphatically stating "I". The three actions are attributed to God. No other god could do this. "When there was no" is a statement that the majority were listening to Him and that the other gods cannot do what He does because they do not exist. The witness of the people is to what He does and not necessarily to their faithfulness in serving Him.

13 Henceforth from the beginning & from now on. What God determines to do happens, nothing & no one can stop Him. God is reminding the people of His absolute position over time & space.

14 He the Lord of Justice add that He is also the one who Redeems. This growing theme is now part of His name and purpose as God. The following language is prophetic perfect. It sounds like it has already happened but it is a prophecy of what will happen. Even as the Babylonians will punish Israel, they also will be punished. No sinner is excused for their actions. God steps back and allows the Assyrians & Babylonians to punish His people, yet He will not ignore the punishers sins either. The Chaldeans who use their ships for slave labor will find themselves slaves in these very ships.

15 The four titles are used as emphasis that the one sending this message is the one who can make it happen. He is declaring his very nature to the people.

16 God reminds them that He is the one who parted the sea to deliver them from pharaoh.

- 17 who brings forth chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
- 18 "Remember not the former things,
 nor consider the things of old.
- 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
- 20 The wild beasts will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches,
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
- 21 the people whom I formed for myself
 that they might declare my praise.
- 22 "Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob;
 but you have been weary of me, O Israel!
- 23 You have not brought me your sheep for burnt
 offerings,
 or honored me with your sacrifices.
 I have not burdened you with offerings,
 or wearied you with frankincense.
- 24 You have not bought me sweet cane with
 money,
 or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.
 But you have burdened me with your sins;
you have wearied me with your iniquities.

- (17) Here He reminds them who drowned Pharaoh's army and stopped them from pursuing them. For God this was as simple as blowing out a candle.
- (18) Even as God has reminded them of the past He does not want this to be their focus. He does not want them living in the past. He is about to do new miracles for them. The future w/ God is to be their focus and hope.
- (19) Even before their captivity God is preparing their deliverance. Behold is about this future that will show Him as their redeemer. He will guide them and provide for them. This is the picture of the "wilderness" and the "water."
- (20) God provides for His people and the overflow is a blessing that the wilderness and wild beast enjoy. As God blesses His people those around them are also blessed.
- (21) The people of God are blessed and in return bring forward praise and thanks. It is for them the way is provided and water comes forward. It is from them praise pours out to Him. (Remember this is a vision of when they are redeemed. He is about to remind them why they will be punished and why they need a redeemer.
- (22) The people have not called on God in prayer even when they were in trouble. They have avoided God. The second tells why they have wearied of God's presence. They are tired of serving him and this is why they no longer pray.
- (23) It is not that sacrifices stopped, but that they are no longer made to God, but made out of habit. Sacrifices for sacrifice sake. God never intend these sacrifices to burden the people. It was not to punish them He called for frankincense to be burned. Frankincense is a sweet earthy aroma that addal to sacrifices an incense was to remind the people of God's presence. (Ex 30:34; Lev 2:1)
- (24) These offerings were not brought to Him. Even if they were made they were not acceptable. God has grown tired of their sinning and ignoring Him. They are religious w/out being righteous. Their sacrifices for sin are themselves sinful. Even God has a point at which enough is enough and when people must repent or suffer for disobedience.

- 25 "I, I am he
 who blots out your transgressions for my own
 sake,
 and I will not remember your sins.
- 26 Put me in remembrance; let us argue together;
 set forth your case, that you may be proved right.
- 27 Your first father sinned,
 and your mediators transgressed against me.
- 28 Therefore I will profane the princes of the sanctuary,
 and deliver Jacob to utter destruction
 and Israel to reviling.

Israel the LORD's Chosen

- 44** "But now hear, O Jacob my servant,
Israel whom I have chosen!
- 2 Thus says the LORD who made you,
 who formed you from the womb and will
 help you:
 Fear not, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.
- 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
 and streams on the dry ground;
 I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,
 and my blessing on your descendants.
- 4 They shall spring up among the grass
 like willows by flowing streams.
- 5 This one will say, 'I am the LORD's,'
 another will call on the name of Jacob,
 and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,'
 and name himself by the name of Israel."

20) Even as they have been reminded of their sins. God no reminds them that He keeps the eternal records and he is the one who can "blot out" any portion He chooses. He even goes further and says He has the power to forget their sins.

- 26) The people are challenged to state their case. IF THEY FEEL THAT God has it wrong. Speak up, prove God wrong & yourself right.
- 27) First Father may be Adam, Abraham, Jacob, the key is this is not new. THESE people are descendants of this First Father or First Sinner. Mediators are all those who followed the First Sinner. They too sinned against God. None of them can claim to be righteous.
- 28) God withdraws His protection as they continue to live sinful lives. Much like Romans 1:24, 26, 28 God give them over. Destruction is described as utter or complete. This is violence unleashed by the ungodly upon the ungodly. Again here Jacob and Israel - God's people live w/out God & will pay the price.

- 1) The nation has a special purpose. The covenant w/Abraham is for God's purpose. When they forgot this and saw themselves as better than others instead as chosen for a purpose they went off track.
- 2) It is God who brings the nation to birth. He has guided it as it grew and matured. They did not choose God, God formed and chose them. It is key that they are described as a SERVANT. This makes God the one they serve. Jeshurun is a title meaning "upright one." It is used here once and in Deut 3 times. The name shows God's purpose and desire for them. Like all Biblical names it carries deep significance to their calling.
- 3) This promise is given even as judgment approaches. 1st there is the picture of a physical deliverance followed or accompanied by a spiritual revival. Hence water and Spirit. Notice that this spirit is poured on their offspring not on them.
- 4) These offspring will come forward in a time of peace and growth. For them the time of judgment will be past.
- 5) This will be a time of revival and turning to God. People will openly declare their allegiance to the Lord, the God of Jacob. Slaves were often branded or tattooed with their masters name. Here the people write God's name on their hands declaring that He is their God, AND they are His slaves/servants.