

God will Call His Children (Isa 43:5-7)

1. Read Isaiah 43:5-7. Do you understand what the prophet Isaiah is talking about? Without the use of a commentary, how would you go about figuring this out?

2. If God took away the Promised Land, because the nation of Israel could not keep their promise to listen and obey His commands, why does God have Isaiah say this prophecy?

3. What is so remarkable about God regathering dispersed Jews of the Exile? What does this mean to Christians?

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): This video brings God's words in Isaiah to contemporary life. From His prophet Isaiah, God describes how He will call His children back to Him. A beautiful reminder of the gathering and restoration that will come. Suitable for all ages.

For the teacher's benefit, Isaiah 43:5-7 is below:

Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
And gather you from the west.
I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
And to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'
Bring My sons from afar
And My daughters from the ends of the earth,
Everyone who is called by My name,
And whom I have created for My glory,
Whom I have formed, even whom I have made." (Isa 43:5-7, NASB)

1. Read Isaiah 43:5-7. Do you understand what the prophet Isaiah is talking about? One risk in Bible study is simply taking its words at face value without any consideration of the context God is referring to. Many will use a commentary to quickly understand the context, but may be unaware if an error exists in the commentator's interpretation. How would you go about figuring this out without the use of a commentary?

Encourage the student: when you take the time to look before or after Isaiah 43 to figure this out, you might come across Isaiah 39:5-8. Take a moment to read this.

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "There will be peace and security in my days." (Isa 39:5-8, ESV)

Bring to the student an awareness of ancient history (teacher – a timeline would greatly help the student understand within the context of today):

King Hezekiah reigned in 715-686 B.C. How long ago was that? You can get a sense of how long ago that was by adding this year and to 715 (i.e. approximate example: 2020+715=2735).

Bring to the student an awareness of the reality of Old Testament prophecy:

Isaiah is speaking about the future when the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar conquers Israel and captures Jerusalem around 600 B.C. - one hundred years after he speaks to king Hezekiah. Nebuchadnezzar would deport the captive Jews and scattered around the Babylonian empire and this is when Daniel and his friends are deported.

In Jewish history, this period is called the Exile.

After this short discussion, have the students re-read Isaiah 43: 5-7 and watch the video.

2. If God took away the Promised Land, because the nation of Israel could not keep their promise to listen and obey His commands (Jer 11:9-11), why does God have Isaiah say this prophecy?

Help the student understand that human history revolves around God's covenants (contracts / promises with man):

Do you remember Abraham? For his faith in God, God made an unconditional promise to Abraham (Gen 12:1-4) of: a) a great nation, b) God's blessings, and c) through him, the world will be blessed. An unconditional promise is like a contract that God will do something regardless of Abraham.

About 450 years later, when the nation of Israel came out of Egypt, they made a conditional contract with God, if they listened and obeyed His word, God would bless them with the Promised Land. But they did evil in the sight of the Lord, so much so, that by constantly failing to keep to their contractual commitments, they lost their land and the people were deported. The people of God were unholy and, as representatives of God, portrayed God in the worse way to the world.

Write down this reference Ezekiel 36:22-25, because God explains why He is doing this. It might be helpful if the teacher wrote Ezekiel 36:22-25 on a board:

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Lord God says: "It is not for your sake, house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. And **I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them.** Then the nations will know that I am the Lord," declares the Lord God, "when I show Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the lands; and I will bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols." (Ezek 36:22-25, NASB)

3. What is so remarkable about God regathering dispersed Jews of the Exile? What does this mean to Christians?

Have the student imagine being a descendant of Abraham and member of God's people. What would you feel when your people are miraculously brought back together and freely able to worship God?

It would be helpful to the student to draw the student's attention to the verses written on the board:

Then the nations will know that I am the Lord," declares the Lord God, "when I show Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the lands; and I will bring you into your own land. (Ezek 36:22-23)

Remind the student that the Promised Land was from the Nile River to the Euphrates River (Gen 15:18), so the nation of Israel never possessed all of the Promised Land then or today.

Because of this, when God speaks of bringing "you into your own land," this prophecy has yet to be fulfilled.

Ask the student what Ezekiel 36:25 ("Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols") is in reference to?

God is referring to His Son Jesus Christ who, through Him, will be the means to cleanse one of all filthiness and sin.

What does this mean to Christians? God promises to gather all Believers and bring them to the Promised Land.