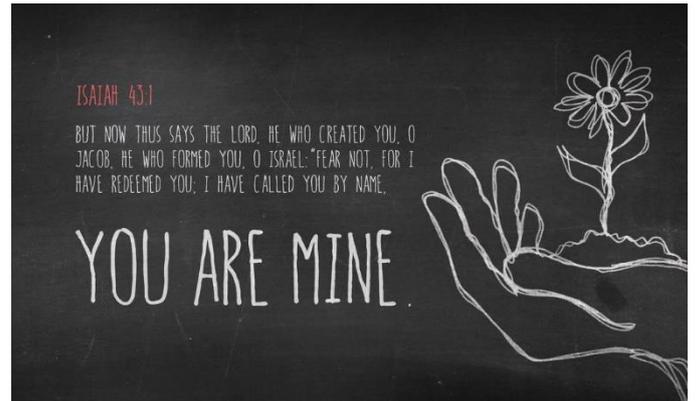


ECHOES OF ISAIAH

Israel's only Saviour

- 43** But now, this is what the LORD says –
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your stead.
4 Since you are precious and honoured in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
6 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 –
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'
8 Lead out those who have eyes but are blind,
who have ears but are deaf.
9 All the nations gather together
and the peoples assemble.
Which of their gods foretold this
and proclaimed to us the former things?
Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right,
so that others may hear and say, 'It is true.'
10 'You are my witnesses,' declares the LORD,
'and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor will there be one after me.
11 I, even I, am the LORD,
and apart from me there is no saviour.
12 I have revealed and saved and proclaimed –
I, and not some foreign god among you.
You are my witnesses,' declares the LORD, 'that I am God.
13 Yes, and from ancient days I am he.
No one can deliver out of my hand.
When I act, who can reverse it?'



God's mercy and Israel's unfaithfulness

- ¹⁴ This is what the LORD says –
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
'For your sake I will send to Babylon
and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians,
in the ships in which they took pride.
- ¹⁵ I am the LORD, your Holy One,
Israel's Creator, your King.'
- ¹⁶ This is what the LORD says –
he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
- ¹⁸ 'Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
- ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
- ²⁰ The wild animals honour me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
²¹ the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.
- ²² 'Yet you have not called on me, Jacob,
you have not wearied yourselves for me, Israel.
- ²³ You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings,
nor honoured me with your sacrifices.
I have not burdened you with grain offerings
nor wearied you with demands for incense.
- ²⁴ You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me,
or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices.
But you have burdened me with your sins
and wearied me with your offences.
- ²⁵ 'I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.
- ²⁶ Review the past for me,
let us argue the matter together;
state the case for your innocence.
- ²⁷ Your first father sinned;
those I sent to teach you rebelled against me.
- ²⁸ So I disgraced the dignitaries of your temple;
I consigned Jacob to destruction
and Israel to scorn.



I WILL MAKE A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS
AND RIVERS IN THE DESERT.

ISAIAH 43:19