

A BETTER KING, SERVANT, CONQUEROR*The Book of Isaiah***Isaiah 41:21—43:28****Verse to Remember**

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

Day 1 — Read Isaiah 41:21–29.

1. In 41:1, God summoned the nations to trial. Here at the end of the chapter both the people and their idols are being tried.
 - a. What tests does God give the idols?
Is. 41:22–23a

Is. 41:23b
 - b. How do the idols fare in this set of tests? (Is. 41:24, 26, 28–29; * Ps. 115:2–8)
 - c. Why do you think God chooses these two tests?
2. One hundred fifty years after Isaiah prophesied that God would stir up a nation to conquer the known world (41:25), Cyrus the Great of Persia rose to power and fulfilled this prophecy. When God's people in exile in Babylon witnessed these events, what would be evident about the God of Israel? (Is. 41:26a; Is. 42:9; Is. 43:9–13)

Day 2 — Read Isaiah 42:1–7.

Many times, Isaiah seeks to convey the extent of God’s rule by mentioning “the ‘islands’ or ‘the coastlands’ (NIV), referring to the most distant places from the holy land (Is. 11:11; Is. 24:15; Is. 41:1, 5; Is. 42:4, 10, 12).”¹ This includes all the Gentile nations.

1. In these verses he who created all things and gives life and breath to all people (Is. 42:5) introduces his servant.
 - a. What is God’s relationship with his servant? (Is. 42:1)
 - b. What is the extent of the servant’s rule? (Is. 42:1, 4, 6)
 - c. What characterizes this servant. (Is. 42:1–7)
 - d. How is this servant unlike any other earthly ruler? (Is. 42:1–7)

2. Read the passages below to see how the New Testament writer Luke uses Isaiah’s words to confirm that Jesus is God’s servant.

SERVANT (Is. 42:6–7)	JESUS
Covenant for the people	Lk. 22:14–20
Light for the Gentiles	Lk. 2:25–32
Open eyes that are blind	Lk. 7:20–22
Free captives from prison	Lk. 4:14–21

Day 3 — Read Isaiah 42:8–17.

1. God is passionate about receiving the glory due his name (42:8). What does Isaiah say is the appropriate response of all people everywhere to the “new things” (42:9) God will do through his Servant? (Is. 42:10–12)

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2. How do the vivid images in 42:13–16 show God’s power and passion to bring about his purposes for the world? (📖 Gal. 4:19)

Day 4 — Read Isaiah 42:18—43:13.

1. The servant in this section refers not to the coming Messiah but to God’s chosen people.
 - a. How is this “servant” described? (Is. 42:18–19, 22)

 - b. Why are God’s people like this? (Is. 42:20, 24b)

2. Isaiah attempts to get the people to contemplate and take to heart what has happened to them. What does he want them to see and hear? (Is. 42:23–25)

3. Isaiah again turns his attention to the “new things” (42:9) God has promised to do.
 - a. Summarize why God’s people need not fear. (Is. 43:1, 3a)

 - b. Carefully reread Isaiah 43:2–7 and pull out the phrases that tell what God will do and be for his people.

 - c. How does God feel about these people who were unwilling to follow his ways or obey his law? (Is. 43:4a)

4. What role are God’s people to fulfill as they see God’s word come to pass? (Is. 43:10–12)

Day 5 — Read Isaiah 43:14–28.

In this passage, Isaiah is looking into the future to address the people who would be in exile in Babylon.

1. Throughout this week’s passage God is reminding his people who they are and who he is, something that must have been easy to lose sight of for those in exile. What do the names he uses in 43:14–15 affirm?
2. Isaiah 43:15–17 refers to God’s deliverance of his people from the Egyptians about 900 years prior to their time in exile (See Exod. 14:19–31.). Why would this reminder be an encouragement?
3. God gained glory for himself when he delivered his people from the Egyptians. When they “saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him” (Ex. 14:17, 31). How does looking back at God’s mighty deliverance at the cross encourage you? (For example, what does it teach you about God? How does it change how you see yourself and others? How does it change how you see both present trouble and the future?)

To get a sense of what it was like to be exiled in Babylon, read **Psalm 137:1–6**.

4. What have God’s beloved people done and failed to do? (Is. 43:22–24, 27)
5. Though the people are undeserving of the least of his kindnesses, what promise will God keep? (Is. 43:25; Is. 1:18;  2 Cor. 1:20)



Take time to reread Isaiah 41:21—43:28. It is clear that God does not want his people to be spiritually blind or deaf. Instead he wants them to “know and believe” and “understand” him (Is. 43:10). Ask God to teach you about who he is, what he has done for you, and how this understanding will change how you live.

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Comforted: Feeling Secure in the Arms of God* (Colorado Springs, CO.: David C. Cook, 1992), 133.