

# RENEWED FOR THE JOURNEY



**(FOUR THINGS THAT RENEWED PEOPLE KNOW)**

**Isaiah 43:18, 19**

## **RENEWED PEOPLE KNOW**

- ◆ God's Power Over Sin's Dominion (v. 14-18)
- ◆ God's Provision in the Journey (v. 19-20)
- ◆ God's Purpose for Existence (v. 21-24)
- ◆ God's Promise of Forgiveness (v. 25)

***"I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert"*** (Isaiah 43:19)

Bill Kirk

# “RENEWED FOR THE JOURNEY”

**Text:** Isaiah 43:18, 19

**Subject:** How God Renews Your Heart In The Journey!

## Introduction

◆ A text without a context is a pre-text! (And, our text has an incredible context!)

**Fact:** Without the context – you can’t understand what the Lord means when He says in...

...(v. 18) “Remember ye not the former things.”

...(v. 18) “Neither consider the things of old.”

...(v. 19) “Behold I will do a new thing.”

...(v. 19) “I will even make a way in the wilderness.”

...(v. 19) “I will also make rivers in the desert.”

**Question:** What is the Lord saying through Isaiah?

**Answer:** Something that relates to everyone here!

- ◆ The book of Isaiah is known as the Gospel of the Old Testament.
- ◆ The Prophet Isaiah is known as the prophet of redemption.
- ◆ Isaiah chapters 1-39 deal with the events leading up to the 70 year captivity of Judah.
- ◆ Chapters 40-66, deal with prophecies following the exile from captivity; prophetic truths to Judah, Israel, Zion and the church for all time (including you and me).

## **(Isaiah is a book with two divisions)**

1. Chapters 1-39 are called the **condemnation** (How the Lord denounces the sins of Israel.)
2. Chapters 40-66 are called the **consolation** (How God encourages and edifies his people.)

**Question:** Why this 27 chapter love letter from God to our hearts in Chapters 40 – 66?

**Answer:** Because God’s people needed a word from the Lord:

- ◆ The Jews were about to leave captivity in Babylon. (After 70 years “on hold”.)
- ◆ They are now returning to rebuild the temple (in a ruined Jerusalem).
- ◆ They are a little anxious and a little fearful.
- ◆ And, in 739 B.C., Isaiah is called to speak a word in the year that King Uzziah died.

## **(Why this word from God?)**

- ◆ The people are returning to rebuild in Jerusalem.
- ◆ The tomorrows are uncertain and the circumstances are less than ideal.
- ◆ God’s people are experiencing growing pains. **(Why? Because...)**

1. Assyria was giving them an ulcer. (Have you been worrying about something?)
2. Sennacherib was planning their failure. (Have you encountered anyone adversarial?)
3. Israel’s soldiers were found weeping. (Has anything saddened you recently?)
4. Jerusalem felt like a ship almost sinking. (Are you overwhelmed with all that’s on your plate?)

**(And God tells Isaiah to tell you and me some things like:)**

1. God is not intimidated by your circumstances.
2. God is not nervous over what surrounds you today.
3. God is not late, but right on schedule.
4. God is not unaware of your feelings, desires, plans and prayers.
5. God is not hiding, instead He is working all the while in ways you cannot see Him.

Question: But what about our text – Isaiah Ch. 43?

- ◆ In v. 1-7, “The unchangeable love of God!”
- ◆ In v. 8-13, “There is no other God but Jehovah!”
- ◆ In v. 14-21, “The deliverance from Babylon!”
- ◆ In v. 22-28, “The Jews are invited to return to the Lord!”
- ◆ But what about my personal renewal?
- ◆ What is it that renews the heart of a man or woman?
- ◆ God is clear in Isaiah 43 – that renewed people know four things:

## 1. Renewed People Know God’s Power Over Sin’s Dominion!

In v. 14, “I have brought down all their nobles.”

In v. 16, “I made a path through the waters (or Red Sea)”

In v. 17, “The chariots and horses and army were made extinct and were quenched.”

In.v. 18, “But don’t even think about these former things of old.”

Question: What’s this all about?

Answer: It’s a “comparison picture” that renews the heart of every person here:

Isaiah Says...

1. Since the Lord opened a way through the Red Sea,
2. And since the Lord dried up the Jordan River,
3. And since God was able to subdue every enemy power (and deliver His people from bondage).

(Don’t even dwell on these victories – why not?)

- ◆ Because (v. 19) “**I will do a new thing.**”

Question: What is the new thing God will do?

Answer: The “**new thing**” is that as great as Israel’s redemption was in the Old Testament, a greater redemption will occur when the Messiah comes (in the New Testament).

In Other Words

- ◆ God’s people delivered from the power of Pharaoh was liberating for sure (in the O.T.)
- ◆ But Christ’s power delivering believers from the power of sin’s dominion is so much greater and far-reaching (in the N.T.)

In Other Words

- ◆ Israel was delivered from Pharaoh’s rule (at the Red Sea)
- ◆ Israel was delivered from the Jordan River.

- ◆ Israel will soon be delivered from the 70 years of Babylonian captivity (through King Cyrus).
- ◆ But the Messiah will usher in a new deliverance:

Question: What is it?

Answer: Romans 8:2, 3 explains it:

(v. 2) “For the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

Question: What is “the law of sin and death”?

Answer: “The law of sin and death” is the rule and reign of sin that results in death.

(Repeat)

Question: What has happened to the law of sin and death in the believer?

(Two things)

Answer: #1. You are free from the law (or energy and power of sin that produces death).

#2. You now live in the spirit of life in Christ Jesus (v. 2) which means:

You live in the energy and power of the Holy Spirit that produces life!

**“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” (means:)**

- ◆ The same spirit and energy and life in Jesus (is now the same spirit, energy and life in you).
- ◆ The same energy and power that raised Jesus from the dead (now fills believers to live Christian lives on earth).
- ◆ The same energy and power that brought Jesus out of the grave (is the same energy and power that bring us out of the tomb of sin and low living).

**(In other words, in Verse 2)**

“Made me free from the law of sin.” (means:)

- ◆ The believer has been liberated to a new life of power and obedience and joy.
- ◆ The believer is now free to chose to please God in word, thought and deed.
- ◆ The believer is risen indeed from death to live (because of a new law of the Spirit.)

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2 means:)

1. We are all capable of sin and live in a corrupted body!
2. We all possess the stain of sin in nature.
3. But we have all been delivered from the law of sin that seeks to rule our members.

**(How are we free?)**

1. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
2. This new power which can rule over the old power!
3. This new law which now supersedes the old law bent towards sin.

**(Simple Illustrations)**

- ◆ You can go fishing, throw your line in the water with a sinker on it, and the line is pulled down to the bottom. Put a cork or bobber on the same line, and it will keep the line from sinking. Why? Because the one law supersedes the other law.
- ◆ You can weigh 190 pounds, not be able to swim and sink when you jump into the water. Yet, when you strap yourself to a three pound flotation vest, you are lifted up by its power. The law of the vest overpowers and overrules the law of gravity that pulls you down. You're still in the water, but as long as you remain in the vest, you are raised by its power and ability. The law of the vest supersedes the law of gravity and weight.

(Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice)

- ◆ Weights, temptations, enticements to sin – yes,
- ◆ But a greater power now rules us which allows us to keep our heart clean!

Fact: The law of sin leads to death!

Fact: But the law of the Spirit frees us from (or overpowers) the former law!

(Isaiah is saying deliverance from Egypt was great under the Law)

But in the New Testament...

...(v. 3) "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

Fact: Before salvation we were in slavery to the rule and reign of sin.

Fact: Before salvation we were in bondage to an internal dictator that ruled and reigned.

Question: What did Jesus do to sin's rule at the cross?

Answer: "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."  
(Romans 8:3)

**"Condemned sin in the flesh" means:**

1. Jesus abolished the ruling principle of sin to call the shots in your life and mine.
2. Jesus destroyed satan and sin in their power to overcome someone who is "in Christ".
3. Jesus delivered those "in Him" from the dictatorship, rule and authority of sin.

**Yes:** Sin still exists as an influence.

**Yes:** Sin can still attack all who believe.

**Yes:** Sin can continue to hurl its fiery darts of the flesh!

**(But in Christ – we are dead to sin)**

**(In other words)**

- ◆ Because Jesus gave His life to atone (cover) our sin; He condemned sin in the flesh. (Or)
  1. Jesus overcame, subdued and destroyed the power of sin to influence you as long as you cooperate with Jesus.

Question: What does it mean to cooperate with Jesus? (It means :)

(v. 1) "We walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."

(v. 4) "We mind not the things of the flesh, but those of the Spirit!"

## 2. Renewed People Know God's Provision Throughout The Journey!

"I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (v. 19, 20)

**Question:** What is "the way in the wilderness"?

**Answer:** This is the wilderness between Judah and Babylon.

**Question:** What does God promise in the journey?

**Answer:** Rivers and water!

**Question:** Why does God promise this?

**Answer:** Because the trip was a marathon and Israel could die of thirst in a parched land.

**Question:** What's it mean to you and me? (Only one thing)

- ◆ That the Lord will supply all the water that is necessary for the journey (so you need not fear about what lies ahead.)

In Other Words

- ◆ For Israel, God will supply what's needed to refresh.
- ◆ For you and me, God will supply what's needed to refresh.

In Other Words

- ◆ God will pour water on the thirsty (and provide what's needed to sustain you)
- ◆ God will renew your inner man and pour out His Spirit where people are thirsty!

In Plain Vanilla

- ◆ God's presence will be increased in your life – to the degree of your desire!
- ◆ God's presence will be commensurate according to your hunger!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ God promises rivers in the desert – but I have to walk to the river!
- ◆ Ezekiel 47 – ankle deep, knee deep, or waist deep – it's my choice.

## 3. Renewed People Know God's Purpose for Existence!

(v. 21) "This people have I formed for myself; they shall show forth my praise."

**Question:** Why has God formed us for Himself?

**Question:** How do we respond to God who delivers us from sin and renews us in the journey?

(v. 21) "They shall declare My praise." (Which means:)

- ◆ To live consecrated to God who deserves it. (And)
- ◆ To give up ourselves to His service (as a servant or bond slave).

**Fact:** Declaring God's praise isn't singing here – it's living for the glory of Christ.

**Question:** What is the temptation here – to every one of us?

**Answer:** It's documented in v. 22-24:

- ◆ In v. 22, the Jews were reluctant in "offering themselves"
- ◆ In v. 23, "You haven't brought me proper offerings, neither honored me with your sacrifices."

◆ In v. 24, “You brought me no sweet cane and have wearied me with your iniquities.

Question: What’s the dilemma?

Answer: People were serving in a dishonorable manner.

1. Some were serving God half-heartedly.
2. Some were withholding what belonged to God.
3. Some were active outwardly, yet lived with secret sin inwardly (and partial obedience).

God said “**You weary me.**”

Question: How can someone weary God? with us and convict us about unbridled passions, unhealthy attitudes, unchecked desires, unwholesome habits and unholy thinking:

Question: Do you weary God with your iniquities?

Question: Are you spiritually dry through lack of priorities?

Question: Are you living hurried and out of balance?

Question: Are you angry because somebody offended you?

Question: Are you critical of your pastor or church leadership?

Question: Are you allowing pornography to pollute your thought life?

Question: Are you addicted to tobacco, alcohol or anything else?

Question: Are you robbing God in your finances?

Question: Are you not as close to Jesus as you know you could be?

Question: Are you willing to let God change what needs to be changed?

#### **4. Renewed People Know God’s Promise Of Forgiveness!**

(v. 25) “I, even I am He that blotteth out your transgressions for mine own sake and will not remember your sins.”

Question: What’s the “good news” in all of this?

Answer: The good news is; a renewed person is someone that (in v. 25)...

◆ Cries out to God in deep humility and knows that God will “**remember your sins no more.**”

(God says here, “**I blot out your transgressions**” which means...)

- ◆ No need to fall into despair and condemnation.
- ◆ No need to be oppressed by a consciousness of falling short.
- ◆ No need to leave this meeting feeling guilt over your inconsistencies.
- ◆ No need to carry sin that Jesus died to cancel from your account.

Altar Call

**(Isaiah 43 is God asking four questions)**

- #1. Do you need God’s power over sin’s dominion?
- #2. Do you need fresh water of the Holy Spirit to fill your cup and strengthen you?
- #3. Do you need to make some adjustments in living for God’s purpose and glory alone?
- #4. Do you need to be forgiven of anything by God – for the power of a clear conscience?

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# ILLUSTRATION

## **“God’s Opinion – All That Matters.”**

When Babe Ruth struck out one of his many times, he turned to the umpire on his way to the dugout and said.”

### **I (Quote)**

**“There are 40,000 people who know that pitch was a ball, you tomato head.”**

The umpire responded with these words:

**“Maybe so Mr. Ruth, but my opinion is the only one that really matters.”**

How many of you know that, **God’s opinion is the only one that really matters?**