

Series: Isaiah 2024

Title: Who As I Shall Set It in Order

Text: Is 43: 27-44: 8

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God declares why the children of Israel were being chastened by the Lord--**Isaiah 43 :27: Thy first father hath sinned,...**

Adam is our first father. Adam is the head of all who would be born of him--everyone came from Adam. So when Adam sinned, we all sinned in Adam. That is the first reason God gives for chastening his elect.

The second reason is this--**Isaiah 43: 27...and thy teachers have transgressed against me. 28 Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches.**

The false prophets transgressed against God the same way false preachers transgress today: they taught Israel that righteousness was by their obedience to the law and by their act of making the sacrifices.

The Lord established his worship in Jerusalem through the priest God chose, through the mercy seat in the holiest of holies in Jerusalem. That was the one place God promised to meet with his people. It typified Christ our High Priest, our Mercy Seat, in heavenly Jerusalem being the one way to God the Father.

But when the 10.5 tribes revolted and separated themselves from Judah then they set up an idol in another city besides Jerusalem. They made priests that God had not chosen. They told Israel they did not have to go to Jerusalem. The picture is false preachers teaching sinners that they can keep the law by teaching only the letter of the law. Men preach only the letter of the law by teaching that exterior, outward obedience, superficial obedience is true obedience when it is not. The law is spiritual. It reaches to the thoughts and intents of the heart. But even every believer has a sin nature. Therefore, even every believer is like Paul who said as a sanctified child of God, "I am carnal, sold under sin." But false teachers preach that sinners can come to God by their own righteousness. Or they teach that believers make themselves holy and more holy and less sinful by their own works. False!

The law reaches to the heart. The law declares us guilty in our very nature. Our Savior declared this in his sermon on the mount.

Matthew 5: 20: For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. [the righteousness that exceeds is Christ our Righteousness] 21: Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment:...

The false prophet teaches that sinners can keep the law by teaching only the letter of the law. Christ, through his true prophet, declares to his child that the law is spiritual. It declares us guilty in our very nature.

A true believer in Judah might say, "Well, why does God chasten me when it is Adam and the false preacher's fault?" We saw last time, Christ told his true elect people, *Isaiah 43: 22: But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel.* Christ chastens his true people, making us know the sin is our own. God brings his child to see our *own* sin. It is not another's fault. He brings his child to confess to God as David did, "*Against thee, thee only, have I sinned!*"

But God also makes his child hear this good news--**Isaiah 44: 1: Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: 2: Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. 3: For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 4: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. 5: One shall say, I am the LORD'S; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel. 6: Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am**

the first, and I *am* the last; and beside me *there is* no God. 7: And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. 8: Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared *it*? ye *are* even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, *there is* no God; I know not *any*.

God delivered the nation Israel into Babylonian captivity. But even before it happened, God declares he will keep them and save them. God sent Cyrus from a far country who delivered Israel out of Babylon and took them back to Jerusalem.

Before we fell in Adam, Christ agreed to save us. In time he came from a far country and redeemed his elect and he comes through the gospel and delivered us. When our Father chastens us, Christ continues to deliver his spiritual Israel out of captivity. Why does Christ never fail to deliver his people, even when we have transgressed against him?

GOD MADE HIS ELECT TO BE HIS COVENANT PEOPLE BY GRACE

Isaiah 44: 1: Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: 2: Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, *which* will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

We are sinners in our sin-nature, Jacob. But God has made his regenerated people his servant--*Hear, O Jacob, my servant*. God's Israel is his people chosen by God's grace--*Israel whom I have chosen*. God made us and formed us--*thus saith the Lord that made thee and formed thee from the womb*.

Therefore, God will never cast away one he chose but will help us--*Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen*.

Jesurun means "upright one". This name is used four times in scripture: three times in Deuteronomy and once here. The first time, God said,

Deuteronomy 32: 15: But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered *with fatness*; then he forsook God *which* made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

So God chastened them but he promised he would not cast us off--*Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen*.

Believers do not want to sin. We endeavor not to sin. But even when we have sinned and God has chastened us, God says, "*Fear not, O Jacob, my servant, I will help thee, thou Jesurun whom I have chosen*. I have put away thy sin--fear not! I formed thee from the womb and shall protect you in all my providence--*fear not, I will help thee, thou Jesurun, whom I have chosen*. All your trouble, I will turn to good--*fear not, I will help thee, thou upright one, whom I have chosen*." This is because God made us his covenant people by grace!

WE ARE RECOVERED FROM OUR SIN DUE TO GOD'S COVENANT PROMISE

Isaiah 44: 3: For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 4: And they shall spring up *as* among the grass, as willows by the water courses.

Is anyone here thirsty? Are you the dry ground? God gives us thirst for Christ--*I will pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground*. The water is the Spirit of God and his spiritual blessings--*I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring*. God promises to not only pour out his spirit and regenerate us but to continue to renew us. He promises to do so on those he shall call through our preaching--*thy seed, thine offspring*.

The effect is always sure. We love God's "*I will*" and "*they shall*." Christ shall not fail. He works effectually through the Spirit to bless his people in the new heart--*I will pour my spirit upon thy seed...And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.*

Christ justified his people on the cross. Therefore, God will never cast away one who Christ made righteous.

Isaiah 43: 25: I, *even I, am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

God shall never cast away one the Spirit has regenerated and given faith.

Isaiah 43: 21: This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

Christ shall bless the preaching of the gospel and keep each one born of his Spirit. He brings forth fruit in each of us. But also, his converts that he makes through our preaching, are *our fruit that shall remain*.

John 15: 16: [Christ said] Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

By fulfilling these promises of grace and recovering us, Jeshurun's from our sins, we give God all the glory, singing,

Deuteronomy 33: 26: *There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who* rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky. 27: The eternal God *is thy* refuge, and underneath *are* the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy *them*. 28: Israel then shall dwell in safety alone:

THE FRUIT GOD PRODUCES IN US

Isaiah 44: 5 One shall say, **I *am* the LORD'S**; another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel.

In the first hour, in every hour of chastening, the end is our Lord brings us to commit all to him confessing we are his possession--*One shall say, I am the Lord's*. The troubles are necessary to teach us *I am the Lord's*.

God has left us in this body of sin to keep us knowing and confessing our fleshly name--*another call himself by the name of Jacob*. He works this in all his people. We each are brought to say, "*I am the Lord's*" while we confess "*my fleshly name is Jacob*."

But we also lift our hand to God and confess that by his grace, in Christ, our name is Israel--*and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel*.

This is the fruit Christ produces in us without fail. I am Jacob in myself--the sinner, the supplanter, the trickster. But in Christ, I am Israel. I am the Lord's--purchased by his precious blood.

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

Isaiah 44: 6: Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I *am* the first, and I *am* the last; and beside me *there is no* God. 7: And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. 8: Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared *it*? ye *are* even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, *there is no* God; I know not *any***

God brings each elect, redeemed child to hear the gospel from God himself. Therefore, we believe there is no other God, no other Savior, but our triune God in Christ--*Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel*. By his

word, Christ gives us faith to believe he is the Sovereign LORD--the King--and he is OUR KING--*the King of Israel.*

By his word he gives us faith to believe Christ is the LORD of hosts who rules over all and he is our Redeemer--*and his redeemer the LORD of hosts;*

By his word, the Holy Spirit makes us believe Christ is eternal God and there is no other--*I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.*

By his gospel, God our Father gives us faith that he alone called us from eternity--*And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people?* Child of God, you are one of the ancient people. How ancient? You were called of God--created and formed--by God in Christ in eternity.

By the gospel, God gives us faith by his word and keeps renewing us to know that he alone is bringing all things to pass in our life--*who, as I, shall...set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.*

By his gospel, the Holy Spirit settles us in faith so that we trust Christ. He renews true worship in our hearts by speaking effectually in our new man--*Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any*

Child of God how are we made to bear witness of God our Father and his Son alone? God says, "Who but I can work this in my people." It is by God calling us and continuing to renew us. It is God working this very work in our hearts when we become weary and turn from worshipping him alone. We see God working here all the things David asked God to do for him. This is how David was made a witness

Psalm 51: 7: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8: Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice. 9: Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11: Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12: Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit. 13 *Then* will I [be your witness] then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

We become weary. God said in Isaiah 43: 22: But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel. But we are preserved in Christ and for Christ's sake. God works these things in us the same as he did in David. He does it by his word, "*Thus saith the Lord.*" He does it by his power--"*who as I shall set it in order for me?*"

Once again he renews us and reminds us who we are and who he is. This is how we are made to be his witnesses. This how we are kept bearing witness that Christ alone is our sovereign King, our Redeemer, Ruling All, bringing his purpose to pass, who alone is keeping us every hour of every day. This is how God keeps us committing all to Christ declaring, "*I am the Lord's!*"

My prayer is that he works this through his gospel in your hearts and mine this very day!

Amen!