

Series: Isaiah Series 2024

Title: Precious, Honored and Loved

Text: Isaiah 43: 3-4

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When the LORD speaks of Jacob and Israel here, he is not speaking of the man named Jacob, whose name the Lord changed to Israel. Nor is the Lord speaking to national Israel. The LORD is speaking to the spiritual sons of Jacob. You who have been born of the Spirit of God so that you know your old man of sin is Jacob. He is speaking to spiritual Israel. You who have been made to cry out to Christ for mercy and thus as prince you have been made to prevail with God and men. This is written to you who are children of the promise, God's elect.

Romans 9: 8: That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Galatians 3: 7...they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

If God has given you faith in Christ so that you believe Christ is your only acceptance with God, your only hope of salvation, then hear this word spoken to you personally.

Last time, we looked at verses 1-2. These are God's promises to his saints--these are the reasons we have not to fear.

**Isaiah 43: 1: But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine. 2: When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.**

Today, in verses 3-4, we hear our LORD give more promises; more reasons God's saints have not to fear.

**Isaiah 43: 3: For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt *for* thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. 4: Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.**

God promises he is your by his unbreakable covenant. That what verse 3 is all about, "*For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour.*"

In scripture, when God assures his people of his covenant promises, he says--"*For I am the LORD THY God.*"

God assures us of his covenant promises by reviving us to know he is "*The Holy One OF Israel*" There is but One who is Holy. It is all three persons in the Godhead dwelling in Christ Jesus the only Holy One. He alone is perfect purity. The almightiness of his character is his holiness. Holiness is at the head of all his attributes and virtues, that is what it means when it says holy is his name.

Isaiah 57: 15: For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*,...

Revelation 15:4: Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou* only *art* holy

Hannah said,

1 Samuel 2:2: *There is* none holy as the LORD: for *there is* none beside thee: neither *is there* any rock like our God. 3: Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD *is* a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

When he confirms to us his everlasting covenant promises, God gives the fullest assurance to us by pledging his holiness.

Psalm 89:35: Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

Psalm 111:9: He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend *is* his name.

In Isaiah alone, God assures his people of his promises by calling himself the Holy One 23 or 24 times. Again and again God declares his promise to his people is sure *for I am the Holy One of Israel*. Our Holy Father sanctified his people into the Holy One in eternity by divine election. The Holy One came and perfected us by his one offering. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us into the Holy One by giving us a new broken heart in regeneration. The Holy One shall keep us because he revives us.

Isaiah 57: 15: For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

When a child of God comes into a trial we are overcome by pride. We blame everyone but our own selves. We seek refuge everywhere but the Holy One. Only the Holy One can speak these promises into the heart he has made and revive us and humble us to cast all our care on him alone.

Here is why he shall do it. Here is why all his promises to us are yes and amen. He says, "*For I am THY Saviour.*" Child of God hear these promises as though you are the only one in the world Christ is determined to save because it is just that personal. He says, "I am THY Savior. I created you. I formed you. I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name. You are mine. I will be with you in the trial and bring you through it bettered by it. For I *am* the LORD YOUR God, the Holy One of Israel, YOUR Saviour." Therefore God says,

**Isaiah 43: 4: Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.**

**Proposition:** God declares that you who he has called are "Precious, Honorable and Loved." That will be our subject and our divisions.

## **PRECIOUS**

**Isaiah 43: 4: Since thou wast precious in my sight,...**

To you who are born again of the Spirit and made willing to trust Christ alone, God promises you, his child, that you are precious in his sight.

Mark what he does not say; He does not say, "since there was something precious in you." Now, we know that certainly was not the case. He does not say "since I was precious in your sight." God did not find grace in Noah's eyes; Noah found grace in God's sight. God says, "*since thou wast precious IN MY SIGHT,...*"

Precious means to esteem, to be prized, to be appraised as costly and valuable. Amazing grace! Holy God says of his people, "In my sight, I esteemed you, prized you, appraised you as costly and valuable." Throughout scripture God compares us to things of great value. He compares us to treasure.

Psalm 135:4: For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.

When God gave the law at Sinai he declared we would be his treasure above all people if we obeyed his voice and kept his covenant. If we obeyed his voice and kept every word of the law we would be a kingdom of priests--king priests. We would be a holy nation if we kept the law in righteousness.

Exodus 19:5: Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: 6: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

But due to our fall in Adam, we had already broken the law when God gave it. So the law declared us guilty and shut our mouths. We could not obey God and keep it in righteousness from the holiness of heart he demands. But because God chose us in Christ, we were precious in Christ. And we precious in Christ's sight. So the Son of God came and took sinless flesh and obeyed God and kept his law on our behalf. He said,

Matthew 13: 44: Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Christ beheld God's elect as treasure hid in the field of this world. For the joy set before him, he came and endured the cross--he sold all that he had--his precious blood--his life for our life--and Christ bought the field. He compares each individual elect child as a pearl of great price.

Matthew 13: 45: Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

In Christ's sight each of his elect is a pearl of great price. He came and sold all that he had and by his precious blood, Christ bought each elect child personally to himself. He says through Isaiah, "I redeemed thee, thou art mine!" So when the Spirit of God revealed Christ in us, he declared Christ has made us what God said we would be if we obeyed and kept his covenant,

1 Peter 2:9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Since thou was precious in God's sight therefore by Christ and what he has done for us, God promises he shall not lose one pearl of great price.

Malachi 3:17: And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Deuteronomy 32:9: For the LORD'S portion *is* his people; Jacob *is* the lot of his inheritance.

## HONOURABLE

**Isaiah 43: 4: Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable...**

God's elect have been honored and made honourable by Christ fulfilling all righteousness on our behalf.

Isaiah 42:21: The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make *it* HONOURABLE.

Psalms 111: 2 The works of the LORD *are* great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. 3: HIS WORK IS HONOURABLE and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. 4: He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion. 5: He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant.

We have been made honorable in Christ and God has honored us with the honor that comes from God only.

John 5: 41: I receive not honour from men....44: How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that *cometh* from God only?

Until born of the Spirit, sinners only seek honor from men. Those who sought honor from the Pharisees would not believe on Christ because the Pharisees forbid it. Men will leave the gospel of Christ because

they seek men to honor them. But when born of the Spirit of God, Christ makes his child stand strong, trusting Christ alone, seeking the honor that comes from God only.

Romans 2: 28: For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29: But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; WHOSE PRAISE IS NOT OF MEN, BUT OF GOD.

2 Corinthians 10: 17: But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. 18: For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but WHOM THE LORD COMMENDETH.

We have been honored with the honor God has the sovereign right to bestow on whom he will.

Romans 9: 21: Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Child of God, from this same lump of fallen humanity, by his sovereign grace in Christ, God has made you a vessel of honor.

What is the honor that comes from God alone? By the Holy One making us holy in himself and with the Holy One dwelling in us, we have been made holy, so that we are honored that the Holy One is not ashamed to call us his brethren.

Hebrews 2:11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

For the same reason, we have been honored that holy God is not ashamed to be called our God.

Hebrews 11:16: But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Since Christ is precious and honorable in God's sight, because he chose us in Christ, because Christ worked all our works for us and in us, therefore robed in Christ's righteousness without as our clothing and having Christ our Holiness abiding within, in God's sight all his elect are precious and honorable.

Psalm 45: 13: The king's daughter *is* ALL GLORIOUS WITHIN: HER CLOTHING [without] *is* of wrought gold.

So within and without, by Christ the Holy One, by Christ our Righteousness, we are all glorious.

Psalm 45: 14: She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. 15: With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.

## LOVED

**Isaiah 43: 4: Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee.**

If we know anything about ourselves--the utter sinfulness of our flesh--then we know all of this is by God's grace alone. All of this began by God loving whom he would simply because he would.

Deuteronomy 7: 6: For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth. 7: The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people: 8: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Jeremiah 31: 3: The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

God said I did this for you in the past and I will do it in the future.

**Isaiah 43: 3:...I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee...v4:...I will give men for thee, and people for thy life.**

He has called us to bear witness of him, to hold forth the word of Life, the good news of his finished work of redemption. He revives us to live for him so that sinners might ask us of the hope that is in us and we can preach Christ to them. We are called to show forth his praises, to give God our Father and Christ our Savior all the glory in our salvation and in our lives.

The unregenerate of this world loves religion that gives them part of the glory. But they hate us because of the honor God has bestowed upon us.

John 15: 19: If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

But Our Lord promises us, *"I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee...I will give men for thee, and people for thy life."* Next time, God will declare to us that he shall call all those Christ redeemed. Child of God, we both know this is true: God has, he is and he shall defend us. He has, he is and he shall provide for us. So trust God and bear witness of Christ. We cannot trust God too much!

1 John 3:1: Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

**Amen!**