

Series: Isaiah 2024
Title: You Are My Witnesses
Text: Isaiah 43: 8-13
Date: March 10, 2024
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Isaiah 43: 8: Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.

Some think God is speaking to unregenerate sinners here, comparing them to their idol gods. He said of men's idol gods.

Psalm 115: 5...eyes have they, but they see not: 6: They have ears, but they hear not:...8: They that make them are like unto them; *so is* every one that trusteth in them.

But since the Lord just declared of his people in verse 7, "*every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him*", this verse certainly applies to God's regenerated people. We were blind and God gave us spiritual sight. We were deaf and God gave us spiritual ears. That was God's promise in the day Christ came and fulfilled all righteousness for God's elect.

Isaiah 29: 18: And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. 19: The meek also shall increase *their* joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

Then God issues a challenge to all people--all religions, every race—God says,

Isaiah 43: 9: Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: OR let them hear, and say, *It is truth.*

What idol god among them can declare they ever gave sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf? What idol God declares beforehand what shall come to pass then brings it to pass exactly as he said he would. Bring forth your witnesses. Show us a god that ever did anything remotely close to what the true and living God has done. Or let them hear and bow and say, "Truth, Lord."

Then God speaks to his people and of Christ his Servant.

Isaiah 43: 10: Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11: I, *even I*, *am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour. 12: I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when *there was* no strange god among you: therefore ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I *am* God. 13: Yea, before the day was I *am* he; and *there is* none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

The whole world is divided into only two kinds of people: those that believe God by his grace and those who believe not. There are only two religions: works and grace, Cain and Able. Everyone in this room are in one of these two groups.

To them that believe not, who trust the god of their imagination, God says what idol god of theirs has ever made a sinner a new creation or declared beforehand any future event then brought it to pass as God. God says, "*Let them bring forth their witnesses OR let them hear and say, "Truth!"*"

So I want to preach to you that believe not, this morning. God says, "Bring forth your witnesses or hear and say, "Truth! God is the only God and Savior there is." I pray God give you a heart to cast all your care on Christ that you might be saved.

THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD IS THE SOLITARY GOD

When you play the card game solitaire, it means you are alone. That is what God declares about himself. He is the solitary God.

Isaiah 43: 10...before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me...13: Yea, before the day was I am he;

No god of man's imagination can make that claim. Men form idols. No idol can claim to be god because none existed before the true God. God declares "before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me." Before God made time there was no God but God. When God has called the last redeemed child and ends time, there shall be no God but God.

God is before the day. *"Yea, before the day was, I am."* God created day.

Genesis 1: 1: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2: And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3: And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4: And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5: And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Bring forth your witnesses. No man-made god can make this claim. Because no man can make this claim and man makes his idol just like himself. Water never rises above its source. Nor does any idol god have any more power than the man who made him. But if you cannot bring forth your witnesses to make this claim then say, "Truth!" God alone is God. And since God is the only God, God is the only Savior! He said in verse 11, *"I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour."*

THE TRUE GOD DETERMINED THE END FROM THE BEGINNING

Isaiah 43: 12: I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when *there was no strange god among you.*

Before fallen man ever invented the first idol god, the true God had determined the end from the beginning. And it was done. Before God ever created man, God says, *"I have declared, and have saved and have showed."*

In eternity, God chose his Son to be the Christ, the one Mediator between God and his fallen people.

1 Peter 1: 18: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21: Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

In eternity, God elected whom he would unto salvation and trusted Christ to save them. *Verse 10: Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he*

In eternity, by choosing his people and blessing us with all spiritual blessings in Christ, God saved his people. God saved his people from eternity. *"I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you."*

Hebrews 4: 3...the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:8 [for his elect, God wrote our names] in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

2 Timothy 1: 9: Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world

began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

Matthew 25:34 [in the great day of judgment, Christ the King, will]...say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Then from the beginning of creation, God has showed what would surely come to pass. God declared Christ would come and redeem his people by laying down his life for us.

The animal slain in the garden to make the skins with which the Lord covered Adam and Eve's nakedness showed forth Christ to come. Abel's lamb typified Christ to come. Christ's blood speaks better things than that of Abel's. Noah's ark showed forth Christ who would bear the flood of God's justice with all his people in him and thus deliver us to a new world.

God declared to Abraham over 430 years before that Israel would go into Egyptian bondage. But God would redeem them and deliver them. It typified God declaring from eternity how his people would fall and become bound in sin. Yet, Christ our Passover would come and redeem God's elect Israel out of the bondage of sin by his precious blood.

God told David that long after he was dead, his Seed would come and build the Lord's house and establish his throne forever. Peter declared on the day of Pentecost, that Seed is Christ Jesus, the Son of David, after the flesh and the Son of God given. God hath made him both Lord and Christ!

Isa 40:21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 *It is* he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

Only the true and living God declared beforehand what he will do then brings it to pass exactly. Bring forth your witnesses or else say, "Truth!" And believe on Christ to save you!

ONLY THE TRUE GOD GIVES LIFE AND FAITH

Isaiah 43: 10: Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he:

The Spirit of God comes to his chosen child, dead in sins, and quickens us together with Christ. He gives us spiritual understanding that ye may know and faith that you may believe and understand that our Savior is the great I AM. He is the only one who could call and give us discernment to know and believe him.

Isaiah 44:7: 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.

The world right now is in total ruin. Men going about to save the climate when they cannot even save themselves. What makes God's child have peace? When everyone is in an uproar and blaming and casting blame, what makes God's child rest in peace? What makes us wait on the Lord? We know the true and living God is ruling all things. He shall bring his will to pass. So we wait on the Lord. We know we are safe in Christ our Refuge!

Isaiah 44:8: 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*.

Christ Jesus the fulness of the Godhead bodily--has come and given us, who he redeemed, understanding.

1 John 5: 20: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Matthew 13:11: He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Ephesians 1:17 ...the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, [has given] unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19: And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

He has made us his witnesses, "*Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD.*" What does a witness do? A witness has seen firsthand, knows by personal, firsthand experience the facts of a matter. You who are born of God have personal, first-hand experience of his grace and are eyewitnesses of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ--"*Ye are MY WITNESSES saith the LORD and my servant whom I have chosen, that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.*"

Our peace is to wait on the Lord to work his will is knowing that he is our Sovereign Savior, "*there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?*" Those God purposed to save he shall save. None can snatch them out of his hand.

He says, "*I will work, and who shall let it.*" In all providence, God works what pleases him. All hell fought against Christ, but he finished the work of redemption and none turned back his hand. He irresistibly called you to faith in him and none turned his hand from accomplishing his will. As he works to preserve his people, no one shall stop him or snatches one of his children from his hand, "*Therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.*"

There is not one thing that makes even one idol of man's imagination worthy to even be called God! Man's idol god is not sovereign! He cannot choose any unless they choose him. Man's idol is not Immutable! He changes based on the sinner. Man's idols are not Omnipotent! Man can resist his power. They are not Omniscient! They know not what tomorrow holds, much less do they hold tomorrow. Man's god is not Just! He punished all on the cross then pours out wrath on them again if they do not believe!

The true God chose his people, redeemed his people, calls each one to faith, keeps each one, and brings each one to glory, "*there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?*"

Now for the unbeliever, God says, either "*bring forth your witnesses OR let them hear, and say, It is truth.?*" Can you say, "Truth!" The Canaanite woman came to the Lord

Matthew 15: 24: But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25: Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26: But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27: And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28: Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith:

"Truth"--this is the true and living God. "Truth"--God who saves by his electing grace. "Truth"—God who has obtained eternal redemption for his people by the blood of his Son. "Truth"--God who calls his own by name. "Truth"--God who *has given* and *shall give* people and nations for his people. "Truth"--God who shall not lose one. Who is a God like unto the true and living God? Not one!

For you he has given understanding, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. And give him thanks.

Colossians: 1: 12: Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath

translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

Amen!