

The Great Contradiction: Judgment and Redemption. Isaiah Ch. 43

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine! . . . I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgression for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins . . . (yet) Your first forefather sinned, and your spokesmen have transgressed against Me. So I will profane the princes of the sanctuary, and deliver Jacob to utter destruction and Israel to revilement.
Is. 43: 1b, 25-28

The Historical platform

- Exile, dispersion, and captivity
 - ✓ Israel, 721 BC, _____
 - ✓ Judah, 587 BC, _____
- The Agents
 - ✓ Assyria, _____
 - ✓ Babylon, _____
- The subjects
 - ✓ Jacob, Israel. _____
 - ✓ Judah, Jerusalem. _____

From Abraham to Jesus

- The “Chosen”
 - ✓ The chosen family, the descendants of Abraham through Isaac. _____
 - ✓ The chosen King, David. _____
 - ✓ The chosen Servant. _____
- The “Runaway”
 - ✓ Contentious. _____
 - ✓ Rebellious. _____
 - ✓ Arrogant. _____
- The “Microcosm” analogy
 - ✓ Symbolic of humanity as a whole. _____
 - _____
 - ✓ Symbolic of human nature. _____
 - _____
 - ✓ Symbolic of the parent-child relationship. _____
 - _____

And the Point Is?

- Do we see the contradiction, or perhaps the paradox, of God’s attitude and treatment of Israel and Judah in the text?
 - Does God appear to vacillate from kindness to harshness, from forgiveness to judgment? _____
 - Is there a consistent factor in God’s “behavior?” _____
- The “Loud Silence.”
 - How many people “wonder” but don’t ask? _____
 - Do we fear we might be “questioning” God? _____
(Is there a difference between questioning God and asking him a question?)
 - If the contradiction is apparent, why do you suppose God showed it to us? _____
- **Competing Opinions**
 - **Secular Humanism:** There is no God, its just bad history and fable.
 - **Liberalism:** this is just a story, a biblical tale to demonstrate the difference between “good” and “bad” behavior.
 - **Fundamentalism:** God can do whatever he wants, because he’s God.
 - **The World:** this just shows that God, if there is one, is inconsistent and untrustworthy.
 - **Ignorance:** We’re not sure, we just know that God is loving and wouldn’t ever do anything to hurt us.
- **God’s Opinion**
 - **For the Record**
 - **43:10**, In order that you may understand that “I am He.”
 - **43:11**, there is no savior besides Me.
 - **43:12**, “You are my witnesses, and I am God.”
 - **43:13**, “I act and who can reverse it?”
 - **Comprehending God’s sovereignty**
 - Mistaking niceness for goodness. _____
 - Recognizing paradox as part of God’s communication program.
 - Understanding us. *Yet he did not recognize it, and it burned him, but he paid no attention. Is. 42:25*

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