

12
Isaiah 43

AFTER THE VIGOROUS DENUNCIATION of Israel with which chapter 42 ends, there is a very sharp transition. Chapter 43 begins with seven verses expressing in the strongest way God's great love for Israel and His determination to give her indescribable blessing in days to come.

(1) But now, thus says the LORD who created you, O Jacob, and he that formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine! (2) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned, and the flame will not scorch you. (3) For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I have given Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. (4) Since you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I will give men in return for you and people in exchange for your life.

(5) Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bring your offspring from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold. Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, (7) everyone who is called by my name, whom I have created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

God begins by declaring that He is the One who has created and formed Israel. The second verb ^{^15} suggests His control over the development of each of His creatures. Not only does existence begin as a result of His command; all the many elements that enter into the life of one of God's people are supervised and controlled by the Creator.