

they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law." It is for this reason that God has had to send His people into exile and suffering, because they had sinned against Him. The servant of the Lord is to bring light and deliverance to the nations. Israel is God's servant, but how can Israel do this when Israel is itself in bondage and in darkness? Israel itself needs a deliverer. A deliverer from exile is a necessity, but far more important is a deliverer from the sin that has caused the exile and has made it unthinkable that Israel should be able to fulfill the great ideals of the world-wide ministry of the servant of the Lord. Thus the problem has been clearly set before us in this chapter. Several more chapters must be read, however, before the answer will be found.

Chapter Forty-Three

Some of
 The great themes of chapter forty-two are repeated in chapter forty-three. However, the ~~anger against the sin of Israel~~ *reference to God's judgment on* with which chapter forty-two ended is ~~replaced~~ *expanded* at the end of forty-three with a pathetic statement of ~~God's~~ *His* disappointment at the sin of His beloved people who have turned away from Him. Surely there is no more pathetic passage in the Scriptures than Isaiah 43:22-24.

The chapter begins in sharp contrast to the end of forty-three with a rapid transition to the theme of comfort and deliverance. Despite Israel's sin and failure God is going to deliver her. When she passes ~~through~~ *through* the waters He will be with her. It will be impossible for the flames to destroy her because God will protect her. In verse three He declares that He will give Egypt for her ransom and Ethiopia and Seba for her. These lands were later conquered by Cyrus and are here represented as given by the Lord to Cyrus as a reward for releasing Israel. We shall find further reference to this same