Isaiah 43:1-25

God's Grace

Introduction. Isaiah 42 ends with a reminder that the people had sinned against God and He had punished them through war and consuming flames, yet they did not repent. Isaiah 43 begins with an astonishing turn around. God's mercy triumphs. He promises to restore His people and to protect them from the ravages of fire!

1. Vv. 1-7. Amazing Divine care
'But now…' what followings is an amazing expression of God's mercy and love in spite of the people's unfaithfulness. This could be a reference back to the Exodus or an anticipation of the return from Exile (still to come) or a double reference. 'You are mine' – because they are created and redeemed by God and He has established a personal relationship with them ('by name'). Strikingly God declares 'you are precious and honoured in my sight … because I love you' (4)!

2. Vv. 8-13. No other God – court scene.
Whether in Palestine, or in Exile in Babylon they are tempted to follow the gods of those around them. God alone is Saviour (V.11 and v.3). If there is to be hope for the future only God can bring restoration. The court assembles (8) the issues are presented (9), the witnesses are challenged to hear (10) and the verdict is given by God (12).

3. Vv. 14-21. A new Exodus- freedom from captivity.
God alone with bring about their rescue in the present and the future. God is the Lord of history; He uses others to punish Israel and Judea and to rescue them.

4. Vv. 22-25. The people's unfaithfulness and God's grace.
God's people are precious to Him and He loves them (3) and so He promises to, 'blot out your transgressions…and remember your sins no more' (25). 'For my own sake' shows that this is a pure act of grace, God acts out of His love and mercy not because the people deserve His forgiveness.

Reflection/Response.
How can we resist the temptation to put our trust in other 'gods' ahead of the true and only God, our Creator and Saviour our heavenly Father. How do we celebrate God's amazing mercy and love towards us?

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