### Isaiah

## Chapter 43

1‘So, thus says Jehovah, [your] God  
 (The One who made you, O Jacob;  
 The One who shaped you, IsraEl):  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid, for I’ve paid your ransom…  
 I called you for My Name, and now you are Mine!  
  
 2‘So, if you must pass through the waters,  
 I will be there [to guard] you,  
 And the rivers won’t swallow you down.  
 Or if you should travel through fire,  
 It won’t be able to burn you…  
 You won’t be consumed by its flames.  
  
 3‘For, I am Jehovah your God…  
 I’m IsraEl’s Holy One and their Savior…  
 I’m the One who bargained for you  
 With Egypt, Ethiopia, and SheBah.  
  
 4‘I’ve viewed you with value and esteem…  
 You were glorious and loved [in My eyes].  
 For you, I traded other peoples,  
 And for your heads, I gave rulers away.  
  
 5‘So, don’t be afraid, for I’m with you,  
 And from the east, I’ll lead back your offspring…  
 From the [east and the] west, I’ll return them.  
  
 6‘Then, I will say to the north:  
  
 ‘Send them back to the south…  
 Do not try to restrain them!  
 Return My sons from your faraway lands,  
 And My daughters from the ends of the earth…  
 7Release all those who’ve been called by My Name!’  
  
 ‘For I made them to glorify Me…  
 I’m the One who shaped them and formed them.  
 8But I sent them away because they were blind…   
 They couldn’t see, although they had eyes,  
 And they were deaf, although they had ears.  
 I’m also the One who gathered their rulers.  
  
 9‘So, who will announce all these things…  
 Who’ll explain the things that have happened?  
 Bring on those who will witness for them,  
 And they must [now speak the truth]…  
 Let’s hear them explain what has happened!  
  
 10‘But, about Me, you must also testify,’  
 Says Jehovah.  
 ‘Then, I’ll be a witness [for you]…  
 I’ll say that you’re the servant I’ve chosen.…  
 But, you must know and believe that I am!  
  
 11‘For, no other gods came before Me,  
 And none will come after Me!  
 Yes, I am the only true God…  
 Other than Me there are none…  
 I’m the only One who can save!  
  
 12‘I’ve announced, delivered, and berated,  
 When no alien God was among you.  
 So, you are the ones who must now testify  
 That I [alone] am The God!  
  
 13‘Even in the most ancient times,  
 No one could wrest you out of My hands,  
 And no one could change the things that I did!’  
  
14‘Thus says Jehovah, IsraEl’s God…  
 The Holy One who has paid your ransom:  
  
 ‘I’ll send to Babylon on your behalf  
 To arouse all those who carried you off,  
 And in boats, the Chaldeans will then bring you back.  
  
 15‘So, I am [your] Most Holy God…  
 IsraEl’s defender and king!’  
  
16‘Thus says Jehovah,  
 The One who put roads in the seas,  
 And through mighty waters, made paths…  
 17The One who led chariots and horses,  
 Along with many strong [men],  
 To a sleep from which they’ll never awake,  
 And who snuffed them out like flax wicks:  
  
 18‘You can forget the things that came first,  
 And you don’t have to consider what happened before.  
 19For {Look!} now, I will bring about new things…  
 And you all will know what they are!  
  
 ‘I’ll make a road through the desert,  
 And through waterless lands, I’ll cut rivers.  
 20Then, all the wild beasts will give praise to Me…  
 Even ostrich daughters and those who are chained.  
  
 ‘For, into their deserts, I will bring water…  
 Yes, rivers into [all the] dry places  
 For My chosen people to drink.  
 21For, they are the people I purchased,  
 And they should describe all My virtues!  
  
 22‘O IsraEl and [people of] Jacob:  
 I am the One who has called you,  
 And I’ve done nothing at all to wear you out.  
  
 23‘Yet, you brought Me no sheep or [burnt] offerings…  
 No sacrifices to glorify Me.  
 So to offerings, you were never enslaved,  
 And by frankincense, you were not wearied.  
  
 24‘You offered no silver to Me,  
 And I didn’t desire the sacrificed fat…  
 But before Me, you stood in your sins,  
 And in all of your unrighteous ways.  
  
 25‘I am… I’m the One who wiped them away…  
 All of your lawless deeds.  
 26Because of Myself, I’ll forget all your sins;  
 But, you must remember all that you did!  
 So, come here and let us discuss them!  
 Yes, come and confess all of your lawless ways,  
 So you can be righteous again!  
  
 27‘For your fathers were the first to have sinned,  
 And your rulers were lawless against Me…  
 28My holy things were defiled by your kings,  
 So to destruction, I then handed Jacob…  
 Yes IsraEl, I gave to be scorned!’