**The Glories of the Messiah – Is. 43:8 -21**

**Focal Truth: God saves Israel to be a witness – God saves sinners to be a witness to the world**

**Observations**

1. **God calls for the nations to bring their idols to tell the past & future – 43:8 – 9**

*Who among them can declare this and proclaim to us the former things? Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified, or let them say, it is true.* 43:9

*Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place;* as for the former events, declare what they were *41:22*

Only God knows the past and the future

 Eccl. 3:11 – *He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in*

 *their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the*

 *beginning even to the end*

3:15 – *that which is has been already and that which will be has already been, for God*

 *seeks what has passed by*

1. **God tells Israel that they are the witnesses of God’s future work of salvation for Israel**

**43:10 – 11**

*You are My witnesses declares the Lord*

1. Israel will be a witness who knows and believes what God has done for them
2. Israel will be a witness who understands that God is the Eternal and only God
3. Israel will be a witness who understands that God is their Savior

God declares His own glory!

 I am God, from eternity I am He, and there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act

 and it can never be reversed

The Lord Jesus Christ saves eternally – *no one can pluck them out of my hands John 10:28*

1. **God declares that He is the one who has promise predicted the future for Israel’s salvation – 43:12 – 13**

*So, you are My witnesses, declares the Lord and I am your God*

1. **God promise predicts Israel’s deliverance from Babylon – 43:14 – 21**
2. God will judge Babylon for Israel’s sake – 43:14
3. God is the King Creator of Israel, who saves – 43:16 -17
4. God commands Israel to forget the past & trust Him for their future – 43:18 – 20
5. God declares that Israel will declare His praise in the future – 43:21

*The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise*

1. **The Lord Jesus Christ calls the church to be witnesses to the nations – Acts 1:8 – 9**

*You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. After He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight*

Acts 7:4 – *those who had been scattered when about preaching the word*

2 Cor. 5:20 – *we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God*

1. **Believers become witnesses for Jesus Christ because they believed the witness of eye witnesses**

Acts 2:32 **–** *this Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses*

Acts 3:15 **–** *but put to death the Prince of life, the One whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses*

Acts 5:32 – *we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him*

Acts 10:39 – *we are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross*

John 1:14 – *the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

2 Peter 1:16 – *for we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, This is My beloved Son with whom I am well – pleased- and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

God’s word is a witness to Jesus Christ

2 Peter 20 – 21 – *know this first of all , that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

1. **Believers tell others that Jesus saves sinners by living before others as saved sinners**

1 Thess. 2:10 -12 – *you are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.*

1 Thess. 1:5 – 10 – *for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction, just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.*