

### **Notes on Isaiah 43:1-44:23**

Intro: It is possible that the latter half of Isaiah was written close to the end of Isaiah's life. He had already prophesied the Babylonian captivity and now gives some prophetic messages whose application would be made by God's people in the captivity. Thus, the second section sets the key note for the latter half--"Comfort ye my people". In this section God has sought to give comfort to his people by reminding them of His love and greatness in contrast to the idols. As they hear God describe these things, then they will know that He will make things work out to their good, restoring them from captivity and bringing to them a Savior! This is essentially the message of the second section.

Our understanding of chapters 43-44 depends on the backdrop of 42:18-25. Let's consider this section. It underscores the unfaithfulness of Israel as God's chosen servant and messenger to the nations.

43:1-7 God will restore and protect His people.

43:8-13 Israel is the true "Jehovah's witnesses".

43:14-21 God's judgment of Babylon.

43:22-24 Israel's continued unfaithfulness. Looks to the more immediate present.

43:25-28 Israel deserves judgment.

44:1-5 Israel's redemption.

44:6-8 In all this God demonstrates His greatness as the one true god.

44:9-20 All can see the folly of idolatry.

44:21-23 Israel urged to remember what God has done and worship Him!