

July 29th, 2018
 “When you walk Through the Fire”
 Isaiah 43:1-7

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

July 22 Proverbs 27-29	July 26 Eccles 9-12
July 23 Proverbs 30-31	July 27 Song of Sol 1-8
July 24 Eccles 1-4	July 28 Isaiah 1-4
July 25 Eccles 5-8	July 29 Isaiah 5-8

Lesson Introduction: Over the last few weeks, we have considered our incredible salvation by the grace of the Father, through Jesus Christ His Son. Our passage this week will focus on how God glorifies Himself by bringing us through the fires and the floods of this life, and into His comfort and grace. As we go, we will consider **God’s overwhelming love for His children, God’s plan in the fire and the flood, and God’s glory in our salvation and our trials.**

Key Memory Verses: Isaiah 43:2

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- God deeply loves and cares for His children (V. 1, 4).
- Trials are a guarantee in the lives of God’s children (V. 2).
- God is with His children through their trails (V. 2).
- God is creating a people for His glory (V. 7)

Isaiah 43:1-7

1 But now, this is what the Lord says—
 he who created you, Jacob,
 he who formed you, Israel:
 “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters,
 I will be with you;
 and when you pass through the rivers,
 they will not sweep over you.
 When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;
 the flames will not set you ablaze.

3 For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
 I give Egypt for your ransom,
 Cush and Seba in your stead.

4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
 and because I love you,
 I will give people in exchange for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.

5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
 I will bring your children from the east
 and gather you from the west.

6 I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’
 and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’
 Bring my sons from afar
 and my daughters from the ends of the earth—

7 everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made.”

Discussion Section 1: God’s overwhelming love for His children (V. 1, 4)

-In what ways do you see God’s love for Israel in V. 1?

-Why might we sometimes have difficulty believing that the Lord deeply loves us, and that we are “**precious in His sight**”?

-What can we point to as examples of God’s overwhelming love for us?

Note: Our passage today starts out by once again reminding us that Israel only exists by the grace of God (**Deuteronomy 7:6-11**) Reading again about God creating Israel out of nothing, and calling them by name, should remind us of our incredible salvation, which is also, completely, a loving and gracious work of God (**Ephesians 2:1-10**). We see again in **verse 4** that we are loved by God, and precious in His sight. This reality ought to stun us to our core. The God of the universe loves us! How astonishing! For many of us, it is difficult to believe and accept this reality. Some have grown up with dads who did not show love or kindness, or perhaps, were not around at all. On top of that, we see many verses throughout Scripture that speak of God’s wrath and discipline, and often we take that to mean that He is harsh and unkind. But the truth is, we have a perfect Father in heaven, who loves us so much that He would

send His only Son to die on our behalf (**John 3:16, Romans 5:6-8**), who fights on our behalf, takes great delight in us, rejoices over us with singing (**Zephaniah 3:17**), and who lovingly and perfectly disciplines us, for our good and His glory (**Hebrews 12:6-11, Romans 8:28**). The love of God is beyond our comprehension and should strengthen us for every battle this world has to offer (**Romans 8:31-39**).

Discussion Section 2: God's plan in the fire and the flood (V. 2)

-What does this verse tell us about the likelihood of God's children facing trials?

-What does it mean that we will not be burned or consumed when we walk through the fire?

-What does this verse tell us about God's presence in the midst of trials?

Note: One of the most popular false teachings out there today in the church is that of the prosperity gospel. Many believe and teach that the children of God are not meant to face trials, but rather, if our faith is strong enough, we will be financially blessed, physically blessed, and will not be plagued by the trials of this world. This teaching is in direct contradiction to the teachings of Scripture. We see throughout the Bible that suffering is a guarantee for God's people, and that indeed the Lord Himself ordains it in the lives of His people (**John 16:33, Acts 14:22, 2 Timothy 3:12, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7, 4:12-19, Romans 8:17, The Book of Job**). Our passage today speaks of suffering not as something that might happen, but indeed something that **will** happen. It is in these times that we must cling to the truth of God's love which we discussed in the previous section, and trust that He truly is with us in storm.

The promises of our passage today are not that we won't have trials, but that God will be with us in them, and that we will not be consumed by our trials. Isaiah states that we will not be burned in the fire (**Daniel 3:19-28**) or overwhelmed by the waters (**Exodus 14:21-22, Joshua 3:14-17**). Ultimately, although the body may waste away, or might even be killed, or if grief feels too difficult to bear, we have the hope that we will not be overcome, because we have the hope that God is with us, and of eternal life through Jesus Christ (**Philippians 1:21, 2 Corinthians 4:17, Romans 8:31-39**). The children of God are truly fireproof in the midst of the flames because the

Lord has promised to be with us and bring us into everlasting life with Him.

Discussion Section 3: God's glory in our salvation and our trials (V. 7)

-What does this verse tell us about God's ultimate purpose in saving us, and bringing us through trials?

-Why is God working all things for His own glory a good thing for us? How is God loving in pointing us to His glory?

Note: Our passage today closes out by stating that all who are called by the name of the Lord were created by God, for His glory. This truth is troubling to some. Many people feel as if it is impossible for God to be both loving towards us, and primarily be for His own glory. However, when we think this way, we are thinking in human terms, through sinful lenses. The fact is, if God was working more toward anything else other than His glory, He would be leading us to find our satisfaction in something other than Him. What will always bring us unending joy is in marveling at and living for the glory of God. This passage makes plain to us that God's purpose in our salvation and in our trials is to glorify Himself (**Ephesians 1:6**). What an incredible privilege it is to be saved by God and get to suffer for His Name (**Acts 5:41**). Satisfaction in this life into eternity is found ultimately in glorifying The One who loves us deeply and has saved us by His grace.

Lesson by Steven Richardson