

Isaiah 43:7-15, 21

Verse 12 has a reference to **Exodus 32** and the Golden Calf incident : "I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you."

This Haftarah passage emphasizes God as unique, the only God and Israel's only savior.

Isaiah 43:6-8 - "I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears."

Rashi - to bring out of the exile those who were exiled because they became like blind; although they had eyes, they did not see.

Isaiah 43:9 - "Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth."

Rashi - who of them and of their prophets would tell the future, or the like, quoting their pagan Gods, or the first events, that have already passed, would they let us know, saying, "We foretold them before they came about" ?

A Powerful Declaration of God's Uniqueness

Isaiah 43:10-11 - "Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior."

Isaiah 43:12 - "I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God."

Isaiah 43:13 - "Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let (hinder) it?"

Isaiah 43:14 - "Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships."

The Targum says, "Because of your sins I exiled you to Babylon." But this is a prophecy of the fall of Babylon. "I have sent" i.e. Cyrus and his army, etc....

See the destruction of spiritual Babylon in **Revelation 18**.

Isaiah 43:15 - "I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King."

A resounding affirmation.

Isaiah 43:21 - "This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise."

In the New Covenant, God formed and created a new Israel made up of Jews and Gentiles who would worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

- **1 Peter 2:9** - "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."