

1. We are going to continue this morning with a prophetic word from the Old Testament book of Isaiah.
2. God says through the prophet **Isaiah 43:18-19** "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. **19** See, I am doing a new thing!"
3. One of the new things God is doing is he is exposing the foolishness of trusting in Idols.
4. **Isaiah 43:8** Lead out those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf.
5. This is a description of the idols, or false gods the people of Israel have trusted in.
6. Isaiah points out that they have eyes but are blind. They have ears but are deaf.
7. In other words, on the surface, it might look like these false gods can be trusted in. But when you look closely you discover they are blind and deaf. They are powerless to see us, powerless to hear us, and as a result powerless to help us.
8. Last week we discovered that it is in fact possible for us to have false gods or idols in our lives. Whenever there are things or people in our life that we give more attention, time, devotion, and resources than our relationship with the Lord, that thing can become an idol.
9. I read to you a very uncommon verse of scripture. Uncommon meaning, we don't talk about it very much.
10. **Philippians 3:18-19** For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.
11. That is such a powerful statement in verse 19. Their god is their stomach.
12. After many days in prayer asking the Lord to reveal to me some of what that meant. The Lord very clearly gave me these 4 statements.
  - The average person spends more time thinking about what they will eat next, than they do thinking about their relationship with the Lord.
  - The average person spends more time buying or preparing food than they do serving the Lord in some capacity.

- The average person spends more money on food, than they do honoring the Lord with their tithe and offering.
- The average person spends more time talking to unbelievers about food than they do about Jesus.

13. I don't know about you, but I consider those some pretty strong statements. I did a double take when the Lord first spoke that to me.

14. But as I have prayed about those statements and examined my own life to see how I compare; I am learning that the Lord's desire in speaking to us so strongly is that because of his great love for us he doesn't want us to be fooled into trusting in things or people that really are not trustworthy at all.

15. Part of the point of Isaiah exposing these blind, deaf idols in Isaiah 43 is so the people of Israel, and us for that matter, would be able to see the vast difference between the false gods of this world, and the greatness of God Almighty.

16. The word I in the following passage is underlined by me for emphasis. It is not that way in the bible.

**TEXT:** **Isaiah 43:12-14** I have revealed and saved and proclaimed-- I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God. **13** Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?" **14** This is what the LORD says-- your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I will send to Babylon and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians, in the ships in which they took pride.

**TITLE:** **A new glimpse of God Almighty.**

**INTRO:**

1. Beginning in verse 8, all the way down through the end of the chapter, what the Lord is doing through Isaiah is he is making a comparison or a contrast.
2. In verse 8 he calls out the blind and deaf idols that the people have trusted in.
3. And then what follows is the Lord identifying and revealing who He is in comparison to these false gods.

4. Isaiah 43:12 I have revealed and saved and proclaimed-- I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God.
5. God says, I have revealed and saved and proclaimed. Not some foreign god among you.
6. Remember we said last week that potential idols in our lives are not some far off, foreign, unknown thing. They are almost always things that are close and known, and most often even given by the Lord to us as a blessing.
7. The Lord says you are my witnesses. You know. You have trusted in these gods, and you know what the outcome has been.
8. All trusting in these false, powerless gods has gotten you is trouble.
9. You know that I and I alone am God.
10. So, let me remind you who I really am.
11. Let me compare myself to these false gods.
12. Let me help you get a new glimpse of who I really am and what I can really do for you.
13. So, then what follows in verse 13 & 14 is the Lord revealing some of the characteristics of who he is.
14. Let's look at three of those characteristics this morning.

### **The permanence of God Almighty**

1. Isaiah 43:13 Yes, and from ancient days I am he.
2. I absolutely love the meaning of the phrase, from ancient days.
3. Before there was a day. Before the first day of creation. Before there was anything or anyone. I was already there.
4. Before you were, He was.
5. After you are, He still will be.
6. It's a reference to the fact that not only was God God before there was anything. He will be God after heaven and earth have passed away.
7. Jesus said in Revelation 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
8. The Lord reminds us that he is permanent. That word permanent means lasting or intended to last or remain indefinitely.

9. Let's contrast that with these blind deaf gods that are talked about earlier.
10. In talking about the God of our stomach last week, this is what the bible has to say about food.
11. **Matthew 15:17 "Anything you eat passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer. (NLT)**
12. Food is temporary. God is permanent.
13. In Isaiah 44, Isaiah points out the foolishness of the people cutting down a tree and burning part of the wood for fuel and crafting the other part into an idol.
14. The wood is temporary. God is permanent.
15. Anything and everything we are tempted to trust in are temporary in comparison to God.
16. When you and I trust in the Lord we are trusting in a forever God.
17. Another characteristic of God is...

### **The power of God Almighty.**

1. **Isaiah 43:13 No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?"**
2. So, the first reminder is that God is forever.
3. The second reminder is that there is no one or nothing that is as powerful as God Almighty.
4. Let me read this verse from the NLT. **Isaiah 43:13 No one can snatch anyone out of My hand. No one can undo what I have done."**
5. I don't believe this is a reference to eternal salvation. Rather it is an indication of the protection that God provides for us.
6. It is a protection that is based on God's power.
7. We see God's power described here in two ways.
8. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand.
9. When God is your God. When we reject false God's and cling to the one true God, we are safe and secure. We are protected. There is not one thing we are not protected from.

10. Romans 8:37-39 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
11. God's love for you is more powerful than any other force. Period.
12. And as a result, there is nothing in all the world. No matter how bad or terrible that is a match for his protection and care for you.
13. The second aspect of God's power is that we can take God's promises to the bank.
14. The last part of verse 13 says, when I act, who can reverse it.
15. When God says something. When God does something. We need to be reminded that there is no force in heaven or hell that can cause Gods actions to be null and void.
16. Nothing or no one can cancel what the Lord does.
17. When he makes a promise, either in his word or to you personally; you can take it to the bank. God is a God who cannot lie.
18. He wouldn't go back on his word even if he wanted to.
19. When the Lord says up in verse 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."
20. You can take those promises to the bank.
21. Remember. The promise is not that you won't feel like you have problems up to your neck, that it won't feel at times as if the currents of life are pulling at you, or that all that you live and work for is for nothing.
22. The promise is that when you face those things, God has promised he will be with you and you will be ok.
23. The promise is not that it will be ok. The promise is that you will be ok.
24. God Almighty is powerful enough to keep his promises.
25. The last characteristic of the Lord is...

## The Plan of God Almighty

1. Isaiah 43:14 This is what the LORD says-- your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I will send to Babylon and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians, in the ships in which they took pride.
2. We know from history that because the people of Israel trusted in these false gods. These idols, they were forced to suffer the consequences that God had been warning them about for hundreds of years.
3. The greatest consequence was that they would be carried off as captives and fugitives from the very land God had given them.
4. And so, the people God used to enact his judgment were the Babylonians.
5. In about 721 BC, the Babylonians surrounded Israel, defeated them, and carried tens of thousands of them away from their land.
6. When Isaiah writes the words of Isaiah 43, the children of Israel are still being held captive in Babylon.
7. All they can see is that they are slaves to brutal, ungodly people.
8. So, what Isaiah says about the Babylonians is a prophecy of what will happen in the future.
9. Isaiah 43:14 "For your sake I will send to Babylon and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians, in the ships in which they took pride.
10. In other words. Don't worry. I have a plan. You are going to be ok.
11. When it says I will send to Babylon, it is an indication that God will send enemies against the Babylonians who will defeat them.
12. And not only will they be defeated, but the Babylonians themselves will become fugitives. They will be carried off.
13. What is interesting is the manner in which they will be carried away.
14. In the ships in which they took pride.
15. Babylon was a major trading center. They sent ships all over the known world at that time, and those ships brought back riches. They trusted in those ships.
16. But it is also believed that it is a reference to how the Babylonians would react when they were attacked later on.

17. The Babylonians thought when they were attacked that they would just all load up in these ships and escape their enemies.
18. But here was God's plan. Not only will these ships they have trusted in not save them. These very ships will be used to load the people up and ship them off to a foreign land.
19. Here was the message to the people of Israel. You may be in a bind. You may be in trouble. Your enemies may be surrounding you on every side. **But don't be afraid. I already have a plan for how I am going to get you out of this.**
20. In contrast to those blind, deaf gods you have been trusting in.
21. I am the God who sees where you are and hears your cries for help.

#### Conclusion:

1. As we prepare to close today, this is the truth I want to leave you with.
2. Every day we are faced with the temptation to trust in the things that are near us. Things we can touch and feel and see.
3. But none of those things even comes close to comparing to the greatness of our God.
4. While the stuff of this life is temporary. God almighty is permanent.
5. While the stuff of this life only has the power to save us for the moment. God Almighty has the power to save and protect us entirely, completely, and indefinitely.
6. While the stuff of this life only leaves us feeling lost and alone. God almighty reminds us that he has his eyes on us and he already has a plan for our future.
7. Prayer.
8. Salvation call.
9. Let's respond by acknowledging and confessing the greatness of God Almighty in our lives.
10. I want to ask you to praise your way to victory.
11. Praise Him, not based on how you feel or what you see. Praise him based on the truth of who he is.

12. Lord God. I thank you that you are not temporary. Your love is not temporary. You are permanent. You are forever.
13. Lord God. I thank you that you are the all powerful one. That I am safe from all harm. And that nothing can reverse the promises you have made to me.
14. Lord God. I thank you that you have a plan for my future. I am not abandoned. I am not alone. I am loved and I am cared for.