

**RISE
UP**



Isaiah 43

43 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. 4 Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'
8 Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! 9 Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them declared this, and foretold to us the former things?

Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, 'It is true.' 10 You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

11 I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no saviour. 12 I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses, says the Lord.

13 I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is no one who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it?

14 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars, and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation.

15 I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.

16 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 17 who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 18 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20 The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, 21 the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

22 Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel!

23 You have not brought me your sheep for burnt-offerings, or honoured me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. 24 You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. 25 I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

26 Accuse me, let us go to trial; set forth your case, so that you may be proved right. 27 Your first ancestor sinned, and your interpreters transgressed against me. 28 Therefore I profaned the princes of the sanctuary I delivered Jacob to utter destruction, and Israel to reviling.

Context matters!

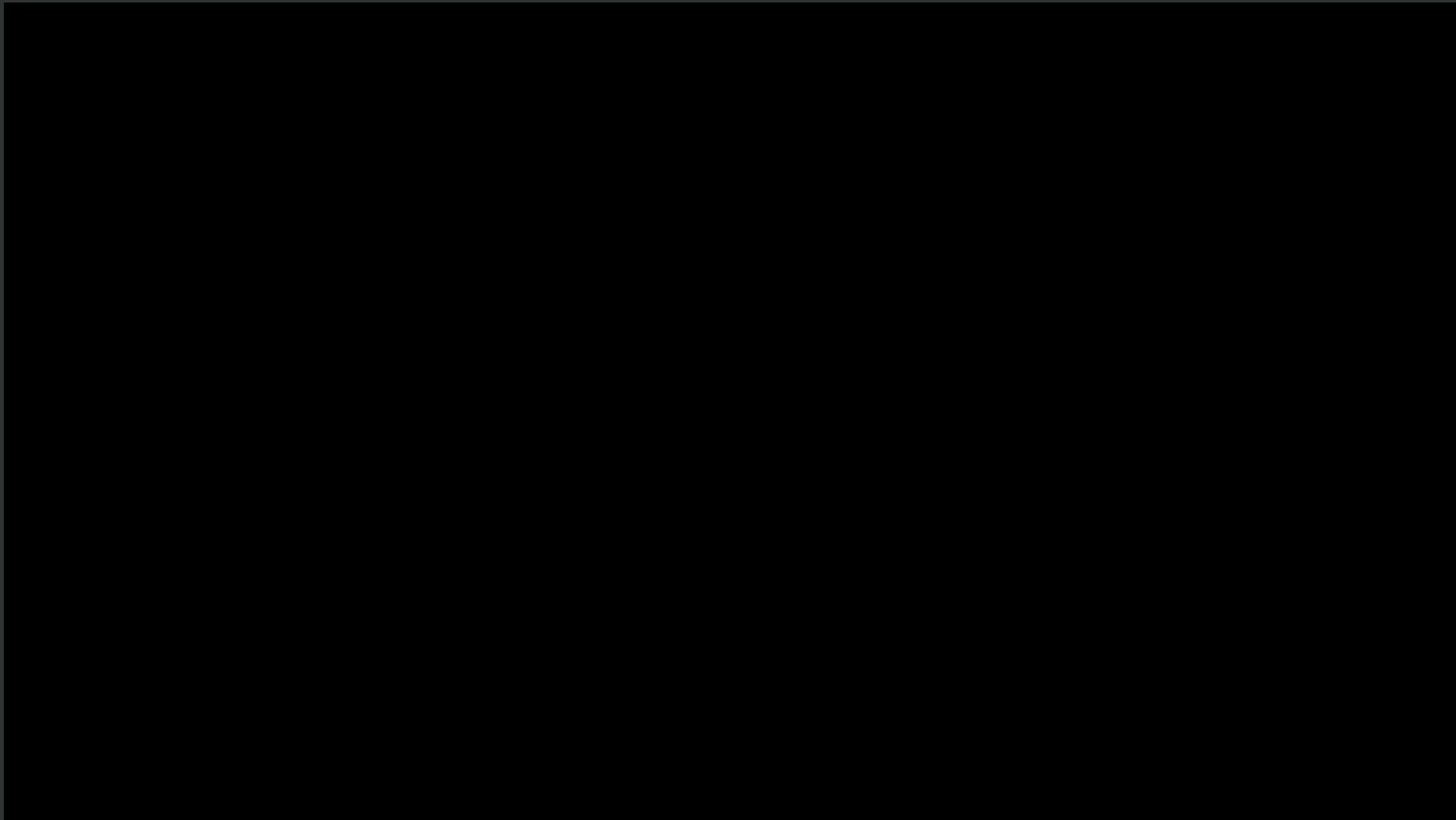
Context matters!

God is wicked

1978

By the rivers of Babylon—
there we sat down and there we
wept
when we remembered Zion.

Psalm 137



The most effective way to destroy a people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.

But now thus says the Lord, he
who created you, O Jacob, he who
formed you ...



He has redeemed them

גא'אל

Ga'al

Redeem

God comes to them as the head of the family. He comes to rescue, reclaim and restore them as family, as his dear children.

Do not fear for I have redeemed
you.

Do not fear for I am with you.

Bring forth the people who are blind,
yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have
ears! (verse 8)

Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not
perceive it?

remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like
me...

Isaiah
46:9

Right remembering perceives that God in his infinite wisdom and creativity is not limited to the same *method* of rescue as he has used in the past.



A disturbing series of “Yets”
and “have nots”.

I am he who blots out your
transgressions for my own
sake, says the Lord, and I will
not remember your sins.

(verse 25)

