

PROMISE #3: FORGIVENESS

COVID Promises: Isaiah 45:

August 23, 2020

*I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.*

Isaiah 43:25

Setting the stage for forgiveness: The first Servant Song

- “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.
2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.
3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.
In his law the islands will put their hope.”
5 This is what God the LORD says—he who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it,
who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:
6 “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.
8 “I am the LORD; that is my name!
I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.
9 See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare;
before they spring into being I announce them to you.”
Isaiah 42:1-9 (be sure to check a good introduction to Isaiah for the background)

- 1) Note the NT connections!
- 2) Creation!
- 3) We are included!
- 4) God’s forgiveness incomplete without restoration

Israel's only Savior

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, 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 Savior

¹⁰ “You are my witnesses,” declares 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 will there be one after me.

¹¹ I, even I, am the LORD,

and apart from me there is no savior.

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.

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.

¹⁵ I am the LORD, your Holy One,

Israel's Creator, your King.”

¹⁶ This is what the LORD says—

he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,

¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses,

the army and reinforcements together,

and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

¹⁸ “Forget the former things;

do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:1-19

1) Names (“Holy One of Israel” is Isaiah's name for his God)

2) a celebration of God's salvation (with a shout out to the Exodus)

3) “New” (= restoration) is the theme, as surprising as a new spring in the desert!

The one who forgives

“I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.

²⁶ Review the past for me,
let us argue the matter together;
state the case for your innocence.

²⁷ Your first father sinned;
your spokesmen rebelled against me.

²⁸ So I will disgrace the dignitaries of your temple,
and I will consign Jacob to destruction
and Israel to scorn.

44 “But now listen, O Jacob, my servant,
Israel, whom I have chosen.

² This is what the LORD says—
he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you:
Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant

Isaiah 43:25-44:2 (see 1:18-20 for these themes at the beginning of Isaiah)

1) God reserves forgiveness for himself (see 43:11-13; Mark 2:3-12)

2) Forgiveness reveals the character of God

3) Forgiveness is both historical

4) Forgiveness transcends the sacrificial system (whatever religion system!)

The difference forgiveness makes

1) Forgiving is how I _____

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

5 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:32 (see Spurgeon's "Forgiveness Made Easy" on Ephesians 4:32, also Colossians 3:12-14)

2) Forgiveness is the _____

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'

¹⁴ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:9-14

3) Forgiveness changes _____

Brethren I lay these things before you. I know well these are great diversities in the degree of men's attainments in grace, and that saving faith in Christ is consistent with many imperfections. But still I do believe, the marks I have just been naming, will generally be found more or less in all forgiven souls.

I cannot conceal from you, these marks should raise in many minds great searchings of heart. I must be plain. I fear there are thousands of persons called Christians, who know nothing of these marks. They are baptized. They keep their church. They would not on any account be reckoned infidels. But as to true repentance and saving faith, union with Christ and sanctification of the Spirit, they are names and words of which they know nothing at all.

The last paragraphs of J.C. Ryles' "Forgiveness." Ryle suggests these five points.

Resources for further study

J. C. Ryles' message at <https://www.monergism.com/five-characteristics-genuinely-forgiven-sinners>

"Forgiveness" sermon audio at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObHVFVUOcwg>

"Forgiveness" e-book is available at <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/ryle/Forgiveness%20-%20J.%20C.%20Ryle.pdf>

The "forgiveness" search at monergism.com revealed an incredible list of resources.

Spurgeon has a huge number of sermons on forgiveness. I'm partial to "[Forgiveness](#)" on Isaiah 43:25 and "[Forgiveness Made Easy](#)" on Ephesians 4:32.

Deffinbaugh's "The Fundamentals of Forgiveness" on Genesis 45 (the Joseph story) at <https://bible.org/seriespage/45-fundamentals-forgiveness-genesis-451-28>

John MacArthur's "Plea for Forgiveness" blog at <https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B150323>

Doug's go-to sources Isaiah are

EVANGELISTIC SUMMARY			
The intention of God	God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our life	God created us as children with his honor and glory	God is sovereign and offers spiritual authority to us
The human problem	Our personal sin creates a barrier between us and God/God's plan for our life	Our disloyalty dishonors God, so we are shamefully orphaned.	Our idolatry separates us from divine power and places us under the curse of darkness
The solution of Jesus	As a perfect sacrifice for our sins, Jesus bore the wrath of God's punishment	As our mediator, Jesus bore our shame, rose to glory, and restored glory to God's name	Jesus conquered death and evil powers so we could access God's power and blessings.
Salvific Response	Accept Jesus as our personal Savior and pray for forgiveness, turn from human morality	Give allegiance to God, receive adoption into His family, turn from false face & status	Trust in Jesus' alone for protection and power, turn from magic & syncretism

SUMMARY

	GUILT	SHAME	FEAR
Metaphor	Courtroom	Community	Combat
God	Lawgiver & Judge	Father & Patron	Ruler & Creator
Sin	Lawbreaking	Disloyalty	Idolatry
Christ	Sacrifice	Mediator	Conqueror
Salvation	Forgiveness	Honor/Face	Peace/Freedom
Mission	Truth	Community	Power

To learn the culture type of your group, take the free assessment at www.TheCultureTest.com.

View the e-book [THE 3D GOSPEL: Ministry in Guilt, Shame, and Fear Cultures](#)

Heidelberg Catechism reflections from the Apostle's Creed and Lord's Prayer

Q & A 56

Q. What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins”?

A. I believe that God,
because of Christ's satisfaction,
will no longer remember
any of my sins¹ or my sinful nature
which I need to struggle against all my life.²

Rather, by grace
God grants me the righteousness of Christ
to free me forever from judgment.³

¹ [Ps. 103:3-4, 10, 12](#); [Mic. 7:18-19](#); [2 Cor. 5:18-21](#); [1 John 1:7](#); [2:2](#)

² [Rom. 7:21-25](#)

³ [John 3:17-18](#); [Rom. 8:1-2](#)

Q & A 126

Q. What does the fifth petition mean?

A. “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” means:

Because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are,
any of the sins we do
or the evil that constantly clings to us.¹

Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors.²

¹ [Ps. 51:1-7](#); [143:2](#); [Rom. 8:1](#); [1 John 2:1-2](#)

² [Matt. 6:14-15](#); [18:21-35](#)

