

If Fear Has Been Controlling You, Listen to Isaiah 43

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

If Fear Has Been Controlling You, Listen to Isaiah 43

Fear is a thief. It doesn't just steal your peace; it steals your present. It steals your ability to think clearly, to love deeply, and to trust fully. For many of us, fear has become the background noise of our lives—a low hum of anxiety that never quite goes away. We fear for our children, our finances, our health, and our future. We wake up with a knot in our stomach and go to bed with a racing mind. We try to control everything around us because we are terrified of what might happen if we let go. But living in fear is like driving with the emergency brake on; you might move forward, but there is tremendous friction, smoke, and damage being done to your soul. The Bible commands us "Fear not" 365 times—one for every day of the year—because God knows that fear is the primary weapon the enemy uses to paralyze His people. But nowhere is the antidote to fear more potent, more poetic, and more powerful than in Isaiah chapter 43. This chapter is a love letter from the Creator to the created. It was written to a people in exile, a people who had every reason to be afraid, who felt abandoned and judged. And into that darkness, God speaks words of blinding light. He doesn't just say "stop being afraid"; He gives us the theological and relational reasons **why** we don't have to fear. He dismantles the logic of terror with the logic of covenant love. And before we dive in, if this message is already stirring something in you, hit the subscribe button and stay connected to God's Word daily, because we believe that truth sets us free. Today, we are going to walk through seven life-altering truths from Isaiah 43. These are not just verses to memorize; they are anchors to hold you steady when the storms of life try to sweep you away. If fear has been sitting in the driver's seat of your life, it is time to evict it. It is time to listen to the One who formed you. Let's open our hearts to the healing power of this ancient text.

We must understand the context to grasp the power. Israel was in a mess. They had sinned, they had been conquered, and they were likely wondering if God was done with them. Fear often whispers that our mistakes have disqualified us from God's protection. It tells us that we are alone in the universe. Isaiah 43 shatters this lie. It starts with the word "But." "But now, thus says the Lord..." That "but" is the pivot point of grace. It means, "Regardless of what has happened, regardless of how you feel, regardless of the darkness around you, here is the reality." We need to live in the "But God" reality. The doctor says cancer, **but God** says... The bank says bankruptcy, **but God** says... The news says chaos, **but God** says... When we listen to Isaiah 43, we are tuning our frequency to the voice of the Sovereign Lord who sits above the circle of the earth. We are remembering that our circumstances do not define our reality; His Word defines our reality.

Fear thrives on amnesia. We get afraid because we forget who God is and who we are. Isaiah 43 is a reminder. It is God grabbing us by the shoulders, looking us in the eye, and saying, "Remember Me?" When you really hear this chapter, the grip of anxiety loosens. You realize that the monster under the bed is just a shadow. You realize that you are not an orphan wandering in

If Fear Has Been Controlling You, Listen to Isaiah 43

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

the wilderness; you are a prince or princess walking home. Today, we are going to dissect this chapter verse by verse, extracting the medicine for your soul. We will look at ownership, presence, value, and the promise of a new future. If you are tired of being controlled by "what if," get ready to be controlled by "I Am."

Number 1: The Antidote of Ownership ("You Are Mine")

The very first verse of Isaiah 43 attacks the root of fear: identity. "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.'" Notice the progression. God introduces Himself as your Creator and Former. He isn't a distant observer; He is the Architect of your existence. But then He drops the hammer on fear with three words: "You are mine."

Fear often stems from a feeling of vulnerability. We feel like we are out in the open, unprotected, with no one to back us up. But God says, "I own you." In the ancient world, ownership meant responsibility. If a shepherd owned a sheep, he was responsible for its life. If a king owned a territory, he was obligated to defend it. When God says, "You are mine," He is taking full liability for your life. He is saying, "I am responsible for your provision. I am responsible for your protection. I am responsible for your future."

Think about the implications of being God's property. If you break a rental car, you panic. If you break your own car, you fix it. God doesn't rent you; He bought you. And He bought you with the highest price imaginable—the blood of Jesus. "I have redeemed you." Redemption is a marketplace term. It means to buy back from slavery. You were a slave to fear, a slave to sin, but God walked into the slave market and put down the payment of His Son and said, "That one is Mine."

Because you are His, no one can touch you without His permission. You are the apple of His eye. Fear tells you that you are at the mercy of the economy, or the government, or bad luck. Isaiah 43 tells you that you are exclusively the property of the Lord of Hosts. Satan cannot snatch you out of His hand. Circumstances cannot separate you from His love. You have a tag on your spirit that reads: "Property of God. Handle with Care."

He also says, "I have called you by name." This is intimate. He doesn't say, "Hey you, human #4 billion." He knows your name. He knows your history. He knows your specific fears. Fear isolates us; it makes us feel anonymous and forgotten. But the God of the universe knows your name. When you walk into a room, He acknowledges you. When you cry out in the middle of the night, He recognizes your voice. This specific, personal ownership is the foundation of courage. You don't have to be afraid because you belong to the King.

If Fear Has Been Controlling You, Listen to Isaiah 43

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

Number 2: The Promise of Presence in the Crisis

Verse 2 is perhaps the most quoted and comforting verse in the entire book of Isaiah: "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." Note carefully that God does not say "If." He says "When." This is a reality check. Being God's child does not exempt you from the waters or the fire. It does not mean you get a pass on suffering.

Fear often sells us the lie that if we were truly right with God, life would be easy. So when trouble comes, we panic, thinking God has left us. Isaiah 43 corrects this. The trouble is guaranteed ("When you pass through"), but the Presence is also guaranteed ("I will be with you"). God does not promise to build a bridge *over* the waters; He promises to walk with you *through* them. He doesn't promise to put out the fire instantly; He promises to stand with you *in* the furnace.

Think of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3. They were literally thrown into the fire. God didn't stop the king from throwing them in. But when the king looked into the furnace, he saw four men, not three. The fourth looked like the Son of God. The fire didn't burn them; it only burned the ropes that bound them. God's presence in the fire changes the nature of the fire. It turns a place of destruction into a place of revelation.

When you are drowning in debt, or drowning in grief, or walking through the fire of a divorce or a diagnosis, fear screams, "You are going to die!" But God whispers, "I am here. The water is deep, but I am taller than the waves. The fire is hot, but I am the Consuming Fire, and I will protect you." The promise is not the absence of danger; it is the absence of abandonment. You are never, ever alone.

The Hebrew imagery here recalls the Exodus—passing through the Red Sea (waters) and the Jordan River (rivers). Israel made it through not because they were good swimmers, but because God was with them. Your survival rate for every past crisis is 100% because God was with you. He brought you through the last one, and He will bring you through this one. The waters will not overflow you. They might rise to your neck, but they will not go over your head. God controls the thermostat of the fire and the tide of the river. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week.

Number 3: The Calculus of Divine Value

Why does God protect us? Is it because we are so good? No. It is because we are so valuable to Him. Verses 3 and 4 say, "For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes,

If Fear Has Been Controlling You, Listen to Isaiah 43

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life." This is startling language. God is speaking in terms of value and exchange.

Fear feeds on insecurity. We are afraid because we feel worthless, expendable, or insignificant. We think, "If I disappear, who cares? If I fail, I'm trash." But God opens the books of heaven and shows you His valuation of your soul. He says you are "precious." The Hebrew word implies something rare, heavy, and costly. You are not cheap. You are not a dime a dozen. You are a masterpiece.

He says you are "honored." Think about that. The God of Glory honors you. He treats you with dignity. And then the climax: "I love you." This isn't a sentimental, hallmark-card love. This is a love that pays a ransom. In the historical context, God allowed other nations (Egypt, Cush) to fall to the Persians to facilitate Israel's release. He moved geopolitics just to save His people. In the spiritual context, He gave His only Son. He gave the King of Kings in exchange for you.

If God was willing to pay such a high price for you, do you really think He will let you starve? Do you really think He will let you be destroyed by a temporary problem? We take better care of our diamonds than we do of our pebbles. You are His diamond. The investment He has made in you is too great for Him to walk away.

When fear tells you that you are worthless, you need to quote Isaiah 43:4. "I am precious in His eyes." This isn't arrogance; it's agreement with God. Knowing your value destroys the fear of rejection. If the Creator of the stars thinks you are to die for, it doesn't matter what your boss thinks, or what your ex thinks, or what the critics think. You are validated by the Blood. You are secure in His estimation.

Number 4: The Restoration of the Scattered

Fear often manifests as a fear of loss—loss of family, loss of legacy, loss of time. We look at our lives and see scattered pieces. We see prodigal children who have walked away. We see years wasted in sin. We see dreams that have drifted to the four winds. We fear that it is too late to put it all back together. But Isaiah 43:5-6 brings a massive promise of gathering: "Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth."

This is a promise of supernatural restoration. God is the Great Gatherer. Fear says, "They are gone forever." God says, "I will speak to the North, South, East, and West, and command them to give back what belongs to covenant." This applies to the exiles returning to Jerusalem, but it

If Fear Has Been Controlling You, Listen to Isaiah 43

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

applies spiritually to your life today.

Are you afraid for your children who are far from God? Listen to this verse. God says, "Bring my sons from afar." There is no distance too great for the Holy Spirit. Your children might be in the "far country" of addiction, atheism, or rebellion, but God has a magnet. He knows how to bring them home. Your fear does not save them; your faith in God's gathering power does.

This also applies to the fragmented parts of your own soul. Trauma scatters us. We feel like we left a piece of our heart in the past, a piece in that broken relationship, a piece in that failure. God says, "I will gather *you*." He integrates our hearts. He calls our mind back to peace. He calls our heart back to wholeness.

We often try to be the gatherers. We chase people, we manipulate, we try to force restoration. And we get exhausted and afraid. God says, "Stop. I will say to the North, 'Give up.'" God has authority over the directions of the earth. He can command the circumstances holding your blessing to release it. He can command the addiction holding your spouse to let go. You don't have to fight the North and South; you just have to ask the Commander to speak. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week.

Number 5: The "New Thing" and the Death of the Past

One of the greatest sources of fear is the past. We are afraid that history will repeat itself. We are afraid that because we failed before, we will fail again. We are paralyzed by the "former things." Isaiah 43:18-19 is God's command to hit the reset button: "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing 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."

God commands us to "Remember not." This doesn't mean deleting your memory; it means disconnecting the power of the past over your present. It means refusing to let yesterday's trauma dictate today's trajectory. Fear loves to look in the rearview mirror. Faith looks through the windshield. God says, "Stop looking back. I am not back there. I am doing a *new* thing."

The "new thing" is often unrecognizable at first. He asks, "Do you not perceive it?" Sometimes we are so addicted to the way things used to be (even if they were bad) that we miss the new door God is opening. We are looking for a boat because we used to cross by boat, but God is making a highway in the wilderness. We are looking for rain, but God is making a river in the desert. His methods change.

Fear tells you there is "no way." You look at your situation—the wilderness of singleness, the desert of unemployment—and logic says there is no path. But God specializes in civil engineering

If Fear Has Been Controlling You, Listen to Isaiah 43

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

in the impossible. He makes ways where there are no ways. He doesn't need a pre-existing path; He *is* the Way.

If you are afraid of the future, it is because you are projecting the past onto it. You think the future will just be a rerun of your past hurts. God says, "No. I am a Creator. I can create a future that looks nothing like your history." He can birth a ministry out of your misery. He can birth a testimony out of your test. But you have to let go of the "former things." You have to drop the baggage of the past to pick up the blessing of the new thing.

Number 6: The Blotting Out of Transgressions

Perhaps the deepest, darkest fear we carry is the fear of judgment. We know our own hearts. We know our sins. We know we don't deserve God's help. We burden ourselves with guilt, and guilt breeds fear—fear of punishment, fear of karma, fear that God is secretly against us. God addresses this head-on in verse 24 and 25. First, the indictment: "You have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities." God is honest. Our sin is a heavy weight. It is a burden to Him.

But then, the explosion of grace: "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins." This is the Gospel in the Old Testament. God does not ignore sin; He blots it out. In ancient times, ink didn't bite into the parchment like modern ink; it sat on top. If you wiped it with a wet sponge soon enough, it would disappear completely. God takes the sponge of His grace and wipes the record clean.

Why does He do it? "For my own sake." This is crucial. If He forgave you because you were good enough, you would always be afraid of slipping up and losing it. But He forgives you for *His* sake—to demonstrate His character, His glory, and His nature as a Savior. Your forgiveness is secured by God's commitment to His own glory. That is a rock-solid foundation.

"And I will not remember your sins." God chooses omniscient forgetfulness. He chooses not to bring them up against you. If God doesn't remember your sins, why are you still replaying them at 2 AM? Why are you still afraid that God is going to get you for what you did in 1999? Fear of punishment is a liar because the punishment has already been taken by Christ. "There is therefore now no condemnation" (Romans 8:1).

When the accuser comes and tries to make you afraid of your standing with God, point him to Isaiah 43:25. The record is wiped. The judge has dismissed the case. You don't have to live looking over your shoulder. You can look God in the face, not because you are perfect, but because He is a Blotter-Out of sins. This freedom from guilt is the death blow to the fear of

If Fear Has Been Controlling You, Listen to Isaiah 43

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

judgment.

Number 7: The Purpose of Your Existence

Finally, fear often comes from a sense of aimlessness. "What is the point? Why am I here?" When we lack purpose, we feel fragile. But Isaiah 43 clarifies your ultimate reason for being. Verse 7 says, "Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." And verse 21: "The people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise."

You were not created just to pay bills and die. You were not created to worry. You were created for *glory*. You were formed to be a mirror that reflects the goodness, power, and love of God to the universe. You were made "for Myself," God says. You are His personal treasure, designed to be in relationship with Him and to declare His praise.

How does this cure fear? When you know you have a divine purpose, you know you are indestructible until that purpose is fulfilled. You know that your life has weight and meaning. Fear makes us self-centered—we obsess over our safety and our comfort. Purpose makes us God-centered—we obsess over His glory and His praise.

When you shift your focus from "preserving my life" to "declaring His praise," fear loses its grip. Soldiers in a battle overcome fear when they are focused on the mission. Your mission is to praise Him. Even in the fire, your mission is to praise Him. Even in the waters, your mission is to praise Him. And when you praise Him in the crisis, you fulfill the very reason you were created, and you find a deep, resonant joy that terror cannot touch.

Your life is a testimony. The trial you are in right now is just the setup for the "declaration of praise" that is coming. God is writing a story in your life that will cause others to look at you and say, "Only God could have done that." So don't be afraid of the plot twists. The Author knows exactly what He is doing. He created you for glory, and He will get glory out of your life.

Conclusion

Isaiah 43 is not just a chapter; it is a shelter. It is a fortress against the assault of fear. We have seen that God claims you ("You are Mine"), accompanies you ("I will be with you"), values you ("Precious in my sight"), gathers you ("Bring my sons"), renews you ("A new thing"), forgives you ("Blots out transgressions"), and purposes you ("For my glory").

If fear has been controlling you, it is because you have been listening to the wrong voice. You have been listening to the news, to the critics, or to the lies of the enemy. Today, make a decision to switch the channel. Tune in to Isaiah 43. Read it out loud. Let the "Fear Not" of God drown out the

If Fear Has Been Controlling You, Listen to Isaiah 43

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

"What If" of the world.

You are not a victim of your circumstances. You are the property of the Most High God. You are a fire-walker and a water-crosser. You are ransomed with the blood of the King. The past is gone, the record is clean, and the future is being paved by God Himself. There is literally nothing to fear.

Take a deep breath. Release the tension in your shoulders. The One who holds the universe holds you. He didn't bring you this far to leave you. He didn't redeem you to let you drown. He is with you, He is for you, and He loves you with an everlasting love. Walk out in confidence today. The Lord is your Shepherd; you shall not want, and you shall not fear.

Before you go, make sure to subscribe, like this video, and share it with someone who needs encouragement today. And join us next time as we uncover another powerful truth from God's Word.