

- Acts 1:8

iv. Isaiah 19:24-25

- Psalm 87:4-6

C. He pours out His Spirit to empower you to be witnesses:

- that you might know, believe and understand who He is
- that you will proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- God invites the idols of the nations to call their witnesses. Why do you think there is no pause for an answer?
- What kind of witnesses is God calling? Can you think of New Testament verses in which part of 43:10 and 12 is quoted?
- Why should the idea of God as only Savior, Deliverer, have been an easily understood by Israel?
- How does the conversation Jesus has with the Jews reveal the blindness of Israel to God as Deliverer?
- How does Luke 6:39-42 help explain why Israel failed in their mission to lead the world out of darkness? What does it say about how we must fulfill our mission?
- How does 1 Peter 2:9 help us understand the meaning and fulfillment of Isaiah 43:21?
- How did Israel act as a witness of to who God is through prophecy and fulfillment?
- How do Acts 1:8 and John 15:26-27 explain the fulfillment of Isaiah 44:1-5? How does our text in Isaiah apply to you?

## Calling Blind and Deaf Witnesses

Jerry Cisar — May 22, 2011

Text: Isaiah 43:8 – 44:5

### Introduction (43:8-13)

A. Last week: 42:18 – 43:7

- 42:19: *“Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send?”*

B. Witnesses in the World Court

C. How will God use blind and deaf witnesses in the world court to bring light and life to the nations?

### I. God Calls His Own Witnesses (43:10-21)

A. God will make His own people to be witnesses.

- “know, believe and understand that I am He.”

ii. God Our Savior (43:11-12)

Oswalt: *“What had the fulfillment of those promises required again and again? **Deliverance, often over impossible odds....**What Israel had witnessed and could not escape was the realization that “Yahweh” meant “Savior,” and that as Yahweh was the only God, he was the only Savior.”*

## B. Deliverance from Babylonian a Pattern

### i. A New Thing

### ii. The end result of this will be witnesses:

*God will release captives in order that they may now be witnesses of Him, to release more captives!*

### iii. This is the shadow... the reality is found in Christ.

- 1 Peter 2:9

## II. The Problem With the Witnesses (22-28)

### A. Israel was blind and deaf to to all of this...

#### i. John 8:31-34

#### ii. How can a blind man lead a blind man? (Luke 6:39-42)

- Israel failed in their mission because they couldn't see the log in their own eye.
- All Christian ministry must proceed from humbled blind sinners speaking to blind sinners.

### B. A Spiritual Captivity

#### i. 22-28 It is not God who wearies His people

#### ii. 24-25 It is the people who wearied and burdened God.

- Isaiah 53:4-6

### C. Deliverance will be a divine intervention of God in history.

## III. The Empowering of the Witnesses (44:1-5)

### A. By Prophecy and Fulfillment

#### i. Their blindness and deafness is no hindrance.

- John 9:32-36

#### ii. Another way (43:21)

### B. By the Empowerment of God (44:1-5)

#### i. vs. 2 *"This is what the LORD says—he who made you, who formed you in the womb—He will help you..."*

#### ii. vs. 3 parallel lines; the 2<sup>nd</sup> line explains the first....

- I will pour water and streams*
- I will pour out my Spirit and my blessing*

#### iii. How will God create and empower His witnesses? By pouring His Spirit on them.

- John 15:26-27