

**God's People are Set Free by Returning to the Lord
with Trust and Hope
Isaiah 44:21–28**

1. *The charge to God's people*

- 1) Must remember:
- that they are God's servants

 - that they have been forgiven their sins
- 2) Must repent:
Because the LORD has redeemed them
- 3) Must join all creation in praising God
- Because the LORD has redeemed them
 - Because the LORD displays His glory in them

**2. *The wonderful promise of God:
The redeemed will return to the promised land***

- 1) Guaranteed by God's power to create the universe
- 2) Guaranteed by God's power to expose the errors of false teachers:
The false prophets, diviners, and wise of the world

21 "Remember these things, Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant. I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, I will not forget you.

22 I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."

23 Sing for joy, you heavens, for the LORD has done this; shout aloud, you earth beneath. Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all your trees, for the LORD has redeemed Jacob, he displays his glory in Israel.

24 "This is what the LORD says — your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself,

25 who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense,

- 3) Guaranteed by God's power to fulfil His Word and the predictions of His messengers
- That His people would return to the promised land
 - That Jerusalem and the other cities would be rebuilt, 58:12; 61:4; Jer 32:15
- 4) Guaranteed by God's power to work miracles such as crossing the Red Sea
- 5) Guaranteed by God's power to use King Cyrus of Persia to set the Jewish exiles free: They would rebuild Jerusalem and the temple (2 Chr 36:22-23; Ezc 1:1-11; 6:1-22)

26 who carries out the words of his servants and fulfils the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be rebuilt,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,'

27 who says to the watery deep, 'Be dry, and I will dry up your streams,'

28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid."'