

## You Are My Witnesses

### Commentary for April 1, 2010 — The Nations Are Watching

This month there are two articles concerning the subject of God's witness of Israel and of Israel's witness about God's love, care, and providence for Israel throughout its history. Begin with the [April 2010 Newsletter](#).

In Isaiah chapter 43 the prophet Isaiah has information for the nations of the world and for Israel, words of restoration and protection:

**"Bring forth the blind people with eyes, forsooth, and the deaf, that have their ears. All the nations are convened together, and gathered shall be the folkstems [peoples]. Who among them will tell this, and former things will announce to Us? They will give their testimonies and be just. And they will hear and say, 'Truth.'"**

**'You are My witnesses [now speaking to Israel], 'averring is Yahweh Elohim, 'And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and will believe Me, and understand that I am He: Before Me [compared to me] was formed no El [god]. And after Me none shall come.**

**I, I, YHWH am El! And there is no Saviour apart from Me. I tell and save and announce. And an alien is not among you. And you are My witnesses,' averring is Yahweh, 'And I am El. Moreover, from the eon I am He, and there is no rescuing from My hand. I will contrive, and who will reverse it?'"**

• **Isaiah 43:8–13 Concordant Version**

On your own, read the King James Version for comparison. Note that several very interesting things are being said in this Isaiah passage. First, in the future the nations of the world will no longer be blinded and they will have ears to hear. The blindness and deafness of nations comes from God:

**"And YHWH said unto him [Moses], Who has made man's mouth? or who makes the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I YHWH?"**

• **Exodus 4:11**

**"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, YHWH has made even both of them" (Proverbs 20:12).** When Moses announced that God was to renew His covenant with Israel, Moses reminded the tribes that they would be made blind and deaf to God's instruction if they continued their rebellious ways (Deuteronomy 29:2–4). The nations of the world also became blind and deaf to God's words because Israel could not teach them about God. They were ignorant themselves. Isaiah 43:8–13 says that the blindness and deafness of the nations will come through Israel acting as God's agent. The blindness and deafness will end.<sup>1</sup>

Later on God states through Isaiah: **"I [am] YHWH, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King" (Isaiah 43:15).** Israel was witness to God's creation of their people and nation by YHWH through the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is their ultimate King, even when a human and subordinate king was on the throne of Israel.

1. Israel's blindness will end first. See these verses to see how the work of Christ will change Israel's blindness and deafness situation: Exodus 4:11; Isaiah 6:9–10, 29:18, 35:5, 42:18–25, 44:18–19, 63:17; Jeremiah 5:20–21; Ezekiel 12:2; Matthew 11:5, 13:11–16; Luke 7:22; John 12:38–40; Acts 28:26; Romans 11:7–10; 2 Corinthians 3:15; Ephesians 4:18; and James 1:13–17.

## ***Israel's Witness to the World***

Just before Jesus Christ ascended into heaven He told the apostles that they should not know the times or the seasons of His return. Most of us are familiar with that statement. But continue and read the significant statement that He made immediately after, just before He ascended:

**“And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in his own power.**

**But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

**And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”**

• **Acts 1:7-9**

Truly, the apostles and disciples of Christ Jesus have been witnesses to Him through their preaching and to us, through the writings of the New Testament compiled by those apostles and disciples. The apostle Paul could truly say that the Gospel **“was preached to every creature which is under heaven”** (Colossians 1:23).

## ***“Megillot in Prophecy”***

The first article this month is about the Megillot, which is a collection of books within the Old Testament that had a special relationship to each other, a relationship to important days of the Hebrew calendar, and a relationship to Temple ritual between the time when Israel returned from Babylon until the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD. During that time the Megillot bore witness of God's care of Israel and Israel's witness about God to the world.

Each of the five books of the Megillot has a prophetic message both as to when the book was read in the religious rites of the Temple and where the book was read in the Temple. The Megillot was a record, a witness, of God's provision for Israel and a witness by Israel that YHWH was their God, if they obeyed Him. Always remember, in a very real sense Israel's continued existence is a very true witness to the world that God exists.

## ***“Blessed Is He that Comes ...”***

The second article tells how Israel will bear witness to Christ Jesus being the Messiah and the Savior of Israel and the nations of the world. Israel will perform a very specific act of witness before Christ returns. In fact, Christ will not return until Israel gives that witness about Him, the witness that will say **“Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord”** which the New Testament applies to Christ Himself.

Beginning in Jerusalem, the people of Israel made such a declaration a few days before His crucifixion. The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall make that same declaration at some future time before He returns. Read this article learn about this prophecy.

## ***Reminder of the Meeting in Richmond, Virginia***

The meeting will take place in Richmond, Virginia on April 2-4, 2010. I will speaking on April 3rd, at 11:00 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. The conference will be at the Days Inn Hotel, 2100 Dickens Road, a northwest suburban area of Richmond. The phone for the hotel is 804-282-3300. This event has a cost. Contact Roosevelt Arrington at 804-350-2198 for late registration information. I hope I will see several of you at the conference. Go to the [“A.S.K. Events”](#) page.

David Sielaff  
[david@askelm.com](mailto:david@askelm.com)