

## When God Almighty Acts, the Holy One is Revealed

### Isaiah 41:13-20

Rev. Tesfaye Tamrie

#### I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT

##### A. Historical Background

Beginning with Genesis chapter 1, the Bible *consistently highlights* that God, along with The Word and the Holy Spirit, **brought forth** *things unseen into reality, that is materially things that can be seen, touched, smelled and used*. During the *formation* of the Earth, God *spoke* and **brought forth** the light to *distinguish* between Day and Night. In the same way, God spoke and **brought forth** the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and the Continents and so on as described in Genesis chapter 1. **Whatever God declared, it came into existence**. Everything the Almighty God *established* “In the beginning,” has *continued to exist and will continue to exist regardless of what Man thinks, does and will do*. The other major theme highlighted in the Bible is that starting with Adam and Eve, *humans have continued to disobey God and suffer the consequences of their actions*. However, the Almighty God who is loving, gracious and merciful *initiated* **His Plan of Salvation** based on a **Covenant Relationship** for sinners to be *reconciled* with Him *through* **the Redeemer** by Faith and Repentance. *This shall hold true until the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

##### B. Biblical Context

**God’s Plan of Salvation** was *initiated* through Abraham (Genesis 12). We should take notice that *it was God who initiated it*. Also, God’s Plan of Salvation included the *Divine Call, Command, Promise and Foretelling* as to *how* things will **come forth**. Let us examine verses Genesis 12, verses 1-4.

a) **The Divine Call and Command**. God **called** Abram and **commanded** him saying, “**go** to the land I will show you.”

b) **The Divine Promise and the Foretelling**.

- “I will **make you into a great nation** and I will **bless** you;
- “I will **make your name great** and you will be a **blessing**;
- “I will **bless** those who **bless** you and whoever **curses** you, I will **curse**;
- “And all the peoples on earth will be **blessed** through you.”

c) **Abram's Part.** Faith and Obedience. Abram *believed* God and *obeyed* His command by putting his Faith into action. Notice if Abram didn't obey and act on his faith, nothing could have happened!

This **Divine Pattern** continued to operate in God's Plan of Salvation to this day as manifested *through* the faithful and obedient Israelites (the Remnants) and the disciples of Christ.

## II. THE LESSON: When God Almighty Acts, the Holy One is Revealed.

Verses 13 and 14 contain not only some of the many Awesome, Glorious and Majestic **Titles** of God, but also reveal His **Eternal Nature, Virtues and Promises**. In His declarations, we are supposed to **hear affirmations**, **understand** divine confirmations and **rejoice in the eternal assurance** God's Titles, Nature, Virtues and Promises *impart on* to us! Hallelujah! Recall that God's declarations **bring forth** all that He promised to manifest in the lives of those who *believe* and *obey* His Word! Furthermore, to those who are **called** by His Name, God will *impute divine virtues* which bring blessings and *empower them* to **bless others** in the context of advancing His Kingdom!

### 1. vv. 13-14. I AM THE LORD, YOUR GOD. YOUR REDEEMER.

God spoke through His servant Isaiah these words of encouragement to remind them *who and whose they are* while they were going through difficult times.

#### a) Verse 13. I AM THE LORD, YOUR GOD.

"For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, '**Do not fear.**'" Notice God's declarations which *affirm* that He has chosen to be "**The LORD**" over our lives and our "God." **First of all, what a glorious undeserved privilege that is!** Let us examine verse 13 to receive all the blessings in it!

- i. **"I am the LORD, your God."** During the time of Exodus, the Israelites have heard this *declaration* many times as God *pronounced* it over their lives. By *declaring* it, God made His desire and intention to become "the LORD" over their lives be known to them. "**The LORD**," as His Title, *contains* The Awesome Might, Limitless Authority and Power of God who created the Universe! God *chose* the Israelites to *demonstrate* His **Lordship** and **governance** over their lives so that they become "an example" to other people/nations whose gods were **idols** *their own imagination and hands made*. God's people, the Israelites of the OT and

Christians in the NT era, were supposed to be *distinguished* from other idols worshipping people because “The LORD” was/is their God!

- ii. **“Who takes hold of your right hand.”** Just imagine the God who created the Universe “holding your right hand” to guide you in His ways. To begin with, what is the *eternal significance* of God *holding* “your/my right hand?” At the minimum, (a) God’s Hand *holding* yours and mine *signifies* The LORD has a **claim** over you and me as His chosen people. It *communicates* to us and other people we **belong** to God. (b) The Limitless Authority and Awesome Power of God’s Hand *holding* your/my right hand *assures us that no power on earth or in heaven can separate, snatch or harm us!* (Ephesians 6:10-18; Colossians 1:15-33). Hallelujah!
- iii. **“Do Not Fear.”** Knowing everything that we know about “The LORD, our God,” whom shall we **fear**? Fear *negates* Faith in the context of our relationship with “The LORD, our God.” **Fear**, as part of our emotional pool of feeling, is healthy, natural and beneficial since it *alerts* us to **imminent danger**. It is natural for us to experience fear faced with dangerous situations. However, God wants us to *exercise our faith* in Him knowing and believing that He is holding our hands!

*Just the fact that God chose us to be His people is enough to cause us to overflow with joy brimming with gratefulness! Understanding that the God who created the universe decided to be **The LORD** over our lives should give us all the **assurance** that we need to press forward with absolute confidence and joyful dedication! Even as we go through these tumultuous times, God says to us **“Do not Fear”** because **“I am The Lord, your God!”***

#### **b) Verse 14. YOUR REDEEMER, THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL.**

**“Do Not be afraid**, O worm Jacob, O little Israel, for I Myself will **help you**” declares the LORD, the **“Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”** The phrase “O worm Jacob” and “O little Israel,” are meant to emphasis how *insignificant* “Jacob” is in the *scale* of God’s Creation. However, we should see ourselves *how* God sees us: as His Beloved Children, as part of His Kingdom and the Disciples of Christ. Left to our evil desires and schemes, we can become as worthless as a “worm” a meal to the birds and “little Israel” who *forgot or rejected* that he was *divinely destined* for greatness! Yet, The LORD says to him/the Israelites, **“I Myself will help you”** and *declared* that He will be their/our **“Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”** Notice the *prophetic language* which is already *realized* in Jesus Christ! What a Message of Hope that was for the Israelites back then! It also became an affirmation and confirmation of the

**message of Salvation** for those of us who are **redeemed** by the **Blood of Lamb of God!**

**2. vv. 15-16. You will Rejoice and Glory in the Holy One of Israel.**

We need to understand that **The Holy One of Israel** referred in Isaiah is the **Lamb of God, The Redeemer, The Messiah** about whom God is **foretelling**. The language of the prophecy is filled with *metaphors* and *images/figurative speech* that the Israelites will immediately identify with. God says, He will make the Holy One of Israel, the Redeemer:

- a) “a **threshing sledge**, new and sharp, with many teeth.” A **threshing sledge** is an agricultural tool used to separate grain from the straw after harvesting. It is a heavy wooden board with a jagged and rough surface *designed to separate the grain* from the plant stalk, allowing *the grain* to be easily **winnowed** (separated from the chaff).
- b) “you will winnow them.” To “winnow” is to generate a strong current of air through a harvested crop to **blow away the chaff**.

Agriculture and livestock were the main economy in the old days. The Bible uses figurative speech using things, systems, equipment and methods commonly used everyday in livestock management, farming and trading as metaphors to effectively and vividly communicate **spiritual matters of eternal significance**. Jesus used the same technique when He used parables to help us understand the Significance of the Cross and the way things will shake out during His Second Coming (Matthew 24:1-51). When that time comes, “Do Not Fear.” **Instead, you will rejoice and glory in the Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer!**

**3. v. 17. The Holy One of Israel will Take Care of the Poor and Needy.**

Both in the OT and the NT, the Bible is clear that God’s chosen people must take care of “the poor and needy.” The commandments *were not optional* for the Israelites *then* as they are not for us *today* (Deut. 24:14-15, 17-22; Psalm 113:1-9; Isaiah 10:1-4; Matthew 25:31-46). **God always had and still has a way of taking care of the Poor and Needy.** But woe to those who *neglected to take care of the poor and needy* while they had the opportunity and the resources to do it! In verse 17, God promised that He will take care of them: that He “will not forsake them.” The way God is going to “take care of the poor and needy is two-fold. On the one hand, the Holy and Righteous One will judge those who disobeyed His commandments. On the other hand, He will renew, restore and refresh everything in such a manner that the whole world will know that only God could do such a thing!

#### 4. vv. 18-20. **The Holy One of Israel has Done This!**

##### a) **The Restoration of the Material World.**

When God makes “rivers flow on barren heights and springs within the valleys.” As a result,

- Barren lands and deserts shall be healed, restored, refreshed and renewed.
- Trees, Plants and Vegetation shall *spring up* and produce fruits in abundance. Deforestation will be reversed: deforested lands will be healed and restored to produce “cedars and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive.” The wastelands shall be inhabited by forest, where “pines, the fir and the cypress abound together.”
- God will *reverse* all the *damage done* by human **greed**, *reckless disregard* for nature and **lack of concern** for the welfare of the habitat.

“so that people may see and know, may consider and understand that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.”

##### b) **The Spiritual Restoration and Rejuvenation!**

- The down cast, the broken hearted and the spiritually dead shall be lifted up: they will be healed, restored and refreshed by the **Power of the Holy One of Israel, the Redeemer**.
- The blind shall receive their sight; the deaf shall hearing; the lame shall walk; the mute shall talk; the dead shall be resurrected.

**When God Almighty Acted, the Holy One of Israel, the Lamb of God, The Redeemer was revealed in Bethlehem to fulfill the Prophecies. What God proclaimed materialized, “so that people may see and know, may consider and understand that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.”**

### III. CONCLUSION

**When God Almighty Acts, The Holy One of Israel is Revealed!**

**So it shall be again at His Second Coming!**