

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE	Nothing Can Stop the Lord
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SERIES	
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DATE	12/4/2022
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KEY SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 43:1-7
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SYNOPSIS	God never gives up on you. He is always with you, carrying you through every stage of life.
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HIGHLIGHTS	
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☞ NOTHING CAN STOP THE LORD

Isaiah 43:1-7 NKJV

43 But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. 4 Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life. 5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; 6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth — 7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

☞ V. 1 GOD CALLS YOU BY YOUR NAME

He knows you, warts and all.

John 10:3

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

He created you – he fashioned you; carved you out

He formed you – he squeezed you into shape, like a potter

Romans 9:20-21

who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" 21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

The reason God knows you so well is that he made you. God is still carving and shaping you. Sometimes the pain of troubles in life are actually being used by God to keep on shaping you. Sometimes the pressures we feel are God being the potter to us as the clay.

☞ *He's still working on me*

To make me what I need to be

It took him just a week to make the moon and stars

The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars

How loving and patient He must be

'Cause He's still workin' on me

He redeemed you – he bought you back

You are his – he owns you



☞ This sin-fallen world had you separated from God, but **he went out of his way to buy you back.**

The Boy Who Lost His Boat

Timmy carried his new boat to the edge of the river. He carefully placed it in the water and slowly let out the string. How smoothly the boat sailed! Timmy sat in the warm sunshine, admiring the little boat that he had built. Suddenly a strong current caught the boat. Timmy tried to pull it back to shore, but the string broke. The little boat raced downstream.

Timmy ran along the sandy shore as fast as he could. But his little boat soon slipped out of sight. All afternoon he searched for the boat. Finally, when it was too dark to look any longer, Timmy sadly went home.

A few days later, on the way home from school, Timmy spotted a boat just like his in a store window. When he got closer, he could see -- sure enough -- it was his! Timmy hurried to the store manager: "Sir, that's my boat in your window! I made it!" "Sorry, son, but someone else brought it in this morning. If you want it, you'll have to buy it."

Timmy ran home and counted all his money. Exactly the amount he needed! When he reached the store, he rushed to the counter. "Here's the money for my boat." As he left the store, Timmy hugged his boat and said, "Now you're twice mine. First, I made you and now I bought you."

☞ **GOD CARRIES YOU**

V. 2 Fear not, God is with you

Through the flood

"Waters" symbolizes danger or distress: in Isaiah 17:13, it's a description of the attack of the enemy; in Job 27:20, it describes fear and terror; in Joshua 7:5, it describes loss of confidence from overwhelming fear.

We all deal with distress from time to time. We all face attacks of our spiritual enemy. Most everyone struggles with fear from time to time, as well as a lack or loss of confidence. But none of these are too much. None need to overwhelm us, because God is with us.

"Rivers" often represented boundaries or barriers in the bible. Of course, Joshua led Israel across the Jordan during flood stage, but God held the torrent at a distance.

Each one of us has ideals we would like to achieve, but often there is some sort of barrier that seems insurmountable... Like the Jordan before Israel crossed into the Promised Land, or the walls of Jericho. But none of those barriers are too much for God.

Through the fire

"Fire" can mean judgment. It can also mean something which consumes.

"Flame" in this context represents danger. It can also be translated as the tip of a spear, which would indicate an attack of the enemy.



There are things in life which take up our time and energy. Things which can consume us. And, this world is filled with danger, especially in the spirit realm, but none of these are a threat to the Lord. He carries us through.

☞ **When you pass through** – not if, but when... **we will face troubles, but none will be too much** because God is with us.

John 16:33

33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

☞ **When you walk through** – walk, not run... **no need to panic because God is with us.**

Deuteronomy 31:6

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Romans 8:31

If God is for us, who can be against us?

☞ **GOD CARES ABOUT YOU**

Just who is God?

V. 3 The LORD, your God – Yahweh, Elohim. He is the one who is before all and above all. He created the universe. He holds the world in his hand. He is your God.

Holy One of Israel – set apart; “one of a kind.” There is nothing and no one like God.

☞ **Savior** – ransom; cover. He redeemed you back from sin. **Jesus died for you.** Are you getting the picture? God cares about you! The one who is over and above all; the one who created the universe, in which you are just a tiny speck, cares about you! **He was willing, even eager, to pay the price of death on the cross in order to save you.**

v. 4 Who are you?

Precious – esteemed; valuable; prized. This world leads you to believe you don't really matter; that other things are more important than you. But God thinks otherwise.

☞ **Honored** – weighty; important. **In God's eyes, you are extremely important.** Remember, he went out of his way to save you.

☞ **Loved** – desired. God loves you and wants a relationship with you. **He wants to be your friend.**

c.f. v. 7 **Sons and daughters of God** – Because of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are now part of God's family. It's a royal family and you are an heir to the kingdom he owns.



Called by God's name - *Being "called" by the LORD's name is to be "renowned, famous", or "noted for" having His characteristics or displaying a God-likeness.; To be called by God is to be specially chosen and ordained for His purposes.*

Created for God's glory

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, ☞ that you may declare the praises of him **who called you out of darkness** into his wonderful light.

He has created us for a purpose; for His glory. This means that when we are glorifying God, we are fulfilling the purpose we were created for, and will therefore be the happiest and fulfilled.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

☞ **V. 5-7 GOD IS COMMITTED TO YOU AND YOURS**

Children, sons, and daughters will all be called back to the Lord. From every direction, they will be summoned. Even when we have walked away from God and become enslaved by the ☞ enemy, the Lord still calls us back to him. **Nothing can prevent the Lord from saving his people.**

Some of you have children that have wandered and perhaps walked away from God, but he has not given up on them. If they matter to you, they matter to God.

--Lowell Lundstrom...We have a right to believe for the salvation of all our family members. God's desire is for everyone to know Him and enjoy life with Him. 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." God never forces anyone to accept Him and love Him. But when we pray for people, God releases His forces and strongly influences them with His truth. When we pray for others it may not seem like anything is happening outwardly, but behind the scenes we can be certain that God is working.

Isaiah 49:25

...I will contend with those who contend with you, and your children I will save.

Last week we talked about the need to Keep on Keeping on. Today, I hope you are inspired to persevere because God calls you by name. He knows you through and through. God carries you through all the trials of this life. He is always with you. God cares for you. He highly values you; he loves you; he wants you in his family. And, God is committed to you.

☞ **He never gives up on you and yours. So, don't you give up either!**

The altar is open again today. Come and pray. Come to get prayer.