



Anthem: "Be Not Afraid" (Based on Isaiah 43:1-7)

Taylor Davis

We know of God's many efforts to have a relationship with mankind in the Old Testament beginning with creation and man's first disobedience. Then God established His people Israel with guidelines for living and with man making sacrifices to atone for sin. As people were disobedient, God continued efforts to redeem and reconcile with His people.

When Israel didn't obey their part of the O.T. covenant with God, the result was slavery in Egypt and later exile in Babylon. The anthem text is from Isaiah 43:1b-2 which was written near the end of the Babylonian exile.

God's message to Israel at this time is the anthem's text: God redeemed Israel again and assured them of His unending love and protection. This didn't mean Israel would be free of problems, but when they encountered obstacles and danger, Israel would not be overcome nor "consumed."

Images: 1) **"pass through the waters"** and **"pass through the rivers"** may be allusions to the Exodus, where Israel passed unharmed through the waters of the Red Sea to escape the pursuing Egyptian army
2) **"fire and flame"** are metaphors for any danger, but would also evoke vivid memories for the exiles who had watched Jerusalem burn before the Babylonian exile

[Richard Niell Donovan](https://sermonwriter.com/biblical-commentary/isaiah-431-7-commentary); <https://sermonwriter.com/biblical-commentary/isaiah-431-7-commentary>

There are meaningful similarities in the Old Testament and New Testament. Both show God as unchanging in his efforts to have a relationship with us. Today we continue to need God's guidelines and to atone for sin and disobedience. In the New Testament, God again assures us of his love despite our disobedience, but now for the atonement for sin, God has redeemed us with the last blood sacrifice ever needed---that of Jesus Christ. As in the Old Testament, New Testament believers will face adversity and obstacles in this life, but God promises us that we, too, have His ultimate protection and will not be "consumed."

John 16:33b – "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Prayer: Lord, thank you for making a lasting new covenant with me through your son Jesus Christ. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I mean to be obedient and faithful in both good and difficult times. Amen

Anthem Text

Be not afraid, for I have redeemed you. Be not afraid, I've called you by name.
My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end.

Chorus When you pass through the waters I will surround you.
When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed.
You are my child, you are so precious to me.

You are my child, and I'll love you always. Just hold my hand, and I'll lead you home.
When you feel lost, always remember: I am right here, just call out my name.

Chorus