

1-37, Assyria

1-35, **Oracles** of Assurance

36-37, **History**: Assyria Destroyed

38-66, Babylon

38-39, **History**: Babylon Tempted

40-66, **Oracles** of Comfort

1-37, Assyria

1-35, **Oracles** of Assurance

36-37, **History**: Assyria Destroyed

38-66, Babylon

38-39, **History**: Babylon Tempted

40-66, **Oracles** of Comfort

Isa 40-66

**YHWH
vs. the
Idols**

**Servant's
Suffering
& Glory**

**Sinful vs.
Faithful
Israel**

48:22 *There is no peace*, saith the LORD, unto the **wicked**.

57:21 *There is no peace*, saith my God, to the **wicked**.

66:23-24 the men that have **transgressed** against me: ... their worm **shall not die**, **neither** shall their fire be **quenched**

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> Marduk et al.

YHWH
vs. the
Idols

Servant's
Suffering
& Glory

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40:12-31

Based on **Creation**

41:1-42:17

Based on **Prediction**

42:18-44:28

Based on **Witness**

40:1-11 God is Coming



42:18-44:28 Overview

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Trial: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

A BC → D → A BCB (unfolding)

A Conversation in 42:18-25

Lord

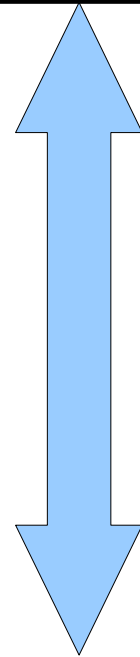
Servant (s.)

Isaiah

18 Hear, **ye** deaf; and
look, **ye** blind, that
ye may see.

Nation (pl.)

- Exiled
- Restored



A Conversation in 42:18-25

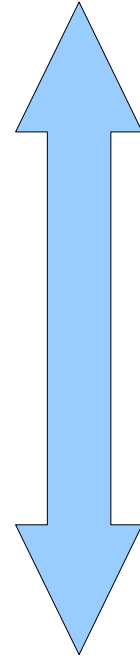
Lord

19a Who *is* blind, but
my **servant**? or deaf,
as my **messenger**
that I sent?

Isaiah

19b who *is* blind as *he*
that is in a covenant of
peace, and blind as
the LORD'S **servant**?

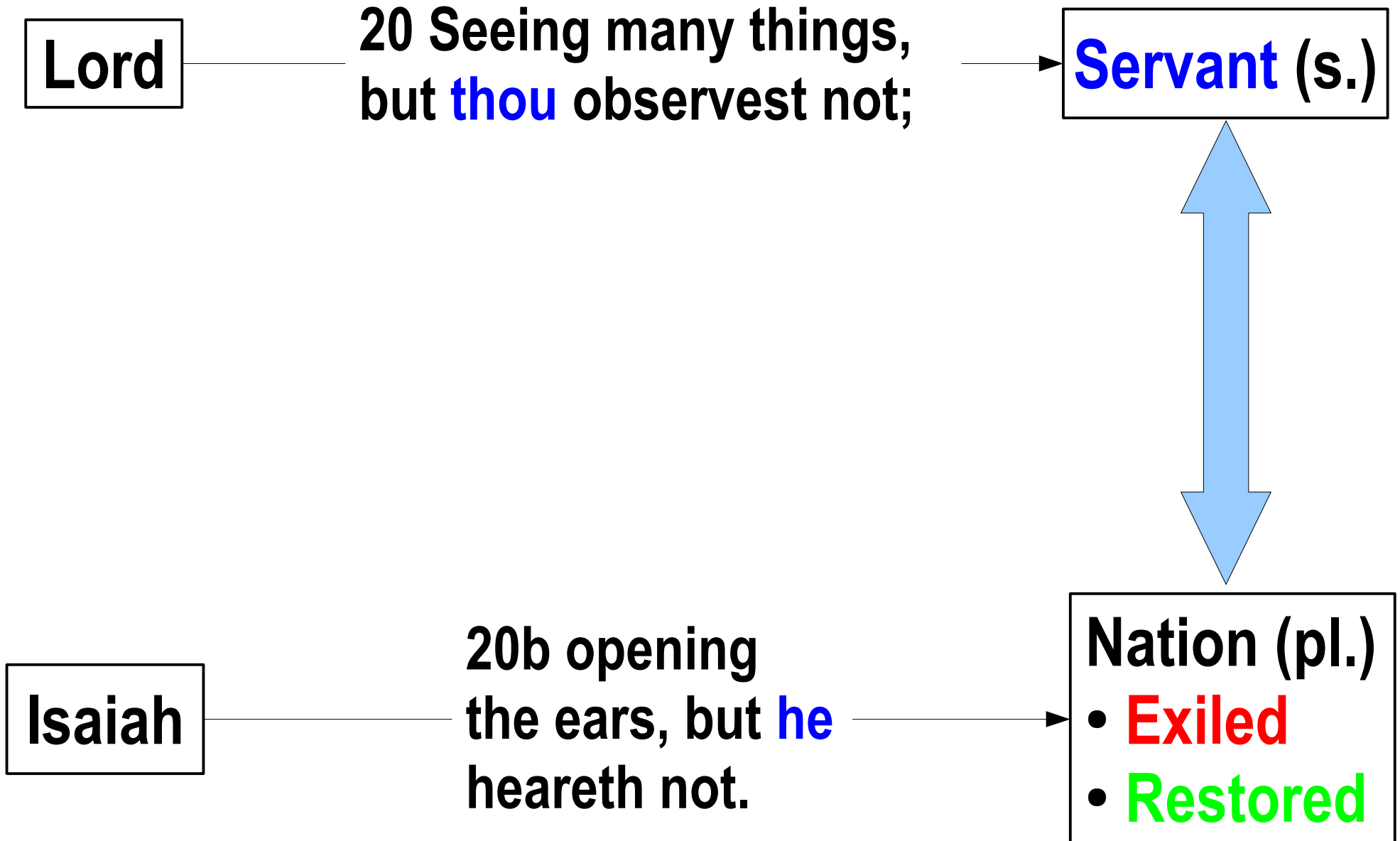
Servant (s.)



Nation (pl.)

- **Exiled**
- **Restored**

A Conversation in 42:18-25



A Conversation in 42:18-25

Lord

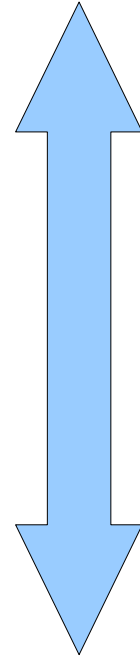
Servant (s.)

Isaiah

21 The LORD is well pleased,
for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify the law, and
make *it* honourable.

Nation (pl.)

- Exiled
- Restored



A Conversation in 42:18-25

Lord

Servant (s.)

22 But **this** *is* a people **robbed** and **spoiled**;

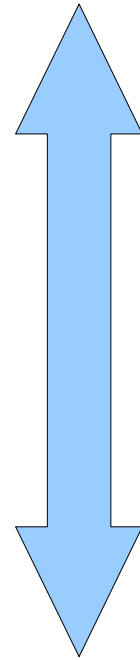
they are all of **them** snared in holes,
and **they** are hid in prison houses:

Isaiah

they are for a **prey**,
and **none delivereth**;
for a **spoil**,
and **none saith, Restore.**

Nation (pl.)

- **Exiled**
- **Restored**



A Conversation in 42:18-25

Lord

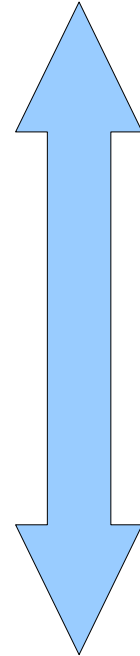
Servant (s.)

Isaiah

23 Who among **you**
will give ear to this?
who hearken and hear
for the time to come?

Nation (pl.)

- Exiled
- Restored



A Conversation in 42:18-25

Lord

Servant (s.)

24 Who gave **Jacob** for a spoil,
and **Israel** to the robbers?

did not the LORD, he against
whom **we** have sinned?

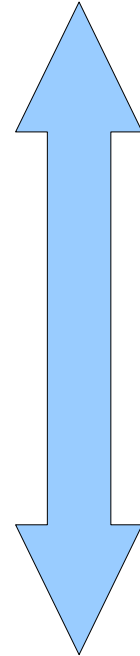
for **they** would not walk in his
ways, neither were **they**
obedient unto his law.

Isaiah

25a Therefore he hath poured
upon **him** the fury of his anger,
and the strength of battle:

Nation (pl.)

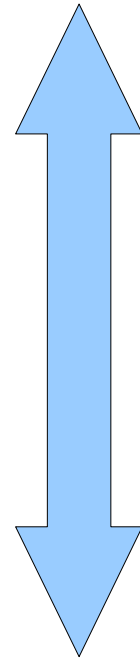
- **Exiled**
- **Restored**



A Conversation in 42:18-25

Lord

Servant (s.)



Isaiah

25b and it hath set **him** on
fire round about,
yet **he** knew not;
and it burned **him**,
yet **he** laid *it* not to heart.

Nation (pl.)

- Exiled
- Restored



42:18-44:28 Overview

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Trial: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

A BC → D → A BCB (unfolding)

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Trial: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

43:1-7 The Servant Restored

A. Creator & People	1 the LORD that created thee, ... that formed thee, ..., I have called thee by thy name;	7 every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him;
B. Journey	2 When thou passest ..., I will be with thee; ... when thou walkest ...	I am with thee: I will bring thy seed ... and gather thee ...
C. Triple Relation	3 <i>I am</i> the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:	4a thou ... precious in my sight, thou hast been honoured, and I have loved thee:
D. Ransom	I gave Egypt <i>for</i> thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.	4b therefore will I give men for thee , and people for thy life.

A B CD CD B A



42:18-44:28 Overview

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
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C. Trial: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

43:8-13 Witness to God's Uniqueness

8-9, Convening the Court

8-9a, The Witnesses

9b, The Challenge

10-11, The Testimony of God's Witnesses

10a, Their Identity

10b, Their Purpose

10c, The Content

12-13, The Verdict

The Paradox in 43:8

the blind people	that have eyes,
and the deaf	that have ears

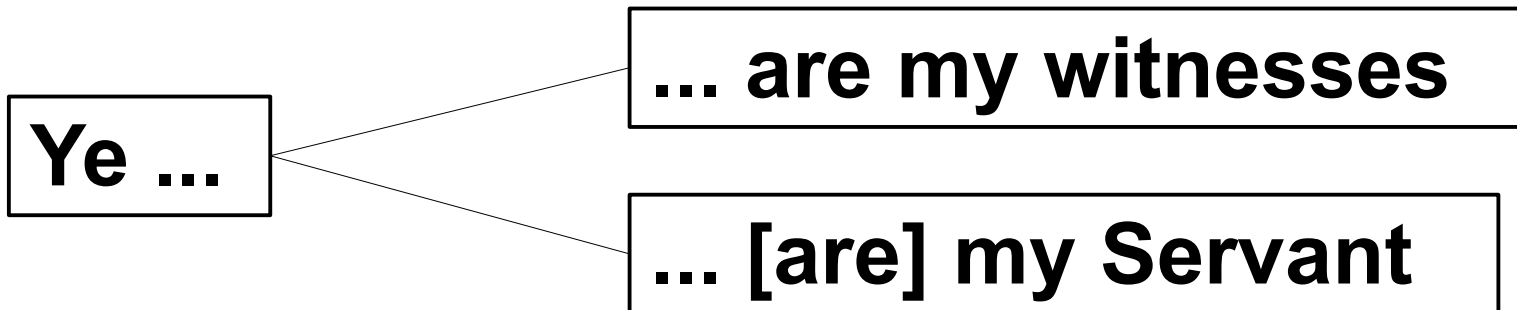
	42:18- 43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22- 24	43:26- 28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44: 21-23
C. Trial: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

43:10 How to Complete the Sentence?

**Ye are my witnesses,
and my Servant whom I have chosen ...???**

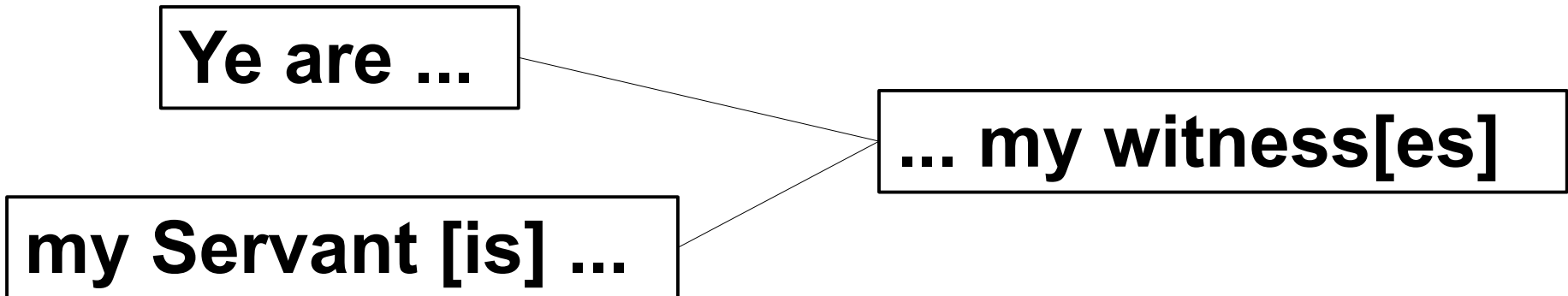
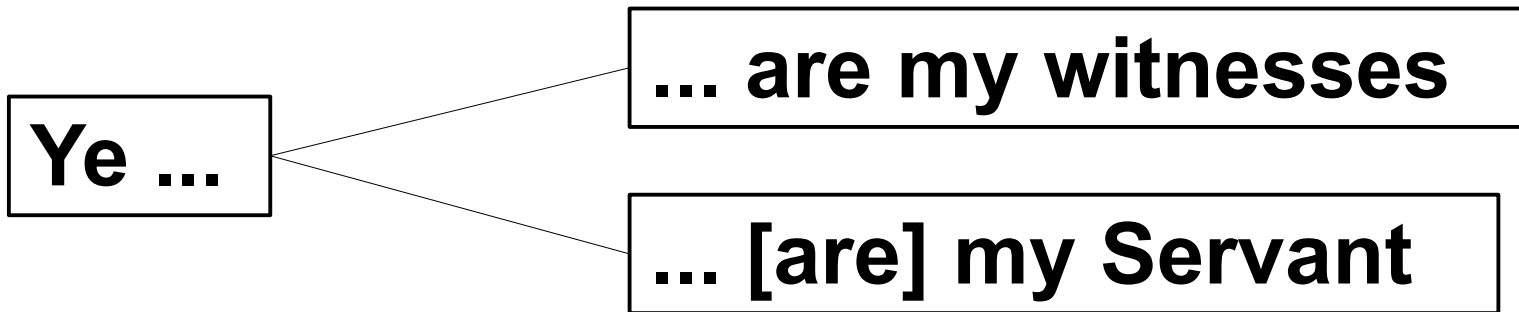
43:10 How to Complete the Sentence?

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43:10 How to Complete the Sentence?

**Ye are my witnesses,
and my Servant whom I have chosen ...???**



43:10 How to Complete the Sentence?

Ye are my witnesses,
and my Servant whom I have chosen ...???

Ye ...

... are my witnesses

... [are] my Servant

Ye are ...

... my witness[es]

my Servant [is] ...

Ye are my witnesses, and [so is] my Servant ...

43:8-13 Witness to God's Uniqueness

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Redeemed	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Trial: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

8-9, Convening the Court

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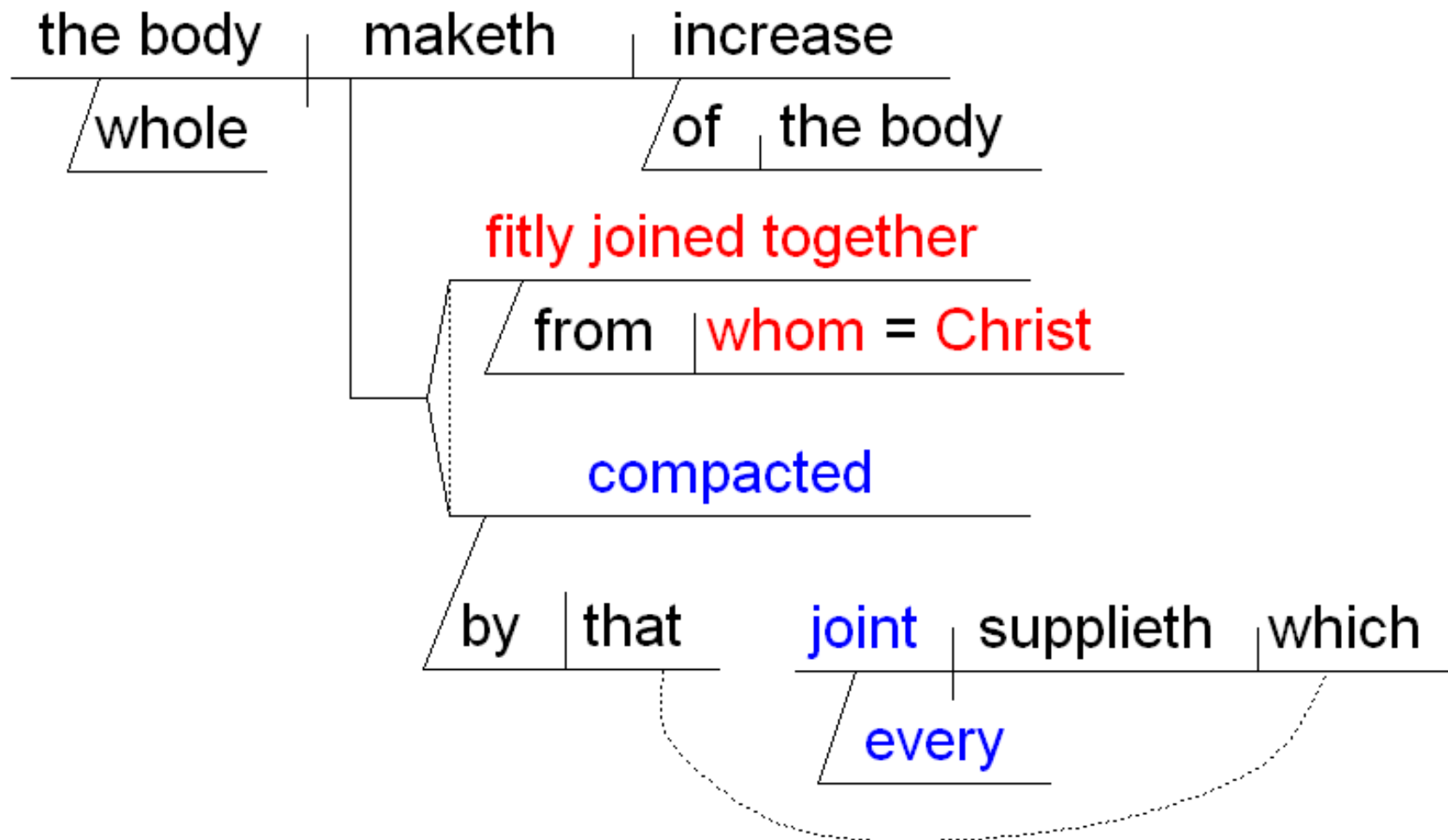
The Purpose of their Testimony

Isa 43:10 that **ye** may

- know
- and believe me
- and understand

Eph 4:16, A New Testament Parallel

Eph 4:15, 16 the head, even Christ ... from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.



43:8-13 Witness to God's Uniqueness

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Trial: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
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8-9, Convening the Court

8-9a, The Witnesses

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12-13, The Verdict

43:10-11, The Testimony

	Title	Claim
God's Being	I am he	before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.
God's Action	I, <i>even I, am</i> the LORD	beside me <i>there is</i> no saviour

The First and the Last

43:10 **before** me there was no God formed, neither shall there be **after** me.

41:4 I the LORD, the **first**, and with the **last**

44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the **first**, and I am the **last**; and beside me there is no God.

48:12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the **first**, I also am the **last**.

Rev 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the **first** and the **last**:

Rev 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the **first** and the **last**, which was dead, and is alive;

Rev 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the **first** and the **last**.

43:8-13 Witness to God's Uniqueness

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
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8-9, Convening the Court

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10b, Their Purpose

10c, The Content

12-13, The Verdict

Verb Tenses in 43:12-13

Perfects → Past	12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed,
Participles & verbless clauses → Timeless Principles	and <i>there was</i> is no strange god among you: and ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and I am God. 13 Yea, before the day <i>was</i> I am he; and <i>there is</i> none that can deliver out of my hand:
Imperfects → Future	I will work, and who shall let it?

Isa 43:13 and Deut 32:39

Deut 32:39 See now that I, *even I, am he*, and *there is* no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: **neither *is there any* that can deliver out of my hand.**

	Title	Claim	v. 13
God's Being	I am he	before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.	I am he
God's Action	I, <i>even I, am</i> the LORD	beside me <i>there is no saviour</i>	<i>neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand</i>

42:18-44:28 Overview

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44: 21-23
C. Trial: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21 The City Named	44:24-28 The Conqueror Named		

43:14-21, The Fall of Babylon

bEeB

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Trial: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21 The City Named	44:24-28 The Conqueror Named		

14-15, **Future: Destruction** of Babylon

16-17, **Past: Egypt**

16, **Return** of Israel (dry land through the sea)

17, **Destruction** of Egyptian army

18-21, **Future: Return** of Israel (water in the desert) (Babylon and beyond)

God's Sovereignty over the Nations, Isa 13-35

13-27, All Nations

13-23, The **Burdens**

24-27, Summary

24:1-23, **Judgment** on the earth

25-27, Three **Songs** (Isaiah, Judah, the Lord)

28-35, Israel

28-33, The **Woes**

34-35, Summary

34:1-17, **Judgment** on the Nations

35:1-10, Israel Restored w/ **Singing**

The Big Idea

Our God's **Past Actions** assure us of his **Future Care**

Rom 8:32 He that **spared not** his own Son, but **delivered** him up for us all, how **shall** he not with him also freely **give** us all things?

→ Thanksgiving for the **past** is the best antidote to worry about the **future**



42:18-44:28 Overview

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
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D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

43:22-44:5,

The Servant Condemned and Restored

43:22-24, **Condemned** for Defective
Worship

43:25, **Restored**: Guilt (“I ... will
not **remember** thy sins”)

43:26-28, **Condemned** for Outright
Sin (“put me in **remembrance**”)

- Length
- Condemned vs. Restored
- Sin vs. Relationship

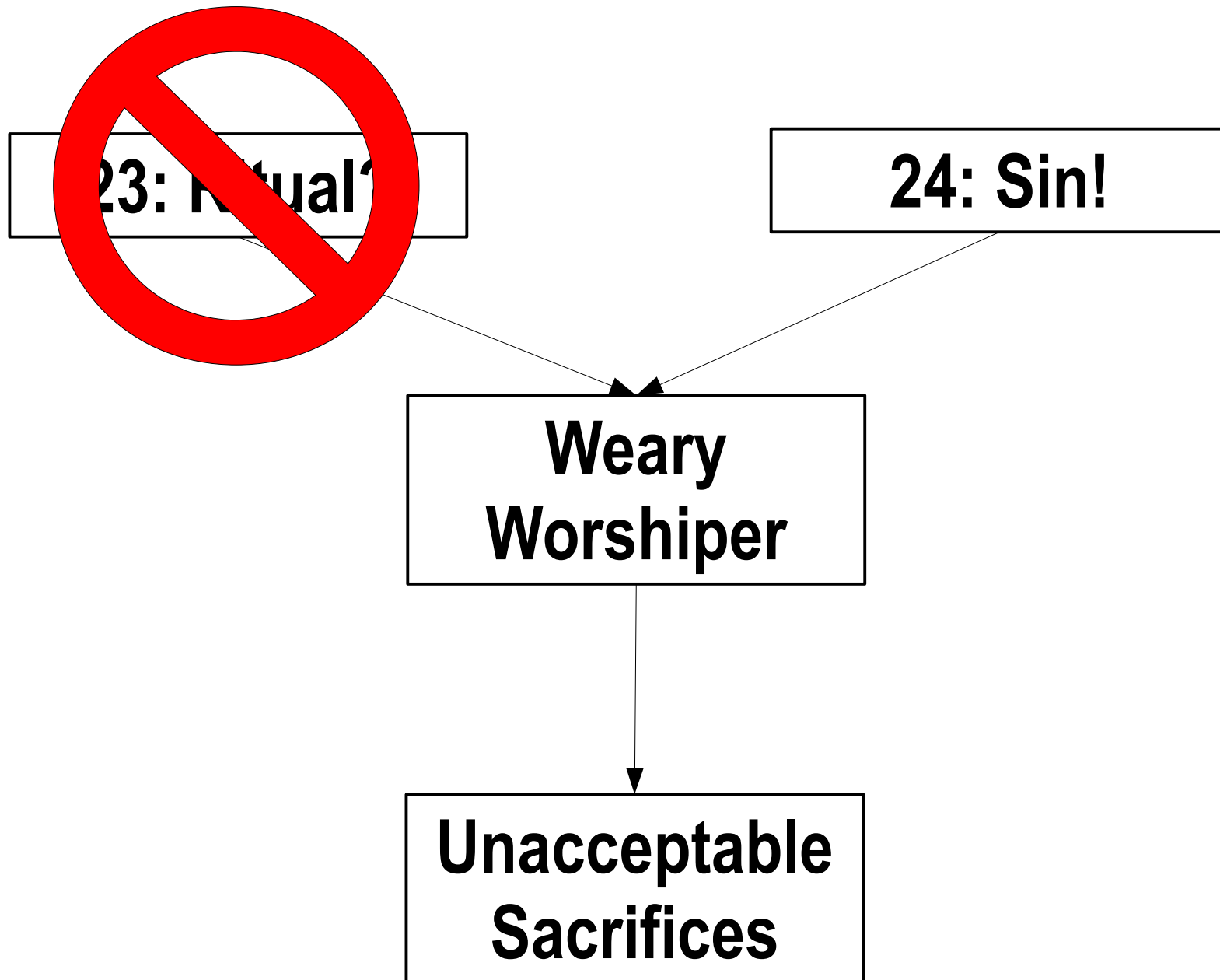
44:1-5, **Restored**: New **Covenant**

43:22-24, Condemned for Defective Worship

Verse	Defect: Unacceptable Worship	Reason: Weariness
22	thou hast not called upon me	thou hast been weary of me
23	thou hast not brought me ... offerings thou has not honored me with sacrifices	I have not caused thee to serve ... nor wearied thee ...
24	thou hast not bought me sweet cane ... thou hast not filled me with fat ...	thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities.

22, “**It is not me** upon whom thou hast called ...”

43:22-24, Diagnosing the Defect



43:25, Vocabulary for Forgiveness

Moses (1400 BC):

- Forgive נשא, literally “carry”
- Atonement כפר, literally “cover”
- What do both anticipate?

David (1000 BC)

- Ps 51:1 “blot out my transgressions”
 - What does God usually blot out?
- Ps 25:7 “remember not the sins of my youth”
 - What does God usually remember?)

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Witnesses: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

42:24 and 43:27-28

42:24 Who **gave Jacob** for a spoil, and **Israel** to the robbers? did not **the LORD**,

he against whom we have **sinned**? for **they** would not walk in his ways, neither were **they** obedient unto his law.

27-28 Thy **first father** hath **sinned**, and thy **teachers** have transgressed against me.

28 Therefore **I** have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have **given Jacob** to the curse, and **Israel** to reproaches.

Punishment

Sin

43:27-28, Outright Sin

27 **Thy first father** hath sinned,
and **thy teachers** have
transgressed against me.

28 Therefore I have
profaned **the princes of
the sanctuary,**
and have given **Jacob** to the
curse, and **Israel** to reproaches.

Sin

Punishment

42:18-44:28 Overview

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Witnesses: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

“Jacob ... Israel”

	42:18- 43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:24	43:22	43:28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1		44:1,5	44:21,23
C. Witnesses: God’s Uniqueness				
D. Fall of Babylon				

The Servant in 44:2

Past and Future Triumph

44:2 Thus saith the Lord
that made thee,
and **formed thee** ...

Past statement
(participles)

who will help thee:

Future statement
(imperfect)

Fear Not.

Command

42:18-44:28	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Witnesses	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

Isa 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that **formed thee**, O Israel, **Fear not**: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.

Isa 43:5 **Fear not**: for I *am* with thee:

42:18-44:28	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Witnesses	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

41:1-42:17

Prediction Contest	41:1-7	21-29
God's Care		
- For his Servant (singular)	8-16	42:1-8
- For his People (plural)	17-20	9-17

The Servant in 41:10-16 and 44:2

Past and Future Triumph

ch. 41	Past	10 Fear Not	13 Fear Not	14 Fear Not
		I will helped thee	I will helped thee	I will helped thee
	Future	11 Behold (enemies destroyed)		15 Behold (servant victorious)

44:2 Thus saith the Lord ... **who will help thee:**
Fear Not.

Water in 44:3—Literal or Symbolic?

Isa 44

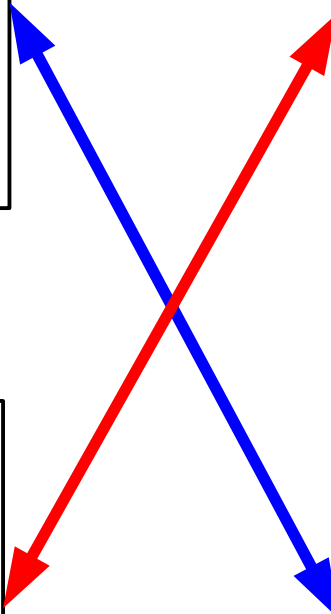
3a For I will pour **water** upon him that is thirsty, and **floods** upon the dry ground:

3b I will pour **my spirit** upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring

Ezek 36

27 And I will put **my spirit** within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

29 ...I will call for the **corn**, and will increase it, and lay **no famine** upon you. 30 And I will multiply the **fruit** of the tree, and the **increase** of the field





The effect of “floods on the dry ground”: vegetation along the watercourse of En Gedi in the wilderness of Judaea. Blue in the background is the Dead Sea.



42:18-44:28 Overview

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
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C. Witnesses: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

42:18-44:28 Overview

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28	
A. Servant Condemned	42:19 Blind Servant		
B. Servant Restored			
C. Witnesses	43:8-13 to YHWH vv. 8, 10 Restored Witnesses	44:6-9 to YHWH v. 8 Witnesses	44:10-20 to Idols vv. 9, 18 Blinded Witnesses
D. Fall of Babylon			

44:6-20 Two Sets of Witnesses

	6-8, to God	9-20, to Idols
Summary	<p><i>Timeless: I am the first, and I am the last;</i> <i>Unique: beside me there is no God.</i></p>	<p>9a Useless idols 9b Witnesses 9c Blinded & shamed worshippers</p>
Exposition	<p>7-8a Timeless God 8b Witnesses 8c Unique God</p>	<p>10, Useless idols 11, Shamed worshippers</p>
		<p>12-17 Useless idols 18-20 Blinded worshippers</p>

44:9-20 Witnesses to False Gods

	9, Summary	10-11, Exposition	12-20, Parody
Impotence of Idols	They that make a graven image ...	10 Who hath formed a god ...	12-17 Mockery
Characteristics of Idolaters	Blind Ashamed	11 shall be ashamed (2x)	18-20 Blindness and ignorance

Who is Vanity?

44:9 **They** that make a graven image *are all of them vanity*

תהו

41:29 Behold, they *are* all vanity (און sin)

their works *are* nothing:

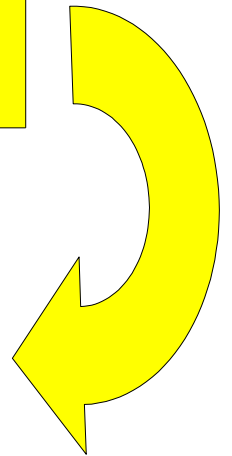
their molten images are wind and **confusion תהו**

Cf. Psa 115:8 **They that make them are like unto them;**
so is every one that trusteth in them.

Growing Sarcasm in 44:12-17

Stage	Final: Metal fittings	Intermediate: Wooden core	Initial: Prepared tree
Diligent work	12a strong blacksmith	13a skilful carver	14a planting & nurture
Sarcasm	12b no refreshment	13b human pattern	14b rain

Fuel	15a	16
Deity	15b	17



Judicial Blindness

6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

29:10 For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

44:9 They see not, nor know, [in order] that they may be ashamed.

44:18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; *and* their hearts, that they cannot understand.



42:18-44:28 Overview

	42:18-43:21	43:22-44:28		
A. Servant Condemned	42:18-25	43:22-24	43:26-28	
B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Witnesses: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. Fall of Babylon	43:14-21	44:24-28		

Two Great Themes in 44:21-23

Announcement:

21 Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou *art* my servant: **I have formed thee**; thou *art* my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for **I have redeemed thee**.

Response:

23 Sing, O ye heavens; for the **LORD hath ~~done-it~~ made**:

shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for **the LORD hath redeemed Jacob**, and glorified himself in Israel.

Chiasm in 44:21

Remember these,	thou shalt not be forgotten of me.
O Jacob and Israel;	O Israel,
for thou <i>art</i> my servant:	thou <i>art</i> my servant:
I have formed thee;	

A Structural View of Salvation

	Figure (Lev 16)	Reality (Isa 44:22)
Effect	Atonement (cover)	Blot out (remove)
Cause	Human effort: animal sacrifice	Divine effort: • Redeem (pay a price) • Forgive (“bear sin”)

44:23 AB AABB

Sing, O ye heavens;

for the LORD hath done *it*:

shout, ye lower parts of the earth:

break forth into singing,

ye mountains,

O forest,

and every tree therein:

for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob,

and glorified himself in Israel.

Echoes of 44:23

Isa 44:23	Isa 49:13	Phil 2:10	Rev 5:13
Sing, shout, break forth into singing	Sing, be joyful, break forth into singing,	At the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... every tongue confess	I heard saying, “Blessing and honor and glory and power ...”
heavens	heavens	Of things in heaven	In heaven
mountains, forest, every tree	mountains	And things in earth	On earth
lower parts of the earth	earth	And things under the earth	Under the earth
			Such as are in the sea, and all that are in them



42:18-44:28 Overview

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B. Servant Restored	43:1-7	43:25	44:1-5	44:21-23
C. Witnesses: God's Uniqueness	43:8-13	44:6-20		
D. End of Captivity	43:14-21	44:24-28		

The Syntax of 44:24b-28

Sentence, 24b-28

Subject, 24b-26a

I ~~am~~ the LORD

*Modifier: his credentials as Creator, 24b
(indefinite participles)
that maketh all things;
that stretcheth forth ...;
that spreadeth abroad ...;*

*Modifier: his power as Predictor, 25-26a
(indefinite participles paired with imperfects)
that frustrateth ... and maketh ...
that turneth ... and maketh ...
that confirmeth ... and performeth ...*

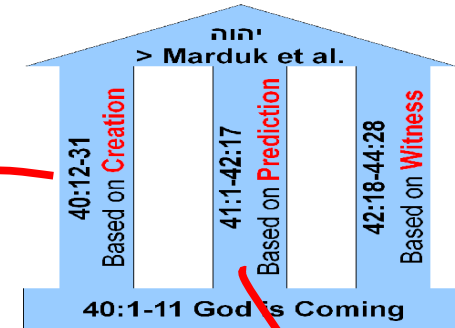
*Predicate, 26b-28
("the one that saith," **definite** participles)
am **the one** that saith to Jerusalem, ...
the one that saith to the deep, ...
the one that saith of Cyrus, ...*

I, the
Lord,

the Past
Creator
(ch. 40)

and Present
Predictor
(ch. 41-42)

am the one who
says this about
the Future: ...



Steps toward the Goal in 44:26b-28

26b, Jerusalem will be inhabited

26b, Cities of Judah will be built

27, Sea/rivers will dry up

28, Cyrus will commission the temple

The Significance of Exile and Return, 26b

Exo 25:8 let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Deut 12:5 But unto **the place which the LORD your God shall choose** out of all your tribes **to put his name there**, *even* unto his habitation shall ye seek,

11 there shall be a **place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there;**

13-14 offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest: 14 But in **the place which the LORD shall choose** in one of thy tribes,

18 thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in **the place which the LORD thy God shall choose,**

21 **the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to put his name**

26 go unto **the place which the LORD shall choose:**

1Ki 11:36 **Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.**