MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE **22 November 2026**
Text: Isaiah 43:4-7
Title: "And I have loved you"

INTRODUCTION

1. Isaiah 42 – The reality of Israel's spiritual state
    a. They had become idolatrous
    b. They were spiritually deaf and blind
    c. They would not walk in God's ways or were obedient to His law
2. Isaiah 43:1-3 – Despite Israel's spiritual state, God brought a message of redemption to them
    a. "Fear not, for I have redeemed you"
    b. "You are Mine"
    c. "I will be with you"
3. What can we appreciate about God's love through this?

THE CHANGELESS NATURE OF GOD'S LOVE

Since you were precious in My sight,
You have been honoured,
And I have loved you *Isaiah 43:4a*

1. "Since you were precious in My sight"
    a. This can be traced all the way back to Deuteronomy 7:6-7
        i. God had chosen the children of Israel to be a special treasure above all the peoples
        ii. Not because they were more in number than any other people
        iii. But because the LORD loved them
    b. God continued to regard them as precious even at this point
        i. Despite their idolatrous ways
        ii. Despite their spiritual deafness and blindness
        iii. Despite their sinfulness and disobedience
        iv. He still saw them as precious in His sight, as He did back in Deuteronomy

2. "You have been honoured"
    a. God had honoured them greatly as a nation cf. Deuteronomy 8
        i. Brought them into a good and fruitful land
        ii. They had eaten and were full
        iii. They had built beautiful houses
        iv. They had herds and flocks multiply
        v. Their wealth was multiplied
    b. No other country had received such honour from God!
    c. God continued to honour them because they were precious in His sight
3. "And I have loved you"
    a. God had declared His love for them in the past cf. Deuteronomy 7:8
    b. He declared His love for them once again after hundreds of years
    c. He would not stop loving them despite their sinfulness

GOD'S COMMITMENT TO HIS PEOPLE IN LOVE

1. God's protection

    Therefore I will give men for you,
    And people for your life. *Isaiah 43:4b*

    a. God's protection for Israel
        i. He would protect them from enemies
        ii. He would destroy these enemies if they tried to hurt Israel
    b. This was historically demonstrated to Israel
        i. Egypt
        ii. The many inhabitants of the Promised Land
        iii. Ethiopia and Seba
    c. As God had protected them in the past, so too would He protect them in the future!

2. God's presence

   Fear not, for I am with you *Isaiah 43:5a*

   a. God's presence had historically been with Israel

      i. The patriarchs

      ii. The leaders e.g., Moses, Joshua

      iii. The kings e.g., David, Solomon

      iv. The whole nation of Israel cf. Exodus 33:14

   b. God's presence would continue to be with them even in captivity

3. God's promise to bring them back

   I will bring your descendants from the east,
   And gather you from the west;
   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 *Isaiah 43:6*

   a. Israel would be scattered everywhere by the Assyrians and Babylonians

   b. It would be humanly impossible for them to come back

   c. But God was still committed to them as their Father

   d. He promised to bring them back to the land

   e. He would command their captors to let them go

GOD'S CREATION PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE

Everyone who is called by My name,
Whom I have created for My glory;
I have formed him, yes, I have made him. *Isaiah 43:7*

1. "Everyone who is called by My name"

   a. God had a special plan for His people

   b. This applied to everyone called by God's name

2. “Whom I have created for My glory”
    a. He had created them to bear His glory
    b. He had created them to bring forth His glory
3. “I have formed him, yes, I have made him”
    a. God would do a special work to form and make them
    b. Examples of people whom God had specially formed and made for His glory
        i. Joseph
        ii. Moses
        iii. Joshua
        iv. David
    c. This plan to form and make them was conditional upon Israel
        i. Repenting of their sins
        ii. Returning to God
        iii. Rebuilding their relationship with God

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR US ALL

1. Can we comprehend God’s great love for us?
    a. The changeless nature of His love
    b. The commitment He makes to us in love
    c. His plan to make us a new creation
2. Can we respond to God’s love appropriately this Christmas?
    a. To reflect on God’s great love for us
    b. To renew our appreciation of God’s love for us
    c. To return to God and rebuild our relationship with Him