Devotion #305

**You Are Mine**

**Isaiah 43:1 (NASB)** *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!”*

I knew someone who had a dream recently that was both comforting and troubling. In their dream they were inside a house that was somewhat modern looking with large plate glass windows all around it. Inside was crowded with people as if gathered for some particular reason. Suddenly, outside there was a terrible storm, almost like a hurricane mixed with a tornado. Debris was flying everywhere and smashing against the glass, but nothing was breaking. While inside the house their bodies began to burn starting from their hands and feet, working up to the rest of their body. But, they didn’t feel any heat or pain. They realized they had been cleansed of their sin. They were free forever from the effects of sin, as if they were ready for heaven. In the next scene they were outside with a crowd who were all happy and excited because they, too, had been purified of sin. Lastly, they were getting on a bus with everyone but noticing that there were certain people missing, loved ones who did not have their sins purged who would never be seen again.

That was quite a dream. As I thought about that I was reminded of our verse for today. It is from the prophet Isaiah writing to Israel. The purpose was to show Israel that even though she had been wayward in her existence as God’s chosen people, she could take comfort in knowing that nothing would ever remove her from God’s promise. She would always been His people.

As you may know, Israel rejected God’s Messiah and even today she does not recognize Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Acts 2:22-23) So God opened a way for non-Jews to come to Him. The Apostle Paul says that like a branch that is grafted into the original tree, all who believe that Jesus is the Messiah and have their lives and hope in Him are grafted into the chosen people. (Romans 11) Although we are not Jews by blood, we are God’s people, just like Isreal if we have put our lives in His hands. Therefore, just as God will always hold on to those whom He has chosen from Isreal, we too will always be His. We have become His possession and nothing will keep us from enjoying eternity with Him one day.

That is the comforting truth about what God says. But as I said earlier, there is a troubling part to all this. The person who had the dream said that as they got on the bus they were overcome with sadness thinking about the people they love who were not cleansed, who were not willing to follow Jesus, because they knew that they would never see their loved ones again. Some would say that this was just a dream. Maybe so. But there is no denying the Holy Scriptures. The Words of God are written for us to know the truth about who will enjoy eternal life with Him and those who won’t. (1 John 5:13)

I cannot imagine the life of those who choose to ignore God’s Word, and, honestly, I don’t want to think about it too much. I am forever grateful that God has made those who respond to Him to be His possession. You and I are His, and nothing will change that. That is worth a life time of hallelujahs and great motivation to share the good news of salvation with all who don’t know or don’t believe, so they too can be on the bus.