

Isaiah 63:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

Analysis

'Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.' Even if patriarchs wouldn't recognize the current generation (so changed by suffering and sin), God remains Father and Redeemer. The Hebrew 'ab' (father) is emphasized twice. Relationship transcends human lineage.

Historical Context

This remarkable confession acknowledges a relationship to God deeper than Abrahamic descent. It anticipates New Testament teaching about spiritual sonship through faith.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How is your relationship with God more fundamental than any human connection?

2. What comfort comes from calling God 'Father' when all other relationships fail?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֵתְּ הַ	אָבִי נֹ	כִּי	אַבְרָהָם	לֹ אֲ
Doubtless	H859	art our father	Doubtless	though Abraham	be ignorant
H3588		H1	H3588	H85	H3808
וְנֹ	וְיִשְׂרָאֵל לֹ	לֹ אֲ	נִכְיָרְנוּ	אֵתְּ הַ	יְהוָה
H3045	of us and Israel	be ignorant	acknowledge	H859	us not thou O LORD
	H3478	H3808	H5234		H3068
אָבִי נֹ	גֹאֲלֵנוּ	מֵעוֹלָם	שְׁמִי:		
art our father	our redeemer	is from everlasting	thy name		
H1	H1350	H5769	H8034		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 64:8 (References Lord): But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Isaiah 44:6 (Redemption): 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.

Jeremiah 3:19 (Parallel theme): But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? and I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.

Deuteronomy 32:6 (References Lord): Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?

Malachi 2:10 (Parallel theme): Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

Isaiah 41:14 (Redemption): Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Malachi 1:6 (References Lord): A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Isaiah 43:14 (Redemption): Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

Job 14:21 (Parallel theme): His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.

Jeremiah 31:9 (References Israel): They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.