

He Only Has Eyes for You!

By Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing



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Open with Prayer

The song *I Only Have Eyes for You* was composed in 1934 by Harry Warren and Al Dubin. It has been recorded by numerous musicians, including Peggy Lee, Frank Sinatra, and Art Garfunkel. The Flamingo's version is ranked 157th in *Rolling Stone Magazine's* list of the "500 Greatest Songs of All Time."

The LORD'S Version of this Golden Oldie

In **Isaiah 43:4a**, He tells us, *You are valuable [precious] in my eyes*. The "you" is singular, not plural. It's "you" not "you all." Singular "you" denotes a focus that is individual and intimate, particular, and personal.

Read **Isaiah 43:1-7**. God's care is cosmic and universal, to be sure, but to emphasize His exclusive love for you, He employs twenty-five second person *singular* words and suffixes in these verses. Over and over again it is you, you, you, *you!*

Those who first heard these promises were Judaites living in Babylon in the sixth century, and the empire would have never said this. Babylon was distant, aloof, cold, and calculating.

Read **Daniel 3** to see what life was like for Judaites in Babylon.

This World's Mirrors

As a child, one of the summer rituals of my family was to go to Elich Gardens in Denver, Colorado. The park had all kind of rides and enough sticky cotton candy to amaze my little life. But what always fascinated me most were the fun house mirrors. Some mirrors would make me look tall and skinny. Others would make me look short and fat. And still others would make me look ugly and creepy. None of them reflected who I really was.

And neither do the mirrors that surround us. On a typical day in 2001, the average American consumed — intentionally or unintentionally — about five hundred visual advertisements. By 2009, that number had grown dramatically; from the time most people open the morning paper (or more likely, turn on the morning news) until they finally doze off in front of *The Late Show* or another rerun of *I Love Lucy*, Americans now typically encounter more than 2,000 advertising images.

In most of these images we see perfect people with perfect families and perfect marriages delighting in perfect jobs. And when these images seductively summon us to gaze into their glass, what do we see? We see that we don't measure up. You name it. We don't have it. Addicted to how the world sees us, we begin feeling tall and skinny, short and fat, ugly and creepy. If we look into these mirrors long enough, we begin to feel worthless.

Discuss how the media impacts your self worth.

When we feel worthless, we not only discount ourselves, we begin discounting everybody else. Talk about how this happens in your life.

How is Value Determined?

How we stack up in the eyes of others does not reflect who we really are. Our identity is in the LORD, and He says: *You are valuable in My eyes*.

Value is based on ownership. Discuss how much your car is worth compared to one owned by your favorite celebrity.

Value is also based upon how much someone is willing to pay for an item. What is your favorite heirloom? How much do you think it is worth?

Since value is based on ownership, read **Isaiah 43:6-7** to see who owns us.

And if value is based on how much someone is willing to pay, read **Isaiah 43:4** to see what the LORD paid for His people Israel.

Who is the LORD to Place Value on Us?

We can trust the LORD to place value on us. As we read from Isaiah, we see some of the kinds of things God does. Fill in the blanks as you read these Scripture references:



- A. **Isaiah 41:8; 51:1–2; 54:9** God explains what happened _____.
- B. **Isaiah 44:28; 45:1; 52:13–53:12** God predicts _____.
- C. **Isaiah 43:16–21** God does things _____ that are radically new. The LORD is the holy, supreme, awesome, eternal God, and there is no other.

Read **Isaiah 40:12–31** and list four examples of His power.

Within **Isaiah 40–55** the prophet employs numerous expressions to announce that the LORD isn't a system, a force, an idea, a movement, a doctrine, or a higher power. The LORD is a person.

Match these Scripture references with the appropriate human characteristics of a person [see online study helps for answers]:

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| 1. Isaiah 40:2; 41:20; 50:11; 51:16 | a. arms |
| 2. Isaiah 40:10–11; 48:14; 50:2; 52:10; 53:1 | b. hands |
| 3. Isaiah 40:5; 45:23; 55:11 | c. face |
| 4. Isaiah 54:8 | d. mouth |

Match these groups of Scriptures with the LORD's human emotions:

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| 5. Isaiah 42:25; 48:9 | a. anger/wrath |
| 6. Isaiah 42:13 | b. compassion/mercy |
| 7. Isaiah 41:8; 43:4 | c. friendship/love |
| 8. Isaiah 49:10,13; 54:7–8 | d. zeal/passion |

Match these groups of Scripture references to find that the LORD performs human-like actions:

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| 9. Isaiah 40:22 | a. gasps |
| 10. Isaiah 41:13; 42:6; 45:1 | b. holds people's hand |
| 11. Isaiah 42:13 | c. sits |
| 12. Isaiah 42:14 | d. shouts aloud |

Match these groups of Scripture references to determine similes and metaphors Isaiah uses to describe the LORD:

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| 13. Isaiah 40:11 | a. Father |
| 14. Isaiah 41:21; 43:15; 44:6; 52:7 | b. Husband |
| 15. Isaiah 42:13 | c. King |
| 16. Isaiah 54:5 | d. Potter |
| 17. Isaiah 45:10 | e. Redeemer |
| 18. Isaiah 45:9 | f. Shepherd |
| 19. Isaiah 41:14; 44:6; 44:24; 47:4; 49:26; 54:5, 8 | g. Warrior |

And in **Isaiah 43:3**, for the first time in the book, the LORD is identified as your Savior. This is the One who says: *I only have eyes for you.*

Conclusions

Martin Luther provides these comments on **Isaiah 43:4**: "Although in supreme trials we seem nothing in our own eyes and are condemned as one cast off by the world, in God's eyes we are glorious. Therefore we may be vile in our own eyes, in the eyes of the world, and even in those of our brothers. Fear not. In God's eyes we are regarded as a precious jewel" (*Luther's Works*, 17:88). But there is more. In the baptismal flood God claimed you as His own and on a hill called Calvary He paid for you with His Son Jesus. And this means the LORD has more than just eyes for you. The LORD has a heart for you; read **John 15:9**. The LORD has ears for you; read **Matthew 7:7**. And the LORD has true body and true blood for you; read **1 Corinthians 11:23–29**.

The LORD loves these lyrics:

"The moon may be high,
but I can't see a thing in the sky.
'Cause I only have eyes for you."
What great love!

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Two Music Downloads!

Listen to Christian music on your computer or download to your mp3 player! Go to www.lwml.org, click by the *Quarterly* icon, and scroll down to the links to these two songs.

Hear the waltz, "**Lord, There is Love in Your Eyes**," sung by Nancy Carlson. Copyright ©1998 Bruce Carlson. Permission granted for use by LWML.

Enjoy the ballad, "**The Butterfly**," written and sung by Jeannette Schaible. Copyright © 2001. Permission granted for use by LWML.