

God's New Thing!

Isaiah 43:15–25

Key Thought:

God never changes, but He is always doing new things to accomplish His unchanging purposes.

“For I, the LORD, do not change.”

—Malachi 3:6

Key Verse

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?"

— Isaiah 43:19

Introduction:

God's purpose has always been for mankind to bring Him GLORY!

Westminster catechism's first question: *“What is the chief end of man? Answer: “To glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever,”*

Watchman Nee's *The Normal Christian Life* *“God's purpose for man was glory, but sin thwarted that purpose by causing man to miss God's glory. When we think of sin we instinctively think of judgement it brings; we invariably associate it with condemnation and hell. Man's thought is always of the punishment that will come to him if he sins, but God's thought is always of the glory man will miss if he sins. The result of sin is that we forfeit God's glory... God's purpose in redemption is glory, glory, glory.”* (Watchman Nee, *The Normal Christian Life*, p.109)

"For all have sinned and come short of the GLORY of God." (Romans 3:23) Cf. I Cor. 6:19,20

Main Idea:

God's greatest concern is not merely rescuing us from judgment but restoring us to His glory.

Notes:

I. The Description of God's New Thing

A. Isaiah's Immediate Context

- ☐ The Babylonian Deliverance

Reference: Isaiah 43:14

God promised deliverance one hundred years before Babylon even became a world power.

- ☐ The New Exodus

Reference Isaiah 43:16-20

Instead of looking backward, God promised another great act (Second Exodus) of redemption.

Isaiah's command: “***Remember not the former things.***” This was earth shattering to a Jewish person.

Key Truth:

We should:

- ☐ Learn from the past
- ☐ Thank God for the past
- ☐ Never become imprisoned by the past.

Brothers *and* sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it yet*; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:13-24)

Notes:

B. God's People Often Resist God's New Thing

Examples:

- ☐ Israel rejected the Messiah. (John 1:12)
- ☐ The Pharisees knew Scripture but failed to recognize Christ.
- ☐ The early church struggled to accept Gentile believers.

Lesson:

Knowing the Bible is not enough. The word of God is designed to lead us to the Word of God!

Notes:

II. The Character of God's New Thing

A. God's nature never changes.

"I am the Lord, I change not." (Malachi 3:6)

God does not change, but He is in the changing business. (I Thes 5:23,24).

B. God's New Thing stretches our vision.

Reference: *"Where there is no vision the people perish."* (Prov. 29:18)

Vision is: "seeing things from God's perspective."

Leadership begins when a vision emerges.

C. God's New Thing strengthens us for service.

"Where God guides, He Provides."

Key Truth: God's will never leads us where God's power cannot sustain us. What our Lord buys, He can pay for.

D. God's New Thing never dishonors God's past work. (The children of Israel were never to dishonor the first Exodus.)

We honor what God has done...while remaining open to what God wants to do next.

Notes:

III. The Caution

DON'T MISS IT!

"Shall ye not know it?" (V.19)

How do we avoid missing God's new work?

- ☐ Abide closely with Jesus. (John 15:5–7)
- ☐ Pray for spiritual eyes to see His activity. (Ps. 119:18)
- ☐ Seek Him persistently. (Matthew 6:33; 7:7)

Notes:

Personal Application:

What "new thing" might God be calling me to?

What old attitudes or expectations must I surrender?

Closing Challenge:

Are you ready and willing for God to do a new thing here at FBCCOLL?

If we cling too tightly to yesterday's blessings, we may miss tomorrow's miracles.