

## **A God Who Does New Things**

Sermon Preached by  
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Text: Isaiah 43:18-21

We enjoy new things. Things such as new cars, clothes, and technology. We enjoy the latest items. When we possess “the new,” we feel that we are up to date with the latest thing. In our scripture today, God says, “I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King...who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters.” Along with Israel’s new freedom and new witness, Isaiah writes about Israel’s new “exodus”. Just as God led His people out of Egypt and through the Red Sea, so He will lead them out of Babylon and through the terrible wilderness to their home in the holy land. Just as He defeated Pharaoh’s army so He will defeat Israel’s enemies, and snuff them out “like a wick”.

When God forgives and restores us, He wants us to forget the failures of our past, witness for Him in the present, and claim His promises for the future. Why should we remember that which God has forgotten? He forgave us purely because of His mercy and grace.

God chose Israel and redeemed them, but He also formed them for Himself. In this chapter, Isaiah contrasts God’s forming of Israel and the Gentiles forming their own gods. “I have formed thee” is a special theme in chapters 43–44. Because God formed them, chose them, and redeemed them, they had nothing to fear. He will pour water on the land and His Spirit on the people, and both will prosper to the glory of the Lord. The final fulfillment of this will be in the future Kingdom Age when Messiah reigns. God is able to do a new thing in our lives. When things seem impossible, God will create possibilities for us. God can dry our tears and show us how to continue in our life’s journey. When we become weak, God empowers us to declare the words of the Apostle Paul, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Our God is doing new things. The past things have passed; we haven’t seen anything yet!