



## Pastor Derrick Shields “A New Thing!” 1/2/2022

### Key Verses:

- Isaiah 43:14-21

### Key Thoughts:

- A new year brings a lot of new things and many of us make new year's resolutions. God loves new things too; he is constantly making things new. So, there's nothing wrong with us having new year's resolutions, but the problem is that we don't always stick with them.
- Isaiah prophesied to the people of Israel, but also to us today. Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament. Isaiah contains 66 books written to the people of God enduring a tough situation. Isaiah 1-39 is Isaiah trying to compel people to turn back to God and the resulting judgment if they don't. In Isaiah 40-66, the tone shifts to hope.
- Isaiah 43 is not only a message to the people of Israel in exile, but a timely message for us as we experience tough times. Isaiah is preaching hope to these people in captivity to Babylon. The Babylonians had come and ravaged their land and taken them away. He tells them first to recognize who God so they would know that the Babylonians are not greater than their God. He reminds them of how God rescued them in the Exodus. Finally, he tells them to forget the former things and God is doing a new thing.

### Key Points:

#### 1. **Forget the former things – Isaiah 43:18a**

- We have a hard time forgetting good things and bad things.
- Do not allow – those “former things” both good and bad – to ruin your experience in the present and your hope for the future.

#### 2. **Do not dwell on the past – Isaiah 43:18b**

- One of our biggest problem is that we dwell on the past letting it be the subject of our conversations. If we do this, we cannot enjoy the present or have hope for the future.

#### 3. **See, I am doing a new thing! – Isaiah 43:19a**

- He's telling them to open their eyes. God is active and he is working.
- “God is always doing 10,000 things in your life but you may only be aware of 2 or 3 of them.”

#### 4. **Do you not perceive it? — Isaiah 43:19b**

- Sometimes we have difficulty seeing the hand of God in our lives because the things we face are so large. When we become preoccupied with the immediate need, we forfeit the ability to see what God is doing on our behalf.

#### 5. **I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. – Isaiah 43:19c**

- God has the ability and love to turn every situation in our lives out for our good.
- How do you make a way in the wilderness and a stream in the wasteland? *By walking by faith and not by sight.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- Pastor Derrick talked about resolutions not being a bad thing, but if they're motivated by selfish desire, they may fail. Do you have resolutions for the year? What is your motivation behind them?
- Is there something that you perceive that God is doing new in your life personally? Share it with the group.
- Which of the key points from Isaiah 43:18-19 resonates with you most? Why?