

Attention:

We understand gradual change, but we struggle with sudden change. We understand going from one level to another one step at a time. But sometimes God makes what I would call a quantum leap—a dramatic transition from one season into another. *Artificial intelligence is an example of a Quantum Leap, by using information which took years to learn and produce rapid results in just seconds.* What took centuries to develop can sometimes change in a moment: A door opens, An opportunity appears, A crisis changes your direction. And when it happens, you have to learn how to live in a reality that didn't exist yesterday. People used fire for light since the beginning, until Thomas Edison invented the light bulb in 1879.

Need:

There are moments in life when God doesn't move you gradually. He moves you suddenly, even in the turn of a night. There are seasons when God moves so quickly that you look around and realize, “I am not where I used to be.” Your circumstances changed. Your priorities changed. And sometimes the change is so significant that you don't even recognize the person you were before.

Background:

Before we can understand what God is saying in Isaiah 43:18–19, we have to understand what was happening to the people who first heard these words. *Isaiah is speaking to a people who had experienced tremendous loss, disruption, and change.* Judah had experienced the devastation of the Babylonian conquest. *Jerusalem had been destroyed, the temple had been burned, and many of God's people had been carried away from their homeland into Babylonian captivity.* For the Israelites, this was much more than losing a city or changing their address. Jerusalem was home, the temple represented the presence of God, and the land was connected to God's covenant promises. *Their entire world had been disrupted. They had lost what was familiar, what was comfortable, and what they believed represented the security of their relationship with God.* They had every reason to wonder, “What happened to us? Where is God? Is our best history behind us? Will we ever experience the presence and power of God the way we did before?”

God was essentially telling them, “I know you remember Egypt. I know you remember Moses. I know you remember the Red Sea. *I know you remember what I did before. But don't limit Me to My previous miracles.*” The word “**behold**” is important because it calls their attention away from what is behind them and toward what God is about to do. It is as if God is saying, “**Look! Pay attention! Something is happening that you have never seen before.**” Then He says, “I will do a new thing.” That statement would have been incredibly powerful to people who were living through tremendous change because God was reminding them that their previous experience with Him did not establish the limits of His future activity. The God who had delivered their ancestors from Egypt was still God in Babylon. The God who had made a way through the Red Sea could make a way in another impossible situation. The God who had provided water in the wilderness could provide again. *Their circumstances had changed, but God's character had not changed.*

Some people who knows what it feels like to experience significant change. Sometimes change happens gradually, but *there are moments when change happens so dramatically that it feels like your entire life has been moved from one reality into another.* One day you are in one season, and suddenly you are standing in another. **One day you are struggling, and suddenly an opportunity opens.** One day your children need you for everything, and suddenly they are grown. Sometimes it feels like a blessing, and sometimes it feels like disruption. There are moments when God allows us to experience what we might call a “quantum leap”—a dramatic movement.

That is why significant change requires a change of perspective. *Romans 12:2 says, “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.” You have to learn how to think differently, respond differently, speak differently, and believe differently.* You cannot successfully live in a new season with an old-season mentality. God may have changed your environment, but now He has to change your expectations. He may have changed your position,

but now He has to change your perspective. He may have opened the door, but now He has to teach you how to walk through it.

1. **The Adjustment**—Your Position Can Change Faster Than Your Perspective
2. **The Leap**—God Can Move You Out of a Season Suddenly
3. **The Assignment**—Every New Season Requires a New Response

1. The Adjustment — Your Position Can Change Faster Than Your Perspective

One of the most difficult things about a sudden change is that God can change your position faster than He changes your perspective. **Your circumstances can change overnight, but your mind may still be trying to catch up.** You can walk through a door that you prayed for and still feel like the person who was standing outside the door. **You can be delivered and still think like a prisoner.** You can be blessed and still have a poverty mentality. You can be loved and still expect to be rejected. You can be in a healthy relationship and still respond to the wounds of the unhealthy one. **Your address can change before your attitude changes.** Your surroundings can change before your self-image changes. Your position can change before your perspective catches up.

That's exactly what happened to Israel. God brought them out of Egypt, but **getting Israel out of Egypt was easier than getting Egypt out of Israel.** **Their feet had left Egypt, but their minds kept going back.** They had freedom, but they still thought like slaves. They had God's provision, but they kept talking about what they had in Egypt. They had a cloud by day and fire by night, but they still complained about what they didn't have. They had crossed the Red Sea, but they hadn't crossed the mental barrier that kept them connected to their past. They were free physically but still bound mentally. And some people have the same problem today. **God has changed your position, but you keep interpreting your new season through the pain of your old one.**

You have to understand that your perspective is the lens through which you interpret your position. If your perspective is broken, even a blessing can look like a burden. **If your perspective is fearful, an opportunity looks like a threat.** If your perspective is rooted in rejection, love can make you suspicious. If your perspective is shaped by failure, success can make you uncomfortable. **If your perspective has been shaped by abandonment, God's presence may still feel unfamiliar.** That's why God doesn't just want to change where you are; He wants to change how you see where you are.

Somebody needs to hear this: You cannot keep introducing your present to your past. **Your past has information, but it does not have authority over your future.** Your past can explain some of your fears, but it doesn't get to dictate your decisions. Your past may explain why you struggle to trust, but it doesn't mean you have to remain untrusting. Your past may explain why you doubt yourself, but it doesn't mean you have to continue seeing yourself through the eyes of people who hurt you.

There are people who are living in a new season but still responding with old-season reactions. Somebody says one thing, and you immediately become defensive because of what somebody else did to you years ago. A door opens, and you immediately assume it will close because you've experienced disappointment before. **Somebody loves you, and you start looking for the moment they will leave because you've been abandoned before. God blesses you, and instead of enjoying the blessing, you're waiting for something to go wrong. You're not responding to what's happening; you're responding to what happened.** That's why Paul says in **Romans 12:2**, **“Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”**

One day Joseph is being told where to go; the next day he is telling people what to do. His position changed in a moment, but his character had been developing for years.

Sometimes God lets you spend years in a place you don't understand because He is developing the mind you will need for the place you're going. David spent years in the field before he ever sat on the throne. The palace was new, but leadership wasn't. The crown was new, but the character had been developed in private. David learned how to fight lions before he fought Goliath. He learned how to protect sheep before he was entrusted with people. God developed his perspective before He changed his position.

And that ought to encourage somebody. If your life has suddenly changed, don't panic because you don't feel completely comfortable yet. You are learning how to live in what God has brought you into. Give yourself permission to grow. Give yourself permission to learn. Give yourself permission to adjust. You don't have to know everything immediately. You don't have to understand everything immediately. You don't have to feel comfortable immediately. But you do have to be willing to let God renew your mind. Because if God is doing something new around you, He wants to do something new within you.

Isaiah 43 says, "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old." God isn't denying their history. He's refusing to let their history become their destiny. There is a difference between remembering what happened and allowing what happened to control you. You can remember the wound without living in the wound. You can remember the failure without becoming the failure. You can remember the rejection without believing you are rejected. You can remember where you came from without trying to go back there. Your history is a chapter. It is not the whole book.

Somebody has allowed one bad chapter to convince them the entire story is bad. But God says, "Behold, I will do a new thing." The story isn't over. There is another chapter. There is another season. There is another opportunity. There is another assignment.

2. The Leap — God Can Move You Out of a Season Suddenly

There are seasons in your life that God will bring to an end without giving you a long explanation. Sometimes God doesn't gradually transition you; sometimes He moves you suddenly. We like predictable change because predictable change gives us time to prepare. We like to know when the door is going to close, when the next door is going to open, when the money is coming, when the opportunity is arriving, and when the situation is going to turn around. But God doesn't always give you a calendar. Sometimes He gives you a moment. Sometimes you can be in the same place you've been for years, doing the same thing you've always done, and then suddenly something happens that changes everything. One phone call can change your life. One opportunity can change your career. One encounter can change your direction. One conversation can change a relationship. One decision can change your future. You can go to bed in one season and wake up in another.

That's why Isaiah says, "Behold, I will do a new thing." God doesn't say, "I'm going to slowly modify your circumstances." He says, "I will do a new thing." There are moments when God doesn't renovate the old season; He introduces a new one. And when God decides the season has ended, you don't have to understand everything about the transition to trust the God who is leading you through it. Some seasons end because you prayed for them to end. Other seasons end because God knows something you don't know. There are times when you are crying over a closed door that God closed because He knew what was on the other side of it. There are times when you're asking God to give back what you lost when God is trying to show you what you could never have received if you had kept holding on to what was familiar.

Look at Joseph. His life changed dramatically in a single day. Joseph had spent years in a prison that he did not deserve, but then Pharaoh had a dream. Joseph interpreted the dream, and suddenly his life changed. He went from the prison to the palace. He went from being forgotten to being summoned. He went from having no authority to having authority over an entire nation. The Bible says Pharaoh took his signet ring and put it on Joseph's hand. One moment he was a prisoner; the next moment he was second in command. Joseph didn't have years to prepare for the position. The position arrived, and Joseph had to grow into it. That is what God does sometimes. He prepares you privately and promotes you publicly. He develops you in places nobody sees and then suddenly opens a door that everybody can see.

David experienced the same thing. David was out in the field tending sheep when Samuel came looking for the next king. David wasn't sitting in a palace waiting for his promotion. He was working in an ordinary place, doing an ordinary assignment, when God suddenly interrupted his ordinary day with an extraordinary calling. The oil came upon his head before the crown came upon his head. The transition began before David could see the

destination. That's important because sometimes God starts changing your life before you have any evidence that the change has begun. The preparation is happening before the promotion becomes visible.

And sometimes the leap doesn't feel like a promotion. Sometimes it feels like loss. Sometimes God moves you out of a season by allowing something to end. A relationship ends. A job ends. An opportunity disappears. A familiar environment changes. **Something you thought would always be there, suddenly isn't.** And because you're grieving the ending, you don't realize that God may be making room for a beginning. We often interpret endings as punishment when sometimes they are preparation. We call it rejection when God calls it redirection. We call it loss when God calls it release. We call it a setback when God is using it to reposition us.

Israel understood this better than anyone. **They had been slaves in Egypt for generations, and then God moved suddenly.** Moses stood before Pharaoh and demanded that God's people be released. After the plagues, Pharaoh finally let them go. Israel went from slavery to freedom. But their freedom didn't mean their journey was finished. **They left Egypt quickly, but now they had to learn how to live as free people.** Their circumstances changed faster than their mentality. They were physically out of Egypt, but **Egypt was still in their thinking.** They had to learn that God could move them out of a place faster than they could get the place out of themselves.

And somebody needs to hear that today. **Your season can change before your emotions catch up. You can receive the blessing and still be afraid. You can walk through the open door and still feel unqualified.** You can leave the old environment and still miss it. You can experience something good and still struggle to believe that you deserve it. Don't think something is wrong simply because your mind is still adjusting to what God has done. Sometimes the transition is real even when your emotions haven't caught up with it.

So don't despise the season you are in right now. **If you're in the field, be faithful in the field.** If you're in the wilderness, trust God in the wilderness. **If you're in the waiting room, don't stop believing in the waiting room. Because your location today does not determine your destination tomorrow.**

3. The Assignment — Every New Season Requires a New Response

There is something you have to understand about a new season: **God may change your season, but He expects you to change your response. You cannot walk into a new season and keep responding with the same mentality, the same habits, the same fears, the same excuses, and the same patterns that belonged to the old season.** A new season demands a new response. If God has changed your position, He is going to require a different posture. **If God has increased your influence, He is going to require greater responsibility.** If God has opened a door, you cannot stand outside the door arguing about the door you lost. You have to walk through the door God opened.

Joseph is one of the clearest examples of this. Joseph's life changed dramatically. One day he was in prison, and the next day he was standing before Pharaoh. **One moment Joseph was being treated like a criminal, and the next moment he was being treated like a ruler.** Think about how quickly his circumstances changed. Joseph didn't have months to prepare emotionally for the transition. He didn't get a seminar on palace protocol. He didn't have time to sit down and say, "Let me process everything I've been through." He had to respond to the new season immediately. Genesis 41 tells us that Joseph was brought out of prison, cleaned up, changed his clothes, and brought before Pharaoh. Notice what happens: **the prison clothes had to come off before he could step into the palace assignment. There are some things that belonged to your old season that cannot be worn in your new one.**

You cannot wear the attitude of a prisoner into the palace of purpose. You cannot wear insecurity into an assignment that requires confidence. **You cannot carry bitterness into a season that requires relationships.** You cannot carry fear into a season that requires faith. You cannot carry an old identity into a new assignment. God may have changed your address, but now He wants to change your attire. **He wants to change the way you think, the way you speak, the way you see yourself, and the way you respond to pressure.**

That's why you cannot wait until everything looks different before you start acting differently. Faith responds to what God said before circumstances confirm it. David had to start seeing himself differently before he ever sat on the throne. David had to stop thinking like a shepherd who was protecting sheep and start thinking like a warrior who was confronting giants. When Goliath stood in front of Israel, David's response revealed that his perspective had changed. Everybody else saw a giant and said, "He's too big to fight." David saw a giant and said, "He's too big to miss." Same giant. Different response. Same battlefield. Different perspective.

"Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:22–24, NKJV). That's what a new season does. It doesn't necessarily change the size of the problem; it changes the size of your faith. You may still have giants, but you don't respond to them the way you used to. You may still have pressure, but pressure doesn't control you anymore. You may still have opposition, but opposition doesn't define you anymore. You may still have questions, but you don't need every answer before you obey God.

And that's where God is challenging somebody today. What if the reason God changed your position was not just to bless you, but to use you? What if the promotion wasn't just for your paycheck? What if the influence wasn't just for your ego? What if the opportunity wasn't just for your comfort? What if God has placed you where you are because somebody else needs what God has put inside of you?

You keep asking, "Why did God bring me here?" And God may be saying, "Because somebody needs you here." You keep asking, "Why did God open this door?" And God may be saying, "Because there is an assignment behind the door." You keep asking, "Why did God allow me to survive that?" And God may be saying, "Because your survival is going to become somebody else's testimony."