

## A New and Glorious Thing

Isa 43:16-21 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters, Who brings forth the chariot and horse, he army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; they are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick): <sup>18</sup>"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup>Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen. This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise.

Once again we hear the clear proclamation of Isaiah, "Thus says the LORD". Thirty-one times Isaiah writes these words "thus says the LORD". What we are made to understand by these words is that the Holy Spirit is assuring us that Isaiah is not merely giving us his opinions, feelings or thoughts, but is receiving revelation from God Himself to His elect about His purpose and desire for His people whom He has chosen for Himself. Even as Peter writes in his epistle to the church, "*for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*" (2 Peter 1:21)

I had planned to go on to chapter 44 but the more I studied and considered what is being said here, indeed, it was the very words of our LORD that caught my attention when He said that He has purposed to do a **new thing**. Those words, in a sense, sum up the whole message of Isaiah. God is going to do a **new thing** that will make even the deliverance from Egypt seem as a very little thing. Think of that, those ten plagues that fell upon Egypt, literally making a mockery of the gods of Egypt. And then the opening up of the depths of the sea, forming a wall of water on each side of the escape route through the sea. Do you not hear the grandeur of this proclamation? God's people in Isaiah's day could take great comfort in knowing that God was going to make a way of great deliverance for them, even though trials were before them, and we today can look back and marvel and rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory as to what God not only purposed to do but has fulfilled in our behalf. First, He assures His elect that He will make a way. Then He lets them know that even the captivity itself is but the beginning of this glorious work, and then we shall consider what God has indeed accomplished for His people

### A. The Lord makes a way

#### 1. First He reminds Him of the deliverance He provide for Israel out of Egypt

- a. How He opened up a way in the midst of the sea
- b. And How He destroyed Pharaoh's army
- c. Then God says forget that

- (1) Remember I hold the water of the earth in the palm of my hand
- (2) I measure heaven with a span
- (3) I calculate the dust of the earth in a measure
- (4) I weigh all the mountains and hills in a balance
- (5) To me, all the nations of the earth are but a drop in a bucket of water, they are counted by me as less than nothing, as that which is worthless

- d. God is not saying forget about the miracle at the great sea in the sense of wiping it from your memory, but rather all that I have done is going to pale in the light of what I am about to do

#### 2. I am going to do a "new thing" – Jeremiah spells out for us what this new thing will be

*Jer 23:5-8 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."*

### B. Now God begins to speak of future events that shall soon "spring forth" - Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall **spring forth**; shall you not know it?

#### 1. This new thing that God will do actually begins with the captivity and deliverance from Babylon

- a. The earthly kingdom of Judah must come to an end
- b. David's throne will undergo a change from an earthly throne to a heavenly throne
- c. The way for the promised Son of David is now beginning to take shape
- d. But it is as Jesus said, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

#### 2. The Old Covenant must come to an end

- a. The priestly sacrifices and temple worship must come to an end
- b. The earthly kingdom of Judah must come to an end.
- c. Even the earthly throne of David as it had been will cease to be
- d. This is the whole of the subject matter we read of in the Book of Hebrews

*Heb 9:8-10 The Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience — concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.*

*Heb 10:1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.*

3. The captivity and restoration to the land is but a small beginning that in time will culminate in the coming of the Messiah, the fulfillment of all the Old Testament types, shadows and prophecies and the proclamation of the gospel and the result of that proclamation salvation will come to God's people throughout the whole world.

Calvin in his commentary here writes, "Accordingly, as I have frequently remarked, we **ought here to include the whole period which followed the redemption from Babylon, down to the coming of Christ.**"

4. As it pertained to the deliverance from Babylonian captivity and rebuilding of Jerusalem will dwarf the deliverance from Egypt for the following reasons:
  - a. Pagan kings will not refuse to do God's bidding as did Pharaoh
  - b. Rather, they will willingly help restore the remnant to the land of Israel
  - c. The pagan rulers of this world will become servants of God (*cf. Jer 43:10; Isa. 44:28*)
5. Now when I tell you I am going to do a more glorious thing
  - a. I will even make a way in the wilderness
  - b. I am going to plant trees in a dry and barren land where by nature no plant could grow
  - c. I am going make rivers in the desert
  - d. A metaphorical way of God saying I am going to redeem a people who were not my people
  - e. I am going to save a people who were not searching for me, who were in full rebellion against me
  - f. The whole world is a wilderness of sin but I shall save my elect out of all the nations of the earth
6. What God is about to do is even a greater work than all the miraculous events of Biblical history
7. What we are to understand here is that the Gospel, God's revelation of Himself and the proclamation of salvation will no longer be limited to a small nation upon the earth, but shall be proclaimed worldwide, to all men, Jew and Gentile alike.
8. That is what Peter wrote about when he writes that the prophets of the Old Testament were not speaking of things for their day, but a great and glorious future day. (*cf. 1 Peter 1:10-12*)
  - a. Things so glorious even the angels desired to look into.
  - b. This will be something so glorious that it will excite the very angels of heaven.
9. I will build my church upon the foundation of a coming Messiah of the promised Seed of Abraham

CONCLUSION: You – who are trusting in Jesus Christ here this morning

Are the result of that promise of God you are a part of the fulfillment of that promise

You are not just a small number this morning  
 You are part of a body of believers spread out over the whole earth  
 You are a part of a great number  
 From Adam down to the last elect of God to be born  
 That make up that heavenly church

Heb 12:22-23 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven,

You are just a part of a great uncountable number mention in Revelation whose robes have been washed in the blood of our Savior Jesus Christ

God thru Isaiah is simply telling us here that all that is about to happen was just the beginning of so great a salvation when God said, "Behold, I will do a new thing."