

## A New and Glorious Thing (part 2)

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, the 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.

Last Sunday we noted how God here assures His elect that He will make a way. Even in a more encouraging sense He tells them that even the captivity itself is but the beginning of this glorious work. He does this by assuring them that He is going to do a new thing and in so doing He will make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Even the beast of the field and the jackals, which I understood to speak of pagan Kings would indeed honor Him. Which of course Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus and Darius all fulfilled God's purpose and had to acknowledge that the God of Israel was greater than all the pagan gods. This morning we will continue this message by consider not only what new things God purposed to do but what new thing He did indeed bring to pass in our behalf.

A. What is God saying here when He says "*I am going to do a new thing*"?

1. God certainly does not mean that what He is about to bring to pass is new to Him.

Acts 15:14 "*Known to God from eternity are all His works.*

2. The context here of this verse is most important and helpful to our understanding of what God here in Isaiah is saying that He is about to do.
    - a. James has proclaimed that God knows all His works from eternity as he is summing up the discussion that has taken place at the first recorded church council in Jerusalem
    - b. The debate and discussion has been about the Gentiles being added to the church and whether or not they need to be circumcised when they are brought into the church
    - c. The Judaizers (Ἰουδαϊζῶ) as they were called by Paul in Galatians 2:14, were requiring that the Gentiles adopt Jewish customs and rites of the Old Covenant in order to be saved
    - d. Paul and others were debating that since the church was now under a new covenant, that neither circumcision nor the adopting of the old Jewish rites were to be required of the new Gentile converts
    - e. It is the purpose of James to proclaim that this new thing, Gentiles being redeemed and granted faith in Jesus Christ is new to them but not new to God
  3. James here quotes from Amos 9:11-12 - '*After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these things.*' Acts 15:16-17
    - a. Now we can understand why Isaiah spoke words of comfort even when warning Israel that the temple would be destroyed.
    - b. Part of the mystery as Paul called it was that this new thing would include the bringing the Gentile nations to faith in Jesus Christ
- B. A quick review here of what we have already looked at in this Isaiah will be helpful here that we might once again see that a large part of Isaiah is about the coming Messiah and His work in the building of His Church upon Peter's proclamation – You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God
1. Here where God is saying, I'm going to do a new thing context alone tells us this is, without question, about God purposing to send His Elect Servant into the world and extending the offer of mercy not only to the natural seed of Abraham but to the Gentiles also
  2. Over and over again in passage after passage here in Isaiah God has proclaimed that His Servant, His Chosen One, His Elect will bring justice to the nations – note the plurality of nations

*Isa 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice.*

- a. What is meant by justice here?
  - (1) Justice can speak of judgment and punishment
  - (2) It can be said then that justice demands a trial based on true facts, a guilty verdict and punishment
- b. This new thing will provide a means of justice and deliverance for the elect of God
- c. In Isa 9:6 we are made to understand that in the government of this coming Messiah He will order it and establish it with judgment and justice
  - (1) This Elect Servant of God will not only by judgment bring justice to all men on the day of judgment but He will provide a means of justice whereby He may deliver the chosen of the Father from judgment

- (2) This was explained to us in Isaiah chapter 53 where we read that this One who will be born of a virgin and therefore sinless, God will lay on Him, this Servant of God, our guilt

*Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

- (3) This one will be led to the slaughter as a Lamb, and will made an offering for sin
- (4) In this manner He will justify many, that is, He will pay the penalty of their sin that both justice and mercy can be found in Him by all who come in repentance before God and faith in Jesus Christ.

d. It is in this manner He will provide salvation to both Jew and Gentile alike, in this manner a “new thing” will be brought to pass in that the Old Covenant will be fulfilled and under the new covenant this message of light and hope will extend throughout the whole earth thus:

- (1) He will be a light to the nations and open blind eyes
- (2) He will deliver prisoners from the dungeon and from the dark prisons
- (3) He will give hearing to the deaf and sight to the blind
- (4) He will be a light to the Gentiles giving sight to the blind and liberation from their prison

3. When we read nations and Gentiles being spoken of in Isaiah over and over again it becomes quite clear that the Book of Isaiah is about Jesus Christ and His church

- a. About the types and shadows of the temple, of animal sacrifices coming to an end
- b. Isaiah is writing about a coming new covenant and we rejoice that even the detailed descriptions of our salvation has been made quite clear

C. Thus this “new thing” is the provision of a means of salvation and the establishing of the Church in a New Covenant

1. Where the Lord’s Christ will send forth His disciples into all the world to proclaim this good news

- a. And there will be that glorious day when “a great multitude which no one can number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, will stand before the throne and before the Lamb,
- b. They will be clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Rev 7:9-10
- c. And who are these? "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

CONCLUSION: Now let me ask - Is this not a great thing never before accomplished?

Does that not make you want to cry out this morning; Thank you Father for sending your Son into the World not to condemn us but to redeem us

Thank you Father for sending Him into the world that you might place upon Him our iniquity

Thank you for your great love for us whereby you permitted Him to be wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; indeed we saw Him stricken, and smitten by your in our place

Because you placed upon Him the chastisement for our peace, making possible that by His stripes we have been healed. Isa 53:4-5

Let us humbly add, thank you dear Jesus for leaving the glories of heaven above and coming down to earth, becoming man that you might bear the wrath of God in our place

It is as if Jesus said – amazed at my miracles, greater things than these you will do

Truly, salvation through the foolishness of preaching and the full fulfillment of God’s great plan of salvation is a new thing that, without question, makes all the miracles of God recorded for us throughout the whole of scripture seem to be nothing in comparison

There is no greater miracle than when one is converted for one is raised from a totally dead spiritual state to become a new creation in Christ Jesus.

So much here to rejoice over – little wonder Isaiah closes with these words of God Himself proclaiming, “This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise.” Isa 43:21