

When people ask me if I would like to live in any past period, my immediate answer is “No.” I like living now. I like modern medicine. I am accustomed to our world’s amenities, technology, and conveniences.

Don’t get me wrong, as a history enthusiast, I dabble in nostalgia. But while we may enjoy daydreaming about the past, the past often appears brighter in the rearview mirror.

In Isaiah 43, the people of God were living in Babylonian captivity. The temple was destroyed, their friends and family were uprooted, and the people mourned the loss of lives and homes. We hear their lament in Psalm 137:1, “by the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down, and there we wept when we remembered Zion.” Who would not ask if there was hope?

Into their disillusionment, God speaks prophetic words for the future. The Lord says, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing...” (Isaiah 43:18-19). Almighty God tells the people of faith to have confidence in the One who worked mightily and miraculously in the past because God could and would act again. The former times were critical—God’s people experienced first-hand the Lord’s liberating and redemptive work in the Exodus. The great “I AM who I AM” (Exodus 3:14) assured the people that **God’s new thing would eclipse the old and redefine it globally.** If the Lord Almighty can save a people out of Egypt, can God rescue all people among the nations? God showed the faithful that their Savior was alive, active, capable, and ready to rescue them again.

The people would once again be eyewitnesses of God’s salvation in their midst by testifying to the new life salvation brings in desert places, “now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19b). **What God did in the past would be seen again as redemption’s work burst forth with new life among them.** God spares nothing—not even Jesus Christ—to bring hope, love, redemption, and new life to people worldwide. Even the wild animals would benefit from God’s lavish loving grace.

The Lord would accomplish this saving work for one purpose: “the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise” (v. 21).

God has not completed the work of bringing hope, healing, liberation, and restoration to the people God loves “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” (Revelation 7:9). **If God is not done, can the church be done spreading the good news of God’s love among us?**

What mind-blowing miracles will God do in the future? How will my children and my children’s children be eyewitnesses to God’s saving actions? I want to be part of God’s ongoing work—I hope you do, too!



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