



SEE I AM
SEE, DOING
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NOW it SPRINGS
UP; DO YOU NOT?
PERCEIVE IT?
I AM MAKING
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STREAMS
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ISAIAH 43:19

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Isaiah 43:19

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

The prophet Isaiah is speaking to God's chosen people, the nation of Israel, stuck in captivity. The chapter begins with God reminding Israel that He is the only true God, the only hope for salvation and the only one who knows the future. Israel's past was full of amazing things only this God could do. He allowed them to pass through the Red Sea and not drown, sent manna from heaven to sustain them when they had no food at all and gifted them a portable temple where His holy presence would dwell among them. All of it simply amazing stuff.

BUT Israel's faith in what God had done was not doing anything to get them out of their current captivity. They needed something to give them a new hope and faith that God would come through yet again. Then the God who knows the future spoke these words to them in verses 18 and 19:

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Just to be clear, God DOES want us to remember His past faithfulness but if when we look back we only see our past mistakes and mess ups, we need to leave it there. The Israelites had a past of responding to God's good gifts with evil. Yet He still pursued. When we are looking back we can't look forward to what God has in store. It's something new! The focus of our eyes determines where we go. Hebrews 12:2 tells us exactly where our gaze needs to be, especially in the wastelands or wildernesses of our lives, "Fix your eyes on the author and perfecter of our faith." Jesus. Even He left the grave behind so why won't we?

We all have seasons in our lives where you either feel lost in a vast wilderness or in an empty wasteland. God is telling us He rescues and delivers. He makes a way and brings forth streams of His divine mercy in times when it seems there is no hope. We need to remind ourselves that with God in these places of life, there's hope because with God there is always hope. The question isn't what He has done but what is He doing and going to do right where we are.

The Lord asked the Israelites, "Can you perceive it?" Where are you looking? In the past? Forget the past. Look, I'm doing something new right now! This is a great reminder to us too. We need to be alert and aware and then be expectant!

What's before you in this season of life right now? What is God doing? Can YOU perceive it?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

● ○ ○ FORMOM

Summer has come and gone and now it's time for schedules and more rushing around. Maybe the summer was a time where you felt like you thrived or maybe the summer is full of places where you wish you could do over. Either way, God is working if we train ourselves to be alert and see Him at work and not dwelling on the past.

Can you perceive what He is doing in your life, in your heart after this summer?

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What kind of thoughts come to your mind when you think about the school year ahead?

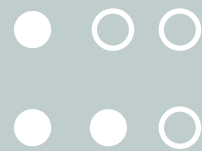
Don't let the past years and how they went get you down. Be confident that God will do a new thing in you and your school year if you keep your eyes open so you can see it. He's a creative God and each school year, month, day can be full of different opportunities for you to be part of His work increasing His kingdom. Where is He working right now? How can you participate?

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HIS WORDS | YOUR HEART



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