

Behold I Will Do A New Thing

Part of the Isaiah Series



Isaiah 43:18-19

Robert L. Watt
February 24, 2019

Behold I Will Do A New Thing

Text:

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
Nor consider the things of old.

¹⁹ 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.

Behold I Will Do A New Thing

Introduction:

- We are continuing in our series of the Immanuel prophecies in Isaiah, to see how God becomes one with us so that we can become one with Him.
- Today we will focus primarily on how God who was the Redeemer of Israel becomes my Redeemer. This is a new thing, not envisaged in the OT, but fulfilled when Immanuel came to this world to redeem His people as well as the Gentile nations (including us).

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Introduction (cont.):

- So what is redemption and why is this important to me today? Redemption means “to deliver by paying a price” (Rom. 3:24).
- Paul envisions that everyone, Jews and Gentiles, have sinned (fallen short of God’s standard for righteousness) and as a result we are like slaves to the power that controls us (Satan) and alienated from a righteous and holy God. We are powerless to save ourselves.
- God in His great love for us paid the price for our salvation and redemption, and that price was the blood of His own Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Redeemer!

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Introduction (cont.):

- Jesus Christ came to this world, our Immanuel, and bought us in the slave market of sin. Then He removed us from that place of sin and set us free.
- He gives us the option to willingly put ourselves back under his ownership, because He loved us so much and cares for us that we don’t want to leave Him. We voluntarily make Him the Lord and Savior of our lives.
- We declare this voluntary servitude by having our ear pierced by His awl (cf. Ex. 21:6; Psa. 40:6-8). It is literally “awl or nothing” for us! More about this later.

**AWL
OR
NOTHING**

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Introduction (cont.):

- The OT picture of redemption has its roots back in Genesis and Exodus.
- In Gen. 37-50 we have the history of Jacob (Israel) and how God spared his large family from the worldwide famine by sending Joseph to Egypt, placing him as second in command to the Pharaoh to gather up food to sustain them and allow the children of Israel to prosper and multiply in safety.
- All that changed after the death of Joseph and the good Pharaoh, who was replaced by a bad Pharaoh who enslaved the Israelites. They cried out to God and He sent them Moses as their deliverer.

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Introduction (cont.):

- God redeemed His people in His capacity as Jehovah LORD—the covenant-keeping God (see Ex. 6:1-8).
- God made a covenant with Abraham and He promised him and his descendants the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:1-3). This covenant was repeated to his son Isaac (Gen. 26:3-5) and to his son Jacob (Israel) (Gen. 28:3-4). But now the children of Israel were slaves in Egypt, not in the Promised Land (Ex. 1:8-14).
- Moses was born and miraculously preserved (Ex. 2), and then God called Moses at the burning bush to deliver and redeem the children of Israel (Ex. 3:1-12).

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Introduction (cont.):

- God used 10 plagues on Egypt until Pharaoh let the children of Israel go (Ex. 5-14).
- The last plague was the death of all the first-born in Egypt, but the children of Israel were spared by the death and shed blood of the Passover lamb (Ex. 12:1-13).
- Thus the Passover celebration was instituted each year as a memorial of redemption (Gen. 12:14-28).
- This celebration continued right up to the night before Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb, was slain at Calvary to redeem all of mankind for their sins!
- To this day we all celebrate this as the Lord's Supper.

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Body of Lesson:

- In Isaiah 43:1-17, Isaiah draws heavily on this history of the children of Israel and how they were redeemed as a nation from slavery in Egypt and restored to their Promised Land.
- We can't take the time to review all the events following their miraculous deliverance that night from Egypt, the exodus journey to cross the Red Sea on dry land (and the drowning of Pharaoh and all his army and chariots), the giving of the law and the 40 years wandering in the wilderness of Sinai, the death of Moses, the miraculous crossing of the River Jordan under the leadership of Joshua, and the final conquering of the Promised Land.

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Summary of Isaiah 43:1-17 for context:

- Old thing from the OT history—look at the titles used: LORD, Creator, Redeemer, Comforter who is with us while passing through waters (Red Sea, Jordan) or fires (like Dan. 3:19-30), Holy One, and finally Savior (v. 1-3a).
- Redemption highlighted with restoration of the captives (v. 3b-7), even perhaps the future State of Israel (1948).
- Israel was to be God's witness to the world (v. 8-13).
- Like Pharaoh of old in Egypt, the King of Babylon will be destroyed. The promises made by Israel's Redeemer, Creator and King will surely be kept (v. 14-17).

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- The history of the children of Israel in the Promised Land over approximately the next 1000 years is tumultuous as well, with many ups and downs.
- The peak is the time of David and his son Solomon, but although the line of the seed of David (which would produce the Messiah, the ultimate Redeemer and Immanuel) was preserved, there would be a time of captivity for both the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) because of idolatry.
- Finally as prophesied by Isaiah, a remnant of the Jews would be restored and as we have already seen Jesus Christ would be born as our Immanuel—God with us.

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- As spectacular as all this history of the children of Israel was (and still is for modern day Jews), what about the Gentiles and rest of the world?
- The Jews were supposed to have been a light to the world, but they kept the light to themselves. The good news of God's redemption was not shared with the heathen (us) and thus we remained lost and in the dark.
- But God loved the whole world that had need of redemption. He would do a new thing, even more spectacular and redeem both Jews and Gentiles in the same, but totally new way. This is the heart of NT history.
- The apostle Paul calls this a "mystery"—Jews and Gentiles together in His body/church (Eph. 3:1-11; Col. 1:24-27).

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- Although all the past blessings are incredible, the future will bring even greater blessing. God will do a new thing!
- He miraculously redeemed Israel from Babylonia captivity which would be the immediate fulfillment of the "new thing". They were in the Promised Land again when the Messiah, Immanuel, was born.
- Another miracle was the return of the displaced Jews to the modern State of Israel in 1948. But all of this was primarily for the Jews—the Children of Israel.
- The Redeemer of Israel is now our Redeemer—He is my Redeemer! This is the ultimate fulfillment of the "new thing" from the NT that I want to emphasize now.

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Just like the children of Israel in Egypt (or in Babylon, or when they were dispersed throughout the world):

- I was not free—I was a slave to sin.
- I was separated from a holy God.
- I could do nothing to redeem myself—to pay the penalty for my sins.
- I was dead...But God... (Eph. 2:1-10)
- God loved me (John 3:16).
- God sent His Son to be my Immanuel—God with us/me (Matt. 1:23)!

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- God was born to die—Christ the Passover lamb was sacrificed/slain for me (1 Cor. 5:7b).
- God paid the ultimate price to redeem me (1 Pet. 1:18-19)
- But to do what? Leave me in the slave market of sin?
- No, He takes us out...to bring us in to His promised land.
- He gives us a hope and future (Jer. 29:11).
- He gave us His Holy Spirit to be our Immanuel—God with us/me; God is within us/me!
- He is not only my Redeemer, but He is my Savior and He is my LORD! (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- He desires us to be in a voluntary relationship of love to Him as our LORD—"its awl or nothing"!

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1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

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1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?
²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

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Why?

- Do you need deliverance by a Savior and Redeemer from your “Egypt” or “Babylon”— the place you find yourself in as a result of your being a slave to sin and Satan?
- Do you need His touch? The Creator is always in creation mode. He can change every circumstance He touches.
- Do you need help in facing impossible situations like crossing seas or flooded rivers or needing deliverance from a fiery situation?
- Do you need rivers of living water to quench your thirst in your spiritual desert? (cf. John 4:10-14)
- Do you need direction to find a way in the wilderness or in the barrenness and sameness of your life?

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*Behold, I am doing a new thing;
Now it springs forth,
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.*

Isaiah 43:19

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- The “new thing” is that God wants to restore and enjoy a personal relationship with us, starting now and going on forever (eternity).
- He fell in love with us (even while we were still sinners!) so that we would fall in love with Him! He is our Redeemer and our best Friend forever (BFF)!
- Don't waste your time on vain or trivial pursuits—starting now pursue your intimate relationship with your Creator, your Redeemer, your King, and your Immanuel!
- As you do this you will find yourself becoming more and more like Jesus Christ, God's Son and your Immanuel, and fulfilling the purpose for which you were redeemed!

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Application:

Four life-changing questions:

1. Are you still a slave to sin and your master Satan?
2. Are you aware that God loves you and paid the price to redeem you to be His treasured possession?
3. Are you willing to accept His Lordship over your life?
4. Are you enjoying the new thing God is doing in you to make you like His Son?