

“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.” Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV

lectio // Isaiah 43:16-21

This chapter in Isaiah becomes another one of those outbursts of hope. It is wise council for anyone that's come through a difficult season in their life, any leader who dwells on past mistakes and wonders if they've got what it takes to get people where they should be and want to be. It's a wonderful New Year, new you verse for 2021. Because God is always doing a NEW thing! God is always working in creative ways and never needs to repeat himself on how he does it. God's system of regularity is creativity! I come up with ways to make a mundane task more bearable, faster and more efficient. God just comes up with something new and better each time. And each time, I scratch my head and think, "How did God do that?" No two miracles the same, no healings the same, no victories in battle the same. Even God's NEW is always different and better at the same time. And, if there's doubt to how he does it, Isaiah tells us, God just creates a path or a river out of nothing and nowhere! God made a rock into a drinking fountain to give millions of drinks to the Israelites wandering in the desert! That rock ended up producing trillions of gallons of water over the years. I wouldn't be surprised if it's still pumping out water today :) So God's newness isn't just a flashy trick, it's sustainable.

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pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I read Isaiah's bold proclamation of hope and realize that's who you are and what you do all the time. You continue to surprise me by constantly creating new. And if there was, somehow a barrier or detour, you would just create a whole new plan and a whole new way of doing it. This creates faith in me to realize that dead ends are not endings at all, just a moment to see you create a whole new plan. Thank you!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root