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### **Isaiah 43:18-19**

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. NRSV

### **Devotion**

Isaiah's message does not precisely describe the "new thing" God is going to do. But I'm in! We all need something new and life giving these days. The message of hope given centuries ago reflects God's work in the world. God's nature is to do new things in new ways that are better than anything we could imagine.

The words in Isaiah were written to the people of Judah. They were in exile in Babylon. They were far from things they knew. They were far from ways of being that made their lives full. They were far from worshiping the way they wanted to worship. Sound familiar?

Things seemed hopeless for the faithful in Babylon. There was certainly no road back to Jerusalem yet. There was no Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3 re-opening plan. For most, the exile seemed permanent.

Then, Isaiah brings this beautiful, poetic message of hope. God is about to do a new thing. Look hard. Listen hard. Pray hard. The new thing is just on the horizon. God will make a way in the desert wasteland!

Hang onto God's promise that new things and a road in the wilderness is just around the corner. God has a habit of forming the new and wonderful out of nothing and wastelands. God is faithful. Although we have experienced pain and loss, hope shines brightly.

**See Prayer**



**Prayer**

Open unto me - light for my darkness. Open unto me - courage for me fear.

Open unto me - hope for my despair. Open unto me - peace for my turmoil.

Open unto me - joy for my sorrow. Open unto me - wisdom for my confusion.

Open unto me - forgiveness for my sins. Open unto me - love for my hates.

Open unto me - Thy Self for my self. Open unto me - Lord, Lord open unto me! Amen

Howard Thurman (1900-1981)

Rev. Jonathan Mitchell

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