

Isaiah 43:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

Analysis

The surprising command: 'Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.' After emphasizing the Exodus, God says don't dwell there! The Hebrew 'zakar' (remember) in negative form suggests not fixating on past mercies when greater works are coming.

Historical Context

This doesn't deny the Exodus's importance but says God's coming work (return from Babylon, ultimately Messiah's redemption) will so exceed past deliverances that they'll pale in comparison—a greater Exodus is coming.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How can dwelling on past blessings actually hinder anticipation of greater works God plans?
2. What past experiences might you need to move beyond to embrace God's new work?

Interlinear Text

אֶל	תִּזְכֶּר	וְתִּרְאֶשֶׁן	זֶה	אֶל	לֹא	קָרְבָּנָה	תִּתְהַבֵּן
H408	Remember	ye not the former things	H7223	the things of old	H6931	H408	neither consider

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 65:17 (Parallel theme): For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

2 Corinthians 3:10 (Parallel theme): For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

Isaiah 46:9 (Parallel theme): Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

1 Chronicles 16:12 (Parallel theme): Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

Deuteronomy 8:2 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Deuteronomy 7:18 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;