

Isaiah 43:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Analysis

Behold, I will do a new thing (הַשְׁׁמַע, chadashah)—not merely recent, but unprecedented in quality and character. God announces a redemption surpassing even the Exodus. **Now it shall spring forth** (וְתַּצְאַת, titsmach)—the verb used of vegetation sprouting, suggesting organic, irresistible life breaking through death.

Shall ye not know it? challenges Israel to recognize God's new work. The promise **a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert** (בְּשָׁמְדִין, neharot bayeshimon) reverses the Exodus pattern—where Moses struck rock for water, now rivers flow perpetually. This prophesies both the return from Babylonian exile and, ultimately, the new covenant era when the Spirit flows like rivers (John 7:38-39) and Christ becomes the Way (John 14:6) through barren human religion.

Historical Context

Isaiah ministered 700 years before Christ, prophesying both the Babylonian exile and restoration (539 BC). The 'new thing' initially meant the return under Cyrus through the Arabian desert, but Isaiah repeatedly layers meanings—ultimately pointing to Messiah's new creation work. Early church fathers saw this verse as quintessentially Messianic.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to make 'rivers in the desert' speak to areas of spiritual barrenness in your life?
2. What 'new thing' has God done in Christ that surpasses even the greatest Old Testament deliverances?

Interlinear Text

בָּל וְ תָצַדְתָּ חַדְשָׁה עַת הַנְּבֵן יְעַשְׂה הַנְּבֵן יְהִי

H2005 Behold I will do a new thing H6258 now it shall spring forth H3808

H6213

H2319

H6779

בְּיַשְׁמָן וְיַם בְּמִדְבָּר אֵת מִתְּדֻעַ וְאֶת

shall ye not know it I will even make in the wilderness a way in the desert

H3045

H637

H7760

H4057

H1870

H3452

גָּבָרָות:

and rivers

H5104

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 48:6 (Parallel theme): Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them.

Isaiah 42:9 (Parallel theme): Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Revelation 21:5 (Parallel theme): And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Isaiah 41:18 (Parallel theme): I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Jeremiah 31:22 (Parallel theme): How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.

Exodus 17:6 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Deuteronomy 8:15 (Parallel theme): Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

Psalms 105:41 (Parallel theme): He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river.

Numbers 20:11 (Parallel theme): And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.