

# Isaiah 48:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it?** This verse marks a pivotal shift in God's prophetic discourse through Isaiah. The Hebrew verb *shama'ta* (שָׁמַעְתָּ, "you have heard") implies not merely auditory reception but experiential knowledge—Israel has witnessed God's predictions come to pass. The imperative "see" (*chazeh*, חֲזֵה) calls for careful observation and reflection on fulfilled prophecy.

The phrase "new things" (*chadashot*, חֲדָשִׁים) refers to fresh revelations about the coming Messiah and the nature of redemption that transcend mere political deliverance. These are "hidden things" (*netzurot*, נִצְרוֹת), mysteries previously concealed in God's eternal counsel but now being unveiled. The rhetorical question "will not ye declare it?" challenges Israel to become witnesses, testifying to God's faithfulness in both past fulfillments and future promises.

This verse establishes the principle that fulfilled prophecy authenticates divine revelation and obligates God's people to proclamation. The progression from hearing to seeing to declaring mirrors the Christian witness: we hear God's word, observe His faithfulness, and proclaim truth to others. God reveals hidden things not for speculation but for transformation and testimony.

## Historical Context

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Isaiah prophesied during a critical period (740-686 BC) when Judah faced threats from Assyria and internal spiritual decline. Chapters 40-48 contain prophecies about Babylon's future conquest and subsequent deliverance through Cyrus the Persian—events that would occur 150 years later. This specific verse comes near the end of a section emphasizing God's ability to predict and fulfill prophecy, distinguishing Him from false gods and idols.

The historical context involves God demonstrating His sovereignty through predictive prophecy. By the time of the Babylonian exile (586 BC), many of Isaiah's earlier predictions had been fulfilled, validating his prophetic authority. The "new things" included the surprising prophecy that a pagan king (Cyrus) would be God's instrument for Israel's restoration—a radical departure from expectations.

For the exiled Jews who would later read these words in Babylon, this passage provided crucial encouragement: the same God who predicted their captivity had also promised their restoration. The call to "declare it" challenged them to maintain faith and bear witness to God's sovereignty even in displacement.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's fulfillment of past prophecies strengthen our confidence in His unfulfilled promises?
2. What "new things" has God revealed to you that you should be declaring to others?
3. How can we better observe and testify to God's faithfulness in our generation?
4. What prevents us from declaring the truths God has shown us?

5. How does this verse challenge our tendency to keep faith private rather than public?

## Interlinear Text

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הַשְׁמַעְתָּ יְיָ	רְאֵה	כָּל־הָ	אֵת־	כָּל־וְאֵלֵּי	תִּגְדֹּל
<b>Thou hast heard</b>	<b>see</b>	H3605	H859	H3808	<b>all this and will not ye declare</b>
H8085	H2372				H5046
הַשְׁמַעְתָּ יְיָ	דְּבָרִים	מֵעַתָּה	וְנִסְתָּרֹת	אֵלֵּי	
<b>Thou hast heard</b>	<b>thee new things</b>	<b>from this time</b>	<b>even hidden things</b>	H3808	
H8085	H2319	H6258	H5341		
וְלֹא־	יָדָעְתָּ:				
<b>and thou didst not know</b>					
	H3045				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 4:1** (Parallel theme): After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

**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.

**Isaiah 43:19** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Matthew 10:27** (Parallel theme): What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.