

I. Introduction

As a word of comfort from God to the Israelites who were discouraged during the Babylonian exile, He reminds them of the miracle of parting the Red Sea (verses 16-17) and promises that He will now perform an even greater and more marvelous “new Exodus”—that is, the return from exile and spiritual restoration.

At times, we lose hope because we are bound by the struggles of our community or our painful memories. However, God tells us, “Do not remember the former things.” This does not mean ignoring the past, but rather an invitation of hope to fix our eyes on the “new thing” that God—who is far greater than our past pain—will do for us.

II. Body

1) “Do not remember the former things” (v.18):

The difficulties of a community can trap us in a spiritual wilderness. However, faith does not focus on our weaknesses, but looks to God’s mercy that cleanses us. Instead of blaming one another while bound by past wounds, let us make a decision of faith, expecting God’s hand that will renew us.

2) “A way in the wilderness, streams in the desert” (vv.19-20):

A new vision does not arise because our circumstances improve, but begins with God’s promise. God will once again cause the living water of the gospel to flow in a spiritually thirsty community. Even in realities that seem impossible (like a desert), let us proclaim in faith that God Himself will make a path where the next generation can freely dream and grow.

3) “That they might declare My praise” (v.21):

God’s purpose in restoring us is clear: worship and mission. Our direction—as well as that of the Church in this land—is for our children to rise as a generation that inherits the devotion of their parents and sings God’s glory, and for the sound of that praise to go beyond the walls of our church and reach all nations.

III. Conclusion

Let us believe that God has begun a new work, build up the next generation with the gospel, and become a church that moves forward as a missional community that brings healing to the nations.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick.” (Isaiah 43:16-17)

**Bible
Reading**

3/30(Mon)	3/31(Tue)	4/1(Wed)	4/2(Thur)	4/3(Fri)	4/4(Sat)	4/5(Sun)
Judges 9-11	Judges 12-14	Judges 15-16	Judges 17-19	Judges 20-21	Ruth 1-4	1 Samuel 1-2

QT

Quiet Time Passage

3/30(Mon)	3/31(Tue)	4/1(Wed)	4/2(Thur)	4/3(Fri)	4/4(Sat)	4/5(Sun)
Matthew 26:57-68	Matthew 26:69-75	Matthew 27:1-26	Matthew 27:27-44	Matthew 27:45-56	Matthew 27:57-66	Matthew 28:1-10

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Through today’s sermon, instead of focusing on past painful memories or the difficulties of the community, what personal hope do you have for the new things God will begin in our church? Share with one another.

2. Like the promise, “He makes a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert,” what is a “statement of faith” that you need to newly hold onto, trusting in God’s sovereignty even in the uncertain situations of your life or church?

3. In order for our church to become a “praising community” that raises the next generation and fulfills the mission of evangelism, what specific commitment (such as intercessory prayer, words of encouragement, etc.) can you practice in your small group or church? Share together.