

Don't Dwell on the Past (Isaiah 43:16-21)

Introduction: *It's human nature to dwell on the past...*

I. GOD TELLS US TO **REMEMBER NOT THE FORMER THINGS** (v.18)

- A. He tells the people of Israel and us: ***Behold, I am doing a new thing!*** (v.19)
- B. In Babylonian exile, Israel thought all they could hold onto was the past
- C. We too often yearn for “the good old days”
- D. Israel's good old days were the days of the exodus from Egypt, but God tells them He has something even better in store for them (v.19)
- E. It is time for us to let go of the past (good & bad) and to look for God's future (Jeremiah 29:11)

II. NOT DWELLING ON THE PAST BUT FOCUSING ON GOD'S FUTURE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES

- A. Just ask *Clara Barton*, the woman who started *The Red Cross*
- B. Just ask *Robert E. Lee*, the American civil war general
- C. What good is being accomplished by your “dwelling on the past”, especially the bad ? (vv.18-19; Philippians 3:13)
- D. Did you know that God no longer dwells on your past sins?
 1. ***There is now no condemnation*** (Romans 8:1)
 2. ***He remembers your sins no more*** (Isaiah 43:25)
 3. ***Your sins are removed as far as the east is from the west*** (Psalm 103:12)
 4. ***Your scarlet sins are now as white as snow***
(Isaiah 1:18)

Conclusion: *DO NOT “remember the duck”... instead live in the freedom of God's future!*