



It Springs Up NEW!

March 21st, 2010

Isaiah 43

Even though there remains a threat of snow in NE Ohio until mid-May, a quick look around will tell you that Spring is on it's way. Not only are the Crocus coming up and the birds beginning to build nests, but farmers are preparing their seedlings for the field-plantings to come. All that is exciting. It means more sunshine and less cloud cover (we pray). It means a landscape going from gray to green, and, it means our spirits being lifted up by the joy of the creation around us. If you're like me, you look forward to Spring and Summer and the opportunity to revel in the newness of it all.

In our text today, God is doing something new. In fact, the rich imagery from the prophet Isaiah uses the word picture of a seedling springing forth from the bleakness of winter. It is even affirmed with the powerful phrase, "You cannot miss it!" How could we? When God is in, it is a powerful experience, even more powerful than Spring "springing" forth! However, even in our present circumstances, Isaiah wants us to remember a few things about the newness of God. Author J. Alec Motyer writes:

- The past can teach but it must not bind. The gaze must be ever forward to what God will yet do. It is not that the Lord would go back on or rewrite the "exodus" revelation, but that the Lord's people should live in the present reality of their God.
- The "new thing" is always deliverance from sin, a deliverance patterned on the Exodus where God does the "freeing" of his people.
- The coming events are so powerful, like the coming of Spring, you won't miss it.

What "new thing" are you hoping for in your life today? What "new thing" would you like to see happen in our community?

**⁵He who was seated on the throne said,
"I am making everything new!" —Jesus**

Revelation 21:5