

WORD OF LIFE
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“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing.” (Is 43:18-19)

The Israelites were in exile in Babylon. They looked back with nostalgia, remembering the glorious times when God intervened with his power and freed their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. They were tempted to think: God will not send us another Moses; he will never again work the great wonders of the past; we will have to stay in this foreign land forever.

In 539 B.C., however, Cyrus, King of Persia, freed the chosen people whose return to the Promised Land was even more extraordinary than the exodus from Egypt. God never repeats himself! His love is capable of doing far greater things than anything he did in the past, things we can't even imagine. This is why he puts this invitation on the lips of the prophet Isaiah:

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing.”

At the end of his book, Isaiah announced a brighter future than ever before: the creation of new heavens and a new earth. God will do something so great that *“the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.”*¹

Referring to Isaiah's words, the apostle Paul also announced what was an unimaginable intervention of God in our history. God made all humanity new through the death and resurrection of Jesus, “recreating” all men and women for a new life in his Son.² Then, in the Book of Revelation, God announced that the whole universe would also be totally renewed at the end of time: *“See, I am making all things new.”*³ The words of Isaiah run through the whole Bible and still have something to say to us today:

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1 Is 65:17.

2 See 2 Cor 5:17.

3 Rev 21:5.

We are that “*new thing*,” the “new creation” that God generated. Through his Son, whom we receive by living his words, and through all his gifts, he has renewed our very being and all our actions. Now it is Jesus himself who lives and works in us. He is the one who renews our relationships with others - in the family, at school, at work... He is the one who, through us, regenerates life in every aspect of society - culture, entertainment, healthcare, economics, politics... in other words, in every sector of life in which we are engaged. We no longer think of the past or miss the good things we once had or cry over our failures, because we strongly believe that God is at work and will continue bringing about “new things.”

God always offers us the opportunity to begin again. He frees us from all the burdens of the past with all that might condition us. Life is simplified and becomes lighter, purer, fresher. Forgetting the past like Paul, we, too, will be free to run towards Christ, towards the fullness of life and joy.⁴

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How should we live this Word of Life? Let’s try to carry out with love whatever God wants from us in every moment of the day, whether we are studying, working, taking care of the children, praying or playing... This means cutting away anything that is not God’s will for us in that moment. Then we will be open to all that God wants to do in us and around us, ready to welcome the particular grace he always provides for each moment.

By living like this, by offering each action to God and telling him explicitly, “This is for you,” Jesus, living in us, will always accomplish works that remain.

4 Phil 3:13-14.