

**Listening for God's "New Normal"**  
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We are anticipating a 'new normal.' We might soon be free from masks and social distancing, but what are we going to be free for? How might a word from the prophet Isaiah help us figure out how *our* new normal can be informed by *God's* new normal? And how might that reflect what God does for and among God's people for the good of the world God loves?

**Isaiah 43:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> Thus has said the Lord,

the one redeeming you, **the Holy One** of Israel:

“For your sake I have sent to Babylon  
and I will throw down all the barred gates,  
and the Chaldeans will wail with lamentation.

<sup>15</sup> I am the Lord, **your Holy One**,

the one creating Israel, your king.”

<sup>16</sup> Thus has said the Lord,

the one giving a way in the sea,  
and **in turbulent waters** a pathway,

<sup>17</sup> the one leading out chariot and horse,

army and warrior together,  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished,  
like a wick they go out:

<sup>18</sup> “Do not remember the former things,  
and the ancient things do not consider.

<sup>19</sup> LOOK! **I am making** a new thing,

now it springs up,  
do you not realize it?

Indeed, **I make in the wilderness a way**,  
**in the desert, rivers**.

<sup>20</sup> The animals of the wilds will honour me,

the jackals and the ostriches,  
For I give **in the wilderness waters**,  
**rivers in the desert**,

to give drink to my chosen people,

<sup>21</sup> this people whom **I formed** for myself,  
my praise they will proclaim.”