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“Putting Our Past in Its Place”

If I don't let my past die, it won't let me live.

Isaiah 43:15–21 (NIV)

I am the Lord, your Holy One,
Israel's Creator, your King.”

¹⁶ This is what the Lord says—
he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,

¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

¹⁸ “Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

²⁰ The wild animals honor me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,

to give drink to my people, my chosen,

²¹ the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.

1. Remember God's faithfulness in your failures and His sovereignty over your successes.

- Our past and our problems often seem so large in our present because our view of God has become too small.
- A bigger view of God keeps us tethered to His plan.

2. Be mindful of the past without being defined by it.

Colossians 3:3-4 (NIV)

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- **P** — Place it under God's authority.
- **A** — Assess your response.
- **S** — Speak what is true in Christ.
- **T** — Take the next faithful step.

Philippians 3:13-15 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10a (NIV)

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.

3. Focus less on what's old and more on what's new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

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Revelation 21:1-5 (NIV)

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new! "Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

- Jesus died for your past so that you can live in His future.