**Understanding the Sovereignty of God**

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**Isaiah 43:18-19**

***Do not remember the former things nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.***

**Lesson Aim: We must trust and believe in the sovereignty of God so that our unwanted past experiences become steppingstones to our promised future.**

**Introduction:**

Isaiah was God’s chosen Prophet. God chose Isaiah to warn the children of Israel of the coming judgment because of their continued sin. But even when God was pronouncing judgement, God still sent words of encouragement and promises of victory. God told Isaiah the Prophet to remind the children of Israel about their experience at the red sea when they were escaping from Pharaoh’s Army in Ex.14.

**1.Don’t allow your past to hinder your future: (vs.18)**

***“Do not remember the former things nor consider the things of old.”***

Note:

1. It’s nothing wrong with thinking about the past, but don’t let the unwanted stuff from your past bind you and hinder your promising future.
2. The unwanted things in the past can become steppingstones to our future.
3. God have the ability and authority to make our latter days greater than our past days.

**2.God offers more in your future than what was revealed in your past: (vs.19)**

***“Behold, I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”***

Note:

1. We must remember that the Lord always have greater things in store for us.
2. The Lord offers more in our future than what is revealed in the past.
3. Because of God’s divine **sovereignty**, we can stand firm in confidence and faith knowing that God is in control.

Wycliff Bible Dictionary describes God’s sovereignty as ***“the absolute, irresistible, infinite, unconditional exercise of God’s self-will over every area of His creation. God is the disposer of all events through out both time and eternity. He is the sustainer and creator of all that exist. (Eph.1:11; Psl.100:3). There is nothing that lies outside of God’s sovereignty including the evil acts of men. God does not approve the evil acts but permits, governs, and uses them for His own purpose and His glory.”***

The pressures of life are like a hungry mosquito. We love to sit on the porch on a nice day. But when night begin to fall, mosquitoes begin to come out. It does not matter how much spray we put on, they always seem to find us and find spot on us to suck our blood. Sometimes the issues of life sucks every ounce of our strength and faith. But when you begin to understand and accept the sovereignty of God, we can bare the attacks on our lives. Because we know that inspite of the situation, we serve a loving and powerful God who is in control of everything. All things will work together for good according to His purpose in Christ Jesus. We will experience the loving touches of the Master Craftsman’s hands as He perfects what His will and His plan for our lives. All for the purpose of growing us in Him and glorifying Him.

I like what Priscilla Shire said in her book, “Life Interrupted”. She said, when things happen in our lives that are unwanted and unexpected; we should change our perspective on how we view them. Try to see them as Divine Interventions instead of Unwanted Interruptions.

Quote: “Look inward and be depressed. Look outward and be distressed. Look upward and be blessed.”