

# BIBLE STUDY ON MISSION

**SCRIPTURE** | Isaiah 43:18-21

**SUPPORTING TEXT** | Philippians 1:6

**SUGGESTED TITLE** | “With God, the best is yet to come”

**THEME** | We can honor our history and past experiences as evidence of God’s presence and look forward to a future filled with promises of God’s praise.

**QUESTION** | When was the golden age of your congregation? When would the people set the dial on the time machine if the local church could go back in time? “The church was best when...” [Tell positive stories of your church’s past. You may wish to ask older members to testify about experiences of the Lord.] What if our “best years” are not behind us but ahead of us?

**TEXT** | In Isaiah 43, the people believed their best times were behind them. Tradition and storytelling became a way of keeping the “golden age” of the first temple period alive when “God was with us.”

However, the Exodus Lord (“I AM”) was not satisfied with living with past glories but promised to work contemporaneously to bring redemption to God’s people among the nations.

How can our past experiences of God’s saving work serve as testimony for God’s future work? How can we—and our children’s children—join God’s work to bring God’s name praise and glory in a future God is forming?



of God’s powerful rescue of the people.

**POINT 2** | God invites the people to imagine a better future after their return from Babylonian exile—“The Future is as Bright as the Promises of God” (Adoniram Judson).

**POINT 3** | v. 19: The people will be eyewitnesses who will enjoy and tell others of God’s redemptive work.

**POINT 4** | v. 20-21: With new life (water in the desert), the people of God will praise God’s name among the nations.

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