



HOPE STARTS HERE — LOOK AHEAD

Ages 18-29: 49%
Ages 30-49: 31%
Ages 50+: 21%

Isaiah invites us to reflect on, wrestle with and release those things from the past that keep us captive in order that we might walk into the new thing God is doing.

Proto-Isaiah, chapters 1-39

Deutero-Isaiah, chapters 40-55

Trito-Isaiah, chapters 56-66

Isaiah 40:1 NIV: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.

Speak to the heart: to move someone who might be paralyzed by circumstances to take heart and believe.

Isaiah 40:28-29, 31 NIV: Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

Problems and pain tend to blind us.

Isaiah 40:31 NIV: They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Optimism ≠ Hope

Isaiah 40:28-29 NIV: He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Hope has a job. It's not passive—it pulls. Like tension in a rope, it stretches us toward the future we can't yet see.

Hope in Hebrew means to "wait for, hope for, to gather together or bind (by twisting) together as one would with a rope".

"A future different from the present is possible, and I have some path toward it."

Isaiah 43:15: ¹⁵I am the Lord, your Holy One, Israel's Creator, your King."

Isaiah 43:16-17 NIV: 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:

Isaiah 43:18: ¹⁸ "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

"Who hopes? Those who enter their grief, suffering, and oppression, who bring it to speech, who publicly process it and move through and beyond." – Walter Bruggemann

Hope holds in tension the pain of the present, without giving the present moment the final word.

We limit God when we expect him to do what he has done in the past.

Isaiah 43:19: 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.

"Hope defies rationality because it is anchored in a creative God." - Yoel Bin-Nun and Benjamin Lau

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

1 Peter 1:3-5 NIV: "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..."

Revelation 21:5 NIV: "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'"

Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"

Hope looks back—but doesn't live there.

Hope looks forward—it brings new life.

What "former thing" is God asking you to stop dwelling on so you can step into what He's doing next?

"Lord, help me see the new thing You are doing in me, around me, and through me."

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.