Friday Reflections

Behold, I am doing a new thing now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness. -- Isaiah 43:19

Ready for something new? For most of us, the year 2020 will go down as one of the most bizarre, surprising, and tragic years in history. It's been tough. And many of us might have found ourselves asking Where is God in the middle of this? The answer? Right in the middle of this! He never left.

When Isaiah the prophet was told these words, his people were experiencing tough times as well—threats from foreign invaders, corruption in the government, and a disregard for the things of God. And yet, God had not forgotten his people. And in fact, earlier in this chapter, God tells Isaiah: *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.*

As we head into the new year, many of the problems we are facing will follow us. But God holds out hope for his people. Throughout history, men and women who love the Lord have faced great difficulties. Jesus himself said that in this world we would have tribulation—but that we should be of good cheer because he overcame the world for us.

Only God knows what lies ahead of us in 2021. But one thing is certain—we aren't going into it blindly. If we trust God, he will do a new thing in our lives. Whether you are living in a healthcare facility, driving a truck, working on the front lines of the COVID-19 war, teaching, or running a small business, rest assured that **God will carry us through and promises He wants to do a new thing in our lives.**

Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of a new year and for your promise to take us to new places. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

- Dr. Doug Shafer, M.Div., D. Min. Caraday Chaplain

