



**NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH**

*Connecting people with God  
within authentic community  
where all are welcome.*

Word Notes: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Tim Anderson – Moving Forward

**Key Text: Exodus 14:10-29; Isaiah 43:16-19**

Israel were facing a trial, their immediate response was to look back at “the good times”, forgetting just how bad they were, but the Lord wanted them to look forward and see not the obstacles but His power. In life it’s likely that we are either facing a trial, in the middle of one or passed through and experiencing peace before the next. That could sound a bit depressing but remember – the Lord has overcome the world! (John 16:33).

The Lord was ready to do a mighty miracle, but Israel needed to take some action first. Standing still was the first thing – that is not running away or back to the past things but to trust in the Lord that he had brought them there for a reason and would make a way. Then instead of crying out to God Moses had to take action - stretch out his staff and the Lord parted the waters. Then the people had to get moving and walk through. Lastly the Lord hardened the hearts of their enemies so that they weren’t just turned back to fight another day but utterly destroyed, no further threat possible.

Isaiah reminds Israel of this much later on, telling them to forget the former things, don’t dwell on the past, the “good old days” for they are past but look – a new thing is coming! Are your eyes open for the new thing, are you expectant that the Lord can and will open a way in the desert?

**Study & Application**

Where are you right now – in a trial, seeing trials ahead or in a time of peace? What actions is the Lord asking you to take so he can move in your life?

What is the Lord speaking to you about at this time? What instructions does he have for you – to stand firm, to point the way for others or to get moving on the way he has prepared?

Are you one who always looks ahead, excited for the new things of God or are you uncomfortable in change, wishing for the old times? We all deal with change in different ways but all benefit from knowing we are moving ahead together, supported by others. Who could you be supporting, who are your close companions on the journey? Who can help you see the way opening in the desert rather than the barriers ahead or the enemies behind?

**Prayer**

Pray for each other in matters that arise from the discussion. Be encouragers, compassionate friends and passionate doers of the Word together.