“But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. The wild animals in the fields will thank me, the jackals and owls, too, for giving them water in the desert. Yes, I will make rivers in the dry wasteland so my chosen people can be refreshed. I have made Israel for myself, and they will someday honor me before the whole world.” Isaiah 43:18-21 (NLT)

How Do I Embrace New Things...

1) FORGET IT

But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. Isaiah 43:18 (NLT)

2) ANTICIPATE IT

But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. Isaiah 43:18-19 (NLT)

3) SEE IT

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. Isaiah 43:19 (NLT)

4) BUILD IT

See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. Isaiah 43:19 (NLT)
I want us to open our Bibles today to the 43rd chapter of the Book of Isaiah. We've been in a series called The Best is Yet to Come and I really hope you believe that for your life. I know sometimes when you get discouraged or disheartened that it's easy to not believe that, but every morning, the Bible says is new. The Bible tells us that God's mercies are new every morning. What God wants to do in your life is fresh and new and I want to talk to you today about how God can do new things in your life and new things in our church.

Maybe it's new things in your marriage or new things in your finances or new things in your heart, new things in your connectivity to Jesus Christ or just new things in general. God wants us to be people that walk in new things. I love new things. I love to go to the cleaners and to pick up my shirts and I'm a heavy starch guy. I feel like I want to get my money's worth. Pour it on there. I love to put on a fresh starched shirt. I love a new pair of Jordan's. I love to pick out movie tickets to the brand new movie that's coming out. I love fresh paint on the walls. I love things that are new.

More importantly, I love when God does new things in my life. God teaches me something I've never known before. When God takes me to places that were unexpected. The scripture reminds us today in Isaiah 43 that God is a God of new things. God is a God of new things. He's the God of new things. Our Shake the City Project is a great reminder that God is a God of new things, of new things. We're calling it the Shake the City Project because every time that Jesus shows up, things begin to shake and if you read the gospels, you find that where Jesus shows up, things begin to shake and the shaking is a good thing.

In Matthew, chapter 21, the scripture says when he entered Jerusalem and this is on Palm Sunday, the whole city was, say it with me, shaking, saying who is this and the crowds kept saying, "This is the prophet, Jesus of Nazareth", and that word, shaking, is the word, seismos and we get the word seismograph from that and a seismograph measures the tremors of the earth. In other words, the entire city of Jerusalem was turned upside down when Jesus showed up. We know that an earthquake happened when Jesus was crucified. We know that an earthquake happened, a seismos happened when Jesus rose from the grave and the stone was rolled away.

It's safe to say, when Jesus' presence is around, when Jesus is there, things begin to shake and so our prayer is that through the funds that we raise with the Shake the City Project, that God would use us to shake the city. Amen. That's what it's all about. We want the presence of Jesus to shake us so that we can shake our city. As I mentioned a minute ago, our church began with five people in our living room. If you've been here awhile, you may know our story. If you're kind of new, you probably just ... You may have assumed we've just been here forever. I don't know.

Five people in my living room. We had a little Bible study that began, that has developed into this movement and this group of people here today. Do you know what's funny? I was reflecting this week about our journey and appropriately so, I was reminded that shortly after
we moved into our house, I got a phone call from a pastor in Wheatridge and he said, "Ryan, I found your church". I said, "What are you talking about? What church? My church is Gena and I. My favorite verse is where two or more are gathered, you know. That's the church, right there". He said, "No, no, no, no. I've got a church building for you, man. I want you to meet me", and he gave me an address and he said, "Meet me there at this time and I'm going to show you your church". I was like, "Okay, whatever. I don't have anything else to do. I don't know anybody".

I showed up and guess what? We walked into this very room. This is the Fall of 2008. The pictures are not on the wall, the boxes are still packed. I'm still trying to figure out where King Sooper’s is, and all that. The pastor looked at me and he said, "Ryan, I believe this is your church. Do you think you could raise the money to buy it?" I about fell over. I was like, "You are crazy". He told me the price tag on it. I almost went into a conniption right there on the spot. It was unbelievable. I knew this was an amazing place, but it just seemed so overwhelming.

A few months later, a Messianic Synagogue moved in here and rented this facility from the church that owned the property and they were here for a number of years, but little did we know that that seed that had been planted and that faith that began right here, just a few years ago, would come to fruition. Oh my goodness, we serve an amazing God, don't we. For our church to be a six and a half year old church and to own one of the largest church facilities in this whole region of town is truly a miracle of God. It really is. It is a blessing of God.

God has blessed us so that we can continue to do new things in our community. I believe this. That what God has done in Edge Church is a parallel to what God wants to do in your life. God wants to do something fresh in your life and Isaiah the Prophet, in chapter 43, begins to challenge the Israelites. As we talked about a few weeks ago, the Israelite people, they are people that are in captivity. They're slaves. They have no hope. They're in a far away land and the Prophet is giving them words of hope and inspiration so that they can begin to lose heart in the plans that God has for them.

In Isaiah, chapter 43, this is what the scripture says, but forget all of that. It is nothing compared to what I'm going to do, for I am about to do something new, see I've already begun. Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in a dry wasteland. The wild animals in the fields will thank me. The jackals and owls, too, for giving them water in the desert and yes, I will make rivers in a dry wasteland so my chosen people can be refreshed. I have made Israel for myself and they will some day honor me before the whole world. God says, I want to do something new.

How does God do new things in our life? How does God do new things in our church? Number one, he says we have to forget the past. We have to forget it.

1) FORGET IT
Notice, that's the very first thing the Prophet says. You guys have some hang-ups. You have some stuff. You have some junk in your past and in order to get in touch with your destiny and your future, you cannot live in the past. You can learn from the past, but you cannot live in the past. The past is a great place to learn from. It's a terrible place to live. If you live in the past, you will never embrace the future that God has for you.

Our church has had a great history. We've had a great past. I told somebody the other day, "We went from a couple of dozen people in my living room to over 200 people in our very first public service. That's a lot of folks. That's fantastic. We didn't average that every week, but we did have that the first week. It was awesome". You know what. That was just the beginning. I don't look back and say, "Oh man, we arrived. We killed it. We had such a great beginning. 2009 was an awesome year". Yes. No. God has some things to say today and I hope that as you look at your spiritual journey, that your spiritual development, the greatest days of your heart for God and the greatest things God did in your life were not five years ago.

I hope that it is now and in the days ahead. It's easy to look back and go, "Man, I just remember ...". It's easy to play the highlight reel, isn't it. "I remember when I did this and I remember when God ...", and that's awesome, but that's not where we live and we can't continue to live on former blessings or former disappointments. Some of us today, the greatest enemy to the future that God has for us is mistakes that we've made in the past. You can't run the race that is set before you if you're always looking over your shoulder at the past. It's easy to look back and say, "Man, I've always been discouraged. How could life be different? I've made these mistakes. How could God love me? I've struggled in this area. I guess I'm always going to struggle here because I've always struggled here".

It's easy to look in the past and if you're going to embrace new things, there are certain things in the kingdom of God we have to forget about. Edge Church; we forget about many things in the past so that we can become all that God wants us to become in the future. My little boy and my little girl actually, are running in a little track club and those of you that know me, know that I ran a lot of track in high school and a little bit in college. I love running and so, I've been the proudest dad out at the track. I've had my stopwatch and my Nike Airs. I'm ready for the track meet. I've been clocking the kids and all that.

I was determined I was going to help my little boy decrease his time. I wanted to help him get a little faster and so, he wanted to watch some of my track videos. We dug around in the basement. I found these VHS videotapes. I didn't even know if they still worked anymore, but we watched some old track meets and then we got really inspired and so I talked him into letting me train him. We marked out a little track around the neighborhood and how far it was and I got my stopwatch out. We started running around the neighborhood. Now, keep in mind, I haven't done any serious running in like 15 to 20 years.

Not only do I not run, I'm against running actually right now. I'm totally against it and I remember why. I got caught up in the moment though, watching those videos and then trying
to help my son run faster. I had the clock out. We had certain goals we were trying to hit along the way and I am running and running and running and I'm telling you, a week later, my back is killing me. I remember now why I don't run. I have to remember something. I'm running a new race today. The race that I used to run is a different race than the race that God has for me to run today and if I keep thinking about the past, I can't embrace the future.

I won a lot of medals in the past, but you know what, that's the past. I can't live there. The question is, what is God saying today? What is God doing in your heart this morning, church? What is God going to do next year? Are you getting excited about that? Let's don't live in the past. The prophet challenges the Israelites. He says, "Forget the former things, man." Forget the former things. There are some things we have to let go of. Let go of past victories. Let go of past failures. Let go of it, because every day is new with God. Every day is new with God. Every day is new with God, so we forget it, but then notice this. He says, "You also have to anticipate it".

2) ANTICIPATE IT

If you're expecting God to do something amazing in your life, anticipate what is to come.

Look at this. He says, "Forget all of this". Verse 18 and 19. "It's nothing compared to what I am going to do for I am about to do something new". God says, "The best is yet to come". Are you guys getting excited? I imagine the Israelites; they're living in captivity and are kind of like, "We don't have anything to look forward to, God. Is that really a reality? Yeah, we heard about all the great stuff that you did when Moses was the leader and Abraham was the father of faith and he went to the land of promise and those guys were awesome and God used to do all these things, but we haven't seen God do anything lately. We're not anticipating anything new. We're not expecting it".

Notice this; he says, "It's nothing compared to what I'm going to do". God says, "I've done some amazing things, but the best is yet to come. You guys haven't seen anything yet. It's getting better. It's getting better. More joy, more peace, more faith, more confidence in God, more lives changed, more development, more advancement of the vision. Could God really do something great? I'll tell you, I love the calling of Moses. In Exodus, chapter three, Moses is there before the burning bush and God speaks to him from the bush and he says, "Moses, I have an assignment for you. I need you to go to Pharaoh and I need you to tell him that he is to let the Israelites go". Moses is so reluctant. He's like, "I ain't going. Forget it, God". God says, "I want to remind you, I am the God of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob", and he says, "I will be your God, too".

I was thinking about that this week. As you read the Old Testament, you see the faithfulness of God. God was doing amazing things in the life of Abraham and his generation. If you remember the story, God said, "Go to the land of promise and I'll show you." He said, "Now you don't know where you're going, but I'm going to tell you". Can you imagine Abraham's conversation with his wife, Sara. "Honey, we're moving". "Where are we going?" "Well, we don't know, but
God's going to lead us". It was an act of faith and God was moving in the life of Abraham and God moved in the life of Isaac. Isaac was 60 before he had his two twin boys. They had major fertility problems and God performed a miracle. God was moving in that situation.

Then there was Jacob and Jacob wrestled with the Lord and that moment of salvation. In that moment where he put his faith in Christ was the moment that he stopped trying to do things on his own and put his confidence in the Lord and now Moses has stepped onto the scene and now Moses has been given another assignment and Moses assignment is to go and to liberate the people and to part the Red Sea and to lead them across the desert and they're going to have Manna on the ground every morning to eat for God can sustain them as he leads them to the promised land.

God had a different assignment for each leader, for each person, but it was still the same stuff. It was still living by faith. It's all the same stuff. What God did in your parents generation and what God has done in our grandparents generation, that's great, but God says, "I have something new for you. I want to do something in your life. I want to do something in your church. I want to do something in your generation". When we read the Bible, we don't just look back and go, "Man, that was awesome for Moses. Good for him". No. We want to say, "God, what do you want to say to me? What are you saying to us?"

That's one reason why this Shake the City Project is so valuable because purchasing this building and making those building payments through the funds that we raise; it solidifies our future as a local church in this community and you know what, every single week when people come to Edge Church, people are giving their lives to Christ. Marriages are being put back together. Addictions are being broken. Oh my goodness. God is moving and working. That's why we're here. That's why we're here, church. I hope that when you show up at a weekend service that you anticipate God is going to do something great.

I hope you don't just show up and just say, "You know what, man. It's going to be just like last Sunday. I guess we'll just see what's going on". No. I hope you show up with the spirit of expectation. God, do something in me today. God, speak to me. Change me, God. Help me to be who you want me to be, God. Do something in our church today, God. Anticipate. We're not looking back at the past. We've got to forget it. We've got to anticipate it by looking at the future.

There's a couple of reasons why we ought to anticipate it. Let me tell you today. We live in a great place, don't we. Forbes Magazine just came out with an article that said that Denver is the best place for business and careers. How about that? That's pretty cool, isn't it. Yeah. US News & World Report recently published a report that said this; that actually Denver, the mile high city is the best place in America to live. How about that? That's pretty cool, isn't it. We live in a great place and we have the Broncos on top of that. How about that? That's even better.

We're pulling for the Rockies a little bit, okay. We're trying to help the Rockies. Pray for the
Rockies. We live in a great place. We live in a great place. That's why we need a great church. We need a great church in a great place. Let's anticipate it. Let's anticipate we're building a great church in a great place. In a great place. We have a great opportunity. The Pew Research Group came out with a study just recently that said this; that the largest religious group in America, the fastest growing, excuse me, the fastest growing religious group in America is what they call the Nones. Not N.U.N., but N.O.N.E.S. The Nones. In other words, people that have no religious orientation.

This group grew faster than any other group in the American religious landscape over the last seven or eight years. It increased seven percentage points while the Christian faith went down seven percentage points. What does that mean? That means that more than ever today, people don't affiliate themselves with the Christian gospel. That's what it means. I see some people hear that and they're like, 'Oh man, that's so discouraging. It's so disheartening.' I want to tell you something today. That should encourage us, because we have opportunity. We have an opportunity to do something great for God. We have an opportunity. We have people that need to know Christ all over the place. It's like you can just turn in any direction and there's dozens and there's hundreds and thousands of people that need the Lord. Amen.

We don't even have to work at it. It's everywhere you go. It ought to be easy. Easy, church. Let's anticipate what God ... Let's anticipate reaching that $700,000 goal and by the way, I wanted to let you know that our capital campaign consultant, Ashley, told us when we started this Shake the City Project that if we brought in 40% of our pledged amount of money in cash in the first year, that we were right on track and early last month, we surpassed the 40% mark, so we're right on the mark with where we set out to be. Amen. Right on the mark.

Now God is saying to us it's time to finish the last 60. In the next two years, we want to finish what we have committed to start. The business office let me know that 16 families in our church have already finished their pledges. That's awesome. Thank you, guys. Ahead of time. About 50% of the families that made commitments to Shake the City are right on track. Giving faithfully. Thank you, guys for that. Others of us are behind a little bit. You know what. We understand. Life happens. Sometimes things don't go as planned, but you know what, this is a great time to begin. Others of us today are new and maybe God will put it on your heart to join the team and to help us to raise these special funds to pay for our facility here at Edge Church.

We've got an envelope under your chair or in the chair in front of you that you could take home and we've got some other ways that we'd love to share with you what God is doing in and through the project. Listen, the heart of this whole thing is that lives would be changed. People would be impacted and that we are anticipating the great movement of God right here. Right here. This is a great place. I love what the prophet was saying there to the Israelite people. "Hey, the best is yet to come". He says, "You have to anticipate it and then you have to see it. You have to see it". Now this gets even better. Check this out. Look at verse 19. For I'm about to do something new. See. I have already begun. See. I have already begun. Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in a dry wasteland. He says,
"You know what. I have been moving and working and you guys didn't even know it".

Did you know that God is orchestrating the situations in your life so that you'll be blessed and you don't even know what God is ... You haven't even seen it yet. God is working behind the scenes. God never quits. He never stops. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us God has a great plan for our lives. God is always moving. He's working and the prophet says, "Guys, listen. God has been doing all this stuff. You guys have been in captivity. You haven't seen it, but it's going to blow you away when it's finally revealed. We have to anticipate it and then we have to see it".

3) SEE IT

I feel like that our journey here at Edge Church has been so much more about us discovering what God is doing rather than us telling God what we think he ought to do. Man, there's a big difference. There's a big difference. I believe that success in life is finding the will of God and then doing it. That's what it means to be successful. Find what God is saying and jump on that like gangbusters. Amen. Some of us today are looking for a church. Let me tell you the first thing that I would tell you as a pastor when you're looking for a church. Don't worry about finding a church that has this program or that program or the music is like this or whatever. Find a place where the spirit of God is working. Find out what God is doing and jump in on that. That's what we ought to do. Where is God moving? Where is God moving and I want to be a part of that.

He says, "Do you see it?" Do you see it? In our own spiritual journey here at Edge Church, the Messianic Synagogue was renting this building for several years and you know what; one day they just moved out. January 2013, they're out. We tried to put an offer on this building. The sellers, they rejected it. Another church was going to relocate here. They made an offer. It was accepted. The deal fell through. Crazy. Now all of a sudden, the building is back on the market and guess what? The longer it's on the market, the more the price keeps going down. Can somebody say, amen.

God was working on our behalf. I'll be honest. I was a little frustrated that things weren't going a little faster because I'm a fast tracker. Sometimes I have to slow down for God. At the appropriate time, boom. This thing is on the market. We make an offer. We don't have the money to buy the building so we go to the sellers and we say, "Listen, could we lease the building and then buy it?" We put together a lease purchase agreement which is perfect for us because it allowed us to come into this facility and to grow our church and to grow our giving base and then boom, to be able to buy it.

Then we started the Shake the City Project. When we took our pledges to our lender, the lender was so impressed with the money that had been pledged, they said, "We'll do a loan today. We'll do it now". We thought it was going to take a whole lot longer and here we are today, the owners of this building. Isn't that amazing? Yeah. It's fantastic. Building equity. We've been building equity since our close rather than spending more money on rent. Buying early is better,
it really is. It really is. We had to see it.

Somebody asked me the other day, "Ryan, did you believe that you would own an almost 50,000 square foot building before your seventh birthday as a church?" I said, "I did, because I believe that you have to see things before you see them". If you never see them, you will never see them. You have to see it. God says to the Israelites, "You have to see it. Trust me. I'm doing things you haven't even ... You have no idea. I am working. I am moving. I am doing something". God oftentimes gives us a direction without a destination. God says, "Now I want you to start walking and I want you start going over there". "God, I need all the details". God says, "No, no, no, no. It doesn't work like that. You just start moving over here and I'll take care of the details and when you get over there across that first milestone, then I'll show you where you're going the next step, but until then, trust me".

Trust me. It's a journey. It's a journey. It's a destination. We're walking by faith. Walking by faith even when we can't see what's around the next corner. That's why we're here today. That's why we're here today. We started talking in that video in 2012 about the facility that God had for us. We had no idea where that building was going to be, but we began to pray for it, we began to believe God for it and then all of a sudden, boom. The doors began to open. Do you realize this; if we would have had to build our own building, it would have cost us twice as much money and taken us probably 18 months to 24 months to build it. It would have been an incredible amount of work. We literally moved into this thing, ripped the carpet up, put paint on the walls and had church. That's what we did. It was awesome. We did it all in two weeks. It was amazing.

Only in the genius of God could that have even come together, because I'm telling you, I'm not that smart. Do you see it? Do you see it? He says, "Finally, you have to build it.

4) BUILD IT

You've got to build it". God says, "I will build it. See, I have already begun. Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in a dry wasteland", and I love this. God says, "Listen, when I'm moving and leading. I will build things in places that people did not think were possible". He says, "I will put a river in a desert. I will put a highway that leads to the middle of nowhere". God is a builder and God builds things in unexpected places.

A survey came out just recently about the religious faith of Americans and they discovered that the fourth most irreligious city in America is Denver. How about that? The most irreligious city, that's not on the West Coast, right here. Opportunity, church. Opportunity. Opportunity. In a city like that, we need a great church. We need a great church. We need a place to open the word of God to our kids and to our communities and to our families, for our friends and to see life transformation happen. That's what it's all about. We're spreading that good news and I love this idea of the dry wasteland, in other words, a desert. A desert is a place where you go to die. It's arid. There's no vegetation. There's no life.
God picks hard places to do great things, doesn't he. He picks hard places to do great things. I want people to think of Jesus Christ when they think of our city. People think of a lot of interesting things when they think about Colorado, don't they? There's a lot of stereotypes. A lot of those are true. How great would it be that when people thought of our city, they're like, "That's where all those people love Jesus Christ. That's where that great church is. That's where all that ministry takes place. That's an amazing place". We don't think about going skiing, we think about Jesus. We think about him.

God picks dry places to do fertile things. Amazing places. Rivers in the middle of a desert, he says. I believe this. The building is a tool. I always love the say that. The building is a tool. When we first moved into this facility, we had a very tight budget and so we had a couple of guys that said, "We'll mow the grass". It literally took two guys all day long to mow the grass. We have six and a half acres here. You know why? Because they each had a 20 inch lawnmower and if you don't know anything about lawnmowers, that's like a lawnmower this big. These dudes were working. They were working it, working it all day long. It was crazy.

The guys were like, "Pastor, please. Can we have a lawnmower? It's killing us out here". Somebody donated a huge, big, monster ride-on lawnmower. It's the baddest thing you've ever seen, guys. You'd love to drive this thing. It's awesome. It must be four wheel drive. I think it's got a MP3 player in it. It's awesome. It's amazing. Man, we mow the grass in two hours. Just knock it out. What's the difference? It's the tool. It's the tool. You know if you have the wrong tool, you have to work a lot harder to get a lot less results. When you have the right tool, it pushes everything forward. The building is a tool.

You know what, one of our greatest outreaches at Edge Church is that sign that sits out on Smokey Hill Road and a bunch of you guys have come to this church because you just drove by and you saw the sign and every week, people tell me that. Nobody said that when we met at the school. It's true. The building is a tool and God has given us a great tool, so here's our challenge. Our challenge is this. Let's finish or begin our commitments to Shake the City and let's fill this place up. We've still got a lot of room here, guys, today. You've got a lot of neighbors that need to know the Lord. You've got some family members that need to be in the house of God. Let's fill this place up.

God has given us a great gift. Let's don't take it for granted. Let's do everything we can to build a place that transforms lives, that transforms lives. We're building that road, that river in the middle of a desert. He says there finally, he says at verse 21, "I have made Israel for myself that some day, they will honor me before the whole world", and that ought to be our prayer. That we would honor God in our community and in our world by what we do, by what we do. You know the name of our church is Edge Church and the reason that it's called Edge Church is because we're reaching people on the edge. We're reaching people on the edge.

We have a great future ahead. I believe the best church is yet to come. The best is yet to come.
We are praying that God would shake us so that we could shake this city. Let's pray together.