

*A Place Called FORWARD*

PART  
FIVE

# Roads & Rivers

*How God Carries You Forward*

*I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth:  
Shall you not know it? I will even make a road  
in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.*

Isaiah 43:18-19

PASTOR BRYAN HUDSON, D.Min.



## **Isaiah 43:18-19 NKJV**

*Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.*



## **Isaiah 43:18-19 MSG**

*18 Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. 19 Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands*



## **Isaiah 43:18 GNT**

*But the Lord says, "Do not cling to events of the past  
or dwell on what happened long ago."*



# We Should Exercise the **Power of Today**

## Deuteronomy 28:1

*Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to **observe carefully** all His commandments **which I command you today**, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.*



# We Should Exercise the **Power of Today**

## Hebrews 3:13

*But exhort one another daily, **while it is called** “**Today**,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*



## **Enduring Word Commentary:**

As Isaiah wrote prophetically to Israel, they were mired in the desperate circumstances of captivity and exile. God wanted to put their eyes on the new work He would do, so He began with a reminder to not remember the former things. If they were stuck in the failure and sin and discouragement of the past, they would never go forward to the new thing God had for them.



***“God wanted to put their eyes on the new work He would do...”***

Often, when God makes a promise, we worry about the details or the obstacles for the fulfillment of the promise. God replies to us, *“Don’t worry about it at all. I will even make a road in the wilderness. I have resources and plans you don’t know about. Leave those problems to Me.”*



***“God wanted to put their eyes on the new work He would do...”***

Obviously God did not want His people to forget what He had done for them in the Exodus, but neither did He want them to look back on that event and conclude that it was His only act of redemption or **the only method** He could use to redeem them.

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/dcc/isaiah-43.html#verse-18>



## **Being Renewed is the Nature of Our Life in Christ**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

**2 Corinthians 4:16** - Berean Study Bible

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day.*



**God used these symbolic and poetic words to encourage the Hebrews to look forward and go forward:**

**Isaiah 43:18-19**

*Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, **I will do a new thing**, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a **road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.***



**A Wilderness or Desert Can Be a Frightening  
Place - Physically, Situationally, and Emotionally**

**God knows this...and He knows you.**











**God says,**

**“I will give you **roads and rivers**, direction and provision in the wilderness, a place where there is no path, and no provision anywhere you look.”**



**Moving forward and upward requires both natural and supernatural intervention**

**Roads** speaks of the natural—Things you can do with God's help

**Rivers** speak of the supernatural — Things only God can do.



*I will even make a **road** in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.*

**NEW ROAD GOING IN!**



*I will even make a **road in the wilderness** And rivers in the desert.*



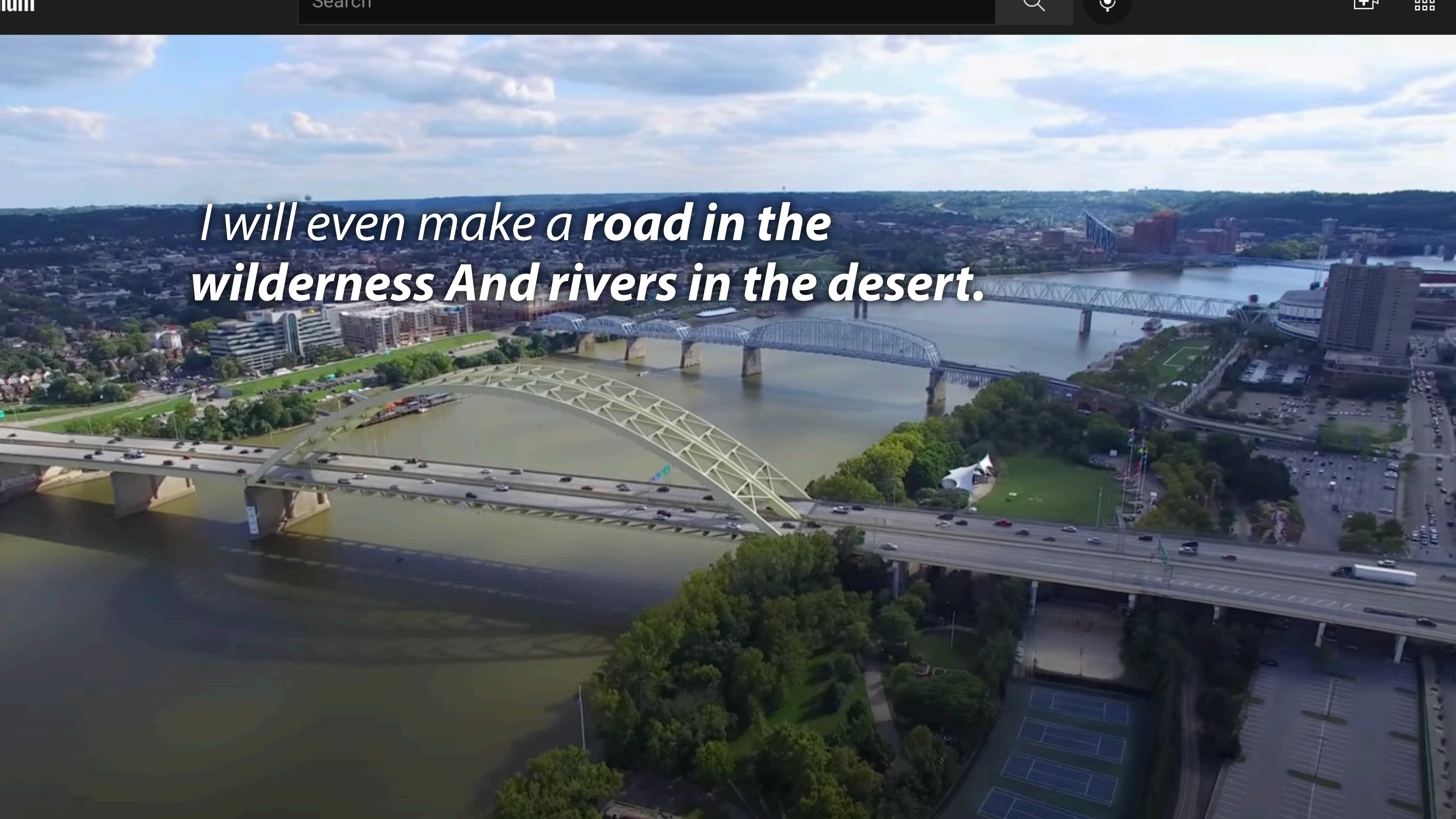


***I will even make a road in the  
wilderness And rivers in the desert.***





***I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.***





No matter how much you have done or how old you are, **God is still doing new things.**

It will “spring forth.”

“It” meaning that the “new thing(s).”



This is why it is essential to **look forward** and **press forward**:

Things that “spring up” can only do so in the future.

If you look back you may miss it.



## **Philippians 3:12-14**

*But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*