

## Isaiah 35

### Signs on the High Way

**Text: Isaiah 35**

**Introduction:**

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Isaiah declared that the Messiah's kingdom would be found on the road of the redeemed...

I. THE BACKGROUND

- A. The name Isaiah means, "Jehovah is salvation," "salvation is of Jehovah," or "Jehovah saves."
- B. Chapters 1 - 12 of Isaiah concern Judah and present both the threat of punishment and the hope of redemption (with specific prophecies about the Messiah).
- C. Chapters 13 - 23 deal with the judgment of the nations - Babylon, Assyria, Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Israel, Babylon, Edom, Arabia, Judah, Tyre, and Sidon.
- D. Chapters 24 - 27 deal with a judgment of the world - both world powers and general worldliness.
- E. Chapters 28 - 35 contain the "book of woes" - several woes pronounced upon those who do not trust and obey God.
- F. However, it is also a book about Zion - prophecies and teachings concerning the blessing of God upon those who are faithful to Him.

II. JOY IN THE DESERT - THE RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY (ISAIAH 35:1-4)

- A. Isaiah 33:8-9 pictures Israel made like a wilderness due to the cruelty of the Assyrians.
- B. Though the captivity would devastate them, there would be rejoicing when God granted their return.
  1. This passage pictures the children of Israel returning from captivity to the land of Palestine.
  2. However, the message is still a spiritual one.
  3. The fulfillment of this passage does not come until the time of the Messiah.
    - a. Even after the Israelites returned, they continued to be oppressed.
    - b. By the Persians, Greeks, Ptolemies, Seleucids and Romans
- C. The wilderness and desert would bloom and rejoice (cf. 27:10; 29:17; 32:15).
- D. Homer Hailey wrote: "The point is that from unsightly spiritual life there will come beauty of character and sweet incense of the spirit."
- E. There is no need to fear, for God is in control (cf. 28:16; Ephesians 6:10; 2 Timothy 1:7).

## Prophecy of Jesus

- III. HEALING OF THE SOUL – THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL (ISAIAH 35:5-7)
- A. Jesus' use of a similar statement in Matthew 11:2-6 demonstrates that this chapter points to the time of the Messiah.
  - B. Eyes and ears would be opened to the truth of the Gospel.
  - C. The spiritually sick and infirm would be healed.
  - D. The spiritual desert would be revived with living water (cf. John 4:10ff; 7:38).
  - E. The "parched ground" of verse 7 is actually the word for a mirage.
    - 1. That which was barely visible or appeared only as a ruse would become real – the mirage would become a pool of water!
    - 2. In fact, it would cause the desert to become a well-watered meadow.
  - F. This beautiful land never existed in Palestine following Israel's captivity; instead, it is a vision of the spiritual blessings found in Christ.
- IV. ROAD OF THE REDEEMED – THE RANSOM OF SINNERS (ISAIAH 35:8-10)
- A. There is only one way to reach this blessed land, and only one way through it to eternal bliss – The Way of Holiness.
    - 1. It is called a highway because it is elevated – physically and morally.
    - 2. It comes from a root meaning "to mound up, especially a turnpike; to exalt; to raise up."
    - 3. Thus, it is a thoroughfare leading to Zion.
  - B. It is called a way, for it is a road on which the righteous travel (cf. 11:16; 19:23-24; 40:3-4).
  - C. Those who are unclean, due to sin, cannot travel upon this road (Matt. 7:13-14).
  - D. Those who despise wisdom would not make the mistake of taking this path.
  - E. Those who seek to destroy and devour will not be found on this road.
  - F. Instead, it is a way for the redeemed.
    - 1. The unclean, the fools, the ravenous beasts can travel this way if they submit to God, change their nature, and become one of the redeemed.
    - 2. The way is open to all, but few will find and walk it.
  - G. The redeemed of God will pass through the wilderness and find their way to salvation – spiritual Zion will be their home.
  - H. They will trade their sorrow and sighing for singing and everlasting joy.
  - I. This is what is found in the Lord's church (Hebrews 1:2; 12:22; 10:19-20).
  - J. The way is clearly marked, for God wants all to find it (cf. 11:16; 40:3-4; 42:16; 57:14; 62:10).
  - K. Jesus is the way (John 14:6)!