

## Isa 35 Sep 26, 2021

### Salvation for God's People Isa 35:1-10

#### The glory of God (35:1-2)

1 The wilderness and the desert will be glad, And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus 2 It will blossom profusely And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, The majesty of our God.

The desert blossoms to symbolize the joy of salvation. The Arabah is the deep cleft on the Jordan valley which runs down through the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Arabah. This very barren region would "rejoice and blossom."

Isaiah used Lebanon (noted for its cedars), Carmel (noted for its oaks), and Sharon (noted for its flowers) as examples of what would happen to the rest of the land.

Why would the wilderness blossom and shout for joy? Because "they will see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of God."

Israel had seen God's glory during the Exodus (Ex 16:7) and at Mt. Sinai (Ex 24:16).

God's glory filled the Tabernacle (Ex 40:34) and the Temple (1Ki 8:11).

This prophecy announces the beginning of a new age, the age of Messiah. The teaching of the New Testament is that Jesus is the embodiment of God's glory

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (Jn 2:11; 17:5).

#### The work of God (35:3-7).

3 Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. 4 Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness And streams in the Arabah. 7 The scorched land will become a pool And the thirsty ground springs of water; In the haunt of jackals, its resting place, Grass becomes reeds and rushes.

**"Encourage the exhausted"** Isaiah urged those who were spiritually perceptive to encourage the people who were discouraged and fearful.

1Thes 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another (5:14; Gal 6:1; Heb 3:13)

**strengthen the feeble** "There will always be "weak" brethren as well as strong, "feeble" as well as healthful (1Cor 3:1; Gal 6:1; Heb 5:12-14). God calls on the strong to impart their strength to their weaker brethren.

2Thes 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. (1Pt 5:10)

Rom 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Salvation brings forgiveness of sins and also physical healing.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will leap, the tongue of the dumb will shout with joy.

Jesus cited these verses when he responded to John's question regarding his identity (Mt 11:4). Jesus was claiming to be Messiah as well as deity, for it is the coming of God which effects these physical transformations.

**"The scorched land will become a pool"** That hot glow of the parched desert soil, which produces the mirage, shall be replaced by a real lake of cool water. The work of salvation involves the provision of abundant water. Waters would break forth in the wilderness bringing life to a barren land.

Isaiah was using concrete imagery to depict the refreshment which Jesus, the Water of Life, would bring to a spiritual waste land (Jn 4:11-14).

God is spoken of as water, as is the Holy Spirit (Jer 17:13; Ps 36:8-9; Is 44:3; 55:1; Ezk 36:25; Joel 2:28-29; Zec 12:10; 14:8; Jn 4:10, 14; 7:38; Ac 2:17-18; 33; Titus 3:5-6).

**"the thirsty ground springs of water"** The renewal of a desert into a waterway echoes the exodus events of water bursting from the desert rocks (Num 20:2-13); it is used again in Isa 48:20-21 and 49:10.

**"In the haunt of jackals, its resting place Grass becomes reeds and rushes"** what was a deserted wasteland left for animals becomes a well-watered oasis.

### **The way of God (35:8-10)**

8 A highway will be there, a roadway, And it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, But it will be for him who walks that way, And fools will not wander on it. 9 No lion will be there, Nor will any vicious beast go up on it; These will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, 10 And the ransomed of the LORD will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

**"highway"** [mesilla] This is a raised way, something built up above the surface, obvious to all who are looking for it. Isaiah depicted the life of the redeemed as a pilgrimage along a special way.

**"called the Highway of Holiness"** There will be one special highway: "The Way of Holiness." In ancient cities, there were often special roads that only kings and priests could use; but when Messiah reigns, all of His people will be invited to use this highway.

This is a holy way restricted to those who have been cleansed and who desire to live a life of holiness.

Only the redeemed, those ransomed by the Lord, may walk in that way.

It is a safe way, **"No lion or vicious beast will be there"** will harm those who stay on it.

2Thes 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

It is the freedom way, for those redeemed from bondage, ransomed by payment of a price, find deliverance from bondage here.

Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (Gal 5:13; 1Pt 2:16)

It is a straight way, for it has as its sole destination Zion, the city of God.

Heb 12:12-13 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

It is a sure way, for those who travel it will reach their destination.

2Tim 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

It is a joyous way, for they will enter Zion with singing.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Eph 5:19)

It is the glory way, for those who arrive in Zion will receive an everlasting crown of joy.

1Pt 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.