

Isaiah Chapter 35

Verses 35:1-10

The prophet Isaiah now turns to a message of hope for the future.

After the great destruction of the Tribulation period will come the blessing of the millennial age when the desert “shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.”

In the Messiah’s kingdom, all spiritual evil and physical catastrophe will be reversed and the land and people will be blessed.

“Carmel and Sharon,” the normally fertile regions of Israel, though devastated by the Battle of Armageddon, will once again be fertile and productive.

One day they will blossom more beautifully than the cedar forests of “Lebanon.”

The “highway” is contrasted to the desolate desert and its endless maze of shifting sands.

It will be the “way of holiness” and will be reserved for the “ransomed” and “redeemed” of the Tribulation period who will enter the millennial kingdom.

Verses 1-4

In contrast to luxuriant Edom that is to become as desert (34:1-17), during Messiah’s reign on earth the whole world is to become like a flourishing garden and this will offer encouragement to the weak.

Isaiah 35:1 "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

(In chapter 34), we read about the judgment of God on a people who were alienated from God.

In this chapter, we read of the blessings of God on those who choose to follow Him.

Dramatic changes in the land are to come during the Messianic age (see Isaiah 30:23-25; 32:15-20).

The same desert that had been desolate for the evil ones, blossoms for the beloved of God.

Just after the wrath of God is over, the Christians come back to the earth to reign with Jesus.

Isaiah 35:2 "It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, [and] the excellency of our God."

“Lebanon ... Carmel and Sharon”:

Areas near the sea noted for their agricultural fertility.

“They shall see”:

Israel is to recognize the earth’s newfound fruitfulness as coming from the LORD and attribute to Him the appropriate credit.

The church of the Lord Jesus Christ has been delivered from the troubles of the world during the wrath of God on the earth.

We see them now, dancing and singing, rejoicing in the Lord.

The glory of the LORD will be upon the earth in the presence of God's people at this time.

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

During this reign of Jesus as King, the devil will be chained.

There will be nothing harmful, or negative at all.

The weather will be perfect.

The crops will grow abundantly.

The Light of the world will be present.

All of nature will be operating in cooperation with Jesus our King.

Even the temperature will be perfect.

This is speaking of the 1,000 year Sabbath of rest for the Christian that is spoken of as the Millennium reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth.

The six 1,000 year days have ended and the one 1,000 year day of Sabbath is here.

Isaiah 35:3 "Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees."

“Weak ... feeble”:

The future change in Israel's international role is to serve to encourage the discouraged among the people.

The writer of Hebrews gave an additional application of this verse to strengthen endurance among Christians suffering persecution for their faith (Heb. 12:12).

Isaiah encourages the people he is giving this prophecy to.

He says strengthen each other in the knowledge this great day is coming.

Build each other up in the most holy faith.

Romans 15:1 "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

Isaiah 35:4 "Say to them [that are] of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come [with] vengeance, [even] God [with] a recompence; he will come and save you."

The vengeance of God (34:8), is to furnish the means to redeem His long-oppressed people of Israel.

Those who are strong must help those who are of a fearful heart.

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Encourage those who are weary and fearful.

To be fearful means the faith is not as strong as it should be.

Build others up in the most holy faith.

Some become fearful, because they have given up on the Lord coming back to save them.

The best way to encourage them is with Scripture.

Isaiah 35:5 "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped."

"Eyes ... opened ... ears ... unstopped":

This is to reverse the spiritual condition of the immediate objects of Isaiah's ministry (see 29:18; and 32:3).

This prophecy was fulfilled in part, when Jesus ministered on the earth for 3-1/2 years and did miracles.

This has a larger fulfillment, in the fact that all will hear and understand during His reign on this earth as King.

In the presence of our King, all will hear and all will see.

Unfortunately, from the children born to those who go into the Millennium, many will rebel and not follow Christ even in such a perfect environment.

Verses 6-7

Water was and is a precious commodity in Israel (41:18).

In the Millennium, there will be no scarcity.

Isaiah 35:6 "Then shall the lame [man] leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."

God's restoration in the millennial age is to include physical restoration to the afflicted.

Jesus' first coming gave a foretaste of that future day (Matt. 11:15; 12:22; Mark 7:37; Luke 7:21; Acts 3:8).

The devil is the author of blindness, deafness, and lameness.

Since he will be chained, there will be no one who cannot walk, or talk, or see, or hear.

The hearing and seeing are not only in the physical, but in the spiritual, as well.

No one will have to teach of Jesus then, because all will know Him.

Isaiah 35:7 "And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, [shall be] grass with reeds and rushes."

The rocky crags normally inhabited by jackals (34:13), are to become splashy meadows.

There is not just a total restoration to man in that day, but to all of nature as well.

The earth will be like the Garden of Eden.

Where the land had been parched in the time of the wrath of God, now the rivers flow.

There will be natural springs rising out of the ground that will bring clear, pure water.

Life will spring forth in the desert areas.

The grass and plants will flourish in the desert.

Isaiah 35:8 "And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it [shall be] for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err [therein]."

This refers to the way leading the redeemed back to Jerusalem, the throne of Messiah, literally and spiritually.

Christ Himself is to be the leader on that way (called in 40:3), the “way for the Lord.”

The straight and narrow path will still be there, but it will be no problem to stay in the way.

The temptation to sin will not be coming from every direction then.

This road, provided by God for His followers, will be well marked.

It will be holy.

All who walk on this road are headed for an eternity in heaven with God.

The Light of Jesus will light up the path that we are to walk.

He is the Way.

The world may think you to be a fool, but you will be wise unto salvation.

This path is not for the worldly.

This is the path of the righteous.

Isaiah 35:9 "No lion shall be there, nor [any] ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk [there]:"

No ferocious beasts are to threaten the safety of those traveling the Highway of Holiness.

“The redeemed”:

Mentioned only rarely in chapters 1-39 (1:27; 29:22), whose theme is judgment; terms for redemption occur frequently in chapters 40-66.

The lion will be harmless to man at this time.

Isaiah 11:6-7 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

"And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox."

Just as Moses led the children of Israel to their promised land, Jesus will lead those He has redeemed to their promised land (heaven).

Revelation 5:9 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;"

Isaiah 35:10 "And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

"The ransomed ... flee away":

See 51:11, where the words occur again.

Gladness is to replace sadness across the board in the day of Israel's restoration.

Zion, in this Scripture, could be that heavenly Zion.

Ransomed means we have been purchased back.

Jesus purchased (ransomed) us with His precious blood at Calvary.

We had been held hostage by the old devil.

Jesus paid the ultimate price to ransom us.

The song we sing, only the redeemed can sing.

The joy to be set free is overwhelming.

This joy lasts forever.

Once we are with Him, joy and gladness are ours to keep.

He will wipe all tears away from our eyes.

There will be no more sorrow.

To be with Jesus is the greatest joy a Christian can experience.

The greatest part of all this is, we will never be separated from Him again.

PRAISE THE LORD!

Isaiah Chapter 35 Questions

1. What do we read about in chapter 35?
2. The wrath of God is _____.
3. Where will the Christians be at this time?
4. What is the church doing to rejoice?
5. Where will the devil be at this time?
6. Tell a few things that show how perfect it will be on the earth at this time.
7. What is the 1,000 year reign of Jesus called?
8. What are we to say to those with a fearful heart?
9. How is the best way to encourage the fearful?
10. What miracles are spoken of in verse 5?
11. The lame man will leap as a _____.
12. The tongue of the dumb will _____.
13. Besides the miracles in the physical that take place, what else happens?
14. What is the highway called in verse 8?
15. Why will it be so easy to stay on this path?
16. What lights the way?
17. Where does this path lead?
18. The _____ of the LORD shall return to Zion.
19. What were we ransomed with?
20. What is the greatest joy a Christian can experience?