

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #50

Isaiah 35:1-10

Whenever Hollywood has presented their view of Armageddon, it typically presents the idea that it is the end of the world and the end of civilization. However, when one carefully studies Biblical prophecy, we see that is not true. Once God has poured out His wrath on this God-mocking, Christ-rejecting world, He will establish His Kingdom on this earth which will offer one thousand years of Millennial bliss. **The ferocious Tribulation storms of chapter 34 will be replaced by blessed Millennial peace in chapter 35.**

Ever since God promised Abraham that He would take him to a land and bless him, Israel has been waiting for the time when He will fully do just that. There are those preachers and teachers of the Bible who teach that the church has replaced Israel, and that there will really be no literal earthly Kingdom established in and for Israel. These teachers obviously have not taken a serious journey through Isaiah because Isaiah certainly didn't believe that and he sure didn't teach that. What Isaiah describes here is a utopia that Israel has longed for ever since the days of Abraham.

In Isaiah 34, we saw that God warns all the nations of the world that He intends to pour out His ferocious wrath on them all. He is going to demolish the world. But when we come to **Isaiah 35**, we see that the chaos of world judgment has become a calm, filled with world blessings.

What Isaiah says in **Isaiah 35** is this:

**THERE IS COMING A DAY WHEN ISRAEL WILL TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY REJOICE BECAUSE SHE WILL BE IN HER LAND, COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY THE BLESSINGS OF GOD.**

Dr. H. A. Ironside said this is a "precious portion" of Isaiah which clearly corresponds to the time when Jesus Christ is enthroned as "sovereign of the universe" depicted in Revelation 20 (*Isaiah*, p. 217).

There are seven powerful Kingdom blessings described in these verses:

**KINGDOM BLESSING #1** – God will turn Israel's parched land into productive land.  
**35:1-2**

Wouldn't it be something if we could turn back time to the days of Genesis and the entire world would be like the Garden of Eden? God says, one day it will be.

We are told by the global warming proponents that desert areas are enlarging each year because of a lack of moisture. We are also told by these same environmentalists that we are the problem for the pollution that is causing drought and soil erosion and we are the reason why things are drying up.

In the land of Israel, things have been dried up for a long time. The Arabah in Isaiah's day is the southern part of the Promised Land that, for the most part, is nothing but a literal desert. Today it is called the Arabian Desert. A desert area is an area where more water is lost through evaporation than is gained from precipitation.

The Middle East is known as a desert area that is growing because those areas that were not desert areas have been grazed and deforested so that the desert area is expanding. Naturally there are some areas in the Middle East that are not desert regions. In Isaiah's day, Lebanon, Carmel and Sharon were areas known to feature some very fertile and beautiful and productive ground in the Middle East. They were some of the most beautiful and fruitful places in existence at the time of Isaiah. Lebanon had its majestic trees and Carmel had its breathtaking beauty and Sharon had its flowery loveliness. God says, I will bring all of my blessings and beauty into the Promised Land and **land that was once barren will become land that blossoms.**

This will be the time when the desert shall blossom like a rose and all the world will be filled with all the blessings of God. **People will see the glory and majesty of God, especially in Israel's land.**

When we lived in Pocatello, Idaho there was an area about 30 miles from us that was nothing but desert. A man I knew bought up thousands of acres and turned them into a multimillion dollar Idaho potato field. But he told me, "The thing that I always worry about is irrigation, because this desert has very little moisture."

Just imagine a day when the desert areas of the world are all blossoming as a rose. Think of a time when you could visit the desert regions of Africa and the Middle East or the Mojave or Death Valley or the Sahara and just enjoy it because it was so lovely. This will happen when Jesus Christ reigns.

Whenever you see a fruitful field or orchard or you see a lovely garden, it foreshadows what the whole world will be like when Jesus Christ reigns on this earth.

**KINGDOM BLESSING #2** – God will encourage and strengthen Israel. **35:3-4**

God is going to encourage and strengthen His people. He will do this physically, mentally and emotionally. Two nouns describe the condition of God's people when this occurs - they are "exhausted" and they are "feeble."

The word "exhausted" literally means God's people are so worn down that their hands are slack (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 777).

The word "feeble" literally refers to God's people being so weak that their knees are shaking and they are about to buckle (*Ibid.*, p. 419).

Now what is most intriguing about this is how God actually strengthens and encourages His people, and that is by pouring out His vengeance on His people's enemies and by saving His people. God's people are broken down, so what God does to strengthen His own people is to pour out His vengeance on that which is breaking them down.

This is exactly what it will take to get Israel to turn to Jesus Christ. It will take her being in a completely helpless state with not any strength of her own. At that moment she will turn to the Lord and the Lord will completely turn things around for Israel. He will Personally encourage and strengthen His own people by demolishing her enemies right before their very eyes.

God will pour out His vengeance on all of Israel's enemies and finally Israel will be the glorious nation God designed her to be.

God's people can always rejoice when God judges, because they can know that His blessings are on the way.

What you and I can know with absolute certainty is that no Middle East peace talks, no League of Nations conferences and no meeting of the United Nations will produce this peace and joy for Israel. Only Jesus Christ can do this and there is coming a day when He will do it.

**KINGDOM BLESSING #3** – God will heal those physically handicapped. **35:5-6a**

Sickness and disease and all physical problems are the result of the fall of man, the result of sin. During this time, the curse will be lifted and there will be none of these things anymore.

Not only will there be dramatic physical changes in the land, but there will be dramatic physical changes in people. The blind will see, the deaf will hear and the lame will walk. When Jesus Christ reigns on this earth, there will be no more need for schools for the blind or deaf. There will be no more need for physical and occupational therapy places.

It is more than just interesting to note that when Jesus Christ was here on earth, He literally referred to these very verses in reference to Himself to inform John the Baptist that He, in fact, was Israel's King (Matthew 11:4-5: Luke 7:18-23). However, you will notice that when Jesus Christ does this He purposely leaves out Isaiah 35:6b which says, "for waters will break forth in the wilderness ..."

What this tells us is that Jesus Christ did identify Himself as the Messiah by performing some of the predicted Messianic miracles, but He did not fulfill all of the Messianic miracles in that He did not cause the waters to break forth in the wilderness.

What this tells us and Israel is there will be two different comings of Jesus Christ to Israel. His first visit has already taken place. In other word, when Christ came the first time He did a portion of the Messianic miracles, but when He comes the second time He will fulfill all the rest of them.

Instead of just a few blind people seeing and a few deaf people hearing and a few lame people walking, all will be healed and the land will be blessed.

**KINGDOM BLESSING #4** – God will turn waterless areas into well-watered areas.  
**35:6b-7**

Water will be plentiful in the Promised Land. Crops will grow. Grasses will grow and even weeds will grow. Scorched land will be filled with pools and springs and streams. As one writer said there will be no more parched ground because all ground will become a garden of glory.

**KINGDOM BLESSING #5** – God will make a Holy Highway through the land. **35:8**

Ever since the days of Isaiah, highways in Israel are not really safe. One person who visited Israel told me, it is not uncommon to see armed military soldiers along Israeli highways because of the threat of some danger. That will all change when Jesus Christ controls the highways.

During the Tribulation, highways will be blown to bits by God Himself. However, when Christ returns, there will be some highway reconstruction and there is no doubt that Isaiah saw a major highway leading from Egypt into Jerusalem and all the way into Assyria when the King reigns (11:16; 19:23; 40:3; 62:10).

This Holy Highway will lead all people into the Holy City right to the residency of the Holy King. No unclean person, no fool will ever step a foot on this highway. Only those who are righteous and holy will be able to travel on this highway. **There is absolutely no doubt that in all of Scripture the way of holiness is the way to God. No one gets near God who is unholy or who is doing unholy things.**

A totally safe highway is something we have never seen. One of the safest highways is I-80, which is a toll road. But even on I-80 there are signs telling you what to do in an emergency. When the Holy Highway is operating there will be no emergencies. Jesus Christ will Personally see to that and this Holy Highway will only be traveled by the people of the King; as Isaiah said in **verse 9**, only the “redeemed” will travel on it.

It is important to see that the word in the Septuagint translated “redeemed” (λυτροω) is one that means to pay the ransom price and then set the person free. We may recall that there are three Greek words translated “redeem”: 1) agorazo (αγοραζω) - one goes to an auction and buys a horse and leaves it in the auction to resell; 2) exagorazo (εξαγοραζω) - one goes to an auction and buys a horse and takes it home for his own use; 3) lutroo (λυτροω) - one goes to an auction, buys a horse and then sets it free. It is lutroo that is used in **verse 9**.

The tense of the verb is perfect which means, at a point in time past, God saves a person from sin and sets him free and he continues to be free at the present and on into the future.

Now notice carefully what is said here. The only person who will be able to walk on this highway will have been one who was redeemed and set free from his/her sin. How does one get redeemed? By the blood of the Lamb, by believing on Jesus Christ.

If you are one who has believed on Jesus Christ, you will be able to take a walk one day on a Holy Highway and all the people you see on that highway will all have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

**KINGDOM BLESSING #6** – God will remove all ferocious animals from the land. **35:9**

During the Kingdom reign there will be no threat of anything harmful hurting any of God's people.

Never again will any deadly animal hinder any human in the Promised Land. There will be no such thing as a vicious or ferocious beast.

Now during the Tribulation, God is going to use “wild beasts” to kill people (Revelation 6:8). I personally believe this is the reason for the rise in the population of predatory animals. However, during the Kingdom, those predatory animals will never be any threat again.

This will be a time when you will not need iron or steel bars in a zoo to keep dangerous animals away from you. No animal will be a threat to any of God's people.

**KINGDOM BLESSING #7** – God will turn the land of sorrow into the land of joy. **35:10**

Notice who it is who actually has everlasting joy - the ransomed and the redeemed.

This world does not know what it would be like to have “everlasting joy,” especially in the Middle East. But one day it will know.

Never again will anything sorrowful happen to the redeemed of the Lord. Their existence will be one of perpetual joy and happiness. Total peace, total prosperity, total joy.

When Jesus Christ is your Savior, your future is bright; or as Dr. Wiersbe said your future is your “friend” (*Be Comforted*, p. 90).

What God will do physically for Israel, He can spiritually do for you right now. He can turn your barren, parched life into a productive life. He can heal you of all of your sin, which has broken you down. He can make a fruitless life into a fruit-producing life.

Years ago there was a program called “Highway to Heaven.” Jesus Christ is your only Highway to Heaven. He is your only “Highway of Holiness.” Believe on Him and you too will experience the blessings of God.