

Sunday Evening July 15, 2018
"The Highway of Holiness" Isaiah 35:8

A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it *shall be* for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. (Isaiah 35:8 NKJ)

I. *What is a road, what is a highway?*

a wide way leading from one place to another, especially one with a specially prepared surface which vehicles can use.

Definition of HIGHWAY MERRIAM WEBSTER ONLINE -

: a public way; *especially* : a main direct road

מַסְלוּל macluwl {mas-lool'} **Meaning:** 1) highway

דֶּרֶךְ derek {deh'-rek}

Meaning: 1) way, road, distance, journey, manner 1a) road, way, path 1b) journey 1c) direction 1d) manner, habit, way 1e) of course of life (fig.) 1f) of moral character (fig.)

1. *In context this particular highway is part of God's dramatic improvement of an overall bad situation caused by sin. It chapter 35 is part of a picture of God's grace in contrast to the picture of God's fierce judgment describe in the previous chapter –*

A. *See the judgment -*

For *it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion.* ⁹ Its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its dust into brimstone; Its land shall become burning pitch. ¹⁰ It shall not be quenched night or day; Its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; No one shall pass through it forever and ever. (Isaiah 34:8-10 NKJ)

B. *Read of God's grace communicated in chapter 35 –*

The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; ² It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted, "Be

strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *With* the recompense of God; He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. ⁷ The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, *There shall be* grass with reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it *shall be* for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, Nor shall *any* ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk *there*, ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35:1-10 NKJ)

Chapter 35 describes:

:1 *a happy, blossoming rose situation*

:2 *it is an abundant blossoming, a singing and rejoicing blossoming*

:3 *There is a strengthening of weak hands, a making firm of feeble knees*

:4 *An encouraging*

:5 *Blind made to see, deaf made to hear*

:6 *there are lame leaping, dumb singing, waters in the wilderness*

:7 *Parched ground becomes a pool'*

:8 *Here is the Highway of Holiness, implying this is speaking to spiritual things*

:9 *Lions, ravenous beasts are not there, these are a result of sin*

:10 *... ransomed of the LORD rejoice*

II. *This Highway is a road for the ransomed of the LORD, it is off-limits for the "unclean" –*

The unclean shall not pass over it, but it *shall be* for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. (Isaiah 35:8 NKJ)

1. *Holiness is absolutely necessary for entry into Heaven, even to be on the right road –*

Pursue peace with all **people**, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: (Hebrew 12:14 NKJ)

Holiness is something we are to pursue, how are we who are sinners by nature, by birth, to obtain such a holiness?

A. *We are ransomed by the LORD –*

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35:10 NKJ)

B. *We are redeemed and cleansed by Christ's blood –*

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19 NKJ)

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)

C. *We are no longer what we once were –*

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

D. *We are empowered to a new walk by the Holy Spirit –*

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16 NKJ)

- *It is a walking in good works -*

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10 NKJ)

- *It is worthy walk -*

I, ... beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (Ephesians 4:1 NKJ)

- *It is a different walk –*

... that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, (Ephesians 4:17 NKJ)

- *It is a walk in Christ's Love -*

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (Ephesians 5:2 NKJ)

- *It is a walk in the light - For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8 NKJ)*

2. *The unclean do not walk in this way, nor do they attain to Heaven –*

"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8 NKJ)

A. *Grace is not a license for sin but that which saves us from it –*

Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, (Romans 5:20 NKJ)

B. *How does grace abound? Does it leave us in our sins?*

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? (Romans 6:1 NKJ)

3. *The apostle Paul details a believer's even his own struggle with sin –*

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. (Romans 7:21 NKJ)

4. *Yet the road, the Way to life is strait and clear –*

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ "Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14 NKJ)

III. *Yet the way is a highway, it speeds us along –*

Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. (Isaiah 35:8 NKJ)

1. *Christ is the Way –*

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6 NKJ)

2. *We are directed in this Way by God's Word the Bible –*

NUN. Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105 NKJ)

3. *We are enabled in our way by God Himself –*

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NKJ)

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