

# Isaiah

The Coming Kingdom  
Isaiah 35

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## Introduction

Isaiah has continued to pour out prophecies of destruction on Israel and the surrounding nations because of their evil. He now turns to the promise of the Messiah's kingdom. The future of the earth is bright, hopeful, promising, and encouraging. The Lord is going to change this evil world back into a Garden of Eden. This chapter gives a vivid portrayal of the transformation that will take place

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## Isaiah 35:1-2

The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; <sup>2</sup> 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



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The land will be completely transformed back into a Garden of Eden. The desert land will be filled with rich nutrients and moisture, and the vegetation will blossom so much that it will seem to break forth in shouts of joy. The glory of Lebanon is a reference to the cedar forest of the land. Carmel was known for its mighty oaks, and Sharon for its beautiful pastures and lush, green pastureland.

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The glory and splendor of God will be seen by all the people of the earth. As a result of the total transformation, the whole earth will be filled with the beauty of nature, with the radiance and majesty of God. But even more incredible, they will be able to see the Lord living upon earth as their Ruler and King.

5



Isaiah 35:3-4

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> 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."

Isaiah says that the weak and fearful should look ahead to the glorious future promised by God. They should strengthen themselves in the promise of God's Word. When they become weak, they need to strengthen their weak hands and steady their feeble knees. They need to live strong and righteous lives, keeping the commandments of God.

6



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Fear should never be allowed to take over our hearts. God's people are to keep their eyes on the future promised by the Lord. The Lord will come to carry out perfect justice and judgment upon this earth. He will come to save His people from their enemies.

7



Isaiah 35:5-6a

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup> Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.

When the transformation of the earth takes place, all disabled believers will be healed and restored to full health. All the blind will be able to see, and all the deaf will be able to hear. Crippled believers will leap like deer, and the mute will shout out for joy.

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## Isaiah 35:6b-7

For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. <sup>7</sup>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.

All land that had been ruined and parched will be transformed, changed into fertile soil that is well watered. Water will flow both in the wilderness and in the desert. Streams and rivers will flow abundantly across the face of the earth. Pools will replace desert sand, and springs will bubble up out of ground that had lacked rain. Vegetation will grow everywhere, on all land that had formerly been ruined or barren. It will be paradise.

9



## Isaiah 35:8-9

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. <sup>9</sup>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.

The Messiah's kingdom will have a very special highway running through the midst of it, a highway that will be known as the **Highway of Holiness**. In Isaiah's day traveling along the roads was often dangerous. The danger was due to ferocious animals, thieves, and natural obstacles such as deep ravines and narrow paths on the sides of hills. But in the Messiah's kingdom, the Highway of Holiness will be perfectly safe.

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There will be no unclean or wicked person or ferocious animal to endanger the life of the traveler. All the unclean and wicked of the world will have been removed from the earth. Only the righteous will be living upon earth. Therefore traveling the Highway of Holiness will pose no threat to anyone. Only the redeemed will travel this path.

11



Isaiah 35:10

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.

The purpose of the Highway is for the ransomed of the Lord to return to Zion. Those who were ransomed are those who have been purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Notice that they come with joy and gladness and all sorrow and sighing are gone.

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## So What ...

2020 is coming to a close. Personally I will be glad to see it gone. However, we have a choice. We can focus on the problems of life and enter into the mental prison that comes with that type of thinking, or we can focus on what is to come. These days will pass away into a glorious future. Where is your focus?