

**Study 71: Isaiah, Part 27 Isaiah 35****Isaiah 35**

The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
 the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
 Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;  
 it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
 The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
 the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
 they will see the glory of the Lord,  
 the splendor of our God.

[Carmel and Sharon were known for their lush vegetation. Some have assumed a “literal” interpretation of this passage and speak of the marvelous agricultural achievements of the State of Israel today. However, this misses the import of these verses entirely (see verses 9-10 below). The desert represents an area the people of Israel must pass through on their way home, and calls to mind the Arabian Desert the people had to pass through during the exodus from Egypt.]

3 Strengthen the feeble hands,  
 steady the knees that give way;  
 4 say to those with fearful hearts,  
 “Be strong, do not fear;  
**your God will come,**  
 he will come with **vengeance**;  
 with **divine retribution**  
 he will come **to save you.**”<sup>1</sup>

[Compare: **2 Thess 1:1-10**: Paul, Silas and Timothy,

**To the church of the Thessalonians** in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We ought always to thank God for **you**, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because **your** faith is growing more and more, and the love all of **you** have **for one another** is increasing. 4 Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about **your** perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials **you** are enduring.

5 All this is evidence that God’s judgment is right, and as a result **you** will be counted worthy of **the kingdom of God**, for which **you** are suffering. 6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble **you** 7 and give relief to you **who** are troubled, **and to us** as well. **This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.** 8 *He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.* 9 *They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might* 10 *on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. **This includes you,** because you believed our testimony to you.]*

5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
 and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
 Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
 and streams in the desert.  
 7 The burning sand will become a pool,  
 the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
 In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
 grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

8 And a **highway** will be there;

---

<sup>1</sup> Compare: 2 Thess 1:1-10.

it will be called the **Way of Holiness**;  
it will be for those who walk on that **Way**.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.

[Compare **Isa 11:16**: “There will be a highway for the remnant of his people that is left from Assyria, as there was for Israel when they came up from Egypt.”]

[John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus (**Mark 1:2**), and **Isa 40:3** is cited as being fulfilled: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”]

[Jesus claimed to *be* “the Way” (**John 14:6**). Christianity is called “the Way” in **Acts 9:2**, and Peter calls it “the way of truth” (**2 Pet 2:2**), and “the way of righteousness” (**2 Pet 2:21**).

[**Hebrews 9:8** speaks of the “way into the Most Holy Place” [the Holy of holies, i.e. heaven] was *not yet open to anyone* (read it in its context). **What does this imply?**]

[Compare **Isa 43:19-21**

See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a **way in the wilderness**  
and **streams** in the wasteland.  
20 The wild animals honor me,  
the jackals and the owls,  
because I provide water in the wilderness  
and **streams** in the wasteland,  
to give **drink** to my people, my chosen,  
21 the people I formed for myself  
that they may proclaim my praise

[God calls Himself “the spring of living water” in **Jer. 2:13** and **17:13**. In **John 7:38** Jesus said, “Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” In **Isa 49:10**, God says, “He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water,” and in **Rev 7:17**, it says that the Lamb (Jesus) would be a Shepherd to His people, and “lead them to springs of living water.”]

9 No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.  
But **only the redeemed will walk there**,  
10 **and those the Lord has rescued will return**.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and **sorrow and sighing will flee away**.

[Here is a picture of a return from captivity, which was one of the punishments threatened in Deut 28 for violation of the covenant (see **Deut 28:36, 63-64, 68**). As Lange says in his commentary, “As exile is the sum of all terrors for the Israelite, so exile’s end, return to Zion to everlasting, blessed residence there is the acme and sum of all felicity [extreme happiness; bliss].” (<http://biblehub.com/commentaries/lange/isaiah/35.htm>).

[This chapter contrasts the *judgment* that was to come upon the Gentile nations with the *blessings* that would come upon Israel. In its **typological significance**, we see that judgment on the wicked and the redemption of God’s people would be *simultaneous* events (v 4). When we get to the New Testament, we see that the “salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (**1 Pet 1:5**) was to take place in conjunction with the “judgment *about* to come” (μελλω **Acts 24:25**).

[In (Isa 35) v 10, it says, “sorrow and sighing will flee away.” This sounds very much like **Rev 21:4**, which is a reference to **Isa 25:8**. The swallowing up of death (**1 Cor 15:54-56**, another reference to **Isa 25:8**), the wiping away of tears, and the doing away with sorrow/mourning, crying and pain *all* take place when the Lord *redeems* His people! **Isa 49:10** says of God’s covenant people: “They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat beat down on them.”

[**Rev 21:4** says this happens because “the *old order of things* has passed away” (literally, the “*first things*” – Rev 21:1 says, “for the first heaven and the first earth passed away”). The new order of things is the “new heavens and new earth” (**Rev 21:1**). Note that Jerusalem is still the capitol city, but it is a “**new Jerusalem**” (**Rev 21:2**).

[One indication that this is speaking of the New Covenant Israel (the Church) is that in this “new heavens and new earth,” there is no sea, a symbol of the Gentiles (non-covenantal people / unbelievers). This is only possible in the New Covenant, since you must be a believer in order to be part of it. Therefore, there can be no “Gentiles” in it. As a side note, this is why I find the term “Gentile believer” to be unbiblical and offensive. It is commonly used in “Messianic” congregations to refer to non-Jewish Christians.]

[We covered chapters 36-37 at the same time as chapter 33, since the former speak of the fulfillment of the latter.]