

Isaiah 35:1–10 — *Streams in the Desert*

Out of Darkness, Into Light

Isaiah 35 shines like a jewel against the dark backdrop of judgment in the previous chapters. It lifts our eyes beyond the devastation of the Great Tribulation to the radiant hope of the Kingdom of God on earth, when Jesus Christ will reign as King.

*“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them,
And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;
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.”* (Isaiah 35:1–2)

Desolate landscapes will burst with life. The most barren places will become gardens. This is creation restored, Eden revisited. Even deserts will sing.

The Strength of God for the Weary

*“Strengthen the weak hands,
And make firm the feeble knees.
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 35:3–4)

Here is encouragement for the faint-hearted. God promises not only to judge evil but also to save His people. He steps into human weakness with divine strength.

Application: When fear paralyzes you, remember: the Lord Himself will come to rescue His people. Our hope is not in our endurance, but in His promise.

Bodies and Creation Made New

*“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
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.”* (Isaiah 35:5–6)

Physical brokenness will be healed. Blind eyes will see, deaf ears will hear, crippled legs will dance, silent tongues will sing. Even nature will be transformed—water will flow where once there was thirst.

Application: This is God’s heart—to restore, to heal, to make all things new. Every tear, every sickness, every disability will one day give way to the wholeness of His kingdom. Until then, we can trust Him to give grace for every trial.

The Highway of Holiness

*“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)

In the Kingdom, there will be a highway leading directly into the presence of God. It is a way of purity, not of pride. Even the simple will find safe passage there, because it is the Lord who keeps their steps.

*“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.”* (Isaiah 35:9)

The way is safe because it belongs to the Redeemer.

Application: Jesus Christ is the Way (John 14:6). He invites us now to walk on the Highway of Holiness—not by our perfection but by His redemption.

Everlasting Joy in Zion

*“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)

This is the great reversal: sorrow replaced by song, sighing by gladness, fear by everlasting joy. The redeemed will live in unbroken fellowship with God.

Practical Application

1. **Encourage the weak.** If you know someone weary, fearful, or discouraged, be God’s voice of hope: “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come.”
2. **Trust God’s promises.** What looks like wilderness now can become a blooming garden under His hand. Pray in faith over barren areas of your life.
3. **Walk the Highway of Holiness.** Keep short accounts with God. Turn from sin quickly. Fix your eyes on Jesus, the One who guides you safely home.

Invitation: Enter the Highway Today

Isaiah 35 paints a breathtaking picture of God's future kingdom. But the Highway of Holiness is open even now through Jesus Christ. He has already paid the ransom for your soul by His death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave.

Do not wait. Repent of your sin, lay down your burdens, and give your life fully to Jesus. He promises forgiveness, peace, and the hope of eternal joy.

Pray from your heart:

"Lord Jesus, I see my sin and my need for You. Forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new. I give You my life today. Help me to trust and follow You every day until that glorious day when sorrow and sighing flee away. Amen."

If you prayed sincerely, you are beginning a new journey on the Highway of Holiness. Walk it daily by trusting Jesus, reading His Word, and living for His glory.