

# Isaiah Chapters 34-35

## OBSERVATION

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – **ptwente@gmail.com** For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: **www.ptwente.com** Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### **BE STILL, MY SOUL - Von Schliegel/Sibelius – Whintley Phipps**

*1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to thy God to order and provide; in ev'ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He has the past. Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know His voice, who ruled them while He dwelt below.*

*3 Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

*Be still, my soul: (2x)*

### **GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH: Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!**

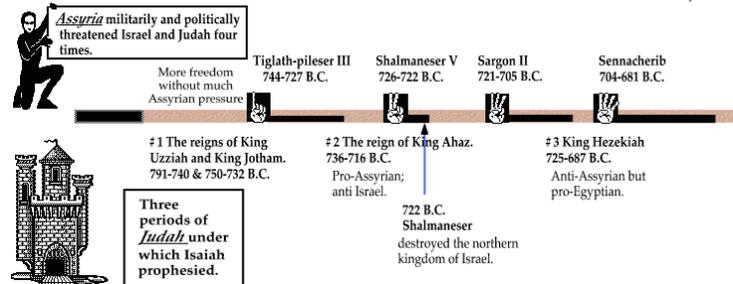
*Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642*

*Isaiah's time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!*

*In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.*

*Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.*

- I. **THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD - CONFLICT AND VICTORY (Isa 1-39)**
  - A. **PROPHECIES CONCERNING JUDAH AND JERUSALEM (Isa 1-12)**
  - B. **PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE NATIONS (Isa 13-27)**
  - C. **DELIVERANCE FOUND NOT IN EGYPT, BUT IN THE LORD (Isa 28-35)**
  - D. **HISTORICAL INTERLUDE (Isa 36-39)**
- II. **THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD - HOPE FOR TROUBLED TIMES (Isa 40-66)**
  - A. **THE ONE TRUE GOD VERSUS IDOLS (Isa 40-48)**
  - B. **LORD'S SERVANT WILL BRING SALVATION THROUGH SUFFERING (Isa 49-57)**
  - C. **THE FUTURE GLORY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE, THE NEW ZION (Isa 58-66)**



### **Isaiah – Bible Timeline**

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	<a href="#">Isaiah 1 - 5</a>
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	<a href="#">Isaiah 6</a>
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	<a href="#">Isaiah 7</a>
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	<a href="#">Isaiah 8</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	<a href="#">Isaiah 9</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	<a href="#">Isaiah 9:8</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	<a href="#">Isaiah 10</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	<a href="#">Isaiah 11</a>
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	<a href="#">Isaiah 12</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	<a href="#">Isaiah 13 - 22</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	<a href="#">Isaiah 22</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	<a href="#">Isaiah 23</a>
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	<a href="#">Isaiah 24</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	<a href="#">Isaiah 25 - 27</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	<a href="#">Isaiah 28 - 32</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	<a href="#">Isaiah 32</a>
725 BC	<b>Isaiah Declares God's Judgments</b>	<b><a href="#">Isaiah 33, 34</a></b>
725 BC	<b>Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion</b>	<b><a href="#">Isaiah 35</a></b>
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	<a href="#">2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38</a>
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	<a href="#">2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39</a>
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	<a href="#">Isaiah 40 - 66</a>
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	<a href="#">2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32</a>
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	<a href="#">2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37</a>

## Isaiah Chapters 34-35

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

*Judgment on the Nations*  
**Isa 34:1 Come near, you nations, to hear; And heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, The world and all things that come forth from it.**  
**Isa 34:2 For the indignation of the LORD is against all nations, And His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter.**  
**Isa 34:3 Also their slain shall be thrown out; Their stench shall rise from their corpses, And the mountains shall be melted with their blood.**  
**Isa 34:4 All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as fruit falling from a fig tree.**

*vs. 1-4* The indignation of the LORD against the peoples of the nations. *The indignation of the LORD*: In the immediate context, Isaiah continues the thought of the coming judgment against the Assyrians. But in the larger context, we can see this passage as an announcement of the judgment of come upon the *nations* during the Great Tribulation. Jesus, and many Old Testament prophets, plainly told us of a coming time He called *great tribulation* (Mat 24:21, 29; Rev. 19:17-18), when because of the judgment of God, conditions on earth would be the worst human history had ever seen. *Revelation chapters 6, 8-9, and 16-18* describe this horrific time, when there will be widespread ecological, economic, cosmic, and human catastrophe on a level never before known in history. This chapter relates to the very end times goes back a long way among Christian teachers. No wonder Isaiah pleads with the nations: *Come near, you nations, to hear; and heed, you people!* In light of how terrible the great tribulation will be, when we consider how prophecy has been fulfilled, and how the stage is set for even more fulfilled prophecy, we should *hear* and take *heed!* The stage is set for a rebuilt temple that will come in the last days, necessary to fulfill the prophecies of the abomination of desolation (Mat 24:15; Mar 13:14; 2Th 2:3-4). The stage is set for the sort of world-dominating confederation of nations, heir to the Roman Empire to arise (Dan 2:36-45; Rev 13:1-8; Rev 17:10-14). The stage is set for a political and economic “superman” to arise, the sort of single political leader who will lead this world-dominating confederation of nations (2Th 2:3-12; Rev 13:4-7). The stage is set for the kind of false religion the Bible says will characterize the very last days (2Th 2:4; 2Th 2:9-12; Rev 13:11-15; Rev 17:1-6). The stage is set for the kind of economic system predicted for the very last days (Rev 13:15-17). The stage is set for the end-times scenario the Bible says will happen between Russia and Israel in *Ezekiel 38-39*. The warning regarding this time of the *indignation of the LORD* is directed not to God’s people, but to the *nations*. This is because God’s people will escape the terrors of the great tribulation, though they may experience great hardship in the time leading up to it. Jesus said we should pray that we would be counted worthy to escape that time of terrors (Luk 21:36), and be taken to heaven in the great catching away of the church (1Th 4:16-18). The cataclysmic effect on the heavens as well as the earth is given to us in several passages of Scripture. *All the host of heaven shall be dissolved* (Mt. 24:29), *And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as fruit falling from a fig tree.* (Rev. 6:12-14)

*vs. 1-4* Isaiah says, listen up all the people of all the nations! The LORD’s indignation is coming against all nations. He then describes the Battle of Armageddon, where three armies – 200 million from the East, the army of the anti-Christ and the armies from the north, Gog and Magog. They initially want to conquer each other, but at that time Jesus will return to the earth – His Second Coming. When they see Him, because of their hatred towards Him, they will gather together to fight Him. With a word from His mouth, all the armies will be destroyed. Their bodies will be thrown out. Their stench shall rise! Their blood will run as deep as a horse’s bridle. All the hosts of heaven shall be dissolved. Heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll. The hosts of heaven will fall like a leaf from the vine and as figs falling from a fig tree. The Great Tribulation period will be an awesome display of God’s judgment over the whole earth. We certainly don’t want to be there and we pray for the lost, that they would come to Christ, so they won’t be there either! Watch and pray!

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

**Isa 34:5 "For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; Indeed it shall come down on Edom, And on the people of My curse, for judgment.**

**Isa 34:6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, It is made overflowing with fatness, With the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.**

**Isa 34:7 The wild oxen shall come down with them, And the young bulls with the mighty bulls; Their land shall be soaked with blood, And their dust saturated with fatness."**

**Isa 34:8 For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion.**

**Isa 34:9 Its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its dust into brimstone; Its land shall become burning pitch.**

**Isa 34:10 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.**

**vs. 5-7** The great bloodshed at the judgment of the LORD. ***Indeed it shall come down on Edom:*** The Edomites were near neighbors to Israel, and often bitter rivals. The Edomites rejoiced whenever the people of Judah or Israel were afflicted, so Isaiah focuses on the judgment that will come against Edom, using them as a single example of the large judgment that will come upon all the ***nations*** (as in **Isa 34:1-2**). Although Edom was a sister nation to Israel, it hated Israel more than any other nation. Throughout all of history we see this. It is for this reason that Edom is frequently presented as a representative of all the nations that hated the Jews. Edom had acted as an enemy of Judah for centuries, but now God would avenge this hateful attitude that is so characteristic of the world's ways. ***The sword of the LORD is filled with blood . . . their land shall be soaked with blood:*** The ***indignation of the LORD*** finds its final fulfillment in the battle of Armageddon, which will be a terribly bloody affair (**Rev 14:20**). ***Overflowing with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams, for the LORD has a great sacrifice . . . and a great slaughter:*** In associating this time of judgment with the image of sacrifice, Isaiah tells us that this is payment for the penalty of sin. Even as a sacrificial victim paid for the sin of the one bringing the sacrifice, so the bloody judgment of sin at Armageddon will be a payment for the penalty of sin. It will be an imperfect, incomplete payment, but it will be a payment of some kind. The mention of sacrificial animals is primarily referring to the slaughter of people.” The King James Version translates ***wild oxen*** as ***unicorns***. The general opinion is that it does not mean rhinoceros but aurochs, or wild bison. According to **Deu 33:17**, this animal did not have one but two horns.”

**vs. 8-10** The indignation of the LORD against the land of the nations. The land is made desolate. ***Its streams will be turned into pitch, and its dust into brimstone:*** In this day of the Lord's vengeance known as the great tribulation, there will be unparalleled ecological disaster. Before Jesus Christ returns at the end of the great tribulation, one-third of the earth's vegetation, one-third of the oceans, and one-third of fresh waters will be destroyed and unusable (**Rev 8, 16**). ***The year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion*** - The time when He will recompense, that is, punish those who have had a controversy with Zion. (**Gen. 12:3**)

**vs. 5-7** God says His judgment is coming on Edom, a type of the world, hostile to the Jews. In the end times no one will stand with Israel, only God will defend them because He is not through with them yet. But much anti-Semitism is now occurring and even increasing. It's now dangerous to be a Jew in Europe, as well as in other parts of the world. God speaks of His judgment like a sacrifice of animals. When He proceeds to judge, it will be holiness against unrighteousness. Are we ready for Christ's Second Coming? How about those around us? Be ready! Watch and pray!

**vs. 8-10** The day of the LORD's vengeance! **Isa 63:4** For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. The year of recompense – judgment on all nations who have come against Israel – that would include the whole world, because in the end, no one will be standing for Israel! God's judgment will be complete – It will not be quenched night or day. The land shall lie desolate. No one shall pass through it forever and ever! Are we being true to the LORD, looking for and being ready for His soon coming? Are we praying for the peace of Jerusalem?

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

*Isa 34:11 But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it, Also the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. And He shall stretch out over it The line of confusion and the stones of emptiness.*

*Isa 34:12 They shall call its nobles to the kingdom, But none shall be there, and all its princes shall be nothing.*

*Isa 34:13 And thorns shall come up in its palaces, Nettles and brambles in its fortresses; It shall be a habitation of jackals, A courtyard for ostriches.*

*Isa 34:14 The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the jackals, And the wild goat shall bleat to its companion; Also the night creature shall rest there, And find for herself a place of rest.*

*Isa 34:15 There the arrow snake shall make her nest and lay eggs And hatch, and gather them under her shadow; There also shall the hawks be gathered, Everyone with her mate.*

*Isa 34:16 "Search from the book of the LORD, and read: Not one of these shall fail; Not one shall lack her mate. For My mouth has commanded it, and His Spirit has gathered them.*

*Isa 34:17 He has cast the lot for them, And His hand has divided it among them with a measuring line. They shall possess it forever; From generation to generation they shall dwell in it."*

*vs. 11-15* The land is inhabited only by animals of the wilderness. ***But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it:*** Much of the earth will be so destroyed that in many places, only wild animals will be able to live. The King James Version translates ***wild goat*** as *satyr*, which was a mythical demonic creature. The Hebrew word here is *sair*, which as an adjective means *hairy* ([Gen 27:11](#)) and as a noun refers to a male goat ([Gen 37:31](#) and [Lev 4:23](#)). It is possible that Isaiah means that wild goats will inhabit the desolate regions of Edom, or he may mean that it will be the haunt of demonic spirits. Something the best translation is satyrs, demons, or field devils. The Hebrew word for ***night creature*** is *lilith*, which is the feminine form of the word “night.” Old Jewish superstitions make *Lilith* a beautiful demon of the night, who seduced men and killed children. It is possible that Isaiah uses the term to describe the demonic habitation of Edom after God’s judgment.

*vs. 16-17* The assurance of the judgments of the LORD. ***Search from the book of the LORD, and read: not one of these shall fail.*** This remarkable statement tells us that Isaiah *understood that his words were the words of the LORD*. It also tells us that Isaiah meant that *his prophecy should be understood literally* - poetically, but *literally*. It also means that Isaiah clearly challenged doubters to “look it up” once the prophecy was fulfilled. When Edom has become a wasteland, men will take out the scroll and verify that Isaiah’s prophecy had come true. ***Search from the book of the LORD, and read: not one of these shall fail:*** This time of great tribulation is certainly coming upon the earth. This is beyond all doubt; our part isn’t to bring it or to prevent it, but simply to be ready, and to *pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man* ([Luk 21:36](#)).

*vs. 11-15* The desolation of the land, caused by God’s judgment, will be so complete that only wild animals will dwell in it! As we read details of this here and in the Book of Revelation, we should come to the conclusion that we don’t want to be there and go through that. We want to pray for all unbelievers that we know – kings and those in authority – that they may fear God, be born again and be saved, being safely with the church in heaven!

*vs. 16-17* God is saying, just get this Book and read it. You will see. You will know the sure word of God’s prophecy. It will happen just as we are being told in advance. “Not one of these shall fail.” Not one of the scriptures. Not one word that God has said shall fail. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will never pass away”. God’s word is certain! God’s word is steadfast! God’s word is sure! Not one word of this prophecy shall fail! As God said, “I said it and I will do it.” We need to be in His Word every day!

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

<p><i>The Ransomed Shall Return</i> <b>Isa 35:1</b> <i>The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;</i> <b>Isa 35:2</b> <i>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.</i></p> <p><b>Isa 35:3</b> <i>Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees.</i> <b>Isa 35:4</b> <i>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."</i></p>	<p><b>Isaiah 35:1-10 - THE HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS</b> <b>vs. 1-4</b> The restoration of the land and of the people. <i>The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose:</i> After the judgment on the nations described in Isaiah 34, God will bring a beautiful restoration. This was true in the immediate term, when Judah was restored after the invasion of the Assyrians was turned back. It is true in the longer term, when modern day Israel has turned <i>the wilderness and the wasteland</i> into productive farms, and truly has made <i>the desert . . . blossom as the rose</i>. It will be true in the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy, when God restores the ecology of the world after the end of the great tribulation and the battle of Armageddon (<b>Isa 11:6-9</b>). <b>Rom 8:19-22</b> : <i>The earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.</i> Nature is waiting for the transformation that will come when the Messiah reigns and believers are glorified.</p> <p><b>vs. 3-4</b> Weak people are strengthened. <i>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees:</i> The coming judgment would be enough to make the hands of anyone weak, and knees of anyone feeble. But in light of the glorious restoration God will bring from that time, it is no time to have <i>weak hands</i> or <i>feeble knees</i>! Get strong and get going! We use our <i>hands</i> to work with; those with <i>weak hands</i> are not working for the LORD as they should. We use our <i>knees</i> both to progress with and to pray with. Those with <i>feeble knees</i> are not progressing with the LORD and praying as they should. <b>Heb 12:12</b> quotes this verse from Isaiah to make the point that even in a time of chastening from the LORD, we should take strength and courage in the LORD, knowing that it is His Fatherly love and care that has allowed and directed the chastening. It's time to get strong in the LORD and move on! But the passage both here in <i>Isaiah</i> and <i>Hebrews 12</i> indicates that there are some among God's people who indeed have <i>weak hands</i> and <i>feeble knees</i>. What is the cause of it? If we are not making progress in our walk with Jesus, fault can surely be found with <i>weak hands</i> and <i>feeble knees</i>. <i>Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear . . . He will come and save you."</i> In our present trials, we need the strong hope of the LORD to overcome our fearful hearts. Our fearful hearts are not hoped by a vain, vague optimism; they are helped by the assured confidence that <i>He will come and save</i>.</p>	<p><b>vs. 1-2</b> Here we see the Kingdom Age when our Messiah will reign for a thousand years! The whole world, even nature, is waiting for that day when our Messiah reigns and all believers are glorified! A great future for all believers. A most terrible future for all unbelievers. May we pray much for the lost!</p> <p><b>vs. 3-4</b> In that day those remaining in Israel will be strengthened and encouraged by God. The future change in Israel's international role is designed to encourage the discouraged among the people. The writer of Hebrews gave an additional application of this verse to strengthen endurance among Christians suffering persecution for their faith (<b>Heb 12:12</b>). <i>Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,</i></p>
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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

*Isa 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*  
*Isa 35:6 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.*  
*Isa 35:7 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.*

**vs. 5-7** The sick and the diseased are healed. ***Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened:*** When God’s salvation comes, miraculous *power* comes with it. It is a miracle for the blind to see, for the deaf to hear, for the lame to run, and for the mute to speak. But when *He will come and save you*, He does it with miraculous power! When John the Baptist was in prison, he became discouraged, and to wonder if Jesus really was the Messiah he had proclaimed Him to be. When John’s disciples brought this question to Jesus, He replied: *Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me. (Mat 11:4-6)*. If Jesus didn’t use the exact words of Isaiah 35, he certainly used the idea. Jesus, the Messiah, and come to bring God’s salvation, and that would be accompanied with miraculous power. Abundance replaces lack. ***For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert:*** When God’s salvation comes, miraculous *provision* comes with it. What was dry and useless before becomes well-watered and fruitful. Jesus said He would bring this kind of beautiful provision in the lives of His people: “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive. (*Joh 7:38-39*) There is no reason for a Christian to endure a “dry time,” not when the miraculous power of Jesus Christ to provide is present. ***The parched ground shall become a pool:*** “The word translated *parched ground* actually means *mirage*, air reflection, an atmospheric phenomenon frequently seen in Eastern deserts which is caused by the reflection of the hot rays of the sun . . . Now Isaiah brings the good news that what used to be a mere semblance and an illusion will become a glorious reality.

**vs. 5-7** In the midst of the storm of judgment, God’s people can rejoice because they will know that God will come and save them. The church has the added hope and joy of never experiencing the Great Tribulation period. Sickness and disease and all affliction are the result of man’s sin. These will be lifted in the Kingdom. There’s no sickness in heaven, there’s no death in heaven, there’s no sorrow, or pain, or suffering, and thus you’ll come to a world with Jesus reigning, and you’ll experience what the world could be like if the world was only living in obedience to God. Not what we see today. You see a world that has been corrupted by sin. You see the awful consequences of sin. The death, the sorrow, the pains, the suffering, the infirmities. But a new day is coming. God’s is going to restore! He said, “I’m making all things new”. A new start for man, and mankind, and this time Jesus will be here on earth, reigning over the earth! “The lame will leap like the deer, the tongue of the mute will sing.” Oh what a day!

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

**Isa 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.*  
**Isa 35:9** *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.*

**Isa 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.*

**vs. 8-9** *A Highway of Holiness* is made for God’s people. **Isa 40:3** *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.* Isaiah announces that in the ministry of the Messiah, there will be a wonderful *highway*, a *road*, known as the *Highway of Holiness*. It is a high, glorious road to travel on! The construction of this *Highway of Holiness* was the greatest engineering feat ever accomplished. “Engineering has done much to tunnel mountains, and bridge abysses; but the greatest triumph of engineering is that which made a way from sin to holiness, from death to life, from condemnation to perfection. Who could make a road over the mountains of our iniquities but Almighty God? No one but the Lord of love would have wished it; none but the God of wisdom could have devised it; none but the God of power could have done it! **The unclean shall not pass over it:** This highway isn’t for everyone. You can’t make it on this highway by paying your way. You are only allowed on this highway if you are cleansed by the great work of the Messiah. **Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray:** When we stick on God’s *Highway of Holiness*, even though His work in us isn’t complete yet - we may still be in some ways a *fool* - yet we are safe because we are on His highway! There are guardrails on the dangerous curves, and He keeps us from falling off as He develops the wisdom and maturity in us that will also keep us on the highway. The safety of the Highway of Holiness. **No lion shall be there:** As we stay on God’s *Highway of Holiness*, we are protected from the attacks of the lion. Though *your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1Pe 5:8)*, that lion has never yet devoured anyone who stayed on the road. The promise is sure, **no lion shall be there! It shall not be found there!** In that day there will be a highway in and to Israel so that all people from all parts for the world can easily reach the temple in Jerusalem, which will be the house of prayer for all nations. In the past good roads into Jerusalem were scarce, but at the coming of the LORD, this will be entirely different!

**v. 10** The travelers on the Highway of Holiness. **And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing:** We use this *Highway of Holiness* to come to where God lives and reigns - *Zion* - and we come there *with singing*. God can put a song in our heart as we travel on His *Highway of Holiness!* **The ransomed of the LORD:** The word *ransomed* is related to the word *goel*, and refers to the one who has been rescued by the *goel* - the kinsman-redeemer. **With everlasting joy on their heads . . . and sorrow and sighing shall flee away:** We can know some of this now, but we aren’t at our destination on the *Highway of Holiness* yet. But when we arrive there, *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. (Rev 21:4); Is. 2:4).* **THE WORLD AS GOD INTENDED!**

**vs. 8-9** You are only allowed on this highway if you are cleansed by the great work of the Messiah. *Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray:* When we stick on God’s *Highway of Holiness*, even though His work in us isn’t complete yet - we may still be in some ways a *fool* - yet we are safe because we are on His highway! There are guardrails on the dangerous curves, and He keeps us from falling off as He develops the wisdom and maturity in us that will also keep us on the highway. What a beautiful picture we have here of the earth during the Kingdom Age.

**v. 10** The picture here is as if we come to God barren, dry, blind, deaf, weak, and crippled. Then the miraculous power of Jesus comes to change us, heal us, and provide for us. That isn’t the end of God’s work though; He then goes on to make a *Highway of Holiness* that the transformed man can walk on... Are you on that Highway? Are you making progress on it and rejoicing the journey? Are you inviting others to join you? Are we praying for them?