

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

*Part 253 – The Ransomed Of The Lord Shall Return (Isaiah 35:1-10)*

1. As we begin this chapter, what is the wilderness doing?

Gladness, blossoming, joy, singing, and seeing the glory of the Lord: *“The wilderness and the solitary place 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 unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God” (Isaiah 35:1-2).*

- When God’s work is accomplished, nature was said to rejoice (**I Chronicles 16:18-33, Psalms 96:4-13, and Isaiah 55:11-13**).
- Obviously, God’s judgment has benefited the wilderness (**Isaiah 14:5-8, Isaiah 29:17, Isaiah 32:15-17, and Isaiah 51:3**).
- There is a tie to the restoration of the Lord’s people and blessings on the earth (**Isaiah 52:9-10**).
- Here is something to understand. Whether or not God’s people of old were faithful DIRECTLY impacted whether or not God send rain on the fields, fruit grew, etc. (**Deuteronomy 11:11-17**).

2. Now that a judgment of God has passed, what did the weak need?

Strengthened: *“Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees” (Isaiah 34:3).*

- **Isaiah 52:1-3, Luke 22:31-32, and Zechariah 10:5-12.**

3. What message was sent to the people of God that had a fearful heart?

Be strong, God will avenge: *“Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you” (Isaiah 35:4).*

- This instruction is sent to those who had been corrected. They are not told to cease fearing God in the sense that God always wants men to fear Him (**Deuteronomy 6:1-2, Deuteronomy 6:13, Deuteronomy 13:4, II Kings 17:39, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, II Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 5:21, and I Peter 2:17**).
- The point here is, you’ve been corrected and now restored, so don’t be afraid of God’s destruction at this point (**Hebrews 12:5-13**).
- Be strong (**Joshua 1:6-7, I Chronicles 28:20, Ephesians 6:10-17, and II Timothy 2:1-4**).
- One consolation is that God’s vengeance is coming upon those whom had afflicted His people (**Deuteronomy 32:35-36, Psalms 50:3, Isaiah 25:8-12, and Zechariah 2:8**).

4. What did God promise concerning the blind, lame, and mutes?

They would see a time wherein they'd be healed: *"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert"* (Isaiah 35:5-6).

- This language sometimes applies figuratively to those who are spiritually blind and deaf (Isaiah 29:18 and Acts 26:18; cf. II Peter 1:9).
- However, the connection here to the lame walking and the mute singing declares that those who were inflicted physically could look forward to times of healing. With the highway we will talk about, this seems to be looking very forward to Christ and the kingdom (Matthew 15:30-31, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 7:20-22, John 9:1-38, and Acts 3:1-26).
- Living waters (Zechariah 14:8; cf. John 4:5-14 and John 7:37-38).

5. What about the desert land?

Water and grass would return: *"And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes"* (Isaiah 35:7).

- Isaiah 44:3-5.

6. What purpose did the promised highway have?

A way of holiness that the unclean and predators could not use made for the redeemed: *"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there"* (Isaiah 35:8-9).

- Isaiah 11:10-16, Isaiah 40:3-5, John 14:6, and Hebrews 10:19-20.
- The way is not for the unclean (II Corinthians 6:14-18); i.e. those in spiritual darkness (Romans 13:12-14, Ephesians 5:8-11, I John 1:7, and II John 9).
- Wayfaring or those not traveling in uncleanness (I Peter 2:5-11).
- Even those who had been fools will not err (Titus 3:3-8).
- No predators (Isaiah 65:17-25; cf. Colossians 3:15).
- The redeemed [again, a tie to Christ] are on this way (Galatians 3:13-29, Titus 2:11-14, and I Peter 1:18-23).

7. Where were the ransomed of the Lord told they would return?

Zion: *"And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away"* (Isaiah 35:10).

- The ransomed (cf. Matthew 20:28) come to a different kind of Zion (Hebrews 12:22-23) with an everlasting joy (Isaiah 51:11; cf. II Peter 1:11).