

ISAIAH 35 | *Streams in the Desert*

The Desert Shall Blossom

1 The wilderness (מִדְבָּר) and the dry landscape (צִיָּה) shall be glad. The desert regions (עֲרָבָה) shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus. 2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of Yahweh, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the Weak Hands

3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who have an anxious/panicky (מַהֲרָה) heart,

Be strong. Fear not! Behold, your God (אֱלֹהֵיכֶם) will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save (יִשַׁע) you.

Streams in the Desert

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.¹ For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.² 7 The burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water. In the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

The Way of Holiness

8 And a highway (מַסְלִיל) shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness (דֶּרֶךְ הַקְּדוֹשׁ).³ The unclean (טָמֵא) shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way (דֶּרֶךְ). No fool (אֲוִיל) shall stumble on it. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it.⁴ They shall not be found there, but the redeemed (גְּאֻל) shall walk there. 10 And the

¹ **Is 32:3-4** 3 Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. 4 The heart of the panicky will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly.

² **Is 41:18** 18 I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. **Is 43:19** 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. **Is 44:3-4** 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground. I will pour my Spirit upon your seed, and my blessing on your descendants. 4 They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. **Jn 7:38-39** 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

³ **Is 40:3** 3 A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **Jn 14:6** 6 Jesus said..., I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

⁴ Satan will no longer threaten believers.

ransomed (פדה) of Yahweh shall return and come to Zion with singing.⁵ Everlasting (עולם) joy (שמחה) shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain gladness (שׂון) and joy (שמחה), and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.⁶

⁵ **Is 25:8** 8 He will swallow up death forever, and Lord Yahweh will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for Yahweh has spoken. **Is 51:11** 11 And the ransomed of Yahweh shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. **Is 65:19** 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people. No more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. **Re 7:17** 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. **Re 21:4** 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

⁶ **Re 21:4** 4 [God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Commentary

1. Overview.

- a. This is the “visionary climax” of the final woe (Is 33-35). It serves as a counterpart to the third woe (Is 29:15-24).⁷
- b. In the Messianic age, Edom will become a desert (Is 34), and Israel a garden (Is 35).
 - (1) The timeframe of Is 34-35 is the future tribulation and 1000-year Messianic kingdom to follow. The message of Is 35 is identical to the message of Is 11-12.
 - (2) Theologically, Edom represents the unbelieving nations in general. Israel represents redeemed humanity, and the land of Israel represents planet earth.
- c. This chapter supports the premillennial viewpoint.
 - (1) “The description in this chapter [Is 35] of the land and the people is a highlight of the first half of the book. This is the desired millennial state for which the nation [of Israel] has longed since God first promised it to Abraham. This is the state that mankind constantly longs for—a utopia in which peace and fertility prevail. This condition will not come, however, till after God’s judgment on the world (chap. 34). This emphasis in Isaiah rules out postmillennialism, which teaches that the world will get increasingly better thus bringing in the kingdom which will be *followed* by the Messiah’s return. The amillennial teaching that there will be no earthly kingdom at all because the Old Testament promises to Israel are being fulfilled in the church today is also foreign to Isaiah’s thought. Isaiah taught that the Lord will regather believing Israel, Abraham’s physical descendants, and will establish God’s long-awaited kingdom on earth. That promised restoration is not being fulfilled in the church today in any sense.”⁸
- d. There is congruency of ideas and language between Is 34-35 and Is 40-66. These chapters are an appropriate [] to the latter half of the book.
- e. The pinnacle of the poem is the concept of “redemption” in v. 9. The “they” of v. 2 is unexplained until v. 9, when we learn “they” are the “ransomed” and “redeemed.”⁹
- f. The concept of joy is found eight times in this short chapter.

2. The Desert Shall Blossom (Is 35:1-2).

- a. **Is 35:1-2** 1 The wilderness (מִדְבָּר) and the dry landscape (צִיָּה) shall be glad. The desert regions (עֲרָבָה) shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus. 2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory (כְּבוֹד) of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty (הֶדָּר) of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory (כְּבוֹד) of Yahweh, the majesty (הֶדָּר) of our God.
- b. As the Messianic age begins, Israel will transform from a sad desert to a happy garden (v. 1). The dry areas of the nation will become fertile. The desert will be transformed. The negative picture of Edom in Is 34 suddenly changes to a positive picture of Israel in Is 35.

⁷ J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 272.

⁸ John A. Martin, “[[Isaiah](#),” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1085.

⁹ J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 273.

- c. Lebanon, Carmel, and Sharon became like a desert when Assyria invaded (Is 33:9). But here the desert of Israel becomes like Lebanon, Carmel, and Sharon in their usual fruitfulness (v. 2).
- (1) **Is 33:9** 9 The land mourns and languishes. Lebanon is confounded and withers away. Sharon is like a desert, and Bashan and Carmel shake off their leaves.
- d. This great transformation will take place when the redeemed remnant see Yahweh's glory and majesty (v. 2). This is a reference to Jesus' glory and majesty in the millennial kingdom. "Glory" is his inherent value and weightiness of worth. "Majesty" is his outward majesty and dignity.¹⁰
- e. Again the emphasis is on what the righteous remnant will *see* (v. 35). This is not a mere spiritual kingdom, but a physical kingdom.
- (1) **Is 33:17** 17 Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty. They will see a land that stretches afar.
- (2) This is the kingdom John the Baptist and Jesus were pronouncing.
- (a) **Mt 3:1-2** 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- (b) **Mt 4:17** 17 From that time Jesus began to preach saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- (3) This is the restoration of all things pronounced by Peter.
- (a) **Ac 3:19-21** 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.
- (4) Just as the kings Peter and Edmund and Queens Susan and Lucy saw Narnia transformed before their eyes, so will the righteous remnant see Israel (and planet earth) transformed before their eyes. We are to expect great changes to planet earth when Jesus comes again. Sin's reign will end, and God's curse upon earth (Ge 3:17) will be reversed.
- (a) **Ro 8:22** 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

3. Strengthen the Weak Hands (Is 35:3-4).

- a. **Is 35:3-4** 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who have an anxious/panicky (מהרהר) heart, Be strong. Fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance (נִקְמָה), with the recompense (גְּמוּלָה) of God. He will come and save (יִשַׁע) you.
- b. The people of Judah are to strengthen and encourage one another until God's great deliverance comes (vv. 3-4). This message was especially needful with 185,000 Assyrian soldiers on the march toward Jerusalem. But it is also relevant principle for Israel in general and for the church. We need a stiffening of resolve to keep going and not give up hope.¹¹ We need encouragement in the realm of action (hands), stability

¹⁰ J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 274.

¹¹ J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 273.

(knees), and conviction (hearts).¹² It is common for God's people to feel weak, feeble, and anxious about what is happening in our fallen world, but we must be strong and courageous, like Joshua. It is specially the job of church leaders to strengthen the weak.

- (1) **Jos 1:9** 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go.
- (2) **Heb 10:24-25** 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- c. The reason the people of Judah are to be strong and not fear is because, at just the right time, God will come to avenge and save them (v. 4). We continue to see reference to the coming day of vengeance-recompense. Vengeance clearly belongs to God, not Israel or the church.
 - (1) **Dt 32:35-36** 35 Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip. For the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly. 36 For Yahweh will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.
 - (2) **Is 1:24** 24 Therefore Yahweh declares, Yahweh of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel: Woe, I will get relief from my enemies and avenge myself on my foes.
 - (3) **Is 59:18** 18 According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies. To the coastlands he will render repayment.
 - (4) **Is 34:8** 8 For Yahweh has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.
 - (5) **Ro 12:19** 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.

4. Streams in the Desert (Is 35:5-7).

- a. **Is 35:5-7** 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters gush (צִבּוֹר) in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. 7 The burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water. In the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- b. When Messiah comes, the redeemed remnant will flourish. The eyes, ears, bodies, and tongues of the remnant will function as God intentioned (vv. 5-6). Included is both physical and spiritual healing. Jesus previewed this healing at his first coming. The healing will be total at his second coming. In Jesus, God became a man in order that man may flourish as God originally intended. Without God, man is spiritually blind, deaf, lame, and mute. It takes the direct intervention of God to heal man's spiritual incapacity.
 - (1) Physical healing/sight.
 - (a) **Lk 7:22** 22 And [Jesus] answered them, Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and

¹² J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 274.

the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.

- (b) **Ac 3:8** 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with [Peter and John], walking and leaping and praising God.
- (2) Spiritual healing/sight.
 - (a) **Is 6:10** 10 Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes, lest they see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.
 - (b) **Is 28:7** 7 These also reel with wine and stagger with strong drink. The priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are swallowed by wine, they stagger with strong drink, they reel in vision, they stumble in giving judgment.
 - (c) **Is 29:9-10** 9 Astonish yourselves and be astonished. Blind yourselves and be blind! Be drunk, but not with wine. Stagger, but not with strong drink! 10 For Yahweh has poured out upon you a spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes (the prophets), and covered your heads (the seers).
 - (d) **Is 29:18** 18 In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.
 - (e) **Is 30:20-21** 20 And though Yahweh give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. 21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.
 - (f) **Is 32:3-4** 3 Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. 4 The heart of the panicky will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly.
 - (g) **Is 42:16** 16 And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.
 - (h) **Jn 9:39-41** 39 Jesus said, For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who “see” may become [spiritually] blind. 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, Are we also blind? 41 Jesus said to them, If you [acknowledged you] were [spiritually] blind, you would have no [spiritual] guilt. But now that you say, We “see,” your [spiritual] guilt remains.
 - (i) “I once was blind, but now I see.”¹³
- (3) God doesn’t intend to reform our old selves. He intends to make us entirely new selves, after his own image.
 - (a) **Ro 6:6-7** 6 We know that our old self was crucified with [Jesus] in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.
 - (b) **2 Co 5:17** 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come.

¹³ John Newton.

- (c) **Ga 6:15** 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.
 - (d) **Eph 4:22-24** 22 ... To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
 - (e) **Col 3:9-10** 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- c. Abundant water will bring Israel to life (vv. 6-7). Not only will man flourish physically and spiritually, but the earth will also flourish physically and spiritually. As goes man, so goes the earth. The key to a clean environment is clean human hearts. Without God, our lives and communities become dry and barren. With God, they flourish and produce bountifully (vv. 5-7). The future renewal of creation surely will involve both the renewal of human beings and the renewal of nature.
- (1) Physical water in Israel.
 - (a) **Is 41:18** 18 I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.
 - (b) **Is 43:19** 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
 - (2) Spiritual water for man.
 - (a) **Is 44:3-4** 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground. I will pour my Spirit upon your seed, and my blessing on your descendants. 4 They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams.
 - (b) **Jn 7:38-39** 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
 - (c) **Re 22:1-2** 1 Then the angel showed me [John] the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city. Also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
 - (d) **Re 22:17** 17 The Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let the one who hears say, Come. And let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who desires take the water of life without price.
 - (3) In a great reversal, the jackals will move from Israel to Edom (v. 7).
 - (a) **Is 34:13** 13 Thorns shall grow over its strongholds, nettles and thistles in its fortresses. It shall be the haunt of jackals, an abode for ostriches.
 - (4) The whole creation groans for this great transformation.
 - (a) **Ro 8:22-23** 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

d. Prayer.

- (1) Transform the human race, Lord. Make us who we ought to be. Give us seeing eyes and hearing ears. Redeem us so that we may live out our true and original purpose. Give us more of your Spirit, Father, that our lives may blossom into amazing fruitfulness. May rivers of living water, the Spirit, flow out of our hearts. By the Spirit through Jesus may we come to you and be transformed into new creatures. Amen.

5. The Way of Holiness (Is 35:8-10).

- a. **Is 35:8-10** 8 And a highway (הַמְּסָלָה) shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness (הַדֶּרֶךְ הַקְּדוֹשׁ). The unclean (טָמֵא) shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way. No fool shall stumble on it. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it. They shall not be found there, but the redeemed (גָּאֹל) shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed (פְּדוּיָהּ) of Yahweh shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
- b. As the Messianic age begins, the redeemed remnant of Israel will return safely (v. 9) to Zion (v. 10) on the highway of holiness (v. 8), like a repeat Exodus.
- (1) Isaiah speaks often of the road of the righteous remnant. It was the job of John the Baptist to make straight a highway for Jesus (Is 40:3).
- (a) מְסָלָה: “a track firmed with stones or fill” (*HALOT*, 606).
- (b) דֶּרֶךְ: way, road, track, path (*HALOT*, 231-32).
- (c) **Is 11:16** 16 And there will be a highway (הַמְּסָלָה) from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.
- (d) **Is 19:23** 23 In that day there will be a highway (הַמְּסָלָה) from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.
- (e) **Is 40:3** 3 A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the road (הַדֶּרֶךְ) of Yahweh. Make straight in the desert a highway (הַמְּסָלָה) for our God.
- (f) **Is 49:11** 11 And I will make all my mountains a road (הַדֶּרֶךְ), and my highways (הַמְּסָלָה) shall be raised up.
- (g) **Is 62:10** 10 Go through, go through the gates. Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway (הַמְּסָלָה). Clear it of stones. Lift up a flag (סֵבַל) over the peoples.
- 1) The סֵבַל is Jesus himself.
- 2) **Is 11:10** 10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a flag (סֵבַל) for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.
- (2) Jesus is the only road to God (vv. 8-9).
- (a) ὁδός: way, road, highway (*BDAG*, 691).
- (b) **Jn 14:6** 6 Jesus said...., I am the way (ὁδός), and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- (c) In the early church, the Christian faith was called simply “the Way.”
- 1) **Ac 9:1-2** 1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to

the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way (τῆς ὁδοῦ ὄντας), men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

- 2) **Ac 19:9** 9 But when some [Jews in Ephesus] became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way (τὴν ὁδὸν) before the congregation, [Paul] withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.
 - 3) **Ac 19:23** 23 About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.
 - 4) **Ac 24:14** 14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way (τὴν ὁδὸν), which they [Jews] call a sect/party/school/faction (αἵρεσις), I [Paul] worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Torah and written in the Prophets....
 - 5) **Ac 24:22** 22 But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way (τῆς ὁδοῦ), put them off saying, When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.
- c. Unbelievers, the “unclean,” will not be allowed on this highway (v. 8). They are self-disqualified through failure to utilise the redemption/ransom provided.¹⁴
- (1) **Is 52:1** 1 Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion. Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city, for there shall no more come into you the [spiritually] uncircumcised (עֲרֻלָּה) and the [spiritually] unclean (טִמְאָה).
 - (2) **Ro 2:28-29** 28 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.
- d. The believing remnant of Israel will be redeemed (v. 9) and ransomed (v. 10). Exactly how this redemption and ransom will take place is described by Isaiah later (Is 53). This is the first of twenty-four times גָּאַל (“to redeem”) is used in Isaiah. A redeemer is a next-of-kin who has the right (not responsibility) to take his helpless relative’s needs as his own (Le 25:25). Messiah Jesus is the Redeemer-Ransomer. At the cross he, as next-of-kin, paid the purchase price to redeem the believing remnant from sin, the curse, and death. To experience the joy of the kingdom, we must be redeemed and ransomed.
- (1) **Le 25:25** 25 If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer (גֹּאֵל) shall come and redeem what his brother has sold.
 - (2) **Is 44:22** 22 I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed (גָּאַל) you.
 - (3) **Is 52:3** 3 For thus says Yahweh: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed (גָּאַל) without money.
 - (4) **Is 59:20** 20 And a Redeemer (גֹּאֵל) will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, declares Yahweh.
 - (5) **Is 62:12** 12 And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed (גֹּאֵל) of Yahweh. And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

¹⁴ J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 275.

- e. The Messianic kingdom will be a place of overwhelming joy (v. 10). We all will be surprised how joyful it is. Zion will be the place where redeemed humanity meets with God. The new heavens and earth will continue that joy forever.
- (1) **Is 51:11** 11 And the ransomed of Yahweh shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting joy (עוֹלָם תִּשְׂמְחֶנּוּ) shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain gladness (יִשְׂשׁוּן) and joy (הִשְׂמֶחָם), and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
 - (2) **Is 65:17-19** 17 For behold, I [Yahweh] create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create. For behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people. No more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.
 - (3) “We human beings keep thinking we can produce joy on our own. But we never can. Joy is always a by-product of the presence of God in his world.”¹⁵
 - (4) We can experience a foretaste of this joy now by practicing the presence of God in our spirits.
 - (a) **Ps 16:11** 11 In your presence there is fullness of joy.

6. Summary of Isaiah 7-35.

- a. “Chs. 7-12 posed a question: ‘Is God Sovereign of the nations?’ Can God deliver from an Assyria? Or is he just one more of the gods, waiting to be gobbled up by a bigger god? In short, can God be trusted? Chs. 13-35 have sought to answer that question in four main sections: chs. 13-23; 24-27; 28-33; 34-35. In the first, God’s lordship over each of the nations is asserted. In the second, it is shown that God is not merely the reactor to the nations, but is in fact the sovereign Actor on the world’s stage. In the third, the superiority of God’s counsel over that of the merely human leaders is shown. Finally, the last two chapters show the ultimate results of the two courses of action, with ch. 35 ending at exactly the same point as chs. 11-12, with the promise that God can, and will, redeem. He may be trusted.”¹⁶

¹⁵ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1–39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 622.

¹⁶ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1–39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 627.