

ISAIAH 35

The Blossoming Desert and the Way of Holiness

The Blossoming Desert

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad. The desert 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.

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

Be strong. Fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.¹

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 break forth 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.

The Way of Holiness

8 And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness (דֶּרֶךְ הַקִּדְּוָה).² The unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way. Even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it.³ They shall not be found there, but the redeemed (גְּאֻלִּים) shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed (פְּדוּיֵי) of Yahweh shall return and come to Zion with singing.⁴ Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.⁵

¹Just as God did for the Israelites in Egypt.

² **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.

³ Satan will no longer threaten believers.

⁴ See *The Restoration of Israel*.

⁵ **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.

Notes