

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**A World
With
God
In It**

Isaiah 35:1-7

Lesson Thirty-Eight

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

A World With God In It

Our study for today comes from the thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah. That chapter is in two parts. The first, verses one through seven, speaks of the power and glory of God at work. The second, verses eight through ten, speaks of the joyful return of God's people to Zion. Read Isaiah 35:1-7.

Chapter thirty-four spoke of devastation. It ended with the word of the Lord affirming the terror and terribleness of it. Chapter thirty-five shows an entirely different picture. All that devastation will be reversed.

The wilderness and dry land will, in the future, shout for joy. Actually it will sprout life. The wilderness is more often associated with the barren, rocky, landscape around the Dead Sea, and the dry land normally referred to the sandy desert of Syria. It was all without plants and blooms. But now it was going to be very different. It will burst into blossom. Think about the fast-forward video of a flower blooming. The crocus is a beautiful little flower with cup-like blooms. Interestingly, this flower doesn't grow in dry places. Some translations of Scripture list the asphodel (az'-fo-del) as the flower. It has numerous flowers on each stalk and is native to modern day Turkey which is north of Israel. It is also not a dry climate flower.

The wilderness and desert will rejoice and "shout for joy." Now, we know that deserts don't really shout or sing. He says that these dry places will be given the glory of Lebanon. We have previously written about the great forests of Lebanon. They were beautiful with many, many cedar trees. Earlier we studied a reference to the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon made out of cedar, which King Solomon built. To imagine the desert suddenly becoming a great forest would have cheered God's people greatly. Carmel and Sharron refer to the beautiful plains and valley stretching from the mountains of central Israel out to the Mediterranean Sea.

Wow, God is painting a beautiful picture for His people. What had been a place so bad that only a few wild animals could live there (chapter 34), was now like a garden. It was as beautiful a place as humans could imagine. It was a place where anyone would want to be. No wonder that Isaiah said that the desert would shout for joy.

Think about it. The desert has been a lonely place without color, without much life, without any real attractiveness. Now, it is like a woman dressed up for a party. Colorful dress, beautiful hair style, shiny shoes, flashing jewelry, and just the right amount of makeup. Wow! She will walk into the party proudly showing off all the loveliness. Well, here the desert has been dressed up. All the beautiful vegetation that Isaiah could think of was applied to the bleakness of the "dry land."

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In this beauty, the nations will “see the glory of God.” They will see the “splendor of our God.”

What is promised next is great hope. The people who are weak and fearful should not give up. They can depend on God for hands that can pick up a load, knees that hold strong and hearts that are healthy because:

1. God will come.
2. He will come with a vengeance—He is going to bring justice.
3. He will bring divine retribution or payback—wrongs will be made right.
4. He will come to save God’s people.

Another picture of hope:

1. The blind will see.
2. The deaf will hear.
3. Lame people will jump and play around like deer.
4. People who can’t speak will be talking and singing for joy.

In other words, when the Messiah comes back to earth the second time, all the defects of the human body will be gone. Everyone will have a body as great as God created Adam and Eve’s.

The final picture refers back to the earlier one, the burning sand of the desert will become a beautiful, life-giving pool. The thirsty ground will become a bubbling spring. And in addition to that, there will be streams of water flowing down the ravines. Have you ever been so hot and dry that your tongue stuck to the top of your mouth? You would be very happy to have just a few drops of water? Well, the promise here is not just a few drops of water, not just a cup of cold water, but pools of water, springs that just bubble up from the sand of the desert. New plants will grow there...beauty will be all around.

We should remember that whatever the date is, Isaiah’s time or ours, God will, if we are willing, bring joy into our lives...will make our lives into spiritual gardens. He will be in our world.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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Scripture Memory: “For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution to uphold Zion’s cause.” Isaiah 34:8

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to see the future as in God’s hands...to see Him at work making everything right in the end.

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Student Worksheet

A World With God In It—Isaiah 35:1-7

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. With what two places will the wilderness be associated in Isaiah's day?
2. The wilderness and desert will rejoice and "_____ for _____."
3. The weak and fearful should not give up. They can depend on God for four things:
4. What are four things that offer another picture of hope?
5. God will, if we are willing, bring _____ into our lives...will make our lives into _____ gardens.

Scripture Memory: "For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution to uphold Zion's cause. Isaiah 34:8

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.