

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**A Highway
Of
Holiness**

Isaiah 35:8-10

Lesson Thirty-Nine

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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The Lord Is Salvation

A Highway of Holiness

In our last lesson, we heard about rejoicing because God was transforming the world. We read how the desert will become lakes and rivers. We read how the desert will bloom like a garden, how beautiful trees will replace the sand and become great forests.

Now, we are going to read about the way to get back to that place. All those who have scattered out in the world, will be coming back to enjoy the garden. Read Isaiah 35:8-10.

Not too many years ago, all highways had only two lanes. It took a long time to get from one place to another. The highways went right through the middle of every small town. The driver had to slow down as he or she passed the city limits, and often there was a traffic light or a stop sign in the center of the town, no matter how small. Larger towns had many stops along the highway. Of course the highways were specifically designed to link all the towns.

One of the most famous cross country highways was called Route 66. It went all the way from Chicago to Santa Monica, California. It was finally paved all the way in 1939. It went through a lot of cities and towns. Then, it was decided that “super highways” would make travel a lot easier for people who were going a long way. In the 1950s the Interstate Highway System was planned and it changed automobile travel forever.

Why talk about United States roads when we are to be studying Isaiah’s prophesy? Well, because it will draw a picture for us, just like Isaiah drew pictures.

So God is going to build the super highway. It will pass by those who aren’t believers like the Interstate passes the small towns. It will be like a toll road so that you need a toll tag (believers in God as revealed in Jesus have the “toll tag”) to travel there. The travelers will be there because they have a reason to be there. Some translations of the Bible say that no “fools” will wander onto it. Other translations say that it will be impossible to get lost on this road, even those who act foolishly will not get lost.

The road will be a safe place to travel, because no wild animals can get on the road. Some say that the first line of verse eight can be translated “a highway rises there.” If that’s the case, we can imagine a highway built on pillars that raise it above the ground, like in some cities where highways are built so high that parks are built underneath. That would be too high for any critters that wanted to get on the highway.

To the person writing this lesson, this is a beautiful picture. Millions of people walking along

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a wide highway, having a wonderful time visiting, singing songs of praise to God, all of them healthy and happy, all of them looking forward to meeting God at the end of the road.

This road leads to the place described in the first part of this chapter. It is the perfect place for people who are now perfect and it is all the more wonderful because God is there.

It will be a great homecoming party. People will be singing. Now don't confuse this with some folks hangin' out singing their favorite songs. No, this will be people who now have perfect voices. They will be singing praise to God. They will be celebrating, with the most beautiful music, their new home with God. Can you see it...can you hear it?

Then Isaiah said that everlasting joy would be on their heads. They will not ever have to look around for joy. It will always be theirs...like a permanent halo. This is not just getting happy, this is deep, pleasure and enjoyment, God's gift to His redeemed children. And just in case we didn't get it, Isaiah repeats, "Gladness and joy will overtake them." Maybe a better way of saying it would be, gladness and joy will always be with them and be available to them.

Finally, "sorrow and sighing will fly away." Think about it, here is this huge crowd of people and you look above their heads and see all the sorrow, (grief, mourning, sadness and grief) flying away into the clouds. You look above their heads and see sighing (moaning and groaning) flying up and hidden away in the clouds. All gone!!

Now, when will all this take place? This happens at the end of time. All of God's people will live forever with God. All of God's people will be together forever. The highway, of course is just an imaginary one. We won't really be walking down a highway to God's presence. Isaiah gave us this wonderful picture so that we could see what a great thing God was going to do.

This road is called a Holy Road. It is a road built by God for His people. If you have not asked Jesus to be your personal Savior, you can't look forward to traveling that holy road. He wants you to be one of the crowd who will sing their way down His road into His presence.

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

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Scripture Memory: "And the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads." Isaiah 35:10a

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 Highway of Holiness—Isaiah 35:8-10

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

1. Who will have a “toll tag” on God’s great highway?
2. Can you get lost on God’s highway?
3. Why will this be a safe place to travel?
4. What will the millions of people traveling along this highway be doing?
5. What will the people have on their heads?
6. What does Isaiah mean when he said the sorrow and sighing would fly away?
7. Why is it called a holy road?

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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.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.