

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 83

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Peace By William Strutt Cir 1896 depicting Isaiah 11:6-7

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message Eighty-Three

KINGDOM BLESSINGS

September 20, 2020

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. ²It 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 Jehovah, the excellency of our God.

³Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; he will come and save you.

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. ⁷And the glowing sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water: in the habitation of jackals, where they lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. ⁸And a 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 the redeemed: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up thereon; they shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: ¹⁰and the ransomed of Jehovah shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away (ASV, 1901).

INTRODUCTION

This is a message of Deliverance for the Land of Israel which is prophesied by God in chapter thirty-five. The judgment of the nations and the overthrow of Israel's enemies in the day of vengeance furnish the background of this chapter. The two would have originally been connected as one without a chapter break. The godless unsaved nations receive a sentence of doom, while Israel receives the good news of deliverance

After foretelling the utter destruction and desolation of Edom and Bozrah (Southern Jordan), Isaiah's prophecy turns to the redemption and renovation of Israel and the earth as well. The devastation of the Tribulation will be reversed and Eretz Yisrael will blossom in stark contrast to Edom and Babylon. Israel as a merism refers to the entire earth's renovation. It is refreshing to turn from the destruction of judgment to the improvement of blessing. The storm of judgment provides a contrast that increases the awareness of God's provisions of blessing to Israel. "God shall wipe away all tears," (Revelation 21:14). Had there never been tears of suffering there would

have been no need for God to remove our tears through His blessings. Contrasting the future state of blessing and production to its predecessor of judgment and many shed tears gives us great appreciation of the blessing.

PHYSICAL BLESSINGS ON THE EARTH

Isaiah 35:1–2

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. ²It 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 Jehovah, the excellency of our God (ASV, 1901).

In these verses we have the effect of showing His blessings to Israel first, on the material world. So, the physical Earth's body, show the effect of the manifestation of God's post Tribulation blessing. The contrast is a very sharp one to the devastating judgments of the previous chapter leading to this description of the earth's new state. Death and darkness, gloom and mourning were prominent there, but now the very desert as expressed in personification *will rejoice even with joy and singing* for fertility and beauty of the earth are poetically expressed as its laughter of joy. The greater its fertility the greater the joy of which it describes.

Every word that can express delight is used to express the degree of future blessing and the attitude of those living at that time. Lebanon will increase beyond its previous majestic glory, Carmel as beautiful as it was, will outshine itself as well as the flowery plain of Sharon's loveliness. These physical changes to the earth clearly show the work of God, whose glory and beauty outshine them all.

These were all already beautiful places in Eretz Yisrael. Corresponding to the physical glory and majesty mentioned in the first half of the verse, the people will now realize the spiritual glory and majesty of our God.

With the possession of the Land of Israel, not only will the Jews be able to build houses and plant vineyards and crops, but they will also enjoy the work of their hands, for no enemy will take it from them. God will provide for them even before they ask and He will remove the violence of the animals of the world's in their struggle for food and survival. People will enjoy the land until a ripe old age as expressed in Isaiah chapter sixty-five. The wild animals will become tame, return to their Edenic vegetable diet and be friendly with humans.

Isaiah 65:21–24

²¹And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. ²²They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree shall be the days of my people, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for calamity; for they are the seed of the blessed of Jehovah, and their offspring with them. ²⁴And it shall come to pass that, before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion

shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE PEOPLE

Isaiah 35:3–4

³Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; he will come and save you (ASV, 1901).

Verses 3 to 7 of chapter 35 express the effect of the blessing on all the redeemed in bringing that sinful spirit of the people, in Israel, back to belief in God.

This is best seen as being directed to the religious teachers and leaders of the people coming out of the Tribulation. This is an address made by the prophet or rather of God, through the prophet, to the converted Gentiles, who will see the glory of the Lord in the coming of the Messiah. The sense is, to strengthen and sustain the feeble and the downtrodden from the experience of the judgment by the realization of the promised blessings. This provides them assurances (chapter 34) that all the enemies of God and His people will be destroyed, and that He will manifest Himself as their Protector, and send upon them the promised blessings to strengthen the feeble, and confirm those who were faint-hearted.

The weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Strength resides mainly in the arms, and in the lower limbs, or the knees. If these are feeble, the whole body is feeble and without strength. *Fear* relaxes the strength of the arms, and the firmness of the knees, and the expressions, weak hands, and feeble knees, become synonymous with saying, of a *timid, fearful, and desponding* frame of mind. This was the assurance from God, and His consolations which will flow from Jerusalem during the reign of the Messiah.

God, through the prophet Isaiah, calls on the strong to impart of their strength to their weaker brethren, uplifting their weak hands, as Aaron and Hur did those of Moses (Exodus 17:12), and confirming or sustaining their feeble knees. As the Apostle Paul writes “*We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves*” (Romans 15:1)

HOLINESS, PEACE, SECURITY AND JOY

Isaiah 35:5–6

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert (ASV, 1901).

Then at the Messiah's second coming in Kingdom glory to reign over the earth the eyes of the blind shall be opened. The blind, with the deaf, lame, and dumb all represent the people of Israel who suffered under the Antichrist. The return of the Messiah will, mean release from suffering, but

does not exclude miracles of heading men's bodies and souls., These miracles were seen at the first coming of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 9:27,32; 11:5; 12:22; 15:30; 7:32; John 5:8) and will occur at His second coming in a glorious manifestation of His power (Hebrews 6:5; Isaiah 53:4). This also refers to general physical healing of the earth and which those who will be converted will recite at their conversion because of their belief in the Lord's return. The curse of the Fall over the earth will partially be lifted during the Messianic Kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:18-25). It will not be removed completely, because death will not be completely abolished until till the eternal state following Millennium (1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Revelation 14; 21:4). The glorious transformation of the people of Israel (and the redeemed of the Gentile nations) will complement all the wonderful changes in nature already expressed in verses 1 and 2, with waters breaking forth in the wilderness (Isaiah 35:1; 41:18; 43:19; 49:10; 51:3; John 7:38) and streams in the desert (the Arabah, a word in Hebrew references dry or to be burned up, and therefore wasteland. particularly the great arid area south of the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba).

THE EARTH WILL BE TRANSFORMED

Isaiah 35:7-8

⁷And the glowing sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water: in the habitation of jackals, where they lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. ⁸And a 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 the redeemed: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein (ASV, 1901).

This describes the radical transformation of all of nature. The desert will be changed into a land of various sources of waters breaking forth from springs in the wilderness, and these will form a pool that will never dry up. This will transform the desert into a flourishing orchard affirming the statements in verses one and two.

The parched ground shall then be well-watered. That hot glow of the parched desert soil, will be replaced by a real lake of cool water. This will happen in an area previously known only as the habitation of *jackals*, who typically live in the driest and most desolate of all places. This will be replaced by *grass with reeds and rushes*. Isaiah reminds us of the fertile land around the Jordan and the river Nile.

And a highway shall be there, and a way. There shall be a clear way marked out in which all shall be bound to walk—a strait and narrow way (Matthew 7:14). This will be the manner of life in the Messianic kingdom. The way shall be called *the way of holiness*. For Israel's return, there will be a highway. It will be "the Way." because all Israel will be saved (Romans 11:26). Unbelievers, apostates of the nation, having been eliminated, in the terrible Tribulation will no longer be a consideration. So, the Way will be called holy, because only the redeemed will travel on it. So, there will be no possibility of the ransomed child of God who walks *the way of holiness* in returning for the required feasts to encounter any that are not redeemed at the beginning of the thousand-year kingdom.

NO THREATENING BEASTS BRING ADDITIONAL JOY

Isaiah 35:9–10

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up thereon; they shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: ¹⁰and the ransomed of Jehovah shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away (ASV, 1901).

Because the taming of the wild animals in the Kingdom, people will happily travel there and enjoy the Kingdom blessings that the Lord will provide. Lions abounded in all the countries adjacent to and within Israel. They were common in biblical times in all parts of Israel. Hebrew has at least seven words for lion and young lion. The lion is referred to about 130 times in the Old Testament—more than any other wild animal. Lions were much less common in New Testament times. After gradually declining, they became extinct in Israel, but continued to be present in Mesopotamia, until the end of the 19th century. Lions played an important part in the political and religious symbolism of the Near East (1 Kings 10:19–20). In Assyria and Babylon, the lion was regarded as a royal beast (Daniel 7:4). Mesopotamian monarchs maintained artificial lion pits as places of execution (Ezekiel 19:1–9; Daniel 6:7–16). Animals for these were captured in camouflaged nets or pits. To the Jews, the lion was the mightiest of beasts (Proverbs 30:29–31). Thus, it symbolized leadership (Genesis 49:9–10; Numbers 24:9) and so eventually became a title for Christ (Revelation 5:5). It was also the ensign of Judah's tribe and was used by King Solomon in the decoration of his house and the temple. Finally, it is used as a name for God in Hebrew, Ariel.

They are, therefore, often referred to by the Bible, as cause for dread and alarm. The main idea in the *language* of Isaiah in this whole passage, is that of a way constructed within Israel is so straight and plain that the simplest of the people might find it and joyfully walk in it in happiness as expressed in the following three other passages.

Joy and gladness are stressed in

Isaiah 51:3:

³For Jehovah has comforted Zion; he has comforted all her waste places, and has made her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of Jehovah; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody (ASV, 1901).

Joy and peace in nature and man are highlighted in

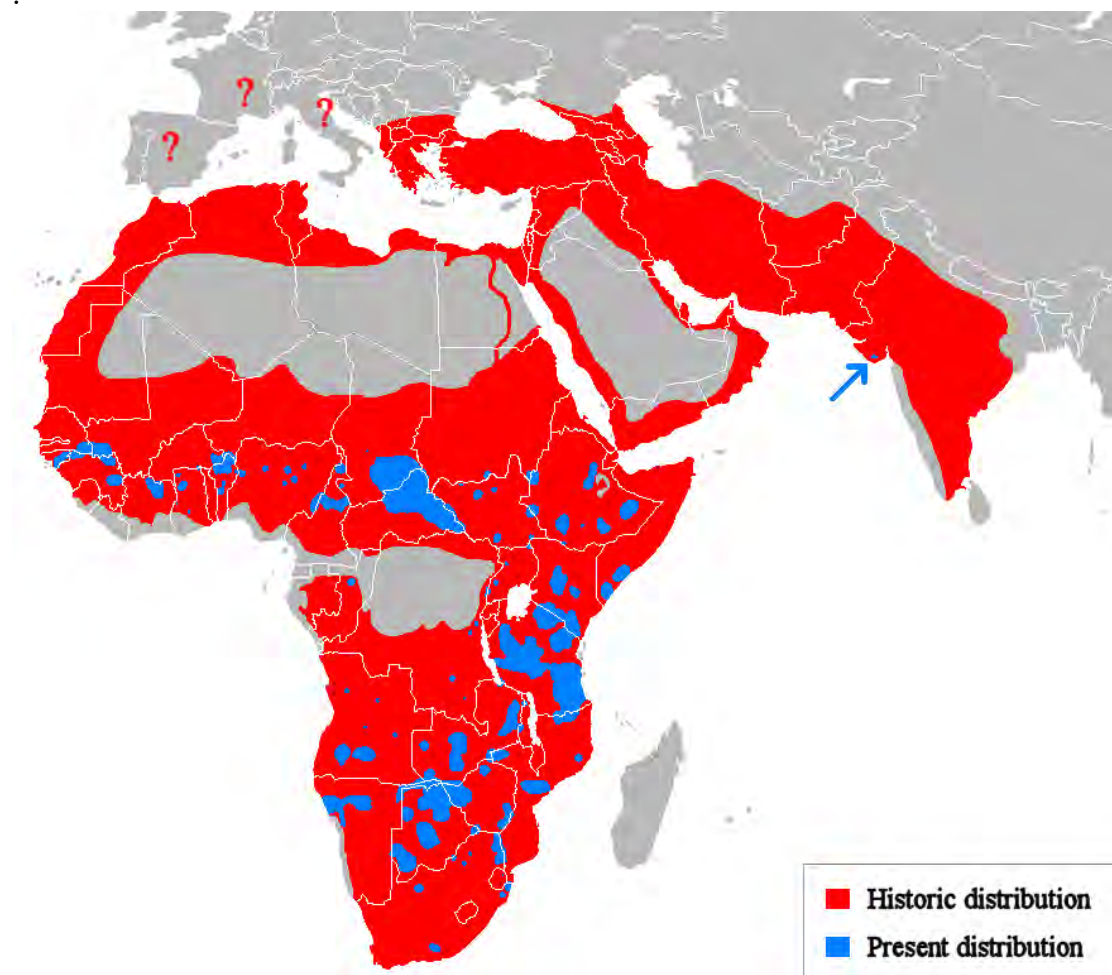
Isaiah 55:12–13:

¹²For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing; and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree; and ¹³instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle-tree: and it shall be to Jehovah for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off (ASV, 1901).

Here the emphasis is on the righteousness aspect:

Isaiah 61:10–11

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in Jehovah, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he has clothed me with garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its bud, and as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord Jehovah will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations (ASV, 1901).



Source: <https://www.quora.com/Were-there-lions-in-ancient-Israel>

Next message: THE ASSYRIAN ATTEMPT TO INVADE JERUSALEM

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