

HOLINESS HIGHWAY

HOPE IS HERE
ISAIAH 35 & LUKE 7:20-22
December 03, 2017 • Ron King



Often there are MULTIPLE LAYERS of fulfillment to God's promises for our future.

- actual, timely HISTORICAL fulfillment
- a fulfillment found in Christ Jesus: the promised MESSIAH
- promises that will find their fulfillment into ETERNITY

The "wilderness" is inextricably interwoven by the Old Testament writers with the SPIRITUAL HISTORY, difficulty, and discipline of God's people.

The "wilderness" is a metaphor for SPIRITUAL RENEWAL and vitality

Isaiah pictures the physical, emotional, and spiritual transformation of a people through the PRESENCE and redemption of the Lord.

The New Testament portrays Jesus as the FULFILLMENT of this promise.

A few important aspects about the highway of holiness:

- He PAID THE PRICE for your entrance and ongoing travels.
- It is where we BELONG.
- Even IDIOTS can find their way on this road.
- It is a place of SAFETY.
- It's also a place for the REDEEMED.
- It will be a place of GREAT JOY.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why does Isaiah use the imagery of the wilderness in bloom?
2. What is the importance of the promise given at the end of verse 2?
3. How are people finding strength in verses 3-4? What role do you have in bringing encouragement to weakened people?
4. Describe the significance of verses 5-6. How do these words relate to Jesus and point to the big picture plan of God? (see Luke 7:18-22)
5. Verse 7 describes a place of provision and safety. Why did Isaiah emphasize this point for his readers?
6. What is so unique about the highway Isaiah speaks about? Who uses it? What qualifies people to be there?
7. In what ways is the Holiness Highway part of our spiritual journey? Why do we often prioritize personal happiness over holiness?
8. Why does Isaiah emphasize people's emotional response to being ransomed? What are the real life implications of being ransomed? Why do we need the reminder to rejoice?

TAKING IT HOME

Isaiah 35 is located in the midst of a difficult portion of Isaiah's book, and it stands out like flowers in the midst of a desert landscape. The hopeful plan of God was being revealed in a difficult season for Israel. Why do you think that hope is essential to following God?

At the end of this chapter, Isaiah describes people overflowing with joy. How would rank your present reaction to the mercy and grace of God? Jot some reasons down for your joy. If you are wrestling with the lack of joy in your following Jesus, ask the Lord to restore your heart to a place of deep gratitude for his sacrifice for you.