

The Highway of Holiness
Isaiah 35:8-10
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of walking with the righteous.

Intro: 1.
2.

I. The Way of Holiness

A. Background

1. In chapters 2-4 - the ideal Zion is contrasted with the corruptions of the real Zion.
2. In chapters 9-11 – the treatment of Israel and Judah at the hands of Assyria are contrasted with the future glory of the redeemed remnant under the Messiah.
3. In chapter 34 he contrasted the desolation of the nations and Edom with the future glory of Zion (ch.35).

B. The New Song (v.1-4)

1. v.1 -from the ugly spiritual life there will come beauty of character as a result of turning from sin, to turn to God.
2. v.2 – this verse is a picture of spiritual beauty and gladness. What was once desert now sings praise of Him.
 - a. They will see the glory of Jehovah being demonstrated in their present productivity.
3. v. 3 – Weak hands and feeble knees are symbols of unbelief and defeat, Jehovah alone gives the strength needed for victory.
4. v.4 - The heart must be bold and courageous, fearless, and strong.
 - a. The Lord will avenge the wrongs done to Zion and His people; He will render judgment upon those who afflicted His people, while at the same time providing salvation for those who follow Him.

II. Rejoicing on the way

A. Cause for rejoicing (v.5-7)

- 1.v.5 – we find similar words from Christ in Matthew 11:2-6
 - a. Isaiah is looking to the great spiritual work of some future time.
 - b. The eyes and ears that have been close to God’s appeal will be opened to the salvation offered to them.
2. v.6-7 – There will be a sweeping change in the lives of the people as they are transferred from a desolate location to a garden instead.
 - a. v.7 – Even when surrounded by danger God continues to provide.

B. The Highway (v.8-10)

1. (v.8) A highway designed for the righteous and them only is described
2. (v.9) No fools will be found there and no danger (pictured as animals here).
3. (v.10) A amazing image is described of those who have passed through the wilderness of affliction and are now enjoying delight and the joy of redemption.

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. The way out of wickedness can be long.
 - 1. The rebellious can take a long time to come out of sin.
 - a. A problem still common to man today.
 - 2. Isa 33:7-9 – describes in part, their spiritual condition, severally immoral and disobedient.
- B. Returning to God is a thing of beauty.
 - 1. Much of Isaiah 35 describes the beauty of blessings that come as a direct result of returning to God.
 - 2. Christians spiritually speaking are to take the high road, the road of righteousness.

Application & Conclusion:

- 1. Make no mistake, the wicked are not found on the highway of holiness.
- 2. There is only one way to be on this road.
 - a. What road are you on?
- 3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9