

Isaiah 35 Prophecy of the Healing Miracles of the Messiah

II Kings 20:20 And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

Good King Hezekiah had a 1,700 foot tunnel dug from the **Gi'-hon Spring** to the pool of **Si-lo'-am**. All of these sites have been found by archaeologists. Hezekiah wants to have a safe water source for the coming siege but **God** will supply perfect salvation and living water in the future for His people, the vision of this prophecy.

Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

In the previous chapter we saw **God's** judgments upon Israel and Judah by Assyria had turned that fruitful country into a horrid wilderness. Also, the Gentile nations had long been a wilderness bearing no fruit to God, but that will change when they received the **Gospel of Christ** and living water.

Isaiah 35:2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of **Leb'-a-non** shall be given unto it, the excellency of **Carmel** and **Sharon**, they shall see the glory of the **LORD**, *and* the excellency of our God.

This horrible wilderness shall one day have the glory of **Lebanon**, which consisted of the strength and stateliness of its cedar trees. Also, the excellency of **Carmel** and **Sharon** which consisted in wheat and cattle. The glory of the Lord will manifest itself in the coming **Messiah** and all the world can see His grace and love for mankind when the **Spirit** is poured out.

The desolate immoral world will be filled with joy on account of the fertile blessings which are predicted ... and the change will be so great under the blessings of the Messiah's reign, as if suddenly the wilderness and the desert become glorious fields as lovely as Carmel, and as fertile as Sharon.

This blossoming and singing desert symbolizes ... the inward changes that take place in the redeemed when the lion lays down with the lamb and a little child leads them.

Isaiah 35:3 “Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.”

Isaiah prophecy is to strengthen the weak hands that are too weak from the fear of Assyria to either work or fight and the feeble knees which are unable to stand or walk. The Hebrew writer quotes this verse to those discouraged Christians who are rebelling at the discipline and chastisement of God cf:

Hebrews 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

Isaiah 35:4 Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you.

V:4 “God will come *with* vengeance” God will appear and fight against your enemies. In the short term, He will destroy the Assyrian Army of 185,000 outside the gates of Jerusalem ...

Vengeance' today has a negative and unproductive ring about it; but vengeance and recompense belong together. The world cannot be put to rights and the era of peace be brought in without both the banishment and punishment of the wicked, and also the blessing of the `ransomed of the Lord. Certainly, the admonition here for the

strong to aid and strengthen the weak and fearful has an application to every age of God's people,

But in the long term ...This is nothing less than an announcement of the Incarnation ...

The Messiah in the fullness of time will come and take vengeance upon both the powers of darkness and the wicked Jewish nation. He does this in triumphing over Satan by His sacrificial death, burial and resurrection, and by punishing the stiff necked Jewish nation by the destruction of both the Temple and city of Jerusalem in 70 AD by Titus of Rome.

Luke 21:20-22 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter there into. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

The destruction of Jerusalem was vengeance for the murder of not only Jesus the son of God but the Apostles, New Testament prophets and the saints who were just plain old every day Christians. An example is cf:

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:3-4 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed [*them*] to prison. 4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Acts 12:1-3 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth [*his*] hands to vex certain of the church. **2** And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. **3** And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Likewise at the end of time the Messiah will take vengeance and execute the judgments of God upon an ungodly world cf:

II Thessalonians 1:6-8 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; **7** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 35:4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

V:4 “He (God) will come and save you” cf:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

The great promise in Isaiah 35:4 is, "Behold, your God will come ... and save you." Very well, the people who heard that would ask and want to know, above all else, WHEN will it happen? When will He come and fulfill this promise to “save you”

The first word of the Very Next verse answers that question. Look at the first word in Isaiah 35:5

"THEN," that is, when the "eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped." "When will He save you? "Then" These are the attesting signs of the Messiah

Isaiah 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

V:5 "The eyes of the blind shall be opened" cf:

Matthew 9:27-31 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, *Thou* Son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. 30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See *that* no man know *it*. 31 But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.

John 9:1-2 And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

The truth is: neither ... the scriptures teach:

Ezekiel 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

John 9:3-7 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. (Cf: 6:29 This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.) 4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the

night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. 6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Si-lo'-am, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

The Pool of Si-lo'-am was a rock-cut pool on the southern slope of the City of David, the original site of Jerusalem, located outside the walls of the Old City to the southeast. The pool was fed by the waters of the Gi'-hon Spring, carried there by two aqueducts.

John 9:14-25 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. 15 Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. 16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. 17 They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. 18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. 19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? 20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: 21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. 22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him. 24 Then again called they the man that was blind,

and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. 25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner *or no*, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

V:5 “The ears of the deaf shall be unstopped” cf:

Mark 7:32-35 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. 33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; 34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Eph’-pha-tha, that is, Be opened. 35 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.

Just as the next prophecy in Isaiah 35 says:

Isaiah 35:6 Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Another water source in Jerusalem was the pool of Bethesda in Hebrew meaning House of Mercy or House of Grace. The very same words in Hebrew also mean house of shame or house of disgrace. It was so well known as a place of healing that, after the destruction of Jerusalem the Romans converted it into a cult place for the Greek god Asclepius (as-cuh-la-PEE-uhs) the god of medicine and healing.

John 5:2-15 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep *market* a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Be-thes’-da, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. 5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 6 When Jesus saw

him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time *in that case*, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. 8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. 10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry *thy* bed. 11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. 12 Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? 13 And he that was healed knew not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in *that* place. 14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. 15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

The Pool of Bethesda, a pool in Jerusalem, described in the New Testament story of the healing of the paralytic at Bethesda.

Act 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

The Gospels & Acts record how many that were lame had use of their limbs restored so perfectly that they could not only walk but leap and praise God cf:

Acts 3:1-9 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being* the ninth *hour*. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into

the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 35 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

When John the Baptist disciples asked Jesus to prove He was the Christ and state His divine mission He referred to these prophecies from Isaiah cf:

Matthew 11:2-6 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is *he*, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Isaiah 35:6 Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Look at the last clause of the verse:

V:6 for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

In the wilderness where one would least expect it, shall waters break out cf:

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. **38** He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. **39** (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

So in figurative language what is water? The Holy Spirit is also known as Living water, Hebrew *maw-kote* cf:

Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Zechariah 13:1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Our ultimate reward shall allow us to behold:

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Isaiah 35:7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.

“A habitation of dragons “ in chapter 34:13 the same term is used to describe ten tribes of Israel and 46 walled cities of Judah who had become a wilderness of fear before Senackerib (SEH-na-ka-rib) King of Assyria:

Isaiah 34:13 And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, *and* a court for owls.

This language is very similar to the promises in the first few verses of this chapter and they carry exactly the same meaning. This indicates the contrast between the conditions where men are in rebellion against God and the far better times which result from men's submission to God. It is no accident that, all over the world, wherever Christian faith has thrived, there, and there only, have occurred the truly great advancements of human civilizations. If one needs an example of this, look at the contrast between Asia and North America.

Isaiah 35:8 And an 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 those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

The glory of this passage is enhanced by a setting as of an oasis contrasted the visionary waste of Isaiah 34 and the history of war, sickness and folly in

V:8 “And an highway shall be there” which is the way we are directed to walk and live our lives by Divine authority for it is Christ the King’s highway.

V:8 “The way of holiness” which is the good old way of the fathers cf:

Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.

V:8 “It shall be called The way of holiness” which is the way of obedience to God.

V:8 “The unclean shall not pass over it”, you must have your sins washed away to get on the King’s highway. Cf: Acts 2:37-38 & 47.

V:8 “It *shall be* for those: the wayfaring (Hebrew *haw’-lak*) men”, who choose to walk and live their lives traveling on it.

V:8 “though fools, shall not err *therein*,” this gospel will be so simple a fool can’t fail to understand this ... it is like 2 & 2 = 4. You have to go to college to be taught wrong to mess this gospel up it is so simple. But He Himself shall Be with them, Walking in the way. That is God cf: V:4 who shall dwell among them and set them an example that they should follow in His steps.

Isaiah 35:9 No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up there on, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*:

V:9 “No lion shall be there” This King’s highway will be the safe way. Perfect salvation and safety is promised for those who stay on the king’s highway for they are out of the reach of Satan the roaring lion.

I Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith ...

V:9 “but the redeemed shall walk *there*!” Hebrew *geu-lim* those who forfeited their inheritances are bought back by the near kinsman in Hebrew: *go-el* the nearest kin of the family. This is according to the ancient law of kinship, to buy back the relatives property, marry his widow, to take revenge in behalf of the family (eye for eye & tooth for tooth), to purchase, to ransom, to redeem. This is foreshadowing the Lord and His sacrificial offering. Many Ancient manuscripts add the Hebrew words *ad olam*, forever: “the redeemed shall walk there forever”.

What exactly are we redeemed with?

I Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Isaiah 35:10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

V:10 “And the ransomed of the LORD shall return”: Ransomed Hebrew *padah* (paw-DAW’) to redeemed by the Redeemer paying the price.

V:10 “and come to Zion” what is Zion prophetically? Cf:

Hebrews 12:22-24 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

V: 10 “and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads”: When we enter into the joy of the Lord it shall not only fill our hearts but it shall be upon our heads as an ornament of grace and a crown of glory, as a garland worn in token of victory.

V: 10 “sorrow and sighing shall flee away”.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Sorrow Hebrew *an-ach-ah* strong guttural word nearly the same as the Irish use in their funeral wailings *och-och-on*. The whole nation expresses all their mournful accents by these three monosyllables .

Thus this 35th chapter of Isaiah contains the following:

1 We have the blessed promises of the last days ... the glory of the Church.

2 There is a promise of the manifestation of God among men.

3 The miracles of which Christ will work are described.

4 The privileges of Christianity are specified. There shall be thorough teaching and holy walking or living.

5 Perfect salvation safety is promised in the Church.

6 Complete happiness is promised for all eternity for the Church.

7 There will be Final Glory and Eternal bliss for the Church.

This chapter shows that no impurity should be allowed in the Church for it is the mystical body of Christ and should, like Himself, be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

Sources: KJV Bible, e-Sword, Clarks Commentary & Matthew Henry's Commentary