



WEEK 3

The Promised Messiah, Joy of the Nations

Isaiah 35:1-10

Joy of the Redeemed

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.





In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸ And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹ No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Introduction: Joy in the Midst of Exile

Isaiah gives us a vision of joy that reaches beyond borders, beyond generations, and beyond circumstances.

“The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom... they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.” (Isaiah 35:1–2)

This is not just a promise for Israel—it’s a promise for the world. The Messiah is coming, and His arrival brings joy not just to one people, but to **all nations**. From the wilderness of exile to the ends of the earth, the joy of the Lord is breaking through.

The Messiah Brings Joy to the Broken

Isaiah speaks to a weary people:

- Feeble hands
- Unsteady knees
- Fearful hearts

This is the condition of a world in exile—physically, spiritually, emotionally. But into that brokenness comes a word of hope:

“Be strong, do not fear; your God will come... He will come to save you.” (v. 4)





The Messiah is not just a distant hope—He is a present Savior. And when He comes, everything changes:

- The blind see
- The deaf hear
- The lame leap
- The mute sing

This is the joy of the nations: **transformation through the presence of Jesus.**

A Highway for the Redeemed

Isaiah describes a road—a highway called the Way of Holiness. It's not a path of ease, but a path of redemption. It's the road back to God, and only the redeemed walk there.

“They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.” (v. 10)

This is the joy that reaches to the ends of the earth. It's not based on comfort or convenience. It's rooted in the promise of God and the presence of the Messiah.

Joy That Transcends Generations

Isaiah's message wasn't just for those returning from exile—it was for those still in it. Some would never see Jerusalem again. But they held on to the promise for the sake of their children and grandchildren.

This is the kind of joy that **lives beyond the moment.** It's the joy of Mary, who sang even while carrying the burden of scandal and uncertainty:

“My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...” (Luke 1:46–47)

It's the joy of those who trust God even when the road is long, even when the promise seems far off.

To the Ends of the Earth: A Joy Worth Sharing

The joy of the Messiah is not meant to be hoarded—it's meant to be shared. Isaiah's vision is global:

“Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.” (v. 10)

This is the joy that the nations are longing for. And we are the ones called to carry it—to the ends of the earth.





But here's the challenge: Are we willing to live for the joy of others? Are we willing to sacrifice our comfort so that future generations might know the joy of the Lord?

Conclusion: Joy That Endures

Joy is not the absence of hardship—it's the presence of hope. It's not found in open doors or easy paths. It's found in the Messiah who walks with us, even when our hands are feeble, our knees unsteady, and our hearts afraid.

Jesus is the joy of the nations. And He invites us to walk the Way of Holiness, to carry His joy to the ends of the earth, and to live not just for ourselves—but for those yet to come.

