

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

**"The Redemptive Power of Christ over the Curse of Sin"**

Isaiah 35

**BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN**

May 27 Neh. 8-9                      May 31 Esther 6-10  
May 28 Neh. 10-11                  June 1 Job 1-4  
May 29 Neh. 12-13                  June 2 Job 5-7  
May 30 Esther 1-5                    June 3 Job 8-10

**Cross References: Romans 8:18-22, Genesis 3:17-19, Revelation 21:5, Romans 8:23, 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, 1 Corinthians 15:35-49, 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 3:10-12, 2 Corinthians 5:18, Jude 24-25**

**Lesson Introduction:** *Over the course of our time in Isaiah, we have seen the themes of judgment and grace time and time again. We have considered God's wrath toward sin, as well as His kindness toward sinners, and His plan to redeem them. Today, we will take a closer look at the extent of God's redemptive power through Christ, as we examine the effects of Christ's death and resurrection over the curse of sin. As we go, we will consider **Christ's Redemptive Power over Nature, Christ's Redemptive Power over Physical Ailments, and Christ's Redemptive Power to keep us on the Way of Holiness***

**Key Memory Verse: Isaiah 35:4**

**FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:**

- **The redemptive work of Christ will one day be applied to all nature (V. 1-2; 6b-7).**
- **The redemptive work of Christ will one day free us from physical ailments (V. 3-6a)**
- **The redemptive work of Christ will keep us on the Way of Holiness (V. 8-10).**

Isaiah 35 English Standard Version (ESV)

**1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
2 it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.**

**3 Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.**

**4 Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."**

**5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
7 the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.**

**8 And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
9 No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

**Discussion Section 1: Christ's Redemptive Power over Nature (V. 1-2; 6b-7)**

-These verses speak of the wilderness (nature) being made new. Why is nature in need of renewal?

-What does Scripture tell us about what the fragility of nature is meant to point us toward? (**Romans 8:18-22**)

-According to these verses, what will the renewal of nature result in? (**V. 2**)

**Note:** The Scriptures are clear that sin has greatly affected nature. **Romans 8** shows us that tornados, hurricanes, hail storms, earthquakes, landslides, decaying trees, etc. are the groanings of nature as it awaits freedom from its “**bondage to corruption**,” that it was subjected to by God as a result of sin (**Romans 8:19-22, Genesis 3:17-19**). Remarkably, our passage today speaks to how Christ will one day make “**all things new**” (**Revelation 21:5**). Verses 1-2, as well as 6b-7 give incredible examples of how God will one day cause there to be “**streams in the desert**,” and tells of how it “**shall blossom abundantly**.”

These incredible works in creation will only come about due to the redemptive work of Christ on the cross. When He defeated sin, He bought not only our salvation, but also the reversal of the curse of sin on the earth (**Revelation 21:5**). Verse 2 of our passage today tells us that all of this will cause us to, “**see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God**.” What a sweet day it will be when Jesus makes all things new, and we see His glory and might more fully!

### **Discussion Section 2: Christ’s Redemptive Power over Physical Ailments (V. 3-6a)**

-According to these verses, what do we have to look forward to in terms of our physical bodies due to the salvation we have received through Christ?

-Why did Jesus heal some, but not all, during His earthly ministry? Why does He still only heal some, but not all?

-What do you look **most** forward to concerning the second coming of Christ?

**Note:** This section of our passage speaks to the wonderful promises of God to bring physical healing to those He saves. Just as the earth groans as it awaits freedom from the bondage of the curse of sin, so do our physical bodies. We get sick, have aching knees, sore backs, and all of these ailments get worse and worse seemingly by the day. These things are again meant to point us to a day when sin will be no more, and all will be made new by Christ.

The Scriptures are clear, there is coming a day when our bodies will be made new by the redemptive power of Christ (**Romans 8:23, 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, 1 Corinthians 15:35-49**). That might leave us to wonder why God does not go ahead and bring healing more frequently now (or

even during Jesus’ earthly ministry). It is vital that we recognize that we still live in a fallen world, and that we view our physical sufferings as reminders of the hope we have for the future, realizing that our hope lies not primarily in physical healing, but in spiritual healing, and fellowship with God forever. When people are healed (even when Jesus personally healed them), it is only a foretaste of what’s to come, as eventually, all of our earthly bodies will waste away. However, as believers, we do have the incredible hope of eternal healing.

While looking forward eagerly to this tremendous promise of healing is not wrong, it is important that we examine **why** we are looking so forward to it. Ultimately, the healing that we will experience in eternity is so precious because it will allow us to enjoy being in the presence of the LORD to the fullest, free from any physical inhibitions. **He is the prize and treasure (1 Peter 3:18)**, and relief from physical ailments will allow us to enjoy that Treasure more fully.

### **Discussion Section 3: Christ’s Redemptive Power to keep us on the Way of Holiness (V. 8-10)**

-What do these verses say about what path must be taken to enjoy the benefits of Christ’s redemption of nature and our bodies one day?

-What do these verses tell us about God’s provision for His people?

**Note:** Only those who meet God’s standard of holiness will enjoy Him forever with renewed creation and new bodies. As we know, none of us live up to this daunting standard (**Romans 3:10-12**) apart from being reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus (**2 Corinthians 5:18**). As people who are saved by His incredible grace, this passage calls us to walk the “**Way of Holiness**.” Although we have been justified by grace through faith in Jesus, salvation always includes sanctification as well (growing in Christ, and leaning to walk in holiness). Our passage today makes clear that this work of sanctification is also a work of grace (“**even if they are fools they shall not go astray**”). By the redemptive power of Christ in our lives we walk in holiness, kept safe from the predators of this world who would seek to devour us. He is able to keep us from stumbling, and He will bring us into His presence with “**gladness and joy**.” (**Jude 24-25**).