

THE HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS

Isaiah 35:8-10

The book of Isaiah tells the story of how God's people forfeited His protection and blessings when they spurned His direction and went their own way. As Israel struggled in the midst of His discipline, God's desire and ultimate plan to restore His people back to Himself never diminished. Seven-hundred years before Christ was born, Isaiah prophesied the arrival of a Messiah who would make a way in the wilderness and bring a dry, barren, and desolate land back to life again. Jesus, of course, is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies about the coming Messiah; and, because we have placed our hope and trust in Jesus, He transforms our wilderness into a lush garden overflowing with abundance. There are four benefits that the Messiah brings with Him in order to provide us this way in the wilderness: strength, signs, streams, and streets. This message focuses on the final of these four benefits, which we will simply label as STREETS. The highway of holiness is our new pathway through the wilderness!

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT THIS HIGHWAY IN THE WILDERNESS

1. It is a highway of grace.

Isaiah 35:8; Romans 8:1; John 3:17; Acts 10:13-15, 28; 15:8-9

My life is redeemed because of grace. It's not that I had a good week, so I must be in God's good graces; or I had a bad week, so I must be in His bad graces. There's no such thing as bad grace. Grace is only good. So, it doesn't matter what your performance was; it only matters what HIS performance was. It doesn't matter what your past is, and it doesn't matter what you did last night. You're made clean by the blood of Jesus NOT because you did a good job or a bad job! You're on the highway because of grace. It is a street of grace! It's a road of grace! It's a highway of grace!

2. It is a highway of safety.

Isaiah 35:9; Psalm 91:13; Luke 10:19; I Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Timothy 4:17-19

Whatever you do, don't wander off the highway! I'm not talking about being saved by staying on the "straight and narrow." We don't go to Heaven because we do all the right things. We go to Heaven because of grace. Even as Christians, we can see, hear, or experience things that can distract us and cause us to wander off the highway. When you get off the highway, you are in Satan's territory. He's always roaring and roaming about seeking easy prey.

3. It is a highway of joy.

Isaiah 35:10; Isaiah 51:11; Matthew 5:4; Luke 15:6, 9, 23-24

One of the attacks the devil uses against many is the pain of sorrow. You've had a great loss, and, at times, mourning just seems to roll over you and will consume you if you let it. Don't let it! I'm going to teach you of an OLD classic praise chorus (1888) that you can pull out, dust off, and go to battle with! It's straight from the Word (Isaiah 51:11). It might be just the ticket you need to break that spirit of mourning and initiate a little joy in your life!