

Isaiah 35 Contending Ends with God's Glory in New Creation

God's battle for His people ends in the revelation of His glory in salvation.

- 1) God's revealed glory restores the joy of creation (vv. 1-2).
 - a) **The glory of God** will be manifest in salvation: "They shall see the glory [weightiness, importance] of the LORD, the majesty [height, loftiness] of our God."
 - b) God's preservation of **Israel in the desert** after the exodus from Egypt was a foretaste of this new creation. The "glory cloud" was the manifest presence of the Spirit of God among His people. In that desert He fed them manna from heaven and caused a river to flow for their refreshing.
 - c) Notice the emphasis on **joy**: "glad" "rejoice" (v. 1); "rejoice with joy and singing (v. 2)
 - d) The "**glory**" and "**majesty**" of Lebanon, Carmel, and Sharon given to the desert is meant to speak of the glory and majesty of God's presence in the renewed creation.
 - e) God's glory is manifested by the activity and objects of His salvation.
- 2) God's revealed glory secures the salvation of His people (vv. 3-7).
 - a) God condescends to us in **our weakness**: "weak hands" and "feeble knees" (v. 3); "anxious heart" (v. 4); "the blind . . . the deaf . . . the lame . . . the mute" (vv. 5-6)—God is the helper of the helpless.
 - b) God comes with His Word **to strengthen us**: "Say to [them], 'Be strong; fear not!' Behold, Your God will come with **vengeance**, with the **recompense** of God He will come and save you" (v. 4).
 - i) "Vengeance" visits punishment on the **inflictor**.
 - ii) "Recompense" visits restoration on the **injured**.
- 3) God's revealed glory brings the redeemed joyfully home to Himself (vv. 8-10).
 - a) God prepares the Highway of Holiness for our pilgrimage to His house (v. 8).
 - b) Pilgrims are fit for this Way (v. 8-10). They are **holy** because they are the **redeemed** whom the LORD has **ransomed** for Himself.
 - i) The Way is holy (v. 8a)
 - ii) The Way is clear (v. 8c).
 - iii) The Way is secure (v. 9).
 - iv) The Way is joyful (v. 10).
 - v) The end of this Way is the consummation of holiness, clarity, security and joy.