

Session 12 The Forerunner Message in Isaiah 34-35

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Isaiah 34 and 35 are to be read as one passage. Isaiah 34 is one of the most negative chapters in the Bible. Isaiah 35 is one of the most positive chapters—it crescendos with God's people seeing God's glory and being filled with gladness. It gives insight into God's plan, personality, and leadership.

²*They shall see the glory of the LORD...¹⁰ and the ransomed of the LORD shall return...and they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isa. 35:2, 10)*

1. God's heart and throne is the epicenter of joy (Ps. 16:8). Isaiah 35 gives expression to this. The disposition of His heart is joy and gladness. He is troubled about that which hinders love.
¹¹*...In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Ps. 16:11)*
2. God's end-time judgments are about removing everything that hinders love. He intervenes in judgment because He is zealous to fill the earth with love, humility, and righteousness.
3. We cannot fully understand the reality of the positive aspects of God's end-time plan to fill the earth with His glory without seeing the intensity of the negative aspects of His plan. We cannot understand the negative judgments without understanding the positive promises.
4. Isaiah 34-35 describes God's end-time judgment of all the nations that oppose Him and the manifestation of His salvation in context to the Great Tribulation and Jesus' millennial reign. This passage develops and concludes the themes of judgment and salvation in Isaiah 28-33.

B. Outline for Isaiah 34-35

34:1-17 God's end-time judgment on the nations

- 34:1 All nations commanded to listen to God's end-time message
- 34:2-4 All nations who oppose the Lord will be judged
- 34:5-7 God's end-time judgment against Edom
- 34:8-10 The day-of-the-Lord vengeance on Edom
- 34:11-15 Edom will be a desolate land
- 34:16-17 The Lord's judgment against Edom is recorded

35:1-10 God's glory and salvation

- 35:1-2 The transformation of nature
- 35:3-4 A call to strengthen God's people
- 35:5-7 Healing and restoration of the people and land
- 35:8-9 The highway to Jerusalem
- 35:10 The Lord will fill His people with joy and gladness

- C. The analogy of childbirth is an excellent picture of the glory and pain in God's end-time plans. The pain will be intense but very short compared to the joy of the "birth" of the millennial earth.

⁸*All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. (Mt. 24:8, ESV)*

²¹*Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain...but when she gives birth...she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born ... (Jn. 16:21, NAS)*

⁶*So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? ⁷Alas! for that day is great...it is the time of Jacob' trouble [Great Tribulation], but he shall be saved out of it. (Jer. 30:6-7)*

²²*For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs... (Rom. 8:22)*

⁸*...Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children. (Isa. 66:8)*

II. END-TIME CONTEXT: JESUS WILL REPLACE THE EVIL LEADERSHIP OF THE EARTH

- A. One significant aspect of God's end-time plan is His commitment to replace the evil leadership of the earth with godly leaders. Jesus will remove wicked leaders from the earth in one hour to establish a new world order and inaugurate the millennial kingdom. This is one of the most surprising and extreme aspects of His plan. He will draw all the nations and their evil leadership to a battle around Jerusalem in order to kill them (Ezek. 38:4; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 12:3; 14:2).

²*I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken... (Zech. 14:2)*

⁸*My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them...all my fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy. (Zeph. 3:8)*

1. His end-time plan will result in purifying the Church, winning the harvest, saving Israel, and replacing all the evil governments of the earth.
2. Jesus will return in context to a military and political conflict to bring peace to the nations and to drive evil off the planet and fill the earth with love, humility, joy, and righteousness.
3. Never in history have all the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to one place. They will be drawn to Armageddon by *the Lord* (Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 12:3; 14:2), by *Satan* (Rev. 16:13-14; 19:19), and by their own *evil motives* (Ezek. 35:11).

- B. Satan will send demons to gather the kings of the earth to the battle of Jerusalem (Rev. 16:13).

¹⁴*...Demons performing signs...go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle...¹⁶to the place called...Armageddon. (Rev. 16:14-16)*

- C. Jesus will replace the evil leadership of the earth in one hour in establishing a new world order that He inaugurates the Millennium. In that day, the kings will have a determined hostility against Jesus (Rev. 17:14; 19:19). They will go to war against Jesus undoubtedly thinking they can defeat Him.

¹⁹*The kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered to make war against Him [Jesus]...* ²⁰*The beast [Antichrist] was captured...* ²¹*The rest [the kings] were killed with the sword...* (Rev. 19:19-21)

¹⁴*They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them...* (Rev. 17:14)

- D. David saw Messiah killing the kings of the earth who resisted God in the end times. David saw a war against Messiah about 1,000 years before John saw it in Revelation 17-19. Jesus will fill the places with dead bodies of their soldiers, and then He will execute the heads of many nations.

⁵*The Lord...shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. ⁶He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies; He shall execute the heads of many countries.* (Ps. 110:5-6)

- E. Jesus will violently confront the rebellion against His leadership and oppression of His people on a global level to bring peace and to establish a new world order based on love and righteousness. Jesus will gather the kings of the earth and their armies together to what Scripture refers to as *God's winepress* (Isa. 63:2-4; Joel 3:13; Rev. 14:19-20; 19:15). Jesus will trample these evil armies like grapes. Isaiah 63 is a companion passage to Isaiah 34, so it is best to study them together.

³*I have trodden the winepress...* *I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury;* *their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. ⁴For the day of vengeance is in My heart...* ⁶*I have trodden down the peoples [nations]...* (Isa. 63:3-6)

¹⁵*Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations... He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.* (Rev. 19:15)

- F. God's end-time *winepress* will result in blood flowing for 1,600 furlongs (about 185 miles) which will cover the entire length of Israel. (From Bozrah in the south to Meggido in the north is 130 miles). "God's winepress" is a very unusual winepress in being about 185 miles long (Rev. 14:20).

²⁰*And the winepress was trampled outside the city [Jerusalem], and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles [about 4 feet], for 1,600 furlongs [185 miles].* (Rev. 14:20)

1. The blood of millions of soldiers in this "winepress" will be about four feet deep (up to a horse's bridle). When the kings gather for battle at Jerusalem, flooding rain will come upon Israel, filling its ravines and valleys with blood mixed in the flooding waters.

²²*...I will rain down on him [Antichrist], on his troops...with flooding rain...* (Ezek. 38:22)

2. Armageddon will be a military staging area where the armies of the nations will gather to organize for their major battle around Jerusalem.

- G. Isaiah 34 has two sections—God's judgment on all nations (34:1-4) and His judgment on Edom (34:6-17). Isaiah called all the nations to hear the message (34:1) that God will judge all nations (34:2-3) and shake the heavens (34:4). 34:1-4 is an overview of the last 3½ years of this age.

⁶*"For thus says the LORD of hosts...I will shake heaven and earth..."* ⁷*and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations...* (Hag. 2:6-7)

- H. The shaking of the heavens (like the shaking of the earth with earthquakes) in the end times includes several significant occurrences. I see 34:4 as parallel to Revelation 6:13 and thus occurring near the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Isaiah narrowed his focus to the final days of the Great Tribulation in specifying what will happen to Edom (34:5-17).

III. GOD'S END-TIME JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS (ISA. 34:1-17)

- A. All nations are commanded to hear and heed God's end-time message (34:1).

¹Come near, you nations, to hear; and heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world and all things that come forth from it. (Isa. 34:1)

1. ***Let the earth hear***: The end-time message of Isaiah 34-35 is to be spoken to all the nations. This message includes making known the carnage that will occur in the “winepress event” of 34:2-3, 7; 63:1-6. The coming violence resulting from God's judgments is redemptive—it serves God's purpose by confronting darkness and increasing love. It is not random violence.
2. ***Nations***: The Lord is raising up messengers who will tell the biblical end-time storyline. He wants all the nations to hear it. They will not get it from the liberal or the conservative press.
3. ***Hear***: Isaiah called all the nations to hear the message about God's end-time judgments. There are similar calls to the nations in the Psalms (Ps. 96:1-3; 97:1; 98:1-4).
4. ***Heed***: The nations were warned to respond by embracing and trusting God's end-time leadership. In the Scriptures, we get the “better view” of things. When we see rightly, then we live rightly. We feel fear and anxiety when we see no solution to the crisis before us.
5. Earlier, Isaiah exhorted people to be strengthened by the knowledge of God's end-time plan related to His coming judgment and salvation (33:6). Knowledge of this plan stabilizes God's people and enables them to interpret the shaking of the nations in a very different way. This plan is that a glorious “kingdom worldview” would be fully established in the Millennium with Jesus' perfect leadership being openly displayed in every sphere of life.

⁶Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation...

¹⁷Your eyes will see the King in His beauty...²⁰Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home [a peaceful home without any enemies] ...²¹But there the majestic LORD will be for us... (Isa. 33:6, 17-21)

- B. All nations who oppose the Lord will be judged (34:2-4). It takes the Spirit's help for us to grasp such an extreme divine intervention into history as described in both Isaiah 34 and Isaiah 35. Here Isaiah described the carnage that will occur throughout the Great Tribulation including the Armageddon campaign, the battle of Jerusalem, and the destruction of Edom.

²For the indignation of the LORD is against all nations, and His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them; He has given them over to the slaughter.³Also their slain shall be thrown out; their stench shall rise from their corpses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.⁴All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; all their host shall fall down...as fruit falling from a fig tree. (Isa. 34:2-4)

1. **All nations:** The Lord's anger will be against all nations and their armies in the end times because their kings will plot together with great rage to seek to drive the influence of the God's word out of the culture—they will bring their armies to Jerusalem to fight Jesus.
¹Why do the nations rage...? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD...saying, ³"Let us break Their bonds [God's word] in pieces and cast away Their cords [God's word] from us." (Ps. 2:1-3)
2. **Stench shall arise:** The odor will come from the rotting flesh of unburied corpses (34:3). This battle will be a physical battle, not a merely spiritual or symbolic one as some suggest. It will take seven months to bury the corpses of the Antichrist's army (Ezek. 39:12-14).
²⁰"But I will remove far from you [Jerusalem] the northern army [the Antichrist's armies] and will drive him away into a barren and desolate land...His stench will come up, and his foul odor will rise, because he has done monstrous things." (Joel 2:20)
3. **Utterly destroyed:** The armies of the nations will be destroyed (34:2), the land will be drenched with blood, and corpses of soldiers left unburied to rot, leaving a great stench (Ezek. 39:11-14). That it will take seven months to bury the dead speaks of the vast number of the slain whose bones are left after the birds and worms devoured the flesh of the carcasses.
¹¹"...I will give Gog [Antichrist] a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog. ¹²For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land... ¹⁴"They will set apart men regularly employed...to bury those bodies remaining on the ground... (Ezek. 39:11-14)
 - a. This grave site will be east of the Dead Sea near Sodom. The area will be called the valley of Hamon Gog. The word, *Hamon*, translates to *multitude*; thus some translate it, "The valley of the multitude of Gog."
 - b. This vastness of this grave site will obstruct travelers and arrest their attention, resulting in many stopping to look and ponder God's judgments on rebellion and His mercy on those who ask for it (Isa. 66:24).
4. **Mountains melt with blood:** As soil on mountains moves after flooding rains, so the soil will be washed away by rivers of blood, and so the mountains will seem to melt away. The blood of the slain will soak the mountains in such quantities that it will loosen the soil, causing mudslides. The carnage described here occurs in the 30 days between the 7th trumpet and the 7th bowl.
5. **All the host of heaven shall be dissolve:** The host includes *physical objects* (meteors and asteroids) and *spiritual hosts* (demonic beings) dwelling in heavenly places (34:4). The entire created order is impacted by man's sin and demonic powers; thus, they will all be shaken.
 - a. **Dissolve:** Translations of *dissolved* include *consumed* (Young), *rot away* (ESV), *wear away* (NAS), *fall down* (Int'l Standard), *fade away* (NET), and *pine away* (Douay).

- b. ***Spiritual hosts of heaven:*** The dissolving of spiritual hosts speaks of demons being thrown down to the earth. There will be a war in heaven in which Michael will fight Satan and his demons (Rev. 12:7-9). Satan will be cast down at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.
- ⁷***And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon...***
⁹***Satan...was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:7-9)***
- c. The spiritual hosts of heaven speak of false gods and the demons behind them (2 Kgs. 17:16; 21:3-5; 23: 4-5).
- ¹⁶***So they [made]...a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. (2 Kgs. 17:16)***
- d. Demonic spirits and evil kings will be put in prison like Satan (Isa. 24:21-23). Satan will be thrown into prison for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3). The final judgment for Satan and his angels is the lake of fire, not the bottomless pit (the abyss).
- ²¹***The LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones [demonic powers], and on the earth the kings of the earth.*** ²²***They [demons and kings] will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit [bottomless pit], and will be shut up in the prison [Rev. 20:1-3]; after many days [1,000 years] they will be punished [lake of fire].***
²³***Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. (Isa. 24:21-23)***
- e. Demons will both come down from the sky (Rev. 12:7) and come up out of the earth (Rev. 9). The veil between the physical and spiritual realms will be lifted in context to Jesus' return. The bottomless pit (abyss) is a temporary prison for fallen angels. There is a huge shaft extending from the earth's surface to its depths that is currently sealed. A demonic king named Abaddon dwells in this pit (Rev. 9:11). A multitude of demons will come out of the bottomless pit when it is "unlocked" (Rev. 9:1-4).
6. ***Physical hosts of heaven:*** The Greek word for *stars* used here is *aster* from which we get the word *asteroid*. An *aster* refers to any shining mass in the sky, including meteors, asteroids, or flaming debris. This implies a vast swarm of asteroids and meteor showers hitting the earth. Stars as we commonly think of them are still in the sky in the fourth trumpet (Rev. 8:12).
7. ***The heavens rolled up like a scroll:*** The apostle John made reference to this cosmic disturbance in the sixth seal (Rev. 6:12-14) near the beginning of the Great Tribulation.
- ¹²***I looked when He opened the sixth seal...the sun became black...and the moon became like blood.*** ¹³***And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.*** ¹⁴***Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up... (Rev. 6:12-14)***
- a. Revelation 6:14 referenced this passage saying that the heavens or sky shall *recede* or move back (NKJ), *depart* (KJV), *vanish* (ESV), *split apart* (NAS), *be separated* (Holman Bible) or *removed* like a scroll when it is rolled up (American Standard).

- b. Books were written on long strips of paper or parchment. The Lord will roll up the heavens like a scroll so that one part of the sky or the scroll cannot be seen.
8. Terrifying events in the sky will occur in context to the second coming of Jesus (Joel 2:10, 30-31; 3:15; Zech. 14:6-7; Mt. 24:29).
- C. God's end-time judgment against Edom (34:5-7): Edom here is a representative example of the judgment that will fall on all nations that stand against the Lord and Israel in the end times. The people shall become a "sacrifice" and the land filled with burning pitch and brimstone.
- ⁵*"For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment."* ⁶*The sword of the LORD is filled with blood; it is made overflowing with fatness, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Edom.* ⁷*The wild oxen shall come down with them, and the young bulls with the mighty bulls; their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust saturated with fatness. (Isa. 34:5-7)*
1. *My sword shall be bathed in heaven*: Soldiers often "bathed" their swords in various substances to polish them to prepare for war. God's sword being "bathed" in heaven speaks of it being sent from His divine counsels to prevail in the end-time war waged against Him.
2. *Edom*: Amos referred to Edom's perpetual hatred of Israel and anti-Semitism (Amos 1:11; cf. Gen. 33:4-16; Num. 20:14-21; 24:18; Jer. 49:7-22; Ezek. 35:1-15; Obad. 10-14; Mal. 1:2-5).
- ¹¹*"...I will not turn away its [Edom's] punishment, because he pursued his brother [Israel] ...and cast off all pity; his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever."* (Amos 1:11)
- ¹⁰ *"For violence against your brothers Jacob...you shall be cut off forever..."* ¹¹*When foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem—even you were as one of them.* ¹²*But you should not have...rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction...* ¹³*You should not have entered the gate of My people...you should not have...laid hands on their substance...* ¹⁴*You should not have stood at the crossroads to cut off those among them who escaped, nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained in the day of distress."* (Obad. 10-14)
- ¹²*"Because of what Edom did against the house of Judah by taking vengeance...avenging itself on them,"* ¹³*therefore thus says the Lord God: "I will also stretch out My hand against Edom, cut off man and beast from it, and make it desolate from Teman; Dedan shall fall by the sword."* ¹⁴*I will lay My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Israel..."* (Ezek. 25:12-14)

3. *“There is rage against the holy covenant in the injured spirit of Esau. That spirit is lodged in the neighboring Arab nations, and in the Palestinians in particular. This calls for a closer study of Edom and Esau in scripture and prophecy. The humanistic world, ignorant of God’s covenant Word, is being drawn into the conflict as their sympathetic identification with the Palestinian struggle is causing them to pick up Esau’s offense at God’s prerogative “to choose as He will choose.” In their biblical illiteracy, and disregard for an ancient covenant concerning a literal land and people, the nations (and most of Christendom) are naively advancing and facilitating the final expression of Esau’s everlasting hatred that will show no mercy. —Reggie Kelly*
4. Edom, Moab, and Ammon were three small nations in the ancient world comprising what is modern-day Jordan. Some of them will escape the rage and heavy demands of the Antichrist.
⁴¹He [Antichrist] shall enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. (Dan. 11:41)
5. **Geographic location of Edom:** Edom occupied the area that is now in Jordan near the southeast border of Israel, between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba. It is also referred to as Idumea. Edom may host the Antichrist’s armies in the end times.
 - a. Edom entered the story via Esau who had enmity against his younger brother Jacob (Gen. 33:4-16; Num. 20:14-21).
 - b. Many see Edom also as a representative example of the judgment that will fall on all nations that stand against the Lord in the end times.
 - c. By connecting the shaking of the heavens with the judgment of Edom, Isaiah makes it clear that what happens in Edom is very significant. Edom is representative of all nations hostile to the Lord.
6. **Bozrah:** The ancient capital of Edom is often identified with modern Buseirah, about 25 miles southeast of the Dead Sea. Jesus will march through Bozrah to kill the Antichrist’s armies (63:1-6) on His way to liberate Jerusalem from them.
7. **The Lord’s sword filled with blood:** This is a picture of the sword of the Lord being saturated from killing its victims (34:6). The sword is *filled*, or satiated *with* the blood of armies slain in Edom in the end times. The Lord with a sword is the Commander of the army of heaven (Josh. 5:13-14).
¹³...Behold, a Man stood opposite him [Joshua] with His sword drawn in His hand. Joshua...said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?” ¹⁴He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped. (Josh. 5:13-14)
8. **Great slaughter:** The end-time slaughter in Edom (Jordan) is compared to butchering large flocks of lambs and goats and herds of oxen (34:6).

9. **The Lord has a sacrifice:** Isaiah was picturing the God offering Edom up as His sacrifice (34:6). Isaiah described the end-time crisis in Edom in the familiar language of the Israel's priesthood sacrificing animals to the Lord. The soldiers from Edom (Jordan) and the Antichrist's armies stationed there will be like sacrificial animals being slain at the altar.
- a. This prophecy speaks of God's judgment on Edom and on the nations under the influence of Edom. In context to day-of-the-Lord judgments, the nations destroyed are described as being offered as a "sacrifice" to God (Ezek. 39:17; Zeph. 1:7).
- ¹⁷*...Speak to every sort of bird... "Come...to My sacrificial meal ...a great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood."*
(Ezek. 39:17)
- ⁷*Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; for the day of the LORD is at hand, for the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests [birds who eat the slain bodies].* (Zeph. 1:7)
- b. Jesus took the judgment for our sin. If people reject His sacrifice, they must endure making the just payment for their own sins. All sin must be atoned for with the sacrificial death (Lev. 4) of the sinner or of One in place of that sinner (Isa. 53).
- c. The promises in Isaiah 35 are possible because Jesus was offered up for our sin as a substitutionary sacrifice in Isaiah 53. Those who reject the sacrifice of Christ who paid the debt for their sins must themselves pay the debt for their sin.
10. **Lambs and goats:** Isaiah described the human leaders in Edom as lambs, goats, and bulls being sacrificed by God (34:6). The lambs and goats represent Edom's common citizens. The strong and fierce oxen and bulls represented her strong national leaders.
11. **It is made overflowing with fatness:** The Lord's sword is filled with the blood and fattened by the blood (34:6). This is an analogy to birds who were made fat by gorging on with the blood and fat of the slain after a battle. The Lord's sword will be made fat with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams.
12. **Blood and fat:** In the sacrificial system, the blood and fat of animals were set apart for God only (Lev. 3:4-5, 16-17; 7:23-27). The fat was burned on the altar instead of being eaten by the priests. The fat meant the fat of the inwards of the animal or the fat on the kidneys of cattle and sheep.
- ⁴*The two kidneys and the fat that is on them...*⁵*Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar...as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD...*¹⁶*and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma; all the fat is the LORD's. "*
(Lev. 3:4-5, 16)

13. **Land soaked with blood:** In that day, the land of Edom will be like an altar soaked with the blood of the soldiers in the Antichrist's armies (34:7). Blood will be four feet deep in part due to the flooding rain that occurs in context to the end-time battle for Jerusalem (Ezek. 38:22; Rev. 14:20).
²²*...I will rain down on him [Antichrist], on his troops...with flooding rain... (Ezek. 38:22)*
 14. **Dust:** The blood will be so abundant that the dirt in Edom will saturated or soaked with it (34:7). Their dust or soil shall be saturated with the fatness and blood of the slaughtered armies.
- D. The day-of-the-Lord vengeance on Edom (34:8-10): It has an eternal dimension to it. It is very rare for God's judgment on a nation to be eternal in duration. The land of Edom will be desolate forever (34:8-12) and a home for unclean animals (34:13-17).
- ⁸*For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion. ⁹Its streams shall be turned into pitch, and its dust into brimstone; its land shall become burning pitch. ¹⁰It shall not be quenched night or day; its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; no one shall pass through it forever and ever. (Isa. 34:8-10)*
1. **Day-of-the-Lord:** There is a "24-hour day" when Jesus appears in the sky; there is also a "longer day" that may last several years before and after the time Jesus returns in the sky.
 2. **Vengeance:** God's vengeance is not an expression of hateful revenge but of His justice and salvation. Jesus will march through Bozrah killing the Antichrist's armies to liberate Jerusalem as the greater David. He will rebuild the temple as the greater Solomon. He will defeat the False Prophet and destroy gods as the greater Elijah. He will liberate the captives like the greater Moses and will drive the enemy out of Israel as the greater Joshua.
 3. **The cause of Zion:** One reason for this judgment is to repay those who persecuted Israel. This is meant to be warning to all nations through history (Mt. 25:31-46). Gentile nations will be judged for how they mistreated the Jewish people and exploited their land (Joel 3:1-8).
 4. **Its streams shall be turned into pitch:** Pitch is a hot, tar-like substance comparable to asphalt. The streams that once flowed with water will be filled with pitch. Streams of burning pitch will move slowly through Edom like lava, filling it with flames and smoke. Tar seeping up from the ground exists on a small scale in Los Angeles in the *La Brea Tar Pits*.
 - a. Fire, brimstone, pitch, lava, and sulfur come to the surface, possibly from an earthquake and/or a volcanic eruption.
 - b. Jordan has significant oil shale deposits (rock from which oil can be extracted) in 26 known localities. It has 8th largest oil shale resource in the world. Geological surveys show existing deposits underlie more than 60% of Jordan's territory. The resource is estimated at 40-70 billion tons of oil shale. It has a sulfur content.

5. ***Dust turned to brimstone:*** The soil will be turned to a combustible powdered brimstone or sulfur. The dirt shall be saturated with blood and combustible brimstone which will keep the fire burning in the pitch.
- a. Brimstone is a yellow mineral substance or stone that is closely identified with sulfur. Brimstone means, “burning stone.” When powdered brimstone is exposed to fire, it will burn like a liquid. The mineral substance will melt and even drip like wax as it gives off poisonous and harmful fumes that can kill people.
 - b. Brimstone starts out in molten rock under the earth’s surface and comes to the surface in the lava from volcanoes or in hot springs.
 - c. Brimstone/sulfur can be converted to sulfuric acid which is used in many things such as fertilizer, batteries, chemicals, tires, detergents, explosives, matches, drugs, etc.
 - d. Brimstone is mentioned 14 times in the Scripture in various contexts—Sodom (Gen. 19:24; Lk. 17:29), the judgment of the Antichrist’s armies (Isa. 30:33; 34:9; Ezek. 38:22), describing certain demonic beings (Rev. 9:17-18), and punishment in the lake of fire (Rev. 14:10; 19:20; 20:10; 21:8).
6. ***Its smoke shall ascend forever:*** The burning pitch and brimstone will send up columns of smoke that will ascend forever from Edom. This is comparable to the smoke ascending forever from the lake of fire (Rev. 14:11) and from Babylon (Rev 18:9, 18:19:2-3).
- ⁹...If anyone worships the beast...¹⁰he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.¹¹And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night... (Rev. 14:9-11)***
7. ***No one shall pass through it forever:*** No humans will ever pass through that area forever. Edom’s original hostility was expressed in not allowing Israel to pass through their land to Canaan. The Lord will repay them in a similar way by seeing to it that no traveler shall ever pass through Edom.
8. Isaiah compared the judgment on Edom to the judgment of Sodom (34:9-10; Gen. 19:24-28). Ancient Edom was close to where Sodom had been geographically, and its future judgment with smoke and brimstone is similar to Sodom’s judgment.
- ¹⁷“Edom also shall be an astonishment; everyone who goes by it will be astonished and will hiss at all its plagues. ¹⁸As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah...” says the LORD, “No one shall remain there, nor shall a son of man dwell in it.” (Jer. 49:17-18)***
9. Edom and Babylon are described with a similar judgment comparable to Sodom—with fire and brimstone coming from heaven (Gen. 19:24, 28; cf. Jer. 49:17-18; Isa. 34:9; Jer. 50:40; Isa. 13:19-22), that burns with smoke arising forever (Rev. 19:3; cf. Isa. 34:10) and resulting in such destruction that humans cannot live there (Jer. 49:13, 18, 20; 50:9-40; 51:43; cf. Isa. 13:20; 34:10; Ezek. 35:9, 14-15; Mal. 1:3-4) but only creatures of the desert (Isa. 13:20-22; 34:11-15).

¹⁹*And Babylon...will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation... ²¹But wild beasts of the desert...owls; ostriches...and wild goats will caper there. (Isa. 13:19-22)*

10. **Lake of fire:** Edom shall be called the “Territory of Wickedness” and “the people against whom the Lord has indignation with forever.” I see the judgment on Edom as connected with the lake of fire in some way. God’s judgment on Edom throughout the Millennium will be a testimony to the nations for 1,000 years of the reality of the lake of fire.

⁴*...they [Edom] shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever. (Mal. 1:4)*

11. **One vast area:** It is significant that Edom and Babylon receive a similar end-time judgment. The two regions border each other, and both are described as being a place of perpetual burning. It may be *one vast, desolate, flaming region* that is connected with lake of fire.
12. In the Millennium, those going to Jerusalem to worship will look on corpses (Isa. 66:23). Isaiah did not identify where these corpses will be—Edom is a good possibility. John used the language about Edom from 34:10 adding that the people will be tormented in the “presence of the Lamb” (Rev. 14:10)—whose throne will be in Jerusalem about 75 miles from Edom.

²³*“And it shall come to pass that...all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD. ²⁴“And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched.” (Isa. 66:23-24)*

- a. **All flesh:** Many Gentiles and Jewish believers coming to Jerusalem will stop to look at corpses suffering eternal judgment. Those surviving the Great Tribulation will worship Jesus in Jerusalem during the Millennium (Isa. 25-26; Zech. 14:16-21).
- b. **Look upon corpses:** Viewing these unburied corpses will be a testimony or witness to the people in the millennial earth warning them about the lake of fire and not to embrace the rebellion at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-10) and reminding them what God’s mercy saved them from by the death of Jesus on the cross.
- c. **Go forth:** Conquerors returned the next day to the battlefield to view the corpses of their enemies which lie rotting as worms fed on their flesh. The armies of the Antichrist will be killed, and believers in the Millennium will go forth to view them.
- d. **Their worm not dying:** Their “worm not dying” speaks figuratively of the on-going remorse, memory, and misery of the conscience of the damned. The implication is that their consciousness never dies—they will experience a perpetual torment of conscience always gnawing at them, and never permitting them to be at rest, even as worms continually gnaw on their corpse while it is rotting and decomposing.
- e. **Fire is not quenched:** This refers to the eternal punishment on the resurrected bodies of the damned (Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:29).

²⁸...the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. (Jn. 5:28-29)

- f. Jesus referenced Isaiah's mention of worms and fire (Mk. 9:44-48; cf. Isa. 66:24). Worms eating the decomposing flesh in context to unquenchable fires are two elements from Gehenna (in the Valley of Hinnom) describing eternal destruction. What will happen in Edom in 34:10 and in 66:24 parallels what will occur in the fires of hell and the lake of fire—with unquenchable fire (Mk 9:43-48; Rev. 14:10).

⁴³If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁴where "Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." (Mk. 9:43-44)

- E. Edom will be a desolate land (34:11-15) filled with thorns, wild beasts, and birds. There will be no human beings there. Each animal will reproduce without any interference from humans who might drive them away.

¹¹But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it, also the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. And He shall stretch out over it the line of confusion and the stones of emptiness. ¹²They shall call its nobles to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all its princes shall be nothing. ¹³And thorns shall come up in its palaces, nettles and brambles in its fortresses; it shall be a habitation of jackals... ¹⁴The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the jackals, and the wild goat shall bleat to its companion; also the night creature shall rest there... (Isa. 34:11-14)

1. Nine of the animals (34:11-14) are unclean according the law of Moses (Lev. 11). The animals here were commonly found around marshes and desert places. The message is that the once flourishing cities of Edom will become a wilderness that is undisturbed by humans.
2. ***Owl and raven:*** These are birds that occupy deserts. The image here is of a desolate land given up to birds and wild animals who are commonly seen in uninhabited places.
3. ***He shall stretch out over it the line:*** God will stretch His plumb line over Edom to measure or evaluate it to determine the judgment it deserves. This will reduce the land to confusion and emptiness. As an architect uses a measuring line to determine exact measures for his work, God will determine the exact measure of justice coming to Edom (Amos 7:7-8). Conquered cities were measured with a line to indicate which areas were to be destroyed (2 Kgs 21:13).
4. ***Stones of emptiness:*** Stones were used to mark the borders of a conquered land. The words translated *confusion* and *emptiness* are translated as "without form and void" in Gen. 1:2.
5. ***They shall call its nobles:*** There would not be any people for the nobles of Edom to rule over (34:12). The palaces, fortresses, and strongholds where the noble lived will be desolate.
6. ***All its princes shall be nothing:*** There will be no leader in Edom to proclaim a kingdom.

7. **Night creature:** The Hebrew word here is *lilith*; it referred to demonic beings that were common in popular or mythical stories (34:14). Isaiah saw them as demons, yet called them by their popular name—the lilith. The Septuagint translates it this as *demonic*. Isaiah emphasized the perpetual desolation of Edom by mentioning animals making their nests without being disturbed by people.
- F. The Lord's judgment against Edom is be searched out (34:16-17). Isaiah urged his readers to examine the details of this prophecy to verify its accuracy when it is fulfilled in the future.
- ¹⁶***Search from the book of the LORD, and read: not one of these shall fail; not one shall lack her mate. For My mouth has commanded it, and His Spirit has gathered them.*** ¹⁷***He has cast the lot for them, and His hand has divided it among them with a measuring line. They shall possess it forever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it. (Isa. 34:16-17)***
1. **Book of the LORD:** This book included Isaiah's written prophecies. He emphasized the reliability of these prophecies even to the minute details outlined in 34:14-15. In 34:1, Isaiah called the nations to compare his predictions with the historical fulfillment to verify how exacting and accurate they are—God's warnings and promises. There was a collection of prophecies referred to the book of the Lord (8:16-18; 29:11-12; 30:8; 33:6; Dan. 9:2)
 2. **Search from the book:** We are to search the Lord's book by comparing one biblical passage with others. After the end-time judgments come on Edom, Isaiah assured the future reader that what he predicted would be clearly verifiable and fulfilled in a precise way.
 3. **Not one of these shall fail:** There are two ways to interpret this phrase. First, that not one of Isaiah's predictions in chapter 34 would fail. Second, that not one of the species of animals mentioned in 34:11-15 would fail or cease to mate and continue to be in Edom.
 4. **My mouth commanded:** Here the Lord spoke directly in the first person claiming that these animals would be in their place by His command and the Spirit's work to gather them. God has decreed each species of bird and beast that is to dwell in desolate Edom forever.
 5. **His Spirit has gathered them:** The Spirit will gather the unclean birds and beasts spoken of in 34:11-15 as the ones to continue to multiply and thus dwell in Edom forever.
 6. **Cast the lot:** As the Lord divided up the Promised Land by divine lot to give to the tribes of Israel (Num. 26:55-56; Deut. 32:8; Josh. 14:1-2; 18:4-10), so He will divide up the land of Edom to assign to the birds and wild beasts. Each animal will be assigned a place in Edom by God so that each may know its place as clearly as if it were set a part by a measuring line.
¹⁰***Then Joshua cast lots for them...and there Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions. (Josh. 18:10)***
 7. **Measuring line:** God measured or determined the land of Edom to be desolate forever. After a nation was conquered, the victors apportioned various areas of a land by lot to its new inhabitants. As the "Conqueror of Edom," the Lord divided land by lot to the wild beasts.

8. ***His hand has divided it:*** A land was often surveyed by a measuring line, divided into smaller portions, and then the lot was cast to determine who inhabited each portion.
9. ***Not one shall lack her mate:*** There are two ways to interpret this phrase. First, that not even one of Isaiah's predictions in 34:8-15 shall lack a fulfillment as its "companion" or "mate." Second, that no beast there shall be without its mate to breed so to continue in Edom forever.
10. ***They shall dwell in it:*** The wild beasts in 34:11-15 would inhabit Edom forever.

IV. GOD'S GLORY AND SALVATION (ISA. 35:1-10)

- A. The greatest desire of the redeemed is to see and encounter the glory of the Lord. Jesus is zealous to remove wicked from the earth to establish a community filled with joy and gladness (Isa. 35:10). Isaiah 35 is about the open manifestation of God's glory in the restoration of His people and the land.

²***They shall see the glory of the LORD...¹⁰ and the ransomed of the LORD shall return...and they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isa. 35:2, 10)***

1. ***See God's glory:*** They shall encounter many different manifestations of God's glory. Here, we gain insight into Jesus' personality and power by seeing what He will do in Israel. He will release similar manifestations of His glory globally for "all flesh to see" (Isa. 40:5). Whatever He does in fullness in Israel, He will also do in part in all the nations of the earth.

³***..."Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God..."⁵ The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together..." (Isa. 40:3-5)***

2. Earlier Isaiah assured the people that they could be strengthened by knowing God's end-time plan (33:6) which emphasized the full and open manifestation of His salvation across the earth. He called them to be anchored in the knowledge of a glorious "kingdom worldview" that would be fully established in the Millennium with Jesus' perfect leadership seen by all.

⁶***Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation...***
¹⁷***Your eyes will see the King in His beauty...²⁰ Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home [a peaceful home without any enemies]...²¹ But there the majestic LORD will be for us... (Isa. 33:6, 17-21)***

3. ***The beauty narrative:*** We embrace the truth about the glory of our beautiful God, who has a beautiful plan for our life, in which He uses His power to impart incorruptible beauty into our life that continues forever (Rom. 8:28; 1 Pet. 3:4). David was intentional about focusing on the "beauty narrative" of his life (27:4). The enemy wants to shift our life into a negative narrative of how bad we are treated, how hard things are, what we do not have, how much we fail, and how worthless our life is. We must refuse to let a dark narrative dominate our heart.

- B. The transformation of nature (35:1-2): The promise of "the desert" rejoicing includes the people who live in the desert being full of joy because of what the Lord does in the deserts. Jesus will reverse what is dead, sick, sad, or lacking with vibrant life, healing, gladness, and abundance.

¹The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God. (Isa. 35:1-2)

1. ***Desert:*** The Hebrew word *Arabah* is translated as the *desert*. It speaks of the dry desert south of the Dead Sea. It is extremely hot and dangerous and is unable to sustain much vegetation or human life. Jesus restores the animals, atmosphere, and agriculture.
2. ***Glory of Lebanon:*** The beauty for which Lebanon was famous will be seen in the deserts. Lebanon with its cedars and Mount Carmel with its fertile plain of Sharon speak of God's favor and abundance. This desert will have the glory of Lebanon, the abundance of Carmel, and the beauty of Sharon. The Lord turned Edom into a desolate desert in Isaiah 34, but transforms the desert into a glorious garden in Isaiah 35.
3. ***Blossom as a rose:*** The most hostile desert environment will blossom like a rose. He will cause rivers to flow. Human life cannot survive and thrive in that context.
4. ***See the glory of the Lord:*** The open manifestation of God's glory will be the transforming power that heals the land and the people. The people will see an unprecedented measure of God's glory (2:10, 19, 21) because Jesus will "come" to earth with His reward (35:4; 40:10).

¹⁹They shall go into...the caves of the earth, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily. (Isa. 2:19)

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. (Isa. 40:10)

5. ***See the excellency of our God:*** Jesus' excellency is another term that speaks of His glory, beauty, and splendor (4:2, 5; 24:23; 28: 5; 33:17; 40:5; 52:10; 60:1-2; 66:18). Paul joyfully gave up everything when empowered by seeing even glimpses of Jesus' beauty (Phil. 3:8). Paul emphasized the transforming power of seeing God's glory or beauty (2 Cor. 3:18).

⁸I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus ...for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ (Phil. 3:8)

¹⁸We all...beholding [seeing]...the glory of the Lord, are being transformed... (2 Cor. 3:18)

6. ***They shall see the glory:*** "They" does not have an obvious antecedent—it may refer to all flesh (40:5), all the redeemed (35:9-10), or the remnant of Israel who survived the Great Tribulation.
7. ***With joy and singing:*** The redeemed will sing over the desert *before* and *after* it blooms.

- C. A call to strengthen God's people (35:4-5): God's people in the Great Tribulation will need encouragement to keep their eyes on the Lord and to resist being overcome with fear (Lk. 21:26).

³***Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense [reward] of God; He will come and save you.” (Isa. 35:3-4)***

1. ***Strengthen, make firm, and say:*** The redeemed are called to strengthen, make firm, and say things to those who are fearful. Many will need a message of hope to strengthen them to act (hands), be steady (knees), and confident (hearts). Weak hands and knees speak of feeling helpless—a message of hope will be essential for those besieged Jerusalem (Zech. 14:1-5).
2. ***Your God will come:*** Jesus will personally come to His people when He comes to reign over all the earth (35:4). The message of hope is that God will come with vengeance to save His people from the reign of terror of Antichrist, restore all things, and to reward them (35:4).
3. ***Be strong, do not fear:*** Strength comes from hearing God’s plans and promises to save them. Many will feel weak and fearful when trouble and darkness continues to escalate (Lk. 21:26). Many will be overwhelmed with fear and expectation of what might be coming next.

²⁶***...men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming... (Lk. 21:26)***

4. Part of our life mission is to strengthen others with understanding of the end-time message.
5. ***Say to the fearful:*** The Lord’s messengers must not be overcome with fear in that day—they are to say things to the fearful about God’s end-time plan (40:9-10). They are to boldly lift their voice with strength—to do this they must know the biblical end-time storyline.

⁹***O Zion...lift up your voice with strength...be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah...***

¹⁰***“Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand... behold, His reward is with Him.” (Isa. 40:9-10)***

6. It is wise to prioritize putting time and effort into preparing our heart and mind with understanding to become “messengers” who can prepare others with understanding. It is hard to help others understand if we ourselves are not first established the biblical narrative. For example, when needing oxygen on an airplane, the stewardess routinely instructs passengers to put oxygen on themselves before putting it on their children. Why? They want the parents to be able to function before helping the others.
- D. The Lord will release healing and restoration of the people and land (35:5-7). Isaiah elaborates on ways in which God’s glory will be manifested—healing people and transforming agriculture. The Lord’s plans include releasing power in every aspect of human life and creation. This passage does not stress freedom from powerful oppressors, but the release of abundant life and healing.

⁵***Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. ⁷The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes. (Isa. 35:5-7)***

1. ***The eyes of the blind shall be opened:*** There will be a need for physical healing for the unsaved survivors of the Great Tribulation and for their offspring throughout the Millennium. Though millennial conditions will be glorious, people will still be born in sin and sometimes with infirmities, and some will face sicknesses in their life that will need to be healed.
 2. ***Waters shall burst forth:*** Abundant clean water flowing in the desert is a manifestation of God's supernatural blessings (35:1-2; 41:18; 43:19-20; 44:3-4).
 3. ***Habitation of jackals:*** There shall be abundant grass and lush vegetation in the desolate places where jackals normally live (35:1-2, 6-7).
- E. The Lord will cause a highway to Jerusalem to be built (35:8-9). The prophecy of a "highway" is unique to Isaiah (Isa. 11:16; 19:23; 35:8; 40:3; 49:11; 57:14; 62:10).
- ⁸***A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it...Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray.***
⁹***No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it...But the redeemed shall walk there,*** ¹⁰***and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion...*** (Isa. 35:8-10)
1. This highway will serve different purposes such as facilitating Jewish refugees in returning to Israel, and Gentiles making pilgrimage to Jerusalem (Isa. 2:3; Zech. 14:16-19), and helping people who travel from Egypt to Assyria so they can serve the Lord and His purposes in the nations (Isa. 19:23).
 2. In the seventh bowl, an earthquake and 100-pound hailstones will destroy many highways (Rev. 16:18-21).
 3. ***Come to Zion:*** This highway will help people come to Zion, or Jerusalem, the capital city for the whole earth. Multitudes from the nations will make pilgrimages to Jerusalem to worship Jesus and to receive teaching from Him (2:2-3; Zech. 14:16-17).
²***...and all nations shall flow to it [Jerusalem].*** ³***Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to...the house of the God of Jacob..."*** (Isa. 2:2-3)
¹⁶***...everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.***
¹⁷***And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.*** (Zech. 14:16-17)
 4. ***From Egypt:*** It seems that this highway will start in Egypt and go to Assyria, yet with Jerusalem as its main destination. It will serve as a strategic connection from Egypt to Assyria so they both can serve the Lord and His purposes in Jerusalem in an effective way. This highway will support international unity that will result in economic blessing.
²³***In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians.*** (Isa. 19:23)

5. **Highway of Holiness:** Only the redeemed people will travel on this highway. This highway will be associated with holiness. Those traveling on this highway will participate in singing worship songs and will encounter God's presence with deep joy by the power of the Spirit.
 - a. Traveling on this highway may include elements that teach and inspire holiness for those walking on it. What if there are "stations" along this highway that—in a more dynamic way than Disney's *Epcot* theme park—tell the history of salvation?
 - b. We can only speculate what might be available on this highway such as high-tech capacities, Holy Spirit ministry opportunities, beautiful landscape, amazing hospitality services, and much more. Those traveling on this highway will be glad.
 - c. I assume that this highway will be a tremendous architectural and technological accomplishment commensurate with the glory of millennial Jerusalem. This highway might even be considered as one of the great wonders of the new world.
 6. **Fools:** The simple, uneducated, or unlearned shall not be lead astray en route to Jerusalem; they will not go astray or wander from the road getting lost when traveling on this highway to Jerusalem. People without traveling experience can easily get lost in the process of international traveling, but this will not be the case on this glorious highway.
 7. **Lions:** No lions or dangerous animals will be there to threaten one's safety. This highway will be safe and free from any harmful animals or ravenous beasts.
 8. **Unclean shall not pass over it:** The unclean will not be allowed to travel on it.
 9. **The redeemed:** For the first time, Isaiah mentions the "redeemed," the first of 24 references to the redeemed in the book of Isaiah.
 10. **Return:** Some will be returning to Jerusalem where they lived before fleeing the city as refugees or being taken away as captives (Ps. 102:20; Isa. 11:11-14, 16; 14:1-3; 19:23; 27:12-13; 40:11; 42:7, 16, 22; 45:14; 49:9-12, 21, 24-26; 60:10, 12, 14; 61:1, 5; Jer. 30:3, 8, 10, 17; 31:16, 23; Ezek. 39:23-29; Hos. 11:11; Joel 3:1-2, 8; Amos 9:14; Mic. 2:12-13; 4:6-7; 5:6; 7:12; Zeph. 3:19-20; Zech. 9:11-12; 10:10-11; 13:8; 14:2; Mt. 25:43; Lk. 21:24).
- F. The Lord will fill His people with joy and gladness (35:10). This gives us important insight into the Lord's personality and leadership.
- ¹⁰ *and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isa. 35:10)*

1. **Joy:** The result of God's salvation is a people forever filled with gladness and joy (35:10; cf. 25:8; 51:11; 65:19. Gladness will fill the heart of God's people when they see the full implications of their salvation and of being liberated from their sins and the sins of others.

¹¹ *...In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Ps. 16:11)*

⁸*But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...”*⁹*Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” (Heb. 1:8-9)*

2. **Sighing:** The Lord will remove all death, sorrow, crying and pain (Rev. 21:4).

⁴*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. (Rev. 21:4)*

G. **Summary:** This is doable. We want to be messengers who are not afraid because we interact with the King who is the author of the biblical storyline. We must engage with the Spirit, grow in the biblical message, and do this in community. The message will not penetrate our heart without the help of the Spirit, and we will grow best in this if we are not in isolation. I need community because I cannot make it alone, and I cannot make it without growing in the Word with the help of the Holy Spirit.