THE MESSIAH’S REIGN OF JOY

Isaiah 35:1–10

Key Verse: 35:10

1. What surprising phenomenon does the author predict? (1,2) What does “blossom like the crocus” mean? What do the locations of Lebanon, Carmel and Sharon symbolize? (Ps104:16; Song2:1) How does this geographic transformation reveal the glory of the Lord? What does this tell us about how we can be truly joyful?
2. In light of this, what does the author say we should do? (3,4) Living in this world, why might people have “weak hands,” “feeble knees” or “an anxious heart”? How do verses 1–4 inspire us with confidence in God’s justice and salvation?
3. When God comes to save, what does the author say will happen? (5,6a) What do the people mentioned here have in common, and how can such unusual healings happen? How might these represent spiritual healings? How did Jesus apply this prophecy to his own ministry? (Lk7:22)
4. What else did the author say would happen? (6b,7) Why is water essential for those traveling through a wilderness? What is the spiritual wilderness in our world? What might these “waters” and “streams in the desert” symbolize, and how can we have them? (Jn7:37–39)
5. In what ways does the author describe “a highway,” and who is it for? (8,9) What does this highway tell us about God? Read verse 10. Where is this highway headed, what will happen there, and of what is this an allegory? What does it mean to be “ransomed” or “redeemed”? How can we experience such gladness and joy?