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The Desert and the Parched Land Will Be Glad

35: 1-4

The desert and the parched Land will be glad DIG: What does the image of the crocus bursting into bloom convey to you? What does this show you about the ultimate purpose of the LORD's judgment?

REFLECT: What pressures are causing your hands and knees to tremble right now? How might this message bring strength and encouragement to you? When have you given up trying to reach God? How has He come to you? Does living by faith mean you have to be perfect? What does living by faith look like in your life?

Suddenly the picture changes from the gloomy wasteland of **Edom** to a place of rejoicing filled with blooming flowers. One can only ask what has happened. **Isaiah** keeps us in suspense. **He** gives us a partial answer in **35:2** and then a fuller one in **35:4**. The answer is **ADONAI**. **He** is the author of all **joy**. We human beings keep thinking that we can produce **joy** on our own. But we never can. **Joy** is always a by-product of the presence of **God** in **His** world. When we, through our lack of trust, hold **Him** at arm's length, the end result is despair. It is only when we turn to **Him**, and recognize the uselessness of all other help, that we can perceive **His** coming for us and find **joy** in becoming complete with **Him**.¹²⁴



These words apply to specific areas of **Isra'el**. **The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the lily (35:1a CJB)**. **The desert** refers to the 'Aravah, which extends from the Dead Sea down to the Red Sea. **The wilderness** refers to the Negev Desert in southern **Isra'el**. Both the Jordan River Valley and

the Negev are nothing but desolation today. They are dry and unproductive for the most part. But that will change. **Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.** Amazingly, **the desert** will become fertile. If you go back to **29:17, 32:15** and **33:9** you will notice that **Sharon, Lebanon, and Carmel** will fail to produce during the Great Tribulation. But in the millennial Kingdom that will be reversed and **Lebanon, Sharon, and Carmel** will all become extremely productive. But more importantly **they will see the Sh'khinah glory, the Glory of ADONAI (to see link click Ju - The Glory of the LORD Rises Upon You), in the Land.** Consequently, *the reason* it becomes productive and restored is the Second Coming of **Jesus Christ (63:1-6).**

They glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of ADONAI, the splendor of our God (35:1b-2). Thirty-seven times the Sh'khinah **glory** is mentioned in the book of **Isaiah.** **The LORD** wants to share **His glory** with **His** creation, but any attempt by **His** creatures to produce their own **glory** has always ended in disaster. This sums up what has been emphasized in **Chapters 34** and **35.** You can either follow **God** or follow the Gentile nations. That theme will continue to appear throughout the book. If we worship **ADONAI** for **His glory**, then **He** will give **His glory** to us. For **we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He really is (First John 3:2b).**

The believing remnant during the Great Tribulation is encouraged to **strengthen the hands** that are **feeble** and **steady the knees** of those **that give way (35:3).** These are figures of helplessness. *Throwing up your hands, shaking knees and a racing heart* are similar figures. It is a vision to steady **fearful hands**, strengthen weak **knees**, and lift up trembling hearts. When confronted by the antichrist, who will use his power ruthlessly, what were they to do? They were to **live by faith! The righteous will live by faith (Romans 1:17).** Why? Because **God** will be coming in the person of **the Messianic King.** And when **He** does, they will see **His Shechinah glory** with their own eyes.

Say to those with fearful hands, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to deliver you" (35:4). The basis for their encouragement is **Your God! The Israelites** of **Isaiah's** day could recall the promise of **God** to Jacob: **I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again (Genesis 46:4a).** Or they could be encouraged by the words of Joseph when he said: **God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the Land that He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (50:24).** Likewise, as a nation they could look forward to the future with confidence. In **the far eschatological future** **Yeshua Messiah** will come with **vengeance and retribution** to deliver Isra'el.



Because of progressive revelation, they would not know it at the time, but it would eventually be as the armies of the antichrist surround Bozrah. **He** came the first time as **the Lamb of God (John 1:29)**, but **He** will come again as **the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5)**.

The prophet **Malachi** tells us: **See, I will send My messenger (40:3), who will prepare the way before Me. Then suddenly the LORD you are seeking will come to His Temple; the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come, says the LORD of heaven's angelic armies (Malachi 3:1 CJB)**. In every generation it is the same. When the heart cries out, "**Lord, You** are too far away, I cannot reach You," **His** answer is, "You do not have to reach to **Me**, **I** will come to you."