

Isaiah 34,35

2-10-05

“The Barrenness of Edom & The Blossoming of Israel!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. These 2 chapters will conclude the chapters on *Judgment & Blessing*.
- 1.2. **Contrast:** The Barrenness of Edom & The Blossoming of Israel.
 - 1.2.1. **Or**, The Announcement of Judgment & The Assurance of Glory.
- 1.3. But let's 1st go back to **Numb.20:14-21** for an interesting tie in.

2. **Announcement of Judgment! (ch.34)**

- 2.1. **Judgment upon the People!** (1-7)
- 2.2. (1) The description is the final battle of Armageddon.
- 2.3. (5) Though **Edom** is specifically named (Israel's long time enemy), **no nation** will escape.
- 2.4. **Judgment upon the Land!** (8-17)
- 2.5. (8) **Q: Why is God so upset?** – For Zion's sake.
- 2.6. (11) These will thrive because no people are there.
- 2.7. (13) Edom's defenses will be overgrown w/bushes.
- 2.8. (16,17) We can rejoice in the **promises**, anticipate the **prophecies**, & heed the **prohibitions**.¹
 - 2.8.1. Though we'll never this side of heaven grasp all of it...Gods Word will never fail! And, we can trust it implicitly.
 - 2.8.2. A clergyman took a seat in a dining car on a train traveling along the Hudson River. Opposite him was an atheist who, seeing his clerical collar, started a discussion. "I see you are a clergyman." "Yes," came the reply. "I am a minister of the gospel." "I suppose you believe the Bible." The clergyman, orthodox in his views, responded, "I certainly do believe the Bible to be the Word of God." "But aren't there things in the Bible you can't explain?" With humility the minister answered, "Yes, there are places in the Bible too hard for me to understand." With an air of triumph as though he had cornered the preacher, the atheist asked, "Well, what do you do then?" Unruffled, the clergyman went on eating his dinner-- which happened to be Hudson shad, a tasty fish but noted for its bony structure. Looking up, he said, "Sir, I do just the same as when eating this shad. When I come to the bones, I put them to the side of the plate and go on enjoying my lunch. I leave the bones for some fool to choke on."

¹ Shepherds Notes; pg.48

3. Assurance of Glory! (ch.35)

- 3.1. God's heart is to have sinners repent & believers to be encouraged!
- 3.2. When Jesus comes to rule & reign marvelous changes will take place.
- 3.3. (1) The **desolate wilderness** turns into a **beautiful garden**.
 - 3.3.1. Human history began in a **garden**, but man's sin turned it into a **desert**.
 - 3.3.2. God's creation will rejoice when it's set free from the bondage of sin²
- 3.4. (2b) Oswald Chambers, "*The one aim of the call of God is the **satisfaction of God**, not a call to **do something for Him**."* 😊
- 3.5. (3) Those **weak** will be made **strong**!
- 3.6. (4) Those **fearful-hearted** will be made **courageous**!
- 3.7. (5-7) The **disabled** will be **handicapped no longer**!
 - 3.7.1. **Note For** in 6b – Why the healings? "*It's the water, & a lot more!*"
 - 3.7.1.1. **See Rev.22:2**
 - 3.7.2. **Wow!** complete restoration of physical health!
 - 3.7.3. The **blind** will **see**!(5a); The **deaf** will **hear**!(5b);
The **lame** will **leap**!(5c); The **dumb** will not just talk, but **sing**!(5d)
 - 3.7.4. Kind of sounds like when John the Baptist asked, "what should we expect to see when Messiah comes?" "**The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear;...**"
- 3.8. (6) A great devotional sprung out of this verse in 1925!
 - 3.8.1. "*Streams in the Desert*" LB.Cowman(Mrs. Charles E.).
 - 3.8.2. She was a missionary with her husband in the Orient.
 - 3.8.3. She compiled a collection of "prayerful meditations, Christian writings, & God's written promises."
 - 3.8.4. *My Utmost for His Highest*(by Oswald Chambers) was written at the same time period(1927).
 - 3.8.4.1. They **ministered together** for a time in Japan.
 - 3.8.4.2. Both were greatly influenced by **Charles Spurgeon**.
(Chambers saved under him ministry in the late 1800's)
 - 3.8.5. **Read Numb.21:16-18a**
 - 3.8.5.1. **Ever sing about water before?**
 - 3.8.5.2. (NIV) "**Spring up, O well! Sing about it, about the well that the princes dug, that the nobles of the people sank-- the nobles with scepters and staffs.**"

² Warren Wiersbe; pg.472; With the Word.

- 3.8.5.2.1. As they dug, they tapped into a stream that had run “unseen” below!
- 3.8.5.3. **What a beautiful picture this is!** – Q: In what area of your life do you need to just “sing out Praise” unto Him? Q: What area is dry, barren, parched, unfruitful, and desolate?
- 3.8.5.4. Q: How did the children of Israel find the water?
3.8.5.4.1. While standing on burning sand, & digging the well with their staff of promise, they sang a praise of faith!
- 3.8.5.5. **Complaining** always brought about a **dry desert!** While **Praising** always brought about a **delicious dessert!**
- 3.8.5.6. (21:16) *“Gather the people together & I will give them water!”*
- 3.8.5.7. **Salvation** – “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those **believing in Him** would receive;”
- 3.8.5.8. **Our spiritual walk** – “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might **sanctify** and **cleanse** her with the washing of water by the word,” Eph.5:25,26
- 3.8.5.9. **My goal as a bible teacher!** - **He** will give the water of life... I'm just a conduit!
- 3.8.5.10. **Our future Glory!** – Will be refreshing!
- 3.9. (8-10a) A **road** that you can't get lost on!
- 3.9.1. Here I find **comfort & all hope**...that even **the fool**/simple, as long as he's **on** the road, will find his way & not get lost.
- 3.9.1.1. The Kings Highway was cut off to them back in Numb.20.
- 3.9.1.2. Here a Highway is built(Fast Track Lane *i.e. members only!*)
- 3.9.2. The Christian way is not the "**middle way**" between extremes, but the "**narrow way**" between precipices.³
- 3.9.3. God says we can **walk safely** on His Highway!
- 3.9.3.1. Prov.4:14 “Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.”
- Prov.4:18 “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.”
- Prov.15:19 “The way of the **lazy man** is like a hedge of thorns, **But** the way of the **upright** is a highway.”

³ Donald G. Bloesch in Theological Notebook I. Christianity Today, Vol. 39, no. 5.

- 3.9.4. Only Believers enter into Millennium.
- 3.9.4.1. Prov.10:30 “The **righteous** will never be removed, But the **wicked** will **not inhabit the earth.**”
- 3.9.4.2. Mt.5:5 “Blessed are the meek, For they shall **inherit the earth.**”
- 3.9.4.3. Also sheep & goat judgment Mt.25, & Ezek.20:38.
- 3.9.5. **Q:** What blessings are spoken of here which are **available now** on His Highway (i.e. *Christian life*)?
- 3.9.5.1. **Being redeemed; ransomed; singing; joy; gladness.**
- 3.10. (10b) **Sorrow** will be turned to **Joy!**
- 3.10.1. Rev.21:4 “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death (but life forevermore), nor sorrow (but joy), nor crying (but laughter). There shall be no more pain (but pleasure), for the former things have passed away.”
- 3.11. **Q:** Are you personally waiting for any of these physical blessings?
- 3.11.1. **In the meanwhile can you enjoy:**
Deliverance from your enemies?
Fruitfulness in your time left here?
Spiritual strength in the midst of your physical weaknesses?
Holiness in a very unholy world?
Joy & Gladness despite the devils discouragements?
- 3.12. **Story:** 89 workers were accidentally killed during the building of the Boulder Dam (Hoover). The memorial plaque reads:
“For those who died that the desert might bloom.”
- 3.12.1. One day, the desert will bloom to the Glory of God, because of Jesus’ death upon the cross for you & I.
- 3.12.2. All **earthly wrongs** will be righted. **Sufferings** will cease. **Maladies** will be removed.
- 3.12.2.1. But only **believers** will partake of these blessings.
- 3.12.2.2. If you are **not** a believer, this present, fallen world is the only kingdom you’ll ever know.
- 3.12.3. Put your **trust in Jesus** for a glorious future!