

WEEK #15

Isaiah 27-35 - Blossom as the Rose



Isaiah by Mail

A Bible Study Born in the
Midst of Covid

Monday,
September 14,
2020



“...and streams in the desert.” Is. 35:6

Hi Everyone!

We’re going to look at 9 chapters this week. Chapters 27-35.

Most of you told me that Isaiah 24 was a really frightening chapter! I heard that people were really looking forward to going on to Chapters 25 and 26 just to get past all the terrifying events in chapter 24. Me, too!

Chapter 24 was about a time that is yet coming in our future – a time we sometimes call “the Tribulation”, that 7-year period when God will pour out His wrath on this sinful world.

But remember, at the end of the Tribulation, Jesus comes back to this crazy world – and this time He is the reigning King! He comes on a white horse. He is powerful and mighty. He destroys all who refused to believe in Him. His return ushers in that 1,000-year period called “the Millennium”.

Chapters 27-35 gives us some amazing “pictures” of the Millennium.

As compared to the Tribulation, the Millennium is the exact opposite. It is healing, and laughter, peace and comfort. It is hope. It is looking forward to a future which will never end. It is tears wiped away, children growing to adulthood in safety, and joy which cannot be contained.

During the awfulness of the Tribulation the LORD is going to give all wandering, rebellious people, including Israel, a chance to believe in Him...to have a personal relationship with Him.



After the Tribulation, the Millennium is a 1,000 year celebration of all those people who believe!!

These 9 chapters give us several “pictures” of how that will look. The beauty of the Millennium is just startling and it should shake us to our core.

I grew up in the desert...I remember what it looked like when spring came! It was a miracle! Suddenly that which looked absolutely dead was alive!

That's the Millennium. Beauty and peace beyond description. *Isaiah 35:1 “...The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the Rose.”*

Jesus Christ.....the One

Who created the world....does not give up on the ones He loves. He reaches each precious one with truth, convicts their hearts of sin, and offers them the chance to take that step of faith and believe in Him. He never gives up.

Kathleen

Isaiah 27-35 – Blossom as the Rose Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 35:1

“...The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the Rose.”

1. **27:5&6** The picture here is one of Israel wrestling with God, taking hold of Him, in order to make peace with Him. Why would wrestling with Someone be the way to make peace? How is wrestling with God a picture of the Tribulation and then the Millennium? (*Look at Genesis 32:22-32 to see a time when someone wrestled with God and came away blessed by God.*)
2. **27:12 & 13** This picture is of the children of Israel being drawn back to their land from everywhere that they are scattered throughout the world. A trumpet blows, and they hear it, and make their way back to the land and the One who gave them that land. Has this happened yet?
3. **28:10-13** This picture is of understanding slowly beginning to take hold of Israel as the LORD opens their eyes to the truth about Jesus. Their own celebrations and traditions will suddenly be seen for what they have been saying all along – they all have been pointing to Jesus. Can you think of a Jewish celebration which points to Jesus, but they just haven't realized it?
4. **28:20** This is a really graphic picture of what Jewish people's lives will feel like when this time of “eye-opening” comes. What will it feel like to be a Jewish person at this time?
5. **29:13&14** This picture is one of all the wise people of Israel being put to shame by the truth of Who Jesus is. Can you think of a time during Jesus' ministry on earth when wise leaders of Israel were put to shame by Him?

6. **30:18-21** The picture here is of the LORD patiently, kindly, waiting and helping His people come to faith. Almost like He is softly whispering in their ears, leading them step by step to His embrace. Does this remind you of yourself and your journey to faith in Jesus?
7. **30:29** What does this picture?
8. **31:1&4** This picture is of Israel finally learning to not trust in the armies of men to protect them, but to wholly look to their God for survival. Do you see Israel today looking to the armies of men for protection?
9. **32:14&15** This is a before and after picture:

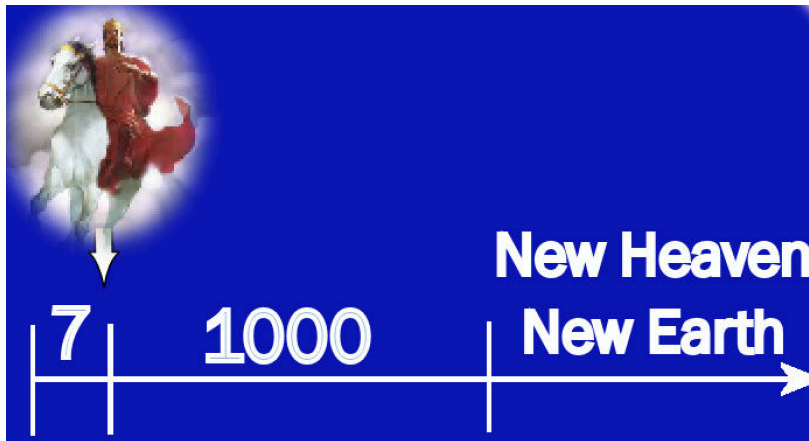
 Before:
 After:
10. **33:17 and 20** What are two things Israel will live to see?
11. **34:9-15** This is a very ugly, frightening picture of what will happen to the enemies of God. What things do you see in this picture?
12. **35:5&6** Here's the last picture for us to look at. **How does Israel begin to see again?** Look at Zechariah 12:10&11 to see how this picture begins, and then look back at Isaiah 35:5&6 to rejoice with Israel at the "rest of the story".

Isaiah 27-35 – Blossom as the Rose

Kathleen's Answers and Comments

Memory Verse: Isaiah 35:1

“...The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the Rose.”



I know this is a big chunk this week, but there is an overall picture in chapters 27 thru 35 that I don't want us to miss.

This timeline shows what will happen once the Lord puts into motion the end times. First, there will be 7 years of Tribulation, with the Lord Jesus returning on the white horse at the end of those 7

years.

And then there will be 1,000 years, called the Millennium – right after the 7 years of Tribulation. And after that, our present earth will be over, and the Lord will give us the New Heaven and New Earth to live in forever.

Today's chapters show us amazing word pictures of a specific period of time: a brief period of time starting with the end of the 7 years of Tribulation and reaching into the start of the Millennium. Right before the end of that 7 years, Israel finally comes to faith in her Lord, Jesus Christ, just before He returns on the white horse.

Isaiah had no idea how long in the future this prophecy would wait before it was fulfilled. We don't either, because it's still in our future.

But we know it will come, and we can see, through a few of Isaiah's pictures in these chapters, what it will look like someday: It will be like something nearly dead taking root!. It will be like something scattered coming back together. It will be like someone dying with no hope, suddenly hearing a trumpet calling him to arise! It will be like a gorgeous crown placed on a humble head. It will be like utter confusion suddenly put in order and making sense. It will be like sinking sand becoming solid rock. It will be like utter frustration turned to a satisfying sigh. It will be like the poor made rich. The dead made alive. The desert blossoming as a rose.

1. **27:5&6** The picture here is one of Israel wrestling with God, taking hold of Him, in order to make peace with Him. Why would wrestling with Someone be the way to make peace? How is wrestling with God a picture of the Tribulation and

then the Millennium? *(Look at Genesis 32:22-32 to see a time when someone wrestled with God and came away blessed by God.)*

Sometimes the only way to get to the end of my own self-sufficiency is to meet God face to face and tell Him my disappointments with Him, even my accusations of Him. Then the scales often fall away from my eyes and I realize what a fool I've been.

2. **27:12 & 13** This picture is of the children of Israel being drawn back to their land from everywhere that they are scattered throughout the world. A trumpet blows, and they hear it, and make their way back to the land and the One who gave them that land. Has this happened yet?

No. Hasn't happened yet. This is a prophecy yet to be fulfilled.

3. **28:10-13** This picture is of understanding slowly beginning to take hold of Israel as the LORD opens their eyes to the truth about Jesus. Their own celebrations and traditions will suddenly be seen for what they have been saying all along – they all have been pointing to Jesus. Can you think of a Jewish celebration which points to Jesus, but they just haven't realized it?

Passover, just to name one. Actually, all of them point to Jesus. Feast of First-Fruits. Shavuot. Rosh Hashana. Yom Kippur. Feast of Trumpets. Purim. Sukkot. Simkat Torah.

4. **28:20** This is a really graphic picture of what Jewish people's lives will feel like when this time of "eye-opening" comes. What will it feel like to be a Jew at this time?

The picture of not being able to stretch out on a bed for sleep, and not having sufficient covers to stay warm through the night is just awfully uncomfortable. No way to feel good or rested. Frustrating and fearful.

5. **29:13&14** This picture is one of all the wise people of Israel being put to shame by the truth of Who Jesus is. Can you think of a time during Jesus' ministry on earth when wise leaders of Israel were put to shame by Him?

So many times! I am thinking of Matthew 22:15-22, an encounter I like to call "stump the chumps".

6. **30:18-21** The picture here is of the LORD patiently, kindly, waiting and helping His people come to faith. Almost like He is softly whispering in their ears, leading them step by step to His embrace. Does this remind you of yourself and your journey to faith in Jesus?

When I look back on the day I believed in Jesus, at 17, I thought at the time that it was a brand new realization I was having – that Jesus had actually died for me – and that the I had come to this knowledge suddenly and with no prompting from anyone. But as I grew older I knew God had been gently drawing me to Himself my whole life.

7. **30:29** What does this picture?

I know it pictures the joy of Israel coming to faith. But the picture I get in my mind is myself hiking up a mountain with many friends, and we are singing praises to God as we walk. We are looking forward so much to getting to the top where we will worship into the night. (I must be young in this imagining...I could never hike up that mountain and sing at the same time these days. ☺)

8. **31:1&4** This picture is of Israel finally learning to not trust in the armies of men to protect them, but to wholly look to their God for survival. Do you see Israel today looking to the armies of men for protection?



Oh, yes, right now they do. This very week we saw pictures on the news of them looking at other middle eastern countries and especially America as their allies. But the time will come when they will collectively look up to their Savior, Jesus. And wow! No army of men can match the protection He will give them in that day.



9. **32:14&15** This is a before and after picture:
Before: Everything destroyed and in ruins.
After: The Spirit is poured out! Repentance and joy!

10.33:17 and 20 What are two things Israel will live to see?

1. King Jesus!
2. Jerusalem restored.

11.34:9-15 This is a very ugly, frightening picture of what will happen to the enemies of God. What things do you see in this picture?

A land full of nothing but wild animals and birds of prey.

12.35:5&6 Here's the last picture for us to look at. **How does Israel begin to realize who Jesus is?** Look at *Zechariah 12:10&11* to see how this picture begins, and then look back at *Isaiah 35:5&6* to rejoice with Israel at the "rest of the story.

This is the most breathtaking picture of all!!! Israel – and the rest of the world – cannot possibly come to Jesus on their own. They don't have the understanding or the heart to comprehend and repent once they see what the Lord has done for them.

Jesus Himself has to open their blind eyes, and unstop their deaf ears. When He does, streams flow in the desert, and the desert blossoms as a rose!