



**Wednesday, 12/14/16**

**JOY OF THE REDEEMED**

**READING: Isaiah 35**

From the fall of creation to this very day, humankind has been longing and groaning for the joys that were promised in the beginning by God. A life without the struggles and trials that each of us face. A life not impacted and tainted with the repercussions of the fall is no doubt something that each and every one of us longs for.

In Isaiah 35 we see this reality being promised to God's people. This chapter of Isaiah is filled with imagery of the multitude of ways that sin has stained mankind. From the weak hands and the feeble knees, to the blind and the lame. The imagery is laid out in such a way that it illustrates for us the implications of sin upon the lives of all of humanity. It reminds us of the many ways in which sin reveals itself. Prior to the fall, none of these things were an issue. There were neither feeble knees nor blindness. Man had no desire to be brought into a place without sin because all that was known to him was already perfect and without flaw.

The original audience of this text would have seen the struggles that they had faced. They would have recognized that this text was ultimately pointing them to a homecoming. A homecoming of joy in a land where there shall be no sorrow, no suffering and no remnant of the corruption of sin upon humanity. This joyous reality would come about in a way that they would have never understood. Through the coming of a Messiah! One who would bring about a way back to a perfect Israel. Where God's glory would shine through the atoning work of this child born in the most peculiar way. Leaving them and us, a true satisfaction and joy in being the redeemed.

-Cory Matlock