

Thursday Evening Bible Study  
**Series: The Book of Isaiah**

Teaching Summary for Week 38

Chapter 35

**Chapters 34 and 35** go together and are complete opposites. Chapter **34** reveals **the wrath of God** on all of the ungodly nations during **the Tribulation**. Chapter **35** describes **the tremendous, gracious blessings of the Lord** for the believing remnant of Israel **at the start of the Messianic kingdom**.

Chapter 35 is the culmination of chapters 1-34, and, in many respects, of the entire book. In fact, one verse - verse 10- sums up the entire plan of God for Israel in the whole Bible!

Here's an outline of chapter 35:

| <b>Verses</b>       | <b>Subject</b>   |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>35:1-2, 6b-7</b> | The flowering of the desert                            |
| <b>35:3-6a</b>      | The salvation of the remnant of Israel                 |
| <b>35:7-10</b>      | The joyful return of the redeemed of the Lord to Zion. |

**Let's read chapter 35 together now.**

## Discussion Guide

1. "Chapter 35 is the reverse of chapter 34." In what ways is this true? Find verse pairings that show this.
2. How do we know that chapter 35 is talking about the Messianic kingdom and not any historical event?
3. In certain respects, chapter 34 is tied to the results of the Fall, while chapter 35 reverses the Fall and suggests a return to the garden of Eden. How? Let's read Genesis 1-3 and make some connections.
4. Chapter 35 is brimming with joy, particularly at the beginning and the end. What is the key difference between verses 1 & 2 and verses 9 & 10? Is there any significance to the order in which they appear?
5. Isaiah personifies nature in verses 1 and 2. Why? Where else in the Bible is nature depicted as rejoicing?
6. In Matthew 11:2-5, Jesus sends a message to John the Baptist and includes a quote from Isaiah 35. Why?
7. Are the Gentiles mentioned in chapter 35? How about chapter 34? What can we conclude from this?
8. Now let's consider the church in connection with Isaiah 35. Is the church included here? Why or why not? Explain your answer in light of the mystery in Ephesians 3:1-6.
9. Philippians is the church epistle that brims with rejoicing. How is the rejoicing in Philippians different from the rejoicing in Isaiah 35? See in particular Philippians 1:18-19; 2:1-2; 3:20-4:1; and 4:4-9.
10. Compare and contrast Isaiah 35 with Romans 8:18-25.