

Fact Sheet for **“More Than a Carpenter”** **Isaiah 35:1-10**

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We will be in Isaiah 35 this morning, but I don't want to skip two verses in Isaiah 32:1-2 from which we get a hymn. Now, on to chapter 35

There is a book that has been out for years (and is still available on Amazon) by Josh McDowell. It has sold millions of copies around the world. There even is an update by Josh and his son Sean. It is titled “More Than a Carpenter”.

We teach children about Jesus beginning in nursery.
CEF Release Time classes clearly set forth the Gospel.
Jesus is center stage in Communion.
We pray “in Jesus name”.
We speak of Him in church, in small groups, at home, in everyday conversations

We even hear Him mentioned all the time by people who are not Christians... as a mere exclamation (“sweet Jesus”), as a swear word, in movies, even WWJD

But there is great value in taking the time to think deeper about who He is.

Isaiah 35 is a chapter that speaks about Jesus, without mentioning His name, about events that largely haven't occurred yet. And it is a chapter that was clearly identified by the time of the writing of the NT as speaking of end times, and speaking of the Messiah. John the Baptist, after being arrested, was even instructed by Jesus on who He was out of this chapter. It begins with climate change.

^{ESV} **Isaiah 35:1 ¶ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;**

**² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.**

They will not only see the fruitfulness of the land, they will also see God the Messiah dwelling in their midst.

**³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."**

He will come with vengeance and recompense for many, and salvation for His own.

**⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;**

**6a then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.**

John the Baptist was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and six months older than the man Jesus. He was a Levite and knew the Scriptures. He was the forerunner of the Messiah and preached a baptism of repentance in the wilderness (John 1:6-8). He baptized Jesus. He knew Jesus existed before himself (John 1:15). He knew Jesus was the Messiah (John 1:34). Before he was thrown into prison by Herod the Tetrarch he said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

In prison he needed reassurance and clarification (Matthew 11:2-6 / Luke 7:18-23). Jesus combined Isaiah 35:5-6a with Isaiah 61:1.

Later John would be beheaded Matthew 14:1-12 / Mark 6:14-29 / Luke 9:7-9).

Then this chapter ends on the same note as it began.

**6b For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
7 the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
8 And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.**

This is not just for Israel, it is for us too!

**10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

We began by thinking about Jesus. Take time to think more deeply about Him. His person and work was prophesied in multiple Scriptures, for instance Isaiah 35:5-6a. He is the provider of our salvation (John 3:16). All things were created through Him John 1:3). He sustains all things Hebrews 1:3). He is our example of righteousness (Matthew 5:48). He is our example for resisting temptation Hebrews 4:15). We will stand before His judgment seat one day (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). He will judge the world Revelation 19:15). He is God the Son, in perfect harmony with God the Father and God the Spirit... a wonderful example of role vs. value. Etc., etc., etc. He is so much more than a carpenter. And yet... He is not out of reach of even the smallest child. Think deeply about Him.