

Isaiah 11:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Analysis

A highway for the remnant returning from Assyria, just as there was for Israel leaving Egypt. The 'highway' suggests an easy, clear path—God will make the way simple and direct. This 'second time' recovery recalls the first deliverance from Egypt, showing God's consistent redemptive pattern. The emphasis on 'the remnant' demonstrates that God preserves a people through judgment for restoration. This highway imagery pervades Isaiah (19:23; 35:8; 40:3), ultimately fulfilled in gospel proclamation clearing a way to God through Christ.

Historical Context

Initially refers to return from Assyrian exile (northern kingdom remnant) and later Babylonian exile. Spiritually fulfilled in John the Baptist preparing 'the way of the Lord' (Matthew 3:3, quoting Isaiah 40:3). The gospel creates a highway to God—clear, accessible path through Christ. What seemed impossible (returning from exile, reconciliation with God) God makes possible by creating the way Himself.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Christ serve as the 'highway' to God—the clear, direct path to salvation?
2. What does the highway imagery teach about God's initiative in making salvation accessible?
3. How do we participate in preparing the highway for others to come to Christ?

Interlinear Text

כִּאַשְׁר עַמְּךָ רַשְׁתָּא לְשָׁא רַעַם וְהַיִתָּה מַסְלֵה וְיַעֲמִיד וְיַפְּרִיב
H1961 And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people which
H4546 H7605 H5971 H834

בְּיֹם לִישְׁבָּא לְכִינְתָּה כִּאַשְׁר מַאֲשָׁר וְיַשְׁאָר
shall be left from Assyria which H1961 like as it was to Israel in the day
H7604 H804 H834 H3478 H3117

מִצְרַיִם מִאָצְרָתָה עַלְתָּה וְיַעֲלֵת וְיַעֲלֵת
that he came up out of the land of Egypt
H5927 H776 H4714

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 19:23 (References Egypt): In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

Isaiah 11:11 (References Egypt): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

Isaiah 51:10 (Parallel theme): Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

Isaiah 62:10 (Parallel theme): Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.

Isaiah 57:14 (Parallel theme): And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people.