

Isaiah 35:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them;
and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

Analysis

The "wilderness" and "desert" rejoicing marks a dramatic shift from chapter 34's judgment to restoration. The Hebrew "suws" (rejoice) and "gil" (be glad) express exuberant joy, personifying creation's response to redemption. This connects to Romans 8:19-22 where creation awaits liberation from corruption. The rose (possibly crocus) blooming symbolizes beauty emerging from barrenness, prefiguring the gospel transforming spiritually dead souls into vibrant spiritual life.

Historical Context

Following Edom's judgment oracle, this chapter promises restoration for God's people. The wilderness imagery resonated with Israel's Exodus experience and Babylonian exile return.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does creation's rejoicing at redemption reflect God's comprehensive salvation plan?

2. What spiritual wilderness in your life needs God's transforming power?
3. How does the promise of future glory sustain faith during present trials?

Interlinear Text

יִשְׂשׁוּ וּם	מִדְבָּר	וְצִי ה	וְתִגֵּל
shall be glad	The wilderness	and the solitary place	shall rejoice
H7797	H4057	H6723	H1523
עֲרֶבָה ה	וְתִפְרַח ח	כְּחִבְצֵלֹת:	
for them and the desert	and blossom	as the rose	
H6160	H6524	H2261	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:3 (Parallel theme): For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Ezekiel 36:35 (Parallel theme): And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

Isaiah 27:6 (Parallel theme): He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.

Isaiah 4:2 (Parallel theme): In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Isaiah 29:17 (Parallel theme): Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?

Isaiah 40:3 (Parallel theme): The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Psalms 48:11 (Parallel theme): Let mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments.

Psalms 97:8 (Parallel theme): Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD.

Isaiah 27:10 (Parallel theme): Yet the defenced city shall be desolate, and the habitation forsaken, and left like a wilderness: there shall the calf feed, and there shall he lie down, and consume the branches thereof.

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