

Isaiah 35:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

Analysis

The "highway" called "The way of holiness" represents God's sanctified path for His redeemed people. The exclusion of the unclean emphasizes purity and separation from sin. "The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err" promises divine guidance so clear that even simple believers cannot miss it. This contrasts with the world's confusing paths. The highway anticipates John 14:6 where Jesus declares Himself "the way"—the exclusive path to the Father.

Historical Context

Ancient highways connected major cities, enabling trade and travel. Isaiah envisions a sacred highway for pilgrims returning to Zion, fulfilled spiritually in Christ.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ as "the way" fulfill this prophecy of a highway of holiness?
2. What does it mean that God's path is clear enough for simple believers to follow?
3. How should the exclusivity of the way of holiness shape our understanding of salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה	שֶׁם	מִסְלָל וְלֹא	דֶּרֶךְ	דֶּרֶךְ	הַקֹּדֶשׁ
H1961	H8033				
And an highway		The way	The way	of holiness	
H4547		H1870	H1870	H6944	
וְהָיָה	לֹא	יַעֲבֹךְ	טִמֵּא	וְהָיָה	לְמוֹ
	H0	H3808			H0
and it shall be called		shall not pass over		the unclean	
H7121		H5674		H2931	
הֵלֵךְ			דֶּרֶךְ	וְאִילָּיִם	לֹא
					H3808
it but it shall be for those the wayfaring men			The way	though fools	
H1980			H1870	H191	
וְלֹא יִשְׁתָּבֵשׁ					
shall not err					
H8582					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 42:16 (Parallel theme): And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

John 14:6 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Revelation 21:27 (Parallel theme): And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

2 Timothy 1:9 (Holy): Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Hebrews 12:14 (Holy): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Isaiah 30:21 (Parallel theme): And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Jeremiah 31:21 (Parallel theme): Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way which thou wentest: turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities.

Ezekiel 44:9 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the Lord GOD; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, of any stranger that is among the children of Israel.

Proverbs 4:18 (Parallel theme): But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (Holy): For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.