

You may have noticed that I skipped Isaiah 34. That is because I believe it very well may have something to do with what some see as an intermediary fulfilment referred to as the Psalm 83 War. Pastor Ken has done a lot of research on it so in a few weeks we will switch pulpits so he can share it with you. The ultimate fulfilment is the wrath of God upon the world in rebellion against Him. Then, chapter 35 which we will look at today gives the promise of the future for those who place their hope in God and His Messiah.

I enjoy this cooperation between churches with those who do not feel we are in competition, but one body with one purpose in different branches of the same tree. And that purpose is to teach and preach the Word faithfully so that we grow in the knowledge of Jesus and His power to save all who come to Him by faith (2 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 3:6).

Our passage today I've entitled Super Saved. That is because I see four different types of salvation that are suggested in the passage, all of which lead to the ultimate salvation in the Messianic Kingdom and eternity as the bride of Christ. I'll try to bring out each so that you can see the depth and glimpse some of the power in the Word of God.

As we have seen throughout Isaiah, the prophecies go from condemnation of sin, impending judgment, the intervention of God, captivity, restoration, the Messiah, and then to the Messiah's kingdom. Chapter 34 is on the judgment of the nations, so it follows then in order that this chapter would be on the restoration of the people of God and their salvation. The first verses describe the healing of the land.

*<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup> 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.* Isaiah 35:1-2 When God brings the people out of captivity, He will restore His blessing upon the land. I'm not sure to what extent this happened in the return of the remnant from Babylon (Haggai 2:19), but we do know it has been true in these Last Days' return of Israel as a nation to the land. Swamps were drained and forests were planted. Israel has become the largest exporter of citrus fruit to Europe. Israel's invention of the drip system has made the deserts literally bloom. I've personally witnessed the flowering deserts in spring.

This is a theme that is picked up again later in Isaiah describing the effects of God's Word performing His purposes (55:12-13). I believe we can also look at this in spiritual sense. The Word made flesh came to Israel and there were spiritual streams in the

**Commented [PW1]: 2 Corinthians 4:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

**Commented [PW2]: 1 Corinthians 3:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

**Commented [PW3]: Haggai 2:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you."

**Commented [PW4]: Isaiah 55:12-13 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

desert (John 1:14). Jesus told the woman at the well that He could give her living water that would spring up within her (John 4:14). He was speaking Isaiah's language. Water in the desert is life and refreshment. It has a transformative power. The blossoms and expressions of God's majesty are the transformation of lives by the power of living water within.

This certainly took place in the lives of Jews and Gentiles who came to know Jesus as their Messiah in the first century to today. Messianic congregations are springing up in Israel as Arab and Jew come together in faith in Christ Jesus. On one trip to Nazareth I met an Arab pastor who told me how Arab and Jewish Christian pastors are breaking down the walls between them and worshipping together.

Brothers and sisters, we are living in the Last Days! The "Time of the Gentiles" is coming to a close (Luke 21:24). The stirring and turmoil in the nations is no accident. Muslims are coming to know Jesus through revelations and risking their lives to tell other Muslims. We must be about our Father's business. Amen?

Are you experiencing the joy and fruitfulness of God's restoration or do you relate more readily to the dry and barren desert? The only source of living water is the One who invites all to come to the water and drink freely (Isaiah 55:1-2). All our fresh springs are in Him (Psalm 87:7). He waters our desert like hearts so that they overflow with life.

<sup>3</sup> *Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.* One thing we need as we go through life is encouragement to take the next step, to keep on keeping on. Just before beginning to work on this sermon I read the March 6<sup>th</sup> devotion in My Utmost for His Highest. It begins with this paragraph: *"It takes Almighty grace to take the next step when there is no vision and no spectator—the next step in devotion, the next step in your study, in your reading, in your kitchen; the next step in your duty, when there is no vision from God, no enthusiasm and no spectator. It takes far more of the grace of God, far more conscious drawing upon God to take that step, than it does to preach the Gospel."* <sup>4</sup> We forget the grace that is needed to just continue marching forward each day. Chambers' solution to sinking into drudgery and becoming a desert is to keep our spiritual eyes open to the risen Christ. That will confirm our feeble knees and strengthen our weak hands.

The author of Hebrews quotes this verse in Hebrews 12:12. A few verses earlier in that chapter the author tells us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and consider how He dealt with His life on earth, how He endured (Hebrews 12:2-3). Then he tells us to appreciate God's corrections in our lives. It is for our good. So lift up your weak hands and strengthen your weak knees.

<sup>4</sup> *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."* Isaiah

**Commented [PW5]: John 1:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Commented [PW6]: John 4:13-14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

<sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

**Commented [PW7]: Luke 21:24 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

**Commented [PW8]: Isaiah 55:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

**Commented [PW9]: Psalm 87:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Singers and dancers alike say, "All my springs are in you."

**Commented [PW10]: Chambers, Oswald, My Utmost for His Highest, March 6.**

**Commented [PW11]: Hebrews 12:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,

**Commented [PW12]: Hebrews 12:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

35:3-4 How we need to do this to help our brothers and sisters in Christ who have anxious hearts! We all need reminders at times to look at how Jesus did it. He looked to the Father. He spent time in prayer. He had His priorities straight. He trusted the Father even upon the cross. So buck up! Pull it together. Rely on the Holy Spirit. Capture those thoughts that are pulling you down and bring them to foot of the cross (2 Corinthians 10:5). Remind yourself who wins this battle. God will deal with all evil and reward all good. That is His just recompense. Your labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). Those who resist and slander you because of your commitment will have to answer to Him.

He will come and save you! For those surrounded by Assyria it was an amazing one night deliverance. For those in captivity it was a long 70 year wait. For those living after the return it was a 400 year wait until the coming of Messiah. And for us in the church it has been a 2000 year wait. Yet, in a very real sense we have already experienced salvation. He spoke to our anxious hearts and brought us the salvation He gained for us on the cross. He has dealt with the enemy of our souls. We have heard His words in our hearts, "Be strong! Fear not!" Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:39).

Be strong in the Lord! Don't let the fallen condition of this world bring you down. You are citizen of heaven and have nothing to fear (Philippians 3:20). If God is for us, who can be against us. Do not fear those who kill the body but have no more that they can do. Fear not, for unemployment or economies of man. God is your provider. Fear not physical problems for the Lord will be your strength and see you safely home. Fear not that you will stand before the judge of the whole earth for you are clothed in the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus your Lord (2Corinthians 5:21). We need to remind one another of these things and how great the God we serve truly is.

This verse will come alive in the day of Jacob's trouble. When Israel finally turns to God in the midst of calamity, Jesus will be their Messiah and become their strength and salvation (Zechariah 13:1).

*<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;* Isaiah 35:5-6 For those in captivity, it meant seeing and hearing what they were previously unable to see or hear of the faithfulness of God. For those in the days of Jesus' ministry it meant that too, but it was manifest in very literal signs that demonstrated the spiritual reality. When the man born blind could see (John 9:18), it was a spiritual message to everyone that they had been born spiritually blind but now, through faith in Jesus, they could see. When the paralyzed walked (John 5:8-9) it was a message that the leaders were spiritual cripples and needed to hear Jesus to truly serve their people instead of themselves.

**Commented [PW13]: 2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

**Commented [PW14]: 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)**

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**Commented [PW15]: Romans 8:39 (ESV)**

<sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Commented [PW16]: Philippians 3:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**Commented [PW17]: 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Commented [PW18]: Zechariah 13:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

**Commented [PW19]: John 9:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

**Commented [PW20]: John 5:8-9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk."  
<sup>9</sup> And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

As we saw in the end of Isaiah 33, in the Kingdom of the Messiah there will be no illness and the truth will be plain for all who are willing to see (Isaiah 33:24). The key word is willing, just as it is today and was in the days of Jesus' ministry.

I addressed water in the wilderness and springs in the desert in the first verses, but let me add that this was especially irritating to the Jewish leadership in Jesus' day. When they saw His miracles, the association with this passage would imply that they had led the nation into a wasteland that was spiritually dry as cracker dust ten miles from a glass of water. Jesus cried out, <sup>37</sup> *On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."* John 7:37

That is what is happening today as well. We deplore the adulteration of the Word of God and the abandonment of His moral principles given to us for our good. But, we should also see that it is creating spiritual thirst (Jeremiah 2:13). Nothing in this world can slake that thirst. Lots of things can distract from it, but nothing can quench it other than the fountain of living water, Jesus!

<sup>7</sup> *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.* Isaiah 35:7 This arrival of life giving water was way more than they experienced upon the return from Babylon. We so greatly undervalue the abundance of life giving water that came from Jesus' three years of ministry. It's still flowing today through the recorded Word.

The description here reminds me of our recent storm. A boulder had come down off the mountain and smacked the Nicolella's van, so I decided to hike up to see where it came from. The ground was so saturated that as I tried to make my way back to the house even the rocks I stepped on would sink and slide. A dirt wall beside our house was oozing with water. This is the kind of abundance Isaiah is describing, saturation! How we need to be saturated with the Word of God! How few are grasping the opportunity before us.

I hope you know and have personally experienced that in Jesus there is more than enough for your heart's every need. There is a song, More Than Enough by Chris Tomlin that says it so well. *"All of You is more than enough for all of me*  
*For every thirst and every need*  
*You satisfy me with Your love*  
*And all I have in You is more than enough.*  
*You are my supply, My breath of life*  
*And still more awesome than I know.*  
*You are my reward, worth living for, And still more awesome than I know."* That is just a meager effort to describe the abundance we have in Jesus. Our problem is that we so seldom tap into that abundance! We settle for a few drops when we could be swimming in His love.

**Commented [PW21]: Isaiah 33:24 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> And no inhabitant will say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.

**Commented [PW22]: Jeremiah 2:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

*<sup>8</sup> 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.* Isaiah 35:8 And Jesus said, "I am the Way!" John 14:6a He is the highway to heaven. He is the Way of Holiness. That is why the early church was called, The Way (Acts 9:2).

If you are in the Way you are clean because of His shed blood for your sins. The unclean can't pass over it, they must go through Jesus, and if you go through Jesus you become clean (1 Peter 1:2).

That Way is ours and we are His. It's just as the lovers in the Song of Songs declares, "*I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine!*" Song of Songs 6:3 **What a glorious truth this is: Jesus gives Himself to us when we give ourselves to Him.** Every believer should take time to revel in that on a regular basis. I belong to Jesus. He has given Himself to me.

As for the last part of the verse, *even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.* I can personally relate to this verse. I have been a fool. I have fallen for stupid lies that creation should be more sought after than the Creator. I was a fool when I thought I was in some special end-time movement. I could go on, but you get the idea. Yet in spite of my foolishness, I was in the Way and God was using it all to direct me to a closer relationship with Him. He was keeping me from stepping out of the Way, and from going too far from His path. What grace and mercy (2 Timothy 2:13)!

*<sup>9</sup> 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.* Isaiah 35:9 The Great Shepherd won't allow the lion to come up onto the Way (1 Peter 5:8). When we start to step off the Way, He allows him to nip at our heels. But He keeps a close eye to see that that the old lion does not go too far (1 Corinthians 10:13).

I thought of the wolves among the sheep that Paul warned about (Acts 20:29), yet they are in the organizations, not on the Way. There is a big difference between the church, and organizations. The church is the called out believers who have placed their faith in Christ. They can't be a wolf. The organizations of man with its gatherings of people often have wolves among the sheep (Acts 20:29). The Way has no threatening beasts. And this Highway never ends. There is no end to Christ. The redeemed walk in Him. The penalty for their sin is paid. They are His and He protects what is His. We are safe in the arms of Jesus (John 10:27-29).

*<sup>10</sup> 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.* Isaiah 35:10 It was true of those who returned from captivity, at least for a time. It is true of those who are ransomed by the blood of Christ. At least it should be true. Some still sigh, waiting to be delivered from this body

**Commented [PW23]: John 14:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Commented [PW24]: Acts 9:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

**Commented [PW25]: 1 Peter 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

**Commented [PW26]: Song of Songs 6:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies.

**Commented [PW27]: 2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

**Commented [PW28]: 1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**Commented [PW29]: 1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**Commented [PW30]: Acts 20:29 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

**Commented [PW31]: Acts 20:29 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

**Commented [PW32]: John 10:27-29 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

and given our eternal one (2Corinthians 5:2). We still sorrow for the lost, especially loved ones who have not entered the Way. We sorrow for suffering sin causes in this world. Yet, we have an abiding joy that no sorrow can dampen.

That leads us to the conclusion that this is ultimately about entering our eternal abode. Small saved – from Assyrian siege, Medium saved – from captivity, Large saved – by Jesus from our sins, Super saved – is His work in us completed in our eternal home. This is our call upward to the wedding feast of the Lamb. Every tear will be wiped away (Revelation 21:4). Misunderstandings and old animosities and regrets will be gone forever. We have taste of it now with our joy in Jesus, but then it will be complete. The former things will pass away. Come Lord Jesus!

#### Questions

- 1 What was water to Israel?
- 2 Review the literal and spiritual fulfillment.
- 3 Why do we need Almighty grace daily?
- 4 What do we say to the anxious hearts?
- 5 Give two interpretations of verses 5&6.
- 6 How did Jews interpret Jesus' healings?
- 7 Is Jesus enough?
- 8 Are you on the Way of Holiness?
- 9 What are the promises on the Way?
- 10 What joys await us?

**Commented [PW33]: 2 Corinthians 5:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,

**Commented [PW34]: Revelation 21:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”