## **Brambles To Blossoms**

Isaiah 34-35

Chapters 34–35 summarize much of what Isaiah has already been prophesied—The conditions on the earth in the tribulation (Isa. 34:8) and the manifestation of God's glory in the millennium (Isa. 35:10). Notice the transition...

- From *judgment* (34:5) to *joy* (35:10)
- From "brambles" (34:13) to "blossoms" (35:1-2).
- From "wild beasts" (34:15) to no "ravenous beast" (35:9).
- I. The prophecy of PUNISHMENT on the nations (Isaiah 34).
  - A. The CALL (v. 1). A global call to "all nations." This has not happened yet, therefore it will be fulfilled at the second advent (cf. Jer. 10:10;30:10-11; Zech. 14:1-3).
  - B. The CARNAGE (vs. 2-8).
    - v. 2—Words describing the punishment—"indignation...fury... utterly destroyed...delivered to the slaughter."
    - v. 8—The tribulation is "the day of the Lord's VENGEANCE" (cf. 61:2). Vengeance is God's prerogative (cf. Rom. 12:19; 1 Pet. 2:21-23). Leave vengeance to the Lord. Jesus is coming to set things right!
    - 1. The **stench** (v. 3). The slain will be left unburied to rot and stink. Descriptive language of the slain at the battle of Armageddon (Mt. 24:28).
    - 2. The **stars** (v. 4—Cf. Rev. 6:13-14). Not literal "stars" / celestial bodies (cf. Rev. 1:20; 9:1). "The host of heaven" (v. 4) are angelic beings (cf. Rev. 12:3-9).
      - Hollywood actors are commonly called "stars" in Los Angles (city of angels).
      - v. 5—"Idumea" is another name for Edom (Ezek. 35:15). Descendants of Esau. It is present-day Saudi Arabia.
    - 3. The **sword** (vs. 5-7). 3 things about this "sword."

- (1) It is the Lord's sword—His instrument to render "recompense" (cf. v. 8).
- (2) It comes down from heaven "upon the people of my CURSE…"—Any nation who attacks Israel would be "cursed" (cf. Gen. 12:3).
- (3) It is drenched with blood (vs. 6-7 cf. Jer. 48:10—"Cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood." Swords are made to cut (Dt. 32:41-42; Isa. 63:1-3; Jer. 46:10).
- C. The CONTROVERSY (v. 8b). "The controversy of Zion" refers to the ongoing argument between Jews and Arabs over who owns Zion/Palestine/Jerusalem (cf. 33:20 cf. Gen. 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:18-21; 17:8, 19-21; 28:4, 13; 35:12; Ps. 105:6-11). The Lord will settle "the Palestinian Controversy" once-and-for-all when He returns.
- D. The CONFLAGRATION (vs. 9-15).
  - God's judgment will be like His judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah (cf. Gen. 19:24, 28).

A bomb or some kind of explosive device could ignite the huge oil reserves in Saudi Arabia. The entire region would become a lake of "burning pitch" (Rev. 14:10-11 cf. 19:19-20). This local lake of fire will be consumed when God burns the whole earth (Rev. 20:9). It will become "THE lake of fire" (Rev. 20:10, 14-15).

- vs. 11-15—A refuge of unclean birds—Types of unclean spirits/devils (Rev. 18:2; Mt. 13:4, 19; Luke 8:5, 12).
- E. The CONFIRMATION (vs. 16-17). Every prophecy in "the book of the Lord" will be fulfilled—Each prophecy will have it's corresponding mate/match (Mt. 5:18). Every fact is true and consistent with other facts.
- II. The promise of PARADISE on the earth (Isaiah 35).
  - ⇒ God put a curse on the earth when Adam sinned (Gen. 3:11-19). Isaiah 35 describes the transformation that will take place when

the curse is lifted during the millennial kingdom (cf. Ps. 65:11-13; 96:11-13; Rom. 8:22).

- A. The HERBAGE will be restored (vs. 1-2, 7).
  - While Edom will remain desolate after the Tribulation, Israel will blossom like the Garden of Eden (55:12-13). The beauty of Lebanon, Carmel, and Sharon will be restored (cf. 33:9). Agriculture will be abundant.
- B. The HEALTH will be renewed (vs. 3-6).
  - 1. **Psychological** health (vs. 3-4). Environment often effects a person's sense of well being. The environment of the millennium will transform the mental attitude of people living in it.

ILLUS: This is known as "the Hawthorne Effect." In the late 1950's the morale of workers at a Western Electric facility was very low. This resulted in poor workmanship. Steps were taken to repaint the drab walls with bright colors and in-

will leap and those unable to speak will sing. Medical doctors, hospitals, health insurance, hearing aids will be obsolete!

- No water shortages (vs. 6b-7). Water is essential for all living things.
- "The habitation of dragons" (v. 7) will be changed from "nettles and brambles" (34:13) to "grass with reeds and rushes."
- C. The HIGHWAY will be righteous (vs. 8-9). Roads in the tribulation were unsafe (33:8). But in the millennium highways will be safe.
  - Spiritual application of this "highway"—
  - 1. It is a HIGH road, not a low road. Before I was saved, I traveled on the low road of life. But since I've been saved, I'm traveling on a HIGH WAY.
  - 2. It is a HOLY way (v. 8). It is called a "way" because this is the way I live. It is clean, righteous, and pure. Only the saved travel this way.
  - 3. It is a HARMLESS way (v. 9). It is the safe way. Policeman will be unemployed.
    - A "wayfaring" man is a traveler (pilgrim). He doesn't have to worry about getting lost even if he is a fool. The way of holiness is a *foolproof* way! He can't miss it! Praise God, there is room for me! The plan of salvation is so simple a fool can get it.
  - 4. It is a HEAVENLY way (v. 10). This road leads to ZION.
  - 5. It is a HAPPY way (v. 10).
- D. The HEARTACHES will be removed (v. 10).

SUMMATION! What a day that will be!