

# Dancing On The Highway

Good morning Church! We're so glad to have you here with us today. This morning we're looking at a passage that some say only applies to the future, but I believe applies today as well. In any circumstance, dancing on a highway is a really, really bad idea.

Unless it's this highway.

Here, we want to actually *invite* those around us to dance on this highway with us! And if you're not dancing, it might be because you've forgotten where you're standing. If you're not standing and you're sort of sitting down trying to gasp for breathe, then perhaps you've forgotten why you're even on this highway to begin with.

You're smack dab in the middle of this road, my friend.

But what is this highway? It's called the Highway of Holiness, it comes right out of the 35th chapter of Isaiah, and while many theologians and teachers interpret this passage from an eschatalogical perspective (which is accurate, by the way) I'd like to look at it from a much closer angle, because I believe this passage applies to both. I believe we are currently on the Highway of Holiness, and I believe the entire world will experience this Highway when Jesus comes to establish His manifested Kingdom on the earth.

It's for the future.

But it's also for you, today, right here and now.

So let's jump into this!

**The wilderness and the desert will be glad,**

**And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom;**

**Like the crocus**

**2 It will blossom profusely**

**And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy.**

**The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,**

**The majesty of Carmel and Sharon.**

**They will see the glory of the LORD,**

**The majesty of our God.**

**3 Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble.**

**4 Say to those with anxious heart,**

**“Take courage, fear not.**

**Behold, your God will come with vengeance;**

**The recompense of God will come,**

**But He will save you.”**

**5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened**

**And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.**

**6** Then the lame will leap like a deer,  
And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.  
For waters will break forth in the wilderness  
And streams in the Arabah.

**7** The scorched land will become a pool  
And the thirsty ground springs of water;  
In the haunt of jackals, its resting place,  
Grass becomes reeds and rushes.

**8** A highway will be there, a roadway,  
And it will be called the Highway of Holiness.  
The unclean will not travel on it,  
But it will be for him who walks that way,  
And fools will not wander on it.

**9** No lion will be there,  
Nor will any vicious beast go up on it;  
These will not be found there.  
But the redeemed will walk there,

**10 And the ransomed of the LORD will return**

**And come with joyful shouting to Zion,**

**With everlasting joy upon their heads.**

**They will find gladness and joy,**

**And sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

Isaiah 35 NASB

It's a bit of a short chapter, but there is **SO** much gold for us to mine in this, this passage is a veritable feast of goodies. Chapter 35 sits as a sequel of blessing to Chapter 34 which lays out the judgement of God on the wicked, unrepentant nations of the world. God starts off warning the nations that a reckoning is coming, and that their sinful, selfish actions are going to cause their people to die and their land become a haunt for wild beasts and demonic darkness. But God contrasts this immediately in 35 by promising His Spirit to the redeemed. Let's check this out!

**The wilderness and the desert will be glad, And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus it will blossom profusely and rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, The majesty of our God.**

The wilderness the desert and the Arabah all have one thing in common: they are biblical pictures of both testing and of desolation.

God not only begins emphasizing the explosive growth within this desolate place, not only does He begin to repeat the promise for overwhelming, ecstatic joy, He also begins promising that we will see His own glory and majesty.

Your mind, your body your spirit they are no longer an Arabah, a dry, dead place!

That's old and gone! You are **BLOSSOMING PROFUSELY** and hell doesn't have nearly enough Round-Up! To kill this garden God is growing within you! But this all leads right into the next section:

### **3 Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble.**

#### **4 Say to those with anxious heart,**

**“Take courage, fear not.**

**Behold, your God will come with vengeance;**

**The recompense of God will come,**

**But He will save you.”**

I know there are some of us sitting in this very building dealing with crippling anxiety, devastating depression and a host of other issues. If I were a betting man I could probably take away some winnings if I were to wager that there is somebody watching this video right now or somewhere in the future who is paralyzed by anxiety, panic and fear.

So to you God is saying “Don’t be afraid! Be courageous!” You know this is what encouragement looks like, right? To instill courage in someone who didn’t have it in the moment. God is telling you right now, “I’m in your corner, now let your faith catch up.”

If you haven’t believed God was in your corner, backing you up, providing for you and even helping you do the things you need to do every day, then it’s time your brain, your mind and even your faith caught up to this reality!

The fantasy world is the one where you’re alone, it’s not truth! It’s not even remotely close to reality!

The real world is the one where God is going before you and coming up behind you with a vengeance to bless you and protect you! But there's still more, look further in the text!

**5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened**

**And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.**

**6 Then the lame will leap like a deer,**

**And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.**

**For waters will break forth in the wilderness**

**And streams in the Arabah.**

**7 The scorched land will become a pool**

**And the thirsty ground springs of water;**

**In the haunt of jackals, its resting place,**

**Grass becomes reeds and rushes.**

What is God going to do for you? When is this going to happen?

Well, this whole "blind eyes being opened" all sounds very familiar. Perhaps if we looked at Jesus' words in Luke 4:18 it might jog our memory:

**The Spirit of The Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.**

Luke 4:18 NASB

Ready for this?

This whole thing about God blessing you and restoring you and causing you to grow and flourish and come after your enemies with a vengeance. It's already happened! We're looking at this fulfillment in the Incarnation of Jesus! Yes, there is absolutely this hope to look forward to when Jesus shall come to "judge the quick and the dead" but this is not solely for that day, these promises are properly understood to be about the salvation brought by God himself as well as the end of the age!

**A highway will be there, a roadway,**

**And it will be called the Highway of Holiness.**

**The unclean will not travel on it,**

**But it will be for him who walks that way,**

**And fools will not wander on it.**

**9 No lion will be there,**

**Nor will any vicious beast go up on it;**

**These will not be found there.**

**But the redeemed will walk there,**

This is the Highway of Holiness, and you are already walking upon it! It looks narrow and straight to the world, until you actually start walking on it and realize this is a 6-lane freeway full of life! There's no road rage here! There's nothing to haunt you or trouble you here! The lion, which is often a picture of satan, is completely out of your picture!

**10 And the ransomed of the LORD will return**

**And come with joyful shouting to Zion,**

**With everlasting joy upon their heads.**

**They will find gladness and joy,**

**And sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

This both applies to the New Jerusalem, to the glories of Heaven coming, but it also applies to now! God *will* wipe away every tear, but every tear must first submit to Jesus to begin with here on earth, because His victory is not a future-tense victory, the victory of Jesus is victory for today, for this week, for this present moment!