

Isaiah 35: 1-10

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The wilderness and the parched land will exult;

the Arabah will rejoice and bloom;

like the crocus it shall bloom abundantly,

and rejoice with joyful song.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,

the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

they will see the glory of the LORD,

the splendor of our God.

Strengthen hands that are feeble,

make firm knees that are weak,

say to the fearful of heart:

be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God,

he comes with vindication;

with divine recompense

he comes to save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall see,

and the ears of the deaf be opened;

then the lame shall leap like a stag,

and the mute tongue sing for joy.

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**For waters will burst forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the Arabah.**

**The burning sands will become pools,
and the thirsty ground, springs of water;
the abode where jackals crouch
will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus.**

**A highway will be there,
called the holy way;
no one unclean may pass over it,
but it will be for his people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray on it.**

**No lion shall be there,
nor any beast of prey approach, nor be found.**

**But there the redeemed shall walk,
and the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning flee away.**

The Word of the Lord