

Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; 2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.

For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away..

Advent is a way give emphasis and attention in our lives to Jesus by remembering and Celebrating His first coming and anticipating the second coming of Jesus Christ together.

**First Coming** - suffering - love - sacrificial love - selfless - love - unconditional love - John 3:16

**Second coming** - we will see Him in His full glory therefore we will experience firsthand the fullness of hope, love, joy, and peace - healing - restoration - rejuvenation

We get to live the **adventure** between the first and second Advents - "Already - Not Yet" - kingdom inaugurated - Kingdom consummated - He Came and He is coming again - make all things right -

Angels proclaimed to the Shepherds "Joy to the Word" and "I bring you good news of a great joy" - Luke 2:10

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Present - Joy is an elusive thing - Starting the engine of an old car - with carburetor and choke

Psalm 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy

John 14 - I am the way, the truth, and the life no one comes to the Father but through me.

The first advent makes the second advent anticipated, hope, wonderful, Joy to the World - not all the people - the Lord Has come. - Terrifying for some when Jesus shows up the second time.

Isaiah 35 speaks of a future JOY - a full Joy - Jude speaks of it as well

Jude 24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Christmas and the cross make us blameless, and keeps us from stumbling so we can have great Joy in His presence. Joy is what God wants for all Peoples—for the whole world - creation and creatures!

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God is going to come and restore the environment to a Garden of Eden state. The glory (presence) of the Lord will so come to pass, that actual natural order will be renewed. A real change in the world to abundance and fruitfulness. A renewed world.

Romans 8:18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

3 Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. 24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

God will come with vengeance - The reason for this amazing time of restoration and renewal is that God Himself is going to come to Earth.

In our present trials, the hope of a savior creates joy in the heart of the weary. Buoyancy!! Uplift!

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.

When God's salvation comes, **miraculous power** comes with it. It is a miracle for the blind to see, for the deaf to hear, for the lame to run, and for the mute to speak. Glimpses - first advent - Already Not Yet - We see Jesus, hear Jesus, walk with Jesus, speak to Jesus

For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

When God's salvation comes, **miraculous provision** comes with it. What was dry and useless before becomes well-watered and fruitful.

Already - Not Yet - Streams in the desert: Jesus said He would bring this kind of beautiful provision in the lives of His people: "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive. (John 7:38-39)

8 A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness.

The Hebrew word for highway indicates what our English word literally says: "a high-way." It speaks of a raised road, lifted above the ground. Holy = set apart, special, perfect - Isa 6 In the year...

The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.

In this renewed and rejuvenated place, there is a special road, that requires purity and holiness to enjoy the presence of the Lord - access only pass - paid for by Christ Himself.

The fool - evil one - no fear of God - there is no God - won't be able to wander onto this path.

9 No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there.

**It is a protected highway** - Though your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).

But the redeemed shall walk there, 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads They shall obtain joy and gladness And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Heb 11:9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

The redeemed, the ransomed shall return - **the idea is return from exile** - this is the theme and one of the great themes of the Bible

Egypt - Babylon - Even under Roman oppression - they felt like they were in exile

The story of exile is the story of the whole human race. We began in the place we were meant to be. In the presence of God, in the Garden of Eden, paradise - we turned away from God and lost it.

The end of the book - we see God recreating that paradise - God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4)

Every human being finds themselves in a place of exile - spiritually homeless - spiritually in exile

**What does it mean to be home** - a house is not a home - takes a while to make a house a home. Everything's the way you want it - it suits you - it fits right -tailored - where things are where you want them to be.

Custom homes for small or tall people

Literal homelessness - is brutalizing - is destructive to you physically, emotionally, socially

Human beings are living in a world that doesn't fit our deepest desires - this world doesn't fit us, we feel alienated - we are all living in a world that leaves us feeling homeless, and suffering the effects of homelessness.

Psalms 90 calls God our dwelling place - **1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

The bible says God is your home - we were built we were originally designed to serve God, love God, to be so delighted in His beauty we serve Him for the Joy of it. If we serve anything else - it doesn't fit.

If you try to find your home in anyone or anything other than God - it is living in a homeless situation - it's like living in a cardboard box in the dead of winter in a park or under a bridge. The resources are not fit to bear the full weight of your life, and it ends up being brutal and destructive.

This world is no longer our home - human beings were made for paradise, made for the garden of eden, but since we decided to be our own masters - own lords, own saviors - we lost home - we were banished - expelled in exile.

You violate a relationship, betray someone - you lose that relationship.

We were not built for a world in which there is death, destruction, aging, disease, oppression, disaster, blindness, lameness, deafness.

We are in exile - every one of us - internally and externally. - **The OT and NT - is filled with the hope of a savior who is God, and has a plan to come and take us home, to rescue us from exile - to redeem us and pay the ransom**

**The first time He came - He began to heal our homelessness - when He comes again, He will make this world Home again.** How will he do that? Christmas.

One of the marks, traits, themes of Christmas - or the first advent - Emmanuel - God with us - **is exile and homelessness.** That will not be part of the second Christmas (Advent)

Nativity scene is sentimentalize and sanitized the story - **the little lord jesus asleep on the hay - the ox and lamb kept time** -.. Holiday Inn - No room - Mary - the baby comes - panic sets in - find an ancient stable - animals - manure - urine - most unsanitary place possible - screaming - blood - sweat - this situation is supposed to break your heart - make you weep - make you appalled.

This is a picture of how inhospitable of this world to our deepest desire (God)

The reason why Christmas is so full of rejection, because that is why Jesus came - that is how Jesus is going to bring salvation. He's going to experience rejection, so we can be embraced.

The rest of his life is a life of rejection, hostility, exile, homelessness - Herod wanted to kill Him, exiled to Egypt and then later on in life - Nazareth!! - Matt 8:20 Luke 9:58 "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Jesus was born homeless, went to Egypt - lived homeless - On the cross - My God my God why have you forsaken me

Leviticus 16 - Yom Kippur - scapegoat - forgiveness of sins - transfer sins to the Goat - substitute - lay hands on the goat - then the goat was exiled to the wilderness.

The penalty for sin is always expulsion - for wronging people, harming, putting yourself first, betraying people, exploiting people, you're expelled - it is a natural consequence.

Because we turned away from God - we have been expelled - exiled. But Jesus Christ came to earth, and experienced homelessness, and at the very end of His life he went to the cross and He was expelled. He was crucified outside the gate, outside the city, outside the community.

Jesus left the ultimate home in heaven, experienced homelessness, exile, and expulsion, so we who were once far off could be brought near, brought in, **welcomed home**. - He experienced the ultimate loneliness, so we could experience the fellowship of God that we can never lose.

God came to earth to satisfy His own justice - to take the punishment we deserved - verse 4 - He will come with vengeance and retribution to save us - to bring us home - how can he do that without taking vengeance on us in our sin - because of Christmas Advent 1 saves us from dying in Advent 2.

God had to do what we could not do for ourselves. But what we can do is Repent. Repentance is admitting how weak you are - admitting you are living as homeless - in exile - internally and externally - and you have no hope of making home on your own. - Repentance is the brutal, like surgery

Be Willing to be rejected by people around, when you identify with Jesus

If Jesus Christ was so concerned with the homeless - then we should care about the poor and the marginalized

The park is a wonderful place, but it can't be home, can't support you. The park gets ruined and the people get ruined.

What is the main thing that gives you meaning in life, significance, security - if it is not God, it is like living in a park. Live like Cain - always wandering and never home. Always winter and never Christmas

Christmas means the great God - Jesus Christ - became homeless - so that He could make this world a home - renewal and rejuvenation - He will have already made you suitable for it - redeemed and righteous - when we see it - at last I've come home - this is where I was made for - this is the place I have always been looking for and never knew it. 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.