

Isaiah 35:4-7a^{iv} and Psalm 146^v

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

^{iv} About Isaiah 35:4-7a

The first 39 chapters of Isaiah emerged during the beginning of Israel and Judah’s spiritual decline. The overriding theme is God’s call to come out of sin—with its inevitable punishment—and into right relationships.

In chapter 35 Isaiah imagines a future day when talk of anger and suffering is over and God’s people are restored. Then God will bring salvation and wholeness for all who are physically and spiritually disabled. The people will be restored like a watered desert.

Long after these verses were first written, they then became a well-known sign of the messianic age. Jewish political leaders who made messianic claims—including Jesus—may have been measured against these standards of physical healing.

^v Psalm 146^v

Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! *

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.

When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign forever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!