**Isaiah 35:8-10 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. 9No 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,* 10And 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.**

We’re back in Isaiah tonight, in pursuit of Jesus. When the Christian reads the Bible, every single word we read, every single thought we have, every single pause we take must, must, must be in pursuit of Jesus. The Old Testament testified of the coming day of Jesus. The New Testament testifies of His coming, of His ministry, and His coming again, when we’ll gather at the Throne of Grace and be forever in His Presence. To read it in any other way… to read it without excitement, to read it without expectation, to read it without wonder is not really to read it at all. Read it searching for what He will say to you.

Isaiah, as we well remember, lived 700 years before Jesus came. He prophesied so specifically that we can, and do, go straight into the New Testament and point out the fulfillments of his prophecy. In our studies, we’ve seen Jesus heal the sick, raise the dead, suffer persecution and rise again. We’re with him again tonight in Isaiah 35 and we’re happy to be here.

Let’s look at verse 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.** There are some who argue that this is a referral to when the Jews return from Babylon, but seeing the capital H’s in Highway of Holiness suggests otherwise. In Isaiah 2 we read - Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord’s house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Jesus Christ is our Highway of Holiness. Gentiles have no other way! He has made a way to God that was lost in the fall. He says in John 14:6 I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Me.

The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. The others here means you and me! We are the believers, grafted into the true vine, coming to God through Faith in Jesus Christ like John 15 tells us. He cleansed us and made us whole, so we might approach the Throne of Grace covered in the Blood of Jesus. This is a toll road… the toll to be paid is Faith… we receive the Blood… and we pass, cleansed, along this Highway… to learn His ways and walk His paths.

Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. 1 Corinthians 1:18-21 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. Do you hear how it ties together? Those who believe the foolishness of the message of the Cross will not go astray, but be saved!

Verse 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***. It’s interesting to me that in Jeremiah 12:8, God tells Jeremiah - My heritage is to Me like a lion in the forest; It cries out against Me; Therefore I have hated it. God is speaking in Jeremiah of the evil of the Jews. Jesus came to save Jew and Greek. It is the redeemed in Jesus who shall walk the Highway of Holiness. And we will walk in peace. Nothing will come to threaten us. The only lion present will be the Lion of Judah and He will be walking with us.

Verse 10 - **10And 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.** Understand the ransomed of the Lord here to mean those who have been freed in Jesus Chirst. Matthew 20:28 says - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Those who have accepted Him shall return… and come to Zion… earthly Zion? No. Zion was once a stronghold that King David captured… it’s been used as another name for Jerusalem. But here, we must understand it to be as it is in Revelation 14:1 where Jesus stands on Mount Zion. Or like in Isaiah 8:16-18 where it says Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples. And I will wait on the Lord, Who hides His face from the house of Jacob; And I will hope in Him. Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel From the Lord of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion. Isaiah is saying that we will come to heaven with singing… we will come with everlasting joy and gladness. Sorrow and sighing will flee away – why? Because we have accepted the freedom that only those who have believed in Jesus can obtain. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 sums this up so very well - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Jesus is our Highway of Holiness. To those who do not believe, we will be thought fools. To those who refuse the call, we will be called unwise. But, be reminded of John 1:5-13 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Will we believe and refuse to be confused? Tonight, be encouraged - we shall follow our Savior, the Way, the Truth, and the Life and we shall not go astray as we travel the Highway of Holiness into the presence of Almighty God.