

His Complete Joy

Isaiah 35:1-10

Introduction

If you pay someone to build a house for you, you don't expect them to stop after laying the foundation. You paid for a house; you want a complete house. This reading we have in *Isaiah* talks about the complete **Joy** of God; a **Joy** found only in Him. If we want to see that complete **Joy**, we must read it in the context of Advent, where we await Christ's coming as a **Babe in the manger**, into **our hearts** and lives and **at the end of time**. Today, we're going to do that with three of the pictures we have here. They are the **desert**, the **glory of God** and the **weak hands, feeble knees**.

His 1st Coming

Considering His *1st Coming*, the **desert** represents the **Gentiles**. They are parched, because they're living in darkness, without the Law of God. They have no knowledge of the Creator. They see the **glory of God** when Christ shines a light into their darkness (Read *Isaiah 9:6-7*). He brings them the Gospel, light and life. The **weak hands and feeble knees** are those Christ healed while He was here on earth. The **Joy** in His 1st Coming is found in the **Gospel** and **healing**.

His Coming into Our Hearts

Considering His coming **into our hearts**, the **desert** is the **parched soul** of the individual outside Christ. It has nothing to do with nationality or heritage. It can also stand for Christians who *aren't experiencing the full Joy of living in Christ*. The **glory of God** is Christ's **ongoing work** in our lives. He walks with us in all our troubles, strengthening and forgiving us as we go along. The **weak hands and feeble knees** represent the **palsy of the soul** that is healed by God through Christ. **Joy** in this coming is found in His **ongoing work** in our lives as he **relieves** and **strengthens** our **parched** and **weak** souls.

His Final Coming

In His final coming, the **desert** is the **fallen world**. Since it's fallen, it's barren and doesn't support life. The **glory of God** is seen in **His return** as the whole creation awaits it (Read *Romans 8:18-22*). Giving strength to the **weak hands and feeble knees** is **how we maintain** in this age through our hope in Jesus Christ. This will be **complete Joy** as creation is **restored** and we are made **like Christ** to **live** with Him **forever**.

Means of Grace

We see the complete **Joy** of God in the **Gospel** and **healing** He brings, His **ministering** to our souls and the **hope** we have in His final coming when He restores and renews all creation. We have **access** to this Joy in the **Means of Grace**. When we receive the body and blood of Jesus, we proclaim His **death** and declare His **resurrection**, receive **forgiveness** and **strength** and **anticipate** His **coming** when we will share in the **wedding feast of the Lamb** in His kingdom which has no end.

*May the peace of God,
Which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds on Christ Jesus.*
