

STREAMS GLADDEN

Isaiah 34-35

Intro: Now in the last stages of history - Enemies and persecutors of the church are blotted out in a war of the Lord.

Isaiah promises God will come.

34 - Foes of God, dealt with and people of God delivered

35 - Happy times under Messiah. Desert turned into stream of gladness.

Outline:

I. Speaking to the Nations 34:1-4

II. Sword of Judgment 34:5-17

III. Solemnifies in Zion 35:1-10

I. SPEAKING TO THE NATIONS 34:1-4

v. 1 Communication to all nations. Call to all on earth - NOT Assyria - Egypt. But EDOM representative in Adam. Symbolic name.

TRUMPET sounded - all must hear. Let all take notice. The world must hear.

Speaking of concern for whole earth. To become acquainted with purpose of God to destroy the enemy.

v. 2 FEARFUL Picture. War beginning. God's patience at an end. They have done evil to his people.

Indignation - put under ban - devoted to destroy.

War Described As Image -

v. 3 IMAGE of great slaughter -- so many slain, impossible to bury, the severity of judgment. Speaking of the same day as Paul on Mars Hill -- Appointed day. Awful scene. Lie unburied.

ARE these empty words? Who really believes them now? Things we witness tell of certainty of this judgment.

Modern man thinks only of love of God. No thought of moral issues.

Did not God sweep the whole race away in the flood -- one family saved!

Mountains melt -- so much enemy blood shed in torrents they melted.

v. 4 FIGURE / Scroll -- Catastrophe -- Stars fall like leaves.

Fig - wilted.

✓ Rev. 6:12-13

2 Peter 3:10 -- Heavens pass away.

Nations to hear -- Explains judgment

THE SWORD IN JUDGMENT: 34:5-17

v. 5 Operation of judgment -- sword - bathed -- prepared -- hardenedc -- brighten with justice and power.

Intoxicated with blood.

Fall -- Great force -- without fail

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IDUMEA -- Edom. Enemy representative of all. Guilty nation, 1st showed to be enemies when refused Moses passage through their country. Descendants of Esau.

v.6 Boz rah -- a chief city of Edom

Lambs, goats, rams -- common soldiers.

v.7 Unicorns -- buffaloes, wild oxen

Great men, mighty, chief men.

Lambs easy prey, also greatest men before wrath of God.

SOAKED in blood.

John Rev. ¹⁴ 15:20 -- Blood to the horse-bridles.

Dreadful to think of -- Express terror of God's wrath -- work of sin.

Severity of God's judgment be more impressively brought to mind.

He will arise as judge of this universe.

v.8 REASON for judgment -- explanation --

Day of vengeance

Lord is mindful of his church and will defend.

v.9 STREAMS -- like the lake of Sodom -- flow slow - dark -- sluggish

GROUND turned to brimstone

CLOUDS of smoke arise -- What a picture!

v.10 Lake of Fire -- Torment of those in hell -- without interruption --

Forever.

Fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Malachi writing 300 years after Isaiah said "The mountains and heritage of Edom was laid waste for the dragons of the wilderness." 1:3

v. 11 Left in confusion -- Emptiness. Gen. 1:1 "Without form and void"

Condition of river due to sin.

Old decayed house -- deserted by owners

Marked for ruin -- sin turn paradise into chaos.

Residence of frightful beast -- evil spirits.

CORMORANT - pelican

BITTERN -- makes hideous noise

OWL -- Melancholy bird

OWL -

RAVEN -- Bird of prey - (Dead carcasses)

v. 12. Nobles -- Died out -- no heir to the throne.

Not meaningless words. Divine purpose.

v. 13. Palace and courts inhabited by dragons and court is conducted by owls:

Thorns -- brambles -- briars

v. 14. Court be held by owls and ostriches

Satyr -- cry to go to desert (*part man + Beast - in Myology*).

Screech-owl rest there -- "Night creature"

v. 15 Great Owl -- make nest -- keep up and provide heirs for this desolate place.

Vultures -- thick -- plentiful

Strange words 13:21-22

Power of evil to propagate itself. Place deserted of man. Sin made the

difference. Prof. Clark Pinnock: "This Mount Christian Church facing greatest crisis.

A crisis of faith. Time past we attack doctrine, now on the Bible. Within the church men forsake convictions about the Bible. God will remove the candlestick, if we contend not for the faith. Men forsake the Biblical Christ." Evil propagates evil within the church.

v. 16 CHECK the Book - Compare the book with history.

Read -- see if one has failed.

Not one word can fail.

v.17 Allotted unclean beast for Edom and like world powers.

III. SOLEMNITES IN ZION 35:1-10

From the sluggish stream (34:9) of judgment, we turn next to the stream (35:6) of gladness.

Hope -- blessing -- refreshing

v. 1. BLOSSOM LIKE A ROSE -- desert land becoming fruitful -- wilderness

growing flowers -- changed into a garden -- Life, most important thing. Beauty, blossoms, gladness, rejoice.

Enemies destroyed -- times of security, prosperity, joy -- awful judgment now, flourishing state of Kingdom of God.

Close inspection refers to the times of the Messiah.

Describes times of the Gospel.

Witness tells what he knows - if I have been saved, I have something to tell other people. Tell people what Jesus means to you! What did he do for you when he saved you? What is he doing for you every day?

Acts 8:8 -- "Christ was preached in Samaria there was great joy in that city".

Those that sat in darkness saw a great light and then blossomed and brought forth fruit.

v. 2. Great deliverance of the church.

Blossom like the flowers of Sharon -- Carmel -- Lebanon. See glory of the Lord. Power given to a desert.

v. 3. ENCOURAGEMENT to the weak-

Some in the church will be weak -- not real healthy spiritually.

God could lift all these weak ones, but he assigns that task to those who are Christians. There is something for you to do in the community. Strengthen the weaker brother.

Weak hands -- Aaron and Hur lifted up the hands of Moses -- Ex. 17:12

Romans 5:1

Share his ministry -- laborers together

Hands are down -- Knees are weak -- Little Faith. -- Be strong -- not despondent.

Many Christians are weak ^{need} when it comes to controlling their tempers---
 attempting some missionary project --- giving to the Lord's work---

v. 4 How to minister to these weak ones in the church-----

Your God will come and save you!

He comes: Vengeance --- retribution

We are cut off --- undone --- Messiah will come.

DO you feel that you are among the weak ones?

Peter thought he was strong --- bitter tears---

v. 5 DESCRIPTION OF the actual future conditions.

Period of happiness foretold. Christ Kingdom set up.

Wonders wrought in nature and grace.

Christ is fulfillment of this text.

EYES of blind shall be opened ---OFTEN done by our Lord. Man born blind,

Matt. 9:27, John 9:6.

Ears unstopped -p-- Mark 7:34 --- Heb. 6:5

Everything that sin has turned upside down is turned back to normal.

A time of blessing --- not MENDED but recovered---Paradise Lost - Rev. 2:7

v. 6 LAME leap --- display miraculous power restoring blind, deaf, and lame.

Mark 7:34

Acts 3:8

Matt. 9:32

Streams in the desert --- gladden the heart. Wonders on the body, but wonders on men's souls cause desert to blossom like rose.

Acts 26:18

Acts 16:14 --- Lydia whose heart the Lord opened --- opened eyes, ears, hearts!

Spirit pouring out living waters

John Baptist --- Matt 9:4 Jesus said to his disciples go show John these things that the blind see, lame walk, lepers are cleansed, deaf hear."

These waters are said to break out --- denote a joy to the Gentile.

What joy has been brought into the home, when he comes into the heart with forgiveness, cleansing, healing love --- gladness.

The source of Christian happiness in the world. Transformation of the desert into Eden. Man's sin must be cured.

Born crippled --- sin.

Lame by accident --- cause - carelessness. Regardless of intention.

Talk about bird with broken wing. Broken nature.

✓ Artist - write at bottom of picture, "Finished by the help of God"

Your life is not yet over. Determine to finish it with God's help.

v. 7. Exchanged for realities

Parched ground --- pool

Labor under guild and sin --- exchange

Gospel seed --- church flourishes

2. Brent Bozell - Time July 5, 68 "The Problem of Liberalism is its view of a world in which man is self-sufficient. It is a question of a Man oriented world Vs a God oriented world. Adam was the 1st liberal & symbol of the liberal - Taking

Parched desert a lake of cool water --- luxuriant vegetation like on banks of Nile

v. 8. 'WAY OF HOLINESS'

Way of religion and holiness laid open

Highway -- appointed -- King's highway -- above the mud of the world -- high --- nothing unclean can walk upon

Clean -- marked out -- "A strait and narrow way" Matt 7:14 Way to heaven is plain.

Way of holy worship and holy conversation -- lovely road.

Human life is on a journey -- better country -- lots of intersections.

Holy way -- unclean not pass over -- holy people --

WHAT IS HOLINESS? Separation, setting apart, safe and complete.

Are you in the way?

Thousands of wrong roads but only one right road. Right road is clean, safe, pleasant,

Wayfaring man --- fools -- NOT err therein. However, simple, unlearned, they may be, if they make up their minds to walk in this way, they will not err in doing so.

Child CAN know the way - NIT. - Ordinary Fishermen followed Jesus -

It will be easy to find --- difficult to miss!

most people listening now know what God requires - know the way -

How are aware of your obligation to the Saviour!

Heard Jesus say, WALK ye, this way - I AM The way -!

v. 9. SAFE WAY -- No lion -- tyrant power. No Assyrian to slow the work of the church.

No beast to prey upon the church -- persecutors of the church

Security of the traveler Kept by Power of God - No chance of losing it - Doubts gone -

Redeemed shall walk there. Blessed times.

v. 10. GLADNESS -- Happiness of heaven. End of the way.

RANSOMED of the Lord hear good news. Those who worship and serve the Lord in his church find joy.

Jacob -- wandered far no time for communion with God -- But here he is back at Bethel -- House of God.

To WHOM does this hope of heaven belong? "Ransomed of the Lord".

HOW will they enter Heaven? singing (songs) of everlasting joy. Singing Prominent Part of Rel. - Worship of God filled with music - Soul Vision

WHEN did the prophet look for this to be fulfilled?

1. Deliverance from Assyria
2. Fulfilment in Christ's kingdom.

Joy without interruption -- sorrow and sighing flee away forever.

As long as Christ lives, they live -- secure beyond the reach of peril.

Life without death, evil, never grow old, love never decays, pain is not felt,

World of shipwrecks -- Land of safety. He will guide us into the harbor.