

“Joy...to get me through the tough days”

Isaiah 35:1-10

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Memory Verse:

And those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

—Isaiah 35:10 TNIV

Joy—knowing something better exists, and confidently holding onto that which is better.

1. The First Christmas was no utopia.

Christmas took place amid sin, brokenness, war, occupation.

Barren Family_____

Gossip_____

Roman occupation_____

Another taxing_____

Relationship challenges_____

Death of the innocents_____

Christmas does not ignore trouble but points to something better.

The angels’ message to Shepherds, “I bring good news of great joy.” was given in the real world with difficult circumstances.

2. Joy extends beyond our circumstances.

Happiness—depends upon circumstances, happenings.

Joy—depends upon the promises of God.

Isaiah 35 was written before the deliverance.

Captives were in Babylon.

Jerusalem lay in ruins.

Jeremiah's message of 70 years before deliverance. (Jer. 25:12)

Opposites in Isaiah 35:1-10

1—desert and parched land rejoice and blossom

3—feeble hands strengthened, knees that give way are steadied.

4—fearful hearts, be strong, don't fear

God will avenge and save

5—blind eyes opened, deaf ears unstopped

6—lame leap like a deer, mute tongue shouts

7—burning sand becomes a pool

Joys of Christmas

God heard our prayers, saw our need, sent a Messiah, a Savior.

Barren gives birth.

Deliverance from sin

Life after death, resurrection

A home in heaven.

3. Add Joy to your Christmas list

How many items on your Christmas list are rooted in Joy?

Promises of God—Not ignoring the present, but seeing the good God has promised.

Eternal Values—Praying for and hanging on to that which is better

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