

Joy Breaks Through the Wilderness

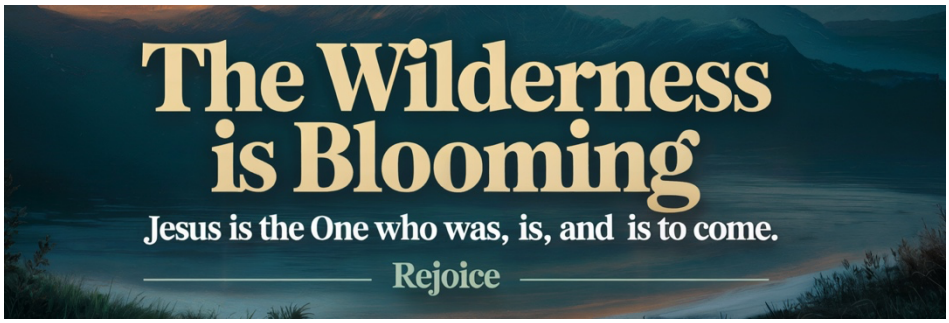
December 14, 2025 | Isaiah 35:1-10



Observation: What is happening here?

Isaiah 35:1-10 - The wilderness will rejoice

- The wilderness and dry land will be glad. The desert will blossom abundantly; a promise of life to come.
- The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will leap like a deer, and the mute will sing for joy.
- Waters will break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.
- Everlasting joy will be upon their heads; sorrow and sighing will flee away.



Ontario Community Church: Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.
John 6:47 (ESV) *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.”*

Interpretation: What can we learn?

Joy comes when promises are fulfilled

- The wilderness blooms when God shows up. What seemed dead springs to life. In the same way, God enters our lives restoring, transforming, and bringing us to life. Joy is celebrating this.
- Even Jesus' miracles prove He is the promised Messiah. This fulfillment of prophecy brings forth joy.
- **Scriptures:** *Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-6; Matthew 11:4-5; Luke 4:18-21; Acts 10:38*

Joy requires patient endurance

- Like brides, farmers and servants, we wait patiently for God. There is joy in waiting, knowing that better days will come.
- Even John the Baptist had moments of doubt, yet Jesus affirmed his faithfulness. Sometimes we have doubts, questions, and weaknesses, yet God calls us to remain in Him.
- **Scriptures:** *James 5:7-8; Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 10:36; Galatians 6:9*

Joy is found in the unexpected

- God's joy often comes differently than we expect: through weakness, waiting, and the margins. Jesus worked through the lowly and overlooked. Let us find joy in the unexpected.
- **Scriptures:** *Matthew 11:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; Luke 1:52-53; James 2:5*

Application: How should we live?

Celebrate signs of God's presence

- Make a list this week of "wilderness places blooming"; answered prayers and small miracles.
- Share your testimony of God's faithfulness with someone who needs encouragement.
- **Scriptures:** *Psalms 126:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:4; Psalm 100:1-2*

Practice patience in your waiting

- Choose one area of frustration and commit to daily prayer. Come as you are before the Lord, offering your burdens.
- Encourage someone else who is in a season of waiting.
- **Scriptures:** *James 5:7-8; Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31; Lamentations 3:25-26*

Look for Jesus in unexpected places

- Ask God to open your eyes to see Him at work where you least expect it. This is a call for us personally and collectively as the church.
- **Scriptures:** *Matthew 25:40; James 1:27; Isaiah 58:6-7; Luke 14:13-14*

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