

MY WAY OR THE HIGH WAY?

Isaiah 35⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

Pastor David O'Dowd

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Aids for listening to God's Word: *What am I looking for? What do I need?*

1. **Doctrine?** sharpening my view of what God is like & what he's doing
2. **Experience?** meeting with the God I trust (conviction, touch, devotion)
3. **Kingdom obedience?** getting in sync with God's purposes: godliness, church unity, gospel proclamation, showing mercy, seeking justice

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**God vindicates his people, undoing the 1st creation,  
so walk in Christ overtaken by joy.**

**MY WAY:** God vindicates his people by undoing 1<sup>st</sup> creation—both heaven & earth.  
**Isaiah 34**

34.1-3 the nations/world

34.4 the host of heaven

34.5-8 Edom, named for all who oppose the cause of Zion (8b) & her King

34.9-17 God's de-creation

[11b/Gen 1.2 **tohu** (confusion/formless) **bohu** emptiness/void]): the wild animals become the crown of creation—not one missing its mate.

**THE HIGH WAY:** Those who walk on the Way of Holiness will be overtaken by joy. **Isaiah 35**

God comes (Isa 34)

God comes and God's people come to his temple (Isa 35)

**AS YOU CONSIDER ISAIAH 34 & 35:**

1. Chapter 34 gives insight into judgment and hell. God judges those who oppose him and his people (those trusting him and his ways). How does chapter 34 show that all who seek their place apart from God will in the end find their place and fruitfulness removed?
2. Chapter 35 gives insight into heaven. For the people choosing to find their way in God's way he promises redemption. What insights into the new creation (new heaven & new earth) do you see in chapter 35? Think of Jesus' ministry of attesting signs which show the new kingdom is begun.
3. Isaiah in 35.3-4 encourages God's people to strengthen one another. What is to motivate us to help in this way? Compare Isa. 35.3-4 to Heb. 12.1-17?
4. These two chapters guide us to love the Redeemer who ransoms us more than we love the world. How are we tempted to love the 1<sup>st</sup> Creation world regarding: Our health? Our wealth? Our status in hanging out with the "right" people? Read 2 Corinthians 2.16-21 (espec. 2.17). To what actions is Paul motivating us as he reminds us those in Christ are a "new creation," (i.e., part of the new heavens & earth begun in Jesus bodily resurrection)?