



Await
Awaiting His Joy
Isaiah 35:1-10

***MAIN IDEA:** The future, complete joy that we will have when Christ returns should compel us to live with joy in the present.

Our joy will be complete when:

1- God resurrects His people and creation. (v. 1-2, 5-7)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord the majesty of our God...

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Romans 8:18-23: *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of him who subjected it—in the hope that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*

“God will restore mankind to what we once were, what he designed us to be — fully embodied, righteous beings. And restoring the entire physical universe to what it once was. God has tied his glory to the earth and everything connected with it: mankind, animals, trees, rivers, everything” (Randy Alcorn, Heaven, 90).

Our joy will be complete when:

2- God brings our faith to fulfillment. (v. 3-4)

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”

“The implication here is that the people of God are still in the period of waiting and need encouraging in the realm of action, stability and conviction. This is a call to the fortitude of faith, not grim determination but believing determination. They already possess within themselves all they need to face the demands of the time; they are called not to receive a new blessing but to strengthen what is already theirs” (J. Alec Motyer, The Prophecy of Isaiah, 274)

Philippians 1:6— *“I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 3:12-15— *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way.*

- **Our faith keeps us moving towards the resurrection.**

“I love Christmas. Yet simultaneously this season makes me sad. The chaotic cultural emphasis on Christmas has flipped the true meaning of Advent upside down. What should be a celebratory and reflective season, in which we rejoice in the incarnation o

the Creator and surrender worshipfully to his lordship, has become a frenzied pursuit of manufactured delights” (Paul Tripp, Everyday Gospel Advent Devotional)

Our joy will be complete when:

3- All of God’s people are united in His presence. (V. 8-10)

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. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

- **Nothing will break our unity.**

Revelation 21:3-4— *Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.*

- **Is your present faith anchored in God’s future promises?**
- **Are you fighting for unity with others?**

ADVENT PRAYER:

Father, we thank you that you have already sent your son Jesus to us for the first time, to usher in your Kingdom and bring us salvation.

As we now await the second coming of Jesus, help us take heart in what is to come and share that joy with the world around us. May the future resurrection of your people and creation compel us to live in faith and confidence now.

This Advent season, teach us to reflect on the Christmas story and anticipate your return and the resurrection.

We pray with the saints everywhere: “Come, Lord Jesus.”

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen