

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**The wilderness and the parched land will exult;
the Arabah will rejoice and bloom;
like the crocus it shall bloom abundantly,
and rejoice with joyful song.**

**The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.**

**Strengthen hands that are feeble,
make firm knees that are weak,
say to the fearful of heart:
be strong, do not fear!**

**Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
he comes to save you.**

**Then the eyes of the blind shall see,
and the ears of the deaf be opened;
then the lame shall leap like a stag,
and the mute tongue sing for joy.**

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**For waters will burst forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the Arabah.**

**The burning sands will become pools,
and the thirsty ground, springs of water;
the abode where jackals crouch
will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus.**

**A highway will be there,
called the holy way;
no one unclean may pass over it,
but it will be for his people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray on it.**

**No lion shall be there,
nor any beast of prey approach, nor be found.**

**But there the redeemed shall walk,
and the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning flee away.**

The Word of the Lord