

**Isaiah 34:11 – 35:2,10**

Start at the beginning of the chapter - the “day of vengeance” on Edom and on the world is a parallel for the plagues on Egypt and the destruction of Babylon in **Revelation 18**.

**Isaiah 34:11** - “But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness.”

“the line” - The picture is of a plumbline for getting judgment exactly right (as in **Isaiah 28**)

stones - *'eben* - weights, stones, hailstones

**Exodus 15:5** - “The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.”

“confusion and emptiness” = *tohu* and *bohu*

**Genesis 1:2** - “And the earth was without form (*tohu*), and void (*bohu*)”

A reverse parallel with creation - i.e. the enemies of God (Edom, Babylon, etc) will be wasted and destroyed so severely they will resemble the state of the world before creation.

**Isaiah 34:16** - “Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.”

Rashi - Seek out of the Book of the Lord: Read out of the Book of Genesis; when He brought the Flood, He decreed that all the creatures gather in the Ark, male and female, and none of them was missing. How much more will this be so when He decrees this upon them, to gather to drink blood and to eat flesh and fat!

**Isaiah 34:17** - “And He cast lots for them, and His hand distributed it to them with a line; forever they shall inherit it, to every generation they shall inhabit it.”

A reverse image of the Promised Land:

Just as in **Psalms 47:4** God “chose” for Israel their inheritance, here He “casts lots” so that every denizen of the wilderness will have his share of the blasted land of the enemy, forever uninhabited except by beasts and fowl.

The last verses turn toward God’s promise to Israel. The desert and wasteland will rejoice over the downfall of Edom, and will bloom for Israel:

**Isaiah 35:2** - “It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the

glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.”

“Blossoming it shall blossom” similar to the expression **Genesis 2:17**, “Dying thou shalt die,” that is, thou shalt *surely* die.

Rashi - the glory of Lebanon = the Temple, because built of the wood of Lebanon.

**Revelation 11:19** - “Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple. And there were flashes of lightning, and rumblings, and rolls of thunder, and an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.”

Targum - “the house of Israel, to whom these things are said, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.”

Septuagint - “my people shall see”

**Isaiah 35:10** - “And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

The word ransomed in Hebrew is *padah*, which comes from an old Assyrian or Akkadian word *padu* which is used for purchasing property, which includes the purchase of slaves.

Return = *shub* - repent, turn, return

As Jesus has paid the ransom for our souls that does not automatically release us from the control of the enemy, we must willingly turn away from the enemy and face Jesus our redeemer.

songs = *rinnah* - a shout of joy, victory and triumph.

“everlasting joy” = *olam* - eternity, vanishing point, forever, everlasting

Rashi - “with joy of days of yore”: (Heb. שִׂמְחַת יְעוֹלָם, joy that is from days of yore, which they already experienced on the way of their Exodus from Egypt, “and the Lord was going before them by day” (**Exodus 13:21**).

obtain = *nasag* - reach out and take hold of. It's not automatic. We can refuse the joy, or take hold of it!

“sorrow and sighing shall flee away” - This is the Resurrection

The Talmud applies this passage to the world to come. (T. Bab. Sanhedrin, fol. 110. 2.)

**Isaiah 25:8** - “He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears

away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth;  
For the LORD has spoken”

According to the Talmud, the entrance to this world to come will be preceded by the sound of a great trumpet which shall be blown drawing all the people out of land of Assyria and Egypt to Jerusalem to worship God. Possible tPaul was alluding to this in 1 Corinthians 15:52, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

**1 Corinthians 15:54** - “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”

Compare **Revelation 7:17**; **Revelation 21:4**

See also Biblical Hebrew Studies at <http://www.chaimbentorah.com>  
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