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Sermon Notes

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The Cursed Universe Restored to God's Original Purposes

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Author's Original Intention: what was God's original intention in CREATION??? What did God intend when He made heaven and earth? What did He intend when He created the seas and the dry land...the vegetation, the trees of the forest and the plants of the field, the flowers and the fruit trees... crafting the creatures of the sea and land—the whale and the ox, the tropical fish and the eagle? And especially, what did God intend when He made man on earth? What was God's original intention in making the eye, the ear, the hands and feet, the mouth?

Isaiah 45:18 For this is what the LORD says-- he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited-- he says: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Note the words: God did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited. He did not want the earth to be a DESERT... a wasteland... This begs the question, **“Why then is the earth a wasteland, a howling desert in so many places?”** In Isaiah, again and again, the image of the desert is used as a picture of the judgment of God on man for SIN. Parts of the earth are a wasteland because of HUMAN SIN.

But let's extend the idea even further.

Why did God create the eye? Why did He make the exquisitely complex organ, with its lens and cornea and retina and optic nerve? Was it not to SEE light, to see the radiant glory God has woven into the universe? God did not form the eye to be blind, but to see!! Why, then are 285 million people in the world visually impaired, and 39 million totally blind? SAME REASON: HUMAN SIN resulted in the curse from God and the physical problem of blindness

Similarly: Why did God create the ear? Why did He make the ear, with its eardrum and tiny bones and hairs and complex shape? Was it not to HEAR the sounds of this incredibly glorious world? If so, then why are there 275 million people with moderate to profound deafness in both ears? SAME REASON: HUMAN SIN resulted in the curse from God and the physical problem of deafness.

But from the beginning, it was not so. God formed Adam and Eve with perfect eyesight and perfect hearing, and put them in a perfectly beautiful world to see/hear the glory of God and serve Him.

Sin has devastated all of that...

Romans 8:19-23 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Because sin has devastated this universe, God's original intentions are not being met. So God sent His only begotten Son into the world to REDEEM and RESTORE the world, to enable the world to be what God originally intended... a universe filled with His glory

Jesus Christ began His ministry in Nazareth:

Luke 4:18-21 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Jesus' ministry would be RICH with the power of the Spirit of God—doing great signs and wonders in the sight of all the people. These miracles proved His unique personhood, the proved He was who He claimed to be—the Son of God. But they also were a SIGN of a coming world in which all the decay and curse and defectiveness of this present sin-cursed world would be GONE FOREVER.

Matthew 11:5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

Today's scripture also predicts this very thing... the establishment of a world in which all sickness is BANISHED FOREVER!!

Isaiah 35:5-6 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

But it extends to creation itself: a desert blooming to the glory of God!!

The stunning contrast from Chapter 34 to Chapter 35:

Edom, representative of all the godless nations on earth, is turned into a desert

Isaiah 34:2 The LORD is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their armies.

Isaiah 34:9-10 Edom's streams will be turned into pitch, her dust into burning sulfur; her land will become blazing pitch! ¹⁰ It will not be quenched night and day; its smoke will rise forever. From generation to generation it will lie desolate; no one will ever pass through it again.

But this chapter speaks of the majestic blooming of a desert... a howling wilderness is turned into the Garden of Eden all over again. The judged land is returned to being the Promised Land... a land flowing with milk and honey

Many different interpretations have been given for it:

- It may be applied to the restoration of the Jews back to the Promised Land from their exile to Babylon;
- Or it may be applied to the salvation of the Gentiles, or the whole era of the growth of the church of Jesus Christ
- Or it may be applied more individually to the personal spiritual experience of every believer in Christ as he moves from the curse of being an unbeliever to the joy of salvation in Christ
- Some say it refers to the delights of the Millennial Kingdom, when the second coming of Christ changes the curse of the earth to the richest of earthly blessings
- Or it may be speaking of the eternal joys of heaven.

But WHY NOT ALL OF THE ABOVE????? This chapter is poetry, and it speaks directly of the blessings of God on a once cursed land. The use of poetry means that a mathematical precision about each image is not the intended result... rather, it is a massive painting with brush strokes of color and detail that works together to speak of the glories of the saving work of God in Christ.

I. Creation Transformed: From Sterile Desert to Fruitful Garden (vs. 1-2)

Isaiah 35:1-2 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. 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.

A. The Garden of Eden and the Promised Land

1. God created the earth a lush and fruitful place
2. It flourished with all manner of growing things, perfectly fruitful

3. God particularly prepared a garden, the Garden of Eden, with all manner of fruit-bearing trees... there He put Adam and Eve to live
4. The whole world was radiantly full of the glory of God
5. In a similar way, after the Exodus, God brought the Jews to the Promised Land... and it was magnificent... described marvelously in Deuteronomy 11

Deuteronomy 11:11-12 the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. ¹² It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.

Deuteronomy 11:9 a land flowing with milk and honey.

B. The Link Between the Land and the People

1. In both cases, the sin of people brought a curse on the land and a withering of the lush fruitfulness
2. In Eden... God cursed the ground because of the sin of Adam
3. In the Promised Land, God cursed the land because of the sin of the people

Deuteronomy 28:23-24 The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron. ²⁴ The LORD will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.

C. The Desert Represents the Cursing of the Land

1. Verse 1 speaks of the desert and the parched land... this is the state of the land the Jews had inherited...
2. It was a desert because of God's curse on the land:

Psalms 107:33-34 He turned rivers into a desert, flowing springs into thirsty ground, ³⁴ and fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who lived there.

3. This is plain in Isaiah 34:

Isaiah 34:9-11 Edom's streams will be turned into pitch, her dust into burning sulfur; her land will become blazing pitch! ... God will stretch out over Edom the measuring line of chaos and the plumb line of desolation.

4. So it is today... the groaning of creation, of this sin-cursed world, is loud and clear

- a. Earthquakes claiming thousands of lives show the groaning of the earth under our feet... like the one that took 320,000 lives in Haiti in 2010
- b. Tsunamis and Tidal waves sweeping over coastlines and wiping out communities, like happened in Miyagi, Japan, December, 2011, killing 19,000 and displacing 325,000 from their homes
- c. Volcano, Mt. Merapi in Indonesia, erupts and kills 122 people in November of 2010
- d. Hurricane Katrina killed 1836 people and caused \$81 billion in damage
- e. 2010: Heavy rains and floods in Gansu, China, resulted in a devastating mudslide, leaving 1407 dead people
- f. Floods in the Philippines in December related to Typhoon Bopha pushed death toll to over 500 people
- g. A series of tornadoes ripped through the Midwest and south in March of 2012, leaving 19 dead in Kentucky, 12 in Indiana, three in Ohio and one each in Alabama and Georgia
- h. Blizzards, droughts, hailstorms, heat waves and forest fires... all are evidence of the GROANING OF CREATION...

D. The Blooming of the Desert: A Supernatural Act of Grace by a Sovereign God

Isaiah 35:1-2 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. 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.

- 1. A marvelous BLOOMING of creation... the desert springing to life
- 2. desert is personified REJOICES GREATLY ...SHOUTS FOR JOY
- 3. The natural beauty is lavish... the glory of Lebanon, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon
 - a. God has left enough beauty here on earth so that we can imagine what it would be like if He lavished His favor
 - b. Picture perhaps the lush rainforests of the Amazon, or the magnificent tropical islands of the South Pacific, like Tahiti; or the spectacular redwoods of northern California

E. A Display of God's Glory

1. No longer will people look at nature and worship it
2. Rather, worshipers will see the glory of God IN NATURE and give Him the proper praise for every aspect of it
3. NATURE WILL BE REDEEMED... resurrected in eternal glory; brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God

II. People Transformed: From Cursed Weakness to Blessed Strength (vs. 3-7)

Isaiah 35:3-7 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." ⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

A. Human Weakness is a Result of the Fall

1. The weakness of the human race is of two kinds: physical and spiritual
2. In this section, BOTH kinds are directly addressed
3. People's bodies are weak through disease and fatigue
4. People's spirits are weak through discouragement and despair
5. It makes it very difficult to live, very difficult to make progress in life
6. Here, God addresses the weakness of the human condition, and REDEEMS HIS PEOPLE

B. Here: Human Weakness Transformed to Strength

Isaiah 35:3-4 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come

1. Feeble hands = human weakness in action
2. Weak knees = inability to keep moving, to keep walking, to keep making progress
3. It refers to the overwhelming feeling of discouragement that comes on the people of God in this world
 - a. For the Jews, EXILE

- b. For Christians, world, the flesh and the devil... Satan's temptations and accusations can be so effective that our hands drop and our knees sag... HOW CAN WE BE PERFECT AS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT? How can we take the gospel to our neighbors, or to the unreached people groups? How can we make any difference at all? Why even bother? I want to give up entirely!!!!

C. A Message of Encouragement to Strengthen the Weak

1. YOUR GOD WILL COME
2. STRENGTH = HOPE in the promises of God
3. responsibility to other believers... to strengthen those who are weak

Hebrews 12:12-13 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

D. Human Bodies Amazingly Transformed

Isaiah 35:5-6 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

1. clear prediction of the miracle working power of Jesus Christ
2. Jesus displayed His supernatural power in many ways... always a REESTABLISHMENT of the beauty and order of original creation
 - a. The stilling of the storm... brought peace out of chaos
 - b. The feeding of the five thousand brought plenty to the hungry
 - c. The changing of water to wine brought joy and richness to a banquet
 - d. But the HEALINGS were the most plentiful part of Jesus' miraculous ministry
3. The healing of the BLIND was especially powerful
 - a. Four different times in the gospels, Jesus heals the blind
 - i) Most powerful of all, John 9, Jesus heals a man born blind... an ENTIRE CHAPTER devoted to it

^{ESV} John 9:32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.

- b. utterly astonishing display of the power of Jesus Christ
- 4. Other miracles listed here as well:
 - a. The ears of the deaf unstopped... like when Jesus healed a deaf man by putting His fingers in the man's ears and saying "Be opened!")
 - b. The lame will leap like a deer

Matthew 9:2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

- c. The mute tongue will shout for joy

E. Human Souls Also Amazingly Transformed

1. The deeper issue is the SPIRITUAL BROKENNESS of the human condition... physical miracles symbolize SPIRITUAL HEALING
2. Our "blindness" was more spiritual than physical... our inability to SEE God's glory, to SEE God's truth clearly... we were SPIRITUALLY blind to the realities of God

John 9:39-41 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" ⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

3. Our lameness was a picture of our inability to walk the walk of the righteous or run in the path of God's commands
4. Our muteness was a picture of our inability to speak the praises of God or to speak the truth of God's word
5. Jesus came to heal us BOTH physically and spiritually... a comprehensive salvation

F. The Desert Comes Alive

Isaiah 35:6-7 Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

Physically, a clear picture of the transformation of nature in the New Heavens and New Earth

Spiritually: A clear picture of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on us

Isaiah 44:3-4 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. ⁴ They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.

III. The Transforming Event: “Your God Will Come to Save You” (vs. 4)

Isaiah 35:4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

A. This is the Key to Everything!

B. “Your God will come...”

1. God intervenes... He acts in history to wipe out the Assyrians, or to bring down the Babylonians...
2. The ultimate expression of “your God will come” is the birth, life, death, resurrection, and second coming of Christ

Matthew 1:23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

C. God Also Comes to Save His People... in the Death and Resurrection of Christ

Isaiah 35:4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, ... he will come to save you."

1. Jesus is the very one who fulfilled the miracles mentioned in this passage
2. He also is the very one who is the Savior of the world

Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

D. God Also Comes to Bring Vengeance and Retribution... in the Second Coming of Christ

Isaiah 35:4 your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution

Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

E. The Two Comings of Jesus Christ Fulfills these Words:

1. The first coming: “He will come to save you”
2. The second coming: “with vengeance, divine retribution”

IV. The Journey of the Transformed: A Highway of Holiness (vs. 8-10)

Isaiah 35:8-10 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹ No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰ and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing

A. The “Way of Holiness” Described Here

1. Remember the thrice-yearly pilgrimages to Jerusalem
2. These times of movement from where you lived to the central place of worship were pictures, types, symbols of salvation
3. The pilgrimage would **not be physical but spiritual**
4. Others think the issue is the return from exile that God effected... as the ransomed of the Lord would return from Babylon to reestablish homes in Jerusalem; these returning Jews would travel the King’s highway back from Babylon to Jerusalem
5. But that is also merely a type and shadow of the salvation Christ works
6. The descriptors here are powerful:
 - a. **A highway will be there**: picture a graded, raised road, built by the king for the economic unity of his empire... enabling commerce more freely, allowing his soldiers to move quickly where the king wanted them, allowing communication from the capital city to the distant provinces [Roman roads: over 250,000 miles of interconnected roads]
 - b. **It will be called the Way of Holiness**: just like a King’s Highway was governed by his laws, and would be exclusive for his purposes, so this is a HIGHWAY of HOLINESS... only holy people can make this journey
 - c. **Wicked fools and the unclean will not be permitted on it**: this is the exclusive nature of the journey; you ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE—justification by faith in Jesus Christ—before you can make a single step of salvation
 - d. **No lion or ferocious beast will get up on it**: a picture of safety and protection

Pilgrim's Progress: John Bunyan understood this image better than almost anyone else in church history; his allegory pictured the Christian life from conversion through to the end in the Celestial City—heaven. At one point, **Christian has to walk between two chained lions.** He cannot see the chains, but if he stays on the path—the highway of holiness—the lions cannot harm him

So it is with Satan and his evil henchmen:

1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- e. **Only the redeemed and the ransomed of the Lord will enter and walk there:** It is impossible to begin the Christian journey to heaven without faith in Jesus Christ; when faith in Christ comes, we have been redeemed—bought with a price from slavery—we have been ransomed (rescued from captivity); then we may walk on the highway of Holiness to the heavenly Zion... and we will enter Zion with singing!!

B. The Highway of Holiness is the “Way” of Salvation

1. Justification leads to Sanctification, which leads to Glorification
2. Jesus IS the “Way”, He IS the “Highway of Holiness”

John 14:4-6 You know the way to the place where I am going.”⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus answered, “I AM THE WAY and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

C. Progressive Sanctification is Essential to True Salvation

1. Justification by faith alone: Our present and future obedience cannot pay for our past disobedience
2. Through faith in Christ, we stand perfectly righteous in the sight of God
3. BUT every truly justified person immediately begins a journey of sanctification, putting sin to death
4. If that process isn't going on, then justification never happened

Romans 8:13-14 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT is the way of holiness... putting sin to death by the Spirit

D. The “Way of Holiness” Described

1. “Holiness” is that which conforms to God’s perfect character, as expressed in God’s law
2. The “Way of holiness” is a lifestyle of purity, of freedom from corruption, conforming to Christ’s character and God’s moral laws

1 John 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 5:3-4 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

3. Four Purities: the Negative Aspects of Holiness... freedom from darkness
 - a. Speech Purity... freedom from impure language, gossip, slander, lies, false doctrine, discouragement, arguments, complaining

Mouth Filter: *Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

- b. Sexual Purity: freedom from adultery, fornication, impure thoughts, lust, sinful use of the internet or other electronic media

Ephesians 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

- c. Relational Purity: freedom from anger, arguments, bitterness, selfishness, unforgiveness, pride, superiority, judgmentalism... anything that would break our fellowship with each other

Philippians 2:2-4 being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- d. Purity in Lawful Pleasures: freedom from enslavement to the good gifts of God... greedy for more time to pursue hobbies, watch movies, enjoy sports, eat pleasure foods, own possessions, go on trips; any of God’s good gifts can become idols if we attach too much of our hearts to them

1 Corinthians 6:12 *"Everything is permissible for me"-- but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-- but I will not be mastered by anything.*

4. Positive Sanctification: Spending yourselves in sacrificial love for God and others

Matthew 22:37-39 *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

Isaiah 58:10 *if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.*

5. Progress is made gradually and increasingly

Romans 6:19 *I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.*

This is the HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS

V. The Destination of the Transformed: Glorious Zion (vs. 10)

Isaiah 35:10 *They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

- A. The Final Destination of the Highway: Zion... the New Heaven and New Earth
- B. The Joy of their Arrival... entering Zion with singing

2 Peter 1:11 *you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

C. Heaven Described

1. Everlasting joy crowning their heads
2. Gladness and joy overtaking them... Hebrew word means to obtain as a goal you'd been pursuing all your lives
3. Sorrow and sighing will FLEE AWAY... like the light driving away shadows

VI. Applications

- A. See in Christ the Fulfillment of this Chapter

1. By the ministry of Christ, God's "original intention" for the universe will be fulfilled
2. It was Christ who opened the eyes of the blind... both physically and spiritually... enabling us to see and savor the glory of God in the universe and in the Word
3. It was Christ who unstopped the ears of the deaf... both physically and spiritually... enabling us to hear the beautiful sounds of God's universe, and the even more beautiful sounds of His Word
4. It was Christ who enabled the lame to leap like a deer... both physically and spiritually... so they could physically walk home after decades of paralysis, and so they could walk on the Highway of Holiness spiritually
5. It was Christ who enabled the mute tongue to speak... both physically and spiritually... speaking words to loved ones, and speaking prayers and praise to God

B. Come to Christ: BY THE CROSS OF CHRIST WE ARE HEALED

Isaiah 53:5-6 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

C. Understand the Fullness of the Redemption that God Has Planned for the Universe... Romans 8, the Creation LIBERATED FROM DECAY

1. The present physical creation was cursed in the sin of Adam, and is groaning as we learned
2. The images of the wasteland flowing with water and flowering will be literally fulfilled in the New Heavens and New Earth

D. Embrace Life on the Highway of Holiness

1. Understand clearly the relationship between justification and sanctification
2. Diagnose your personal holiness... are there besetting patterns of sin that the Holy Spirit wants out of your life?
3. Analyze the four-fold purity: purity in speech, sexual purity, purity in relationships, purity in lawful pleasures
4. Put sin to death by the power of the Holy Spirit
5. Analyze your life of ministry as well

E. Look Forward to the Beauty of the New Heaven and New Earth, a wasteland will become a flourishing garden by the power of Christ