

'The Year of Hope' Isaiah 35

"Though the Lord is very great and lives in heaven, he will make Jerusalem his home of justice and righteousness... But now your brave warriors weep in public. Your ambassadors of peace cry in bitter disappointment. Your roads are deserted; no one travels them anymore. The Assyrians have broken their peace treaty and care nothing for the promises they made before witnesses. They have no respect for anyone." Isaiah 33:5, 7-8
Jesus Christ has promised to _____ for His church.

During the _____ of the church, Christians will be taken straight to heaven.

"Thirsty deserts will be glad; barren lands will celebrate and blossom with flowers. Deserts will bloom everywhere and sing joyful songs. They will be as majestic as Mount Lebanon, as glorious as Mount Carmel or Sharon Valley. Everyone will see the wonderful splendor of the Lord our God." Isaiah 35:1-2

One day God is going to _____ for good!

"Give strength to hands that are tired and to knees that tremble with weakness. Tell everyone who is discouraged, 'Be strong and don't be afraid! God is coming to your rescue, coming to punish your enemies.'" v. 3-4; "And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!" v. 5-6a

Because of the cross, God _____ those who believe in Jesus by faith.

You find a _____ when you put your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Jesus' 1,000 years of peace on earth is called the _____.
Even if a believer dies before Jesus' thousand year reign of peace, the Lord will bring you _____ at the resurrection so you can enjoy heaven on this earth.

(1Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:4)

"And when he comes... springs will gush forth in the wilderness... The parched ground will become a pool... ⁸ And a great road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness. Evil-minded people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God's ways; fools will never walk there. Lions will not lurk along its course, nor any other ferocious beasts. There will be no other dangers... Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness." v. 6b-10

1. Remember that _____ looks real good

"There will be nothing to fear. The Lord of Heaven's Armies has made this promise!" Micah 4:4b; "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." 1Corinthians 2:9

2. Let your _____ run wild about what you're going to do in heaven
Jesus promised to give each of us responsibilities in the age to come based on our faithfulness to Him right now. (Matthew 25:14-30)

You're _____ right now!

"I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell." 2Corinthians 12:4

The reason God gives us barely any details of how awesome heaven is: anticipation!

3. Become _____ often, daily, for the privilege of knowing Jesus and for what's to come