



## WELCOME TO MY WORLD STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 3: JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 2, 2019

A DAY IS COMING

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 35:6-10

**Reflections:** In this week's sermon, we observed that often is hard to distinguish good wheat from destructive weeds. Both often look alike. God knows the difference, however, and some day, on the "Day of the LORD", He will separate one from the other. This theme of a future separation is rooted deep within the Old Testament. Look, for example at the closing verses of Isaiah 35:

*"Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. 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.*

*And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. 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" Isaiah 35:6-10 (NIV)*

At the time that Isaiah saw this vision, the Assyrian empire was already threatening Jerusalem. Enemy forces had conquered the northern Kingdom of Israel and were now setting their sites on the southern Kingdom of Judah. The future looked bleak.

As this threat grew, however, King Hezekiah continued to lead his people back to God. He restored the Temple and reformed the priesthood, cleansing the land from the destructive idolatry of his father's reign. But were his efforts successful? Did all this righteousness accomplish anything? The enemy was still at the door. There was still evil in the land, and that evil seemed ready to overtake them.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel had taken a different approach. They sought to blend their worship of the LORD with the worship of local gods. In time, they began to live and worship very much like the nations that surrounded them. So, God allowed the Assyrian judgment. He allowed His own people to be taken once again into slavery.

King Hezekiah, however, would not allow the southern kingdom of Judah to make the same mistake, at least not this time. He preached and modeled faithfulness, and, when the Day of Judgment came, the LORD was faithful, delivering Jerusalem safely from the attacking beast from the north.

Some 2800 years later, we face similar challenges. We are surrounded by destructive forces, and the enemy appears invincible. Sometimes the assaults are plainly visible: terrorism, abuse, oppression, injustice, hatred. Other times, the attacks are subtle: temptations to dilute our worship of God with our culture's addiction to money, wealth, fame or beauty. Even as we speak, the enemy sows these weeds among us.

However, we cannot believe the lie. We know the truth. God has reserved a place for those who remain faithful, and the road to that place is called the "the Way of Holiness". Evil weeds cannot grow there. That vision of our future must direct our present. That "Day of the LORD" must teach us how to live today.

### ***Prayer Thought:***

Father, when I am tempted to give into the brokenness of the world and the brokenness in me, remind me of my destiny, the place of your presence, filled with your holiness, joy and love.

### ***Application Question***

How do you remain faithful when surrounded by evil?

### **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. In both this story of Isaiah and the one that Jesus shares about the wheat and the weeds, we see how God's people are often hard to distinguish from the cultures that surround them. Is this a good or a bad thing? Why or why not?
2. Is it our job as God's people to sort out the wheat from the weeds? Why or why not?
3. How should our certainty about the future change the decisions that we make today?

### ***Suggestions for Further Research:***

For page: [studylight.org/commentaries/bbc/isaiah-35.html](http://studylight.org/commentaries/bbc/isaiah-35.html)