



¹The wilderness and the desert will be glad,

And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom;
Like the crocus





² It will blossom profusely And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, The majesty of our God.





³ Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble.





⁴ Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you."







Then the eyes of the blind will be opened
 And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.





⁶ Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.

For waters will break forth in the wilderness

And streams in the Arabah.





⁷The scorched land will become a pool And the thirsty ground springs of water;

In the haunt of jackals, its resting place, Grass becomes reeds and rushes.







⁸ A highway will be there, a roadway, And it will be called the Highway of Holiness.

The unclean will not travel on it, But it *will* be for him who walks *that* way,

And fools will not wander on it.





⁹ No lion will be there, Nor will any vicious beast go up on it; These will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk *there*,





¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD will return

And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.







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²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Romans 8:20-22





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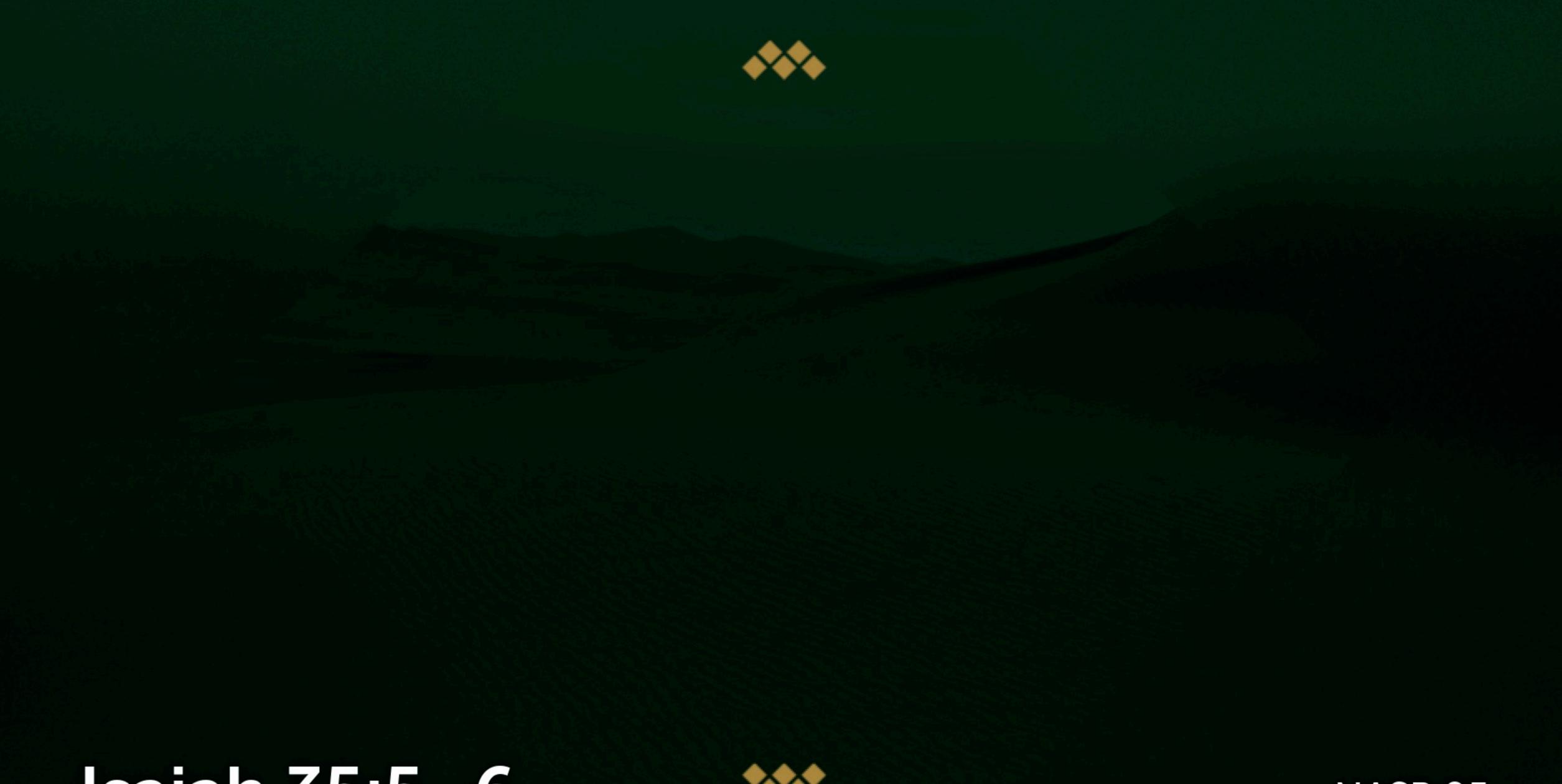


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⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.

Matthew 11:4-5





A highway will be there, a roadway,
 And it will be called the Highway of Holiness.





A voice is calling,
 "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;
 Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3





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But the redeemed will walk there,





¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads.



