

Jehovah called the figurative highway from Babylon to Israel "the Way of Holiness." Has Jehovah similarly cleared a way for his people in modern times? Yes! Since 1919 C.E., millions have left Babylon the Great and have begun traveling on "the Way of Holiness." All of us must remain on it until we reach our final destination.

(Isaiah 35:8) And a highway will be there, Yes, a way called the Way of Holiness. The unclean one will not travel on it. It is reserved for the one walking on the way; No one foolish will stray onto it.

#### Paragraph 1

**(Ezra 1:2-4) "This is what King Cyrus of Persia says, 'Jehovah the God of the heavens has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has commissioned me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of Jehovah the God of Israel—he is the true God—whose house was in Jerusalem. 4 Anyone who is residing as a foreigner, wherever he may be, let him be helped by his neighbors by their giving him silver and gold, goods and livestock, along with the voluntary offering for the house of the true God, which was in Jerusalem.'"**

(Isaiah 14:4) you will recite this proverb against the king of Babylon: "How the one forcing others to work has met his end! How the oppression has ended!

(Isaiah 14:17) Who made the inhabited earth like the wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who refused to let his prisoners go home?"

#### Paragraph 4

(Isaiah 40:3, 4) A voice of one calling out in the wilderness: "Clear up the way of Jehovah! Make

a straight highway through the desert for our God. 4 Let every valley be raised up, And every mountain and hill be made low. The rough ground must become level, And the rugged ground a valley plain.

#### Paragraph 5

(Isaiah 35:8) And a highway will be there, Yes, a way called the Way of Holiness. The unclean one will not travel on it. It is reserved for the one walking on the way; No one foolish will stray onto it.

#### Paragraph 6

(Deuteronomy 7:6) For you are a holy people to Jehovah your God, and Jehovah your God has chosen you to become his people, his special property, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

#### Paragraph 7

(Exodus 34:15, 16) Be careful not to make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, because when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to their gods, someone will invite you and you will eat from his sacrifice. 16 Then you will surely take some of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters will prostitute themselves to their gods and cause your sons to prostitute themselves to their gods.

(Ezra 9:1, 2) And as soon as these things had been done, the princes approached me and said: "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands and their detestable practices, those of the Ca'naan·ites, the Hi'ttites, the Per'iz·zites, the Jeb'u·sites, the Am'mon·ites, the Mo'ab·ites, the Egyptians, and the Am'or·ites. 2 They have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons. Now they, the holy offspring, have become mingled with the peoples of the lands. The

princes and the deputy rulers have been the foremost offenders in this unfaithfulness.”

(Deuteronomy 6:6, 7) These words that I am commanding you today must be on your heart, 7 and you must inculcate them in your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up.

(Nehemiah 13:23, 24) In those days I also saw Jews who had married Ash'dod·ite, Am'mon·ite, and Mo'ab·ite women. 24 Half of their sons were speaking Ash'dod·ite and half spoke the language of the different peoples, but none of them knew how to speak the language of the Jews.

(Ezra 10:3) Now let us make a covenant with our God to send away all the wives and those born from them, in harmony with the direction of Jehovah and of those who have reverence for the commandment of our God. Let us act according to the Law.

(Ezra 10:44) All of these had taken foreign wives, and they sent their wives away, along with their sons.

(Nehemiah 8:8, 9) And they continued reading aloud from the book, from the Law of the true God, clearly explaining it and putting meaning into it; so they helped the people to understand what was being read. 9 And Ne·he·mi'ah, who was then the governor, Ez'ra the priest and copyist, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: “This day is holy to Jehovah your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the Law.

#### Paragraph 8

\*\*\*\*See *Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind II*, pp. 56-57.

\*\*\* ip-2 chap. 4 pp. 56-57 pars. 18-20 “You Are My Witnesses”! \*\*\*

18 In saying, “do not remember the first things,” Jehovah is not suggesting that his servants erase his past acts of salvation from their minds. In fact, many of these acts are part of Israel's divinely inspired history, and Jehovah commanded that the escape from Egypt be remembered annually at the Passover celebration. (Leviticus 23:5; Deuteronomy 16:1-4) However, Jehovah now wants his people to glorify him on the basis of “something new”—something they will experience firsthand. This includes not just their deliverance from Babylon but also their miraculous journey home, perhaps by the more direct desert route. In that barren land, Jehovah will make “a way” for them and will perform powerful works reminiscent of what he did for the Israelites in Moses' day—indeed, he will feed the returnees in the desert and quench their thirst with veritable rivers. So bounteous will Jehovah's provisions be that even the wild beasts will glorify God and refrain from attacking the people.

19 Similarly, in 1919 the remnant of spiritual Israel were freed from Babylonish captivity, and they set off on a route Jehovah had prepared for them, “the Way of Holiness.” (Isaiah 35:8) Unlike the Israelites, they did not have to move through the burning desert from one geographical location to another, and their journey was not concluded after a few months with an arrival in Jerusalem. However, “the Way of Holiness” did lead the remnant of anointed Christians into a spiritual paradise. In their case, they remain on that “Way of Holiness,” since they still have to journey through this system of things. As long as they remain on the highway—as long as they observe God's standards of cleanness and

holiness—they remain in the spiritual paradise. And what a joy for them to be joined by a great crowd of “non-Israelite” companions! In sharp contrast with those who look to Satan’s system, both the remnant and their companions continue to enjoy a rich spiritual banquet at Jehovah’s hand. (Isaiah 25:6; 65:13, 14) Discerning Jehovah’s blessing on his people, many beastlike ones have changed their ways and glorified the true God.—Isaiah 11:6-9.

(John 10:16) “And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; those too I must bring in, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd.

#### Paragraph 9

**(Isaiah 57:14) It will be said, ‘Build up, build up a road! Prepare the way! Remove any obstacle from the way of my people.’”**

(Isaiah 40:3) A voice of one calling out in the wilderness: “Clear up the way of Jehovah! Make a straight highway through the desert for our God.

#### Paragraph 15

(Matthew 24:45-47) “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Happy is that slave if his master on coming finds him doing so! 47 Truly I say to you, he will appoint him over all his belongings.

(Proverbs 4:18) But the path of the righteous is like the bright morning light That grows brighter and brighter until full daylight.

(Colossians 1:10) so as to walk worthily of Jehovah in order to please him fully as you go on bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the accurate knowledge of God;

#### Paragraph 16

**(Isaiah 48:17) This is what Jehovah says, your Repurchaser, the Holy One of Israel: “I, Jehovah, am your God, The One teaching you to benefit yourself, The One guiding you in the way you should walk.**

**(Isaiah 60:17) Instead of the copper I will bring in gold, And instead of the iron I will bring in silver, Instead of the wood, copper, And instead of the stones, iron; And I will appoint peace as your overseers And righteousness as your task assigners.**

#### Paragraph 18

(Revelation 2:7) Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations: To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’