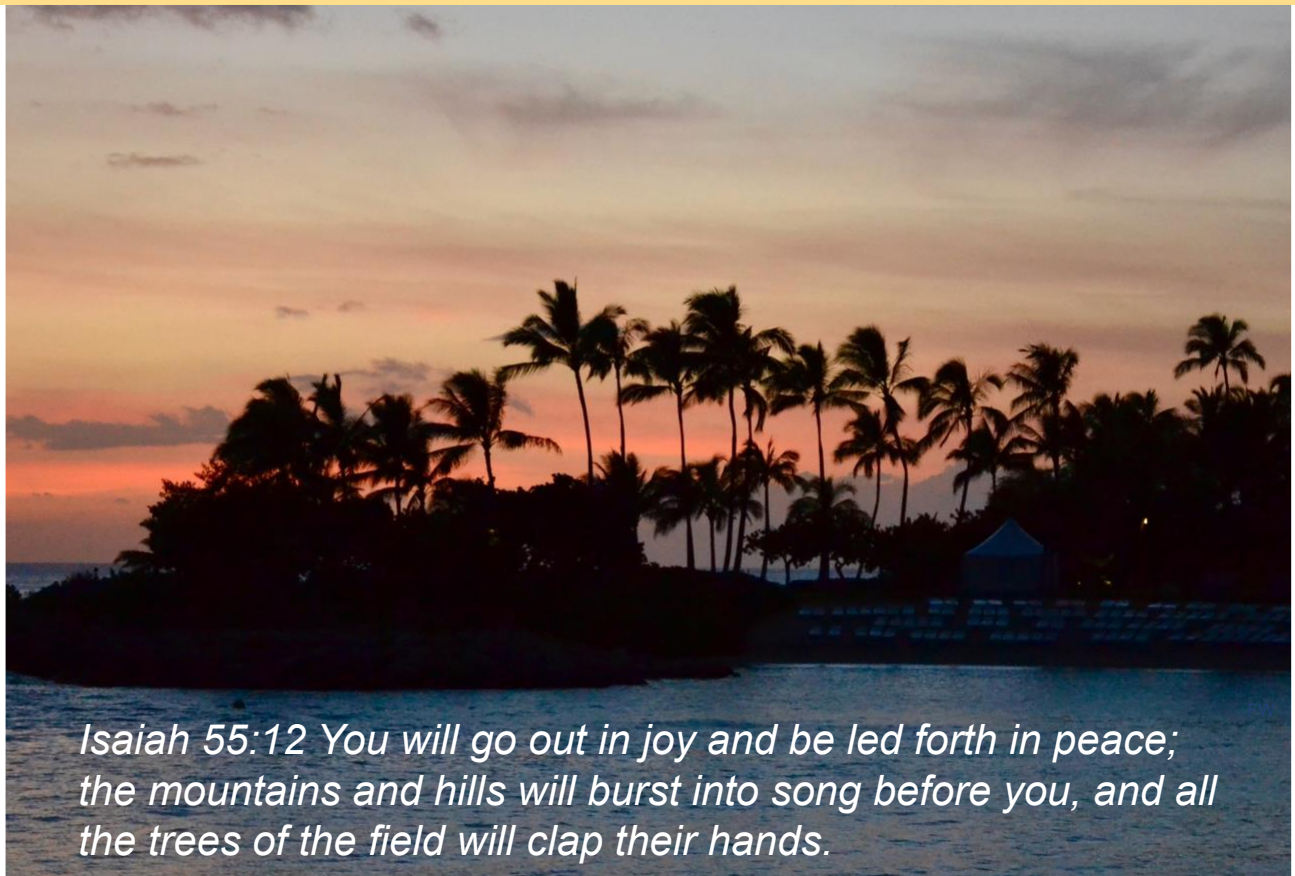


JOY WITH GOD'S LEADING



Isaiah 55:12 You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Photo of sunset in Hawaii

The fronds of coconut trees seem to be clapping their hands when the wind blows on them. That is how the psalmist envisions the scene of nature celebrating with God and His people. This verse promises the return and restoration of Babylonian exiles. The expected joy is expressed as mountains and trees rejoicing. Only harmony with God's will and plan can result in joy and peace.

The word "led forth" means led by God, and not by one's effort or plan. One's effort often ends in disappointment, but you will find joy and peace under God's guidance.

This verse applies to us today in a few ways. Besides physical bondage, spiritual bondage, like sin, can be broken away when one turns to God. Let God be in control and help. Another aspect of this verse is that our faith can be strengthened through trials or hardship when we seek God. The joy we have when we eventually overcome. This verse gives us hope and encouragement.

