Highway to Holiness

Isaiah 35:8-10

There are two highways to travel in this life. One highway leads to heaven and the other to hell. Jesus said the road to heaven is narrow whereas the road that leads to hell is broad and many find this route appealing (see Matthew 7:13-14).

The late 70's and 80's rock band AC / DC is seeing a resurgence of popularity like many other 80's bands. They have produced popular songs such as "Highway to Hell" and "Hell's Bells." The lyrics of part of the song, "Hell's Bells," goes like this:

"If you're into evil, you're a friend of mine
See the white light flashing as I split the night
Cos if good's on the left then I'm sticking to the right
I won't take no prisoners won't spare no lives
Nobody's puttin' up a fight
I got my bell I'm gonna take you to hell
I'm gonna get ya satan get ya"

Throngs of people jump up and down singing along with AC DC as they sing of going to hell in the most arrogant and fearless way. The idea of hell seems to be that of a great party where debauchery will continue throughout all eternity. Our Bible; however, tell a much different story
of hell. Hell will be the most horrendous place the world or history has ever experienced (see Matthew 10:28; 13:42; 23:33). Ages without end of suffering and torment in flames. Why would one want to be on the "Highway to Hell" as they ring "Hell's Bells?"

The Prophet Isaiah writes of the Highway to Holiness that ought to be much more attractive.

"8 And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but is shall be for the redeemed: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up thereon; they shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: 10 and the ransomed of Jehovah shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:8-10).

Doesn't everlasting peace and joy sound much better than suffering and burning in eternal unbearable pain?

Why not travel the highway of holiness and have true hope in this life and the life to come?
The Bible

Introduction

The Bible (Greek; biblia) is a collection of sixty-six books. The Bible is a timeless masterpiece of inspiration. A book compiled of the writings of men who “spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21). Skeptics, humanists and modernists have for centuries dismissed the Bible’s contents as contributing to a “God intoxicated society.” God promises the faithful; however, a wonderful eternal existence of no pain, hunger, or thirst (Revelation 21:1-7). Let us examine the origins of this inspirational work.

I. The Scriptures:
   A. Inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
   B. God spoke all things into existence (Psalms 33:6).

II. Old and New Testament Scriptures:
   A. Authors
   B. Language
   C. Manuscripts

III. The "Canon" of Scriptures:
   A. A standard, rule, or concrete thing.
   B. Eventually the word came to be used to refer to the list of books regarded as authoritative or inspired.

IV. A History of Bible Translation:
   A. Septuigent (LXX)
   B. Latin Vulgate (382 AD by Jerome under Pope Damascus I)
   C. Wycliffe’s AD 1384 English Bible
   D. Tyndale’s Bible 1526 AD
   E. Luther Bible of 1534
   F. Council of Trent (1546)
   G. The Bishop’s Bible (1568)
   H. King James Version Bible (1611)

V. Modern Translations of the Bible:
   A. Understand difference between a Dynamic and Formal Equivalence Text
   B. Young’s Literal Translation (YLT) 1862
   C. 1901 American Standard Version Bible
   D. New International Version Bible, etc.

Conclusion:

God inspired or moved men to write His revelation. We most often refer to this divine revelation as the Bible or scriptures. The Old Testament was written primarily in the Hebrew language whereas the New Testament was written in Greek. A complete list of canonized books was identified as early as 367 AD. God; however, had already sealed the completed revelation far before the 367 AD date (see Jude 3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).