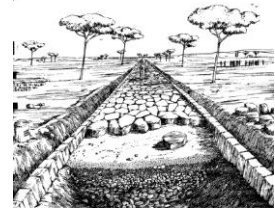


I'm Jim Taylor, welcome to INFavor Resources and  
**MEETING JESUS ON THE WAY**  
a video teaching series to help us appreciate  
The importance of highways  
in history, in the Bible, and in Indiana



Visit our website, [infavorresources.com](http://infavorresources.com) to download the handout for *Video #6:*  
at the top it should say, *Warning Signs on the Highway*

On modern highways, we are moving at such fast speeds, and there are so many vehicles on the road, there is always an element of *danger* when we travel. If you add in the constant construction slowdowns and detours, and the (sometimes) HUGE potholes, there are a lot of things to be wary of when we get in the car, turn the key, and put it into drive.

*The yellow signs are the warning signs on our highways.* On a winding road, they tell us: a left turn is ahead or a sharp curve to the right ... an intersection is coming up ... other cars will be joining your lane ... your lane ends up ahead ... deer or farm machinery may be crossing ... there is a stoplight or railroad tracks ahead ... or the road here is slippery when wet.

This video is titled *Warning Signs on the Highway* because for all the good things they do for us, **highways can also have negative connotations and consequences.**

Here are some examples ...

*In Biblical times, Ancient highways were often dangerous places:*

First, Foreign armies traveled on highways as they passed through the country, foraging and plundering as they went:

- Deuteronomy 3:1 Next we turned and went up *along the road* toward Bashan, and Og king of Bashan *with his whole army marched out to meet us* in battle at Edrei ... <sup>3</sup> We struck them down, leaving no survivors ... <sup>7</sup> But *all the livestock and the plunder* from their cities we carried off for ourselves.
- 1 Samuel 30:18 David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. <sup>19</sup> Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, *plunder or anything else they had taken.* David brought everything back. <sup>20</sup> He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, *“This is David's plunder.”*

Also, Highways could be infested with snakes and wild animals :

- Genesis 49:17 Dan will be *a snake by the roadside, a viper along the path*, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider tumbles backward.
- 1 Kings 13:24 As he went on his way, *a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was left lying on the road*, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it.
- And if you See Isaiah 35:8-9 it mentions “lions” and “ravenous, vicious beasts”

Next, Robbers and thieves were a constant threat on the roads:

- Luke 10:30 In reply Jesus said: *“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.”*

It was perilous to travel on the open road in ancient times—which is why people traveled in large groups (remember the story of Jesus’ parents losing track of him on the way home from Jerusalem? This is how that could happen—they thought he was with another family)

Until this study, I didn’t realize the background of the name “*Highwaymen*.” From ancient times until the 1800s, *robbing* people along a *highway* was a common & accepted practice.

It was so widely accepted that a *robber* on the road was known as a *highwayman*!

They were even romanticized—poems and songs were written about them:

The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,  
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,  
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,  
And the highwayman came riding—Riding—riding—  
The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.

Robin Hood, Dick Turpin, and Zorro were all *highwaymen*, and were admired as heroes  
In Shakespeare’s *Henry IV, Part 1* Falstaff is a *highwayman*, and part of the action  
of the play concerns a robbery committed by him and his companions.

*We still sing about them today!* The song “*Highwayman*” was penned by Jimmy Webb,  
but in 1978 the song became famous when it was sung by (see if you know these names!)

Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings and Johnny Cash--  
*who as a group called themselves The Highwaymen.*

And, *In times of trouble or war, people deserted the main roads for their own safety :*

- *Judges 5:6 In the chaotic days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned; travelers took to winding paths.*
- *Isaiah 33:8 The highways are deserted, no travelers are on the roads. because The treaty is broken, its witnesses are despised, no one is respected. Disorder and mayhem reigned*

Finally, *Empty highways were seen as punishment :*

- *Leviticus 26:22 I will send wild animals against you, and they will rob you of your children, destroy your cattle and make you so few in number that your roads will be deserted. (KJV has your *high ways*)*
- *Isaiah 59:7 Their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; As a result, *Devastation and destruction are in their highways.* (NAS)*

I remember as a child hearing the older people at church praying for “**journeying mercies**” on behalf of absent families. The prayer was probably more for protection against accidents and mechanical breakdowns, but it still indirectly reinforces the theme that *highways can be dangerous places*, that when we travel we may be in danger

And, *Indiana highways can also be dangerous places:*

A company that creates maps for self-driving cars collected video footage of millions of miles of roads from people using a phone app. The company fed that footage into an algorithm that determines road quality—and the algorithm determined that *Indiana’s roads are the third worst in the nation*. Out of 37 states included in the study, Michigan’s roads ranked worst of all, and Ohio and Illinois came in just a little better than Indiana. In addition, an American Society of Civil Engineers report from 2017 claimed *8 percent of Indiana’s roads are in poor condition*.

Highway 41 is “the most dangerous road in Indiana,” according to information collected by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The nearly 300-mile stretch, north to south across Indiana, from Chicago to Evansville, is the deadliest road in the state. On average, *more fatal accidents happen on this road than any other in Indiana*. More than 30,000 people are killed in crashes every year in the United States, and between 2008 and 2017 there were 111 deaths on Highway 41—*more than 10 each year*. Vanderburgh County Sheriff Dave Wedding attributes the death rate to large volumes of traffic, high-volume intersections, aggressive drivers who speed and tailgate, and wet roads.

In Indianapolis, the spaghetti-like “north split” is where traffic from Interstates 65 and 70 merge to form the second-busiest interchange in Indiana—*214,000 vehicles a day pass through it*.

The split is considered *one of the most dangerous stretches of interstate in Indiana*. INDOT documents say *1,600 crashes occurred at the interchange from 2012 to 2016* due to last-second merges, weaves and lane changes as drivers approached exits/entered the interstate. (At this time I am recording this, the split is closed for construction!)

**For follow up ...** I’m curious: *Do you have a highway horror story?*

Did you ever get stuck in a snowstorm? Ever run out of gas near a busy interchange?  
Did an accident ahead get you stuck *for hours*? Ever part of a multi-vehicle accident?

**FOR ALL THE GOOD HIGHWAYS DO, THERE ARE DANGERS/PROBLEMS WITH THEM.**



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