

# Isaiah

## “The Evangelical Prophet”

### VII. *Isaiah’s Discourse* on the **Servant of God**, the **Messiah** (49:1-57:21)

- A. The *Calling* of God’s **Servant** (49:1-12)
- B. The *Consolation* of **Zion** (49:13-26)
- C. The *Conditioning* of God’s **Servant** (50:1-11)
- D. The *Comforting* of the **Righteous Remnant** (51:1-52:12)
- E. The *Chastening* of God’s **Servant** (52:13-53:12)
- F. The *Confirming* of God’s **Future Promises** to **Israel** (54:1-17)
- G. The *Call* for a **Repentant People** (55:1-13)

### H. The *Conferring* of **Blessings** upon the **Righteous Gentiles** (56:1-8)

1. A *Plea* to those who will receive God’s **Salvation**  
(56:1-2)
  - a. *That* they preserve **justice** and **do righteousness** (56:1)
  - b. *That* they keep from **profaning** the **Sabbath** (56:2a)
  - c. *That* they keep from **doing evil** (56:2b)

**56** Thus says the **LORD**,  
“**Preserve justice** and **do righteousness**,  
for **My salvation** is about to **come**  
and **My righteousness** to be **revealed**.”

<sup>2</sup>“How **blessed** is the man who **does this**,  
and the **son of man** who **takes hold of it**;  
who **keeps** from **profaning the sabbath**,  
and **keeps** his hand from doing **any evil**.”

2. A *Proclamation* of **Blessing** upon those **Righteous**  
among the **Eunuchs** (56:3-5)
  - a. **Who**, along with the **righteous Gentiles**, ought **not** to  
**denigrate** their **position** (56:3)
  - b. **Who** have chosen to **walk** according to **righteousness** (56:4)
  - c. **Whose names** will be **memorialized** in the **future Temple** (56:5)

<sup>3</sup>Let **not** the **foreigner** who has **joined himself** to the **LORD** say,  
“**The LORD** will surely **separate me** from **His people**.”  
Nor let the **eunuch** say, “Behold, I am a **dry tree**.”

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the LORD,

“To the **eunuchs** who **keep My sabbaths**,  
and **choose** what **pleases Me**, and hold fast **My covenant**,

<sup>5</sup> To them I will give in **My house** and within **My walls** a **memorial**,  
and a **name** better than that of sons and daughters;  
I will give them an **everlasting name** which will **not be cut off**.

### 3. A *Pronouncement* of **Blessings** among the **Righteous Gentiles** (56:6-8)

- a. **Who** are ministering in **love** and **service** to the **Lord** (56:6a)
- b. **Who** walk according to **righteousness** (56:6b)
- c. **Who** will experience **joy** in **God’s “house of prayer”** (56:7a)
- d. **Whose sacrifices** will be **accepted** on **God’s altar** (56:7b)
- e. **Who** will be **gathered** along with the **dispersed of Israel** (56:8)

<sup>6</sup> “Also the **foreigners** who **join themselves to the Lord**,  
to **minister to Him**, and to **love the name of the Lord**,  
to be **His servants**,  
every one who keeps from **profaning the sabbath**  
and holds fast **My covenant**;

<sup>7</sup> Even those I will **bring to My holy mountain**  
and make them **joyful** in **My house of prayer**.

Their **burnt offerings** and their **sacrifices** will be **acceptable** on **My altar**;  
for **My house** will be called a **house of prayer** for **all the peoples**.”

<sup>8</sup> The **Lord God**, who **gathers** the **dispersed of Israel**, declares,  
“Yet **others** I will **gather** to them, to those **already gathered**.”

## I. The *Corrupt Condition* of **Israel** (56:9-57:21)

### 1. A *Denouncement* of **Israel’s Leaders** (56:9-12)

<sup>9</sup> All you **beasts** of the field,  
all you **beasts** in the forest, **come to eat**.

<sup>10</sup> His **watchmen** are **blind**, all of them **know nothing**.

All of them are **mute dogs** unable to bark,  
**dreamers** lying down, who **love to slumber**;

<sup>11</sup> And the **dogs** are **greedy**, they are **not satisfied**.

And they are **shepherds** who have **no understanding**;  
they have all **turned** to their **own way**,  
each one to his **unjust gain**, to the **last one**.

<sup>12</sup>“**Come,**” *they say,* “let us **get wine,**  
and let us **drink** heavily of **strong drink;**  
and tomorrow will be like **today,** only **more so.**”

## Personal Application Personal *Observations* from Isaiah 56

1. **Our text** begins with a strong **exhortation** from **the Lord** to **His people.** In light of **His coming salvation** and **righteousness,** **He exhorts** them to “**preserve justice** and **do righteousness,**” and that the man who **does these** will be **blessed** (56:1-2a)

As **believers,** we also await a **coming salvation** and the establishment of **God’s righteousness** in the world. Though **we are saved** from the **condemnation** of **sin and death,** through **faith in Messiah,** we still await a **coming salvation**—the **redemption** of our **bodies** when the **Lord returns** (Romans 8:23, Philippians 3:20-21). As we await the **Lord’s return,** *we too* are exhorted to “**preserve justice** and **do righteousness** until **His coming salvation** (56:1).”

For the **grace of God** has **appeared,** bringing (spiritual) **salvation** to **all men,** **instructing us** to **deny ungodliness** and **worldly desires** and to **live sensibly, righteously** and **godly** in the **present age,**

looking for the **blessed hope** and the **appearing** of the **glory** of **our great God** and **Savior, Messiah Jesus,** (Titus 2:11-13)

2. Tonight **the Lord instructed His people,** whether they were **Jews, eunuchs,** or **Gentiles,** to “**keep from profaning the sabbath** (56:2, 4, 6).” The **Mosaic laws** concerning the **sabbath** were essential to those who sought to **serve God,** and **walk** according to **righteousness** (Exodus 20:8-11). According to tonight’s **text,** and other **scriptures,** the observance of the **sabbath** will again be **mandatory** in the **future kingdom** (Isaiah 66:23, Ezekiel 46:1).

As **believers,** whether we are **Jews or Gentiles,** we are under the **law** of the **New Covenant** through **faith in Messiah** (Romans 8:1-2, II Cor. 3:5-6). According to the **scriptures,** we are **no longer** under the **jurisdiction** of the **Mosaic Law covenant,** having “**died,**” through the **body of Messiah,** to that which we were “**bound.**” (Romans 7:1-6)

But **now** we have been **released** from **the Law,** having **died** to that by which we were **bound,** so that **we serve (God)** in **newness** of the **Spirit** and **not in oldness** of the **letter** (Law). (Romans 7:7)

As **New Covenant believers** we are no longer “bound” or obligated to fulfill the **As New Covenant believers,** we are **not** obligated to observe the **Mosaic Law requirements** regarding the **sabbath.** We are **free** to follow our **convictions** before **God** on things that are **not specifically commanded** in the **law** of the **New Covenant** (Romans 14:5-7).

Therefore **no one** is to act as your **judge** in regard to **food** or **drink** or in respect to a **festival** or a **new moon** or a **Sabbath day**— things which are a **mere shadow** of what is to come; but the **substance** belongs to **Messiah**. (Colossians 2:16-17)

That being said, **we believe** that “the **Law** is **holy**, and the **commandment** is **holy** and **righteous** and **good** (Romans 7:12).” And **we believe** that there is a **sabbath** “**principle**” throughout the **scriptures** concerning the **need** for **all believers** to **cease** from their **labors** and **rest, spend time** in **prayer**, and take time to **refresh themselves** before **the Lord** in **worship** and **fellowship**.

...and let us consider how to **stimulate one another** to **love** and **good deeds**, **not forsaking** our own **assembling together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see **the day** drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-24)

3. Tonight we read scripture concerning the **conferring** of **future blessings** upon both **eunuchs** and **Gentiles** who have sought to **follow the Lord**. This is amazing because, under **the Law**, the **righteous** among the **Gentiles** and **eunuchs** (Deut. 23:1) were still **separated** from partaking in **certain privileges** and **blessings** given to the **Jews**. It appears that “**new laws**” will be introduced that will **elevate** the status, and **extend blessings** to those counted as **righteous** among the **eunuchs** and the **Gentiles** (56:5-8).

In the **New Testament**, under the **New Covenant** in **Messiah**, the **barriers** have indeed been **removed**, and both **believing Jews** and **Gentiles** are **equally blessed** before **God**.

Therefore **remember** that formerly **you**, the **Gentiles** in the **flesh**,.. were at that time **separate from Messiah**, **excluded** from the **commonwealth of Israel**, and **strangers** to the **covenants of promise**,..

But now in **Messiah Jesus** you who formerly were **far off** have been **brought near** by the **blood of Messiah**.

For **He Himself** is our **peace**, who made **both groups into one** and broke down the **barrier** of the **dividing wall**, by **abolishing** in **His flesh** the **enmity**, which is the **Law of commandments** contained in **ordinances**,..

So then you are **no longer strangers** and **aliens**, but you are **fellow citizens** with the **saints**, and are of **God's household**, (Ephesians 2:11a,12-15a, 19)

**Jesus quoted** this text we just read in **Isaiah** to the **Jewish leaders**, “Is it not **written**, ‘**MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS**’?” (Mark 17:11a)

Closing Comments

