

Blessings of the Saved - Expanding the Kingdom

Thus says the LORD:

56 "Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my righteousness be revealed.

² Blessed is the man who does this,
and the son of man who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and keeps his hand from doing any evil."

³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the

LORD say,

"The LORD will surely separate me from his
people";

and let not the eunuch say,
"Behold, I am a dry tree."

⁴ For thus says the LORD:

"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,

⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.

⁶ "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,

to minister to him, to love the name of the
LORD,
and to be his servants,

opening the doors of the Kingdom to every one

① Here the believer is given directions that are simple and at the same time encompass all God's commandments. Justice is the condition of being innocent and righteousness is to remain so daily. Here is the holiness of God as the standard of a believer's daily life. God is coming to His people. They will stand before Him at the end of life and all will be revealed.

② Those who follow God's directions will be blessed. To hold fast is to not give in to temptation in tough times. THE SABBATH represents man's relationship w/ God. This day of rest is about fellowship w/ God. A true believer maintains fellowship and lives righteously. Evil is rejected from the life of the one who follows God. "From the last verse it is apparent that a mere form of religious service was not enough." Young/390

③ Here are two outsiders who have chosen God. The prophet is clear no matter who chooses God He will be accepted by meeting the same standards set up in vs. 1 & 2 for the Hebrews. Here is salvation beyond the law. Lev 23:1 would disqualify the eunuch but this new Kingdom/Covenant will include anyone who wants to follow God and serve Him in Justice & Righteousness. Nationalities, Disabilities, and former lives will not separate you from God.

④ Here righteousness for the outsider come to God is explained. Here the Eunuch is called on to follow and obey God's directions. He is not exempt if He wants God to accept Him. He is w/out excuse.

⑤ Here is the inclusion of any who turn to God for salvation to have their names in the book of life. Phil 4:3 & Rev. 3:5
THIS IS THE KINGDOM OF THE SAVED. THIS SPIRITUAL Kingdom replaced the Physical one. Here anyone who will accept God's justice and live Righteously are accepted.

⑥ Here we have the same repeated again. Anyone who come to God and accepts Him are seen as His servants. This verse runs into the next for all and any who seek to serve God.

opening the doors of the kingdom to everyone

everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
 and holds fast my covenant—
 7 these I will bring to my holy mountain,
 and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
 their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
 will be accepted on my altar;
 for my house shall be called a house of prayer
 for all peoples.
 8 The Lord God,
 who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
 "I will gather yet others to Him
 besides those already gathered."

Israel's Irresponsible Leaders CONDEMNED

Leaders w/out God - the warning

9 All you beasts of the field, come to devour—
 all you beasts in the forest.
 10 His watchmen are blind;
 they are all without knowledge;
 they are all silent dogs;
 they cannot bark,
 dreaming, lying down,
 loving to slumber.
 11 The dogs have a mighty appetite;
 they never have enough.
 But they are shepherds who have no understanding;
 they have all turned to their own way,
 each to his own gain, one and all.
 12 "Come," they say, "let me get wine;
 let us fill ourselves with strong drink;

⑦ God brings these to Himself. They are united w/ God not by birth or lineage but by faith. Now the outcast are part of God's family. Strangers, foreigners, eunuchs, all peoples will be welcome into this fellowship. Here they are part of the Brethren church. Each a stone in the new temple where prayer is holy and will come from all people who call on God.

⑧ Here is the outline for the book of Acts. ISRAEL is offered salvation then the rest of the world. THE OTHERS ARE THE REASON ISRAEL WAS CHOSEN. THEY ARE GOD'S MESSENGERS AND THE CONDUCT FOR CHRIST TO COME TO SAVE ALL. THE [Him] IS CHRIST JESUS. Here is Gal 3.28 in the O.T. All are welcome and equal in the Kingdom. This is John 10.16 and Jesus gathering His "other sheep."

⑨ This section opens with a STATEMENT OF FACT. THERE ARE BEAST OR EVIL in the world. ITS PRIMARY GOAL is to devour, to kill and destroy. Acts 20.29 Paul warns the church of the coming wolves that will attack the church. Here in what follows God says the wolves are able to attack and devour because the leaders and those assigned to protect are lost doing other things.
 ⑩ Blind watchmen are those who are spiritually blind to evil. w/out knowledge. They are Biologically ignorant of God word & direction focus on worldly matters. Dogs who do not bark, provide no warning. Here their leaders are ignorant, lazy, asleep spiritually. They are exactly what an enemy would hope for to conquer.

⑪ Here the dogs represent a pack of wild dogs. Attacking the weak and unprotected. They devour w/out stopping. The Leaders, priest, pastors, teachers, do not seek God's truth instead they form their own opinions. They are held captive by the culture and their own lust and desires. Seeking self gratification and personal riches over truth and faith. Israel sees this as pandemic among ungodly leaders.

⑫ Not page.

and tomorrow will be like this day,
great beyond measure."

Israel's Futile Idolatry

57 The righteous man perishes,
and no one lays it to heart;
devout men are taken away,
while no one understands.
For the righteous man is taken away from calamity;
he enters into peace;
they rest in their beds
who walk in their uprightness.
But you, draw near,
sons of the sorceress,
offspring of the adulterer and the loose woman.
Whom are you mocking?
Against whom do you open your mouth wide
and stick out your tongue?
Are you not children of transgression,
the offspring of deceit,
you who burn with lust among the oaks,
under every green tree,
who slaughter your children in the valleys,
under the clefts of the rocks?
Among the smooth stones of the valley is your
portion;
they, they, are your lot;
to them you have poured out a drink offering,
you have brought a grain offering.
Shall I relent for these things?

Righteous removed and rewarded

Futile lives of idol worshippers

12 Day after day these ungodly leaders seek personal satisfaction. They see nothing as wrong so there is no need to repent or warn any one of the beast that are coming to devour them.

1 & 2 Serve as an interjection between the preceding section on ungodly leaders and what will follow about leaders who take others astray. It is incredible that righteous men die. Here Isaiah says that no one notices. It is as if they just disappear. Great men of God pass and there is hardly a mention of them or their lives. When the righteous die they are moving from "celebrity" of this world to the peace of Heaven. This is seen as moving from a world of turmoil to a place of rest. The implication is that as each righteous believer dies no one notices and no one takes their place. He passes over to peace & leaves the clamor behind.

3 Here are those who remain when the righteous are removed. They are involved in both religious and physical sins. Here God calls them to come before Him as He prepares to ask them questions.

4 He wants to know if they have any idea who it is they are mocking with their lives, worship, and religious beliefs? He then confronts them as products of other sinners. Their very existence is based on breaking God's Laws.

5 This is a reference to Canaanite worship among the Oaks. (Isa. 1:29; 6:3 (cf Deut 12:2; Jer. 2:20; 3:6; Ezek 6:13; 1K 14:23) This included sexual interaction as part of the idol worship. They sacrificed their children to Baal or to Molech. These practices were forbidden by God. (Lev. 18:21; Deut. 12:31; Mic. 6:7, etc)

6 The opening line may refer to some worship practice but it is not clear what is being referenced here. It does involve making a drink offering to the idols and false Gods. God wants to know if they think these offerings to other Gods will appease Him? Do they expect Him to also accept these offerings?