

October 21st, 2018
"Soon My Salvation Will Come"
Isaiah 56

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Oct 14 Matthew 27-28 Oct 18 Mark 8-9
Oct 15 Mark 1-3 Oct 19 Mark 10-11
Oct 16 Mark 4-5 Oct 20 Mark 12-13
Oct 17 Mark 6-7 Oct 21 Mark 14

Lesson Introduction: *One of the themes we have seen throughout the book of Isaiah is the salvation of the nations. The first 8 verses of chapter 56 highlight that theme beautifully, making clear that God's kingdom will be made up not just of the Israelites, but will also include those who were once considered outsiders. As we study this week we will consider **God's call to the outcasts, a heart set on God, and the gathering up of His people.***

Key Memory Verses: Isaiah 56:7

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- The LORD's call to obedience is for the Jew and the foreigner alike (V. 1-6).
- Obedience to the commandments of the LORD is not optional for those who are His (V. 2-6)
- The LORD gathers up all that are His, to the praise of His name, and the joy of His people (V. 7-8)

Isaiah 56 (ESV)

56 Thus says the Lord:
"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,
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."**

Discussion Section 1: God's Call to the Outcast (V. 1-6)

-How does **verse 1** mingle a call to good works with the truth that salvation is found only by grace through faith in Christ?

-What do these verses tell us about the LORD's view of so-called "outcasts"?

-How do these verses ultimately apply to us today?

Note: *The chapter starts out with a call to "keep justice, and do righteousness." Immediately following this call, is the reminder that the salvation and righteousness of God was soon to be revealed. In one sentence we see God calling man to faithfully keep the law, and in the next we see Him making clear that salvation and righteousness comes from Him. This reveals to us the truth that justice and righteousness can only be attained through trusting in Christ. The call was to keep the law, and the reality was that Christ was and is the only one able to fulfill the requirements of the law.*

Verse 3 moves into a section that discusses God's view of outsiders (those who are not Israelites), in relation to His kingdom. **Verses 4-5** speak to the fact that even the outsider who keeps the law will be given an "everlasting name." This passage should be encouraging to us today. Although most of us were not born into the bloodline of Israel, the Lord welcomes the righteous from every nation into His family. The question remains, however, how do we attain such righteousness. We see in **verses 4-5** again that the keeping of the law is required, and we know that we will always fall short of that standard (**Romans 3:23**). Section two will explore this paradox in more depth.

Discussion Section 2: A Heart Set on God (V. 2-6)

-How might these verses give the impression that salvation is based on good works?

-What do the Scriptures teach about the source of good works?

-What do these verses tell us about the actions of the those who have experienced God's good grace in their lives?

Note: These verses remind us of our inability to come to the LORD on our own merits. As we see the righteous requirements for those who would be welcomed into the LORD's presence, we should feel the weight of our inadequacy, and tremble. Yet this passage clearly teaches that the one who would receive salvation is the one who has a heart set on loving and obeying the LORD. The problem we face is that none of our hearts are naturally set on such obedience (**Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 14:12, Romans 3:10-12**).

Because this is true, we are in desperate need of grace! Repentance, love for God, obeying Him, and serving Him are all requirements of the one who would be saved, and they are all requirements met through Christ, and worked in us by the Holy Spirit. The LORD gives us a new heart by His Spirit (**Ezekiel 36:26-28, Titus 3:3-8**), and turns us to Christ as our only means of righteousness. When we are saved, our heart becomes inclined by the Spirit towards obedience to the LORD and His commandments, and we become a people that love Him and glad heartedly serve Him (**Ephesians 2:10, James 2:14-26**). We are able to come to God in obedience only because Christ has fulfilled the law (**Matthew 5:17-20**),

and the LORD has empowered us by His Spirit to live for Him.

Discussion Section 3: The Gathering up of His People (V. 7-8)

-What does **verse 7** tell us will be the results of God gathering up His people at His "holy mountain"?

-How does being allowed into His "house of prayer" bring joy?

Note: For those who have been made righteous by the grace of God, we are promised that we will be brought to His "holy mountain." This will result in joy and being welcomed into His "house of prayer."

This passage is quoted by Jesus when He cleanses the temple of the money changers (**Matthew 21:12-13**). Significantly, this cleansing took place in the Court of Gentiles (the area of the temple the Gentiles were allowed in). It is significant because many years before, The LORD had prophesied that His "house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations." Christ cleansed the temple as a physical sign of what had been spoken of in the past. He would come and bring salvation for all peoples, not based on religious ceremony, or the amount of money they had to spend, but based on His righteousness.

As we consider the fact that the LORD has gathered us to Himself through Christ, joy increases. The work that He has done for our salvation brings great joy to us, and results in prayers of praise and thanksgiving to Him!