

Blessings and Rebukes

Text: Isaiah 56:1-12

Date: 2-26-23 10:30 AM

I. Blessings and Obedience (Isa. 56:1-2)

The opening of this chapter speaks of the nearness of salvation and the revealing of the Servant's righteousness.

To the people of God who have been divinely called and blessed there comes the obligation of obedience to His will and His word. "In a state of transgression and stubbornness of heart one cannot expect deliverance; there must be a change of affection, mind, and will. This change is expressed in repentance and a genuine faith in God which impels one to implicit obedience to His will as set forth in His word" (Hailey 390).

Three conditions are laid out here for that blessing:

- Commitment to obedience of v. 1
- Observing the Sabbath and not defiling it
- Refraining from doing evil

II. Jehovah's blessings extended to the Gentiles (Isa. 56:3-8)

This demonstrates that with God's salvation near, Jehovah has abolished all races, nationalities, distinctions, and disabilities personally and nationally. No one who professes faith in the Redeemer will be excluded from God's kingdom. This did not go beyond the law that had been set up in the OT realm but looks ahead to the millennial kingdom where the Messiah will reign.

The eunuchs that follow the Sabbath and those things that please God, "namely the humble walking in obedience to His commands" (Young 391), and those who are faithful to God's covenant, will be accepted as part of God's kingdom.

The foreigner, who trusts, obeys, and serves the Lord will also become a part of Jehovah's plan, work, and people.

Clearly there is a right and wrong way to worship God. These root truths apply to us today as those who love God's name, desire to keep His word, and sacrifice spiritually will be the people that are blessed. See Heb. 13:15-16

"The emphasis on prayer shows the holiness of the Temple consists of prayers continually being offered there. Here is the beauty of holiness; men from all nations, brought to His household by sovereign grace, lift up the sacrifice of prayer unto His holy Name, which they love and in His Name serve Him in His house" (Young 393-4).

III. Rebuke to the Blind Watchmen (Isa. 56:9-12).

Why are the enemies attempting to enter the fold and devour the sheep?

- Because God's watchmen are blind, ignorant, and lazy.
- The shepherds have failed in their responsibilities for they are greedy and choose their own ignorant path.