**August 27, 2021**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**“HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE”**

**Isaiah 56:1-12**

***Isaiah 56:1 "Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation [is] near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed."***

This lesson begins by reminding the house of Israel to keep God's law. This is speaking of the near future when Jesus Christ {their Messiah} will come to the earth as Saviour. He is everyone's salvation. The appeal to preserve justice and do what is right was addressed to Israel because God’s salvation was near. This is calling them to righteousness. They will soon be delivered from Babylon, and then a very short time later, the true Deliverer comes. He is the One who will deliver all mankind from sin and death.

***Isaiah 56:2 "Blessed [is] the man [that] doeth this, and the son of man [that] layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil."***

In captivity, it is difficult to keep all the sacrifices and ordinances. In fact, it would be impossible. They could, however, remember the Sabbath. They might be forced to work on that day while they were in captivity, but they could keep it uppermost in their minds and hearts. Since they are in captivity, they must set the best example of how God's people conduct themselves. They must not give up their morals, even under these difficult circumstances.

***Isaiah 56:3 "Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I [am] a dry tree."***

This is just explaining to them, they must not complain about their condition. God had told them early on that this was caused by Him to get them to repent. They are captives, they are {some of them} eunuchs, but they must realize it was because they had disobeyed God. Whatever hardships came on them, they were of their own making. There was also good news for every foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord, because in the millennial kingdom righteous non-Jews will also share in the blessings of Christ’s rule. The eunuchs and the foreigners, who had accepted Judaism, thought they would be cast off, when Israel went back to the homeland. They thought of themselves as useless to God.

***Isaiah 56:4 "For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose [the things] that please me, and take hold of my covenant;"***

Even though they had served in the palace during their captivity, they would be acceptable to God, if they had kept the Sabbath in their hearts. They are like everyone else. They will be saved because they have had faith and accepted the covenant of God.

***Isaiah 56:5 "Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off."***

***Isaiah 56:6 "Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;"***

We see in this that the house is speaking of the church. The walls have to do with the holy city {New Jerusalem}. They will have a special place of remembrance. The strangers, mentioned in verse 6 above, are speaking of all the nations who were not physical Israel. We studied earlier how there were more of them who accepted Jesus as their Saviour, than there was of the natural Jew. The secret is, they accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. The covenant, spoken of here, is the new covenant of grace.

***Isaiah 56:7 "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices [shall be] accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."***

The covenant of the law had been just for the Hebrews. The covenant of grace unto salvation is for all people of the world. The temple was dedicated by Solomon, when he knealt before the altar, with both hands raised to God, palms upward. We know that the temple in Jerusalem, like the tabernacle in the wilderness, was a place for the people to sacrifice to their God. When Jesus fulfilled all the law with the sacrifice of His body on the cross, there was no need to sacrifice again. Now, the sacrifice of the believer is praise. Now, the house of God would be a house of prayer and praise, instead of sacrifice.

***Isaiah 56:8 "The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather [others] to him, beside those that are gathered unto him."***

***Isaiah 56:9 "All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, [yea], all ye beasts in the forest."***

The Lord God, in the verse above, is Adonai Jehovah. This is just saying that God will not only bring the physical house of Israel out of captivity to Him, but will, also, call the heathen to Him. This is speaking of all of those who are opposed to God and His people. They would like to destroy God's people. Gentiles who believed in the God of Israel and bound themselves to ﻿him had a place within his covenant community in the Old Testament dispensation. Here they were assured that they would also share in the kingdom with Israel, including sharing in Israel’s regathering to enjoy God’s salvation and blessings under Christ’s righteous rule. God also promises a special blessing and kingdom position to those who maintain their sexual purity.

***1 Corinthians 6:9-19***

***9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,***

***10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.***

***11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.***

***12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.***

***13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.***

***14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.***

***15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.***

***16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.***

***17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.***

***18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.***

***19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?***

***Isaiah 56:10 "His watchmen [are] blind: they are all ignorant, they [are] all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber."***

God's watchmen are the leaders of the temple, the teachers, even the prophets. Isaiah says here, they are overcome with spiritual blindness. Jesus said they had eyes to see and could not see. Their ignorance has to do with not understanding the Scriptures. They should know {above everyone else} the Scriptures. They are not aware that it is time to warn the people. The Bible said, if the blind lead the blind, they will both fall in the ditch. It is such a shame that the learned scholars of the Bible did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. They were so self-satisfied that they were as if they were sleeping.

***Isaiah 56:11 "Yea, [they are] greedy dogs [which] can never have enough, and they [are] shepherds [that] cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter."***

One of the problems with the priest and high priest {at the time of Jesus} was the fact this sacred position had deteriorated to where they were buying the priesthood. Jesus spoke harshly of them, and rightly so. When he ran the money changers out of the temple, it was because the priesthood had gotten greedy and started selling sacrificial animals that were damaged. Some of them actually knew Jesus was the Messiah, but they were afraid of losing their control over the people. They had changed the law of God so, that Jesus called it their law. They were not there to help others, but for self-gain. They were angry when Jesus healed the sick. They felt it made them look bad.

***Isaiah 56:12 Come ye, [say they], I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, [and] much more abundant.***

It appears that many of the people who were supposed to be the leaders were heavy drinkers. What a terrible state for the leaders to be in. Leaders, then or now, must set a high standard for God's people to follow. The joys and blessings of God’s salvation and his millennial kingdom form a stark contrast to the close of this section (56:9–57:21), in which God turned his attention to the sinfulness of ﻿his people in Isaiah’s day. Things were so bad that God invited the animals to devour them. The Babylonian destroyers of Judah are probably in view here. The nation’s spiritual leaders, who should have been alert watchmen and caring shepherds, were like mute dogs who cared only for themselves and their own appetites.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why, in verse 1, are they told to keep His judgment and justice?

2. What is this saying to the house of Israel?
3. In captivity, it is difficult to keep all the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. How could they keep them?
5. What must they not give up, even though they are in captivity?

6. What must the children of Israel be careful not to do?
7. Why had God allowed them to go into captivity?
8. What did the eunuchs and the foreigners have in common?
9. How can the eunuchs be saved?
10. The house, in verse 5, is speaking of what?
11. What is the holy city in verse 5?
12. Who are the strangers in verse 6?
13. What is the covenant mentioned in verse 6?
14. The covenant of the law is just for whom?
15. Describe how Solomon prayed in the temple?
16. Why is there no need to sacrifice any more?
17. What is the sacrifice of the believer?
18. What is the Lord God, in verse 8, taken from?
19. Who are the beasts in verse 9?
20. Who are God's watchmen?
21. What does Isaiah think is wrong with them?
22. What does their ignorance have to do with?
23. What happens if the blind lead the blind?

24. What are the leaders called in verse 11?

25. What does the author personally believe about the leaders in the temple?

26. Why were they angry when Jesus healed the sick?

27. Leaders, then or now, must set a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for God's people to follow.