

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 273 – Keep Judgment & Justice Through Abundant Drunkenness (Isaiah 56:1-12)

1. What did Isaiah say about God's expectations for His people concerning the doing of evil?

To keep his hand from doing any evil: *"Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. 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"* (Isaiah 56:1-2).

- Keep judgment (**Psalms 106:3** and **Hosea 12:6**).
- The word translated here as "justice" [Strong's # 6666] is also translated as "righteousness" (II **Samuel 22:25** and **Psalms 33:5**).
- Since this salvation was near, it could be speaking of physical salvation from captivity (**Isaiah 46:12-47:4**).
- However, the collective point of salvation coming and God's righteousness being revealed could also point to the salvation of Christ through the Gospel (**Romans 1:16-17**). *This fits more in the context of the next few verses!
- Blessed for doing God's will (**Psalms 1:1-2** and **Luke 11:28**).
- They were to keep the Sabbath (**Exodus 31:13** and **Jeremiah 17:21-22**).
- Keep his hand from doing any evil was then a command (**Psalms 34:14-15**, **Psalms 119:101**, **Psalms 37:27**, **Proverbs 16:17**, and **Isaiah 1:16**) as it is now a command (**Romans 6:1-2**, **I Corinthians 15:34**, and **II Timothy 2:19**).

2. What did the Lord say concerning the sons of strangers that joined themselves to the Lord in Israel, the eunuchs in Israel, and the outcasts in Israel?

Don't complain about your lot and separation at this present time, you're going to be acceptable to God in the future: *"(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. (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; (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. (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; (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. (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 56:3-8).

- Strangers had reason to feel excluded (**Numbers 18:4-7**).
- Eunuchs were not allowed (**Deuteronomy 23:1**).

- However, God did not utterly, forever cast away the stranger (**Ephesians 2:11-17**) or Eunuch (**Acts 8:25-39**).
- Thus, they should have continued to keep God's will though they were not allowed in the camp (**Romans 2:12-15**).
- In Christ, they were to come to the inner courts [figuratively] wherein they once were not allowed (**Hebrews 10:16-23**).
- The house here was not of Moses, but Christ (**Hebrews 3:1-6**; cf. **I Timothy 3:15**).
- A better name given, an everlasting one (**Revelation 3:12**). Not just a son or daughter, but sons and daughters of God (**II Corinthians 6:14-18** and **I John 3:1**).
- Point is, the outcasts of Israel (**Luke 19:1-10**) would be gathered with others too (**John 10:14-16**; cf. **Romans 3:29-30**).

3. Were the watchmen of Israel watching for the predators that were coming?

No: *"(9) All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest. (10) His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber"* (**Isaiah 56:9-10**).

- The predators that came indicate God had punished and carcasses are present (**Deuteronomy 28:15-26**, **Psalms 79:1-5**, and **Ezekiel 39:17-23**).
- While this is going on, the watchmen are blind and by implication it is a willful blindness (**Jeremiah 5:21**).
- The watchman was supposed to see and give warning (**Ezekiel 3:17-21**).
- Sometimes, as a punishment, God caused spiritual blindness among the teachers of Israel (**Isaiah 29:9-11**).
- The watchmen should not have been silent (**Isaiah 62:6**).
- In apostasy, without God, the watchman was useless either way (**Psalms 127:1**).
- How can you sleep and be watching (**Proverbs 6:4-5**)?

4. Whose interests were the watchmen of Israel concerned about?

Their own interests: *"(10) His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. (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"* (**Isaiah 56:10-11**).

- **Jeremiah 6:13-14**, **Jeremiah 23:13-14**, **Micah 3:11**, **Philippians 3:18-19**, **Titus 1:10-14**, **II Peter 2:1-3**, and **Jude 1:16**.

5. Did the watchmen of Israel oppose the consumption of alcoholic beverages?

No, they partook in getting drunk and encouraged others to do the same: *"(10) His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. (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. (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" (Isaiah 56:10-12).

- The errors here are easy to see (**Proverbs 20:1, Proverbs 21:17, Proverbs 23:20-21, Proverbs 23:29-35, Proverbs 31:4-5, Isaiah 5:11, Isaiah 5:22, Isaiah 28:7-8, Hosea 4:11, Habakkuk 2:15, Luke 21:33-34, Romans 13:13, I Corinthians 6:9-10, Ephesians 5:17-18, I Thessalonians 5:7-8, I Peter 4:1-5, and I Peter 5:8**).