

THE NATIONS ARE WELCOMED TO GOD'S COVENANT (56:1-8)

Isaiah **56** Thus says the LORD,

The LORD “Guard justice
and do righteousness.
For soon My salvation will come,
and My righteousness will be revealed.

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

Isaiah ³ Let not the foreigner²⁰⁸ who has joined himself to the LORD say,

Foreigner “Surely the LORD will exclude me from His people.”

Isaiah And let not the eunuch say,

Eunuch “Behold, I am a dry tree.”

Isaiah ⁴ For thus says the LORD:

The LORD “To the eunuchs who guard My Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please Me
and hold fast to My covenant,

⁵ I will give to them in My House and within My walls a hand
and a name,
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, who
serve Him,
who love the name of the LORD, and who are His servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath,
and does not profane it,
and holds fast to My covenant,

⁷ these I will bring to My Holy Mountain
and make them rejoice in My House of Prayer.

Their burnt offerings
and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar,

208. “Foreigner” here is a technical term (*nekhar* in biblical Hebrew) meaning one who is not part of the house of Israel.

for My House will be called
‘A House of Prayer’ for all peoples.”

Isaiah ⁸The Lord, the LORD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares:

The LORD “I will gather others to it
besides those already gathered.”

ISRAEL’S GROSS WICKEDNESS (56:9–12; 57:1–13A)

Isaiah ⁹All beasts of the field, come to eat,
all you beasts in the forest.

¹⁰His watchmen are all of them blind;
they do not know,
they are all mute dogs,
they cannot bark,
dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber.

¹¹And the dogs have a mighty appetite;
they never have enough,
and they are shepherds that have no understanding;
they all have turned to their own way,
each to his own gain,
one and all.

**Wicked
leaders** ¹²“Come, let me take wine,
and let us fill ourselves with strong drink.
And tomorrow will be like today,
or even better.”

Isaiah **57** The righteous perish, but no one takes it to heart;
devout people are taken away, while no one understands
that the righteous man is taken away from evil.

²He will enter into peace;
they will rest on their beds, he who walks with uprightness.

The LORD ³But you, draw near, children of the sorceress,
offspring of the adulterer and the prostitute.

⁴Against whom are you making sport?
Against whom do you open wide your mouth and put out
your tongue?

Are you not children of transgression,
the offspring of lies?