

Justice and Judgment ~ Part 1 Yesha'yahu 56:1-8

In my last post, we began a journey to hear **A Call to Seek the Lord ~ Part 2** in **Yesha'yahu 55:7-13**. In this post, we will start to examine the issues of **Justice and Judgment ~ Part 1** in **Yesha'yahu 56:1-8**

The appeal to *observe justice* and *do what is right* was addressed to **Isra'el** because **Adonai's salvation** was near (56:1). 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 the **Messiah's** rule (56:3). Gentiles, who believed in the God of **Isra'el** 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 **Isra'el**, including sharing in **Isra'el's** regathering to enjoy **Adonai's** salvation and blessings under **Messiah's** righteous rule. **Adonai** also promises a special blessing and kingdom position to those who maintain their sexual purity (1 Cor 6:9-19).

¹ Here is what Adonai says: "Observe justice, do what is right, for my salvation is close to coming, my righteousness to being revealed."

Salvation is also equivalent to victory or rescue since it envisions release from Babylonian bondage. This verse does not call for obedience that earns salvation. Obedience is a response to the promise of **Adonai's** coming deliverance, not a way to earn His favor.

² Happy is the person who does this, anyone who grasps it firmly, who keeps Shabbat and does not profane it and keeps himself from doing any evil.

Adonai pronounces happy (see Psalm 1) those who are obedient and who avoid evil. The **Sabbath** commandment (Ex 20:8-11; Dt 5:12-15) is singled out because it was considered the epitome of the Mosaic covenant (Ex 31:13).

³ A foreigner joining Adonai should not say, "Adonai will separate me from His people;" likewise, the eunuch should not say, "I am only a dried-up tree."

Adonai reminds His people that foreigners who convert to the Lord are not excluded from worship. **Yesha'yahu** is not at odds with Ezekiel (Ezekiel 44:6-9) or Ezra (Ezra 4:1-3), because they addressed the issue of foreigners who had not converted. Indeed, Exodus 12:43 states concerning the **Pesach** meal that "no foreigner may eat it," but Exodus 12:48-49 then makes it clear that if a foreigner converted and was circumcised, then he could partake of the **Pesach**.

⁴ For here is what Adonai says: "As for the eunuchs who keep my Shabbats, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant:

Eunuchs were typically excluded from worship, as it is written: **A man with crushed or damaged private parts may not enter the assembly of Adonai.** ~ Deuteronomy 23:1 (CJB) That law pointed out that gender and sex were divine gifts that should not be intentionally altered. However, this verse describes an obedient **eunuch** and thus one who had become a **eunuch** accidentally or who had converted to worship of **Adonai** after becoming a **eunuch**. Such devout **eunuchs** were invited to join in the worship of **Adonai**.

⁵ in my house, within my walls, I will give them power and a name greater than sons and daughters; I will give him an everlasting name that will not be cut off.

Eunuchs obviously could not have children and thus lacked progeny who would perpetuate their name. **Adonai** proclaims that He will provide a memorial for them.

⁶ *"And the foreigners who join themselves to Adonai to serve Him, to love the name of Adonai, and to be His workers, all who keep Shabbat and do not profane it, and hold fast to my covenant, ⁷ I will bring them to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples."*

Adonai will not turn away anyone who desires to worship Him, even *foreigners* and **eunuchs**. His house, the **Temple**, will be a place where everyone can come to pray.

⁸ *Adonai Elohim says, He who gathers Isra'el's exiles: "There are yet others I will gather, besides those gathered already."* ~ Isaiah 56:1-8 (CJB)

The dispersed of **Isra'el** refers to those **Isra'eli**, who were removed from the land of **Isra'el** as a result of foreign invasions (Assyrian and Babylonian) that **Adonai** sent as punishment against His people.

In my next post, we will begin to examine the issues of **Justice and Judgment ~ Part 2** in **Yesha'yahu 56:9-57:2**.