

Isaiah 55:12-56:8

Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

This is the companion verse to Exodus 6:1:

Exodus 6:1 - "Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land."

Isaiah 55:12 - "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

To "go out" is seen as another Exodus, this time from exile in Babylon. On the former occasion all was hurry, alarm, disquiet and danger. The later exodus will be accompanied with "peace" and "joy." This also looks to spiritual Israel's exodus from self-seeking in salvation, an abandonment of the old man, and acceptance into Christ.

See **Isaiah 55:3** - "Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David"

Who is "leading forth"? Messiah, the son of David - see the earlier verse:

Isaiah 55:4 - "Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people." (Also **Isa 52:12**; **Mic 2:12,13**). "people" = Gentile nations

See also **Isaiah 49:6** - "...I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."

The waving of the branches of the trees is, in the poet's thoughts, what the clapping of hands is with men, a sign of jubilant exultation (See Psalm 96:12, Psalm 98:8).

Isaiah 55:13 - "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Myrtle trees - have a sweet smell, are evergreen, flourish in watery places, and bring forth fruit. Esther's Hebrew name Hadassah comes from the Hebrew word for myrtle.

Rashi - Our Rabbis expounded [Targum Jonathan]: "Instead of the ungodly shall rise up righteous persons, and instead of sinners shall rise up such as are afraid to sin."
"briar... and... nettle": They are species of thorns; i.e., to say that the wicked will be destroyed and the righteous will take their rule.

Ezekiel 28:24 - “There shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor any grieving thorn.”

A “regenerated creation,” fulfilled in the days of Messiah:

Romans 8:22-23 - “We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies....”

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.”

“Keep ye judgment” = *shamar mishpat*

shamar = from a root that means to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; generally, to protect, attend to.

mishpat = justice, right, equity

Judgment = *mishpat*, The process of legal decision making resulting in justice, that which is right. Specifically, a ruling on the Torah and its interpretation in a specific case. But generally, justice; the duties one owes to both God and man.

“do justice” = *`asah tsědaqah*

asah = to do or make generally

tsědaqah = righteousness, rightness

NET - “Promote justice! Do what is right! For I am ready to deliver you; I am ready to vindicate you openly.”

Personal righteousness should lead to promoting social justice, and both flow freely in the Kingdom of God from their source in Christ.

Gentiles included, and now Strangers and Eunuchs

Groups who, for different reasons, had no inheritance in Israel.

According to **Deuteronomy 23:1** and **Leviticus 21:18-20**, no castrated man might enter the assembly of the Lord.

And some Gentiles were forbidden from Israel, i.e. there was no way they could even become proselytes:

Deuteronomy 23:3 - “No Ammonite or Moabite shall enter the assembly of the LORD; none of their descendants, even to the tenth generation, shall ever enter the assembly

of the LORD”

This would change in the days of Messiah:

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.”

Fulfillment-

Ephesians 2:14-16 - “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

Acts 1:8 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 8:4-7 - Samaritans evangelized

Acts 8:26-39 - The Ethiopian eunuch baptized

“I will give them an everlasting name” -

Revelation 2:17 - “...To the one who is victorious, I will give the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone inscribed with a new name, known only to the one who receives it.”

Revelation 3:12-13 - “I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.”

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.”

“accepted upon mine altar” - Christ is not only the priest that offers up all the sacrifices of his people, but is also the altar on which they are offered up (**Hebrews 13:10**)

With a sacrifice of praise (**Hebrews 13:15**)

As a living sacrifice:

Romans 12:1 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

“an house of prayer for all people” -

Matthew 21:13 - “And He declared to them, ‘It is written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer.’ But you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

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.”

Ibn Esra - “Yet, will I gather proselytes to the gathered of Israel.”

John 10:16 - “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”