

Isaiah 55:13 – 56:8 + 57:15

This haftarah passage is connected, along with Psalm 69, with Jesus' cleansing of the Temple (**Matthew 21:12-17**).

See **Isaiah 56:7** - "mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."

The Exodus reading describes the "making" of the Tabernacle. Jesus' cleansing the Temple began a "re-making" in which the real temple is revealed as God's spiritual dwelling place.

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."

This means that the curse of briars and thorns will be replaced with fruitfulness and delight.

The Targum: "instead of the ungodly shall rise up righteous persons, and instead of sinners shall rise up such as are afraid to sin."

Recall the Covenant

Isaiah 56:1-2 - "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."

Even the Stranger (Gentiles) and the Eunuch

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.

See **Deuteronomy 23:1-3**

"He that is wounded in the stones, or hath his privy member cut off, shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord. A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the Lord. An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the Lord for ever."

Fulfillment: The Ethiopian Eunuch - **Acts 8:27**

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 Jews apply this verse to the time when the son of David, the Messiah, shall come (T. Bab. Megillah, fol. 18. 1.)

Sacrifices accepted:

Hebrews 13:15 - "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

But also our offering ourselves as living sacrifices.

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."

Targum renders it, "the scattered of Israel"

The phrase could be translated: "yet will I gather unto him his that are to be gathered" or "yet, will I gather proselytes to the gathered of Israel"

Jeremiah 30:17 - "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after."

Paul depicts the Gentile believers as "grafted" into the one Israel of God, the spiritual Israel:

Romans 11:17 - "...and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree"

If you look at this Isaiah passage as describing the "re-making" of the Tabernacle, it shows Gentiles and those cast out because of legal restrictions, now fitted in with skill and wisdom to become part of the pillars and curtains and sockets of this new dwelling of God.

God's Dwelling Place Redefined

Isaiah 57:15 - "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, [and yet] with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."