

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 3, 2023

Passage: Isaiah 56:1–8

Memory Passage: Isaiah 56:1

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 56:1–8.** Chapter 56 begins the third and final major section of the book, which addresses life for the returning exiles (freed from captivity, with the promise of the Servant’s salvific work, living life as they await the fulfillment, but still under a pagan king, Cyrus, rather than the promised Davidic king) and our life (freed from the power and penalty of sin but not yet its presence, having experienced the “already” of salvation and the kingdom but living life awaiting the “not yet” of both, spiritually living under the reign of the rightful heir to David’s throne while physically living under the reign of human kings, etc.). This setting will be proven throughout our study, but hearing it now will help your understanding of the text.

(b) What does Yahweh command in v. 1?

(c) The ESV Study Bible says verse 1 “serves as a summary of chs. 1–55” (p. 1342). Explain how this statement is true.

(d) When will Yahweh’s salvation come and deliverance be revealed?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 56:1–8.** What is the Sabbath for an OT Israelite, and why did keeping it lead to blessing (56:2; see Ex 31:12–17; Ezek 20:18–20)?

(b) How should a New Covenant believer think of and obey the Sabbath (see Matt 12:1–14; Mk 2:23–28; John 5:1–17; Rom 14:1–12, esp. 5; Gal 4:8–11; Col 2:16–17; Heb 3:7–4:13, esp. 9–10)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 56:1–8.** Who is “the foreigner,” and why would he fear being separated from Yahweh’s people (see Ex 12:43, 45; Deut 23:3–4), and why would the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree” (find your answer in the context)?

(b) What must the eunuch do (v. 4), what will they receive (v. 5), and how does this fulfill v. 3:c, d?

(c) Why would God exclude eunuchs from his assembly (Deut 23:1)?

(d) Does Is 56:3–5 contradict Deut 23:1? Explain your answer.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 56:1–8.** Isaiah makes promises to foreigners using Old Covenant terminology (v. 7a–d). To what do these blessings refer after Christ fulfills the law (Matt 5:17) for New Covenant believers?

- (b) What must the foreigner do to receive these blessings (v. 6)?
- (c) To which covenant do eunuchs and foreigners (and everyone) need to hold fast (vs. 4d & 6e)?
- (d) What do you learn about Is 7e, f from Jesus' quoting it (along with Jer 7:11) in Matt 21:13?
- (e) In case we have not yet understood, which outcasts does Yahweh intend to gather (v. 8)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 56:1–8.** Answer this objection: “These verses teach a works-based salvation! If you do these things, then you will receive these blessings. I thought you said salvation was by grace alone?”

(b) In what ways does the Suffering Servant's work overcome one's birth, outward looks, physical flaws, past history, etc., in order to fulfill God's promise to “gather the outcasts?”

(c) What is your current attitude toward those who are unlovely, outcasts in society, disobedient to Christ, loving and doing evil rather than choosing what pleases God, etc.? Does Isaiah 56:1–8 convict you? How are you inspired to repent and obey?

(d) In what ways must you increase your obedience to Christ (the things that please him) through the power of the gospel?

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Grace to the Outcasts