

PROMISE OF REWARDS FOR GENTILES IN THE MILLENNIAL AND ETERNAL KINGDOMS (Isaiah 56:1–8)

Isaiah 56:1–8 (ABCC'B'A' pattern) is in inverted parallelism with 66:15–24 (ABCDC'D'B'A' pattern); both sections prophesy the gathering of Gentiles and the regathering of Jews to worship in the millennial temple. The promises of millennial and eternal rewards below also apply to Jewish eunuchs of the Diaspora and to resident aliens (Gentiles living in Israel). *Note:* Background colors highlight the inverted parallelism; colored text highlights the step parallelism.

COMMANDS AND A BEATITUDE FOR ALL MEN (BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES)

A Is. 56:1 ¶ Thus says the LORD,

“Preserve justice, || and do righteousness, [SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM]

For My salvation is about to come || And My righteousness to be revealed. [SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM]

Is. 56:2 “How blessed is the man who does this, || And the son of man who takes hold of it; [SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM]

Who keeps from profaning the sabbath, || And keeps his hand from doing any evil.” [SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM]

HAPPINESS IN THE COMING MILLENNIAL KINGDOM [INVERTED PARALLELISM WITH 56:8]

INTRODUCES TWO COMMANDS AND A BEATITUDE

TWO COMMANDS

TWO REASONS TO OBEY: DELIVERANCE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE KINGDOM IS NEAR

BEATITUDE: PROMISE OF HAPPINESS FOR PRESERVING JUSTICE AND DOING RIGHTEOUSNESS

PROMISE OF HAPPINESS FOR KEEPING THE SABBATH AND NOT DOING ANY EVIL

COMMANDS TO A FOREIGNER AND A EUNUCH (ENSLAVED, MUTILATED, DEPRIVED, DESPISED GENTILE)

B Is. 56:3 Let not the **foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD** say,

“The LORD will surely separate me from His people. [cf. Lev 20:24, 26; 1 Kings 8:53; “excluded from the commonwealth of Israel” Eph 2:12]

C Neither let the eunuch say,

“Behold, I am a dry tree.” [i.e., he can’t reproduce; cf. Matt 19:12a,b]

PRESENT ANXIETY OF A RIGHTEOUS GENTILE {INVERTED PARALLELISM WITH 56:6–7}

WORSHIPS GOD IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY (APART FROM ISRAEL AND THE MOSAIC COVENANT)

TRUE NOW, BUT NOT NECESSARILY SEPARATED IN THE NEXT LIFE—SO DON’T BE SAD

PRESENT ANXIETY OF A RIGHTEOUS EUNUCH [INVERTED PARALLELISM WITH 56:4–5]

TRUE NOW, BUT NOT NECESSARILY FRUITLESS IN THE NEXT LIFE—SO DON’T BE SAD

PROMISES TO RIGHTEOUS EUNUCHS (MUTILATED GENTILES SUCH AS THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH)

C' Is. 56:4 For thus says the LORD,

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF RIGHTEOUS EUNUCHS [56:4-5 IS STEP PARALLELISM WITH 56:6-7 WITHIN INVERTED PARALLELISM]

“To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths, [cf. Matt 19:12c]

And choose what pleases Me,

And hold fast My covenant,

PROMISE OF MILLENNIAL AND ETERNAL REWARDS FOR RIGHTEOUS EUNUCHS

Is. 56:5 To them I will give in **My house** || and within **My walls** a memorial, [SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM]

And a name better than that of sons and daughters; [SYNTHETIC PARALLELISM WITH 56:5c]

I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off.

FUTURE HAPPINESS OF EUNUCHS IN THE KINGDOM [INVERTED PARALLELISM WITH 56:3c-d]

INTRODUCES A PROMISE OF FUTURE REWARDS FOR PLEASING GOD

WORSHIPS GOD IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY [EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC WORSHIP IN ISRAEL Dt 23:1]

VOLUNTARILY KEEP THE SABBATH (NOT COMMANDED OR EXPECTED OF THEM)

CHOOSE TO PLEASE GOD (IMPLIES A PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OF THE LAW)

VOLUNTARILY KEEP THE OLD COVENANT (NOT COMMANDED OR EXPECTED OF THEM)

REASONS TO BE HAPPY NOW AND IN THE NEXT LIFE:

GIVEN A MEMORIAL (PLAQUE) INSIDE THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE (cf. Rev 3:12)

GIVEN A BETTER NAME THAN IF THEY HAD HAD CHILDREN (EXALTATION)

GIVEN A BETTER NAME FOREVER SO THEY WILL NOT BE A DRY TREE (cf. 3c)

PROMISES TO RIGHTEOUS FOREIGNERS

B' Is. 56:6 ¶ “Also the **foreigners who join themselves to the LORD**,

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF RIGHTEOUS FOREIGNERS [56:6-7 IS STEP PARALLELISM WITH 56:4-5 WITHIN INVERTED PARALLELISM]

To minister to Him,

and to love the name of the LORD,

To be His servants,

every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath,

And holds fast My covenant;

PROMISE OF MILLENNIAL REWARDS FOR RIGHTEOUS FOREIGNERS

Is. 56:7 Even those I will bring to **My holy mountain**,

And make them joyful in **My house** of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar;

For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”

FUTURE HAPPINESS OF GENTILES IN THE KINGDOM [INVERTED PARALLELISM WITH 56:3a-b]

WORSHIP GOD IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY (APART FROM ISRAEL AND THE MOSAIC COVENANT)

SUCH AS MELCHIZEDEK, JOB, QUEEN OF SHEBA, GOD-FEARERS, PROSELYTES, CORNELIUS

MINISTERS TO GOD

LOVES GOD

SERVES GOD

VOLUNTARILY KEEPS THE SABBATH (NOT EXPECTED OF THEM)

VOLUNTARILY KEEPS THE MOSAIC COVENANT (NOT EXPECTED OF THEM)

REASONS TO BE HAPPY NOW AND IN THE NEXT LIFE:

NOT SEPARATED (cf. 3b) BUT SUMMONED TO THE TEMPLE BY GOD HIMSELF

JOY FROM WORSHIPPING IN THE TEMPLE

SACRIFICES ACCEPTED IN THE TEMPLE

FOREIGNERS CAN PRAY AND WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE

PROMISES TO JEWS AND GENTILES OF THE FUTURE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

A' Is. 56:8 The Lord GOD, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares, [SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM WITH 56:8b]

“Yet *others* I will gather to them, to those *already* gathered.”

HAPPINESS IN THE COMING MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (INVERTED PARALLELISM WITH 56:1–2)

IMPLIED HAPPINESS WHEN THE JEWS ARE REGATHERED TO ISRAEL (cf. Jer 31:7–10; Ezk 11:17)

IMPLIED HAPPINESS WHEN GENTILES ARE GATHERED TO ISRAEL (cf. Isa 19:24–25; Jn 10:16)