

A House Of Prayer For All Nations.

Isaiah 56:1-8.

Sunday evening, September 14, 2008.

I. Preparing the way. Vs. 1,2.

A. Isaiah speaks in these verses like a herald and a forerunner of the coming Messiah and the coming of His salvation and righteousness.

B. It is equivalent to “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘make straight the way of the Lord.’” John 1:23 which was the ministry of John the Baptist.

C. “Keep justice and do righteousness...”

An important part of keeping justice and doing righteousness, besides the actual doing of these things, is the process of self-examination and discovery of how much we come short.

He who does so keeps righteousness and justice as the goal and standard of life in his heart, and he looks to the Lord for forgiveness and restoration for his many shortcomings.

D. “My salvation is about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed.”

In the gospel God reveals to us two things: Our salvation and His righteousness.

1. Our Salvation.

It is revealed that we are reconciled to God by the death of His Son. Rom. 5:10.

That God in the death of His Son was reconciled to the world, not imputing their trespasses unto them. 2 Cor. 5:18-20.

It is revealed that we have a full and free forgiveness of all our sins through His blood. Colossians 1:14.

2. His Righteousness.

It is revealed that God did not merely sweep sin under the rug.

God upheld and did justice to His own law in that the just punishment that the law demanded for our sins was laid on Christ as our substitute.

So the apostle Paul can say in Romans 1:17 that “in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.”

That is from faith in His law and justice to faith in the righteous disposal of our sins in the substitutionary death of Christ.

E. “Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it.”

Blessed is the man who orders his life by the standard of God’s justice.

Blessed is the man who upon self examination sees his own many failures and shortcomings.

Blessed is the man who learns to look to the Lord for forgiveness and restoration.

Blessed is the man who learns to seek the Lord in the pathway of His own ordinances such as the Sabbath.

II. The Eunuch and the son of the foreigner. Vs. 3-8.

A. The Eunuch and the son of the foreigner.

The reference alludes to Duet. 23:1-3.

“He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation shall not enter the assembly of the Lord. One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the Lord even to the tenth generation... An Ammonite or a Moabite shall not enter the assembly

of the Lord; even to the tenth generation...”

1. Separated. Believing gentiles could go to the temple as far as the court of the gentiles. They were separated from Israel.
2. A dry tree. Unable to produce offspring; hence his name would die out in Israel.

III. The Eunuch.

A. Believing eunuchs.

1. Those who keep the Sabbaths. (Look to the ultimate fulfillment of the Sabbath in the full and final rest God has promised to His people.)
2. Those who choose what pleases Me (the Lord Himself and His covenant promises.)
3. Those who hold fast My covenant. (Cling to the Lord and His grace. Ruth.)

B. What was true in the earthly typical temple would not be true in the spiritual heavenly temple in which the church worships today, and which temple will be visibly manifested at Christ's return.

The eunuch might not have had any offspring in Israel, and his name may have died out; he might not have had a place in Jerusalem's temple, but in the heavenly temple he will have a place and a name better than earthly sons and daughters could preserve for him.

It will be an everlasting name that will never be cut off, for here the eunuch

will

have life forever more.

It is here that Isaiah's vision reaches; to the better, eternal and spiritual things.

IV. The son of the foreigner.

A. Believing sons of foreigners.

1. Those who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him. (Ruth).
2. To love the name of the Lord; to be His servants.
3. To keep from defiling the Sabbath.
4. To hold fast (to cling to) My covenant.

B. The middle wall of separation broken down. Ephesians 2:11-18.

1. The sons of the foreigner brought to the mountain of the Lord.
2. They will be made joyful in the Lord's house of prayer.
3. Their offerings will be accepted on His altar.
4. The Lord's house will be a house of prayer for all nations.

C. "Yet will I gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him."

"Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd." John 10:16.

Some things to remember:

1. The nature of saving faith. It is a joining ourselves to the Lord; a holding fast, a clinging to His covenant; a choosing what pleases Him (Christ, in whom He is pleased).
2. The perpetuity of the Sabbath until the eternal Sabbath breaks upon us. Isaiah's vision reaches to the present day, yet he depicts God's people as keeping the Sabbath. Hebr. 4:9.