

ISAIAH

"The Light in the Darkness"

Isaiah 56-59

"Near & Far"

Have you ever felt like an outsider?















**Who gets to enter this blessing of the
promised land?**

“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Isaiah 55:12-13



What about the outsiders?

1. God Welcomes the Unlikely Outsiders

"And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." '

Isaiah 56:6-7



“The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

Isaiah 56:8

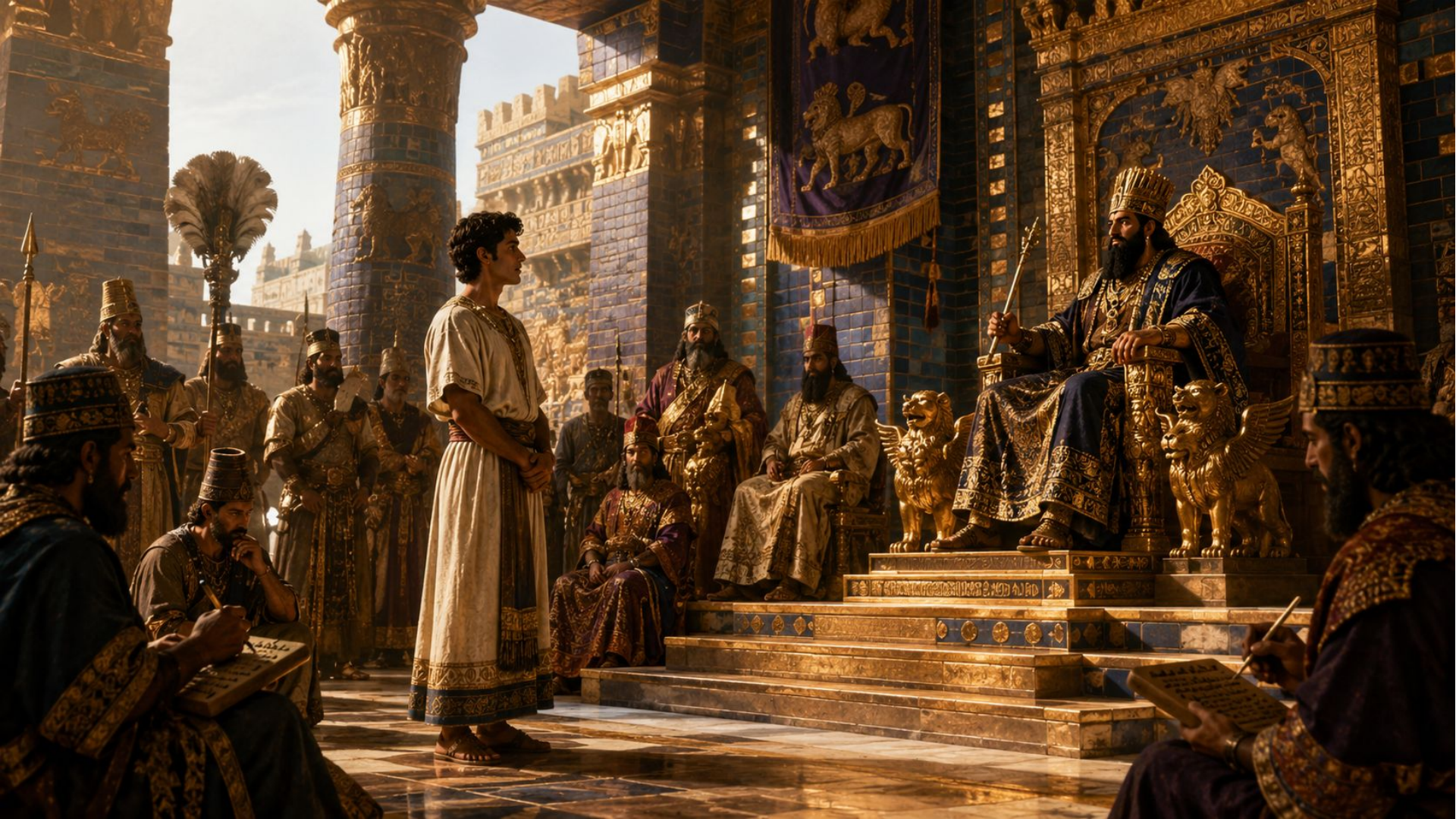
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Isaiah 56:8

“And I have other sheep that are not in this fold. I must bring them also and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepard”

John 10:8





'For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. '

Isaiah 56:4-5

1. God Welcomes the Unlikely Outsiders
2. God Rejects the Wicked Within

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“Both are not merely grotesque forms of false worship; they are twisted abominations, direct acts of rebellion, and insults against the holiness of God.”

- Alec Motyer

1. God Welcomes the Unlikely Outsiders
2. God Rejects the Wicked Within
3. God Draws Near to the Humble



“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

1. God Welcomes the Unlikely Outsiders
2. God Rejects the Wicked Within
3. God Draws Near to the Humble
4. God Exposes False Worship

'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?'

Isaiah 58:3a

“Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ’

Isaiah 58:3-4

4. God Exposes False Worship

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- b. Fasting is denial of ourselves for the sake of others
- c. Sabbath is a day to delight, rest, and draw near to the Lord.
 - i. We are invited into rather than something we must do.

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3. God Draws Near to the Humble
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5. God Alone Brings Justice and Salvation

'Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. '

Isaiah 59:1-2

'The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede;

'The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. '

Isaiah 59:15b-17

“And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the Lord. “And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the Lord, “from this time forth and forevermore.”

Isaiah 59:20-21