

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Isaiah 56: part 1

Isaiah Chapter 56

Let's begin by **reading the chapter**.

The time in view remains the anticipation of the coming Messianic Kingdom.

It carries over from chapter 55: particularly **55:12-13**.

The big idea of chapter 56 is that **the Gentiles will partake of the blessings that were formerly (under the Mosaic Law) restricted to Israel**. The LORD's house, altar, and holy mountain will be for all peoples (verse 7).

Chapter 56 tells a complete story in three parts. Isaiah deals with three groups of people:

<i>Verses 1-2</i>	The people of Israel
<i>Verses 3-8</i>	The Gentiles, typified by foreigners and eunuchs
<i>Verses 9-12</i>	Israel's leaders: "watchmen" and "shepherds"

The LORD speaks (“Thus says the Lord”) to the people of Israel.

The LORD speaks (“Thus says the Lord”) about the foreigners and eunuchs.

Isaiah speaks (“all you beasts, come and eat”) to condemn the leaders.

When the LORD speaks, He gives the requirements for receiving His blessings, and describes the blessings that the obedient ones will receive:

	People of Israel	Eunuch	Foreigner
Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve justice 2. Do righteousness 3. Keep from profaning the sabbath 4. Keep his hand from doing evil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keeps the LORD’s sabbaths 2. Chooses what pleases the LORD 3. Holds fast His covenant 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has joined himself to the LORD 2. Ministers to the LORD 3. Loves His name 4. Be His servants 5. Keeps from profaning the sabbath 6. Holds fast the LORD’s covenant
Blessings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Salvation 2. The LORD’s righteousness 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A memorial in the house of the LORD 2. A name better than that of sons and daughters 3. An everlasting name which will not be cut off 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will be brought to the LORD’s holy mountain 2. Made joyful in the LORD’s house of prayer 3. Their burnt offerings will be acceptable on the LORD’s altar

However, for the leaders, their fate has already been sealed. For them, Isaiah describes their failure and its consequences.

	Failures	Consequences
Watchmen (Prophets)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Blind2. Know nothing3. Mute dogs, unable to bark4. Dreamers who love to slumber	Beasts of the field and forest will eat them.
Shepherds (priests, princes, king)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have no understanding2. All turned to their own way3. Unjust gain4. Drink heavily	Greedy, unsatisfied dogs will attack them.

In closing tonight, I will ask you three questions.

We will briefly discuss them now.

During the week, I want you to consider them in more detail.

This will prepare you for next week's study.

1. What is the sabbath? Cite the key scriptures. Where would you expect to find them?
2. Are Christians required to observe the Sabbath in the same way that the Jews in the Old Testament were? Why or why not? Back up your answer with scriptures.
3. Is there a Sabbath at all for Christians? If so, what kind? If not, why not? Give biblical support for your answers.