

The PROPHETS of JUDAH

Isaiah – The Future Glory of God's People

Isaiah 56:6-7

October 17, 2026

Isaiah was called to deliver the “Bad News” of judgment against God’s people, yet, he was also called to announce the “Good News” of a coming Redeemer who would be “pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities and through Whose wounds we would be healed.” (53:5)

He was called to deliver the “Bad News” of coming judgments upon the Nations, yet, he also called to announce the “Good News” of future blessing and inclusion with God’s People:

Isaiah 56:6-7 - *And foreigners who bind themselves to Yahweh to serve him, to love his name, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”*

That is the focus of this final section – the promises of the future glory of God’s People, which He extends to Gentiles:

Isaiah 54:11-14 - *O afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted, I will build you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with sapphires. I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones. ¹³ All your sons will be taught by Yahweh, and great will be your children's peace. In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you.*

Isaiah 55:1-13 – *“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of Yahweh your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor. Seek Yahweh while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to Yahweh, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares Yahweh. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.’ You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for Yahweh’s renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed.”*

Isaiah 56:1-7 - *This is what Yahweh says: “Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, the man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.” Let no foreigner who has bound himself to Yahweh say, “Yahweh will surely exclude me from his people.” And let not any eunuch complain, “I am only a dry tree.” For this is what Yahweh says: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant – to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off....*

The Gatherer of the dispersed exiles and outcasts of Israel would gather peoples of all nations and that promise of inclusion extends to you and me – that is indeed “GOOD NEWS”!!

Lest they forget, the covenant that God has so long been faithful too is the foundation of these promises. Yet, despite God's willingness to walk with these people, they have failed in their promise, "everything Yahweh says, we will do."

Israel's problem was not God's inability to act on their behalf, but that their many and varied sins and refusal to repent have separated them from him:

Isaiah 59:1-15 - *Surely the arm of Yahweh is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things. No one calls for justice; no one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil. They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider's web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched. Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands. Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are evil thoughts; ruin and destruction mark their ways. The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks in them will know peace.*

What was needed was their acknowledgement that the cause of all their misery was wrapped up in their choice to abandon the Covenant.

So, justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead. We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away. For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: rebellion and treachery against Yahweh, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. Yahweh looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

The chapter ends with the repeated promise of a future Redeemer, who would come "to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,"

In chapters 60-62 Isaiah begins to develop 3 themes surrounding the glory to come for restored Zion:

- When the glory of God rises above His temple, the scattered of Israel would come and the nations would come and pay tribute to Yahweh as their Ruler.

Isaiah 60:11 – *Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations – their kings led in triumphal procession.*

- An everlasting Covenant with the people would bring restoration, righteousness and praise.

Isaiah 60:18-61:3 – *No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise. The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for Yahweh will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; Yahweh will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end. Then will all your people be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor. The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am Yahweh; in its time I will do this swiftly." The Spirit of Yahweh is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of Yahweh's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of Yahweh for the display of his splendor.*

- Yahweh would glorify Zion before nations and kingdoms.

Isaiah 61:10-62:4 – *I delight greatly in Yahweh; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so Adonai will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of Yahweh will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in Yahweh's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for Yahweh will take delight in you, and your land will be married.

Isaiah also prayed regarding the present condition of Israel (63:7-64:12) and ended the prayer with a question, "After all this, O LORD, will you hold yourself back? Will you keep silent and punish us beyond measure?"

Yahweh responded..... Yes, there would be judgment:

Isaiah 65:2-7 - *All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations – a people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick; who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil; who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of unclean meat; who say, 'Keep away; don't come near me, for I am too sacred for you!' Such people are smoke in my nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day. "See, it stands written before me: I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I will pay it back into their laps – both your sins and the sins of your fathers," says Yahweh. "Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains and defied me on the hills, I will measure into their laps the full payment for their former deeds."*

But there would also be forgiveness and restoration for a remnant people who heeded his call:

Isaiah 65:9-10, 16-25 - *I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah those who will possess my mountains; my chosen people will inherit them, and there will my servants live. Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, for my people who seek me.... ¹⁶ Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of truth; he who takes an oath in the land will swear by the God of truth. For the past troubles will be forgotten and hidden from my eyes. Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind..... The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says Yahweh.*

The ultimate fulfillment of this promise remains in the future and what a glorious day that will be:

Revelation 21:1-5 - *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

Until Next Time.....