

The Prophecies of Isaiah ⁸⁹

Lesson 35

At the end of the last lesson, Israel is reminded by the Lord that His ways are higher than all others and although Israel has plans of her own that are not His, she will ultimately come to Him and accept His eternal design for her nation. Part 4 of Section 2 of Vision 22 continues with the following promise for Israel.

Far Prophecy

SHOUT JOYFULLY – GO OUT WITH JOY

Isaiah 55:12 "For you will go out with joy, And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap *their* hands. ¹³ "Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up; And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up; And it will be a memorial to the LORD, For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off."

When, in the Lord's plan, the Nation of Israel becomes the nation above all nations, a parade will occur as the world moves from seven years of Israel's tribulation to the Lord's glorious kingdom. The Lord will lead Israel out of the depths of despair with shouts of joy into eternal peace. As all of nature begins to change on that day, the day of the Lord's arrival, creation will gladly break forth to protect the nation as it prepares the land for Israel's 1,000-year homeland and it will be an everlasting sign that Israel will never depart from Him again.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 54:4-55:13	<i>Far Prophecy</i> Israel will finally trust in the Lord as a nation.	Fulfilled at the beginning of the 1,000 year kingdom

Far Prophecy

THE BLESSED JEW

Isaiah 56:1 Thus says the LORD, " Preserve justice, and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come And My righteousness to be revealed. ² "How blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who takes hold of it; Who keeps from profaning the sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil."

Now the vision begins to become quite personal. Each individual who seeks to preserve justice and do righteousness will be blessed with the coming salvation of the Lord when it is revealed. The Mosaic Law will be profaned over the next 740 years, until the earthly ministry of the Lord begins with His baptism, but this passage gives a promise to those Jews who faithfully worship the Lord on the Sabbath and refrain from doing evil until that time. We must understand that by the time the Lord begins His ministry, the majority of the religious leaders and their faithful followers have profaned the Sabbath. In 30 AD, what acts are really lawful on the Sabbath? For example, how far can a Jew really walk on that day? By then, he could walk only a Sabbath Day's Journey. But wait! After living under that law for a while, the Jewish leaders provided a way to extend that journey. If a man needed to travel on the Sabbath and it was further than a Sabbath Day's Journey, in the days prior to the journey he could place provisions for a meal at the limit of the Sabbath Day walk. When he reached that place on the Sabbath, he could stop to rest and eat a meal. The new law now allowed him to walk another Sabbath Day's journey whereas he would have had to wait until the new day to continue. Later, the law was changed again to allow a Jew to then return home without profaning the Sabbath. Where is this law in the

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Mosaic Law? Nowhere! Man-made rules profane the Sabbath. Where does the Mosaic Law state that a Jew cannot travel on the Sabbath? Nowhere! During the Lord's ministry, the Pharisees argue with Jesus because His followers have pulled grain from the field on a Sabbath to eat. The Lord asks them why would they pull an ox out of a ditch on a Sabbath yet they will not allow a man to gather food. He follows by asking them if the Sabbath was made for man or was man made for the Sabbath? The example of perverting the Law by not allowing a man to travel on the Sabbath is an example of the evil in the hearts of the religious leaders of Israel. The Lord will bless those Jews who do not take part in the evil plans of the religious leaders, especially those who are alive when He ministers on earth.

Far Prophecy

THE BLESSED GENTILE

Isaiah 56:3a Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from His people."

The Lord has not forgotten the promise Gentiles in this vision. At the beginning of this part of this section of this vision in chapter 54, the Lord promised to make the tents of the Gentiles who believe in Him larger than those of the Jews. Here, He warns those same Gentiles never to worry that He will separate them from His promise or the blessing that will come to the Jews. When the Lord blesses the Jews with His presence as their Savior, that same blessing will be offered to all the Gentiles.

Far Prophecy

THE BLESSED MAIMED

Isaiah 56:3b Neither let the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." ⁴For thus says the LORD, "To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, ⁵To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off."

The word eunuch means bed-keeper, men, who were mutilated at some time in their life and were consequently allowed to serve his master by caring for the women in the home. The mutilation could be natural, intentional or accidental; however, in either case it was common to employee such men in the courts and chamber areas.⁹⁰ In Deuteronomy 23:11, the Mosaic Law excluded intentional eunuchs from the congregation. Matthew 19:2 addresses the intention of this passage when the Lord says,

Matthew 19:2 For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb, there are eunuchs who were made that way by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves that way because of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.

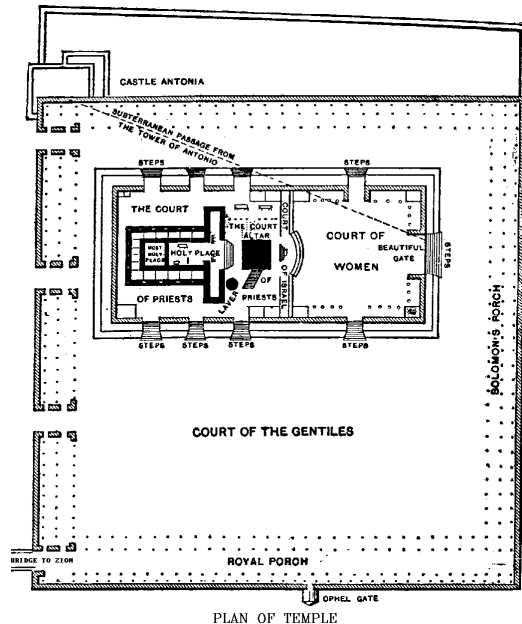
The promise here is to the eunuch who is faithful to believe in the Lord for his salvation. The Lord will grant him a blessing just as He will with both Jew and Gentile. The inability to bear children is not a reason for the Lord to reject the faith of the eunuch.

⁹⁰ 2 Kings 9:32; Esther 2:3

Far Prophecy

THE ACCEPTED GENTILES

Isaiah 56:6 "Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, 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; 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."



The Jewish traditions, even in the days of Hezekiah, do not allow Gentiles to enter portions of the Temple. There is a court of the Gentiles, outside the Temple proper. It is even outside the area the Jewish Women can enter. The promise in this passage cannot set well with the Jews because the Lord promises the Gentiles entry into the sacred altar area, the holiest place of prayer! The Lord will accept the Gentiles just as He will accept the Jews. The illustration to the left depicts Solomon's Temple, the one still in place when this vision is delivered. This promise is for the Lord's new Temple, established for His 1,000 year kingdom. In that Temple, everyone will have equal access.

Far Prophecy

THE ACCEPTED JEWS

Isaiah 56:8 The Lord GOD, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares, "Yet *others* I will gather to them, to those *already* gathered."

At the beginning of the 1,000-year kingdom, the Lord will gather all Jews and make their homes on the entire Promised Land, which stretches from the Nile to the Euphrates. But the Jews are not the only nation that He will gather. Zechariah says:

Zechariah 14:12 Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth. ¹³ And it will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another. ¹⁴ And Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance. ¹⁵ So also like this plague, will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey, and all the cattle that will be in those camps. ¹⁶ Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

Far Prophecy

THE BLESSED BEASTS

Isaiah 56:9 All you beasts of the field, All you beasts in the forest, Come to eat.

The Lord will prepare a place even for the animals in the 1,000-year kingdom. They will possess the desert area to the east of the current Dead Sea that will be transformed at the Lord's Second Coming to a beautiful garden for all the "beasts of the fields."

Far Prophecy

THE DRUNKEN WATCHMEN

Isaiah 56:10 His watchmen are blind, All of them know nothing. All of them are dumb dogs unable to bark, Dreamers lying down, who love to slumber; ¹¹ And the dogs are greedy, they are not satisfied. And they are shepherds who have no understanding; They have all turned to their own way, Each one to his unjust gain, to the last one. ¹² "Come," *they say*, "let us get wine, and let us drink heavily of strong drink; And tomorrow will be like today, only more so."

Until the time of Israel's conversion to the Lord just before His Second Coming, Israel will be led by blind, dumb dreamers who act like greedy dogs as they try to shepherd the people. They are ignorant of the Lord's desires because they refuse to accept Him when He arrives to be their Savior. They are religious but they are not righteous. They are not righteous because they do not know the Lord. Every day they operate in their regular routines, each day engraining themselves deeper into the wickedness of their drunken traditions.

Far Prophecy

THE RIGHTEOUS MAN PERISHES FROM EVIL INTO PEACE

Isaiah 57:1 The righteous man perishes, and no man takes it to heart; And devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from evil, ² He enters into peace; They rest in their beds, *Each one* who walked in his upright way.

Until the leaders of the Nation of Israel turn to the Lord just before His return, the individuals of that nation who are righteous will not find peace until they die, entering into their final rest on their beds before being buried in the ground. It is the only way for a righteous man to find peace in an evil, wayward nation. What happens to the evil leaders?

Far Prophecy

THE EVIL MAN'S WAYS

Isaiah 57:3 "But come here, you sons of a sorceress, Offspring of an adulterer and a prostitute. ⁴ "Against whom do you jest? Against whom do you open wide your mouth And stick out your tongue? Are you not children of rebellion, Offspring of deceit, ⁵ *Who* inflame yourselves among the oaks, Under every luxuriant tree, Who slaughter the children in the ravines, Under the clefts of the crags? ⁶ "Among the smooth *stones* of the ravine Is your portion, they are your lot; Even to them you have poured out a libation, You have made a grain offering. Shall I relent concerning these things? ⁷ "Upon a high and lofty mountain You have made your bed. You also went up there to offer sacrifice. ⁸ "And behind the door and the doorpost You have set up your sign; Indeed, far removed from Me, you have uncovered yourself; And have gone up and made your bed wide. And you have made an agreement for yourself with them, You have loved their bed, You have looked on *their* manhood. ⁹ "And you have journeyed to the king with oil And increased your perfumes; You have sent your envoys a great distance, And made *them* go down to Sheol. ¹⁰ "You were tired out by the length of your road, *Yet* you did not say, ' It is hopeless.' You found renewed strength, Therefore you did not faint. ¹¹ "Of whom were you worried and fearful, When you lied, and did not remember Me, Nor give *Me* a thought? Was I not silent even for a long time So you do not fear Me?"

Under Hezekiah's rule, evil leadership does not prevail. With Hezekiah's death, his son, Manasseh, will lead the Nation of Israel to fulfill all of this prophecy even though it will once again be the case during the life of Jesus and then again at His second return. The Israelites will engage in false religious practices, fertility worship with prostitutes to try to guarantee a decent crop when they are starving during their seven years of tribulation. Israel will mock the righteous and rebel against God. Worship centers will be set on the hills of Israel to be closer to their gods and down by the oaks where they will sacrifice children and indulge in sensual lust with others among the trees. The homes, the centers of learning will become the centers of idolatry and adultery as they spread out naked on their beds in sexual perversion. The offspring of such perversion are offered to the Ammonite people for the human sacrifice worship of their god, Molech. Covered in oil and perfume, the children are burned in the belly of Molech, sending them to Sheol or the world of the dead. Refusing to give up their sinful ways, they renew their strength to sin again. They will have forgotten the true God because of their lies. Has God been silent so Israel will not fear Him? Absolutely not! He has continued to work in their midst and will continue to fulfill His prophecies until His return. Israel will ignore God's presence as He continues to protect them even in their sin. They have forgotten Him; He has not forgotten them.

Far Prophecy

THE EVIL MAN'S CRY

Isaiah 57:12 "I will declare your righteousness and your deeds, But they will not profit you. ^{13a} "When you cry out, let your collection of *idols* deliver you. But the wind will carry all of them up, And a breath will take *them* away.

The Lord declares the righteousness of man. It is not the other way around. If man wants to declare his own righteousness, then he needs to consult his treasured idols; nevertheless, the Lord will still be the judge and He will blow the idols of man away with His breath.

Far Prophecy

THE RIGHTEOUS REFUGE

Isaiah 57:13b But he who takes refuge in Me shall inherit the land, And shall possess My holy mountain." ¹⁴ And it shall be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, Remove every obstacle out of the way of My people."

The Lord will find the truly righteous man of Israel and he will inherit a portion of the land when the nation possesses the holy mountain when the Lord reigns from the Temple for 1,000 years. Here, the Lord returns to the first part of this vision where He calls for the building of roads to prepare the way for every person to make a visit to the Temple to visit the Lord without a single obstacle to stop them. ⁹¹

Far Prophecy

THE ONE NAMED HOLY – WHY HE LIVES ON HIGH

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell *on* a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Why is the Lord reigning on the throne for 1,000 years? He is there because He promised and prophesied the event. In those prophecies, He will provide a place here on earth for all the repentant (contrite) and ordinary (lowly) to refresh their spirits; the place of refreshing life will reside in the Promised Land upon His return to set up His kingdom.

⁹¹ Isaiah 40:3-5

Far Prophecy

THE ONE NAMED HOLY – WHY HE WILL NOT CONTEND FOREVER

Isaiah 57:16 "For I will not contend forever, Neither will I always be angry; For the spirit would grow faint before Me, And the breath of those whom I have made.

The Lord is not going to allow the evil of the world to contend will Him or His chosen nation forever. We must remember that the Lord is protecting Israel by contending with her enemies who are also the Lord’s enemies. If He allows it to go on forever, the morale of the Nation of Israel will diminish and she will die.

Far Prophecy

THE ONE NAMED HOLY – WHY HE HID HIS FACE

Isaiah 57:17 "Because of the iniquity of his unjust gain I was angry and struck him; I hid My face and was angry, And he went on turning away, in the way of his heart.

The evil man, including the evil leaders of Israel, will be struck by the Lord in His anger and yet the evil man will continue to do evil because it is the way of his heart. For that reason, the Lord will hide His face from the evil person. To understand this fully, we must understand the meaning of salvation. When they enter into eternity, those who have accepted the Lord as Savior, will continuously be in the presence of the Lord and that, along with all the other blessings will constitute the fulfillment of the meaning of salvation. When those who have denied the Lord as Savior enter into eternity, they will continuously be out of the presence of the Lord, away from His face and in eternal torment.

Far Prophecy

THE ONE NAMED HOLY – WHY HE GIVES PEACE FOR THE RIGHTEOUS

Isaiah 57:18 "I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his mourners, ¹⁹ Creating the praise of the lips. Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near," Says the LORD, "and I will heal him."

Why does the Lord give peace to the righteous? The Lord is willing to heal anyone of his evil ways regardless of his distance from Him at any time. At the end of the seven years of tribulation for Israel, many of her leaders will turn from their evil ways and enter into the joy of His salvation. When He restores them, He brings them comfort. The passage also addresses the idea of comfort to the evil man’s mourners. For every evil person there is a group of righteous people who have mourned his actions, suffered because of his ways and dreaded the thought of that person’s eternity. When he is healed by the Lord, the mourners’ grief turns to joy, they have and peace and their lips give praise to the Lord for all that He has done.

Far Prophecy

THE ONE NAMED HOLY – WHY HE HOLDS PEACE FROM THE WICKED

Isaiah 57:20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud. ²¹ "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

But not all the wicked leaders of Israel will turn to the Lord in the last days. They will continue to churn in evil and the Lord will not ever allow them to experience peace in their earthly or in eternity.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 56-57	Far Prophecy The Lord will save the righteous and destroy the wicked and establish Israel as the premier nation when He reigns in His kingdom.	Fulfilled at the beginning of the 1,000 year kingdom