

## Isaiah 56-58, 2 Thessalonians 2(New King James Version)

### Isaiah 56

#### Salvation for the Gentiles

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,  
For My salvation *is* about to come,  
And My righteousness to be revealed.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed *is* the man *who* does this,  
And the son of man *who* lays hold on it;  
Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath,  
And keeps his hand from doing any evil.”

<sup>3</sup> Do not let the son of the foreigner  
Who has joined himself to the LORD  
Speak, saying,  
“The LORD has utterly separated me from His people”;  
Nor let the eunuch say,  
“Here I am, a dry tree.”

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the LORD:  
“To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths,  
And choose what pleases Me,  
And hold fast My covenant,

<sup>5</sup> Even to them I will give in My house  
And within My walls a place and a name  
Better than that of sons and daughters;  
I will give them<sup>[a]</sup> an everlasting name  
That shall not be cut off.

<sup>6</sup> “Also the sons of the foreigner  
Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him,  
And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants—  
Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath,  
And holds fast My covenant—

<sup>7</sup> Even them 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 nations.”

<sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says,  
“Yet I will gather to him  
*Others* besides those who are gathered to him.”

#### Israel's Irresponsible Leaders

<sup>9</sup> All you beasts of the field, come to devour,  
All you beasts in the forest.  
<sup>10</sup> His watchmen *are* blind,  
They are all ignorant;  
They *are* all dumb dogs,  
They cannot bark;  
Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.  
<sup>11</sup> Yes, *they are* greedy dogs  
*Which* never have enough.  
And they *are* shepherds  
Who cannot understand;  
They all look to their own way,  
Every one for his own gain,  
From his *own* territory.  
<sup>12</sup> “Come,” *one says*, “I will bring wine,  
And we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink;  
Tomorrow will be as today,  
*And* much more abundant.”

## Isaiah 57

### Israel's Futile Idolatry

<sup>1</sup> The righteous perishes,  
And no man takes *it* to heart;  
Merciful men *are* taken away,  
While no one considers  
That the righteous is taken away from evil.  
<sup>2</sup> He shall enter into peace;  
They shall rest in their beds,  
*Each one* walking *in* his uprightness.

<sup>3</sup> “But come here,  
You sons of the sorceress,  
You offspring of the adulterer and the harlot!  
<sup>4</sup> Whom do you ridicule?  
Against whom do you make a wide mouth  
*And* stick out the tongue?  
*Are* you not children of transgression,  
Offspring of falsehood,  
<sup>5</sup> Inflaming yourselves with gods under every green tree,  
Slaying the children in the valleys,  
Under the clefts of the rocks?  
<sup>6</sup> Among the smooth *stones* of the stream  
*Is* your portion;  
They, they, *are* your lot!  
Even to them you have poured a drink offering,

You have offered a grain offering.  
Should I receive comfort in these?

<sup>7</sup> “On a lofty and high mountain  
You have set your bed;  
Even there you went up  
To offer sacrifice.

<sup>8</sup> Also behind the doors and their posts  
You have set up your remembrance;  
For you have uncovered yourself *to those other* than Me,  
And have gone up to them;  
You have enlarged your bed  
And made *a covenant* with them;  
You have loved their bed,  
Where you saw *their* nudity. <sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>9</sup> You went to the king with ointment,  
And increased your perfumes;  
You sent your messengers far off,  
And *even* descended to Sheol.

<sup>10</sup> You are wearied in the length of your way;  
*Yet* you did not say, ‘There is no hope.’  
You have found the life of your hand;  
Therefore you were not grieved.

<sup>11</sup> “And of whom have you been afraid, or feared,  
That you have lied  
And not remembered Me,  
Nor taken *it* to your heart?  
Is it not because I have held My peace from of old  
That you do not fear Me?

<sup>12</sup> I will declare your righteousness  
And your works,  
For they will not profit you.

<sup>13</sup> When you cry out,  
Let your collection *of idols* deliver you.  
But the wind will carry them all away,  
A breath will take *them*.  
But he who puts his trust in Me shall possess the land,  
And shall inherit My holy mountain.”

#### **Healing for the Backslider**

<sup>14</sup> And one shall say,  
“Heap it up! Heap it up!  
Prepare the way,  
Take the stumbling block out of the way of My people.”

<sup>15</sup> For thus says the High and Lofty One  
Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy:  
“I dwell in the high and holy *place*,  
With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit,  
To revive the spirit of the humble,  
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.  
<sup>16</sup> For I will not contend forever,  
Nor will I always be angry;  
For the spirit would fail before Me,  
And the souls *which* I have made.  
<sup>17</sup> For the iniquity of his covetousness  
I was angry and struck him;  
I hid and was angry,  
And he went on backsliding in the way of his heart.  
<sup>18</sup> I have seen his ways, and will heal him;  
I will also lead him,  
And restore comforts to him  
And to his mourners.

<sup>19</sup> “I create the fruit of the lips:  
Peace, peace to *him who is* far off and to *him who is* near,”  
Says the LORD,  
“And I will heal him.”  
<sup>20</sup> But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea,  
When it cannot rest,  
Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

<sup>21</sup> “*There is* no peace,”  
Says my God, “for the wicked.”

## **Isaiah 58**

### **Fasting that Pleases God**

<sup>1</sup> “Cry aloud, spare not;  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet;  
Tell My people their transgression,  
And the house of Jacob their sins.  
<sup>2</sup> Yet they seek Me daily,  
And delight to know My ways,  
As a nation that did righteousness,  
And did not forsake the ordinance of their God.  
They ask of Me the ordinances of justice;  
They take delight in approaching God.  
<sup>3</sup> ‘Why have we fasted,’ *they say*, ‘and You have not seen?’  
*Why* have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’

“In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure,  
And exploit all your laborers.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed you fast for strife and debate,  
And to strike with the fist of wickedness.  
You will not fast as *you do* this day,  
To make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is it a fast that I have chosen,  
A day for a man to afflict his soul?  
*Is it* to bow down his head like a bulrush,  
And to spread out sackcloth and ashes?  
Would you call this a fast,  
And an acceptable day to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> “*Is* this not the fast that I have chosen:  
To loose the bonds of wickedness,  
To undo the heavy burdens,  
To let the oppressed go free,  
And that you break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> *Is it* not to share your bread with the hungry,  
And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;  
When you see the naked, that you cover him,  
And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the morning,  
Your healing shall spring forth speedily,  
And your righteousness shall go before you;  
The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I *am*.’

“If you take away the yoke from your midst,  
The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

<sup>10</sup> *If* you extend your soul to the hungry  
And satisfy the afflicted soul,  
Then your light shall dawn in the darkness,  
And your darkness shall *be* as the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually,  
And satisfy your soul in drought,  
And strengthen your bones;  
You shall be like a watered garden,  
And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

<sup>12</sup> Those from among you  
Shall build the old waste places;  
You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach,  
The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

<sup>13</sup> “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath,  
From doing your pleasure on My holy day,  
And call the Sabbath a delight,  
The holy *day* of the LORD honorable,  
And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,  
Nor finding your own pleasure,  
Nor speaking *your own* words,  
<sup>14</sup> Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD;  
And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,  
And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.  
The mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

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## 2 Thessalonians 2

### The Great Apostasy

<sup>1</sup> Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ<sup>[a]</sup> had come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin<sup>[b]</sup> is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God<sup>[c]</sup> in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

<sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He<sup>[d]</sup> who now restrains *will do so* until He<sup>[e]</sup> is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

### Stand Fast

<sup>13</sup> But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, <sup>14</sup> to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

<sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, <sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.