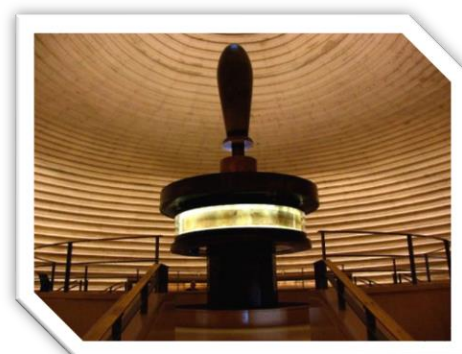


ISAIAH 56 vs 1

KJV-lite™ VERSES

www.ilibros.net/KJV-lite.html

The book of Isaiah has two great divisions; **first:** chapters 1–39; God's Criticism of both rebel houses **Israel** and **Judah**, thereby affecting all the local neighbors in the hood; and **second:** chapters 40–66; God's Consolation to both houses who have separate histories. The great Isaiah scroll found in the Qumran caves, dated from the 2nd century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah..



These chapters for whatever reason... are rarely read in the church; yet they are full of Good News.

chapter 53 starts: **Who has believed our report?** Prophet Isaiah says: you might not believe what I'm going to tell you!

chapter 54 starts: **Sing, oh barren, break forth into singing!**

chapter 55 starts: **Ho, everyone who thirsts... and he who has no money come buy and eat!**

And this chapter could be called:

The Strangers, The Impaired, The Outcasts, The Others... and The Blind Watchers, too. Isaiah writes:

¹ Thus says the LORD, Guard justice, and do what is right / in Hebrew: **shamar**, guard to protect... used 5 times in this chapter; we know this word recalling the first task the Lord gave to Adam in the Garden! Something Adam did not do. Judgment is the ability to form an opinion, to evaluate by discerning; as Dr. John Stott wisely said: love without truth is too soft: truth without love is too hard; ultimate judgment belongs to God; discern what is going on; and continue to do what is right:

for My salvation is about to come / or My **yeshua** : My **Jesus** is about to come

and My righteousness to be revealed / whether or not prophet Isaiah understood what he was writing: we clearly understand... Isaiah was foretelling: **Jesus**, the right one sent by God was on his way; and though He arose, and went away; He's coming again... sooner than we can imagine.

² Blessed is the one who does this, and the son of Adam who lays hold on it; who keeps the sabbath from polluting it and keeps his hand from doing evil / The Lord says, knowing this, refresh your mind and be faithful. who guards to protect the 7th day, from defiling it: the sabbath is **Friday evening to Saturday evening** – start there, a time to pause and joyously rest in what our Creator established in the beginning. The 7th day honors the Lord. In the NT we also know there is a **sabbathing for the people of God** – **Hebrews 4...** which is not a particular day; rather, a way of thinking, and faithing wherever we walk by faith, advancing step by step... seeking to honor our blessed God; and to dedicate the work of our hands to do what is right.

³ nor let the son of the stranger, who has joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying The LORD has surely separated Me from His people / the foreigner in our midst... the one who doesn't sound like me or you... or look like me or you... or act like me or you; and if there is no stranger who stumbles into your gathering... if there are no forlorn foreigners seen in your congregation; then the one blessed by God might want to change their thinking... and ask: why not?; or just change their unfriendly assembly to keep from doing evil; don't let those despairing words be heard,

I will never forget when [meeting the Word of Life pastor from Yerevan](#), Armenia: Arthur Simonyan... who obviously knew many strangers in his midst; through his translator he simply said: **any friend of Jesus is a friend of mine**; no wonder his congregation has increased exponentially throughout Eastern Europe.

Said differently, the Lord says:

Number ONE: the words:

Stranger, go home! Foreigners are not welcome!

should not be heard — shouted, or even whispered... in the congregation of those joined to the LORD; they are not the words of God our Father in heaven who so loved the world:

Number TWO: the words...

nor let the eunuch say, behold, I am a dry tree / another who grew up treated as a second-class citizen, unwelcomed; born without testicles, or surgically castrated. Since the time of Moses, not one word from a eunuch was heard... since they were excluded from the congregation. The words of Moses **Deut 23**. were re-written by the LORD God himself -- now concern is shown to the eunuch;

⁴ For thus says the LORD to the eunuchs who **keep My sabbaths** / **days that are a mark of God's people, on their hand and their forehead** = in their work, and in their thoughts **Deut. 6**; and **Ezekiel 20**. As they rest in the Lord... rehearsing His days even in the church, confident of the promises God gave to His people; but it is tragic that the church world forgot about the 7 high sabbaths, **7 Days of the LORD**... **3 days are still on His calendar**; days that belong to Him -- **Leviticus 23**; waiting to be fulfilled by Messiah,

For thus says the LORD to the eunuchs [1] who keep My sabbaths... and [2] choose the things that please Me, and [3] take hold of My covenant / if you don't know what covenant He is talking about, start with the **10 instructions** given to His people; perfectly good to help direct our steps through this life here on earth. The book of Hebrews tells us: without faith it is impossible to please God. Notice, those who have a physical impairment -- whatever caused their condition be it at birth or made sterile, it's not a concern of the Lord; so don't make it yours; those who discern, and seek to do what is right are His concern,

⁵Even to them **I will give** in My house and within My walls... **[1]** a hand of authority **[2]** and a name better than of sons and of daughters **I will give them an everlasting name, that will not be cut off** / and did you notice, they are welcome in His house, and like David can say, I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever...where we all hope to dwell some day; / and what is better than a son or a daughter? Well, perhaps: a brother and a sister, right? and did you notice? the LORD is a giver: He loves to give gifts: He gives a potent, eternal name... never to be severed from them.

⁶Also the sons of the stranger / children of the foreigner, who **[1]** join themselves to the LORD, **[2]** to serve him, **[3]** to love the name of the LORD, **[4]** to be his servants, everyone who **[5]** **keeps** the sabbath from polluting it and **[6]** takes hold of My covenant / who respects God and rests in His many promises... even those who set aside a day! what's wrong with: Friday evening to Saturday to rest from work; to honor our Creator; and get to know what 3 days will soon be fulfilled? / demonstrating our love for God and His word; and for one another; even to keep and do the 10 instructions, and of course we will not do them perfectly in an imperfect world; but God said do them; if you need help honoring your father and mother, or help respecting your neighbor; ask Him for help;

⁷**[1]** I will bring them to My holy mountain, **[2]** make them joyful in My house of prayer: **[3]** and their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted upon My altar; **for My house will be called a house of prayer for all people** / and don't you get the impression, the Lord loves variety? And like the 100,000 varieties of trees He created; He engineered the genetics creating all the combinations of skin, eye and hair color for all the race of Adam.

⁸The LORD GOD, who gathers the outcasts of **Ephraim's Israel**, the LORD says, **Yet I will gather others to him, beside those who are gathered to him** / to those who were pushed out; the thrown down, and the chased away; the Lord says: Guard your judgments, discern and do what is right. And He says, welcome the foreigner and the eunuch particularly, those who have joined themselves to the Lord who choose to trust Him. And the Lord says, He like a good shepherd is going to round up those who have been pushed out and chased away; so get ready to embrace them, too. The Lord says, I will gather others to **Israel** -- all **those ruled by God** Whatever **Israel** means, Isaiah tells us the Lord gives fair warning... the Lord says, others will be gathering.

Ephraim's Israel

⁹All beasts of the field, come **to devour**, yes, all beasts in the forest / who are these beasts, seen or unseen and stealthy? In Daniel's book, beasts are world govt's savagely gone wild; so they are definitely envoys and messengers of the world, not from the kingdom of God.

¹⁰ **His watchmen [1] are blind: [2] they are all ignorant [3] they are all mute dogs, they cannot bark, [4] dreamers, lying down, loving to slumber;** / apparently they don't see all the beasts coming; the worthless watchmen of Israel... supposed to be awake and vigilant... instead they lack judgment and the ability to discern. Can you imagine hiring security guards who are blind?

And ignorant? the beasts are surrounding, but the worthless watchmen of Israel -- guard dogs that won't bark; are not very valuable. Watchmen sleeping on the job; snoozers working for who? I know soldiers are usually underpaid; and security guards are definitely underpaid; but how much do you pay snoozers?

¹¹ **Yes, [5] they are greedy dogs which can never have enough** / Israel's watchmen are skill tested: they rank... PROFICIENT at eating and sleeping,

[6] they are shepherds that have no understanding / what an indictment by the LORD on those who were to feed His sheep; remember the sheep belong to Him... He purchased them with His blood; and a closer look at **Ezekiel 34**; and **John 10** reveal... there is One Shepherd who said, He would come and do the job; He will search for His sheep, and bring them, and gather them, and feed them. It is interesting: of all the names Jesus embraced... He never declared, I Am the good Way; or I Am the good Life; **But** Jesus said, **I Am the good Pastor**... just think about it; traditions die hard, don't they? And the LORD said...

Israel's watchmen are blind; they are shepherds that have no understanding,

[7] they all look to their own way,

[8] every one for his gain, from his sector.

¹² **[9] they say, Come, I will get wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink** / maybe a couple shots of whisky, rum, bourbon, scotch or vodka, these inebriated watchmen of Israel;

and tomorrow will be as today, only more so. As the drunken, gluttonous watchmen stagger in their vomit, and become drowsy, destitute; clothed in rags -- **Proverbs 23**.

3 Days are still on His Calendar