

Isaiah 56:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed.

Analysis

God commands: 'Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed.' The Hebrew 'mishpat' (judgment) and 'tsedaqah' (justice/righteousness) are covenant requirements. Yet the motivation is not earning salvation but responding to it: salvation is 'near to come' - divine initiative precedes human response.

Historical Context

This begins the final section of Isaiah (56-66) addressing life in the restored community. Ethical requirements accompany promised restoration, showing that salvation produces righteousness rather than the reverse.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does knowing salvation is coming motivate righteous living?
2. What is the relationship between God's initiative and human ethical response?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	שְׁמֹר וְ	מִשְׁפָּט	וַעֲשֵׂה וְ
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	Keep	ye judgment	and do
	H559	H3068	H8104	H4941	H6213
	וְצִדְקָתִי	כִּי	קֵרוֹב הִיא	יְשׁוּעָתִי	לָבֹא
	and my righteousness	H3588	is near	for my salvation	to come
	H6666		H7138	H3444	H935
	וְצִדְקָתִי	לְהִגָּלוֹת:			
	and my righteousness	to be revealed			
	H6666	H1540			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 85:9 (Salvation): Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

Romans 1:17 (Righteousness): For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Matthew 3:2 (Parallel theme): And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Isaiah 55:7 (Righteousness): Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 51:5 (Salvation): My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

Isaiah 46:13 (Salvation): I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

Matthew 4:17 (Parallel theme): From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

John 7:17 (Parallel theme): If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Mark 1:15 (Parallel theme): And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Malachi 4:4 (Judgment): Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

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