

Isaiah 56:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree.

Analysis

God addresses two marginalized groups: 'the son of the stranger' (foreigner joined to Israel) and 'the eunuch' (castrated male excluded from assembly per Deuteronomy 23:1). Both feared exclusion: 'The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people' or 'I am a dry tree' (unable to have descendants). Grace overcomes these barriers.

Historical Context

Eunuchs often served in royal courts (see Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8). Foreigners wondered if they could truly belong. Isaiah's message radically includes those Mosaic law seemed to exclude.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Who today might feel excluded from God's people but whom God desires to include?
2. How does the gospel overcome barriers that make people feel they cannot belong?

Interlinear Text

אָל	פְּנֵלִי	הַ	רְ	פְּנֵק	בָּ	וְאָמַר	אָל	יֹאמֶר	אָל	
H408	say	Neither	let	the	son	of	the	stranger	that	hath joined
H559		H1121				H5236		H3867		H413
מְעַל	יְהִי	הָ	יְבָדֵל	בָּ	יְבָדֵל	בָּ	וְאָמַר	יְהִי	הָ	
The	LORD	say	hath	utterly	hath	utterly	The	LORD		H5921
H3068		H559		H914		H914		H3068		
עַז	אָנָּי	הָ	פָּסָר	יָסָ	וְאָמַר	אָל	עַם	וְ	עַם	
me	from	his	people		say	neither	let	the	eunuch	
H5971					H559			H2005		H589
										tree
										H6086
יבָשָׁ:										
Behold I am a dry										
H3002										

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 6:17 (References Lord): But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

Isaiah 39:7 (Parallel theme): And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Isaiah 14:1 (References Lord): For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob.

Isaiah 56:5 (Parallel theme): Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

Acts 17:4 (Parallel theme): And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

Acts 10:34 (Parallel theme): Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Jeremiah 50:5 (References Lord): They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.

Ephesians 2:22 (Parallel theme): In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Romans 15:16 (Parallel theme): That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Numbers 18:4 (Parallel theme): And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you.