

# 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

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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

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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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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וְאֵל H408	יֹאמַר say H559	בֶּן Neither let the son H1121	הַנָּכָר of the stranger H5236	הַנִּלְוֶה that hath joined H3867	אֵל H413
יְהוָה The LORD H3068	יֹאמַר say H559	יְבַדִּיל נִי hath utterly H914	יְבַדִּיל נִי hath utterly H914	יְהוָה The LORD H3068	מֵעַל H5921
עַמּוֹ me from his people H5971	וְאֵל H408	יֹאמַר say H559	הַסָּרִיס neither let the eunuch H5631	אֲנִי H2005	יָ H589
					עֵץ tree H6086
יְבֹשֶׁה Behold I am a dry H3002					

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.