

Isaiah 56:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;

Analysis

Foreigners who join themselves to the LORD 'to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants' are welcomed. The threefold description - serving, loving, being servants - emphasizes genuine devotion. Sabbath-keeping and covenant-holding again mark true faith.

Historical Context

This anticipates Gentile inclusion in the people of God, later explicitly fulfilled in the New Testament church. The barriers between Jew and Gentile are broken down in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What marks genuine joining to the LORD versus mere association?

2. How does this passage prepare for the New Testament inclusion of Gentiles?

Interlinear Text

לְשָׁרֶת וְיִהְיֶה הָעֵדָה רְבִנָּה יְבִנָּה	Also the sons of the stranger that join of the LORD to serve	H1121 H5236 H3867 H5921 H3068 H8334
לְעַבְדֵּים וְלִהְיוֹת יְהִי הַשָּׁם אֶת שְׁמָךְ וְלְאַהֲבָה	him and to love the name of the LORD to be his servants	H157 H853 H8034 H3068 H1961 H0 H5650
כָּל שְׁמֵר שְׁבָת מִפְלָל וְמִפְזִיק יִמְצָא	every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it and taketh hold	H3605 H8104 H7676 H2490 H2388
בְּבְרִיתִי:	of my covenant	H1285

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 50:5 (Covenant): 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.

Isaiah 58:13 (References Lord): If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

Galatians 5:6 (Love): For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Isaiah 44:5 (References Lord): One shall say, I am the LORD'S; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel.

James 2:5 (Love): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Revelation 1:10 (References Lord): I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Acts 2:41 (Parallel theme): Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

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