

A Trek Through Isaiah 71 - 54:1-17

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For this week:

- Zion restored 54:1-17

Context

Worldwide Salvation 54:1 - 55:13	
Zion restored 54:1-17	The whole world invited 55:1-13

- In the book of the Servant (38 - 55): How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?
- This section (49 - 55) describes the greater deliverance (redemption from sin) accomplished through the Servant.
- This part (54, 55)
 - Two-part tailpiece to the fourth Servant Song
 - Zion restored (54)
 - The whole world invited (55)

- Zion Restored 54:1-17
 - Here are four pictures of restoration for those who had God's law, all using women.
 - V1-3 Children for a **barren** woman.

1 "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD. 2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. 3 For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities.

- V1 A multitude from nothing
 - Sing...break forth into singing
 - Parallel structure
 - Enter with joy into a benefit given.
 - O barren one, who did not bear...you who have not been in labor!
 - Repeated description of barrenness
 - Barren one
 - Did not bear
 - Have not been in labor
 - the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married.
 - Desolate one.
 - Without a husband.
 - Cannot conceive.
 - children
 - Supernatural act that the woman without a husband should have more children than the woman with a husband.
 - From the Servant's work
 - Is 53:10 ...he shall see his offspring
 - Will be more
 - Restored Israel with faith in Jesus Christ will be more fruitful than Israel under the law.
 - Fulfilled in the millennium.

- V2 Bursting at the seams
 - Picture of a tent being enlarged to hold an expanding family.
 - Enlarge the place of your tent.
 - Where it is pitched.
 - the curtains of your habitation.
 - The tent walls
 - lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.
 - To accommodate the larger walls
 - Do not hold back
 - Make every effort.
- V3 Possessing the nations
 - For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations
 - Promise to Jacob in Gen 28:14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
 - Partial fulfilment by the early church in Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - Final fulfillment in the millennium.
 - and will people the desolate cities.
 - Desolated during the exile to Babylon.

■ V4-8 Everlasting love for a rejected woman

4 “Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. 5 For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. 6 For the LORD has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. 7 For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. 8 In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD, your Redeemer.

- V4 The end of shame
 - Two pictures of the nation as a woman in shame.
 - V4 Widowed in youth
 - V6 Deserted by her husband
 - Not the usual pictures of God but Isaiah wants us to feel the pain.
 - ashamed...disgraced;
 - Hope not realized.
 - Previous misconduct revealed.
 - Fear not, for you will not be ashamed
 - Call to stop fearing.
 - The shame will be ended
 - for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.
 - Shame of your youth. The Egyptian captivity.
 - Reproach of your widowhood. The exile to Babylon.
 - Here is the work of the Servant: rescue from the bondage of sin.
- V5-6 The means of rescue
 - For your Maker is your husband...For the Lord has called you.
 - Parallel structure
 - Israel’s husband continues faithful; He has not abandoned her.
 - Who He is
 - Maker
 - The Lord of hosts. Over all heaven and earth.
 - the Holy One of Israel
 - Holy
 - Of Israel
 - Your Redeemer. Next of kin who takes the burden.
 - God of the whole earth. Sovereign over all.

- V7-8 The cause of shame
 - For a brief moment I deserted you...in overflowing anger for a moment
 - I hid my face from you,
 - overflowing anger.
 - Here is the cause of the shame: God's anger at their sin.
 - I deserted you...I hid my face from you.
 - Their sin broke their relationship with God.
 - He seemed to have deserted them.
 - For a brief moment.
 - He has not abandoned them.
 - with great compassion I will gather you ... but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you
 - with great compassion I will gather you
 - Now the LORD turns back to them.
 - everlasting love. A commitment of the will.
 - Compassion. The feeling of love.
 - says the Lord, your Redeemer
 - The One who can buy them back from slavery to sin.

■ V9-10 The end of wrath for a **guilty** woman

9 “This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. 10 For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

- V9 The promise of peace
 - This is like the days of Noah to me. Gen 9:12-15 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.
 - Bow. Lit “war bow”
 - Hung in the clouds as a sign of the covenant.
 - God promises that there would never again be a flood to destroy all flesh.
 - The instrument of war becomes a symbol of peace.
 - so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you.
 - Refers back to v8 (overflowing anger). That will never happen again.
 - Angry. Feeling of anger.
 - Rebuke. Action coming from the feeling of anger.
 - Promise of peace with God through the work of the Servant.
- V10 The permanence of peace
 - For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed.
 - Physical creation that appears permanent.
 - my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed
 - Love based on a covenant
 - More permanent than the apparently eternal creation.
 - A kingdom promise, after Israel has turned back to the Lord.
 - says the Lord, who has compassion on you.
 - The basis of their security: the promises of God.
 - Based on His love.
 - As Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world...

■ V11-17a Untouchable security for a **storm-tossed** woman

11 “O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires. 12 I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones. 13 All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children. 14 In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. 15 If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you. 16 Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy; 17 no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.

- V11-12 From affliction to glory
 - Speaking to the city.
 - Present condition
 - afflicted. Overcome by external forces.
 - storm-tossed. Buffeted. No stability.
 - Not comforted. No help.
 - Coming glory
 - Stability: stones set; foundation laid.
 - Rebuilt city: walls, gates, pinnacles.
 - Beauty: Antimony, sapphires, agate, carbuncles (beryl), precious stones.
- V13-14 Peace
 - All your children shall be taught by the Lord
 - All your children. Every one.
 - Taught. Receiving instruction. As Is 50:4 speaking of the Servant: Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.
 - By the Lord. God’s people receiving His word..
 - great shall be the peace of your children.
 - Peace. Heb shalom. Well-being.
 - Peace with God.
 - Peace with men
 - The result of receiving His word.
 - In righteousness you shall be established;
 - The righteousness of God.
 - you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.
 - Parallel.
 - Oppression. General threats to society.
 - terror. Assaults; internal alarm.
 - No fear. Emotion.
 - not come near you. Gone forever.

- V15-17a Security
 - If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me
 - Never again will the LORD move an attacker against His city.
 - Contrast Is 10:5-6 Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury!
6 Against a godless nation I send him,
and against the people of my wrath I command him,
 - whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you.
 - Fall. Fall down before you.
 - The intent of the aggressor will be reversed in his defeat.
 - Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy;
 - The LORD is behind the production of weapons.
 - He also is the One who raises up the aggressor for His purpose.
 - no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.
 - Security from physical attack
 - Security from verbal attack.
 - Judgment. Accusation in a law court.

■ V17b Summary

This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.”

- This. Refers to all of 54.
- Heritage. The reality of possession.
- servants of the Lord.
 - From here on Isaiah will only use the plural.
 - The work of the Servant creates many servants.
 - As Is 53:11 ...by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
- their vindication from me, declares the Lord.
 - Vindication.
 - Shown to be right.
 - The outcome of faith.
 - As 1 Pet 1:3-7 .Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - A living hope
 - Looking to an inheritance kept in heaven
 - Obtained through faith.
 - Trials for a little while.
 - praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - From me. Emphatic.

Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

- 1. Children for a barren woman 54:1-3**
 - a. Barren and desolate
 - b. More children than she who is married
 - c. As Joel 2:25 I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten
- 2. Everlasting love for a rejected woman 54:4-8**
 - a. Feeling deserted, grieved, cast off
 - b. God's face hidden in anger for a moment
 - c. Everlasting love and compassion
- 3. Untouchable security for a storm-tossed woman 54:11-17**
 - a. Afflicted, storm-tossed, not comforted,.
 - b. I created the smith; I created the ravager.
 - c. Established in righteousness
 - d. Foundation of sapphire, pinnacles of agate

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week: The Whole World Invited 55:1-13

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