

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Isaiah Message 121*

*July 25, 2021*



*Adoration of The Lamb Michiel Coxcie Cir 1558*

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# Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

One-Hundred-Twenty-One

THE WIFE OF JEHOVAH IS RESTORED

July 25, 2021

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 54:1–17

<sup>1</sup>Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith Jehovah. <sup>2</sup>Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations; spare not: lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes. <sup>3</sup>For thou shalt spread abroad on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall possess the nations, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

<sup>4</sup>Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth; and the reproach of thy widowhood shalt thou remember no more. <sup>5</sup>For thy Maker is thy husband; Jehovah of hosts is his name: and the Holy One of Israel is thy Redeemer; the God of the whole earth shall he be called. <sup>6</sup>For Jehovah hath called thee as a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, even a wife of youth, when she is cast off, saith thy God. <sup>7</sup>For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. <sup>8</sup>In overflowing wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting lovingkindness will I have mercy on thee, saith Jehovah thy Redeemer.

<sup>9</sup>For this is as the waters of Noah unto me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah shall no more go over the earth, so have I sworn that I will not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. <sup>10</sup>For the mountains may depart, and the hills be removed; but my lovingkindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall my covenant of peace be removed, saith Jehovah that hath mercy on thee. <sup>11</sup>O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will set thy stones in fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. <sup>12</sup>And I will make thy pinnacles of rubies, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy border of precious stones. <sup>13</sup>And all thy children shall be taught of Jehovah; and great shall be the peace of thy children. <sup>14</sup>In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression, for thou shalt not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near thee. <sup>15</sup>Behold, they may gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall because of thee. <sup>16</sup>Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the fire of coals, and bringeth forth a weapon for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. <sup>17</sup>No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of Jehovah, and their righteousness which is of me, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

## THE WIFE OF JEHOVAH REJOICES

Isaiah 54:1

*<sup>1</sup>Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

The Lord begins by affirming that the restored wife of Jehovah will now start to bear legitimate children. Israel had produced a lot more children in desolation than she produced when she was previously married to Jehovah. Formerly, Israel produced many illegitimate children and very few legitimate ones, and the ones who were legitimate were often sacrificed to the foreign gods. This seemed to be their pattern. In fact during the Babylonian captivity the people, priests and Levites married outside their faith and produced children with the foreign women which were viewed according to Israeli law as illegitimate.

Ezra 9:1–2

*<sup>1</sup>Now when these things were done, the princes drew near unto me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. <sup>2</sup>For they have taken of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the peoples of the lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass (ASV, 1901).*

### 1. THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP BEGINS

Earlier, God chose Israel as His wife. The book of Deuteronomy is comprised of almost all repetitions of the Law found in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers.

Where it departs aside from the few legal principles found exclusively here is the book's format. It was written as an ancient marriage contract between Israel and Jehovah. In this book Israel essentially became the Wife of Jehovah. God did not choose Israel as His wife due to her size, because Israel was small. He had only one basic reason and that was His love for Israel. Because of His love for Israel, He entered into a covenant relationship with her. This covenant relationship is the marriage contract of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 7:6–11

*<sup>6</sup>For thou art a holy people unto Jehovah thy God: Jehovah thy God hath chosen thee to be a people for his own possession, above all peoples that are upon the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>Jehovah did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all peoples: <sup>8</sup>but because Jehovah loveth you, and because he would keep the oath which he swore unto your fathers,*

*hath Jehovah brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that Jehovah thy God, he is God, the faithful God, who keepeth covenant and lovingkindness with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations, <sup>10</sup>and repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face. <sup>11</sup>Thou shalt therefore keep the commandment, and the statutes, and the ordinances, which I command thee this day, to do them (ASV, 1901).*

The prophets also affirmed this covenant relationship as a marriage contract. For example, God also expressed this through the prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 16:8

*<sup>8</sup>Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord Jehovah, and thou becamest mine (ASV, 1901).*

## 2. ISRAEL COMMITS ADULTERY

Because of Israel's sin of chasing after foreign gods and engaging in massive sins God viewed them as having committed adultery. The Lord expressed the marital relationship again through the prophets and here for example He cites their adultery through Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 3:20

*<sup>20</sup>Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

As a result of their adultery the marriage contract was broken. Interestingly, the only reason the Lord Jesus permitted divorce is adultery because of the extent of the pain it gives the aggrieved party (Matthew 19:9).

Jeremiah 31:32

*<sup>32</sup>not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

## 3. GOD SEPARATES FROM ISRAEL

Isaiah 50:1

*Thus says Jehovah, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, wherewith I have put her away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your*

*iniquities were ye sold, and for your transgressions was your mother put away (ASV, 1901).*

#### 4. THE DIVORCE

Jeremiah 3:6–10

*<sup>6</sup>Moreover Jehovah said unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot. <sup>7</sup>And I said after she had done all these things, She will return unto me; but she returned not: and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. <sup>8</sup>And I saw, when, for this very cause that backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a bill of divorcement, yet treacherous Judah her sister feared not; but she also went and played the harlot. <sup>9</sup>And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that the land was polluted, and she committed adultery with stones and with stocks. <sup>10</sup>And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not returned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

God declares Israel guilty of adultery and issued His bill of divorcement. The Book of Hosea was God's bill of divorcement of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and the Book of Jeremiah is the bill of divorcement of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. It was necessary for God to provide the bill to the Israelis because of the adulterous pollution of the Land God had given to the people of Israel. So, in the days of Jeremiah the prophet, the people of Israel were divorced from Jehovah. After 100 years of separation and no repentance in Israel, God had no other choice but to issue the bill of divorcement on the grounds of adultery.

#### 5. THE PUNISHMENT IS ISSUED BY GOD

Within the book of Deuteronomy, God declared that if Israel became unfaithful as Jehovah's wife, she would be punished her for her unfaithfulness. After the bill of divorcement there would be a long period of the punishment of Israel for Her sins. Again, it was the prophets through whom the Lord described the punishment and the reasons behind it.

Ezekiel 16:35–43

*<sup>35</sup>Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of Jehovah: <sup>36</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness uncovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers; and because of all the idols of thy abominations, and for the blood of thy children, that thou didst give unto them; <sup>37</sup>therefore behold, I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them against thee on every side, and will uncover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness. <sup>38</sup>And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will bring upon thee the blood of wrath and jealousy. <sup>39</sup>I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down thy vaulted place, and break down thy lofty places; and they shall strip thee of thy clothes, and take thy fair jewels; and they shall leave*

*thee naked and bare. <sup>40</sup>They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords. <sup>41</sup>And they shall burn thy houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women; and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou shalt also give no hire any more. <sup>42</sup>So will I cause my wrath toward thee to rest, and my jealousy shall depart from thee, and I will be quiet, and will be no more angry. <sup>43</sup>Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast raged against me in all these things; therefore, behold, I also will bring thy way upon thy head, saith the Lord Jehovah: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness with all thine abominations (ASV, 1901).*

First the Lord cites the reasons for the punishment, adultery, then the actual the punishment. Israel will be destroyed by her very own lovers. Because she worshiped the gods of the Egyptians, the Egyptians will destroy her. Because she worshiped the deities of Assyria, the Assyrians will devastate her. Because she worshiped the idols of Babylon, the Babylonians will make her desolate. The nations who worshiped the very gods with whom Israel committed adultery will be the ones who will invade and destroy the nation of Israel. This then would be the satisfaction to the jealousy of God. Deuteronomy declared; the punishment of Israel would be a result of God's jealousy for His wife. However, all this punishment has a specific aim. The aim of this punishment is not so God can be vengeful and get His revenge upon Israel, but rather to cause her to stop sinning and her adulteries.

To this day, Israel is still in this stage of her historical and prophetic relationship with Jehovah, her God. Israel is still in the period of punishment. This is obvious by the persecutions and accusations toward the Jews around the world and by the present worldwide dispersion.

## 6. THE REMARRIAGE WITH RESTORED BLESSINGS

The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31–34) is essentially a new marriage contract that God will make with the two houses of Israel and Judah. This new covenant of marriage will be mandatory because the old marriage covenant was broken. Although God was a good husband, Israel strayed away and by means of adultery caused the original marriage contract to be broken. But now, with this new marriage contract, Israel will again be restored to the place of blessing

Isaiah 54:1–8

*<sup>1</sup>Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith Jehovah. <sup>2</sup>Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations; spare not: lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes. <sup>3</sup>For thou shalt spread abroad on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall possess the nations, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.*

*<sup>4</sup>Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth; and the reproach of thy widowhood shalt thou remember no more. <sup>5</sup>For thy Maker is thy husband; Jehovah of hosts is his name: and the Holy One of Israel is thy Redeemer; the God of the whole*

*earth shall he be called. <sup>6</sup>For Jehovah hath called thee as a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, even a wife of youth, when she is cast off, saith thy God. <sup>7</sup>For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. <sup>8</sup>In overflowing wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting lovingkindness will I have mercy on thee, saith Jehovah thy Redeemer (ASV, 1901).*

Isaiah began by declaring that the restored wife will now begin to bear legitimate children in Israel. Isaiah tells Israel to enlarge her accommodations in order to provide for the many legitimate children about to come (Ezekiel 37:26). The text here uses the example of a tent that needs to be expanded. The reason for this new activity and the coming legitimate children is the restoration of the marriage, Israel's former adulteries will all be forgotten, and Jehovah will once again be her Husband. God will again court His wife as He courted her when she was a youth, and all past forsakings will now be substituted by renewed blessings.

#### THE COMPARISON TO THE FLOOD

##### Isaiah 54:9–17

*<sup>9</sup>For this is as the waters of Noah unto me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah shall no more go over the earth, so have I sworn that I will not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. <sup>10</sup>For the mountains may depart, and the hills be removed; but my lovingkindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall my covenant of peace be removed, saith Jehovah that hath mercy on thee. <sup>11</sup>O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will set thy stones in fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. <sup>12</sup>And I will make thy pinnacles of rubies, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy border of precious stones. <sup>13</sup>And all thy children shall be taught of Jehovah; and great shall be the peace of thy children. <sup>14</sup>In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression, for thou shalt not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near thee. <sup>15</sup>Behold, they may gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall because of thee. <sup>16</sup>Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the fire of coals, and bringeth forth a weapon for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. <sup>17</sup>No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of Jehovah, and their righteousness which is of me, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

The reasons for the punishment of Israel is as if they were submerged in the flood of Noah. This is how the Lord describes the various nations, He brought against them. Its object was to purify his people Israel, as the object of the Flood was to purify the world.

One righteous family survived in the Flood and a righteous remnant will go into the Messianic Kingdom. And as God said in Noah's time that He would not repeat the calamity of the Deluge, so now He promises not again to persecute His people Israel in any captivity like the Babylonian. Here He Promises Glory to Restored Israel in the Messianic Kingdom.

*The mountains may depart, and the hills be removed ... but My kindness shall not depart. The restructuring of the earth's surface in the Tribulation will occur but His lovingkindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall my covenant of peace be removed, saith Jehovah that hath mercy on thee.* All else will fail, depart, or perish; but God's promises remain firm and secure forever.

He is about to describe the future He has planned for His people. He portrays that future, blending the glory of millennial Jerusalem, which will be the capital of the millennial earth (Jeremiah 50:5; Zechariah 8:21-23 16-21), with the eternal city John describes (Revelation 21:10-27).

That gives a hint the splendor of the millennial city. Lord Himself declares that He will lay the precious stones of Her foundation. All her children will be taught of the Lord's Law. The secret of the beauty and security of the Holy City is seen in the fact it will be established in righteousness, and peace will prevail.

Any assailant will not be sent by Him, as in former times, to chastise God's disobedient children. Such attackers will fail and fall because Israel will be, as the Lord elect, under His protection. The people that He Himself has created that is the smith who forges weapons of war for deadly work, as well as the destroyer who uses such weapons will no longer perform that work. Therefore, no weapon formed and every tongue that speaks against them that accuse it in judgment, will not condemn them (Exodus 11:7; Joshua 21; Psalm 64:8; Romans 8:1,33).

The conclusion of this chapter is this: whoever attempts to use weapon or speech against the people of God will not succeed, because God is not sending that trouble and all things are controlled by Him. God's people will survive when the destroyers are long gone. One contemporary example was the Third Reich. That empire of Nazism, whose severely persecuted the Jews only lasted 12 years. The outcome of that was a decree by the United Nation for the establishment of the Jewish sovereign state, which had not existed for 2534 years.

Next message: SALVATION BY GOD'S GRACE ALONE  
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