

EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #82

Isaiah 54:1-17

I read a story of a daughter who had gone to visit her dying father in a hospital. As she looked down at her dad, she saw deep furrows on his face, bloodshot eyes, and a depressing look that said he had lived a rough bitter life. There was no confidence, no joy, and no hope. The daughter smiled at her dad and said hello and her dad turned and looked at her. He said, "I know what you want to say to me about giving my life to the Lord, but it is too late." His daughter said, "Dad, do you think it is too late for God's forgiveness?" Her Father said, "Yes, I do. You have no idea what I have done. I was once a preacher and I have gone so far away from God there is no hope. I have done things I can't even talk about." The daughter said, "No one has gone too far away from the potential forgiveness and restoration of Jesus Christ. The proof of that is Israel." The father broke down. His life was coming to an end, but he asked for God's forgiveness and both he and his daughter rejoiced. **The nation Israel is proof that it is never too late for you to come back to God.**

Many people miss the connection between Isaiah 54 and Isaiah 53. In Isaiah 53 it was revealed that Jesus Christ would come into this world and become a substitute for our sins. He would experience humiliating things, but in the end He would prosper and would see His offspring. **What this chapter reveals is that after Christ's suffering of Isaiah 53 would come Israel's singing of Isaiah 54.** The work of Jesus Christ would mean Israel will one day sing and so will we. What we see is this:

ULTIMATELY JESUS CHRIST WILL BRING A GREAT NATIONAL SALVATION AND RESTORATION TO THE NATION ISRAEL; AND WHEN HE DOES, ISRAEL WILL BE A REJOICING NATION AND NOT A HUMILIATED NATION.

Dr. John Walvoord said when we come to Isaiah 54 we come to "graphic language" that describes "the future glory of Israel" (*Prophecy Knowledge Handbook*, p. 115).

Isaiah 54 describes just exactly what Jesus Christ would accomplish and what He would see. One day Jesus Christ will be the reason why Israel is flourishing. Christ's cross-work guarantees that one day Jesus Christ will rule the world and Israel will be seen as the great nation of God. God is not only going to get back into a great relationship with Israel, but He will see to it that the rest of the world knows it and sees it too.

There are six amazing predictions of what God will do for Israel:

PREDICTION #1 – God will increase Israel in numbers of both people and land. **54:1-3**

God begins by addressing Israel as a "barren" nation who had borne no children. Let's face it, Israel has not produced an offspring of people who love Jesus Christ and love God and His Word. But God says that will all change. The sons of the desolate Israel will eventually be more numerous than the sons of the married Church. She will end up with more people and more land than she can imagine.

It has been estimated that the actual dimensions of land marked out by God in Joshua 1:4 is land that totals 300,000 square miles. In the days of David and Solomon, when things were good for Israel, they occupied about 30,000 square miles. Today Israel occupies about 8000 square miles. Israel's land boundaries are getting smaller, not larger. It is quite obvious that there is a big disparity between the land God promised to Israel and the land she actually has. But that disparity will be resolved and one day she will have every inch of her Promised Land because Jesus Christ is going to see to it.

When Jesus Christ finally brings this all about, as **verse 1** says, Israel will be a nation of joy. There will be joyful shouting in the land of Israel.

God will multiply the numbers of the Jewish people living in the land and He will multiply their land. They will be able to enlarge their places of residency and no longer will there be any talk of lessening land or taking away land. **When Jesus Christ reigns on this earth, everything for Israel will be expansion, not elimination.**

In the early days of Israel in the land, they literally lived in tents; and even long after houses were there, often in Scripture the image of a tent was used (I Kings 12:16; Song of Solomon 1:5; Isaiah 33:20). So the idea of enlarging the place of your tents and dwellings is the idea of spreading out your living acreage because Israel has so much land.

When Jesus Christ fulfills these prophecies it will be at the end of the Tribulation. During the Tribulation she will flee her houses in Israel due to pressure of the Antichrist. But in the aftermath of this, she will experience great blessing. She will never again be boxed in. She will have new freedom. She will inhabit many desolate cities that were made desolate in the Tribulation. She will completely enjoy life in her Promised Land.

Think of what is describe here for Israel: singing, fruitfulness, and expansion and growth.

PREDICTION #2 – God will regather and remarry Himself to Israel. **54:4-8**

In **verse 1** there is plenty of singing in Israel and in **verse 4** there will be a lack of fear. Can you imagine a time when Israel lives without any fear? Isaiah says this will happen. Israel will never again be afraid for five stated reasons:

(Reason #1) - She will not be put to shame anymore. **54:4a**

The word “shame” (bosh) is one that means to be so ashamed that one feels sad and mournful because one has been rejected or abandoned by God (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 147). As William Mounce said, shame can occur on a personal, corporate or national level (*Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*, p. 40).

David said to national Israel and to us, that none who trust in the Lord and wait on the Lord shall be ashamed (Psalm 25:3).

(Reason #2) - She will not be humiliated anymore. **54:4b**

The Niphal stem of the word “humiliate” means to be totally disgraced and insulted (*Ibid.*, p. 400). Notice shame and humiliation are things you feel. When we are feeling right and thinking right, we will be ashamed of anything that causes a breach in our relationship with God.

(Reason #3) - She will not be disgraced anymore. **54:4c**

The word “disgrace” means that she will not ever be dishonored and blush ever again (*Ibid.*, p. 97).

(Reason #4) - She will forget her shame. **54:4d**

The particular emphasis of this word is that she shall never again find any shame (*Ibid.*, p. 821).

(Reason #5) - She will not be able to remember her reproach. **54:4c**

The particular emphasis of this word is that she will never again be able to bring to her mind or recall anything about her past lousy relationship with God (*Ibid.*, p. 244). In other words, no one will sit around and reminisce about how bad the nation had once been.

It is so interesting because Israel has not protected the honor of God, but God has always protected the honor of His people.

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ in Isaiah 53 opens the door for God to offer Israel amazing grace. Israel has greatly sinned against God and yet God will forgive Israel and give her a new beginning.

In **verses 5-8** what is promised is that God is once again going to remarry Himself to Israel. Dr. C. I. Scofield, in his reference Bible, called this section, “Israel the restored wife of the LORD” (p. 991).

According to Jeremiah 3:8, God has presently divorced Himself from Israel. Right now God has married a new bride, the Church. But God is eventually going to refocus His relationship with Israel and He will take her back as His wife.

God says, for a brief time I forsook you, but with great compassion I will regather you. Notice it is brought out that **God is the “LORD of hosts” and is Israel’s Maker and Redeemer (54:5, 8). The suffering servant of Isaiah 53 is the sovereign Savior of Isaiah 54. Israel needs to see this and so does the rest of the world. God is the God of all the earth and He is on Israel’s side.**

It may not look right now that God is on her side, but one day the whole world will know it. He will redeem Israel. He will redeem Israel by His Holy One, Jesus Christ.

Even though God has presently deserted Israel, that work of Jesus Christ on that cross means that it will not always be that way.

Whenever God's children disobey and refuse to listen to His Word, He will chasten them and discipline them (Hebrews 12:1-11). God will never permit His children to get away with sin. The reason why He disciplines them is so that He may produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness. When God's people sin, they feel ashamed and depressed, but there can be singing again if one will turn to the Lord.

PREDICTION #3 – God will give Israel a new security. **54:9-10**

In these verses God promises some wonderful assurances to Israel. **Just as after the flood, God promised Noah that He would never again flood the world, so He says after the Tribulation, He will never again be angry with Israel.**

God says in My anger I may shake the world and remove mountains, which He will literally do in the Tribulation (Revelation 6:12-17; 16:18-21), but God's loving-kindness will always be with Israel and God's covenant relationship with national Israel will never be shaken. God will always have compassion on Israel and she will have a new security in her relationship with God.

When God gets angry with His people, we see here the kinds of things that happen. They become afraid. They are depressed, humiliated and ashamed. They lack fruit production and security. They are barren and dry. But when God lifts His anger everything changes.

PREDICTION #4 – God will make Jerusalem a beautiful city. **54:11-12**

After God spells out how sad things have been for Israel in the past and how great they will be in the future, He specifically zeroes in on Jerusalem. Not only will He do amazing things for the nation Israel, He will do amazing things for Jerusalem.

The "afflicted one" in **verse 11** is Jerusalem. Jerusalem has been a war-torn battlement city. It has been a city of troubles, turmoil, and terror. The truth is the worst of it is yet to come. There will come to this city "the abomination of desolations."

But God promises that He will bring comfort to this city and will rebuild it into becoming the most beautiful city in the world. One day this city will be a city of jewels.

Now there are similarities between the New Jerusalem described in Revelation 21-22 and this Jerusalem. But there are also differences. But, as Dr. Walvoord observes, this Jerusalem refers to the city of Jerusalem that will exist in the Millennium and not the one that will exist in the eternal state (*Prophecy Knowledge Handbook*, p. 115).

PREDICTION #5 – God Himself will teach the children of Israel. **54:13-14**

The Israelites have always placed a high priority on the training of their sons. When Jesus Christ reigns, He personally will teach Israel. Those children will enjoy God's peace, learn of God's righteousness, and have God's protection.

Nothing oppressive, fearful, or terrifying will ever hit these children again.

PREDICTION #6 – God will protect Israel and no nation will ever come against her again.
54:15-17

There are many predictions in Scripture that there will be a final assault against Israel and Jerusalem and that God will destroy all these nations (Zechariah 14:1-7; Revelation 19:19-20).

God keeps track of any who hate Israel, and no nation or person who has opposed Israel has ever or will ever prosper; and at the end of the Tribulation, any nation who has opposed Israel will be gone. J. Vernon McGee said there are many anti-Semites who need to carefully read Isaiah 54:17.

Israel is the heritage of the Lord and she has an inheritance coming to her, and those who even say things negative about her will suffer the vindication of God.

In the millennial reign of Jesus Christ no nation will be allowed to do or say anything negative against Israel. Jesus Christ will personally judge any who come against Israel. He promises that He will protect her from terror and tyranny. The reason why this will never happen again is because there will be no further need for discipline or punishment. All nations will love Israel and not ever do anything against her.

God wants Israel to know that her future is bright. She is now humbled and hurt, but eventually she will be happy and honored.

Perhaps you are depressed and ashamed. Perhaps you are in a dry spiritual rut and you are not producing any fruit. Turn to the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and the same God who will cause Israel to sing will make you sing again.