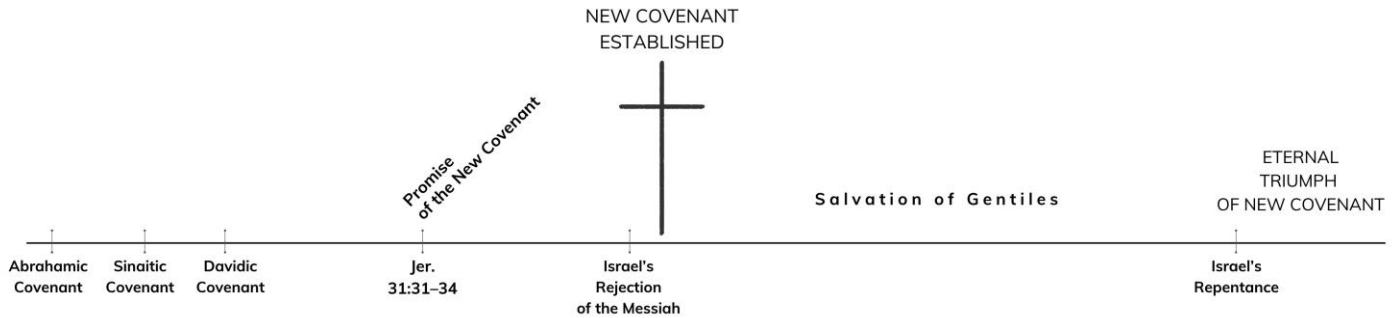


The Covenant of Peace

Isaiah 54:1-17



Is. 53:4-5 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.



The History of Israel's troubles

- 586 BC – Babylon destroys Jerusalem.
- 167 BC – Persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes.
- AD 33 – The death and resurrection of Christ.
- AD 70 – Destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple.
- 1096 – Anti-Jewish violence during the First Crusade.
- 1290 – Expulsion of the Jews from England.
- 1391 – Anti-Jewish violence in Spain.
- 1492-1497 – Expulsion of Jews from Spain and Portugal.
- 1881-1906 – Pogroms in the Russian Empire.
- 1933-1945 – The Holocaust.
- 1948 – Re-establishment of the State of Israel.
- 1948 to the present – Ongoing wars and conflict.

Is. 54:1-3 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. "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. 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.

Is. 54:4-5 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. 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.

Is. 54:6-8 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. For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. 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.

Is. 54:9-10 "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. 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.

Is. 54:11-13 "O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children."

Is. 54:14-15 "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. If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you."

Is. 54:16-7 "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; no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD."

I. The Blessings of the New Covenant

Jer. 31:31-33 Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. **And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

A. God's Steadfast Love

Is. 54:10 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.

Steadfast love - חֶסֶד (hesed) – **faithfulness, kindness, grace**¹

Ex. 34:6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and **abounding in steadfast love** and faithfulness.'

^{ESV} **Exodus 34:6** The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and **abounding in steadfast love** and faithfulness,

^{KJV} **Exodus 34:6** And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and **abundant in goodness** and truth,

^{NAS} **Exodus 34:6** Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and **abounding in lovingkindness** and truth;

^{NET} **Exodus 34:6** The LORD passed by before him and proclaimed: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and **abounding in loyal love** and faithfulness,

^{NIV} **Exodus 34:6** And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, **abounding in love** and faithfulness,

Is. 54:10 **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.

Jer. 31:35-37 Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD of hosts is his name: 'If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever.' Thus says the LORD: 'If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done,' declares the LORD.

God will discipline His children. He will allow difficulties and trials in their lives, training and maturing them, but He will never, under any circumstances, reject them or stop loving them!

Is. 54:8 "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.

¹ Holladay Lexicon, Bibleworks 10

B. God's Incomprehensible Mercy

Is. 54:7-8 "For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great **compassion** (*raḥam*) I will gather you. In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with **everlasting love** (*hesed*) I will have **compassion** (*raḥam*) on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer.

Compassion — רַחֵם *raḥam* — compassion, mercy.

Rom. 8:31-34 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Is. 54:10 "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**.

C. God's Unshakable Peace

Is. 54:10 "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.

Jer. 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And **I will be their God, and they shall be my people**.

II. The Foundation of the New Covenant

A. Redemption

Is. 54:5 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.

Is. 54:8 "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**.

Is. 53:10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Mat. 20:28 Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life **as a ransom for many**.

Col. 1:12-14 ...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **in whom** we have **redemption**, the forgiveness of sins.

B. Justification

Is. 54:14 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.

2 Cor. 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Phil. 3:8-9 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

C. Regeneration

Is. 54:13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.

Jer. 31:33-34 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Is. 54:13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.

The foundations of our participation in the New Covenant:

- We have been redeemed by Christ.
- We have been justified in Him.
- We have been born of His Spirit to be transformed by Him.

The Blessings of the New Covenant:

- God's unchanging love.
- God's incomprehensible mercy.
- God's unshakable peace.