

Isaiah 54:1-17

"A Future & A Hope"

The success of the Suffering Servant (Ch 53) brings the song of salvation (Ch 54). However, it's *application* would yet be future for the nation of Israel. Because there would be an interim period of time whereby, they would suffer the ramifications of the rejection of their Messiah.

It would be during this time (Israel being set aside) that Christ would call out a bride for Himself from among the Gentiles, known as the church. But the day will come when (what the Bible refers to as) the *fullness* of the Gentiles has come in, & the Lord will rapture (or suddenly, instantly, in a moment, the twinkling of an eye) call away His church to meet w/Him in the air & so shall we ever be w/the Lord.

At that time, God will direct His attention back to the nation of Israel. The 7 yrs of Great Tribulation will ensue, after which God will usher in the glorious Millennial Reign of Christ where He will rule the earth in perfect righteousness for 1,000 yrs (& *that* is what Isaiah is calling to our attention in this 54th chapter).

You see, we focus on the glorious prophecy concerning the death & resurrection of J.C. in Ch 53 (& appropriately so). But accordingly, much of what the end of Ch 52 & on throughout 53 focuses on isn't the fact that the Messiah would be *accepted* at His 1st coming, but that He would be *rejected*. "He is *despised & rejected by men, a Man of sorrows & acquainted w/grief.*" "He was *despised & we did not esteem Him.*" "He was *oppressed & He was afflicted.*" "They made His grave w/the *wicked*" & "He was *numbered w/the transgressors.*"

So, it doesn't speak of the Messiah being accepted & esteemed in *celebration*. It speaks of Him being rejected & cut off through unjust *condemnation*. The nation of Israel would reject J.C. & It was all fulfilled, down to the finest most minute of details. He made His "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem on Sunday, but before the week was over He would be hanging on a cross, (numbered w/the transgressors) suffering for the sins of the world.

Perhaps you remember, there He was, on trial before Pontius Pilate... & the short of it is that Pilate said, "I find no fault in this Man."¹ Ladies & Gentlemen, that should've ended the trial right then & there! Pilate said, "He's innocent." But the religious leaders were whipping the crowd up into a frenzy, creating a tumultuous & riotous environment... Eventually, he brought Jesus out before them, set a basin of water out in front of him & washed his hands before the crowd...

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Lk 23:4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

& He said, *"I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.'"*² Israel, as a nation, was rejecting God's promised Messiah. & In rejecting Him, God rejected them.

In fact, it was on the very day of His triumphal entry that as the entourage made their way down the Mt of Olives, preparing to enter into the city. The people were rejoicing, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!" ... But as the camera comes in for a close up & the celebratory sounds fade to the background we find Jesus... *not rejoicing, but weeping, weeping over the city.* – & He says, *"If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*³

Their rejection of God's Messiah resulted in God's rejection of them. The nation was cast out, Roman persecution would scatter them throughout the world. The Jews would become a curse & be persecuted wherever they went. & For nearly 2,000 yrs they were w/out a homeland.

Here in Isaiah 54, God assures the nation that though they would suffer the ramifications of their rejection of the Messiah, restoration & eternal reconciliation would surely come. He would gather them back, & take the nation back as His bride, *never to come under His discipline or His wrath again.* No longer would they be barren & unfruitful, but they will expand their borders, be blessed *by God & bring glory to God when Jesus rules the earth & Jerusalem becomes the rejoicing of the world.*

Vs 1-3

Get ready Israel, God is going to bless you! – There are a couple of things I want to draw to your attention here but right off the bat * I want to put a principle in place in your heart/mind & that is this. God is calling them to rejoice *not* on the basis of what He *has done*, but upon the basis of what He *will do*. *He wants them to lay hold of the promise of His word & based on the reliability of His word... rejoice! Let me give it to you another way. The promise of God's Word should bring praise to our lips!*

Now, I'd like to tell you that you can rejoice at the promise of *my* word.

² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt 27:24-25). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Lk 19:42-44). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

& Hopefully, (more than not) you can! But the truth is, there are times I will let you down. Try as I might, it's not a matter of "if", it's only a matter of "when". But such is not the case w/the promise of *God's Word*. The promise of God's word should bring praise to our lips! Because His word is *sure!* It's *going* to happen! Heaven & earth will pass away, God's word will never, by no means pass away. Every detail will be perfectly, completely, uncompromisingly fulfilled. So we can (& we should) *predicated on faith* give God our *praise* based upon *His promises!* *

Vs 1

In ancient Israel, a barren woman would carry an enormous amount of shame & disgrace. In part because they were an agrarian kind of culture & the more children you had, the more they could help w/the chores, take care of the farm, tend to you in your old age & all the rest. So, conversely, the more children you had, you were considered especially blessed!

& Here, God likes Israel to a barren woman... she'd disgraced herself through idolatry, had borne no fruit but had gone off into Babylonian captivity. But God assures them that those days of shame & humiliation are limited. That though they've been "Barren" the days are coming when God will bless them above & beyond measure. Beyond all they could ask or even think.

God says, "Enlarge the place of your tent, ...stretch out the curtains of your dwellings (& I love this) do not spare, lengthen your cords & strengthen your stakes." The idea is this, "Don't sell short what you think I'm going to do! Lengthen your cords! Strengthen your stakes!" In that day, they dwelt in Bedouin type dwellings. Large tents. All they had to do to "add on" was sow more goatskins together, lengthen their cords & strengthen their stakes.

Now, * the nation of Israel has *never* occupied the entire area that God has promised to them (the boundaries He has laid out for them). What God has promised them comprises about 300,000 sq miles. **But even in the pinnacle of their history under David & Solomon, they only occupied about 30,000 sq miles...** Interesting that *today*, Israel is being pressured to reduce the place of their tent. To reign in their borders & give their land away. They only occupy about 8,300 sq miles. A territory about the size of New Jersey (about 1/7 the size of Florida). - But during the millennial kingdom they'll occupy every sq inch that God has promised them. They'll lengthen their cords, strengthen their stakes & God will fill the land w/their offspring.

Btw, so long as we're on the topic. You should know that God is not an "open border" kind of God. Study the scripture. He very clearly assigns & ascribes boundaries & borders for nations to occupy & to dwell in. A nation w/out borders is no nation at all. Doesn't mean that there can't be cross pollination, open arms & all the rest. But God is about order & He prescribes borders. *

Now. As I said, the *interpretation* of this passage belongs to Israel during the millennial kingdom. But I believe there's some *application* for you today because * God wants to do a greater work in your life. It's time for you to "enlarge the place of your tent & stretch out the curtains of your dwellings! Don't spare, lengthen your cords & strengthen your stakes!" Listen, faith makes room for God to do a work! *

On a corporate level, I'm ready to see God grow this fellowship. To enlarge the place of our tent, to stretch out the curtains of our dwellings! We're speaking to construction companies, an architect, a structural engineer. Our prayer is that God would expand us, to the right & to the left! That His kingdom might increase to the glory of His name!

But what about your life personally? * Where are you at w/the Lord compared to where you were a year ago? Are your borders "expanding"? Are you growing spiritually? Are you more engaged in God's Word? More in love w/Him, more involved in serving? Or is your tent actually diminishing?

Are you ready for God to do more? Are you open to Him growing your discipleship group, or your home study? Or maybe He's just been stirring in your heart & it's time for you to step out & act on the unction He's impressed upon you! Are you in a place whereby He can use you more? Sometimes *old* "tent walls" need to come down to make room for new ones! God may be encouraging you to let go of "this" because now He wants to do "that".

& We need wisdom so that we can run the race & finish well. We don't want to stop short of what He has for us. There's an interesting Vs in Jeremiah Ch 12. It says, "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses?⁴ The idea being, "If you think it's tough now, what are you going to do when God says it's time to take it to the next level?" Don't overcrowd your life w/nonessential elements. Allow God the place & the space that He needs to increase *His work* in your life. *

Vs 4-6

Here's what I want you to see. * Back in Vs 4 God uses 3 words to define & describe your past. "Shame... disgrace (humiliation)... & reproach."

⁴ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Je 12:5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

But God promises that when He *rescues* you, when He *restores* you, when He forgives & *reconciles* you to Himself. All those things go away... ☺

& Where there was once barrenness there will be fruitfulness because now God is at work in your life. (If you've been a Bible student for any length of time you know that God will often refer to Israel as His bride. Of course, they were unfaithful to Him & went after other gods [which were not gods] but God promises to reconcile them to Himself.)

The takeaway here is this: The key to fruitfulness is a loving, faithful relationship w/God. Your time prior to Him rescuing you was filled w/shame, disgrace & reproach. But now, having been brought into a loving relationship w/Him, your life brings forth fruit (& our prayer is much fruit, fruit that remains). The fruit of good works, of prayer, of praise, of worship, of giving, the fruit of the Spirit which is love...

In the book of Romans Paul put it like this, "*What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"^{5*}

Now, through the centuries, many a hurting woman has taken Vs 5, & found great comfort & encouragement in the fact that God is enough. That He would be a husband to them when perhaps they themselves didn't have one or their husband had abandoned them. & The principle stands true. God will supply & meet the needs of the deepest recesses of the human heart. He will rescue us from our disgrace & our shame & bring forth fruit in our lives.

& The principle applies to everyone. * If a husband expects that *the wife*, & the *wife* thinks that a *husband* can truly satisfy the deepest needs of the recesses of their hearts. You're in for pain, possible regret & disillusionment. Don't look to your spouse to do for you what only God can do for you... Now, that doesn't give either spouse an excuse to *not* be there for one another & supply all that they can in meeting each other's needs. But understand that the only One who can truly/completely satisfy the innermost needs of your heart is the Lord. He *alone* is your all in all. & As each of you look *to* & trust *in* the Lord to be all that you need, *then* your lives will overflow w/goodness & richness toward one another. *

⁵ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ro 6:21-23). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs 7-8

God will allow us to reap the consequences of our own ways. If they didn't want God to be their God, He allowed them to go after foreign gods & suffer the consequences of that. But that's not on Him, it's on them. Even so, when we choose to sin against God & then we reap the harvest of the seeds we've sown... that's not on Him, it's on us!

But God says, "All those difficult days, that season of discipline & rebuke. They were but a flash in the pan compared to the eternal reward & goodness that awaits you." – Let me summarize this for you. No matter how tough times may seem. Be it a season of strengthening our *faith*, perhaps the "heat" is on & we're being purified in the refiner's fire... or maybe we're in sin & under the disciplining hand of God. Regardless of *why* tough times may be upon us... Compared what God has in store for us ultimately/eternally, it's nothing.

Israel has been set aside by God (not individually, there are lots of Jews who love Jesus) nationally for over 2,000 yrs. But w/the Lord a day is as 1,000 yrs & 1,000 yrs is as a day. It's not even a drop of time in the endless ocean of eternity. To the Corinthians Paul put it like this. He said, *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."*⁶ I dare you to write down & read later, 2 Cor Ch 11:22-33. You'll learn what Paul considered "light afflictions". ☺

"But w/great mercies I will gather you... w/everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you." His discipline is but for a moment. His kindness & mercy is forever...

Vs 9-10

God says to Israel, "My anger shall recede from you forever & My kindness shall never depart nor My covenant of peace be removed." This is how definitive the word of God is. He says, "To Me this is no different than the promise I made to Noah. I swore that the waters would recede & that I would never again destroy the earth in a flood.

Even so, when Christ comes back & establishes His kingdom on the earth. Israel will never again fall under God's hand of discipline & His kindness shall forever be upon them.

⁶ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (2 Co 4:16–18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Listen, God will *never* break the bond of His word. Not to Israel, not to you. His covenant of peace, peace w/God through our Lord J.C. will *never* be removed.

Vs 11-14

W/in the confines of context, the “tempest tossed & afflicted one” is the city of Jerusalem. & Again, God assures them that their affliction is light compared to the eternal weight of glory that’s to come. Isaiah begins to speak of the new Jerusalem, the foundations of precious gems, the peace that will be upon them & their children. If you’re interested in more detailed outline of the city, you can write down Rev 21:9-27 & research it later.

But again, at the risk of redundancy. * Tough times come to us all. In the end, God will turn our trials into treasures. He’ll take the things that the enemy meant for evil & turn it for our eternal good & His eternal glory. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. He will turn your mourning into dancing, He puts off our sackcloth & clothes us w/gladness... to the end that our glory may sing praise to Him & not be silent... As David said in the 30th psalm, *“O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.”*⁷

I can’t promise reprieve in this life... It’s why we set our minds on things above & not on things on the earth. Going back to our 2nd Cor passage, *“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,”*⁸ This life isn’t easy. Our flesh & our heart will fail... It’s why we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed w/our habitation (resurrection body) which is from heaven. *

Vs 15-17

Peace is coming, prosperity is coming... protection is coming. There were times in Israel’s history that God would use other nations to punish them (Babylon would be a prime example, Rome would be a prime example). But when Jesus rules & reigns those days are over. “In righteousness you shall be *established* (back in Vs 14), you shall not fear.

Close God promises sovereign protection. “No weapon formed against you shall prosper & every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord.” Btw, this isn’t a “good luck charm” to ward off evil, nor is it a promise given to every church goer.

⁷ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 30:12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁸ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (2 Co 5:1-2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

It's the heritage of the "servants of the Lord" whose "righteousness is from Me' says the Lord." & Its *ultimate* fulfillment belongs in the Millennial Kingdom.

Having said that we also take heart in the sovereign oversight of God & realize that though countless believers have been given over to those who can kill the body (down through the ages) ... Our soul/spirit is secure in His hands. As David said, **"In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"**⁹ Be it the sword or slander, God has your back. Your hope is in heaven. & Your righteousness is found in not what you do, how much you serve, how much you study, all that you give, how long you pray or the things you *don't* do. It's from *Him* and what He's *done* for you through the cross of J.C.

Prayer Points:

Father, we thank You for the thoughts that You think toward us. Thoughts of peace & not of evil, to give us a future & a hope. Our lives belong *to* You, our hope lies *in* You & our righteousness is *from* You. We humble ourselves *before* You & offer You our hearts our lives, renew our minds & set our heart to do Your will.

Don't place your hope in the things of this world. You'll be sorely disappointed & disillusioned. Set your sights on J.C. Believe on Him & be saved from this wicked/perverse generation.

⁹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ps 56:11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.