

**Jerusalem Post-Tribulation
The Remnant Gets Blown Away with Promises from God
Isaiah 54:11 – 17**

Scripture quotations are taken from the following translations:

ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission. www.Lockman.org**

Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2016 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

The Good News Translation Bible (GNB) text used in this product is being used by permission. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version® Release 2.0. (ISV) Copyright © 1996–2011 by the ISV Foundation. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY

After the discussion of the Suffering Servant, Isaiah, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, moves to what is still for us, the future. YAHWEH is talking to the remnant at the end of the Great Tribulation. Yes, some of this in Isaiah 45 may apply to the church, some scholars say it points to that, but the language used is consistent in dealing with His people, the Jews.

Picking up in verse 11, Isaiah is still camped in the period right after Messiah has returned to save His people. The Great Tribulation has ended, the remnant is beginning to experience all that has been promised to them.

We move from the imagery of a restored wife in the first part of Isaiah 54 to that of a restored city. When Israel returns from exile in Babylon, those who return will rebuild, but this is not about that event. There are building materials being referenced here that Nehemiah could only dream of as he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. This is not a discussion about rebuilding after the diaspora either.

This is a continuation of the message of the restoration of His people and now we learn of the lengths that YAHWEH will be going to.

Isaiah 54:11–12

“Afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, And I will lay your foundations with sapphires. Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, And your gates of crystal, And your entire wall of precious stones.” (NASB 2020)

The initial image draws off the imagery that began in verse 9 where the flood was referred to. The war is over, His people have been filled with the Holy Spirit as promised. The process of regathering the remnant into Israel as a believing remnant has begun. The land is filled not only with those who called for Him to save them from the Beast, but now also includes the resurrected Jewish saints.

The absence of the presence of God and the absence of the favor of God has indeed become a thing of the past. Jesus will rule and reign over the planet from Jerusalem and God Himself will personally dwell in the Temple in the middle of the land (Ezekiel 43).

We have a picture drawn for us of the condition of His people upon the arrival of the Suffering Servant who frees them and covers them with His protection. They are a redeemed people.

Afflicted – עָנִיָּהּ (aniy-yah) afflicted, a person who has been the victim of some pain, injury, or harm, either physically or mentally; often associated with recurring treatment or events...grievously affected...poor, people without possessions or wealth considered as a group. (Lexham Press 2017)

By the end of the Great Tribulation, the remnant has nothing. Those who did not head for the hills as Jesus instructed in Matthew 24, have been exposed to the full wrath of the Beast.

YAHWEH has miraculously protected and provided for those who made it out of town to the place He had prepared for them to hide out, but those who did not and have survived to the end of the Great Tribulation have had no support of any kind. For the last 3 ½ years they, as well as all Tribulation saints, had been systematically hunted, killed and enslaved. Now they are free.

Storm-tossed – סֶעָרָה (so-arah) To be violently shaken, specially the sea agitated by storms...to be tossed, by adversity. (Gesenius and Tregelles 2003, 592)

They are a nation of refugees. Many have been imprisoned. Not only are they a people with no visible support, but they also have no stability of any kind. The 3 ½ years of of hiding and living on the lam have had the impact of placing the entire remnant at the same place where those who survived the holocaust were at at the end of WWII.

Not comforted – נִחְמָהּ (nuhamah) to lament, to grieve...to comfort oneself, to be comforted. (Gesenius and Tregelles 2003, 544)

But the word is modified by the Hebrew word (lo) which means they are without this. They are without lament, without comfort even to the point of being incapable of comforting themselves.

As Messiah arrives, this is the condition of the remnant. Alive, but totally devastated.

Hope is often dismissed as something that is possible only by denying hard facts. If that is sometimes true, it is certainly not the case here. It is precisely despairing, drifting, resourceless Israel to which these incredible promises are addressed. (Oswalt 1998, 426)

Now we understand their plight and condition at the very end of the Great Tribulation.

This echoes what we do see in the book of Nehemiah. When the nation returns from exile, Jerusalem is in ruins, Nehemiah kicks off and you start off thinking the book is all about rebuilding the walls. By the time you arrive at the end of the book, you realize it has been rebuilding the walls in order to rebuild the nation and the people as one under YAHWEH.

Now we have a people who have been saved by Messiah and filled with the Holy Spirit. This is also a picture of us before and after Jesus.

Before coming to Christ, we thought we had it all together.

We were afflicted, storm tossed and not comforted. We were busy serving the enemy. Jesus stated it very clearly for us in John 10.

John 10:8–10

“All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (ESV)

We thought we had it all together. Some of us even had turned to empty religion and thought that would solve the problem for us. Jesus closed that door as well.

Revelation 3:17–18

“For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.” (ESV)

At the end of the Great Tribulation, the world is devastated as is most of Israel. Jerusalem is mostly in ruins and the rebuilding now begins. The Lord promises just how He intends to rebuild Jerusalem.

Isaiah 54:11b

“...Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, And I will lay your foundations with sapphires.” (NASB 2020)

Stone walls I get, but in antimony? The Hebrew word used is פִּזְמִית (puk). It is “eye make-up; black (stibium, kohl) or red (phykos, orchil); hard mortar.” (Lexham Press 2017)

The image being presented is that of the eyes of a beautiful woman set off by mascara, the picture though is broadened to have each stone outlined in this manner to draw out the beauty of the stone.

I will build you with stones is ‘I will lay your stones in mascara’. Job’s strikingly dark-eyed daughter was called Keren-Happuch (‘a horn of mascara’; Jb. 42:14; cf. Je. 4:30). 1 Chronicles 29:2 mentions ‘stones of mascara’, i.e. stones set in a coloured mortar designed to highlight the beauty of the construction. (Motyer 1996, 450)

Stones set, almost like a jeweler setting them into jewelry, into a black mortar. Then we find out about the foundation that these stones are sitting on, sapphires, lapis lazuli.

Sapphires serve as foundation-stones, for the foundation of Jerusalem stands as immoveably firm as the covenant of God. The sapphire blue is the colour of the heaven, of revelation, and of the covenant. (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 529)

This foundation stone has been referred to before in the scriptures.

Exodus 24:9–11

“Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 of the leaders of Israel went up the mountain and they saw the God of Israel. Beneath his feet was what looked like a pavement of sapphire, as blue as the sky. God did not harm these leading men of Israel; they saw God, and then they ate and drank together.” (GNB)

We see that identified as the foundation stone for heaven and the color of the floor of heaven. Ezekiel also saw the same not as a foundation stone, but as a throne.

Ezekiel 1:26

“And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance.” (ESV)

John also relates to us that it is one of the foundation stones for the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:19).

This is not the new Jerusalem post Millennium, but Jerusalem as it is rebuilt by the King. As we look at the walls being described, we see a line of blue all the way around as a base then stones set, like jewels, into black mortar. That may be a hint as to just what the makeup of the stones are.

Isaiah 54:12

“Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, And your gates of crystal, And your entire wall of precious stones.” (NASB 2020)

The description continues by pointing to the battlements, those areas along the the top of the wall for the stationing of troops for the protection of the city. These would also possibly include what would look like towers as well, built into the wall. These battlements along the top of the wall and the towers are built of unique materials as well, rubies.

But first let's back up and look at what some of these words mean.

Battlements – this plural word is the word שִׁמְסוֹתַי (simsotay). It means “sun...east (as a direction) conceived of in terms of the sunrise...the sun understood as the light that it produces...sunset, the daily event of the sun sinking below the horizon...battlement (wall),a protective wall built up very high. (Lexham Press 2017)

The picture is the top of the wall catching and reflecting the sun's light.

Looking at the picture being drawn so far, we see the walls of Jerusalem being set onto a foundation of blue stones, like the floor in heaven, with each individual wall stone set as if a jewel into black mortar, then topped with battlements, sun reflectors, that catch and reflect the sun light. They are rubies, transparent and deep red in color. Then we come to the gates.

Each gate is an אֲבֵנִי (abne) a precious stone that has been cut and polished for jewelry or other purposes. (Lexham Press 2017)

Each gate is made of polished stone, polished crystal.

The walls of Jerusalem sit on the same color foundation as heaven and it is blue in color. On top of that are set individual stones into black mortar topped with sun reflecting red rubies and each gate shining crystal. The red color, the color of blood, sits on top and covers the walls of the city. This is a redeemed city. “This picture of wealth, stability, and confidence contrasts strongly with the conditions of poverty, insecurity, and despair in verse 11.” (Constable 2003, Is 54:11)

Now we find out just what kind of stones are being used in this wall which is the border wall along the entire city of Jerusalem. Those stones set into the black mortar are precious stones, gems of various types.

Contrast this with what John reported seeing at the end of the Millennium when the new Jerusalem comes down from heaven to the new earth.

Revelation 21:15–21

“The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel). The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysolite, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.” (NLT)

Here we are not told what type of gemstones are used, just “precious stones.” Now I get the language saying the stones are set implying as in the same fashion as a jeweler sets stones into rings or any other type of jewelry.

And there is more.

Isaiah 54:13–14

“All your sons will be taught by the LORD; And the well-being of your sons will be great. In righteousness you will be established; You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; And from terror, for it will not come near you.” (NASB 2020)

Now that we know what the walls of the rebuilt Jerusalem will look like, and we have the contrast between being destitute in verse 11 and graphic evidence of the wealth of the nations coming into Jerusalem in verse 12, what about those who live in the city itself? If the walls are that special, what will life be like in the city? Jesus quotes this verse in John 6:45.

Here is the amazing thing. The remnant has been saved by the Messiah, everything has dramatically changed for them. By the way, you have nothing to worry about concerning your kids, as the promise here is the Lord Himself will be their teacher. No longer will there be the issue of making sure they learn the right things; God is their teacher.

If only that were the case today? We are relearning in our culture the importance of training up the next generation to love the Lord. If we leave that up to the public schools, then all we will experience is failure since the public schools all answer to the enemy.

The enemy wants other things to be trained and learning to love the Lord is not on of them. Since most Believers abdicated this responsibility of training their children by giving it to the state at least two generations ago, we now see the results.

Today, nearly two-thirds of all young adults who were once regular churchgoers have dropped out at one time or another (64 percent). (Kinnaman, Matlock and Hawkins 2019, 15)

The problem is Biblical literacy. Over 100 years of challenges made about the nature of the scriptures has now reaped a miserable harvest.

According to the recent American Worldview Inventory taken by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, around 69% of Americans say they are Christians. A large share of this population embraces various biblical principles and truths. For instance:

- 79% believe that God has a reason for everything
- 77% say they have a unique, God-given calling
- 74% say they intentionally try to avoid sinning because they know it hurts God
- 72% claim that every moral choice either honors or dishonors God
- 62% agree that the universe was designed and created, and is sustained by God
- 61% believe that God is the all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect and just Creator of the universe who still rules the universe today (Cultural Research Center 2021)

If you were to stop reading the study at that point, you would be convinced we are in the throes of national revival and hundreds of thousands are coming to Christ deeply impacting the culture. When you do not know what the Bible teaches though, words are spread around without the same ground of meaning. You have dig a bit deeper into what this all truly means.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4

“Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-

called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.” (ESV)

With that large of a number saying they are Christians you would expect a Christian worldview to be highly apparent and visible in culture. As you dig deeper though, the finding is more along the lines of rampant apostasy rather than a growth in faith. Only 6% have a truly Biblical worldview. 176 million vs 15 million adults.

Digging further into the numbers.

Among the non-Biblical perspectives most widely embraced are:

- 72% argue that people are basically good
- 71% consider feelings, experience, or the input of friends and family as their most trusted sources of moral guidance
- 66% say that having faith matters more than which faith you pursue
- 64% say that all religious faiths are of equal value
- 58% believe that if a person is good enough, or does enough good things, they can earn their way into Heaven
- 58% contend that the Holy Spirit is not a real, living being but is merely a symbol of God’s power, presence, or purity
- 57% believe in karma
- 52% claim that determining moral truth is up to each individual; there are no moral absolutes that apply to everyone, all the time

(Cultural Research Center 2021)

Luke 6:46–49

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don’t do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and listens to my words and puts them into practice—I will show you what he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep, and laid the foundation on bedrock. When a flood came, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the person who hears and does not put my words into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against that house, it collapsed immediately, and was utterly destroyed!” (NET)

From the Barna Group

Our research shows that most young people lack a deep understanding of their faith. The trend of biblical illiteracy, which is problematic among most age-groups, has been on the increase since my mentor George Barna wrote his books on the younger generations, including *Baby Busters: The Disillusioned Generation*, *Generation Next*, and *Real Teens*. Other researchers have explored these challenges as well, including Kenda Creasy Dean, who shows in *Almost Christian* that most teenagers embrace beliefs that are Christian on the surface—but once you dig a little deeper, you find they are not quite orthodox. Perhaps the best description of this superficiality is found in Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton’s book *Soul Searching*. They famously label the religion of today’s young Americans as moralistic therapeutic deism, vividly described like this: “God is something like a combination Divine Butler and Cosmic Therapist: he is always on call, takes care of any problems that arise, professionally helps his people to feel better about themselves, and does not become too personally involved in the process.” (Kinnaman and Hawkins, *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church...and Rethinking Faith* 2011, 115)

As we see graphically displayed in our culture, it is vitally important to train up our young. “Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.” (Proverbs 22:6, GNB)

The people of Israel understood how important it is to train up children the right way. Being surrounded by pagan nations, they really understood how important it was to make sure their children knew about YAHWEH.

When Messiah returns, He ensures that His people's children, the nation of Israel, receive the best education possible...directly from God.

Because the remnant has been rescued by Messiah and is now filled with the Holy Spirit, as promised, the war within is over. The remnant has peace within and now peace without. As true disciples now, they are no longer at war with God but are subjects living in His Kingdom. "...And the well-being of your sons will be great." (Isaiah 54:13b, NASB 2020) This is a reality. Why?

Isaiah 53:5

"But He was pierced for our offenses, He was crushed for our wrongdoings; The punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him, And by His wounds we are healed." (NASB 2020)

On the one hand, the person who is concerned to know and do what is right in the sight of God has a single goal and motive that unites all of life. On the other hand, the person whom God has made whole has been delivered from the cruel dominance of self-will that ultimately corrupts everything it touches. The promise of God is that he will establish his people in righteousness. Cities rise and fall, but the righteousness of God is infinite, eternal, outlasting the hills; and those in whom he settles it will share that eternity, becoming the stones of a city whose name is Salvation and whose walls will never fall (cf. 26:1–3; 62:12). (Oswalt 1998, 428)

Isaiah 54:14

"In righteousness you will be established; You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; And from terror, for it will not come near you." (NASB 2020)

The שָׁלוֹם (shalom) of your sons will be great. The "peace, prosperity, success, welfare, intactness, state of health, friendliness, deliverance, salvation" of your sons will be great. (Koehler, et al. 1994 - 2000, 1507)

This is made possible only by the righteousness provided for by the work of the Suffering Servant.

This is the major characteristic of the conditions expected under the rule and reign of Messiah. This is a continuous theme in Isaiah. Isaiah introduced this idea to us back in Isaiah 9 and then added onto the idea in Isaiah 11 telling us about the shoot springing from the stem of Jesse.

Isaiah 11:2–5

"The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make decisions by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the humble of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Also righteousness will be the belt around His hips, And faithfulness the belt around His waist." (NASB 2020)

Jesus tied this together as a primary aspect of the Kingdom in the body of the Sermon on the Mount. "The relationship between the kingdom and righteousness is frequently found in the Sermon on the Mount, notably, in Matthew 5:10 (cf. Lk. 6:21), 5:20, and Matthew 6:33 (cf. Lk. 12:31). In both Matthew 5:10 and 5:20, righteousness is depicted as the entrance requirement to the kingdom of God. Matthew 5:10 reads 'Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness (ἔνεκεν δικαιοσύνης), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'" (Cho 2005, 95)

Matthew 6:31–34

"So then, don't worry saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For the unconverted pursue these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But above all pursue his kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So then, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own." (NET)

Here in Isaiah, the Kingdom has arrived, and righteousness is established as a worldwide living experience because that which began in part on the day of Pentecost, is now fully completed.

Joel 2:28–29

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.” (ESV)

Because of this, conditions that were a daily occurrence leading up to and during the Tribulation, are no longer taking place. “...You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; And from terror, for it will not come near you.” (Isaiah 54:14b, NASB 2020)

In the Hebrew, we see two commands, you will be far, and you will not fear.

The imperative, Be far from oppression, conveys a promise in the most emphatic form. He who said, “Let there be light,” and there was light, says to His people, “Be far from oppression and destruction,” because these shall never be suffered to vex them again. (Birks 1878, 270)

The one thing that was characteristic of the Tribulation for the remnant, the oppression of the Beast, in fact all oppression, is commanded to be gone. Under the King, there is no oppression...ever. There is no fear either...ever.

The command to not be fearful is a consistent command within the scriptures for those who have placed their faith and trust in the Lord. As we come to realize just who it is we have aligned with, we come to realize that this world system no longer has power over us. That includes fear.

One more thing, terror, destruction, ruin, corruption, literally anything that inspires a sense of dread...gone. It will not even come near.

Why? Because Messiah is on the throne and because righteousness is one of the benefits of Kingdom life.

So, a hypothetical, let's say someone did attack?

Isaiah 54:15

“If anyone fiercely attacks you, it will not be from Me. Whoever attacks you will fall because of you.” (NASB 2020)

Unlike in the past, when due to the sin of the people, YAHWEH allowed others to attack, sin has been dealt with and is no longer an issue. Things have changed. The Lord now says if someone attacks, He had nothing to do with it. It will not end well for those who do attack.

We know of, in advance, one such attempt that will take place at the end of the Millennium. This is possibly outlined for us in Ezekiel 38 – 39 as well in Revelation 20 and extra Biblical books.

Revelation 20:7–10

“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be freed from his prison. He will go out to deceive Gog and Magog, the nations at the four corners of the earth, and gather them for war. They are as numerous as the sands of the seashore. They marched over the broad expanse of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. Fire came from God out of heaven and burned them up, and the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were. They will be tortured day and night forever and ever.” (ISV)

The Sibylline Oracles

The Temple of the great God (will be) laden with very beautiful wealth, gold, silver, and purple ornament, and earth (will be) productive and sea full of good things. And kings will begin to be angry with each other, requiting evils with spirit. Envy is not good for wretched mortals. But again the kings of the peoples will launch an attack together against this land, bringing doom upon themselves, for they will want to destroy the Temple of the great God and most excellent men when they enter the land. The abominable kings, each one with his throne and faithless people, will set them up around the city. And God will speak, with a great voice, to the entire ignorant empty-minded people, and judgment will come upon them from the great God, and all will perish at the hand of the Immortal. Fiery swords will fall from heaven on the earth. Torches, great gleams, will come shining into the midst of men. (Charlesworth 1983, 376-377)

This is also reflected in 2 Esdras 13:1 – 12.

The bottom line, the nations that listen to Satan surround the millennial capital of Jerusalem and are devoured by fire from heaven.

Isaiah 54:16–17

“Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows on the fire of coals And produces a weapon for its work; And I have created the destroyer to inflict ruin. No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And you will condemn every tongue that accuses you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me,” declares the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

Once again, a reminder for the remnant...YAHWEH is sovereign over all and nothing takes place without His knowledge or approval. Here He has promised that once they have been rescued and redeemed by the Suffering Servant, never again will they be subjected to punishment of any kind.

YAHWEH is sovereign over those who produce weapons. He is the one who created the person who is designing and building weapons. “The Lord created the metal craftsman who shapes his tools and weapons by the heat of the fire. The Deity also created the wreakers of havoc who put these weapons to use.” (Paul 2012, 431)

The protection the remnant and Jerusalem will enjoy in the Kingdom is complete.

Why is this? Because everything ultimately is part of creation and therefore under the Creator’s executive control (16). (J. A. Motyer 1999, 386)

The Lord concludes His discussion with the remnant with a promise for them and for us.

Isaiah 54:17

““No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And you will condemn every tongue that accuses you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me,” declares the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

Since Yahweh is in control, he promises the people of Jerusalem that no enemy will be able to use weapons successfully against them. As in the previous verse, weapon renders the general Hebrew word referring to any vessel or utensil. Since it is fashioned against Jerusalem, it clearly means weapon. (Ogden and Sterk 2011, 1553)

This is a promise we can claim today as well.

Isaiah 54:17

“But no weapon will be able to hurt you; you will have an answer for all who accuse you. I will defend my servants and give them victory.” The LORD has spoken.” (GNB)

Christian, this a truth we must remember in the 21st century. The temptation to fear and panic hits us everyday, but...Isaiah 54:17. But Ken, really.

James 1:5–6.

“But if anyone is deficient in wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without reprimand, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed around by the wind.” (NET)

John 16:7–15

“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I am going away. For if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong concerning sin and righteousness and judgment—concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on his own authority, but will speak whatever he hears, and will tell you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will receive from me what is mine and will tell it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; that is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what is mine and will tell it to you.” (NET)

Luke 12:11–12

“But when they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you should make your defense or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you must say.” (NET)

How do we appropriate this promise? Let’s talk a little about Spiritual warfare.

Groundwork

1. No weapon formed against you will succeed. (Isaiah 54:17a)
2. You will have an answer for all who accuse you. (Isaiah 54:17b, Luke 12:11-12)
3. You will have the requisite wisdom to respond. (John 16:7 – 15, James 1:5)
4. Remember who the enemy really is. (Ephesians 6:11 – 17)

Ephesians 6:11–13

“Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. For this reason, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.” (NET)

5. Our enemy is fallen, hates us and is in the unseen realm. (2 Corinthians 10:3–6)
6. Remember 1. and 2.

2 Corinthians 10:3–6

“For though we live as human beings, we do not wage war according to human standards, for the weapons of our warfare are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for tearing down strongholds. We tear down arguments and every arrogant obstacle that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to make it obey Christ. We are also ready to punish every act of disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.” (NET)

Isaiah 54:17

““No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And you will condemn every tongue that accuses you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me,” declares the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

7. In Christ, no fear, remain in conquer mode. (Isaiah 54:14, Romans 8:37)

Isaiah 54:14

““In righteousness you will be established; You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; And from terror, for it will not come near you.” (NASB 2020)

8. He has already won. (1 John 4:2-4)

1 John 4:2-4

“By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses Jesus as the Christ who has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, and this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” (NET)

9. You belong to Him. (Colossians 1:13-20)

Colossians 1:13-20

“He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, for all things in heaven and on earth were created by him—all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers—all things were created through him and for him. He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him. He is the head of the body, the church, as well as the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that he himself may become first in all things. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross—through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven.” (NET)

10. He has your back. (Romans 8:28-39)

Romans 8:28-39

“And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose, because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified. What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, freely give us all things? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is the one who will condemn? Christ is the one who died (and more than that, he was raised), who is at the right hand of God, and who also is interceding for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we encounter death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us! For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor heavenly rulers, nor things that are present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NET)

11. No fear. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Deuteronomy 31:6

“Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or in dread of them, for the LORD your God is the One who is going with you. He will not desert you or abandon you.” (NASB 2020)

Romans 10:9 – 10

“because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and thus has righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation.” (NET)

Salvation is a Gift

- Admit you are a sinner, agree with Him and ask Him to forgive you.
- Talk to Him and tell Him that.
- Believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and He rose from the dead three days later.
- Call on the name of the Lord.

Works Cited

- Birks, T. R. 1878. *Commentary on the Book of Isaiah: Critical, Historical, and Prophectical*. Second Edition, Revised. London: Macmillan & Co.
- Charlesworth, James H. 1983. *The Sibylline Oracles, Book 3*. Vol. 1, in *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, by James H. Charlesworth. New York: Yale University Press.
- Cho, Youngmo. 2005. *Spirit and Kingdom in the Writings of Luke and Paul: An Attempt to Reconcile these Concepts*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster.
- Constable, Tom. 2003. *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible*. Galaxie Software.
- Cultural Research Center. 2021. "Release #6: What Does It Mean When People Say They Are "Christian"?" *Arizona Christian University*. Edited by George Barna. August 31. Accessed September 15, 2021. https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CRC_AWVI2021_Release06_Digital_01_20210831.pdf.
- Gesenius, Wilhelm, and Samuel Prideaux Tregelles. 2003. *Gesenius' Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.
- Keil, Carl Friedrich, and Franz Delitzsch. 1996. *Commentary on the Old Testament*. Vol. 7. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.
- Kinnaman, David, and Aly Hawkins. 2011. *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church...and Rethinking Faith*. Kindle Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Kinnaman, David, Mark Matlock, and Aly Hawkins. 2019. *Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon*. Kindle Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, M. E. J. Richardson, and J. J. Stamm. 1994 - 2000. *The Hebrew and Aramiac Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: E. J. Brill.
- Lexham Press. 2017. *The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
- Motyer, J. A. 1996. *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction & Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Motyer, J. Alec. 1999. *Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Vol. 20. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- Ogden, Graham S., and Jan Sterk. 2011. *A Handbook on Isaiah, United Bible Societies' Handbooks*. Edited by Paul Clarke, Schuyler Brown, Louis Dorn and Donald Slager. Vol. 1 & 2. Reading: United Bible Societies.
- Oswalt, John N. 1998. *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40 - 66, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Paul, Shalom M. 2012. *Isaiah 40-66: Translation and Commentary, Eerdmans Critical Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.