

**Israel, Marriage Relationships, and the Suffering Servant  
How Everything Changes at the End of the Tribulation  
Isaiah 54:1 – 10**

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Having reviewed the details about the Suffering Servant, the prophecies connected with Him and the realization that they can only be fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, we come to chapter 54. There are some scholars who look at this chapter as being all about the church. I do not take that view, but instead see this as being predominately about Israel as well as possibly the church. For Israel, they realize who the Suffering Servant really was and, having arrived at the end of the Great Tribulation, are ready to enjoy what it is He purchased for them.

The redemptive work of the suffering servant makes clearer how God can be so gracious to his rebellious people. Chapter 54 opens with a call to sing God's praises for his faithfulness as he restores his marriage relationship with Zion after her desolation. (Briley 2000-, 227-228)

Between Isaiah 53 and 54, we need to look elsewhere in the scriptures for background. How do we go from a rejected and ignored Servant to His triumphant return as the avenger of blood and ruler of the world?

Matthew 23:37–39

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ” (ESV)

As we have learned from Isaiah, Jesus knew what was coming down. He was in on the planning prior to the creation of the planet and fully knew the cost to provide for our greatest need...redemption. He also knew His own people would reject Him almost entirely.

#### Romans 11:1–6

“I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin. No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said, “LORD, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.” And do you remember God’s reply? He said, “No, I have 7,000 others who have never bowed down to Baal!” It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God’s grace—his undeserved kindness in choosing them. And since it is through God’s kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God’s grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.” (NLT)

#### Hosea 5:15

“I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.” (ESV)

Even then, the call to repentance is still there, a call to return and as Paul said, there is a remnant even today, but there is a future for the nation.

#### Joel 2:12–14

“‘Yet even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.’ Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?” (ESV)

The horrors of the Tribulation will place the nation, the remnant into that place; and as one the nation will repent and look to their Messiah to come and save them.

#### Zechariah 13:8–9

“In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’” (ESV)

As His people call out to their Messiah, as one, for salvation, He returns. He is returning as the avenger of blood, the remaining duty He has yet to fulfill as the goel, the kinsman redeemer.

#### Revelation 19:11–16

“Then I saw heaven opened and here came a white horse! The one riding it was called “Faithful” and “True,” and with justice he judges and goes to war. His eyes are like a fiery flame and there are many diadem crowns on his head. He has a name written that no one knows except himself. He is dressed in clothing dipped in blood, and he is called the Word of God. The armies that are in heaven, dressed in white, clean, fine linen, were following him on white horses. From his mouth extends a sharp sword, so that with it he can strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod, and he stomps the winepress of the furious wrath of God, the All-Powerful. He has a name written on his clothing and on his thigh: “King of kings and Lord of lords.”” (NET)

#### Zechariah 14:3–5

“Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.” (ESV)

As a result of the defeat of the armies of the beast, we come to the place where God pours His spirit out on His people.

Isaiah 44:3

“For I will pour water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, And My blessing on your descendants;” (NASB 2020)

And as promised, God comes to dwell with His people.

Ezekiel 43:1–7a

“The man took me to the gate that faces east, and there I saw coming from the east the dazzling light of the presence of the God of Israel. God’s voice sounded like the roar of the sea, and the earth shone with the dazzling light. This vision was like the one I had seen when God came to destroy Jerusalem, and the one I saw by the River Chebar. Then I threw myself face downwards on the ground. The dazzling light passed through the east gate and went into the Temple. The LORD’s spirit lifted me up and took me into the inner courtyard, where I saw that the Temple was filled with the glory of the LORD. The man stood beside me there, and I heard the LORD speak to me out of the Temple: “Mortal man, here is my throne. I will live here among the people of Israel and rule over them for ever...” (GNB)

Now we arrive at Isaiah 54. The marriage that took place in the past, the estrangement with God that took place (Hosea 1:2) followed by the continual unfaithfulness of the people to their husband has now been forgiven. The marriage has been restored and it is all due to the work of the Suffering Servant. So how well did the nation achieve what it is YAHWEH had laid out for them?

Isaiah 54:1

“Shout for joy, infertile one, you who have not given birth to any child; Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor; For the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous Than the sons of the married woman,” says the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

The first words we see after the events of the crucifixion and the work of the Suffering Servant is to “shout for joy.” The one being commanded to shout is the remnant. We get that from the Aramaic version of the text.

Isaiah 54:1

“Sing, O Jerusalem who was as a barren woman who did not bear; shout in singing and exult, [you who were] as a woman who did not become pregnant! For the children of desolate Jerusalem will be more than the children of inhabited Rome, says the LORD.” (Cathcart, Maher and McNamara 1990, Isaiah 54:1)

The nation was “married” to Jehovah at Mt. Sinai, but she committed adultery by turning to other gods; and the Lord had to abandon her temporarily. However, the prophets promise that Israel will be restored when Messiah comes and establishes His kingdom. (Wiersbe 1996, 141)

God has routinely worked through barren women and reversed their circumstances to reveal his power (cf. Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Hannah). Since children represent one of the covenant blessings (cf. Deut 28:11), barrenness can also indicate that one is under God’s judgment. After the promise of “offspring” to the servant (53:10), chapter 54 opens with a barren woman who will shout for joy because of the abundance of her children. (Briley 2000-, 229)

The mission given to Israel by YAHWEH was to be a light to the world. They failed. We come to the time period of Jesus’ in person ministry here on planet earth. The number of gentiles who are following Torah is small. Even Jesus recognized that just prior to going to the cross.

The Jews were not fond of the Gentiles. In some rabbinical writings, the Gentiles were considered to have been created by God to kindle the fires of hell. They were called dogs (see Matt. 15:26) and unclean (10:14). (Radmacher, Allen and House 1997, Ac 11:1)

John 12:20–26

“Now some Greeks were among those who had gone up to worship at the feast. So these approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and requested, “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew, and they both went and told Jesus. Jesus replied, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the solemn truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains by itself alone. But if it dies, it produces much grain. The one who loves his life destroys it, and the one who hates his life in this world guards it for eternal life. If anyone wants to serve me, he must follow me, and where I am, my servant will be too. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.” (NET)

The picture of the barren woman is a picture of the barrenness of Jerusalem and the failure in reproducing believers in YAHWEH. The term Zion is not used though in this section of scripture as it was before since this is not just for the Jews alone, but now others are included because of the work of the Suffering Servant. While the nation is indeed spread across the planet and incapable of being the salt and light YAHWEH intended, He still made a way through the work of the Suffering Servant. As a result, the sons, spiritually speaking, will far outstrip the number of those who believed when Israel was in the land. Paul pointed to this in Galatians 4.

Galatians 4:21–27

“Let me ask those of you who want to be subject to the Law: do you not hear what the Law says? It says that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman, the other by a free woman. His son by the slave woman was born in the usual way, but his son by the free woman was born as a result of God’s promise. These things can be understood as a figure: the two women represent two covenants. The one whose children are born in slavery is Hagar, and she represents the covenant made at Mount Sinai. Hagar, who stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia, is a figure of the present city of Jerusalem, in slavery with all its people. But the heavenly Jerusalem is free, and she is our mother. For the scripture says: “Be happy, you childless woman! Shout and cry with joy, you who never felt the pains of childbirth! For the woman who was deserted will have more children than the woman whose husband never left her.”” (GNB)

To be sure, the imagery is that which has been previously applied to Zion. But the absence of that term here when it had been used frequently immediately before suggests that, because of the work of the Servant, all who feel barren and dejected and alone as a result of their sins have reason to shout for joy now. All, Gentiles and Jews alike, may become the blessed people of God. (Oswalt 1998, 415)

In the Millennium, those who believe, Jew and Gentile, will be filled with the Holy Spirit because the Spirit will be poured out on all remaining on the planet at the end of the Tribulation (Isaiah 32:15, 44:3). The remnant of Israel remaining at the end of the age, will wind up having a growth problem. Isaiah discussed this back in chapter 49.

Isaiah 49:20–21

“The children you lost will yet say in your ears, ‘The place is too cramped for me; Make room for me that I may live here.’ “Then you will say in your heart, ‘Who has fathered these for me, Since I have been bereaved of my children And cannot conceive, and I am an exile, and a wanderer? And who has raised these? Behold, I was left alone; Where are these from?’ ” (NASB 2020)

This tells us that Jerusalem will be surprised by all of those returning. They believe God has abandoned them, that is not the case.

The picture is that of someone who thought they would never see young children again yet, here they are. Everywhere.

The repetition of these three times emphasizes the sense of unreality that Zion has. They ought to be an illusion, but every time she opens her eyes, there they all are. There is also a contrast with the emphasized I. I am incapable of having children, so where did these come from? I have been left all alone, so who gave me these? This point of Zion's incapacity is important. Zion's heirs are not the results of Zion's fecundity or of Zion's worthiness. They are the gift of God. She did not bear them, nor did she rear them, so where did they come from? The fruitfulness and the grace of God. (Oswalt 1998, 309)

This was not something that took place to this degree at the return of the nation from Babylon or when Israel first returned from the diaspora, but as time has gone by, the numbers have grown to the point that this is now becoming a reality. Compared to what it will be like during the rule of Messiah, what is happening today is nothing.

What will it be like after the Beast and his armies are gone? The tyranny is over, and Messiah rules the world. Believing Jews have been resurrected and are now in the land. What happens?

The barren woman sings because YAHWEH has acted in and through His Servant. "As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, For He will bear their wrongdoings." (Isaiah 53:11, NASB 2020)

Thus, the gathering family cannot be explained naturally as a fact (she is barren, she never bore a child, was never in labour and is desolate) and is more than can be explained naturally in extent (her children are more than of her who has a husband). The church, the Lord's people, are created by supernatural birth. (Motyer 1996, 445)

Isaiah 54:2–3

"Enlarge the place of your tent; Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, do not spare them; Lengthen your ropes And strengthen your pegs. "For you will spread out to the right and to the left. And your descendants will possess nations And will resettle the desolate cities." (NASB 2020)

When Isaiah is writing these words down, the people of Judah were not living in tents anymore, they lived in houses. Why the referral back to tents? Consider this, the one who could not sing due to spiritual barrenness is now singing and rejoicing. Literally wondering "where are these from?" (Isaiah 49:21c, NASB2020)

Picking up on the theme of Isaiah 49, room is needed, a lot of room. This will require planning in advance to deal with what is coming. "But the prophet finds it so urgent to convince Israel of the reality of this glorious future in which she is to thrive that he even now summons her thus to enlarge her habitations as an action prompted by the joy of the renewal!" (Westermann 1969, 272)

Talking to people who live in houses about tents is an intentional reference back to the days of the Exodus. The people failed at almost at every turn, yet they were seeing the presence of God with them in a very real way everyday. They were 100% reliant upon Him for everything. They were actually physically separated unto YAHWEH. Those were days of total reliance upon YAHWEH. Speaking of tents is intended to bring back that memory and point that a day is coming where that will once again be a very real reality. Total reliance.

The intent is also to bring to remembrance the supernatural extraordinary growth of the nation while in Egypt.

The nation Israel has never occupied the entire land given to them by the Lord. The land God marked out for them in Joshua 1:4 is about 300,000 square miles. Even in Israel's heyday, when they reached their zenith under David and Solomon, they only occupied 30,000 square miles—that is quite a difference. Now God says they are going to lengthen their cords and strengthen their stakes. And they are going to be safe in the land. They won't need to be afraid of the Arab in that day. During the Millennium, Israel will

occupy the total borders of the land. Also, the city of Jerusalem will push out into the suburban areas, and there will be no traffic jams. (McGee 1997, 317)

Women in the Near East were responsible for the erection and maintenance of the family tents, so it is appropriate that the formerly barren woman who is now the mother of many children would be called on to enlarge her tents. There is a note of faith here, since the woman is presumably still barren when she receives this command to enlarge the tent. Nevertheless, the insistence of the essentially repetitious commands connotes an urgency and an exuberance that will brook no hesitation. God will do what he says. (Oswalt 1998, 416-417)

The faith being required of those being addressed is the same as the faith required of Sarah when she was promised Isaac. She was not only barren, she was also beyond the normal age of childbearing, and by a lot of years. Her husband Abraham was also way beyond the normal age for having children. Having children at their age, after all, everyone would assume that the child would be their great grandchild, not their child.

But nothing is impossible with God.

Genesis 18:9–15

““Where is Sarah, your wife?” the visitors asked. “She’s inside the tent,” Abraham replied. Then one of them said, “I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!” Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent. Abraham and Sarah were both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children. So she laughed silently to herself and said, “How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?” Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, ‘Can an old woman like me have a baby?’ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.” Sarah was afraid, so she denied it, saying, “I didn’t laugh.” But the LORD said, “No, you did laugh.”” (NLT)

Now the command, to a barren nation that sees no possible way they will ever be a nation again, or that there will ever again be spiritual children from them, is being told to prepare for more children than they ever thought possible.

God will keep His promises. Keep enlarging the tent and reinforcing it so that the kids crawling all over it do not damage it. Get ready to see real, supernatural growth like never before. ““For you will spread out to the right and to the left. And your descendants will possess nations And will resettle the desolate cities.” (Isaiah 54:3, NASB 2020)

The conditions immediately after the end of the Great Tribulation is a planet that has been vastly changed as a result of the actions taken by the King. Mountains are gone, all cities have been flattened and Eden is being reestablished on earth. As the population of Israel and the planet begins to grow under the perfect conditions of the rule of King Jesus, those destroyed cities will wind up having to be rebuilt.

Nations around Israel that previously belonged to another people, will now belong to Israel. They need the space. “I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,” (Genesis 22:17, ESV)

Isaiah 54:4

““Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; And do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; But you will forget the shame of your youth, And no longer remember the disgrace of your widowhood.” (NASB 2020)

In the society of Isaiah, to be abandoned by one’s husband means that the protection that once existed is now gone. Fear would be natural. At the end of the Great Tribulation, with over 2/3rds of the nation

gone, fear, even in the face of the return of Jesus and His salvation from the armies of the beast, would be natural. This is not the first time that the Holy Spirit, through Isaiah, has addressed the remnant about fear. “Fear not” is in the imperative. It is a command.

It is also something we need to hear as well. As we see things going on around us in these last days, it is incredibly easy for us to fall into the trap the world wants to put us in and be fearful of everything. IN fact there are new terms being invented because of the media and how it appears that they want to keep everyone in fear...fear porn.

This is currently defined as “Mainstream Media content that deliberately and enticingly plays on people's fears about disaster, disease and death. Currently used in relation to some COVID-19.” (Urban Dictionary 2020)

Fear can paralyze us if we allow it to, the enemy is behind fear. Fear “manifests itself in numerous ways: fear of rejection (works with rejection and self-rejection), fear of hurt, fear of authority (including pastors), fear of witchcraft, fear of career, fear of dying, fear of failure, fear of the future, fear of responsibility, fear of darkness, fear of being alone, fear of what people think of you, fear of what people say about you, fear of hell, fear of demons and deliverance, fear of poverty, terror, fright, sudden fear, apprehension.” (Eckhardt 2014, 43)

John 14:23–27

“Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. Then my Father will love him, and we will go to him and make our home within him. The one who does not love me does not keep my words. The words that you’re hearing me say are not mine, but come from the Father who sent me. I have told you this while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything that I have told you. I am leaving you at peace. I am giving you my own peace. I am not giving it to you as the world gives. So don’t let your hearts be troubled, and don’t be afraid.” (ISV)

For those living in the time of Isaiah, abandonment would provide an impetus for fear because connected with that abandonment came shame. The feeling that this all took place because of something I did. YAHWEH, in His role as husband provides reasons why not to fear. “...you will not be put to shame; And do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; ....” (Isaiah 54:4b, NASB 2020). “The emphasis of the prophetic words falls on removing the shame, confusion, and stigma of Zion by an act of divine intervention.” (Childs 2001, 429)

What YAHWEH will do is so powerful and amazing, that they are told “...But you will forget the shame of your youth, And no longer remember the disgrace of your widowhood.” (Isaiah 54:4c, NASB 2020) They will no longer remember their bondage in Egypt, their exile in Babylon or their being dispersed throughout the nations of the world. The shame and disgrace are gone. “ The blessing that the Lord is about to give will completely eradicate all remembrance of these painful experiences.” (Leupold 1971, 240)

Isaiah 54:4–6

““Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; And do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; But you will forget the shame of your youth, And no longer remember the disgrace of your widowhood. For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the LORD of armies; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. For the LORD has called you, Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one’s youth when she is rejected,” Says your God.” (NASB 2020)

The command in verse 4 was to have no fear. All of the elements that help to produce fear have been dealt with and the shame from their youth, the estrangement that the nation produced, resulting in the exile to Babylon and the disgrace of widowhood, the exile and then the diaspora beginning under Rome, are all things of the past. The removal of this is tied to the names that God uses.

“For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the LORD of armies...” (Isaiah 54:5a, NASB 2020)

Husband denotes a deliberately formed relationship, designed for perpetuity (50:1ff.). LORD (Yahweh) is the exodus revelation of the God who saves his people and overthrows his and their enemies. (Motyer 1996, 446)

This is further emphasized with the name He uses here, “the Lord of armies.” “A phrase describing Yahweh’s role as the Lord of the heavenly armies, the commander of the cosmic forces, the head of the divine council, and the leader of Israel’s army.” (Acosta 2016)

When the Suffering Servant returns as the Avenger of Blood, He is returning as a warrior who not only is engaged in the unseen realm against the enemy but also at the end of the age clearly enters history saving His people.

When He enters, He does so as the goel for His people, the avenger of blood but He is also their redeemer. This is what was behind the description of the Suffering Servant. He is the redeemer of not only the Jews, but the whole planet, all who accept the offer of salvation.

The Redeemer hoped for, and almost despaired of, does exist. The Holy One of Israel has now made himself the near kinsman, Heb. 2:16, Lev. 25:48; and He it is that will ransom His people from their bondage. (Birks 1878, 268)

The last phrase in verse 5 alludes to what has taken place during that time period of the diaspora, the time after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant. The wide and rapid spread of truth about Jesus around the world. The production of spiritual children while the nation is desolate.

No less than six titles and descriptions are brought together here, all building up a picture of a God of immense power and overflowing grace. He is both able and willing to restore them to himself and to their land. (Grogan 1986, 309)

By referring to their Redeemer as the Holy One of Israel, we also see a picture of why they were estranged from Him...it was their inability to live in the light of that holiness.

This name emphasizes God’s total otherness, his unapproachable glory, and his separation from sin. This God is totally different from all the man-made pagan gods, and he acts on behalf of his people Israel. As “your Redeemer” (gô`ălēk), he functions as a family member who is willing to restore a relative who is in need of redemptions because of some past debt or problem. (Smith 2009, 481)

Isaiah 54:6

““For the LORD has called you, Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one’s youth when she is rejected,” Says your God.” (NASB 2020)

The metaphor of marriage continues. The call being referred to here is a recall, a call to return to the relationship that had once before existed between YAHWEH and Israel.

Hosea, also ministering during the same time as Isaiah, clearly demonstrated this with what the Lord had him do as a graphic picture to the nation.

Hosea 3:1–5

“Then the LORD said to me, “Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the LORD still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them.” So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of



barley and a measure of wine. Then I said to her, “You must live in my house for many days and stop your prostitution. During this time, you will not have sexual relations with anyone, not even with me.” This shows that Israel will go a long time without a king or prince, and without sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even idols! But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the LORD their God and to David’s descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the LORD and of his goodness.” (NLT)

The Lord recalls His people who rejected Him. “This all-holy One had actually claimed Israel as his Bride when she was an attractive young woman in the days of the wilderness wanderings (Hos. 2:14; Jer, 2:2). What honourable husband could ever forget the girl he had loved when they were both young together, a wife of youth? Then how much more will Yahweh love Israel if she is deserted and broken hearted, and thus all the more in need of the love and loyalty of her Husband.” (Knight 1984, 183)

Isaiah 54:7–8

“For a brief moment I abandoned you, But with great compassion I will gather you. In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting favor I will have compassion on you,” Says the LORD your Redeemer.” (NASB 2020)

This is presented in the perspective of YAHWEH, not in the perspective of the nation. When we go through trials here on earth, we wonder if they are ever going to end, but the Lord has a different perspective.

2 Corinthians 4:17–18

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (ESV)

Romans 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose,” (NET)

YAHWEH did not want to forsake His people, we already know that there was no certificate of divorce ever made (Isaiah 50:1) but “For centuries she had played fast and loose with her divine Husband. But now at last she knew his love for her as never before. In his wisdom God had made her taste the death of separation from him, though only for a brief moment. This had been essential if Israel was ever to learn that God Almighty was in earnest about her election.” (Knight 1984, 183)

Trials and testing are not fun, especially when it is the result of our deciding not to listen to the Holy Spirit and deciding to do things on our own. The half brother of Jesus states it best.

James 1:12–15

“Happy is the one who endures testing, because when he has proven to be genuine, he will receive the crown of life that God promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each one is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desires. Then when desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death.” (NET)

The reason for the exile, the reason for the diaspora are all due to the same source...the absence of the presence and favor of God. “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would have none of it! Look, your house is forsaken! And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ” (Luke 13:34–35, NET)

Restoration to the land is really not the principal issue—restoration to the loving glance of God is. Restoration to the land is nothing without restoration to the presence of God, and it is the sacrifice of ch.

53 that makes the latter, more important, restoration possible. That sacrifice was the ultimate expression of the eternal love (ḥesed 'ôlām) of God; thus it is not accidental that the Lord is called the Redeemer here. He has redeemed them from the sin that had made his face stony toward them. The eternity of his love is particularly seen in his willingness to reconcile himself to his people through the Servant even before they are willing to seek that reconciliation (Rom. 5:8). (Oswalt 1998, 421-422)

Due to sin, God hid His face from His people. He is Holy, they were called to be holy as well, but they failed in the requirement to be loyally faithful to Him. They were not holy and separate as they had been called to be (Leviticus 11:44 – 45).

Because of the Suffering Servant though, YAHWEH will demonstrate His loving grace on His people. He is their Redeemer, their goel, the one who has purchased them out of the slave market of sin.

Isaiah 54:9–10

““For this is like the days of Noah to Me, When I swore that the waters of Noah Would not flood the earth again; So I have sworn that I will not be angry with you Nor rebuke you. For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My favor will not be removed from you, Nor will My covenant of peace be shaken,” Says the LORD who has compassion on you.” (NASB 2020)

In order to make certain that the remnant understands that the days of exile are over forever, YAHWEH brings to their remembrance a promise He made and has never changed since it was made. The war is now over, and the picture makes it clear.

Genesis 9:12–15

“And God said, “This is the guarantee of the covenant I am making with you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all subsequent generations: I will place my rainbow in the clouds, and it will become a guarantee of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, then I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures of all kinds. Never again will the waters become a flood and destroy all living things.”” (NET)

Got it. God made a promise to Noah as the primary representative of man and He has never violated that promise. But there is more there.

The word translated rainbow, is the Hebrew word נֶשֶׁת (qeset). “In the OT Hebrew qešet means “bow”—either concretely as an instrument for hunting or war (or a rainbow) or figuratively as a symbol of power, sovereignty, war, etc. (Kronholm and Fabry 2004, 202)

The pledge to Noah also include the hanging up of God's fighting bow.

Here, at the end of the Tribulation, we have the same picture.

The picture is one that “the war is over, the weapon has become a sign of peace, indeed a covenant sign, a visible pledge of the Lord's promise, an incitement to trust the Promise-maker. So also now there is the pledge not to be angry ... to rebuke. The former is the outburst of exasperation (the same word as in 8); the latter is the mental attitude lying behind such an outburst, a sense of being offended. Both in emotion and in expression—i.e. totally—wrath is gone. For Noah, a stable ordinance of creation became the guarantee of peace with God, but Isaiah goes further: even should creation lose its stable permanence with mountains (10) shaking and hills (lit.) 'tottering', there is a covenant that cannot (lit.) 'totter'. The Servant bore the punishment that made peace (53:5) and now that peace is a covenanted reality, more steadfast than the cosmic fabric and rooted in the divine compassion (see 7–8). The emotion of anger is gone forever but the emotion of surging love abides. (J. A. Motyer 1999, 385)

Why is the war over? Because of what it is the Suffering Servant has achieved.

## 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (ESV)

Jesus Christ has provided for all that is required for us to be reconciled with God, to have peace with Him knowing that our sins have been forgiven.

The war is over and for those who avail themselves of His offer of salvation, the war can end right now. He has already won it all. We discovered that in detail as we encountered the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12.

What do we need to do? Recognize we are sinners in need of forgiveness from God.

## 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.

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