

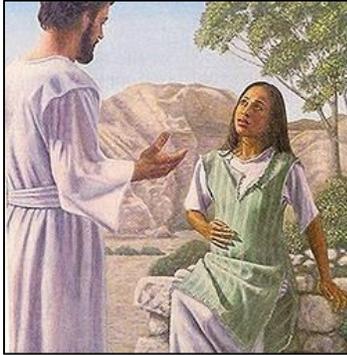
ISAIAH 54

Lesson 44: "The Restoration of Israel, the wife of the Lord"

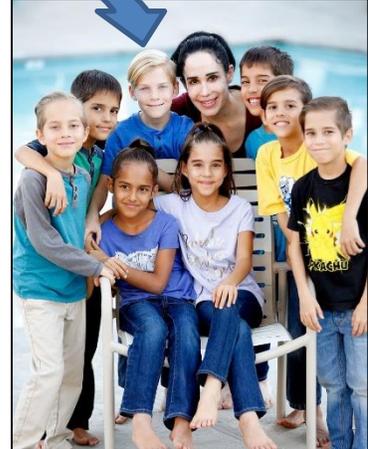
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MAIN IDEA



God speaks to Israel through Isaiah using the metaphor of a husband who has temporarily forsaken Israel (wife) because of her sins. While in Babylon she is like a disgraced barren woman. Now God promises to rescue and restore her and make her like a woman with many children living under his divine protection.



ISAIAH 54 SUMMARY

A. BARREN ISRAEL: EXILED IN BABYLON (54:1-8)

1. Israel is like a disgraced barren woman but she will bear many children (54:1-3)

"Sing, barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the LORD. ² "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. ³ For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities." (Isa. 54:1-3 NIV)

- (v. 1) While in Babylon the Jews (Israel) was looked upon with shame and disgrace...like a woman who bears no children.
- (V. 2) Enlarge, stretch out...a day will come (Messiah's kingdom) when the number of Jerusalem's inhabitants (her children) will require a larger space.
- (v. 3) "Your descendants will occupy other nations and resettle the ruined cities." (Isa. 54:3 NLT)

2. Israel will be restored like a widow who is rescued from her shame and disgrace (54:4-6)

"Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. ⁵ For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is his name-- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. ⁶ The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife

deserted and distressed in spirit-- a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God." (Isa. 54:4-6 NIV)

→ (v. 4) "Shame of your youth...reproach of widowhood." Israel's slavery in Egypt and her exile in Babylon brought shame but in the future kingdom she will be great.

→ (v. 5) The basis for forgetting failures is Israel's relationship with the Lord, her Redeemer.

3. God momentarily abandoned Israel but now he will bring her back (54:7-8)

⁷ "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. ⁸ In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

→ (vv. 7-8) Israel in exile has been like a wife whose husband has rejected her. But this is only for a brief time compared to the everlasting kindness she will enjoy when the Messiah returns to gather the woeful wife

B. BLESSED ISRAEL: RESTORED TO JERUSALEM (54:9-17)

1. A promise to never forsake Israel (54:9-10)

⁹ "To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. ¹⁰ Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

→ (v. 9) "waters of Noah." Just like God swore he would never again judge the whole earth with a flood, he likewise takes an oath to never be angry with his people, Israel, again.

→ (v. 10) "covenant of peace" appears to be a strong promise by God that will never be angry with Israel nor rebuke here again as his did by having them shamefully exiled for almost 70 years.

2. Promises of prosperity, peace, and protection (54:11-17)

"Afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted, I will rebuild you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with lapis lazuli. ¹² I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones. ¹³ All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace. ¹⁴ In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you. ¹⁵ If anyone does attack you, it will not be my doing; whoever attacks you will surrender to you. ¹⁶ "See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to wreak havoc; ¹⁷ no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD." (Isa. 54:11-17 NIV)

→ (v. 11-12) The elaborate ornamentation will cover the new Jerusalem which will be the center of the future eternal messianic reign following the millennium (Rev. 21:18-21).

- (v. 13) The Lord himself will teach everyone during the messianic kingdom.
- (vv. 15-17) If anyone does attempt to attack Israel during the millennium, the Lord himself will destroy them no matter what kind of weapon they forge.

LESSON CONCLUSIONS

1. **WHAT** is God doing in this chapter?
 - He is bringing his people back to their home (Jerusalem) and taking away their shame after a period of judgment because of their sin.
2. **WHY** is he doing it?
 - He is a gracious loving God.
3. What does this **TEACH YOU** about God?
 - It reminds us of 1 John 1:9...