

Isaiah 54

Is. 54:1 "Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no child; Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed; For the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous Than the sons of the married woman," says the Lord.

According to verses 1-17 of this chapter, the Husband (God the Father) will be reunited with His wife (the Jewish nation) and bring her back to the land that she was originally promised in Genesis 15:18. (Note: The Jews, who have never totally controlled and inhabited this territory, will do so for the first time during the Millennium, the tribal territories described in much detail in Ezekiel 48.) Based on Isaiah 54:1, there was to be a celebration over the fact that this was to occur. During the nation's desolate years (the years of adultery, separation, and divorce from Jehovah), more children will have been born to her (many illegitimate and a few legitimate) than she produced during her abbreviated seasons of faithfulness. However, when she is restored, she will have an abundance of legitimate offspring. Because the separation took place in Isaiah's day and the divorce occurred in Jeremiah's day, the nation is divorced from Jehovah today. (Read the notes associated with Isaiah 50:1 for more input relating to Jehovah's marriage, separation, divorce, and restoration as it relates to Israel and Judah.)

Note: Some view verse 1 as teaching that the restored nation of Israel will bear more children during the Millennium than when she was separated and divorced from Jehovah. For sure, she will bear an abundance of children (all of which will be legitimate); so this is evidently true. However, it seems more reasonable that Isaiah 54:1 (in its context) lines up better with the mindset expressed in the preceding paragraph, especially when the phrase, "*will be*" (Isaiah 54:1 NASB), is in italics and, therefore, excluded from the original Hebrew text.

Is. 54:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent; Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your pegs.

The land that the nation will possess during the Millennium will be larger than she has possessed previously. Why? As stated in the notes associated with verse 1, the Jews have never controlled and inhabited all the *land* promised to the nation in Genesis 15:18. Israel will control all of it during the Millennium, inhabiting it as described in Ezekiel 48! (The notes associated with Isaiah 2:2 add much flavor to what is discussed here.)

Is. 54:3 "For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left. And your descendants will possess nations, And they will resettle the desolate cities.

After the nation is restored to Jehovah, she will be blessed with many legitimate children and *will spread abroad to the right and to the left*. Not only will her population abundantly increase, but her *descendants will possess nations*, meaning that the Jews will rule over the Gentiles (the notes associated with Isaiah 14:1-2 fit well here). The Jews will also *resettle the desolate cities* situated within the territory originally promised to the Jews in Genesis 15:18.

Is. 54:4 ¶ "Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; Neither feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; But you will forget the shame of your youth, And the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.

The Jewish nation *will not be put to shame; Neither feel humiliated nor be disgraced* when she returns to her Husband to enjoy the Millennium. In fact, she *will forget the shame of her youth*, meaning that she will forget all the inhumane treatment she has experienced at the hands of the Gentiles due to disobedience. Can you believe that she will be capable of forgetting the disgrace and humiliation of such things as the Holocaust? What a God of grace we serve!

Note: The term "*widowhood*" points to those times, while suffering at the hands of the Gentiles (especially during seasons such as the Babylonian captivity), that the Hebrew people resembled a widow whose husband had passed away.

Is. 54:5 "For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the Lord of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth.

The *husband* of the Jewish nation is her *Maker*, who is *the Lord of hosts*. Her *husband* is also her *Redeemer*, who is *the Holy One of Israel... the God of all the earth*. If her husband is all of the above and more, it is certain that she will be safe and secure as she enjoys the companionship of her spouse throughout the Millennium.

Is. 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.

Jehovah, *the Lord*, will call His wife back to Himself *Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit*. The nation will feel *forsaken and grieved in spirit* as a result of the Antichrist's attempt to destroy the Jews during the second half of the Tribulation. This, of course, is the catalyst that will cause the nation to repent and return to her husband at the end of the Tribulation.

Is. 54:7 "For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great compassion I will gather you.

Jehovah divorced the northern kingdom (Israel) in 722 BC when the Assyrians overthrew the northern kingdom. He divorced the southern kingdom (Judah) in 586 BC when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and exiled the people to Babylon. Jehovah's wife will not return to Him until the end of the Tribulation, a hoard of years after the issuing of the bill of

divorcement. Yet in God's eyes, this is but *a brief moment*. It can be such to Him because *one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day* (2Peter 3:8). It can be such to His wife because of the abundant blessing which follows, for *with great compassion He will gather His wife back to Himself*.

Is. 54:8 "In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you," Says the Lord your Redeemer.

The Jewish nation has faced overwhelming persecution as a result of her disobedience. In fact, she has experienced more persecution than any other nation—twice as much according to Isaiah 40:2. This is due to God's righteous *anger*. In fact, He has hidden His *face* from the nation during her seasons of unfaithfulness, leaving her vulnerable to her enemies. This will last for *a moment* in comparison to the quantity of time she will receive *lovingkindness* and *compassion* once she repents and returns to *the Lord*, her *Redeemer*.

This verse confirms that it is not sinful for Jehovah to display righteous *anger*, as Jesus also displayed in Matthew 21, Mark 11, and John 2. However, it takes much wisdom to discern the difference between those times when we have displayed righteous anger (Ephesians 4:28) versus when our anger has been generated through the power of the flesh.

Is. 54:9 ¶ "For this is like the days of Noah to Me; When I swore that the waters of Noah Should not flood the earth again, So I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, Nor will I rebuke you.

Just as God's covenant with *Noah* guaranteed that the *earth* would never again be destroyed by *water* (Genesis 9:8-17), God guarantees that He will never again display anger against (nor *rebuke*) the Jewish nation once she returns as His wife. This will apply to Israel at the end of the Tribulation when the *new covenant* of Jeremiah 31:31-34 reaches its ultimate fulfillment, the very *covenant* that God will enter into with his restored wife. From that point, no Jew will rebel against Jehovah; for all the Jews at the end of the Tribulation will accept Christ as Messiah, their offspring during the Millennium doing the same (read Jeremiah 31:34).

Is. 54:10 "For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, And My covenant of peace will not be shaken," Says the Lord who has compassion on you.

Once the nation of Israel enters into the *covenant of peace*, the *new covenant* of Jeremiah 31:31-34 (the new marriage *covenant* between the Hebrew people and Jehovah at the end of the Tribulation), God's *lovingkindness* will never again *be removed from* her. Therefore, her fellowship and communion with Jehovah will be totally secure, never again to be disrupted due to sin.

Is. 54:11 ¶ "O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, And your foundations I will lay in sapphires.

In Isaiah 54:11-14, we find a description of the types of blessings Israel will experience during the Millennium. Instead of being *storm-tossed, and not comforted*, a state which resulted from Israel's sinful past, she will be glorified during the Messianic Kingdom. The *precious stones* mentioned in verses 11-12 represent the degree to which Israel will be glorified once she returns to Jehovah.

Is. 54:12 "Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, And your gates of crystal, And your entire wall of precious stones.

As was mentioned in the notes associated with verse 11, the *rubies, crystal, and precious stones* point to the degree to which the Hebrew nation will be glorified during the Millennium. The notes associated with Isaiah 60:1-3 tie in well here.

Is. 54:13 "And all your sons will be taught of the Lord; And the well-being of your sons will be great.

All the *sons of Israel will be taught of the Lord*, and their *well-being...will be great*. Why? They will all know, love, and serve Jehovah with their whole heart. As was stated in the notes associated with Isaiah 54:9, the entire Jewish nation will be spiritually regenerated at the end of the Tribulation (Romans 11:26; Jeremiah 31:31-34), and all the offspring of the Jews throughout the Millennium will become believers (Jeremiah 31:34). Therefore, their *sons, who will be taught of the Lord*, will welcome instruction in the truth; and their *well-being...will be great*. It is interesting that they will not only be taught by their parents, but by those heading up the Jewish branch of government throughout the Millennium. Jesus will rule supremely from *Jerusalem* (Isaiah 24:23; Zechariah 8:3, 22; 14:16-17; Revelation 20:4), followed by *David*, who will not only serve as *king* over the Jews (Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 37:24-25; Hosea 3:5), but as *prince (shepherd)* as well (Ezekiel 34:23-24) due to serving under Jesus' authority. Next comes the twelve apostles (Matthew 19:28), followed by *princes* (Isaiah 32:1; Ezekiel 45:8), one of which will be the resurrected *Zerubbabel* (Haggai 2:20-23), then *judges* and *counselors* (Isaiah 1:26), and lastly the Jews, who will *rule over* the Gentiles (Deuteronomy 15:6; 28:1, 13; Isaiah 14:1-2). Just think, the church saints (all believers from Acts 2 until the Rapture), ruling from Jerusalem *with Christ* (Revelation 20:4; Isaiah 24:23; Zechariah 8:3, 22; 14:16-17), will watch all of this unfold before their very eyes!

Note: There will also be a Gentile branch of government during the Millennium headed up by the church and Tribulation saints reigning from Jerusalem with Jesus (Revelation 20:4). This Gentile branch of government will also have *kings* serving under Jesus' authority (Psalm 72:1-8), all of which will do so in their physical bodies while David serves as *king (prince)* under Jesus) over the Jews in his resurrected body.

Is. 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.

Because all the Jews will be followers of Jehovah during the Millennium (*In righteousness...established*), they will live void of *oppression, fear, and terror*.

Is. 54:15 "If anyone fiercely assails you it will not be from Me. Whoever assails you will fall because of you.

Because the national regeneration of the Jewish nation occurs shortly before Christ returns to defeat the Antichrist and his armies, verses 15-17 may point to this conflict. For sure, the Antichrist's goal will be to wipe the Jews off the earth. Because God has promised that no such thing can occur (Jeremiah 31:35-36), the Antichrist will *fall because of you*, the pronoun "*you*" being the nation of Israel. Yes, the Antichrist will not prevail due to the special relationship that Jehovah has with Israel, a nation whose allies He promises to bless but whose enemies He promises to curse (Genesis 12:3).

Is. 54:16 "Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals, And brings out a weapon for its work; And I have created the destroyer to ruin.

The Antichrist will not prevail because Jehovah is the Creator, not only of the *smith* who builds the *weapon* to war against the Jews, but whoever uses the *weapon* as well. Apparently, it is the armies of the Antichrist who will use this weaponry.

Is. 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their vindication is from Me," declares the Lord.

No weapon that is formed against Jehovah's restored wife (the spiritually regenerated nation of Israel) will prosper. Neither will any tongue that accuses the restored wife avoid condemnation. This is the heritage of the Jewish nation, the wife who returns to her husband (the Father) after centuries of disobedience and rebellion. What a tribute to God's longsuffering and grace!