

## A Trek Through Isaiah 50 - 54:1-17

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For this week: Zion restored 54:1-17

Context

<b>The Greater Deliverance: the Work of the Servant (49:1 - 55:13)</b>
The Servant's mission 49:1-13
Nation and Servant contrasted 49:14 - 50:11
To the faithful remnant 51:1 – 52:12
The Servant's triumph 52:13 - 53:12
Worldwide Salvation 54:1 - 55:13

- In the book of the Servant (38 - 55): How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?
- This section (49 - 55) describes the greater deliverance (redemption from sin) accomplished through the Servant.
- This part (54, 55)
  - Two-part tailpiece to the fourth Servant Song
    - Zion restored (54)
    - The whole world invited (55)

Zion Restored 54:1-17

- Here are four pictures of restoration for those who had God's law, all using women.

Children for a barren woman. 54:1-3

Isaiah 54:1–3 (LSB):

54:1 “Shout for joy, O barren woman, who has not given birth; Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor; For more numerous are the sons of the desolate one Than the sons of the married woman,” says Yahweh.

2 “Enlarge the place of your tent; Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, do not hold back; Lengthen your cords And strengthen your pegs.

3 “For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left. And your seed will possess nations And will resettle the desolate cities.

- V1 A multitude from nothing
  - Shout for joy...break forth into joyful shouting
    - Parallel structure
    - Enter with joy into a benefit given.
  - O barren woman, who has not given birth...you who have not been in labor!
    - Repeated description of barrenness
      - Barren one
      - Did not bear
      - Have not been in labor
  - For more numerous are the sons of the desolate one Than the sons of the married woman.
    - Desolate one.
      - Without a husband.
      - Cannot conceive.
    - Sons
      - Supernatural act that the woman without a husband should have more children than the woman with a husband.
      - From the Servant’s work
        - Is 53:10 ...he shall see his offspring
    - Will be more
      - Restored Israel with faith in Jesus Christ will be more fruitful than Israel under the law.
      - Fulfilled in the millennium.
- V2 Bursting at the seams
  - Picture of a tent being enlarged to hold an expanding family.
  - Enlarge the place of your tent.
    - Where it is pitched.
  - the curtains of your dwellings .
    - The tent walls
  - lengthen your cords and strengthen your pegs.
    - To accommodate the larger walls
  - Do not hold back
    - Make every effort.

- V3 Possessing the nations
  - For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your seed will possess nations
    - Promise to Jacob in Gen 28:14 “And your seed will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
    - Partial fulfilment by the early church in Acts 1:8 ...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the end of the earth.”
    - Final fulfillment in the millennium.
  - and will resettle the desolate cities.
    - Desolated during the exile to Babylon.

Everlasting love for a rejected woman Is 54:4-8

Isaiah 54:4–8 (LSB): “Do not be afraid, for you will not be put to shame; And do not feel dishonored, for you will not be humiliated; But you will forget the shame of your virginity, And the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.

5 “For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is Yahweh of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth.

6 “For Yahweh 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.

7 “For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great compassion I will gather you.

8 “In a flood of fury I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you,”

Says Yahweh your Redeemer.

- V4 Shame ended
  - Do not be afraid, for you will not be put to shame; And do not feel dishonored, for you will not be humiliated
    - Call to stop fearing and feeling dishonored
    - The reason for shame and dishonor has come to an end
  - But you will forget the shame of your virginity, And the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.
    - Image of a young wife widowed before any children
      - Shame from having no children
      - Reproach from being rejected by her husband (v6)
      - Great promise ending in hopelessness
    - May refer to Israel’s history
      - Shame of your virginity. The Egyptian captivity.
      - Reproach of your widowhood. The exile to Babylon.

- V5-6 The means of rescue
  - V5 Who He is
    - parallel structure
 

Husband	Redeemer
Maker	Holy One of Israel
Whose name	Who is called
Yahweh of Hosts	the Holy One of Israel
  - v6 What He does
    - Two pictures of the wife
      - Wife of one's youth: young and pretty and full of joy
      - Forsaken and grieved in spirit: rejected because of her unfaithfulness; hopeless in despair
    - But the rejected wife is called back by her faithful husband
- V7-8 The cause of shame
  - For a brief moment I forsook you...In a flood of fury I hid My face from you for a moment
    - flood of fury
      - Here is the cause of the shame: God's anger at their sin.
    - I forsook you...I hid my face from you.
      - Their sin broke their relationship with God.
      - He seemed to have deserted them.
    - For a brief moment.
      - He has not abandoned them.
  - with great compassion I will gather you ... but with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you
    - with great compassion I will gather you
      - Now Yahweh turns back to them.
    - everlasting lovingkindness. A commitment of the will.
    - Compassion. The feeling of love.
  - says Yahweh, your Redeemer
    - The One who can buy them back from slavery to sin.
  - As Hosea 3:1-2 Then Yahweh said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by her companion and is an adulteress, even as Yahweh loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes." So I bargained for her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a half of barley.

The end of wrath for a guilty woman 54:9-10  
Isaiah 54:9–10 (LSB)

9“For this is like the days of Noah to Me, When I swore that the waters of Noah Would not overflow the earth again; So I have sworn that I will not be furious with you Nor will I rebuke you.

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 Yahweh who has compassion on you.

- V9 The promise of peace
  - This is like the days of Noah to me.
    - Gen 9:12-15 Then God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am giving to be between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I put My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. “And it will be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh.
      - Bow. Lit “war bow”
      - In the cloud. Hung in the clouds as a sign of the covenant.
      - God promises that there would never again be a flood to destroy all flesh.
      - The instrument of war becomes a symbol of peace.
  - So I have sworn that I will not be furious with you Nor will I rebuke you.
    - Refers back to v8 (overflowing anger). That will never happen again.
    - Furious. Feeling of anger.
    - Rebuke. Action coming from the feeling of anger.
    - Promise of peace with God through the work of the Servant.
- V10 The permanence of peace
  - For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake
    - Physical creation that appears permanent.
  - But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, And My covenant of peace will not be shaken
    - Love based on a covenant
    - More permanent than the apparently eternal creation.
    - A kingdom promise, after Israel has turned back to Yahweh.
  - says Yahweh, who has compassion on you.
    - The basis of their security: the promises of God.
    - Based on His love.
    - As Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world...

Untouchable security for a storm-tossed woman 54:11-17a  
Isaiah 54:11–17 (LSB)

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

12“Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, And your gates of crystal, And your entire wall of precious stones.

13“All your sons will be taught of Yahweh; And the peace of your sons will be great.

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.

15“If anyone fiercely attacks you it will not be from Me. Whoever attacks you will fall because of you.

16“Behold, I Myself have created the craftsman who blows the fire of coals And brings out a weapon for its work; And I have created the bringer of ruin to wreak destruction.

17“No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn...

- Picture of a devastated city rebuilt
- V11-12 From affliction to glory
  - Present condition
    - afflicted. Overcome by external forces.
    - storm-tossed. Buffeted. No stability.
    - Not comforted. No help.
  - External glory
    - Stability: stones set; foundation laid.
    - Rebuilt city: battlements, gates, entire wall.
    - Beauty: Sapphires, rubies, crystal, precious stones.
  - I will. All of God.
- V13 Peace
  - Internal glory
  - First part of Is 32:17 And the work of righteousness will be peace...
  - All your sons will be taught of Yahweh
    - All your sons. Every one.
    - Taught of Yahweh. God’s people receiving His word. As Is 50:4 speaking of the Servant: Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.
  - And the peace of your sons will be great.
    - Peace. Heb shalom. Well-being.
      - Peace with God.
      - Peace with men
  - True peace comes through receiving God’s word.

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- V14-17a Security
  - Second part of Is 32:17 ... And the service of righteousness, quietness and security forever.
  - In righteousness you will be established;
    - The righteousness of God brought through the work of the Servant.
  - You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear, And from terror, for it will not come near you.
    - Parallel.
    - Oppression. General threats to society.
    - terror. Assaults; internal alarm.
    - Not fear. Emotion.
    - not come near you. Gone forever.
  - If anyone fiercely attacks you it will not be from Me.
    - Why they are not to fear.
    - Never again will Yahweh move an attacker against His city.
    - Contrast Is 10:5-6 Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hands is My indignation, I send it against a godless nation And command it against the people of My fury...
  - Whoever attacks you will fall because of you
    - Fall. Fall down before you.
    - The intent of the aggressor will be reversed in his defeat.
  - Behold, I Myself have created the craftsman who blows the fire of coals And brings out a weapon for its work; And I have created the bringer of ruin to wreak destruction.
    - Yahweh is behind the production of weapons.
    - He also is the One who raises up the aggressor for His purpose.
  - No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn.
    - Complete security
      - from physical attack
      - from verbal attack.
    - Judgment. Accusation in a law court.

## Summary 54:17b

### Isaiah 54:17b (LSB)

This is the inheritance of the slaves of Yahweh, And their righteousness is from Me," declares Yahweh.

- This is the inheritance of the slaves of Yahweh
  - This. Refers to all of 54. Note how Yahweh delivers His people
    - Children for a barren woman v1-3
      - Israel was supposed to bring the nations to Yahweh. But now she would have many children.
    - Everlasting love for a rejected woman v4-8
      - Israel's sin resulted in them being evicted from the promised land and sent in exile to Babylon. But now Yahweh called her back to Him.
    - The end of wrath for a guilty woman v9-10
      - Israel was under discipline for her sins but Yahweh had dealt with her sins.
    - Untouchable security for a storm-tossed woman v11-17
      - Israel's very identity as a nation seemed threatened. But Yahweh would restore her to glory.
  - Inheritance
    - What they will possess: a renewed relationship with their God. No longer separated from Him by sin.
  - slaves of Yahweh
    - From here on Isaiah will only use the plural.
    - The work of the Servant creates many servants.
    - As Is 53:11 ...By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many...
- And their righteousness is from Me," declares Yahweh.
  - righteousness. The greater delivery from sin through the work of the Servant
  - From me. Emphatic.
- As 1 Pet 1:3-7 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, having been kept in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
  - A living hope
  - Looking to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading
  - Obtained through faith.
  - Trials for a little while.
  - praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



Application: Assurance when the world is falling apart

Is 54:11-14 "O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, Behold, I will lay your stones in antimony, And your foundations I will set in sapphires. "Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, And your gates of crystal, And your entire wall of precious stones. "All your sons will be taught of Yahweh; And the peace 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.

- To the exiles
- Presently afflicted, storm-tossed, not comforted
- Peace and security promised through the work of the Servant.
- Called to faith that Yahweh would accomplish His word

Likewise, our world is falling apart

Evil men proceed from bad to worse (2 Tim 3:13)

How can we survive?

Psalm 11:1-7 (LSB)

1In Yahweh I take refuge; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain;

2For, behold, the wicked bend the bow, They make ready their arrow upon the string To shoot in darkness at the upright in heart.

3"If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?"

- David affirms his faith in Yahweh. He confronts his friends who urge him to flee since wickedness triumphs and there is no hope.

4Yahweh is in His holy temple; Yahweh's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

- David asserts Yahweh is sovereign.

5Yahweh tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.

6May He rain snares upon the wicked; Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.

- The two ends of man
  - The righteous are tested and their faith validated
  - The wicked are destroyed

7For Yahweh is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.

- David's confidence: The righteous will behold Yahweh.

## References

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