

**CALVARY PANDAN
BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 54

ISAIAH

CHAPTER 54

Theme: "Sure Restoration!"

THEME VERSES

Isaiah 54:4-5 (KJV) "Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. **5** For thy Maker *is* thine husband; the LORD of hosts *is* his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called."

INTRODUCTION

The most blessed doctrine in times of despair and great destruction and captivity is the promise from God of the certainty of his deliverance and then preservation. To return home to one's safety and original state and to be kept in that state of tranquillity is the hope that instils assurance and brings life to a broken and despondent soul. Chapter 54 of Isaiah is such a chapter. Israel was charged by God to sing at the beginning of this chapter despite the terrible state that Israel was in.

Israel needs to see beyond her present condition of exile and servanthood to their Gentile masters. Israel deserves all that she is experiencing right now because of her many repeated sins. The consequences of Israel's sins were given by the LORD Himself. There is definitely no respecter of persons with God, especially His people. A higher standard of holiness was demanded of Israel for she had all the "tools" given to her by the LORD to succeed as a godly witness. But she failed miserably despite rebuke by God's prophets throughout the years.

But Israel must not confuse chastisement with total annihilation. Israel was disciplined by God for her many sins but like a loving father disciplining his son, it was meant to restore the son back to the right path of life. Israel is given hope by God to encourage her, so that she would not forget the LORD and give up all together and think she was no different from other Gentile nations. Israel will always be loved by God. God's plan for her continues even in times of exile and great persecution.

God's people today have much to learn from this chapter of Isaiah. Stay near to God at all costs and at all times. Do not stray away from Him. However when His children depart from the faith, the LORD will discipline. In the midst of God's discipline, the children of God have to return to God by stop sinning against Him. The LORD loves to bless and not to discipline, as like all loving parents. They want the best for their children

and want to have a delightful, glorious and blessed relationship with them but always in holiness and obedience to God's Word.

OUTLINE

1. Blessed Hope of a Global Spread (vv.1-3);
2. Certainty of God's Deliverance (vv. 4-10);
3. In Righteousness shall Israel Stand (vv. 10-17).

COMMENTARY

Blessed Hope of a Global Spread – 54:1-3

The first two words of 54:1 seem to be contradictory. How can one who is barren be asked by God to sing? To be barren is to be cursed by God in OT times. The reference here is to the nation of Israel and perhaps in particular to the capital city, Jerusalem, which represents the nation. The suffering of the Messiah had just been revealed. This is the greatest hope that could be given to lift the spirits of any despondent people. The hope of salvation and One who would come to take our sufferings onto Himself so that we do not need to suffer at all for our own sins.

Jerusalem was commanded by the LORD to rejoice and sing out loud. She shall be filled with many! If the Jews themselves would not believe and accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour, the Gentiles would. The clause, "for more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the

married wife," refers to this truth. The children of the desolate would be the Gentiles and the married wife would be Israel who is married to the LORD via the covenant they had since the time of Abraham. There are believers all over the world who have accepted Christ. They number more than all the children of Israel. This understanding is right because it was taught by Paul in **Galatians 4:26-27** (KJV) "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. **27** For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband."

Their spiritual descendants would populate the earth. Cities would be filled with them. They would be found everywhere. Churches are found all over the world. They are dispersed through all the continents of the earth. There is not one continent where Christ is not preached and believed!

Certainty of God's Deliverance – 54:4-10

Jerusalem is the city of God. It is the only residue of this old earth that will be remembered in the New Heaven and New Earth of Revelations 21 and 22. The LORD comforts her by telling her not to be afraid. Regardless how Jerusalem might look in the near future, the people of God must not give up hope in the LORD. The LORD will return to deliver Jerusalem. Jerusalem would soon be destroyed after Isaiah's death and during the time of Jeremiah. It would be razed to the ground and the Temple of Solomon would be

completely destroyed. Israel had never suffered such a total devastation in her entire history since the time of the conquest led by Joshua.

It is the covenantal relationship that the LORD has with Israel that becomes the basis for this encouragement to Israel. The One who made Israel is Israel's husband, saith the LORD! Israel came into existence by the design of the LORD. God made Israel so that the Messiah can come from Israel. This marriage relationship is very intimate that God is citing here between Himself and Israel. How can the husband not take care of His wife! He would do anything to protect and care for His wife. This imagery reminds us of the passage in Ephesians 5:22-33. Israel will forever be well taken care of by the LORD. But what is the Name of this husband of Israel?

The Name of the LORD is "the LORD of hosts" and "the Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel," and "the God of the whole earth." These three names or titles of the LORD emphasize three different nature or character of God. The first emphasizes the power of God for He is the covenantal LORD who has armies at His disposal. He can deliver Israel at any time. There is no army more powerful than the armies of the LORD.

The second Name emphasizes the redemption of Israel. The LORD calls Himself the Redeemer. It means the Saviour. He will surely save Israel. However, he also calls Himself the Holy One of Israel. This means that Israel was sent into captivity because

of her sins. Israel will be redeemed after she has repented of her sins. The Redeemer is able to save Israel with His armies! But Israel must return as holy before the Holy God. There is no other way for Israel's return. The standard of holiness of the LORD is consistent with His character from the beginning of time unto eternity. This same standard is demanded of every church as well in New Testament times.

The third Name of the LORD emphasizes the scope of His power. He calls Himself the God of the whole earth. This means that every nation on the earth is under His sovereign control. The use of "elohiyim" (God) points to the focus on the power of God. No nation can keep Israel in their grasps for one second longer than what God has predetermined. Kings of all nations of the earth are put there by God and they will also be removed by God and be replaced by God. Israel has nothing to fear even in their darkest hour for the God of the whole earth, who is also the Redeemer of Israel, is in absolute control.

When Israel comes under attack by the Babylonians and is taken into exile like common slaves, it appears that the LORD had forsaken Israel. The period of exile was 70 years. The LORD calls this "a small moment". The LORD will bring Israel back to the Promised Land. He will do so because of His great mercies toward Israel. Mercy is punishment withheld. Israel must be punished for her multitude of sins. There is no better way to deal with defiant and

rebellious Israel other than to place her at the mercy of the Babylonians. But the LORD will not desert Israel even when she lies in the bosom of the Babylonians and is constantly taunted by them. The LORD's mercy will be upon Israel for he is her Redeemer.

Citing the destruction of the earth by water in the days of Noah and the promise never to destroy the earth by water again as His basis, the LORD also promises Israel that He would never be wrath with her and rebuke her again. The kindness of the LORD will never depart from Israel. The covenant of peace that the LORD has with Israel will never leave Israel. Israel will return and through this exile, she would learn never to worship idols ever again. Israel did learn this lesson very well to this day!

**In Righteousness shall Israel Stand
– 54:10-17**

Israel may look despondent because of the destruction that she will have to bear at the hands of the Babylonians but the LORD will restore her back to her glorious beauty. Colourful and precious stones would become her foundation and ornaments. She will become a beautiful woman full of God's grace and the mercies of the LORD. The people of God described here as "the children of Israel" would be taught of the LORD. This means that they would be believers where they would know the LORD as their Saviour and Lord. They would have peace in their hearts. This has to include the period of the millennium.

The LORD shall establish Israel in righteousness. Israel will be safe and will be far from oppression. She will no longer be afraid. The enemies of the Israel would try to attack her but the LORD did not send them. This means that in the case of Babylonians, the LORD sent them and therefore they succeeded. They were the instruments used by the LORD to chastise Israel because of Israel's sins. But the future enemies of Israel will make alliances in order to fight against Israel but they will be soundly defeated. No weapons used by the enemies of Israel will prosper against Israel. Israel's righteousness is of the LORD and she will prevail over all her enemies. Israel was defeated by her enemies because the LORD allowed it. When the LORD did not allow it and Israel remains in righteousness, no enemy could stand against Israel. Amen.

**DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Isaiah 54:1-17

TUESDAY: Isaiah 54:1-17

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 54:1-17

THURSDAY: Isaiah 54:1-17

FRIDAY: Isaiah 54:1-17

Discussion Questions

1. Do you see Jerusalem as your mother? Is there a close affinity to this city of God in your soul?

2. Do you know there are believers who never tire of visiting Israel even after they have been there for more than 15 times? Do you know why? Is it right to call "going to Israel" a pilgrimage? Please elaborate.

5. What evidence do we have from the Bible that the LORD did not desert Israel when she was in captivity in Babylon?

3. Are you easily frightened by the calamities in life? Please explain your answer whether it is yes or no.

6. Do you learn more and remember longer the times you were chastised by the LORD than the times of blessings you received from Him? Please elaborate.

4. What do the three titles of God mean to you in practical terms?

7. What lessons have you learnt from this chapter about God's Word and about yourself?
