

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Isaiah 54: part 3

Isaiah Chapter 54

Chapter 54 looks forward to **the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the blessings of the Messianic Kingdom to follow.**

Chapter 54 is directed to the remnant of Israel in the last days. It issues the *call for the Jewish remnant to rejoice and sing* of their salvation. It is a love song from the LORD to His bride, Zion.

After the call to sing, the Lord gives promises to that remnant. They refer to the blessings of Israel at the Second Coming of Christ

Let's read **Isaiah 54** now.

Next, here is a high-level outline of Chapter 54, courtesy of Oswalt, the NIV Isaiah Application Commentary:

| | Subject |
|---------------------|---|
| Verses 1-10 | Restoration and hope for a disgraced woman - Zion |
| Verses 11-17 | Restoration and hope for a ruined city - Jerusalem |

Let's look at this a little more closely.

Notice the references to a woman in verses 1-6:

Verse 1: barren woman

Verses 4-5: widowhood/husband

Verse 6: wife

Then verses 7-10 reveal how this woman is really Zion – the remnant of Israel in context.

Now notice the references to a city in verses 11 and 12.

Verse 11: stones, foundation

Verse 12: battlements, gates, a wall

Then verses 13-17 reveal how the city is a picture of the nation of Israel in the end times.

Now we begin our **verse-by-verse study** of chapter 54.

Verse-by-verse

Verses 1-3 are a unit.

Verse 1: The image of the barren woman and her expanding family. We have encountered this imagery before, in chapters 49 and 52.

Let's read Isaiah 49:14-21. We will return to Isaiah 49 when we examine verses 2 and 3 here,

Next, let's read Isaiah 52:1-10.

We leave Isaiah 54:1 having three questions to answer:

1. Who is the barren woman?
2. Who are the sons of the desolate woman?
3. And who is the married woman?

Verse 2: The image of the expanding tent.

This was family imagery. In the ancient Middle East, families lived in tents. When a child was born, or when someone married, the tent had to be enlarged to accommodate more people.

Luckily, those Bedouin tents were easily enlarged by adding skins, lengthening cords, and putting down stronger pegs.

See **Isaiah 33:20-24** and **Isaiah 49:19-20**.

Verse 3: The images explained.

The barren woman is revealed to be Zion.

The more numerous sons of the desolate one picture the rapid expansion of the remnant of Israel at the second coming of the Messiah, after which the people of Zion will enjoy tremendous fertility.

See **Isaiah 49:22-23**.

The desolate cities being resettled was previously mentioned in **Isaiah 44:26** and **Isaiah 49:19**.

Therefore, the married woman represents the nations who will be dispossessed by the remnant of Israel.

The image of the expanding tent refers to Israel in the Messianic kingdom. She will dispossess nations, expand her borders, and resettle desolate cities.

At this time, the Lord will fulfill the promises He made to Abraham. See **Genesis 22:17-18** and **28:14**.