

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Isaiah 54: part 4

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 is a love song from the LORD to His bride, Zion.

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

Here is a high-level outline of Chapter 54:

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

We are now in 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.

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.

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.

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

Here, 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**.

Verses 4-8: The image of a woman who is ashamed and humiliated for having no husband.

She is a widow. She was forsaken in her youth.

Now, her husband is calling for her and gathering her back with great love and compassion.

The shamed and humiliated woman is Israel; her husband is the Lord.

Verse 4: The LORD continues to speak to the woman, Israel. In fact, He is speaking to her in every verse of chapter 54.

He tells her that she will no longer be put to shame. See also **Isaiah 45:17**.

She will forget the shame of her youth and won't remember the reproach of her widowhood.

See **Jeremiah 31:15-20** (weeping woman) and **Isaiah 25:6-9** (remove reproach).

In fact, she will have everlasting salvation. She will not be put to shame for all eternity!

This is much greater than her deliverance from Babylon by Cyrus.

Verse 5: Here the LORD identifies Himself as her husband. See **Isaiah 62:4-5** (bridegroom and bride) and **Hosea 2:19** ("I will betroth you to Me forever").

But of course, He is no ordinary husband! His name is the LORD of hosts. He is the Holy One of Israel and the God of all the earth. He is her Maker, and her Redeemer. See **Isaiah 44:24, 49:26, and 60:16-20**.

Verse 6: The LORD has called his wife (Israel) back to Him. She will no longer be forsaken, rejected, or grieved.

Verses 7: In the LORD's mind, He only forsook her for a brief moment, but with great compassion He is gathering her back. See **Psalm 30:5**.

But what does this "brief moment" refer to? There are several suggestions: (1) The 70-year exile in Babylon; (2) A general expression for the LORD's discipline; (3) The time from the rejection of Jesus the Messiah until His return (see **Matthew 23: 37-39**); or (4) The Tribulation period (the day of the LORD; See **Joel 2:14-17**).

Now let's narrow it down by using the context of Isaiah 54. Which option makes the most sense to you?

To help with this, see what "I will gather you" means in **Isaiah 11:12**.

Verse 8: says that same thing as verse 7 using different words.

We've seen this before: it's called synonymous parallelism.

Synonymous parallelism is a literary device often used in Hebrew poetry that involves the repetition of the same idea in two different ways. This device is used to highlight and amplify important ideas.

Verse 7	Verse 8
For a brief moment I forsook you	I hid My face from you for a moment
With great compassion I will gather you	With everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you