

## **ISAIAH 54 - OUR RESPONSE OF FAITH to Christ's Atonement (described in Isaiah 53)**

The work of Messiah has provided every spiritual blessing for the believer opening up a new life, a new power and new possibilities. Those who believe the report of Isaiah 53 will see the arm of the Lord revealed(v1). So what are they to DO in response? This is described in Isaiah 54

### **(1) PRAISE and THANKSGIVING.**

If we believe this report, our first response is PRAISE, we break forth into singing. Rejoicing should characterise believers in Christ.

v1: "**SING, O barren, you *who* have not borne!**

**BREAK FORTH INTO SINGING,**

**and CRY ALOUD, you *who* have not laboured with child!"**

Why? There are many reasons, but the one given is fruitfulness in life especially in having spiritual children through bringing people to faith and discipling them: "**For more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman, says the LORD.**" God says: '*You may have been barren before but now I have called and empowered you to have spiritual children*'.

Praise and thank God in anticipation that through Christ and His Atonement He is turning your barrenness into fruitfulness, your inability into ability, failure into success, sickness to health.

In particular by the Gospel you will have spiritual children. That is what we are here for. We should all be helping someone to faith and in faith. In the first creation God's command to man was to go forth in dominion, and be fruitful and multiply. Now in the New Creation He told us in the Great Commission to do the same, to go forth and multiply ourselves, preaching the gospel with His authority and teach (disciple) the new ones. God's purpose and calling for us is to be fruitful and He empowers us for this. If you don't think you are fruitful, praise God in faith that He has made you fruitful - here He

tells the barren (not the fruitful) to sing. Christ's work results in a growing family: **"When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His seed*, He shall prolong His days and the pleasure of the LORD (His seed is the believers) shall prosper in His hand"** (Isaiah 53:10). He does not produce offspring by Himself, He does it through us. He wants us barren no more but to share our faith and nurture the young in the Lord, as a fruitful mother or father. God wants to work and be fruitful through you so BELIEVE it and REJOICE in it.

## **2. ENLARGE your VISION and your HEART.**

Expect and plan your effectiveness and fruitfulness to GROW. Pray with Jabez: *'bless me and enlarge my borders'*. Believe for growth in your life, ministry, blessing and fruitfulness to others.

**v2,3: "ENLARGE the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you shall EXPAND to the right and the left."** Being fruitful, having children and looking after them will stretch you. You must create more room in your life. So the next thing to do is to enlarge your heart to make room for more spiritual children who need your help and encouragement. Enlarging your heart and ministry also requires you getting deeper in God, growing in depth as well as width, inwardly as well as outwardly: **"lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."**

Foundations must be strengthened. You can only build as high as your foundation is deep. It is worth it: **"your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited."**

You can't tell how great the results of your obedience will be to have and nurture children! People you reach will go to various nations, reaching others and doing things for God because of your input.

So you have a share in what they do. Fruitfulness multiplies.

**Who knows how far-reaching in eternity your obedience and love will be?**

**3. FEAR NOT** - don't allow yourself to be controlled by thoughts of negative expectation for your future because God is with you and has good plans for you.

**v4-8:** **"DO NOT FEAR, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts *is* His name; and your Redeemer (Christ) *is* the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. For the LORD has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused," says your God.** For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer."

He has FORGIVEN you. You are free from fear of condemnation and rejection. Believers are no longer rejected and condemned, but accepted, beloved and forgiven. This was all effected by the Atonement (Isaiah 53:5,6) where God's wrath upon our sin was propitiated forever, so we are not to fear God's anger.

**v9,10 explains this further:** **"For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you (ever again), nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace (the everlasting New Covenant) be removed," says the LORD, Who has mercy on you.**" God's judgement was fully poured out in the waters of the Flood. The Ark was a type of Christ providing a covering (atonement) for believers (those who entered it). It bore the full force of God's judgement, so that those within were protected from harm (it took the

punishment for them) and passed through into a new start and a new life under a new covenant promising that such a Flood of judgement would never happen again. Likewise Christ bore the penalty of our sin and if we are in Him we pass through judgement into a new-life under a new covenant which gives us eternal righteousness, mercy and peace so that we will never again be under the wrath and condemnation of God. However, those who refuse through unbelief God's provision of salvation, and so do not enter the Ark (Christ) must bear the judgement themselves.

So now even our afflictions He works for our eternal glory:

**"O you afflicted one, tossed with tempest, and not comforted. Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones"** (v11,12). Do not fear for He will turn all things for your good as you trust Him - Romans 8:28).

Do not be in fear about your children for God's promise to you is:

**"All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children"**(v13).

**4. USE YOUR AUTHORITY AS A BELIEVER to deal with satan's attacks.** Do not fear satan's attacks because God is greater. He is for you and has given you His authority.

v14-17: **"In righteousness you shall be ESTABLISHED** (Isaiah 53:11, establish your heart in the truth of 2Corinthians 5:21 which will enable you to stand). **You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear** (fear opens the door to satan's oppression); **and from terror, for it shall not come near you** (for God is your shield). **Indeed they** (enemies) **shall surely assemble, but not because of Me** (spiritual attacks will come but they are not from God). **Whoever assembles** (plots) **against you shall fall for your sake** (because you are God's and carry His name and authority by the

covenant). **Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work** (the one behind the heat of afflictions was created by God. Lucifer was not created evil, but but became satan by his choice. The point is that demons are created beings; therefore, because God created them, He can handle them); **and I have created the spoiler who destroys.** Therefore I the Almighty One give you this promise: **No weapon** (word or curse) **formed against you shall prosper** (succeed), **and every tongue which rises against you in judgement YOU SHALL CONDEMN** (it is up to us to use our authority and speak in Jesus name against the working of the enemy. We bind him and any evil words, declaring his attacks null and void, dismissing him from his assignment, returning any curse or to the sender, claiming the blood of Jesus over us). **This is the heritage** (our inheritance in Christ, our covenant-right) **of the servants of the LORD** (as you are serving God, submitting to Him, you have the right to use your authority to do this to overcome opposition) **and their righteousness** (vindication) **is from Me" says the LORD."**

God will back us up in this warfare and vindicate the ones He has made righteous through the Blood.

**5. COME and DRINK from the waters of the Spirit** freely poured out (given) to all believers: **"Ho! Everyone who THIRSTS, COME to the waters** (of life); **and you who have no money, COME, buy and EAT (PARTAKE). Yes, COME, buy wine and milk without money and without price"** (55:1).

**"Let him who thirsts COME. Whoever desires, let him TAKE the water of life freely"** (Revelation 22:17).

**"If anyone thirsts, let him COME to Me and DRINK. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." This He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive"** (John 7:37-39).

## **SUMMARY.**

As we remember what Jesus has done for us let us respond in faith:

**(1) REJOICE-** break forth in singing, for God is making you fruitful.

**(2) ENLARGE your heart,** prepare for growth in ministry to others.

**(3) REFUSE FEAR.** Fear is based on the premise problems and demons are bigger than God. If you discern problems don't panic, but pray and trust God. He is greater!

**(4) TAKE AUTHORITY and CONDEMN** the work of satan.

**(5 COME and DRINK freely.** All the blessings provided by Christ in the Atonement are carried (communicated to us) on the river of the Holy-Spirit. so freely drink (partake) of God's healing, wisdom, joy, victory, life etc.