

Isaiah 54-55

Bible Study

Review: Ch. 52:13-15;
Ch. 53

Prophecy of the suffering Servant—The Sin bearing servant
The Messiah's 1st coming

Chapter 52: 13-15 (The Father praises the work of the sin-bearing servant)

The Servant fulfills the Father's plan, therefore He shall be exalted, extolled and very high
Describes the horror He would go through— "His visage marred more than any man"
He will startle nations and Kings...when they realize what He did for humanity

Chapter 53—Prophecy of the suffering and death of the Servant

- He was despised and rejected by men—the Jews of His day did not believe Him

- The Messiah took our sins upon Himself

"He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows"—the consequences of sin

"And by His stripes we are healed"—we can ask for healing because of the stripes/beatings He suffered

- It was planned for Him to die for our sins long before it happened

"And He bore the sins of many, And made intercession for the transgressors"—what He did for us

Isaiah moves from Christ's sacrifice to the expansion of spiritual Israel/family of God, which is possible because of Christ's sacrifice



Chapter 54

Chapter 54 moves to Christ's return—2nd coming

➤ Leads to a perpetual covenant of peace

1 “Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman,” says the Lord.

Paul quotes verse one in Galatians 4: 27

Paul in Gal. 4:22-31 allegorizes Sarah and Hagar in explaining the difference between the New Covenant and the Old Covenant

“barren”—represents Sarah who was prophesied to have many descendants

- She represents the New Covenant marriage in which the Church will give birth to its children at the return of Christ...and even more in the millennium will become part of the family of God = “children of promise”

“the married woman”—represents Hagar who had a son for Abraham, while Sarah was still barren

- Signifies the Old Covenant marriage established in which physical Israel expanded with millions of children

“For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman”

- In our day and time there are not so many children of promise...but that will change in the millennium

v. 2-3 Israel's expansion—physical on one level/spiritual on another

2 Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes.

3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.

Genesis 28: 14 (God's promise to Jacob)

Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Israel would expand physically with many descendants during the ages...

But in the millennium spiritual Israel will expand even greater, the family of God growing

v. 4-10 The Lord's coming salvation for Israel,
The expansion of physical Israel and eventually spiritual Israel, the family of God

4 "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.

5 For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

v. 4 The nation does not need to fear, nor be ashamed...the past will be forgotten
She will no longer be desolate or forsaken

v. 5 God as a husband will take Israel back...divine titles used as assurance including 'your redeemer'

"For your Maker is your husband" (Spiritual level)

Revelation 19:5 (Spiritual Israel)

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready

6 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.

7 "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you.

8 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.

v. 6 Because of sins, which Isaiah has pointed out many times, Israel was forsaken and allowed to go through judgment...

v. 7 But it was as just for a brief time (esp. weighed against eternity)

v. 7-8 Because of His great mercy and kindness, the nation will be restored to Him

Notice: 'great mercies' and 'everlasting kindness'

v. 9-10 Israel's security

9 “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, nor rebuke you.

v. 9 After the flood God promised to not punish the world the same way (Gen. 9: 11)...and the day is coming, in the millennium, when God will not rebuke Israel again

God promises protection/security for His people
He will not abandon them



10 For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” Says the Lord, who has mercy on you.

“My covenant of peace”—refers to this promise God has made...

➤ In the kingdom, God will give His people everlasting peace

Ezekiel 34: 25 “I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.”

“My covenant of peace” = the new covenant...as it relates to God’s mercy

Jeremiah 31:33-34

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 No more shall every man teach his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them, to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

v. 10 [Last part] “Says the Lord who has mercy **on you**” ...God’s mercy extended to Israel

God is merciful to us when we turn/repent to Him

v. 11-17 A peaceful future

11 “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.

12 I will make your pinnacles of rubies, Your gates of crystal, And your walls of precious stones.

v. 11 “O you afflicted one” — Jerusalem by the exile

- As God’s people, the Church has been through the ages

Jerusalem will be built up with precious stones and gems—symbolic of God’s loving care for the city
(Revelation 21)



“I will lay your stones”

Changes are coming to which God’s people will be adorned and beautified spiritually (I Peter 2: 4-5)
God’s truth will be reflected and taught

13 All your children shall be taught by the Lord, And great shall be the peace of your children

In the kingdom, the children will be taught by the Lord Himself...and they will enjoy peace

John 6: 45

It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.



Christ referred to verse 13 to show that when the Father calls and teaches a person His way, then they will understand Christ's role in God's plan of salvation

14 In righteousness you shall be established; You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; And from terror, for it shall not come near you.

15 Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake.

v. 14 [1st part] As God's law and way of life are taught, righteousness will be in His people by means of the Holy Spirit

v. 15

“they”= enemies of Israel

“assemble”—reflects back to oppression, fear, terror

“assemble” (KJV) “gather” “for hostility” (*Strong's*)...one of the meanings

v. 16-17 Destructive nations will not attack His people

16 Behold, I have created the blacksmith Who blows the coals in the fire, Who brings forth an instrument for his work; And I have created the spoiler to destroy.

17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the Lord.

v. 16 In the past, God allowed the destroyer to work as an instrument of punishment for the people’s sins

v. 17 [1st part] In the kingdom, no nation will be allowed to come against them

v. 17 [Last part] God explains that the righteousness of His servants comes from Him—He is the One who calls and draws them

By means of the Holy Spirit living in us we are able to live in righteousness



Chapter 55

“Come to the waters”—of the Holy Spirit

¹ “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

John 7: 37

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

“wine and milk” (Nelson Study Bible) “are symbols of complete satisfaction, not only does God’s salvation supply what is necessary for life, but it also provides what brings joy.”

“Without money and price”—God’s Holy Spirit is a free gift, upon repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38)

“Come”—repeated three times= an invitation from God...will be special in the kingdom

2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.

v. 2 Throughout the ages people have tried to find satisfaction apart from God

➤ By coming to Him, they will find complete satisfaction, abundant spiritual satisfaction

v. 3 “Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;”

Just as God promised blessings to David (II Sam. 7:16), God assures that those who come to Him, and seek Him, He will bless them, especially spiritually

v. 3 “an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David”

The covenant that God is willing to make to all who hear and come to Him

II Samuel 7:16 (God’s covenant with David)

“And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”

v. 4-5 Nations under Christ's leadership

4 Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people.

5 Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the Lord your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you.”

v.4 “him” is dual...David was a witness to the promises
“him” “Him” (KJV)—refers to the Messiah who is destined to inherit the throne of David

v. 5 “nations...shall run to you”—to learn God's way and His truth

Zechariah 8: 20-23

20 Thus says the Lord of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities;

21 The inhabitants one city shall go to another, saying, Lets us continue to go and pray before the Lord, And seek the Lord of hosts. I myself will also go.

22 Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the Lord in Jerusalem, And to pray before the Lord.

23 Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.” ‘

v. 6-13 Salvation is available to everyone

6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

“seek the Lord **while** He may be found”

Those who truly want to **build their relationship with God** will find Him if they seek Him with all their heart

God must be **sought** ["seek" and "call upon Him"]...this invitation to seek God is open to all, who would diligently seek him

While He may **be found**’...

Is the admonition for us that we must be doing something, spiritually speaking, in the time we have...

There is **urgency** in this call...“**while** he may be found...**while** he is near”--time is limited

“found” (Heb. *masa*) (TWOT) “is used to describe a **result** following a time of seeking”...

“Call upon Him **while** He is near”—while we have the opportunity

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Seeking and calling upon God **also** means to turn/repent of our former ways...and upon turning to Him in repentance...God will extend mercy and pardon

“return to the Lord”—O.T. expression for repentance



“He will abundantly pardon”

8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

v. 8 God’s mercy is so great because He extends it to all who will repent...He will mercifully pardon

- His mercy is above our comprehension

v. 9 God’s plan of salvation is something that our minds cannot grasp without His calling and Holy Spirit working with us

10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

v. 10 Just as the rain comes down and gives abundance to the earth below



v. 11 So God's word accomplishes what He intends

His word, the truth, brings forth spiritual life which accomplishes His purpose

v. 12-13 God's people leave from worldly exile

12 "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

The Jews would leave from Babylonian captivity under Ezra and Nehemiah, a type of future deliverance

Israel and Judah will leave end-time captivity of this world and the effects of sin will be reversed in the kingdom, leading to singing and rejoicing

The ultimate deliverance of all mankind when they are spiritually reborn through Christ

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the Lord for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Spiritual blossoming to take place when all are glorified

Fertility, both physical and spiritual will be the sign the God is in control

Lessons

Because of Christ's sacrifice all have the opportunity for salvation, and in the millennium Israel and all mankind will expand spiritually

If we seek God diligently He will be found, But we must seek Him while we have opportunity

If we turn to God in real repentance, He will forgive and abundantly pardon

By means of the Holy Spirit living in us we are able to live in righteousness