

October 7th, 2018

"No Weapon Formed Against You Shall Prosper"

Isaiah 54

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Sept 30 Zechariah 8-14	Oct 4 Matthew 7-8
Oct 1 Malachi 1-4	Oct 5 Matthew 9-10
Oct 2 Matthew 1-4	Oct 6 Matthew 11-12
Oct 3 Matthew 5-6	Oct 7 Matthew 13-14

Lesson Introduction: *This week we turn our attention to Isaiah 54, where we will see the results of Christ's sacrifice prophesied about in chapter 53. This passage shows the overwhelming kindness of God towards His people, as He graciously reminds them that there is coming a day when there will be no more shame, no more destruction, and no more fear. As we walk through this passage, we will consider how the death and resurrection of Christ has made restoration possible, erased our shame, and given us confidence for the future.*

Key Memory Verses: Isaiah 54:17

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **The LORD restores and renews what was once broken (V. 1-3).**
- **The LORD erases shame, and pours out His everlasting love and compassion (V. 4-10)**
- **The LORD promises future success in the face of our enemies (V. 14-17)**

Isaiah 54:1-10, 14-17 (ESV)

1 "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in labor!

**For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her who is married," says the
Lord.**

2 "Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched
out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.

3 **For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,
and your offspring will possess the nations
and will people the desolate cities.**

4 **"Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;
be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced;
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the reproach of your widowhood you will
remember no more.**

5 **For your Maker is your husband,
the Lord of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.**

6 For the Lord has called you
like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,
says your God.

7 For a brief moment I deserted you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.

8 In overflowing anger for a moment
I hid my face from you,
**but with everlasting love I will have compassion on
you,"**
says the Lord, your Redeemer.

9 "This is like the days of Noah to me:
as I swore that the waters of Noah
should no more go over the earth,
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you,
and will not rebuke you.

10 For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
**but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,"**
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

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 If anyone stirs up strife,
it is not from me;
**whoever stirs up strife with you
shall fall because of you.**

16 **Behold, I have created the smith
who blows the fire of coals
and produces a weapon for its purpose.**

**I have also created the ravager to destroy;
17 no weapon that is fashioned against you shall
succeed,**

**and you shall refute every tongue that rises against
you in judgment.**

**This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord
and their vindication from me, declares the Lord."**

Discussion Section 1: Restoration Made Possible (V. 1-3)

-How are God's people described in the beginning portion of **V. 1**?

-In what ways does God promise to restore and renew His people in these verses?

-What does it mean that God's people are to be "**stretched out**," and that their "**offspring will possess the nations**"?

Note: As we have seen for the last several weeks, God's people were to be led into Babylonian captivity, in which they would stay in for 70 years. During this time, there was no doubt a sense of hopelessness and despair that would set in. But in the beginning verses of chapter 54, God reminds His people that, although barren for a time, there was coming a day when they would bring forth children, and once again be a great and mighty nation!

This incredible restoration is made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ! As we have seen, the Israelites were unable to redeem themselves, and continually went back to the same dry well of idolatry. However, God would bring them out of captivity, and though Christ, would one day "**make all things new**" (**Revelation 21:5**). Part of this restoration of His people would involve the expansion of the Gospel. **Verses 2-3** speak of the enlarging of the nation of Israel, which speaks of the worldwide kingdom of God, one made from every nation tribe and tongue (**Revelation 5:9**). May we celebrate the fact that we have been made new in Christ, and that although we were once dead, we now live (**Ephesians 2:1-5**)!

Discussion Section 2: Shame Erased (V. 4-10)

-How does shame hinder our relationship with God?

-What is the basis for the removal of shame in **verses 5-10**?

-What do these verses tell us about the Lord's reception of those with shameful pasts?

-What does the whole of Scripture tell us about the removal of shame for those who are in Christ?

Note: These verses reveal to us that, when God saves us, He not only makes us new, but He rids us of past shame

because of His great compassion and love. Verse 4 tells us that when we are redeemed by Christ, we are free from shame and reproach. **Verses 5-6** reveal why this is the case: "**For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.**"

These verses make clear that those called by the Lord have no shame, not because of their merits, but because of His! If we are His bride we bear His name, and are part of His royal family. He has poured out His love and compassion on us (**V. 8-10**), and to continue in shame is to not recognize His sufficiency to cleanse us and make us new. Many of us deal with an ongoing sense of shame and guilt related to our pasts. It is vital that we recognize that we have been made new, and that we are no longer our own, but belong to Christ, who has freed us from guilt and shame, and given us abundant life (**Romans 8:1-4, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Galatians 5:1, John 10:10**).

Discussion Section 3: Confidence for the Future (V. 14-17)

-What things do we fear about the future?

-How should **V. 16** greatly bolster our confidence?

-What does walking in daily confidence in the promise of **V. 17** look like?

Note: As this passage comes to a close, God reminds His people that, not only are they free from past shame, but also from fear of the future! **V. 16** reminds us that anyone who would try to harm us is not to be feared, because they are creations of God, and God has absolute control over all the weapons of this world. **V. 17** promises that "**no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed.**" So often, it is our natural inclination to walk in fear of what is to come. We worry as if we are not children of the Maker of all things. This verse tenderly reminds us again that God is in control, that nothing can separate us from His love, and that He will see us through, and will complete the work that He has started. As we close out our lesson this week, may we rejoice in the fact that we have nothing to fear, for we belong to God Almighty through Jesus Christ our Lord! (**Romans 8:31-39, Philippians 1:6, Jude 24-25**).