

Structure of Isa 54

1-17 The Lord comforts his Bride

1-4 Change in her attitude

1 **Sing**, **for** thou shalt have many children

2-3 **Enlarge**, **for** thou shalt inherit the Gentiles

4 **Fear not**, **for** thou shalt not be ashamed

Three
Motivated
Promises

5-10 Change in the Lord's attitude

5-6 God is thy husband and redeemer, **saith** thy God

7-8 God's wrath turns to mercy, **saith** the Lord thy Redeemer

9-10 The Lord promises peace, **saith** the Lord that hath mercy

Three
Encouraging
Quotations

11-17a Prosperity and Victory

11-14 **Behold**, prosperity and peace

15 **Behold**, adversaries fall

16-17a **Behold**, God owns the armorer

Three Joyful
Observations

17b Summary

This is the heritage of the Servants of the Lord
And their righteousness is of me

Unpacking 54:4-6

49:14-50:3	54:1-3
Mother Zion Divorced, children killed City dweller	(Sarah) Barren Tent dweller
Gal 4: Hagar	Gal 4: Sarah
54:4d thou ... shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more	54:4c thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth
54:5a Thy Husband is thy Maker The Lord of Hosts is his name (Epoch: Exodus)	54:5b Thy Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel The God of the Whole Earth shall he be called (Epoch: future)
54:6a For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, ...	54:6b ... and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused
Naomi, the bitter Israelite	Ruth, the believing Gentile

A Tale of Two Women

Gen 12-22	Ruth	Isaiah	Gal 4:22-27
<p>Hagar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bondwoman • Child after the flesh • Put away 	<p>Naomi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Husband & children dead • Exiled & restored • Mara “bitter” • Israelite 	<p>49:14-50:3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divorced by the Lord • Children dead • Promised restoration <p>54:4 Reproach of widowhood</p> <p>54:5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thy Husband • Lord of Hosts <p>54:6 woman forsaken & grieved</p>	<p>Hagar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old covenant • Bondage • Mt. Sinai • Jerusalem that now is → Israel after the flesh
<p>Sarah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free • Barren • Child after promise • Wife of youth 	<p>Ruth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childless • Redeemed • Gentile 	<p>54:1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barren • Promised children • “Inherit the Gentiles” <p>54:4-6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shame of youth v.4 • Thy Redeemer v.5 • God of the Whole Earth v.4 • Wife of youth refused v.6 	<p>Sarah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New covenant • Free • Jerusalem above • “Us all,” including Gentiles, by faith in promise • Isa 54:1

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54:7-8, God's Limiting Mercy

vv. 7-8	
7 For a small moment	8a In a little wrath I hid my face from thee
have I forsaken thee;	for a moment ;
but with great mercies	but with everlasting kindness
will I gather thee.	will I have mercy on thee,
saith the LORD thy Redeemer.	

God's **mercy** leads him to limit his **wrath** to a brief **moment**

54:7 and Mother Zion

For a small moment have I **forsaken** thee;

49:14 But Zion said, The LORD hath **forsaken** me, and my Lord hath **forgotten** me.

49:15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, **yet will I not forget thee.**

but with great mercies will I **gather** thee.

49:18 Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these **gather** themselves together, *and* come to thee.

Hebrew Words for “Mercy”

Exo 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful **חַנּוּן** and gracious **רַחוּם**, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness **טוֹב** and truth

(This formula is quoted in Num 14:18; Neh 9:17; Ps 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jon 4:2)

טוֹב occurs 249x: covenant love (vv. 8, 10 “kindness”)

חַנּוּן occurs 75x: grace, favor from superior to inferior

רַחוּם occurs 42x: “womb, bowels” → compassion

Gen 43:30 And Joseph made haste; for his **bowels** did yearn upon his brother: and he sought *where* to weep; and he entered into *his* chamber, and wept there.

When God Hides his Face...

...He can still see us:

Deu 32:20 And he said, I will **hide my face from them, I will see** what their end *shall be*:

Compare “seek **שׁוּב** the face” of the Lord (1 Chr 16:11 = Ps 105:4; 2 Chr 7:14; Ps 24:6; 27:8; Hos 5:15): we can’t see him!

Psa 69:17 And **hide not thy face** from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.

Psa 143:7 **Hear me** speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: **hide not thy face** from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have **hid his face** from you, that **he will not hear**.

Mic 3:4 Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but **he will not hear them**: he will even **hide his face** from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Does God “Hide his Face” under the New Covenant?

Joh 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

1Jo 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

2Co 6:17-7:1 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.
7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

“Small Moment” of Forsaking → “Everlasting Kindness”

When is the “gathering” of v. 7?

- Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah?
 - Only 50k returned; many (Esther) remained abroad
 - Later history (Antiochus, Romans, Hitler)
- AD 1947?
 - Fewer than half of the world’s Jews (6M/13M) live in Israel
 - Jerusalem will fall immediately before Messiah’s return in glory (Zech 14:1-4)
- Future return of Christ