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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## Isaiah 54.

(2015)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## Isaiah 54.

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### Topics.

- The children of the desolate will be more than the children the married.
- You will forget the shame of your widowhood and possess nations.
- I hid my face, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you.
- My love shall not depart from you and my covenant shall not be removed.
- I will lay your foundations with sapphires; your wall of precious stones.
- No weapon formed against the servants of the Lord shall succeed.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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**INTRODUCTION:** Isaiah is the exciting story of the Old Testament and the New Testament compacted into one book. It covers the wonder and splendour of Bible prophecy and echoes of the Lord Jesus Christ resound throughout Isaiah's visions and his messages. It teaches history as it affects God's people and constantly points to a future age when righteousness, justice, joy and peace will be established on earth. Isaiah prophesied about 740–700 B.C. He lived during the decline of Israel in the shadow of the powerful Assyrian Empire. He spoke the word of God to a people who were "deaf and blind" (Isaiah 6:10) who refused to listen to his warnings of looming disaster.

Isaiah warned the people of Judah's that their sin would bring God's judgment (i.e., seventy-years captivity) and declared that God is sovereign and would use Cyrus the Persian to return the people from exile. He spoke also of a servant and man of sorrows who would be wounded for our transgressions faithfully accomplishing God's purposes of salvation (Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12).

The final chapters give a beautiful description of a new creation in which Christ will rule as King, judging the wicked and establishing God's Kingdom on earth. Following are four points that will help the reader understand the book of Isaiah as they travel through it: -

1. The history of Israel and Judah. At this time in the story Assyria has taken the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria into captivity and marched up to Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) to destroy it, but failed. Later in the story Babylon attacks Jerusalem and conquers the city and takes the people of Judah into captivity. After this victory Babylon conquers Assyria which resulted in Israel and Judah being brought under the submission of Babylonian rule and the tribes being brought together during the seventy year Babylonian captivity.
2. Many of Isaiah's visions are written as though they have already taken place, but a majority of these visions are predicting future events that are about to happen during Isaiah's generation while others will come to pass in a future age. Though these visions are of future events Isaiah speaks them in the present tense, because he spoke them as they came to his mind and as he saw the events unfolding before him. They are often spoken in this manner because of the certainty of it and because God had ordained them and revealed them to his prophets who spoke them to His people so they must come to pass, because God cannot lie.(Titus 1:2).
3. Though Isaiah is primarily speaking to Judah (the two tribes at Jerusalem) much of what he says applies to Israel (the ten tribes in Samaria) because both Judah and Israel are in the same corrupt spiritual condition.

4. All the promises to Israel are now in Christ. God's promises to Israel now include the Jews and the Gentiles. This is because under the New Covenant God is building an entirely new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles of which Christ is the head. In this new nation that God is creating in the Lord Jesus Christ Jews have no advantage over Gentiles since all are one in Christ Jesus.

The apostle Paul wrote: Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (i.e., one nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Eph. 2:1-22).

The practical application of what this means, is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel through Isaiah also apply to Gentiles who by faith belong to Christ.

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### **The Children of the Desolate will Be More than the Children the Married.**

Isaiah 54:1 ----- <sup>1</sup>"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labour! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD.

The focus of this chapter is upon the two divided Kingdoms of Israel, the Southern Kingdom (the two tribes of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem) and the Northern Kingdom (the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria). However contained within the language of this prophetic prophecy is an echo of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The children of the married one:** refers to Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They were called Judah, because King David was a member of the tribe of Judah and it was David who founded the dynasty which continued to rule in Jerusalem until its destruction by the Babylonians.

**The barren and desolate one:** refers to Israel who was supposed to give birth to a nation that would rule the world, but instead they have been taken into captivity to Assyria, and left desolate and barren, meaning they have not produced any godly offspring. The following verses show that the LORD divorced Israel: -

- The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore?" <sup>7</sup>And I thought, "After she has done all this she will return to me," but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. <sup>8</sup>She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. (Jer. 3:6-8).
- Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the LORD. (Jer. 3:20).

The LORD had hoped that the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria would return to Him after they had played the whore by worshipping other gods, but sadly they did not return so the LORD sent them away with a certificate of divorce into captivity to Assyria. Worse still the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem saw what had happened to Israel and yet they also went and played the whore by worshipping other gods, however the LORD did not give them a certificate of divorce.

**The history of Josiah:** prior to Josiah's reign Manasseh reigned in Jerusalem for fifty-five years. He led the people of Judah into great evil and abominations in the sight of the LORD and because of this great evil the LORD said He would forsake the people of Judah and give them into the hand of their enemies. (2 Kin. 21:1-16).

However after Manasseh death Josiah reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem and did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. He did not turn aside to the right or to the left and provided money to pay the workmen repairing the house of the LORD (2 Kings 22:1-7). Because Josiah's heart was repentant and he humbled himself and wept before the LORD, God told him that he would not see the disaster that He will bring upon Jerusalem and Judah, but go to his grave in peace. (2 Kings 22:19-20).

Josiah made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep His commandments, testimonies and statutes with all his heart and all his soul and perform the words of the covenant that were written in the book and all the people joined with him in this covenant. He destroyed all the vessels made for Baal, Asherah, and deposed the priests of Judah that made offerings in the high places in the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, the moon and the constellations and all the host of the heavens. (2 Kings 23:3-5).

He also defiled Topheth in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom so that no one would burn their son or daughter as an offering to Molech there. He destroyed every idol, altar and ashram that Solomon, Ahaz, Manasseh and Jeroboam had erected in the land of Judah and removed all the shrines and high places that were in the cities of Samaria that the kings of Israel had made (2 Kings 23:10-19).

He abolished all the abominations that he might establish the words of the law. It is written of Josiah that before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him. (2 Kings 23:24-25). After his death his son Jehoahaz reigned in his place. In total contrast to his father Josiah he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD (2 Kings 23:32) as did the kings that followed after him.

It was because Judah had again established all the abominations that Josiah had destroyed that God used Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon as his servant to bring His judgment upon them. The armies of Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and broke down the walls around Jerusalem and burned the house of the LORD and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem.

They carried off all the treasures of the king's palace; the bronze sea, the pillars of bronze; all the vessels of bronze; the sacred vessels of gold and the silver that was in the House of the LORD to Babylon and took the people into captivity so that all Judah was taken out of its land. (2 Kings 24:10-16) (2 Kings 25:13-21).

### **You will Forget the Shame of your Widowhood and Possess Nations.**

Isaiah 54:2-5 ----- <sup>2</sup>"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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>"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. <sup>5</sup>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.

**Your widowhood:** (v4) refers to God giving Israel a bill of divorcement and sending them away into captivity to Assyria and later Babylon and by extension to Israel's rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome and God turning his focus from Israel as a nation to the Gentiles.

These verses refer to the following three events with each following event being far greater and more majestic than the previous event: -

1. **To Israel's return to Jerusalem:** at the time of Cyrus king of Media Persia who God used as His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) (Isaiah 45:1) to bring the Empire of Babylon to ruin and set the people of Israel free from the bondage and captivity of Babylon. At this time the people of Israel held captive returned to their beloved city Jerusalem, their homes and their farms and multitudes of

families that had been scattered into foreign nations during the Assyrian invasions against Israel and the and Babylonian invasions against Judah returned to their homeland. In this way the habitations of Israel were enlarged, the people were spread abroad to the right and to the left and their offspring rebuilt their desolate cities that had laid waste for seventy years and possessed various nations. Israel rebuilt the temple of God, forsook all their idols and foreign gods (in fact they never turned to foreign gods again).

They established their true faith and their husband, the LORD of hosts the Holy One of Israel the God of the whole earth again redeemed them as His people. For a time a golden age followed and in this way the disgrace, reproach and shame that Israel's fathers had brought upon their nation was removed

The following verses of the prophet Isaiah show that God not only called Cyrus (the secular king of Persia) His anointed shepherd and called him by name, but also show that God said He would equip Cyrus and take him by the right hand and go before him. They picture God holding Cyrus by the right hand and opening all doors that no man can shut while Cyrus the king of Persia subdues all nations.

- The LORD says of Cyrus, "*He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfil all my purpose,*" saying of Jerusalem, "*She shall be built,*" and of the temple, "*Your foundation shall be laid.*" (Isaiah 44:28).
- Thus says the LORD to *his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped*, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed. (Isaiah 45:1).
- I (*the LORD*) will go before you (*Cyrus king of Persia*) and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, <sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, *who call you (Cyrus) by your name.* <sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, *I call you by your name, I name you*, though you do not know me. (Isaiah 45:2-3).
- I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; *I equip you (Cyrus) though you do not know me,* <sup>6</sup>that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, there is none besides me; I am the LORD, there is no other. (Isaiah 45:5-6).
- Thus says the LORD: "The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and the Sabeans, *men of stature, shall come over to you (Cyrus)* and be yours; they shall follow you; they shall come over in chains and bow down to you. They will plead with you, saying: '*Surely God is in you*, and there is no other, no god besides him.'" (Isaiah 45:14).

God used Cyrus King of Persia as His anointed shepherd to set His people free. Cyrus after conquering the mighty Empire of Babylon gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city and rebuild the Temple of God.

2. **To Jesus return:** Isaiah's message transcends the era of Isaiah and Cyrus and echoes a future King who the LORD also calls His anointed shepherd (Luke 4:18) (Acts 4:26) (Acts 10:38) and who will return in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce (Isaiah 65:17-25). All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote: -

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

Truly when these glorious events come to pass, Isaiah's prophetic words, Israel's habitations will be enlarged; their offspring (Jews and Gentiles) will be spread throughout the world and possess the nations; Israel's shame, disgraced and reproach (in denying Christ and crucifying him) will be remembered no longer and instead of being classed as a widow without a husband will be the redeemed of God their Maker, their Husband, the LORD of hosts the Holy One of Israel and God of the whole earth.

**It should be noted:** that as glorious as Christ's millennial reign will be it is not the final stage of God's eternal plan for mankind's salvation that he planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the world began. At the end of Christ's millennial reign God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead.

They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its eternal perfect fullness and majestic royal glory.

**Your Maker is your husband the LORD of hosts is his name:** (v5) there is no other nation on earth that has history with their God as Israel does. Their history with the LORD their God goes back to the beginning of time no other nation or religion can claim such miracles and wonders or history no matter what god they may believe in. The following verses show that the United Kingdom of Israel has always been God's special and unique nation unlike any other nation. God said: -

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age. (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation: -

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power. (Exodus 20:1-17).
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules. (Rom. 9:4)
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises. (Rom. 3:4)
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory. (Rom. 3:5)
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted. (Rom. 3:2)
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith. (Rom. 9:7)
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the world. (Rom. 9:5)
- God declared his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation (Psalm 147:19-20).

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges. These are the many reasons the Jews (especially the religious leaders of Jesus generation) considered themselves to be the holy race with God and the Gentile nations to be the unclean race without God.

**The thermometer of God's prophecy:** it is true that Israel has been and still is a special nation to God, but since Christ death and resurrection salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nevertheless Israel remains a clear sign of where we are in prophecy concerning Christ's return. It could be said that they are the thermometer of God's prophecy much like the mercury on a natural thermometer measures the heat of the day and moves up the vertical red line warning us of impending danger when the heat of the sun is reaching temperatures that are dangerous for the good health of the skin and our well-being.

Likewise Israel can be seen as the mercury of Bible prophecy in the sense that world events that come upon the nation of Israel (especially Jerusalem) are signs that give us some insight as to how close we are to that glorious breathtaking and world changing day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. But God's focus during our present age for eternal salvation is upon creating a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. This new nation is also called a new creation in Christ, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God.

Israel's love for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob cannot be doubted. When their Messiah does return in glory and the LORD pours upon them a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy when they look on him whom they had pierced, not only will the entire nation weep over the horrific crime they committed against him (Zech. 12:9-14), but the entire world and its oppressive systems of global finance and trade will be changed and its corrupt governments will be replaced for the better. For further information concerning the new nation God is building in Christ, see the title:

- The Commonwealth of Israel, at the end of this chapter.

**The Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer:** (v5) this refers to the Lord Jesus Christ. Some today may feel that because Christ did not appear during the Old Testament age, the faithful were saved solely by adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions, but this is not so. They were saved by having faith in the promised Messiah the Christ to come and not by works of the flesh or by self-effort, but because they by faith looked: -

- Toward the promised seed of the woman spoken of in Genesis. (Gen. 3:15).
- Toward the promised seed of Abraham. (Gen. 26:4) (Gal. 3:16).

- Toward the prophet Moses said was to come like him. (Deut. 18:15) (Acts 3:22) (Acts 7:37).
- Toward the Holy One to come (whose body God will not let see corruption in death) (Psalm 16:9-11).
- Toward the promised seed of David. (Psalm 89:4) (Psalm 132:11) (Jer. 23:5) (Matthew 1:1).
- Toward the Messiah the Christ all the Old Testament prophets and the Scriptures speak of such as (Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53). The Lord Jesus himself said, "I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (Heb. 10:7) (the scroll of the book refers to the Scriptures).

Added to this even though Old Testament Israel offered animal sacrifices to God they were not saved by them, they were a type and shadow of Christ the Lamb of God without blemish the Saviour to come and it is his blood that cleanses them. This is because the power of Christ's cleansing blood flows back to the foundation of the earth so that the faithful of the Old and New Testament are saved by the same Saviour and the same Redeemer. In the book of Revelations it is written: -

- All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8).

And Peter wrote: -

- You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot foreordained before the foundation of the world and manifest in these last times for you. (1 Peter 1:18-20).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The cleansing power of Jesus blood shed on the cross of Calvary doesn't just cover and cleanse only those who have come to the Lord after his death and resurrection, but flows all the way back to the foundations of the earth to Adam and Eve like an invisible spiritual river cleansing all the faithful of the Old Testament from the fall of Adam onward who by faith looked to the coming and the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ.

**The God of the whole earth He is called:** (v5) those who look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary understand God is good and loving toward sinful man and can be fully assured that what we do not yet understand of God's ways upon the earth and His judgments is also good and loving.

All who accept His love and grace must also accept that there will always be a certain amount of obscurity concerning God's ways on earth, but all will be made plain after the Lord Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) and gathers the faithful to himself in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) and the following verses come to pass: -

- Truly, as I (the LORD) live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. (Num. 14:21).
- Blessed be his (the LORD) glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! (Psalm 72:19).
- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).
- The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 40:5).
- The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14).



However the total and perfect fulfilment of these verses will be at the second resurrection when Christ's millennial reign has ended and God Himself descends on a great white throne and the earth and sky flee from His presence. The sea Death and Hades give up the dead and they stand before the throne of God and books are opened and they are judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

Those whose names are not found written in the Book of Life are counted unworthy and thrown into the lake of fire. This is also called the second death, meaning eternal death (i.e., total utter extinction) (Rev. 20:11-15). It is after these events that ETERNITY begins in all its majestic royal glory and the glory of God will cover the whole earth.

For further information concerning the Great White Throne, see the title: -

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**I Hid My Face, but with Everlasting Love I will have Compassion on You.**

Isaiah 54:6-8 ----- <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. <sup>8</sup>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.

The expression, "For a moment I hid my face from you," refers to God forsaking Israel and allowing the ten tribes of Israel to be taken into captivity to Assyria and later allowing the two tribes of Judah to be taken captive to Babylon for seventy years. Assyria was eventually conquered by the Babylonians so Israel was also held captive with Judah under the authority and oppression of the Babylonian Empire.

Isaiah in this prophetic vision pictures the LORD as the husband of Israel and Israel as His wife who He had forsaken, but only for a short while (i.e., for seventy years). The timeframe of this vision is near the end of Israel's seventy years in captivity.

The ten tribes of Israel and the two tribes of Judah went into captivity as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods, but while under the authority and oppression of the Empire of Babylon God like a master potter moulded them into one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

Isaiah in this vision that he is seeing in his mind (like a dream) or perhaps passing before his eyes somewhat like a hologram now sees Israel as a wife that has been deserted by her husband and is in deep grief and mourning, and gives them the following words of comfort telling them that though God has hidden His face (meaning He has forsaken them), He will again redeem them with everlasting love and compassion.

God used Cyrus the king of Persia as His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) (Isaiah 45:1) to bring this to pass. Cyrus conquered the Empire of Babylon and gave Israel written permission to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the House of the LORD. Under Ezra and Nehemiah Israel returned with triumphant joy, praise and rejoicing to their beloved city Jerusalem and multitudes of scattered Israelite families returned in great celebration to their land. They rebuilt the temple of God established their true faith and a golden time of prosperity and peace followed.

However the statement, "With great compassion I will gather you and with everlasting love I will have compassion on you will be perfectly fulfilled when the following prophecy of Zechariah is fulfilled: -

- On that day (the day the Lord protects the inhabitants of Jerusalem) I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>"And I will pour out on the house

of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

<sup>11</sup>On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great the priests will mourn by themselves and each family will mourn by themselves (Zech. 12:9-14).

### **My Love shall Not Depart from You and My Covenant shall Not be Removed.**

Isaiah 54:9-10 ----- <sup>9</sup>"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. <sup>10</sup>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.

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 and rebuke you: (v9) refers to the following verses: -

- When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. (Genesis 8:21).
- I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. (Gen. 9:11). (the full covenant is in Gen. 9:8-17)

God confirmed this covenant that the waters should never again go over the earth and destroy the world as they had by setting a rainbow in the sky.

- God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh." (Gen. 9:12-15).

The LORD is now saying in the same way that He promised there would never be another flood of water to drown the world, He has sworn that He will never again utterly forsake His people Israel so that they would be utterly destroyed as a nation as He did during the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions.

**As the waters of Noah:** (v9) carries the idea that God's consideration and favour towards His people at the time this prophecy is like His consideration and favour toward Noah and his family at the time of the flood; the love he had toward Noah and his family is the same love He has toward His people and the covenant He made with them is as that covenant He made with Noah.

**I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you:** (v9) carries the following two ideas: -

- 1 No calamity will spread over the entire nation of Israel, and sweep them away so that the nation is totally annihilated from the face of the earth as the waters utterly destroyed the world in the time of Noah.
- 2 No desolation will sweep over the city of Jerusalem to utterly destroy it and the land of Israel will not be utterly laid waste as they were in the time of the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions and the exile. There will be persecutions and calamities, but the nation of Israel would survive amidst all these trials. The period would never arrive when God would forsake Israel entirely and leave it to perish.

**The mountains shall depart:** (v12) the mountains and hills shall no sooner depart from their places than God's covenant shall depart from Israel. One has only to reflect upon how God has kept Israel as a nation, even during the most dangerous periods of history, to see how remarkably this has been fulfilled.

By all rights the tiny nation of Israel should not have survived as a nation and yet as small as they are they stand as one of the most powerful nations, and are often the centre of world news. God's covenant has been as sure as that which was made with Noah and it will be as secure and firm to the end of time.

**The Ark and its symbolism:** in the same way that the Ark (a symbol of God's presence and of Christ) saved Noah and His family from the waters of the flood the global family of the Lord Jesus Christ (made up of Jews and Gentiles) will be saved by God's covenant promise.

This covenant promise proclaims that those who are in Christ will be delivered from this world and its corruption and saved from their sin and delivered from death to eternal life by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and by his righteousness and God's grace.

Those who belong to Jesus family will be saved as Noah and his family were saved by setting their faith upon God's promise that if they entered the Ark they would not only be delivered from the corruption of their world and saved from the destroying waters of the flood, but also by the Ark be carried into a New World.

God's covenant of salvation in Christ proclaimed by the Gospel shall continue to go out to all who seek Him until it reaches its final fulfilment in eternal glory and everlasting happiness. No faithful follower of God will be cast out of His Kingdom and no weapon (natural or spiritual) that is formed against His kingdom will prevail over it or destroy it from the face of the earth. This wonderful and sure truth is because: -

- Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. <sup>7</sup>For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. (Heb. 8:6-7).

### **I will Lay Your Foundations with Sapphires; Your Wall of Precious Stones.**

Isaiah 54:11-15 ----- <sup>11</sup>"O afflicted one storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony (fair colours in KJV), and lay your foundations with sapphires. <sup>12</sup>I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones. <sup>13</sup>All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you.

**O afflicted one storm-tossed and not comforted:** (v11) refers to the land of the ten tribes of Israel in Samaria being laid waste by the Assyrians and the people being taken captive and the cities of Judah and of Jerusalem and the temple of God being destroyed by the Babylonians and the people taken captive for seventy years. The LORD comforts the people of Israel who are suffering under the authority and oppression of the Empire of Babylon by telling them that the foundations of Jerusalem will not only be built again, but will be built not with mortar and stone, but with sapphires, agate, carbuncles and precious stones.

This carries the following idea, Jerusalem would not be filled with wickedness and corruption or its foundations built upon idols and pagan gods, as it was prior to their seventy year captivity, but be filled with the precious teachings of their true faith and upon the foundations of the LORD their God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the God of Israel. After Cyrus set Israel free from their captivity they did return to their homeland and they did rebuild Jerusalem and the temple of God and destroyed every idol and image of any god in their land and established their true faith.

However as the reader travels through Bible prophecy and approaches the end of their journey the visions of the prophets become clearer and more detailed, so it is not surprising to find that when we arrive at the book of Revelation that we see that John has a clearer and far more detailed vision of what Isaiah is seeing here in this prophetic prophecy.

This of course is to be expected since the same story is being told from Genesis to Revelation and because of this as the reader of the Bible gets nearer to the end of the story the visions of the prophets will naturally become clearer and more detailed. This is why when we arrive at the Book of Revelation we see that John has a far clearer and more detailed vision of Isaiah's prophecy. In John's vision he sees and amplified vision of the vision Isaiah saw hundreds of years earlier.

John in his vision saw: -

- The holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Rev. 21:2-4).

He then tells us that: -

- An angel carried him away in the Spirit and showed him the Bride, the wife of the Lamb and he saw the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, it's radiance like a most rare jewel (Rev. 21:9-11). He describes the New Jerusalem as being built of jasper and pure gold as clear as glass. The streets, walls and gates of the city having every kind of jewel, jasper, agate, emerald, onyx, carnelian, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, amethyst and pearls, and the street of the city being of pure gold as transparent as glass. (Rev. 21:18-21).

These stones and jewels are the most precious that can be found on earth and as such are a symbol of how valuable to the heart of God those (Jews and Gentiles Old and New Testament) are who endure in faith and with love toward Israel's Messiah the Christ and Saviour of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.

They are symbols of those who when their mortal body is being laid in the grave the Angel of the LORD and those who knew them are able to say that they faithfully endured through the trials and sorrows of life and remained faithful to the Lord even unto death and symbols of those who their heavenly Master will say: -

- Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. (Matt. 25:21) (Matt. 25:23).

John's vision does not end here, but under the inspiration of God goes on to reveal even greater glory concerning this heavenly vision of the New Jerusalem. He goes on to tell us that he saw (perhaps in his mind, like a dream or as a hologram before his eyes) the following majestic celestial wonders

- I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. (Rev. 21:22-24).

And tells us: -

- No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Rev. 22:3-5).

This is the glorious eternal inheritance of all who belong to the global Kingdom of God and endure to the end. Is there any other religion on earth that proclaims such a glorious eternal inheritance? As the author of Bible House of Grace I have not found one.

**Children will be taught by the LORD:** (v13) God's principal for teaching His word has been for the parents to tell their children and for their children to tell their children and their children to another generation.

- You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deut. 11:19).
- We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. (Psalm 78:4).
- Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation. (Joel 1:3).

How far has our world fallen today from this principal, our schools teach children of our generation the theory of evolution that not only denies that there is a God, but also claims that mankind was created from a mud pool or a big bang or some other foolish speculation that stems out of the imagination of the mind of the ungodly. Is it any wonder each generation is falling further away from God's ways and His law and that His favour is not upon the world as it would be if He was given the honour He is due as the creator of all things and source of all life?

**Strife is not from the LORD:** (v15) when Israel is established in righteousness they will have no fear or terror of their enemies and anyone who tries to destroy them will fail.

**No weapon formed against the servants of the LORD shall succeed.**

Isaiah 54:16-17 ----- <sup>16</sup>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 (the waster to destroy in KJV); <sup>17</sup>no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute 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."

**I have created the smith:** refers to the blacksmith that crafts from steel on his forge weapons for war (i.e., the sword, axe, spear shield, cross bows and such like things) or tools for any other purpose. By extension this principal would also apply to those today who invent military weapons of mass destruction.

**The great ravagers:** (the waster to destroy in KJV) refers to desolating kings and conquerors that use the weapons of war created by the blacksmith.

The sense is that everything that can affect the welfare of God's people is under God's control. Not only is the life, the strength and the skill, of the smith who manufactures the weapons of war all in God's hands, but so too are the kings and rulers who plot and plan to make war against God's people. It matters not how strong the armies maybe and how mighty the weapons of war are or how great the king is neither he nor his armies can do anything against Jerusalem or against God's people unless God allows them.

The idea is that God has all such conquerors under His control, they can only accomplish what He permits them to do. Both the blacksmith that makes all warlike instruments and the soldier that uses them are totally at the LORD'S command and therefore they cannot hurt God's people without Him allowing it.

Throughout the Bible God uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. Following are three examples selected from the many throughout Scripture: -

1. God used the kings of Assyria and their fierce Armies to bring His judgment upon the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria, because they were grossly wicked and had established idols and altars of worship to the host of heaven (the sun, moon and stars) throughout their land.
2. God used Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon as His servant, (Jer. 25:9) and his armies to bring judgment on the two tribes of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem because of their rebellion, gross sin and worship of idols and foreign gods. Nebuchadnezzar had his armies burn Jerusalem, pillage the temple of all its gold, silver and sacred vessels and take the people into captivity for seventy years.

- 3 God used Cyrus king of Media Persia as His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) (Isaiah 45:1) to bring the Empire of Babylon to ruin and set the people of Israel free from the bondage and captivity of the mighty Empire of Babylon.

Military men who plot and plan wars for no other reason than for their own gain and advantage to extend their empire, their power and increase their riches value themselves as great kings and mighty warriors, but God calls them, wasters and ravages (i.e., destroyers who bring nothing, but bloodshed and death, suffering and sorrow) and all for their own gain.

Peace and security and the final victory are the heritage of the faithful of the Lord and the righteousness by which they are justified and the grace by which they are sanctified is the gift of God's unconditional love toward them, while the Day of Judgment is the heritage of warmongers and those who shed innocent blood.

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End.