

“The Basis of Hope” Isaiah 54:1-17

Context: Redemption is set in the context of the release of Israel from 70 years of Babylonian captivity. The release of a Remnant of Jews to return to rebuild Jerusalem by King Cyrus is spiritually symbolic of the release of the spiritual Remnant, the Church, from captivity to sin by Messiah. The result of the Messiah’s vicarious substitutionary atonement on the Remnant’s behalf was described in Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is now considered in chapter 54. The chapters that follow explain the glory of the Remnant’s redemption and give an invitation to all who desire His redemption to participate in the freedom of eternal peace. **Life Principle:** Fear God who has vindicated you and do not honor any idol through fear of it (cf. Isaiah 54:17; Matthew 10:28).

1. God’s future restoration, the source of hope – Isaiah 54:1-3

The prophet uses “barren and desolate women” to describe Israel in the Babylonian captivity, where she brought few of the nations to the light as promised to Abraham. The release from captivity, typified by the Messianic figure Cyrus and fulfilled by Jesus, brought about the proliferation of the spiritual Israel, the allegorical broadening of Abraham’s tent. Through this spiritual proliferation, people of the nations who are separate in eschatological economy are just as entitled to the Abrahamic promises as the believing Jews because of their regenerated hearts.

2. God’s loyal love, a reason for hope – Isaiah 54:4-10

God promises assurance to those He redeemed based upon His loyal love. The trustworthiness of His covenant is verified by the covenant He made with Noah, has kept for generations, and is still keeping today.

3. God’s teaching, the basis of hope – Isaiah 54:11-17

The following description of the promise of YHWH seems to correspond to the Remnant of Israel in the millennial age. It is a foretaste of eternity to be experienced by the totality of spiritual Israel, the Church in the Age of ages. YHWH promises His ‘offspring’ who are chilled and dashed about by the dark tumult of the world warmth, stability, light, and security. As “YHWH-learned,” they will experience the fulfillment He created each one to have even when Satan gathers his hordes for a last time to destroy Jerusalem. The Remnant is commanded not to fear, for as the God-taught, God-blessed, and God-vindicated, they should know that the calamity falls on the predators instead of on their prey.

Study questions:

- German commentator Nägelsbach ties the promise of a Remnant, the revelation of the Lord’s power of salvation to the nation, restoration of Zion the forsaken wife, and the proliferation of the children of God in Isaiah 54 (cf. Isaiah 53:10, 12; 52:10; 49:12; 49:6) to the proclamation of the “Good News” spoken of in Isaiah 52:7. Use of the Remnant and inclusion of the saved from the gentile nations could easily lead one to believe that the church and Israel are the same. Our doctrinal statement professes that the Church is comprised of believers from every nation (see footnote 4 ‘**On the Church**’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at www.gracepointfellowship.org). Look up the following pages to begin to inform your own opinion (cf. Romans 2:28-29; 9:6ff; 11:1-36; Revelation 7:4-17; 21:12-14). What are some practical and eschatological ramifications of differentiating the Church from Israel?
- Isaiah 54:13 proclaims that we are God-taught. As a **Bible study method**, look up the New Testament cross references of this verse (i.e. John 6:45; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 2:27). Study the context of each verse. What does it mean to be God-taught in each context? How would these meanings apply to those facing the oppression of Revelation 20:7-8? How do they apply when we face what seems to be insurmountable opposition?

Transformation exercise:

Meditate on Isaiah 54:13. Each morning, study a Psalm or Proverb according to the date of the day. Ask the Lord that you might be God-taught. Share what you learned with someone close to you this week or next Saturday night.