

## Study 95: Isaiah, Part 51

### Isaiah 54

“Sing, barren woman,  
you who never bore a child;  
burst into song, shout for joy,  
you who were never in labor;  
because more are the children of the desolate woman  
than of her who has a husband,”  
says the Lord.

[When Israel was taken into captivity by the Babylonians, she was compared to a widow, a woman who has lost her husband, and therefore unable to bear children. In making a covenant with Israel, God compares it to a marriage contract, in which He is Israel’s husband. Therefore, when Israel fell into idolatry, God called her an “adulteress,” and judged her as such. The penalty for adultery was death. In Genesis, the death penalty was applied to Adam & Eve when they were separated from their previous fellowship with God. In the same way, idolatrous Israel was cast out of the Promised Land, and lost their intimate fellowship with their Husband/God.

[This verse is quoted in **Gal 4:21-31**, in which the Gentile converts of Galatia are referred to “children,” or “seed”—of Sarah/Abraham, of the New Covenant, and of God—and also as citizens of the *New Jerusalem*.]

<sup>2</sup>“Enlarge the place of your tent,  
stretch your tent curtains wide,  
do not hold back;  
lengthen your cords,  
strengthen your stakes.

<sup>3</sup>For you will spread out to the right and to the left;  
your descendants will dispossess nations  
and settle in their desolate cities.

[The tent is the dwelling place, or living space, so when Israel is told to “enlarge” its tents, it refers to making room for more children, a reference to the Gentiles coming in as “children” (see the previous comment above).]

<sup>4</sup>“Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame.  
Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated.  
You will forget the shame of your youth  
and remember no more the reproach of your **widowhood**.

<sup>5</sup>For **your Maker is your husband**—  
the Lord Almighty is his name—  
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;  
he is called the God of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord will call you back  
as if you were a **wife** deserted and distressed in spirit—  
a wife who married young,  
only to be rejected,” says your God.

<sup>7</sup>“For a brief moment I abandoned you,  
but with deep compassion I will bring you back.

<sup>8</sup>In a surge of anger  
I hid my face from you for a moment,  
but with everlasting kindness  
I will have compassion on you,”  
says the Lord your Redeemer.

<sup>9</sup>“To me this is **like the days of Noah**,  
when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth.

So now **I have sworn not to be angry with you,  
never to rebuke you again**. [As to *when* this would be fulfilled, see: **Matt 24:37; Luke 17:26**]

[This promise cannot refer to national Israel, which was uprooted again from the land in AD 70, and never returned. Those who inhabit the land today are *not* the descendants of those who were removed by the Romans. Here, God is promising His covenant people that He would never again be angry with or rebuke them. This can only refer to His New Covenant people: the Christian Church.]