

The Reproach of Thy Widowhood

Isaiah 54:1 – 55:13

++++++

~ In the last leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God in Isaiah, we bowed down before the True and Living God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and witnessed His crucifixion in detail. Although it was a difficult report to read and write, if you have not read our safari commentary on Isaiah chapter fifty-three, I can only suggest you go back and do so now. In this report, we're going to be singing songs of joy; as we have a very logical chapter progression; one which comprises the song that accompanies salvation. Don't worry, though, I won't be posting a video of me singing. I already have so few readers I can't afford to lose any. Even so, this chapter sets forth the future glories of the nation Israel as their Redeemer returns to Zion. That's worth singing about. That's also when Israel is going to ask Jesus, "... what mean those nail prints in Thy hands?" To which Jesus will reply, "*I received them in the house of My friends*" ~

LIV

1 Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.

~ The only music the world will accept comes in the form of meaningless rock and roll, hateful rap, the sorrows of the blues, or some quasi-patriotic American sensationalism. Write a tune in a minor key with a plaintive note, and you'll have a gold record on your hands by worldly standards. Further, write a song that passes as contemporary Christian worship, but which really only blasphemes the Word of God, and the world will also love you – all in the Name of Jesus, of course. However, write a song for God that contains sound doctrine and a proper Scriptural message, and you'll be singing in the shower – alone – because the world is not going to listen to that. They sure won't sing with you. Only the redeemed sing of Godly blessings. The unredeemed sing of themselves, and promote how super-duper and irreplaceable they are to God. So, here we have the new song

spoken of in Revelation chapter five verses nine and ten. It is the hallelujah chorus that those who are truly saved are going to sing in Heaven....

2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;

~ The nation Israel has never occupied the entire land God gave them. In the Book of Joshua, we discover the territory God marked out for Israel but, even in the zenith of Solomon's rule, they only occupied about ten percent. *IN THAT DAY* - during the Millennial Kingdom - they are going to occupy the entire land according to God's borders – and they will rule it all. They won't fear the Arab any longer. Today, the Gentile occupies most of the land. Our biggest problems in modern world affairs are nations trying to enlarge their borders. Everyone just wants more and more and more. *IN THAT DAY*, Jerusalem will have large suburban areas with no traffic jams, either. Now, don't ask me how God is going to do that because, frankly, I have no idea. I don't see how it is possible. What I do know is that God said He is going to do it that way; so, a familiarity with eschatology reveals and confirms it will be worked out exactly that way....

3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

6 For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.

9 For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.

10 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

11 O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.

12 And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones.

13 And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.

This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

~ God is speaking directly to the nation Israel in chapter fifty-four. The figure of speech used is that Israel is a divorced wife. The church is spoken of as a chaste virgin. Here, in chapter fifty-four, we have the regathering and restoration of a desolate nation, Israel, and how they become Jehovah's restored wife! Those just happen to be two totally and completely different things, friends. Even so, I, personally, wouldn't try to push that allegory too far, because it merely demonstrates a truth in one particular area. God says this was all but for a short time in verse seven. One day you and I will look back on the sufferings we endured on this earth and realize it was all just light afflictions for a brief moment.

However, that makes verse seventeen one of the most ignorantly misquoted verses that float around so-called Christian circles today. If you do not believe that weapons can harm you, or that words can convict you, then you are not living in reality. This is where the Lord causes the barren nation Israel to flourish. This speaks of Israel and the covenant God made with them. Further, if you think God is going to break His covenant, Isaiah is here to tell you that you are absolutely wrong. It's too bad Haman and Hitler didn't make a note of this passage. So, the first word we are given after the crucifixion in chapter fifty-three is to sing! Well, they're not singing a joyful song in Israel today, you may be absolutely sure. Israel is a barren wife today; and her travailing has literally produced nothing. The future of Israel is going to be glorious — and many children of God are going to come forth from that land — but not today. The greatest days of Christ's glory — and the greatest days of men turning to Him for salvation — are ahead of us now....

LV

1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

~ If you are studying the Bible with us in this Spiritual Safari, you will know that there is a sequence of events going on in Isaiah that closely align with our studies in Proverbs, John, Ecclesiastes, Matthew, Job, Romans, Esther – books that provide real-life accounts of real-life people in real-life places at a real time in life. It is not quite fair to any writer or book of the Bible – or to yourself, for that matter – to lift out a chapter here, a fractured passage there, or a disconnected verse from somewhere else, and attempt to form a personal religious philosophy around it. Unfortunately, that’s the low plane Christianity functions on regarding preaching and teaching the Bible. People pay no attention to the overall theme of a correct setting of history, geography, culture, or who is speaking to whom about what subject at what time and for what purpose; and that leads to the absurd doctrines we see around this forum on which I teach – and which are found in most churches today – which save no one, and alienates almost everyone else – with the exception of emotional and sensational hyper-theological sophomores; those to whom the Lord Jesus Christ means nothing in their day to day lives; people who are merely searching for a batch of words whereby they might string together a feel-good theory to suit a personal, preconceived notion and nefarious agenda. Well, friends, the good news is this safari doesn’t indulge in that for a nanosecond; we take it *all* – every chapter and every verse – and it *all* must reconcile itself – or it’s no good. Actually, that may be bad news for those of you who end up suffering through my comments on your public posts – but that’s your problem – not mine. Won’t you get on board our Spiritual Safari today and begin to learn the entirety of Holy Writ? I can promise you it will make you a better person, with better thinking patterns; and it will make us all useful in our service to the Lord. As a Christian, that should be our singular objective.

In chapter fifty-three of Isaiah's prophecy, we were instructed on the Gospel in the Old Testament. We examined our Savior dying on the cross for the sins of mankind. We *ALL* like sheep have gone astray, and have turned every one to his own way; therefore, God laid the iniquity of us all upon Jesus Christ! That's the picture presented in that chapter; and, in this chapter, we have Christ's gracious, global invitation of salvation continued. While chapter fifty-four seemed to confine the offer of salvation to the nation Israel, that's not accurate, although they were the first to be given that opportunity. Paul said, "... *to the Jew first, but also to the Greek.*" The Jew does not receive top priority in this matter, and the Gentile doesn't receive bottom priority. Isaiah necessarily had to write in a coherent way – so, he had to begin somewhere – and the Jew *DID*, in fact, receive these truths first.

As a side note, Simon Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, preached to an *ALL* Jewish congregation. There wasn't a single Gentile in the crowd of around three thousand men. So, this invitation that Isaiah gave to the entire world on behalf of God, some seven hundred years prior to Simon Peter, is simply remarkable. Interestingly, no other religions or religious leader in history has had a truly global world view. It is *ONLY* the work of the Suffering Servant that we met in chapter fifty-three that makes a world-wide and all-inclusive salvation of mankind possible. The Gospel of Christ is the only power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. There is only one condition on which men are to receive this – and that's what we are going to see as we move along in this chapter. We're *not* talking about a mechanical offer locked up in an airtight compartment of God's election and foreknowledge, though. Salvation rests entirely on the free-flowing will of acceptance by each and every individual who hears these truths. Simply put, we are now urged and commanded to seek salvation by the bared arm of the Lord.

I should also add that this invitation is ecumenical! However, I do not advocate for the ecumenical movement as denominations convene – but I *DO* believe in God's Personal ecumenical movement. God's method prescribes the Gospel invitation is to *go out* into the entire world. Here, we discover the movement limited to one class of people – and that class is anyone and everyone who thirsteth. Anyone, at any station of life, or in any

strata of society – every race, color, condition, tribe, and tongue – this invitation is for you. But the one prerequisite is you must be *thirsty* for truth. The world is attempting to drink from broken, man-made cisterns; vessels that are incapable of holding water. The difficult part of our safari is unlearning all of the preconceived notions that have been developed from university, philosophy, and decades of polluted doctrine coming directly from the pulpit! You have to want that which we all need to survive, and it can only be provided by God.

There are three types of drink God offers. “*Waters*” is plural and, in Hebrew, that is the method of obtaining the superlative degree. There is no such thing in the Hebrew vocabulary as “*good, best and better.*” This speaks not only of the quantity of the water, but the quality. Here, we’re talking about water for the soul. Jesus said, “*if any man thirst let him come unto Me and drink.*” So, with that statement, we know where the fountain is – it’s in Christ Jesus! That all speaks of salvation. “*Wine*” speaks spiritually of joy for our soul in the Word of God. Well, we’ll never experience true joy until Christ becomes more than our Savior; He will have to become the Master of our life, and the Captain of our Salvation! Joy is the flag that is flown in our hearts when the Master is in residence. Joy is what was ladled out by Jesus at the wedding in Canaan. It means much more than the shabby and flabby put-on we see offered up by most self-professing believers. “*Milk*” is essential for growth and development; especially in young children. The sincere milk of the Word of God is absolutely critical for spiritual growth. Frankly, there is something very wrong with us if we don’t feel a developmental need for the study of the Bible all the days of our life. The problem the church faces today is that they are giving out nice little courses, seminars, and political pep talks masqueraded as a “*deeper enlightenment*” – not to mention the banquets and “*fellowship*” meetings – all of which substitute for an educated, sincere, systematic, proper, correct and complete Bible study. The babies in that environment are still-born – if they are even delivered. Most end in abortions where the spiritual life is sucked out of them before they even see the light. I *KNOW* that’s not nice – but this is what’s real.

Moreover, many people waste obscene amounts of money on meaningless endeavors – even so-called Christian charities and enterprises – but they

never feed anyone anything of substance. You may fill up a little orphan's tummy for a few hours, but they'll need to eat again – real soon. Jesus said He was the Living Bread, and anyone who ate of the Living Bread would never hunger again. We just happen to have our charitable organization efforts totally and completely backwards today. You'll do well to investigate where you put your money in your so-called Christian giving. Frankly, most giving today is sinful for the donor. If you are not supporting the man who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, lives a life well-pleasing to God, and who teaches the Word of God in sound doctrine as he is filled and led by the Spirit of God, then God doesn't want your money. You will do equally as well as well to drive down the highway throwing hundred dollar bills out the window and calling it "*Christian giving*" – because it's just that random – and wasteful – and, again, I assure you that giving is a sin. You will be held accountable...

4 Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

5 Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

~ If your spirit is disappointed with yourself, dissatisfied with formal religion, and discontented with the useless gimmicks the world offers, then God has created in you a thirst for truth and righteousness. This is a blessed thirst. Thank God for it, my Christian friend — because consumption of the Living Water produces the enjoyment of eternal life. On the other hand, if you *ARE* satisfied with the things of the world, and if the things of this life *DO* satisfy your soul – then this message is not for you. In fact, if you love the things of the world, then the Word of God doesn't even have a message for you! Tragically, one day you will come to the crossroads of your life, where you will discover the pleasures of the world no longer quench your thirst or satisfy the appetite of your soul — and you will die in your trespasses and sins. As frightening as it is, some people reach the place where their conscience is seared with a hot iron. They become unable to accept wisdom and understanding on any level. They are repulsive subjects to behold, indeed. See, we don't have intellectual problems that prevent us

from believing — because *NONE* of us are smart enough to have intellectual problems; no, friends, the *ONLY* reason anyone rejects Christ is because there is sin in their life that they refuse to give up. *NO* other reason. None whatsoever....

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

~ So, as our Spiritual Safari closes out this section of Scripture in our expedition through the entire Word of God, Isaiah places a heavy emphasis on Holy Writ. A proper perspective of prophecy is the *ONLY* correct result of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ being revealed completely. Salvation is a revelation of the Gospel; and only God Himself can give it. I should add that understanding only comes from hearing the Word of God taught properly, correctly, and completely. I have heard individuals say, "... *the Word will not return to me void.*" Well, God says that His Word will not return to *HIM* void. I give out the Word of God almost every single day and it returns to *ME* void many times – in fact, sometimes it doesn't even return

– I guess it just keeps on going! Well, God says it gets back to Him, so, I want to make sure I get it as right as I can.

If you want to teach the Bible, the sooner you accept these precepts, the smoother your path will be. The Gospel is not asking us to do anything; and the Gospel is not something that man has dreamt up; because both of those hypothesis would be impossible. Man doesn't work his way up to salvation by a Tower of Babel works effort. No, God comes down from Heaven like raindrops; and it's just that real, too, by the way. You could never make it rain by doing a dance; and the rain causes the earth to respond – which is something else you and I could never effectuate. One day the entire world will respond to its Creator with praise and worship, and be redeemed – but it won't have anything to do with you or me. It has everything to do with the Lord Jesus Christ. That's Isaiah's message....

12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off ~

++++++