

The Enlarged Tent

Isa 54:1-3 "Sing, O barren, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman," says the Lord. "Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited.

This passage is seldom referred as it is between two well known passages of Isaiah; chapter 53 which we have just studied that speaks of the suffering servant and Isaiah 55 which begins with that great gospel invitation; "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. But I trust that after considering chapter 54 with its great message of hope and comfort that it will also become a precious passage of Scripture to you. We shall begin to understand more fully the purpose and efficacy of the Suffering Servant's atoning work. We shall see that the Church is the one that is addressed as the barren one. As long as the Church groaned under her wretched bondage, and as long as she was impure within, no children could be expected from her. Until the Lord redeemed her, she could not prosper. Throughout Israel's history there was a "spiritual seed" but it was always a small remnant and did not produce a fruitful seed. Indeed she was barren, she could not do it on her own she needed a Savior, a Redeemer Kinsman

It can be divided under these headings; verses 1-3, The Barren Woman, verses 4-10 The Deserted Wife, and verses 11-17 The Poor Made Rich. Let us begin our study.

A. The Barren Woman

1. Amongst the ancient Hebrews it was considered a shame to be barren
 - a. Sarah - Isaac - And she laughed - God made me laugh
 - b. Rebecca - She was barren and Isaac pleaded with the Lord
 - c. Rachel - When gave birth to Joseph - God has taken away my reproach
 - d. Hannah - weeping bitterly
2. Here she is commanded to "sing" - *Sing, O barren, you who have not borne!*
 - a. Sing because of the promises in Isaiah 53 for what the suffering Servant will accomplish
 - b. Sing even if the fulfillment is yet 700 years in the future
 - c. Sing for God will provide a covering for your sin, and provide an imputed righteousness - a perfect obedience
 - d. For what God has promised He will provide

2 Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

*Gal 4:21-27 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written that **Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.** But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar — for this **Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children** — but **the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.** **For it is written:** "Rejoice, O barren, you who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband."*

3. Abraham had two sons representing 2 covenants
 - a. Hagar (bond woman) - Mt. Sinai - law - present day Jerusalem - bondage and slavery
 - b. Sarah (free woman) - Jerusalem - from above - promised Seed - grace and freedom
4. Both are a covenant of works but it is either by:
 - a. The works of the law which neither they nor us could keep

Acts 15:6 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

- b. Through the Suffering Servant who kept and fulfilled the law in our place
 - c. Only by this means can there be a cause for singing
5. Her tent will be enlarged - *Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited.*
- a. Enlarge the place of your tent, God is about to do a mighty work.
 - b. To the Left and right, east and west that is over the entire globe.
 - c. Her descendant will inherit the nations
 - d. Her tent will be enlarged to include the whole world.
 - e. Fulfillment of the promise to Abraham

Gen 22:18 In your **seed all the nations** of the earth shall be blessed

- f. The enlargement is in Christ and therefore the church is the fulfillment of the promise

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, **"And to your Seed," who is Christ.**

Rom 4:13-17 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world **was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.** For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, **not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all** (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations")

- g. The enlargement is in response from our Lord's great commission - *go into all the world and preach the gospel.*

Mark 16:15-16 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **He who believes and is baptized will be saved.**

Conclusion: The Church of the New Testament is the enlarged tent. - v. 3 *And your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited.*

Cause of rejoice for all Jews who will place their faith in Jesus Christ

Luke 24:46-47 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that **repentance and remission of sins** should be preached in His name **to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

Cause of rejoicing for all Gentiles who were in darkness until Christ came.

Matt 4:15-16 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

Cause of rejoicing for all Jew and Gentile alike for all who share in the faith of Abraham

Luke 2:10-11 I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."