

## No Cause for Shame

Isa 54:4-10 <sup>4</sup> "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. <sup>5</sup> For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused," says your God. <sup>7</sup> "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. <sup>8</sup> With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer. <sup>9</sup> "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. <sup>10</sup> For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has mercy on you.

Last week we saw that in the first three verses there was encouragement to the barren woman, that she was to enlarge her tent because God was going to give her an increase. As the promise to Sarah that although barren she would have a child, and the promise was that in the seed that would be born of her all the nations of the earth would be blessed. We know that that Seed was Christ and indeed in Him throughout all nations of the earth men have come to know the God of Abraham. Now the promise is that although this bride presently called Israel will know tribulation. Not that Israel did not deserve this tribulation. I would remind you of the words of Isaiah at the beginning of his prophesy (Isa 1:9) *Unless the Lord of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah.* And hear the lamentation of Jeremiah *'Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.'* (Lam 3:22) Therefore this kindness of God the barren woman is based upon two things. God's Mercy and God's covenant. My mercy I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall stand firm with him. (Ps 89:28) So here Isaiah reminds them that God would, in time, show great mercy and be faithful to His covenant with Abraham. Once again we will see great comfort to the people of God, because the Holy One of Israel, her Creator, is her husband, that one who is called the God of the whole earth will with everlasting kindness shower her with His mercy. This morning then let us consider what "Comfort God will give to His deserted wife".

### A. Comfort to the Deserted Wife

1. First He promises her that she will not be disgraced - *not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame;*
  - a. Sarah would have a son.
  - b. Even though, because Israel had forsaken her God, and would go into captivity it would be but for a short period of time. - *"For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer*
    - (1) Notice a mere moment - 70 years they will know a little wrath
    - (2) But God will show mercy and gather them again into Israel
  - c. Even as also at the time of Christ, the Jews would reject and crucify their Lord
    - (1) At which time judgment such as had not been known nor will be known will fall upon national Israel. - *Matt 24:21*
    - (2) Yet the church, the bride of Christ will be increased. - *With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; **but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,**" says the Lord, your Redeemer.*
2. The example here is the soon-coming captivity of Israel into Babylon when God's wrath will fall upon them - *For the Lord has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused," says your God. **"For a mere moment I have forsaken you,** but with great mercies I will gather you.*
  - a. But it will not be as in the flood of Noah's day when there was no hope for those upon whom the flood came.
    - (1) God had promised that He would not destroy the earth again by a flood and He has kept that promise and will keep it to the end of time.
    - (2) And as that promise is true even so is the covenant promise to Abraham

- b. It may appear that the covenant promise to David has failed.
  - (1) He may reject Israel, the physical seed of Abraham, the nation as a national identity
  - (2) But they may be assured God will bring them back to the land
  - (3) He will keep His covenant with Abraham
  - (4) The Messiah will be born in the City of David and enter the city of Jerusalem as the King of Israel
  - (5) He will enlarge the seed of Abraham to include the whole earth
- 3. There was good reason for them to take comfort, - *your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name*
  - a. The bride's husband is the Creator of heaven and earth; the "Suffering Servant" is the Lord of hosts
  - b. The Redeemer of Israel is the God of the whole earth - *your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.*
- 4. There is also good reason for us to take comfort for what was true for them is true for us. - *For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.*
  - a. We in the church today share in these same blessings
  - b. The God of Israel is our God

*Eph 2:11-13 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus **you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.***

CONCLUSION: God has and will exhibit an everlasting love upon His elect.

The Suffering Servant did not "change God's mind" about His elect  
Rather He simply fulfilled God's eternal purpose

*Jer 31:3 The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*

*Eph 1:3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.*

Although at the end of the age the earth and its works will melt with fervent heat - *For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has mercy on you.*

We read in Revelation that at the presence of the great white judgment throne *the earth and the heaven will fall away . . . And there will be no place for them. (Rev 20:11-12)*

But God's elect will not be ashamed,

Therefore we need *not fear, for we will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for we will not be put to shame.*

For even though we may be despised by the world  
And we may suffer rejection by the ungodly  
And it may appear that for a *mere moment God has forsaken us*

We know that our God is faithful and is merciful to His elect for He has promised that. . . *with great mercies He will gather us that where He is we shall forever be.*

For the elect of God are secure in the Messiah's Covenant

Because the Covenant Maker has become our Covenant Keeper