

Isaiah 54

VV. 1-3: Israel is described as God's wife. She went through birth pangs; but did not bear children. This wife was supposed to produce new life. She did not. This is both a spiritual and physical metaphor. Spiritual life has not come to pass into many Jews; nor has normal Israeli population growth through history. Conversely, the Gentiles were known as the woman with no husband. OUR Gentile ancestors had no spiritual concerns; yet we were converted, and have flourished.

And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, blessed be the LORD God of Shem, ^{SEMITES/JEWS} and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, ^{ORIGINAL GENTILE} and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. (Genesis 9:24-27)

There is an irony in that the chosen people have not done as well as the rejected heathen.

Like as a woman with child, that draws near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and cries out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen. (Isaiah 26:17-18)

The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. (Jeremiah 8:20)

Hosea

God chose an unlikely nation of strong-willed, wayward and rebellious people to change the world.

The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD (HOSEA 1:2)

THERE WAS NOT A TRUE AND LASTING ONENESS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND GOD. THEREFORE THERE COULD BE NO NEW LIFE.

And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. (Malachi 2:15)

Abraham's family has been used to illustrate spiritual lessons. Sarah (Abraham's wife) represents Israel. His only begotten son who carries his promises is also illustrated in Isaac. Isaac can symbolize Jesus in a number of ways. Isaac was the only true son of a good father. Likewise Jesus is God's only son. Abraham's anonymous servant (representing the Holy Spirit) went out into the world to gather a bride to bring to Isaac. In the rapture and death, the church will be brought to Jesus. Jesus will not return for us. We will already be with him when he returns. Isaac married Rebecca. The scriptures call the church the bride

of Christ. Therefore we (the church) are represented by Rebecca.

Hagar was an Egyptian who bore Ishmael. For a time the Gentile (non-wife) reproduced while Sarah did not. The true-chosen wife was barren. Hagar did not long for a special or spiritual ^{DAUGHTER} son like Sarah. The Gentile was brought into the influence of the traditions of the Jews, though she was previously only familiar with the ways of Egypt.

For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which genders to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bears not; break forth and cry, thou that travails not: for the desolate has many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. (Galatians 4:22-29)

Israel did not produce much spiritual life. They thought they were innately-special; otherwise god would not have chosen them. The heathen Gentiles received the gospel; and the church was born...and has expanded. So did their population.

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. (Romans 10:1-3)

I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness? For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? (Romans 11:11-15)

Even though the Jews did not convert the world; God still used an unbelieving broken agency to get the gospel to the Gentiles. In fact the Jews fought against God.

→ IT ALL SHOWS TO
GOD'S GLORY

But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses says, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. But Isaiah is very bold, and says, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. (Romans 10:19-20)

What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeks for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day (Romans 11:7-8)

VV. 4-10: Israel will receive Jews from all over the world once again. The prophecy of Israel becoming the power hub of the whole world will be fulfilled soon. The story of Noah is an illustration of the survivors of disaster setting forth into a new world. The story of Israel and the story of the church are all about survival of a small remnant.

DEMO THE CONSTRUCTION

For many are called, but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14)

The God of Shem will bless all the nations. The prophecy of Shem will come to pass.

VV.11-13: The blessings and curses will come to pass as prophesied.

COLLOSIN

NOAH & THE FLOOD

UNUSUSTAINABLE TIME

SYMBOLISM TO BAPTISM
TO UNTIL WHAT WE
WANT GOES & GETS
WIPE

FLOOD
→ DEATH
SIN EVAL
DAY & NIGHT

"LISTEN"

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God... But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15)

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. (Revelation 21:2-5)

VV.14-17: God has created the tools in this world to shape us and form us into his son's righteousness. The trials and tests purge and surface our hidden ugliness. The Devil is a catalyst who proves our vulnerabilities. The game is not so much to never fall; as it is to build a better guardrail once you see the hazard. Being an overcomer is to be spiritually minded; and not white-knuckling it in the fever of temptation. God gives you the protections that are needed.

Read your Bible and put on your armor. The forces of this world will show you the chinks in your armor.