

# Kingdom Invitation

Isaiah 53-54

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Isaiah is a prophet writing at the time of the capture of the people of Israel into Babylon. He prophesies the capture and then the glorious return of the people of God to Israel. But he is a prophet of the New Covenant, foretelling the glorious reality of the kingdom in which we live!

## Is 54:1-3 : Time for new birth!

The context here is the enslaved nation of Israel has become barren. Jerusalem the centre of the Hebrew life is portrayed as a mother, she is desolate because she is barren and has no children.

The promise is the multiplication of the people of God, so they become expansive and numerous.

**Current significance** : the church in our nation has become in greater measure barren, we have forgotten how to reproduce believers. But the word of God is

*“Enlarge your house; build an addition.  
Spread out your home, and spare no expense!  
For you will soon be bursting at the seams.  
Your descendants will occupy other nations  
and resettle the ruined cities. (v2-3)*

This is a highly significant word for this church! About 20 years ago this word was given to the new church in the UK and preparations were made with some success, but there is a fullness still to be attained. I felt to entrust the word again to you all as a generation that inherits the promise of God.

## Is 54:4-10 : Covenant Restored!

The prophet is speaking of the restoration of the covenant of God to his bride, Jerusalem. “my covenant of blessing will never be broken” (v10) is the heart of the passage.

Blessing is going to be returned to the barren woman called Jerusalem, no more fear or shame (v4), the grief of abandonment is ended (v6), the feelings of God abandoning her and the anger shown to her are over (v7-8), just like he promised after the judgement of the flood, never again will God be angry with his people (v9), he prophesies a season of the faithful love of the Lord forever (v10).

**Current Significance** : the season of the anger of God towards us has ended, we live in a kingdom culture of enduring love. The covenant of God is restored towards his family, the church, the message that there is no fear in the love of God is the central to the kingdom.

## **Is 54:11-15 : Glorious city!**

The prophet speaks of a beautiful city made from jewels, the former splendour of Jerusalem known at the time of David is to be restored, but it is even more glorious. This passage echoes the Zechariah picture of a city shining with fire (Zech 2:5) or John's vision sparkling "new Jerusalem" (Rev 21-22). The use of gem stones in the descriptions points to the essence of heavenly glory coming through, the reign of peace through a 'just and fair' government (v14). The image is prosperity, blessing and peace.

**Current Significance** : In Kingdom theology we understand the a kingdom that has come, is coming and will come. This gives us a picture of the glorious nature of what we have, what we are possessing and what will come. The promise of prosperity and blessing is for us now. The church should ever more reflective of the future of promise.

## **Is 54 :16-17 : Don't forget the battle**

Isaiah reminds the people that there are physical armies that are prepared to massacre the people of God. The forge of the blacksmith is hot as the armies prepare to attack the people of God. but the voices that are against them will be silenced by the strong voice of God.

**Current Significance** : We may not be in a physical battle with a physical enemy but the people of God are waged war against the forces of evil (2 Cor 10:4, Eph 6), don't be fooled there is a very clear and present danger in the enemy that is arrayed against us! There is an enemy that will seek to intimidate you and ground you down, "you will silence every voice raised up against you" (v17).

## **Is 55 : 1-3 : Invitation to Action**

The exiled people have an invitation to draw into God, and that is no difference for us. This passage is played out again by Jesus in Matt 7:7-8, the sermon of the mount, keep on seeking and asking for God. The Samaritan woman by the well in John 4 calls wants the water that Jesus has to offer, a water that will satisfy her. He declares he is the bread of life and satisfies the thirst in us (John 6:35), he proclaims that he is the fountain that will constantly well up bringing life (John 7:37). Isaiah prophesies the eternal spring of Jesus, its all free of charge.

v2 has the clear charge to listen and eat, the action is to drink from the well of the spirit and eat from the word of God. You will stay babies unless you are stirred to eat the word, a word that feeds you to maturity. Its in our listening to the words of life that we find satisfying life (v3).

Look at the promise of the everlasting covenant of love given to you, this is not a short term or temporary contract, rather it is eternal in significance and lasting for you.

## **Is 55 :4-5 : Leadership in the nations**

David is mentioned here (v3), to whom the eternal covenant is promised. His leadership of the people of God saw them experience the most profound blessing that was passed on to

Solomon. David is a hero in the eyes of the Hebrew people, a king after the heart of God who foreshadowed the king of kings, whose physical kingdom was a prototype kingdom of God! Isaiah uses this image to remind the current people of God about the extent of the rule of God, once again the people of God will “display the power of God” (v4) and people will come running to the people of God (v5) this is the future of favour for the followers of Jesus.

**Current Significance** : In all spheres of society the kingdom people need to rise in their leadership which is expressed as influence, pure leadership is essentially leadership, so its time to lead! Power is being turned on again, and we are beginning to walk in the eternal covenant of love operating in power. That's the kingdom.

## **Is 55:6-9 : Get God's agenda!**

Prophets in the OT cry out time and time again calling on the people of God to repent of their sins, if only the prophet can get the people to turn away from evil and walk in the ways of God again! “call on him while he is near” is the cry of the prophet, repent. Isaiah is appealing to his people to get the mind of God, to be the people that God intends them to be. He wants the physical Israelites to be passionate for the things of God.

**Current Significance** : We totally need to see our lives from a different perspective. Repentance is about turning around and looking at things from God's perspective. Repentance is not really about being sorry, it is a change of perspective on life. We operate our lives in daily repentance so we get God's heart on our lives. See life the way God sees life. As you turn to God he will “forgive generously” (v7)

Why do we try to fathom out God, our thinking is not his thinking! His ways are “far above anything you could imagine” (v8) there is an ocean of depth to the thinking and ways of God, we need to be aligning ourselves to the plan of God, the stream of heaven in us.

## **Is 55:10-13 : Coming Fruitfulness**

The captured people of God were being used to bring fruitfulness to their captors. With the impending doom of the exile, they had become barren (remember the 54:1). The promise of God is there will again be a season of fruit coming on the people of God. Isaiah uses the natural cycle to show how the spiritual principle works. The snow and rain water the earth to produce fruitfulness, so by the decree of God the people will once again be watered.

**Current Significance** : The word of God will produce fruit, like the rain that waters the ground so it is with the word of God, it will produce something. When we hear the genuine word of God something will come back to us from it, “it always produces fruit” (v11). In the spiritual realm, the word of God will always produce the purpose that God sends it for, word is powerful, all creation is born from the word of God (Gen 1, John 1).

v12-13 the whole earth will burst into the glorious fruitfulness, with singing and dancing mountains and hills, creation literally joins in the dance! Rom 8:22 talks about the excited nature of waiting for something amazing to happen with the children of God, come on kids of God, let creation loose... is there a generation that will rise to the challenge?