Structure of Isa 54

1-17 The Lord comforts his Bride

1-4 Change in her attitude

1 Sing, for thou shalt have many children

2-3 Enlarge, for thou shalt inherit the Gentiles

4 Fear not, for thou shalt not be ashamed

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11-17a Prosperity and Victory

11-14 Behold, prosperity and peace

15 Behold, adversaries fall

16-17a Behold, God owns the armorer

17b Summary
This is the heritage of the Servants of the Lord
And their righteousness is of me

Three Motivated Promises

Three Encouraging Quotations

Three Joyful Observations
## Unpacking 54:4-6

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<th>49:14-50:3</th>
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<td><strong>Mother Zion</strong></td>
<td><strong>(Sarah)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Divorced, children killed</td>
<td>Barren</td>
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<tr>
<td>City dweller</td>
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<td><strong>Gal 4: Hagar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gal 4: Sarah</strong></td>
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<td><strong>54:4d thou … shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more</strong></td>
<td><strong>54:4c thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth</strong></td>
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<td><strong>54:5a Thy Husband is thy Maker</strong></td>
<td><strong>54:5b Thy Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Lord of Hosts is his name</strong></td>
<td><strong>The God of the Whole Earth shall he be called</strong></td>
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<td>(Epoch: Exodus)</td>
<td>(Epoch: future)</td>
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<td><strong>54:6a For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, ...</strong></td>
<td><strong>54:6b ... and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Naomi, the bitter Israelite</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ruth, the believing Gentile</strong></td>
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## A Tale of Two Women

<table>
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<th>Isaiah</th>
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<td><strong>Naomi</strong></td>
<td><strong>49:14-50:3</strong></td>
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<td>- Bondwoman</td>
<td>- Husband &amp; children dead</td>
<td>- Divorced by the Lord</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Child <em>after the flesh</em></td>
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<td>- Put away</td>
<td>- Mara “bitter”</td>
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<tr>
<td>- <strong>Israelite</strong></td>
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<td>- 54:4 Reproach of widowhood</td>
<td>- Jerusalem that now is → <em>Israel after the flesh</em></td>
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</table>

### Sarah
- **Free**
- **Barren**
- **Child after promise**
- **Wife of youth**

### Ruth
- **Childless**
- **Redeemed**
- **Gentile**

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<td>- <strong>Barren</strong></td>
<td>- Shame of youth v.4</td>
<td>- <strong>New covenant</strong></td>
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<td>- Thy Redeemer v.5</td>
<td>- <strong>Free</strong></td>
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<td>- “Inherit the Gentiles”</td>
<td>- God of the Whole Earth v.4</td>
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<td>- <strong>Wife of youth</strong> refused v.6</td>
<td>- “Us all,” including</td>
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<td><strong>Gentiles</strong>, by faith in promise</td>
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54:7-8, God's Limiting Mercy

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<td>7 For a small <strong>moment</strong> have I forsaken thee;</td>
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<tr>
<td>but with great <strong>mercies</strong> will I gather thee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8a In a little wrath I hid my face from thee;</td>
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<tr>
<td>but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.</td>
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God's **mercy** leads him to limit his **wrath** to a brief **moment**.
54:7 and Mother Zion

For a small moment have I **forsaken** thee;

49:14 But Zion said, The LORD hath **forsaken** me, and my Lord hath **forgotten** me.

49:15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, **yet will I not forget thee**.

but with great mercies will I **gather** thee.

49:18 Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these **gather** themselves together, **and** come to thee.
Hebrew Words for “Mercy”

Exo 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful חנן and gracious רחם, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness חסד and truth

(This formula is quoted in Num 14:18; Neh 9:17; Ps 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jon 4:2)

חסד occurs 249x: covenant love (vv. 8, 10 “kindness”)

חנן occurs 75x: grace, favor from superior to inferior

רחם occurs 42x: “womb, bowels” → compassion

Gen 43:30 And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.
When God Hides his Face...

...He can still see us:

Deu 32:20 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be:

Compare “seek פנים the face” of the Lord (1 Chr 16:11 = Ps 105:4; 2 Chr 7:14; Ps 24:6; 27:8; Hos 5:15): we can’t see him!

Psa 69:17 And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.

Psa 143:7 Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Mic 3:4 Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.
Does God “Hide his Face” under the New Covenant?

Joh 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

1Jo 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

2Co 6:17-7:1 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
“Small Moment” of Forsaking → “Everlasting Kindness”

When is the “gathering” of v. 7?

- Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah?
  - Only 50k returned; many (Esther) remained abroad
  - Later history (Antiochus, Romans, Hitler)
- AD 1947?
  - Fewer than half of the world’s Jews (6M/13M) live in Israel
  - Jerusalem will fall immediately before Messiah’s return in glory (Zech 14:1-4)
- Future return of Christ