

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time
The Everlasting Kindness of God
Isaiah 54:1-17

Our sinful nature naturally leads to suffering. Sometimes this suffering comes to us because of the consequences of our own sinful actions. Sometimes it comes to us because of the sinful actions of others. Sometimes we suffer simply because of the nature of our broken and dysfunctional world. And yes, there are times when we suffer under the chastening of God's hand. Regardless of the source of our suffering, the promises of God through the finished work of Christ assures us of the everlasting kindness of God.

1. God's people once barren will be supernaturally rewarded.

2. God's people once forsaken will be supernaturally renewed.

3. God's people once ravaged will be supernaturally restored.

Jesus told the woman at the well that there will come a day (and that day has come), when true worshipers worship in spirit and truth and that "the Father is seeking such to worship Him." This means that the Father has ordained to find such people is the Great Commission. Missions exists because there are places where true worship is not yet found. There will come a day when Christ returns and fully establishes His kingdom, that the everlasting kindness of God will be on full display and God's covenant of peace will never again be threatened.

Reflection

How do verses 1-3 help define a proper perspective of missions, and how might these verses compel you be involved in missions? How does Paul's reference to the "Jerusalem that is above" in Galatians 4:22-28 relate to the Jerusalem that Isaiah describes in Isaiah 54? How should the supernatural fruitfulness of God's people encourage us to risk great things for the spread of the gospel? How do verses 7-8 relate to Hebrews 12:3-11? Read Revelation 21:10-14 and compare the beauty and glory of the New Jerusalem with the description given by Isaiah in Isaiah 54:11-12. How could revisiting this chapter from time to time encourage you in your difficult circumstances and times of suffering? How do these verses encourage your faith and motivate you to serve God well?