

SIGNIFICANT GUARANTEE

Isaiah 54

INTRODUCTION:

Time seems to be running out -- scientists, statesmen, and politicians warn us as a nation. Put out the fire in one spot it bursts into flames again in some other area. Where will it break out next?

Laubauch says, either "we wake up or we blow up".

Peter Marshall said, "The modern church reminds me of a man in a deep sea diver's outfit marching bravely into the bathroom to pull the stopper out of the bathtub".

Les Hembel - Helicopter pilot - He is credited with flying the first non-military bell helicopter from Southern California to the East coast.

He told of a frightful experience of flying a "chopper" from one airport in Atlanta across the city to another air port, in a dense fog -- so thick you could not see the ground, only the white fluffiness about him.

He said in the white loneliness he was totally dependent on ground control - directions coming to him through his radio earphones. The calm voice of an unseen man following him on radar.

Fly 3 minutes in a certain direction the voice would say - and on your right you'll see a smoke stack. Turn in such and such direction for so many minutes and a skyscraper will appear over you -- and so on the directions guiding him to his destination.

Then Les Hembel said that this is like faith in God. The Holy Spirit guides us and we are safe.

We cannot have refreshing showers on earth without clouds above.

In our churches we give way to the note of despair. We take stock of our fears - we see not the great guarantees of the heavenly father.

The Prophet Isaiah in Chapter 54 breaks forth with praise and music. A dark day - yet the 1st word sing. We must never lose this note.

Did you know that many of the familiar hymns in your humn book are based upon the teaching of Isaiah? "A rock in a weary land" - "Glorious things of Thee are spoken" - "Have Thine Own Way Lord" - "Holy, Holy, Holy" - "How Firm A Foundation" - "Rock of Ages" - "Sweet is the Promise I will not Forget Thee" - "The Battle Hymn of Republic" - "When Peace like a River".

He has just concluded a passage on the Messiah in 53 - He gives entire life, ministry, sufferings, trials, death, burial, resurrection and return of Christ. Therefore Zion can sing.

Outline (Deals with Guarantee).

- I. Sufficient Coverage - V. 1-5.
- II. Searching The Record - V. 6-10.
- III. Special Warnty. V. 11-17.

I. Sufficient Coverage - V. 1-5.

First question about a guarantee - what does it cover? Is it sufficient?

V. 1 - Barren - Israel in captivity is addressed. Her numbers diminished - not increased - yet she is to sing - more children (Gentiles).

Wife - childless - desolate - Jerusalem ruined - God will again be husband.

Religion - barren! Low condition. There was going to be an increase - sing.

Kingdom going to be productive and glorious.

Paul - quoted - Gal. 4:27.

V. 2 - Enlarge the place of Thy tent.

No defeatism in Isaiah - no retreating. Good Motto for a church! Housing shortage - old limits of the city extended. Rom. 15:20.

See the tent - will have more children - need more space. Make the ropes longer. Get more room.

Agressive power of God at work. Little tent in the desert standing pitifully alone

in the face of a depressing storm. Sagging roof - slack ropes, shallow pegs.

Lengthen the cords - drive your stakes deep into the earth.

Our church has come a long way during the past 75 years - despite the contrary winds. *William Carey - used this text to urge Foreign Missions giving*

Think of the curtains of vision.

Think of the cords of conviction - lost world.

Think of the stakes of devotion - relation to Jesus.

V. ③ - Break Forth - Overflow - right hand - left.

Right and Left. Meaning in all directions - extension of her spiritual conquest of the nations.

Glorious change will take place.

3,000 at Pentecost.

Isa. 66:8 "Who hath heard of such a thing?"

Romans 10:18 But I say, Have They not heard? Yes verily, there sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."

Seed - The Christian church is viewed as a continuation of the Jewish church. Not limited to a single nation.

V. ④ - Fear Not - 44 times by the Prophet - Faith had given way to fear.

The difference between fear and faith is success or failure. Reproach - disappointment.

First - he declares you have no cause for despondency.

Second - Your history, Israel chosen as a wife, forsaken and restored to her husband.

Youth - ref. to Egyptian bondage and widowhood.

V. ⑤ - Prophet - urge Israel to rejoice over her coming Redemption. Lord called Thee as a woman - wife - forsaken and grieved in spirit and a wife of youth - The Husband is returning - my love and kindness shall not depart from you.

Illustration - Husband and Wife.

Husband Spoken Of:

1. Thy Maker
2. The Lord of Hosts
3. Thy Kinsman - Redeemer
4. Thy Holy One (Title)
5. The God of the Whole Earth (Jew - Gentile)

II. Searching The Record - V. 6-10

Look at the record for past relationships. What does the record say about God's Guarantee? Does he honour his promises?

V. 6 - The Lord hath called Thee - recalled - summoned Thee. Woman forsaken and grieved is recalled as Hosea.

Israel married in youth - cast off into exile not the relationship is restored - long time cast off.

V. 7 - Small Moment - Forsaken

Great Compassion - in regathering them. The few years of captivity but a moment of time compared to God's protection and future mercy.

Apply this to your life - seem forsaken.

Concentrate upon Great Mercies!

Record in next verse.

V. 8 - Little Wrath.

Everlasting Kindness - (Contrast with one moment).

Get this - Isaiah suggest in the Hebrew in the short moment, the little wrath - a burst of wrath like a thunderclap, but of short duration!

He must turn his back upon them - not that his wrath is a little thing, but little compared to what we deserve. "He is slow to anger" - swift to show mercy. He called them into covenant with him - chastened the child.

Yet his arms are wide - stretched as a Father taking his child into his bosom.

Recall the story - Father, "It is meet that we make merry and be glad".

V. 9 - Record of the Flood

Assurance to Noah, never another flood. Gen. 8:21.

Assurance Solomon covenant.

Submerged in the flood of Babylonian captivity. Righteous household survived in one case. Righteous remnant survived in another.

God bound himself to Noah, not to repeat the flood.

Prophet may have been looking to the Christian church built upon the rock and never will be reduced to such extremity.

V. 10 - Something Secure

Mountains may go - Hills be removed - strongest things, most solid things you know of - they are shaken sometimes by earthquakes and removed.

But - Promises of God never move - Matt. 24:35. "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away". Everything material fails, perishes.

Tells what is secure: The covenant of peace! Here is eternal security! Ezek. 34:25. "I will make with them a covenant of peace".

My loving kindness - shall never go - depart.

My covenant of peace - shall never go - depart - or be removed. So says Jehovah who loves Thee.

Some of last words of David - II Sam. 23:5 "He that made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire".

Secret - through this covenant he made peace with man.

The peace Jesus put in the heart of the sinful woman - Mary Magdaline - He would never remove.

God loves you like that -- don't you permit anything to disturb your peace!

Friends may depart - His kindness never parts.

III. Special Warnty - V. 11-17.

This significant Guarantee has a special section - not only are you secure but precious promises of protection are offered.

V. 11 - Tossed emblem of a ship in a tempest at sea. Cast your anchor. Ride out this storm. Earthly things uncertain.

God is aware of your sorrow - affliction. No tear escapes his attention.

She will fully be restored with a foundation of sapphires.

Fair Colour - *Some of you ladies could help me out on this Point - Eye Shadow -* 2 Kings 9:30 = stain - antimony used on both the upper and the

under eyelids in order to increase the apparent lustre of the eyes. Greater beauty.

The sun makes the sky blue - otherwise dark. So God enters a life everything is light.

V. 12 - Been in disgrace now beauty using the most precious stones.

Windows - agates - "rubies" (meaning doubtful)

Gates - carbuncles - "Sparkling Gems"

Borders - Pleasant Stones - "Stones as of fire".

Sounds like St. John in the Revelation - gates are each composed of one pearl - purity etc. Rev. 21:17.

V. 13 - The Internal Condition.

The Lord will teach.

Perfect Peace will be a possession.

How will He teach? Holy Spirit - Illumination. John 6:45. I Cor. 2:10.

Great shall be - peace - Ref. to Messiah.

Gal. 5:22 - 23.

V. 14 - Established in Righteousness - Rather through righteousness.

Fear - you need not fear - this is not danger. So long as the first part is true, you need not worry about oppression - terror - not not come near! Freedom!

Rev. 20:9.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

V. 15 - Warning to Enemies

The Devil will continue to gather against Thee. If they should and they will collect and threaten Thee with harm.

This is not God - not his doing - Job.

It will come to naught. Shall fall - stumble and be overthrown through striking against Thee. As a glass pitcher strikes a rock.

V. 16 - Is the adversaries beyond my control?

Consider the Blacksmith - as though he is telling a parable - an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

Visit the shop - I control the Blacksmith, I created him. He is working over a fire - he is making an instrument of iron - the coals are fanned. He forges a weapon. The weapon then passes on into the hands of another.

I control the smith - I never lose control of the weapon he makes. Psa. 27:2.

V. 17 - Heritage of his servants.

No weapon - prosper.

No tongue - rise.

Lord defends.

Foes innumerable - with weapons - Firey darts seeking our overthrow.

What are these weapons?

They were used against Jesus - Noah - David.

Persecution - The church and Christian leaders have been cast with this instrument.

Slander - A weapon to ruin the reputation of God's people.

Doubt - Satan uses this. Matt. 11:2-3. John Baptist.

Church continues against opposition, scepticism, infidelity, atheism, gates of Hell.

No weapon - shall prosper!

Every tongue - Jude 15 - "Hard Speeches" - I Peter 2:15.

Isa. 36:4-20; 37:10-13 - Rabshaken tells Hezekiah, you are done, nothing for you to trust in, if I furnished you 2,000 horses your man power is so low, not find riders.

Ezra. 4:12.

Esther 3:8.

Marvellous secret - Free from the condemnation of Satan.

"Heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ".

Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God who justifieth by his perfect righteousness.

"Who is he that condemneth".

This Scripture should be over the door of every true Bible preaching minister.

Neither weapon nor tongue - accusation - idea - victory in every strife of words is on the side of the Christian. Ridicule, argument, all have tried to overthrow true religion.

The tongues of men have said Moses was mistaken about the creation. No matter from what quarter the attack has come, no matter how much learning, God is the Defender and meets the charge.

We are made righteous by Him.

2 Cor. 5:21.

Isa. 45:24.

Rom. 8:35-39.

This Product bears a lifetime guarantee

Advertisement - sounds hard to beat - How can one go wrong with promise life that.

World - full of extravagant promises

T.V. - Brander - Tooth paste - Shampoo -

1 Peter 1:25 word of the Lord endureth for ever -

Some endure forever - free - gift - available by faith -

Life time guarantees has its limitations - Who knows how long life will last?

Enduring word - Eternal life -

V. 8 Everlasting loving kindness -

People want to know if they can trust Jesus -