
“Everlasting Love of the Redeemer”

ISAIAH 54:1-10

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At A Glance

What does God’s love look like when His people are shamed, barren, and under judgment? In Isaiah 54, the Lord commands the desolate to sing *before* restoration comes, grounding hope not in circumstances but in covenant promise. This sermon traces God’s everlasting love from exile to Bethlehem, showing how divine wrath and mercy meet in Christ. Discover how the Redeemer’s unshakable love turns shame into song and fear into confident faith.

Love Is A Powerful Word

There are few words more powerful—and more misunderstood—than the word *love*. We often associate love with approval, affirmation, or pleasant circumstances. But Scripture speaks of a love that shows itself most clearly not when life is full, but when it is barren; not when the bride is faithful, but when she is shamed; not when the future looks bright, but when hope feels lost.

Isaiah 54 opens with a shocking command: “*Sing*.” Not to the joyful. Not to the victorious. But to the barren, the desolate, the disgraced. God calls Judah to joy before restoration, a song before fulfillment, because His love does not wait for visible evidence—it rests on covenant promise. Today we will see that the everlasting love of the Redeemer meets His people not at their best, but at their lowest, and turns shame into song.

Imagine a couple who has waited years for a child—doctor visits, unanswered prayers, quiet disappointment every time another pregnancy announcement is made. Then imagine being told, *before* conception, *before* confirmation, *before* a single sign of life, to start clearing out rooms, buying furniture, and planning for a full house.

That sounds reckless—unless the promise is certain. Isaiah 54 is God telling His people to ‘set up the nursery’ because His word cannot fail. The call to sing and enlarge the tent is rooted not in their present circumstances, but in the everlasting love of a Redeemer who always keeps His promises.

Isaiah 54:8-10

⁸ In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD, your Redeemer. ⁹“This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. ¹⁰For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

Sing, O Barren One

Verse 1 “Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married,” says the LORD.

The shamed will burst forth in song. The one who had no children will be more than the one who did. The original audience would have thought back to Sarai as the quintessential **barren one** who had reason to burst forth in song because of a promise.

Judah was held captive in Babylon; foreigners in a distant land, but not forever. This was a call for Judah to trust the promise more than their present.

Verses 2-3 “Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. ³For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people [resettle] the desolate cities.

Prepare for the coming blessing of the Lord. One day you will once again inhabit your land and even more than you had before. Not only will you be restored to Jerusalem and the land of Judah, but your offspring will **possess the nations!**

This is the language of the promise made to Abram. The word **nations** in **verse 3** is the Hebrew word *goyim*. This word is also used in the promise to Abram in Genesis 12:3, translated in the ESV as “all the families.”

“Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’” Genesis 12:1-3

Just as Abram trusted the Lord to fulfill His promise, Judah is invited to trust the Lord to undo the effects of His judgment carried out by Babylon.

Future Hindsight

Verse 4 “Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.

Isaiah calls Judah to see with future hindsight! The days of shame are numbered. On the other side of them you will **remember them no more**. You will look back on these days and you will thank the Lord for all He has done for you.

Verse 5 For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; Keeping with the theme of a barren woman, then widow, the Lord identifies Himself as husband. Just as we, the Church, identify with Christ as the bride-groom and we the bride.

Verse 5 continues, and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. How splendid and majestic is this? Throughout the Old Testament we see the picture of a Redeemer. We see it most explicitly in the book of Ruth. Ruth is a widow, hopeless, forced to fend for herself with no real prospect of marriage and motherhood.

Picking grain in the field she is spotted by Boaz, who later becomes her redeemer. He rescues her from her desperate estate and makes her his wife and a mother. Her son’s name? Obed, the father of Jesse. Jesse the father of? David, the greatest king of Israel, lineage of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

From picking grain as a young widow to mothering the line of Messiah! All because of a redeemer. Now, centuries later, the Lord says He is the **Redeemer** of Israel. Let that sit. The Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer. Greater than Boaz whose offspring is greater than David... **the God of the whole earth he is called.**

The Mercy Of God

Verses 6 For the LORD has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. Now the illustration takes a turn, but not entirely. Whereas before Israel, specifically Judah, was said to be like a young widow, now Israel is like **a divorced wife of youth.**

Since it is God who **cast off**, we know there was justification for divorce. In Jeremiah 3, God rebuked Josiah, King of Judah, for Judah's continued faithlessness using the imagery of an adulterous wife. He said, *"She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore."*
Jeremiah 3:8

Jeremiah uses shocking language—spiritual adultery—to show the depth of Judah's betrayal. Israel and Judah received a divorce decree from the Lord because of their own sin. Judah should have seen what God did to Israel and repented! Yet they refused.

But hear, even in this indictment, the mercy of God! **Verse 7 For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you.**

I challenge you if you are not currently doing so, to read through the entire bible on a regular basis, whether it's every 6 months or 24, read the Bible. Until you do, you hardly know this God you worship.

Until you read the Old Testament and hear the judgment of God and then verses later His unwarranted, undeserved **great compassion**, your view of God is woefully skewed. God has not changed. The God of the Old Testament is the God of the New. And the God of the New is the God of the Old. He is, was, and always will be, exceedingly merciful and compassionate!

Here is God who has every right to issue a divorce decree and be done with Israel and Judah forever but says, **I will gather you!** Do you know *this* God of the Old Testament? This merciful, gracious, compassionate God of Israel?

For A Moment

Verse 8 In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer.

He had every right to feel **overflowing anger**. Israel played the whore. She broke covenant faith. And God responded the way anyone would expect: He **hid [his] face**. That's a poetic way of describing how He allowed Assyria and Babylon to take Israel and Judah captive, respectively. They didn't want Him, so He let them fend for themselves. They deserved much worse.

But even in God's **overflowing anger**, He proves to be a God of **compassion**. His judgment of Israel was but **for a moment**. He would deliver Judah back to Jerusalem.

He would do so for a greater purpose than that they would inhabit the land. It was so an even greater prophecy of even greater redeemer may be fulfilled. Namely that in the little town of Bethlehem would be born the One Isaiah called, *"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* *Isaiah 9:6...* *"a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* *Luke 2:11*

Verse 9-10 “This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

Why is God so compassionate toward those who have utterly rejected Him? Why did He promise Noah that the waters would no longer flood the earth? Why did He swear to no longer be angry? One reason: **love**, steadfast and everlasting.

With that in mind, let’s wrap up with three points of application.

1. Let the Redeemer’s everlasting love silence your shame.

God spoke everlasting love not to a faithful bride, but to a barren, deserted, disgraced one. His love does not deny sin—but it outlasts judgment and replaces shame with song. Does sin still create problems in our lives? Sure it does. Does obedience to Christ matter? Absolutely!

Voddie Baucham once preached, “The only thing required by the gospel is faith and repentance... You are asking ‘what about obedience?!’ Obedience is not required for salvation. It is produced by it.” So, yes, obedience is part of the salvation equation, just not on the front side of it. It’s what salvation produces in us – the Spirit at work in our lives.

Christian, it is possible you are in a season of discipline because you’re not dealing with a sin that the Lord is trying to deal with. The Lord disciplines those He loves. But discipline is never condemnation. *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1* The answer is not to just live in shame, but to repent – and to do so as a beloved son or daughter.

Why? Because in His everlasting love, the Lord your Redeemer gave you His righteousness and adopted you the moment you believed in His Son.

2. Trust God’s everlasting love enough to prepare for what He has promised.

“Enlarge the tent” is a call to faith-filled obedience before you see fulfillment of the promise. God’s love is not passive—it invites us to expectant faith. To prepare for what He promises.

This prophecy was not completely fulfilled in Judah’s day, nor even yet—but it is unfolding now as the gospel goes to the *goyim*. God is forming the true offspring of Abraham from every nation. It is our ambition at Wildwood that every people group behold the glory of Christ.

It is then that this prophecy of Isaiah will find its ultimate fulfillment. He calls us to do whatever we can to effect it. To magnify Christ and multiply disciples wherever we go so that Christ would be glorified among all peoples.

Why? Because in His everlasting love, the Lord your Redeemer made a promise—and He intends to keep it.

3. Proclaim an everlasting love made precious by righteous wrath.

God’s love is everlasting precisely because it is not sentimental. It does not depend upon our ability to keep ourselves in God’s good graces. It is a love that confronts sin, yes. But it is also a love that endures wrath and redeems at infinite cost. It is in light of this wrath that God has poured out on His own son that we truly come to appreciate what love even is.

How do you define love in its essence if you remove the wrath of God poured out on Christ? Righteous wrath that is due to you and me and everyone else? If we omit, ignore, or downplay

God's wrath so as to not offend a non-believer, what do we call them to believe? What is this great hope we have in Christ if it is not deliverance from God's just judgment?

God's everlasting love calls us to proclaim the **full gospel**—not just to preach God's love, but God's love revealed supremely through the righteous wrath satisfied by Christ. It is only against the dark backdrop of God's wrath that the Redeemer's love shines with its true glory. It is only there that His everlasting love becomes precious to us.

Why? Because in His everlasting love, the Lord your redeemer gave us His only begotten Son. The one who was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. *"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* 1 John 4:10

Everlast Love Of The Redeemer

Isaiah ends this promise not with conditions, but with certainty. Mountains may crumble. Hills may disappear. Kingdoms rise and fall. But the steadfast love of the Redeemer does not move. It does not waver with your obedience, and it does not vanish in seasons of discipline. It is everlasting.

That love reached its fullest expression not in a return from Babylon, but in the birth of a Savior in Bethlehem—where God's wrath and God's mercy met in one Person. Christ was forsaken so that you would be gathered. He bore judgment so that you would receive peace.

So sing, O redeemed one. Enlarge the tent. Live, prepare, and proclaim as those who are loved forever—because the covenant of peace has been sealed by the blood of the Redeemer, and His love will never depart from you.