

## ISAIAH 54

### All Poetry

(This is the main chapter about “Covenant Blessings” in all the Book of Isaiah – The Lord quoted this chapter in 3 Ne. 20-21)

### Verse 1

Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear (give birth).  
Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not  
travail with child (you who were not in labor).

(For)

More are the children of the desolate (deserted wife),  
Than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.

(Here we see the Covenant Blessing of children-posterity – Part of the “Covenant of Abraham”)

### Verse 2

(and let them)

Enlarge the place of thy tent,  
Stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations. (dwellings)

### Spare not:

(and)

Lengthen thy cords,  
Strengthen thy stakes.

### Verse 3

(For)  
(and)

Thou shalt break forth on the right and on the left.  
Thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities  
to be inhabited.

(Here we see the Covenant Blessing of land – Part of the “Covenant of Abraham” referring to his tents in the wilderness - reminiscent of the Tabernacle of Moses)

### Verse 4

Fear not, for thou shalt not be ashamed (confounded),  
Neither be thou confounded (ashamed), for thou shalt not be put  
to shame.

(for)

Thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth,  
Thou shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

### Verse 5

(For)

Thy Maker is thine husband,  
The Lord of Hosts is his name.

(and)

Thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel,  
“The God of the Whole Earth,” shall he be called.

(Here we see the Covenant Blessing of being the Lord’s chosen people – “I will be your God, you will be my people” – Part of the “Covenant of Moses”)

Verse 6 (For) **The Lord hath called thee (back):**  
(and) As a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit,  
As a wife of youth, when she is refused, saith thy God.

Verse 7 **A** For a small moment have I forsaken thee,  
**B** But with great mercies will I gather thee.

Verse 8 **A** In a little wrath I hid my face from thee; for a moment,  
**B** But with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith  
the Lord thy Redeemer.

[\(See D&C 121: 1, 7 – Prophet Joseph Smith’s suffering\)](#)

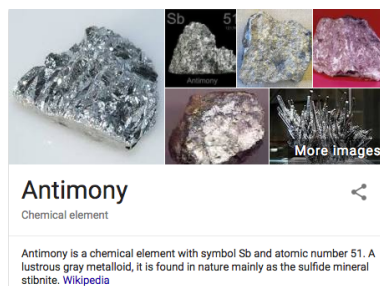
Verse 9 (For) **This** is as the waters of Noah unto me, for I have sworn that  
the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth,  
**So** have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor  
rebuke thee.

[\(Here we see reference to the “Covenant of Noah” after the flood – the promise of the rainbow – never again would the inhabitants of the earth be entirely destroyed\)](#)

Verse 10 (For) The mountains shall depart,  
(and) The hills shall be removed.  
(Bu) My kindness shall not depart from thee,  
Neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the  
Lord that hath mercy on thee.

Verse 11 **O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted:**

(Behold) I will lay thy stones with fair colours (antimony),  
(and) I will lay thy foundations with sapphires.



Verse 12 (And) I will make thy windows (skylights) (or battlements) of agates (jacinth),  
I will make thy gates of carbuncles,  
(and) I will make all thy borders of pleasant (precious) stones.



Verse 13 (And) All thy children shall be taught of the Lord,  
(and) Great shall be the peace of thy children.

Verse 14 In righteousness shalt thou be established,  
Thou shalt be far from oppression.

(For) Thou shalt not fear,  
(and) Thou shalt not fear terror (ruin), for it shall not come near thee.

Verse 15 (Behold) They shall surely gather together but, not by me,  
Whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fail for thy sake.

Verse 16 (Behold) I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and  
that bringeth forth an instrument (weapons) for his work.  
(and) I have created the waster (ravager) to destroy.

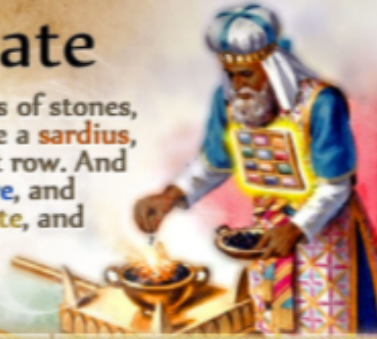
Verse 17 (and) No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper,  
Every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt  
condemn.

(and) This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,  
Their righteousness (vindication) is of me, saith the Lord.

(Here we see two Covenant Blessings: 1) Divine protection from enemies 2) Having the presence of the Lord in Israel's midst (His presence in the Temple)- These are part of the "Covenant of David")

# Ephod Breast Plate

**Exodus 28:17** - And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a **sardius**, a **topaz**, and a **carbuncle**: this shall be the first row. And the second row shall be an **emerald**, a **sapphire**, and a **diamond**. And the third row a **ligure**, an **agate**, and an **amethyst**. And the fourth row a **beryl**, and an **onyx**, and a **jasper**: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings.



1  Sardius Reuben	2  Topaz Simeon	3  Carbuncle Levi
4  Emerald Judah	5  Sapphire Issachar	6  Diamond Zebulun
7  Ligure Nephtali	8  Agate Gad	9  Amethyst Asher
10  Beryl Manassah	11  Onyx Ephram	12  Jasper Benjamin

**Main Covenants in the Hebrew Bible:** the first two apply to *all* human beings, the next three apply *specifically* to the Jews, the "Children of Abraham":

- **ADAM and Eve** (Gen 1-2; *although the word "covenant" is not used, some divine promises are made*)
  - *Life on Earth:* "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it..." (1:28)
  - *Vegetarian Diet:* "I have given you every plant... and every tree with seed in its fruit... for food" (1:29)
  - *Male and Female:* "It is not good that the man should be alone" (2:18; cf. 1:27)
  - *Disobedience and Death:* "...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat" (2:17)
- **NOAH and his Family** (Gen 6-9)
  - *Life:* God saves the family of Noah (6:18), telling them to *be fruitful and multiply*, and fill the earth (9:1, 7)
  - *Diet:* they may now also eat animals, but may not eat/drink their *blood*, and may not shed human *blood* (9:2-6)
  - *Covenant:* God promises *not to destroy* the whole human race again through a flood (9:8-11)
  - the "sign" of this covenant: the rainbow set in the clouds each time it rains (9:12-17)
- **ABRAHAM and his Descendants** (Gen 12, 15, 17)
  - his *descendants will be numerous* and will become a great nation (12:2; 15:5; 17:20; 18:18; etc.)
  - they will *inherit the "promised land,"* later called the land of Israel (12:1; 15:18-21; 17:8; etc.)
  - all *other nations* shall be blessed in him (12:3; 18:18) or through his offspring (22:18; 26:4)
  - the "sign" of this covenant: the circumcision of all male descendants (17:9-14, 23-27; 21:4; etc.)
- **MOSES and the Israelites** (Exod 20-34; Deut 5-11)
  - *Monotheism:* "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone" (Deut 6:4; cf. Exod 20:1-3)
  - *Torah:* the Law given on Mount Sinai, or Mount Horeb (esp. the Ten Commandments: Exod 20:1-17; Deut 5:1-21)
  - *Reciprocity* of relationship: "I will be your God, you will be my people" (esp. Exod 6:7; Lev 26:12)
  - the "sign" of this covenant: the stone tablets on which the Law is written (Exod 24:12; 31:18; etc.)
- **DAVID and the Kingdom** (2 Sam 7)
  - God will establish forever David's "house" = the *royal dynasty* through his descendants (7:11-16)
  - David's son (Solomon) will build God's "house" = the first *temple of Jerusalem* (7:4-7, 13)
  - the "sign" of this covenant: the descendants of David (1Kings 1-3) and the temple itself (1Kings 5-8)

**The "New" or "Renewed" Covenant:**

- **JEREMIAH**
  - The Lord will make "a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jer 31:31)
  - God's Law will be within people, written on their hearts (Jer 31:34)
  - This text is also quoted in the New Testament in Heb 8:8-12
- **JESUS**
  - At the Last Supper: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." (Luke 22:20; cf. 1 Cor 11:25)
  - The Letter to the Hebrews calls Jesus "the mediator of the new covenant" (Heb 9:15; 12:24; see also 8:1-13)
  - Paul also speaks of Christian leaders as "ministers of a new covenant" (2 Cor 3:6)

**See the following website: Covenants, Pillars, and Theologies in Ancient Judaism**

<http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Covenants.htm>

This is from a Catholic perspective, but summarizes the covenants well. Of course, as Latter-Day Saints, we believe that all these covenants apply to us.

**See also:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant\\_\(biblical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant_(biblical))

Here we also find the "Priestly Covenants" with Aaron and Phineas.

**One more addition to this chapter, a song I love:**

My Kindness Shall Not Depart from Thee – Rob Gardner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zq-KhxsUxNo&list=RDZq-KhxsUxNo#t=13>