

## A Time to Sing

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Isaiah 54 (text v. 1)

Israel's mourning will turn to singing during the Millennial reign of Christ (v. 1; Zeph. 3:14-15; Ps. 30:11; 126:1-2; Isa. 25:8; 52:9; Zech. 2:10-14).

### HUMOR: THEME SONGS FOR BIBLE CHARACTERS

ADAM & EVE: "*Stranger In Paradise*"

NOAH: "*Singing In The Rain*"

LOT: "*Great Balls of Fire*"

JOSEPH: "*Beautiful Dreamer*"

MOSES: "*The Wanderer*"

ESTHER: "*Pretty Woman*"

SAMSON: "*Hair*"

JEZEBEL: "*The Lady is a Tramp*"

JOB: "*I Gotta Right to Sing the Blues*"

ELIJAH: "*It Ain't Gonna Rain No More*"

Some form of the word "sing" is found about 200 times in a King James Bible. Singing is a very important part of our worship of the Lord (Heb. 2:12).

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Swedish researchers have concluded that group singing creates a rewarding feeling of oneness. The study showed that the pulses of singers increased and decreased together as the music's tempo changed, and their heartbeats aligned when the songs required them to breathe in unison. "You are synchronizing with other people, and harmonizing your hearts," says study author Björn Vickhoff. That could explain why singing together strengthens solidarity in groups.<sup>1</sup>

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So, sing church! "*Break forth into joy, SING TOGETHER*" (Isaiah 52:9).

- Ps 95:1 "*O come, let us sing unto the LORD:*"
- Ps. 96:2 "*Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day.*"

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<sup>1</sup> T...W magazine Dec. 31, 2013, p. 8

- Ps 98:1 ***“O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things:”***
- Ps. 101:1 ***I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.***
- Ps 104:33 ***I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.***
- Ps 144:9 ***I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.***

➔ In Isaiah 54 we have **four reasons for Israel to sing.**

### **I. Sing because of God’s provision of CHILDREN** (vs. 1-3).

A. A broken **RELATIONSHIP**. Israel is *“the married wife”* of the Lord (v. 1). But, Israel became barren and desolate because of her unfaithfulness to God. God gave her a *“bill of divorcement.”*

1. Israel remained spiritually desolate for over 2,000 years (cf. vs. 7-8—*“...a small moment...a little wrath...”*). Israel has been under the wrath of God since Acts 7 (cf. 1 Thess. 2:15-16).
2. Israel has not produced any spiritual fruit during this time (Luke 13:34-35). Meanwhile, the Gentiles have been bearing fruit.

B. A blessed **RESTORATION**. At the second advent God restores Israel (v. 6—*“woman forsaken”*). She will *“inherit the Gentiles”* (v. 3). The tribulation period will leave cities desolated (Isa. 6:11-12; 24:6, 19). Israel will reinhabit *“the desolate cities”* during the kingdom.

### **II. Sing because of God’s peaceable COMFORT** (vs. 4-8).

- A. Comfort of Israel's **REPROACH** forgotten (v. 4).
  - Israel’s reproach is forgotten.
- B. Comfort of the Lord’s **NAMES** (v. 5): Maker, Lord of hosts, Redeemer, Holy One, God of the whole earth (not just Israel’s God).
- C. Comfort of God’s **MERCY** and **KINDNESS** (vs. 6-8).

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**Spiritual application** of verses 7-8: There may be times when it appears God has hid His face from a Christian. Be assured these times

are but “*for a small moment.*” The chastening of the Lord is not forever, but come upon us *temporarily* (read Hebrews 12:5-11).

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### III. Sing because of God’s perpetual COVENANT (vs. 9-13).

A. God’s COVENANT (vs.9-10). The judgment of “*the waters of Noah*” did not last forever. They were temporarily upon the earth then assuaged.

- **The Noahic covenant:** God made “*covenant of peace*” with Noah that He will never again drown out the whole earth with a flood (Gen 9:9-17).

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“Jehovah’s love for His people is as immutable as His promise to Noah never again to visit the earth with a flood. Israel may be punished by Jehovah for her sins, but never with the ultimate punishment of complete annihilation.”<sup>2</sup>

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- Also called “*the everlasting covenant*” that will be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom (cf. Ezek. 34:23-25; 37:24-26; Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; Hos. 2:18).

B. God’s CONSOLATION (vs. 11-14).<sup>3</sup> God promises to extend mercy, kindness, and peace to Israel and establish her in the Kingdom age.

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Jesus quoted the first half of Isaiah 54:13 in John 6:45—It was fulfilled at Christ’s FIRST COMING. The second half of Isaiah 54:13 will fulfilled at Christ’s SECOND COMING.

Devotionally: When a Christian is taught of the Lord, he will enjoy great peace. There is no peace apart of being taught of the Lord.

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### IV. Sing because of God’s protective CARE (vs. 15-17).

A. Protection from confederated anti-semantic nations (v. 15). Nations will gather together against Israel, but they will fall.

B. Protection from forged weapons aimed against Israel (vs. 16-17).

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<sup>2</sup> Victor Buksbazen in *TJP* / ... / ... (The Friends of Israel, Bellmawr, NJ 2012), p. 426.

<sup>3</sup> A portion of Isaiah 54:11 is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty at the entrance to New York Harbor.

- One of the items a blacksmith would make were weapons designed to destroy (cf. 1 Sam. 13:19; Jer. 51:20-23; 1 Kings 19:35).
- J. Frank Norris (1877-1952) was emboldened by Isaiah 54:17.<sup>4</sup> Norris believed the servant of the Lord was indestructible until God was finished with him.<sup>5</sup> J. Frank Norris feared no man. He only feared God.<sup>6</sup>

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Numerous death threats were made on Norris' life. While he was the Pastor of First Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas a would be assailant fired three gun shots through his office window, barely missing him.<sup>7</sup>

One time an unruly mob gathered on a Fort Worth street and an agitator offered \$1,000 to anyone who would shoot J. Frank Norris. Upon hearing about the mob, Norris went to the street corner and, in view of the crowd, bought a newspaper and turned to read it exposing his back as a target. On another occasion a crowd gathered in the town hall and threatened to hang Norris. He strolled into the meeting and sat in the first row.<sup>8</sup>

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- While Isaiah 54:17 may have a spiritual application, it cannot be applied *doctrinally* to a Christian today.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Dr. Homer G. Ritchie, *The Life of J. Frank Norris*, 1991, p.97. Also see *The Life of J. Frank Norris*, p.18.

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 76:10 is a cross-reference that teaches nothing can harm the believer unless it is for the glory of God and/or the saint's personal good.

<sup>6</sup> I highly recommend you read *The Life of J. Frank Norris* by Louis Entzminger, and "*The Life of J. Frank Norris*".

<sup>7</sup> Fort Worth Record, January 14, 1912; Ritchie, p. 84; and Falls, p. 35. Schepis, Michael E.. *J. Frank Norris: The Life of a Christian*. WestBow Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>8</sup> The Christian Hall of Fame (Canton, Ohio)

<sup>9</sup> *Revelation* note on Isaiah 54:17: "The reference is obviously to the Church Age. In the Church Age the unsaved Jew does