

# Galatians 4:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

## Analysis

**For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.** Paul cites Isaiah 54:1 to support his argument. The prophet addressed exiled Israel as a barren woman who would miraculously bear many children. Paul applies this to Sarah and the church. "Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not" (euphran thē, steira hē ou tiktousa, εὐφράνθητι, στεῖρα ἡ οὐ τίκτουςα)—the barren one (Sarah, unable to conceive naturally) is commanded to rejoice.

"Break forth and cry, thou that travailest not" (rhēxon kai boēson, hē ouk ōdinousa)—shout joyfully, you who don't experience labor pains (because you don't give birth naturally). "For the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband" (hoti polla ta tekna tēs erēmou mallon ē tēs echousēs ton andra)—the abandoned, desolate woman (Sarah-type, the promise-covenant) has more children than the woman with a husband (Hagar-type, the law-covenant). This prophesies the gospel's success among Gentiles: multitudes of 'barren' Gentiles (outside covenant) would become God's children through faith, outnumbering ethnic Jews.

## Historical Context

Isaiah 54:1 originally encouraged exiled Israel with promise of restoration and multiplication. Paul sees deeper fulfillment: the new covenant community, once

'barren' (Gentiles without covenant privileges), would explode with growth, far surpassing old covenant Israel's numbers. Church history validated this: Christianity spread rapidly among Gentiles, eventually encompassing far more people than Judaism ever did. The 'impossible' fertility of aged Sarah, bearing Isaac, prefigured the 'impossible' multiplication of Gentile believers through the gospel.

## **Related Passages**

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does God specialize in bringing spiritual fruit from 'barren' situations—people and circumstances that seem spiritually dead?
2. What barren areas of your life need to hear God's command: 'Rejoice! Break forth and cry!'?
3. How does the global spread of the gospel among all nations fulfill God's promise that the 'desolate' would have more children than the privileged?

## Interlinear Text

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γέγραπται	γάρ	Εὐφράνθητι	στεῖρα	ἡ	οὐκ	τίκτουσα
it is written	For	Rejoice	thou barren	G3588	not	that bearest
G1125	G1063	G2165	G4723		G3756	G5088
ῥῆξον	καὶ	βόησον	ἡ	οὐκ	ὠδίνουσα·	ὅτι
break forth	and	cry	G3588	not	thou that travailest	for
G4486	G2532	G994		G3756	G5605	G3754
πολλὰ	τὰ	τέκνα	τῆς	ἐρήμου	μᾶλλον	ἢ τῆς
hath many more	G3588	children	G3588	the desolate	than	G2228 G3588
G4183		G5043		G2048	G3123	
ἐχούσης	τὸν	ἄνδρα				
she which hath	G3588	an husband				
G2192		G435				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 113:9** (Parallel theme): He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.

**1 Samuel 2:5** (Parallel theme): They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

**1 Timothy 5:5** (Parallel theme): Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

**Isaiah 49:21** (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?

**2 Samuel 13:20** (Parallel theme): And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

