

Isaiah 54:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.

Analysis

The command to the 'barren' woman to 'sing' and 'break forth into singing' celebrates the impossible-made-possible through God's grace. The promise that 'more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife' reverses natural expectation - divine intervention produces greater fruitfulness than human effort. Paul applies this in Galatians 4:27 to show the Spirit-born church exceeds the flesh-born old covenant community.

Historical Context

Exiled Jerusalem seemed permanently barren (no temple, no king), yet God promised fruitfulness exceeding pre-exile glory. This pattern (Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth) shows God specializes in making the impossible happen, demonstrating that salvation comes by grace, not nature.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What areas of spiritual 'barrenness' in your life need God's supernatural fruitfulness?
2. How does the church's explosive growth from small beginnings fulfill this prophecy of the barren bearing many?

Interlinear Text

רֹבֶּה	פֹּצַח	לֹא	עָקָב	הַכְּבֵד	לֹא	לֹל	לֹה	לֹל	לֹא	עָקָב	הַכְּבֵד
Sing	O barren	H3808	thou that didst not bear	H3205	break forth	H6476	into singing	H7440			
H7442	H6135			H2342		H6476		H7440			
רֹבֶּה	פֹּצַח	לֹא	עָקָב	הַכְּבֵד	לֹא	לֹל	לֹה	לֹל	לֹא	עָקָב	הַכְּבֵד
and cry aloud	H3808	thou that didst not travail with child	H2342		for more	H3588		H7227			
H6670			H2342			H3588		H7227			
רֹבֶּה	פֹּצַח	לֹא	עָקָב	הַכְּבֵד	לֹא	לֹל	לֹה	לֹל	לֹא	עָקָב	הַכְּבֵד
are the children	of the desolate	are the children	of the married wife	saith							
H1121	H8074	H1121	H1166	H559							
רֹבֶּה	פֹּצַח	לֹא	עָקָב	הַכְּבֵד	לֹא	לֹל	לֹה	לֹל	לֹא	עָקָב	הַכְּבֵד
the LORD	H3068										

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 4:27 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 62:4 (References Lord): Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzi-bah,

and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

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.

Zechariah 9:9 (Parallel theme): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Zephaniah 3:14 (Sin): Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Isaiah 49:13 (Sin): Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

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

Isaiah 49:20 (Parallel theme): The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell.

Isaiah 44:23 (Sin): Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.

Song of Solomon 8:8: We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for?