

Greetings, dear reader, in the Lavish Love of JESUS!

Here we examine the picture of the Church as a Mother, her Husband Our Father God, with us as her children.

Let's begin by looking at Isaiah 54:1:

Sing, O barren, thou that dist 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.

Paul in Galatians 4:26-27 shows this promise refers to the church:

26: But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

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

In other words, the barren woman who never bore children is to rejoice! Why? Let's read on in Isaiah:

2: Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;

3: For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

God has promised many children (us) to the Mother Church! He Himself will be her Husband:

4: Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

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.

The story of Ruth comes to mind here! If you examine the story of Ruth you will notice that she had no children from her first husband, who died leaving her childless. Then there was a Kinsman-Redeemer (speaking of Adam and/or the law) nearer to her than Boaz who refused to redeem her, but Boaz

(who speaks of Christ) had mercy on her, married her, and she bore seed, from whence Christ Himself came. Similarly, the Lord took mercy on Our Mother-to-Be when no one else wanted her, and became her Redeemer...

6: For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

7: For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

Yes, there were times in the Old Testament when God hid his face from Mother-To-Be Zion, but...listen now to His beautiful and comforting words of love:

8: In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.

9: For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as 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.

10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

11: O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.

12: And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones.

13: And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

This last verse, Isaiah 54:13, is quoted by Jesus Himself, in John 6, with words that underline His Deity:

44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

45: It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Isaiah 54 closes with the following wonderful words:

14: In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

15: Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

16: Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

In summary, we see in Isaiah 54 the church as Our Mother, where we are her children. She is to increase (v1-5), with certain deliverance and triumph (v 6-17). Let's go forward now to the words of Isaiah 66:7-13, which complement those of Isaiah 54:

7: Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.

That this verse refers to Christ is seen from Revelation 12, where once again we see the church pictured as a Mother:

1. And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.

Comparing with the dream of Joseph in Genesis 37:9, we see the language here speaks of the power and majesty bestowed upon the church, and that the 12 stars speak of the 12 tribes of Israel. We should never forget that the church was originally Jewish, and that the fullness of the Gentiles is only now being brought in (Romans 11).

2. And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

We see here the birth, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ who is now seated on the throne of God, and the current ongoing war between the devil (the dragon) and the church and her seed (us):

17. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Let's return to Isaiah 66:

8: Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Zion's children were prophetically birthed at the cross in one day at Calvary. At the personal level, when we "travail" for others in prayer, they can be quickly won to the Lord.

9: Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.

At the prophetic level, God, as "midwife", will cause that the church will indeed bear fruit. At the personal level, if God has "birthed" something in your life or in your spirit, don't lose heart - He is saying "hold on! Trust Me! I will bring it to pass!" Though the vision tarry, it will surely come (Habakkuk 2:3)!

10: Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her:

11: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.

12: For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.

The Gentiles will peacefully reside in the lap of Mother Zion, nursed and satisfied. God Himself will also be like a Mother to us:

13: As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

PC