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Sermon Notes

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God's Grace in Christ Makes Zion Glorious

Isaiah 54:1-17

FOUR CONNECTIONS OF CONTEXT:

1) Church Historical Context: William Carey's "Deathless Sermon"

On Wednesday, May 30, 1792, at Friar Lane Baptist Chapel, Nottingham, England, William Carey put an incredible challenge into one of the most influential sermons ever preached in church history, what came to be called a "deathless sermon" based on Isaiah 54:2-3:

Earlier, 1792 *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*

William Carey had met opposition to his views from some ministers who strongly emphasized the sovereignty of God in all aspects of salvation that they opposed any human efforts at spreading the gospel to the unreached peoples of their generation.

Isaiah 54:2-3

Isaiah 54:2-3 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. ³ For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.

Carey said this text refers to the growth of the church of Jesus Christ by the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth

He said the image of a once barren woman now giving birth to more children than she can count is of the growth of the people of God, the church of Jesus Christ, by missions... the "TENT" has to be enlarged because so many people will become sons and daughters of Abraham by faith in Christ that you won't have room for them

"Deathless sermon's" two exhortations: *1. Expect great things from God; 2. Attempt great things for God.*

This slogan became a by-word for the modern missionary movement. We should EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD in missions, believing that God has made clear His purpose to save elect people from every tribe, language, people, nation to the ENDS OF THE EARTH

We should "ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD" by reaching out broadly and to the ends of the earth, investing ourselves in missions

As a result of that "deathless sermon," the Baptist Missionary Society was formed... the society that would support Carey as he went off to Serampore, India, to preach the gospel and begin the modern era of Protestant Missions

NOW... how in the world did Carey come to the conclusion that Isaiah 54:2-3 was talking about the growth of the church through missions?? It is an Old Testament prophecy in language that any Jew would have recognized as referring to ZION... Jerusalem... the city of God on earth... the Jewish nation's capital city... What right did William Carey have to think Isaiah 54 was talking about missions??

2) Biblical Context: The Apostle Paul's Insight: Galatians 4

- The interpretive key to Isaiah 54 is Galatians 4... Paul directly quotes Isaiah 54:1 and applies it to the circumstances of Gentiles coming to faith in Christ.
- Remember that in Galatians, the Judaizers were telling Gentile converts that they could not be saved unless they became Jews... being circumcised and obeying the laws of Moses
- Paul wrote the whole book of Galatians to teach justification by faith in Christ alone
- He warned against the false teachers, the Judaizers
- He assured the Gentile converts to Christ that they were children of Abraham by faith in Christ
- He then pulled out an amazing analogy based on the story of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, and rooted it in Isaiah 54

Galatians 4:22-28 it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. ²³ His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise. ²⁴ These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are

to be slaves: This is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written: "Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband." ²⁸ Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.

Like Isaiah 54, Paul uses two metaphors": a woman giving birth and a city being built.

We see the two come together in Galatians 4:26:

Galatians 4:26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.

A city that is a mother... and that mother gives birth to SUPERNATURAL CHILDREN, children born by the Spirit, not by the Law...

Every convert to Christ is a child of the Jerusalem that is ABOVE... the HEAVENLY JERUSALEM!!

So, the spread of the gospel to the unreached people groups of the ends of the earth is a direct fulfillment of Isaiah 54:1!

Paul contrasts the "present city of Jerusalem"... the earthly, physical city in Palestine with the HEAVENLY CITY... the "New Jerusalem" that is constantly growing, getting more and more glorious, more and more people streaming into the city by the gospel of Christ

There is a HEAVENLY JERUSALEM... John writes about it in Revelation 21 in language that comes from Isaiah 54:13

3) Biblical Historical Context in the Old Testament

Now Isaiah 54 has in view BOTH the physical city of Jerusalem and the Exile to Babylon

The disgrace of the Exile is the backdrop for much of this chapter...

In verses 1-5, Zion (Jerusalem, the City of God) is pictured as a barren woman who never bore children for God; by the grace of God she is transformed into an amazingly fruitful woman with TONS of children

In verses 6-10, Zion is pictured as a rejected wife, sent away in disgrace from her husband; but now called back to be restored to him in an eternal covenant of peace and security

In verses 11-17, Zion is pictured as a destroyed city, now rebuilt in beauty and security, with her enemies held at bay by the sovereign hand of God

God is promising here to rebuild Jerusalem and bring her exiles back... but as we have seen again and again, the prophecies of restoration after the exile are much too grandiose for merely the rebuilding of a physical city...

The physical Jerusalem is a mere type, shadow, prophecy of the REAL DEAL... the NEW JERUSALEM in heaven

4) Immediate Context in Isaiah: Magnificent flow of Chapters!!

Isaiah 53: the most incredible chapter of prophecy in the Bible... clearly predicting the suffering, death, resurrection, and success of Jesus Christ

Isaiah 53:5-6 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

So, the Messiah will die and win a huge number of "offspring" for the glory of God... children whose sins are atoned for and who are righteous and at peace with

Isaiah 54: the clear result of Christ's atoning death... "Zion" the city of God, like a formerly barren woman now flourishing with more children than she can count; like a formerly rejected wife, now secure in her husband's covenant love; like a formerly destroyed city now radiantly glorious with all her enemies subdued... an incredible picture of a vast number of people living in a heavenly city eternally joyful

Isaiah 55: the evangelistic call going forth that will get those people there!!

Isaiah 55:1-2 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

I. Zion a Formerly Barren Woman, Now Supernaturally Fruitful (vs. 1-5)

Isaiah 54:1-3 "Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the LORD. ² "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. ³ For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.

A. A Series of Sharp, Joyful Commands from a Gracious God

1. God is going to work an amazing change for Zion, the Children of God, the Bride of Christ, the City of God
2. The sovereign God is the dynamic actor here... He is the awesome change agent
3. So, He speaks powerful commands to Zion...

B. Sing, O Barren Woman! You Will Bear Supernatural Children! (vs. 1)

Isaiah 54:1 Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the LORD.

1. Zion, the city where God chose to put His name and His glory cloud, SQUANDERED all their rich, spiritual blessings
2. They were spiritually BARREN through their idolatry and their sins
3. They did not lead nations to a right worship of the true and living God
4. In their sinfulness, they did not produce children for God
5. BUT now that Christ has come, now that Christ has died and risen, the formerly barren lineage of Abraham and Sarah can bear children for the living God
6. So... SING!! CELEBRATE!! Worship the streams of converts coming into the heavenly Jerusalem by faith in Christ!

C. Enlarge Your Tent! Get Ready for Tons of Children!! (vs. 2)

Isaiah 54:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

1. The "tent" image hearkens back to the patriarchal era of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...
2. More and more children requires a LARGER and LARGER tent...
3. You will need to stitch more material together for the tent, and get stronger ropes to hold it down and thicker and stronger stakes to root it to the ground
4. This is going to be MASSIVE!!!
5. Get ready for lots and lots of sons and daughters of Abraham born by the finished work of Christ... born by the Spirit, not by the Law
6. How many??

Revelation 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.

In the world today, there are over 2 billion who would identify themselves as Christians, but we know there is a lot of nominalism in Roman Catholic and Orthodox nations

Missiologists have coined a new term "Great Commission Christians" (formerly "evangelicals" by various criteria)... people we would feel more certain are genuinely born again

Estimates range from 550-700 million people!!

Isaiah 54:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

No way that number of people could fit into the physical city of Jerusalem, which is 48.3 sq. miles in size! That would be 11.4 million people per square mile!

Manila is the most densely populated city on earth: 111,002 / sq. mi. This would be 100 times more densely populated!!

After the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Zion (the City of God) will be CONSTANTLY EXPANDING for twenty centuries! And no one will ever move away or die... it is the HEAVENLY JERUSALEM God has in mind here

D. You Will Expand and Displace Nations (vs. 3)

Isaiah 54:3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.

1. The idea of Israel expanding and taking over the Promised Land is in view here
2. But this is after the Exile; the Jews were not going to be winning any wars of conquest physically
3. Rather, this image is again one of MISSIONS... of the growth of the Kingdom of God!!

E. The Time of Disgrace is OVER!! (vs. 4)

Isaiah 54:4 "Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

1. In ancient times, one of the greatest disgraces for a married woman was to be childless... even worse would be to be sent away by your husband
2. These are images of disgrace, of shame, of sin
3. Jerusalem was called a “whore” by Isaiah 1:21... a woman who ran after other husbands
4. But now that Christ has redeemed her, she will be free forever from SHAME and DISGRACE

F. The Reason for the Change? The Sovereign Grace of God (vs. 5)

Isaiah 54:4-5 You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. ⁵ For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is his name-- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.

II. Zion a Formerly Rejected Wife, Now Restored in Covenant Love (vs. 5-10)

Isaiah 54:5-8 For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is his name-- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. ⁶ The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit-- a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. ⁷ "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back.

⁸ In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

A. God's Names Overwhelm This Section

1. Your Maker
2. Your Husband
3. The Lord Almighty
4. The Holy One of Israel
5. Your Redeemer
6. The God of All the Earth

B. Each Name Represents God's Grace in Our Lives

1. God is our Maker... He crafted us, knitting us together carefully in our mothers' womb... each of the people who are going to populate the New Jerusalem are specially crafted by the Maker in His image
2. God is our Husband... the image of Zion as the BRIDE OF CHRIST is powerful; every marriage is a mysterious picture of Christ and the Church; the New Jerusalem
3. The Lord Almighty = The Lord of HOSTS... Yahweh, the God of Israel who commands the armies of heaven, and who fights for Israel's security
4. The Holy One of Israel = the God who is characterized by perfect holiness, the God who is light and in Him there is no darkness at all; the God who sits infinitely above all creation and before whom all angels cover their eyes; the God who hates evil so much He cannot even look at it
5. Your Redeemer = the One who paid the price IN BLOOD to atone for our sins and buy us out of slavery in Satan's dark Kingdom
6. The God of All the Earth = He is not a TRIBAL DEITY, but rather is the Creator and Ruler of all nations on earth; He is sovereign, and sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and all nations are like a drop from the bucket and dust on the scales
7. THIS IS THE GOD who is freeing His People from Shame!

C. Zion Was Like a Wife Rejected by Her Husband

1. Isaiah 1:21 says that Jerusalem had become a WHORE... selling herself to her lovers

2. Hosea pictured the Jewish nation as an adulterous wife
3. God sent her away into Exile in Babylon for her sins... she was disgraced, ashamed for her defilement
4. God did this for a BRIEF MOMENT

Isaiah 54:7-8 "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. ⁸ In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

- a. He abandoned Israel, He hid His face from her in the Exile
- b. Amazing! The Exile (70 years) was but a blink of an eye for God
- c. He did it "for a brief moment"!
- d. He did it "in a surge of anger"
- e. God disciplines His people for their sins, and He deals very vigorously with us to purify us... but it lasts only a short time

Psalm 30:4-5 Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name. ⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

5. Now God is committed to bringing Israel back and living as a faithful husband to her FOREVER
 - a. He speaks of everlasting kindness and compassion... a love that will never be taken from her

Isaiah 54:8 with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

- b. He speaks of a permanent covenant of peace and likens it to the days of Noah

Isaiah 54:9-10 "To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. ¹⁰ Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

After the flood, God promised never again to destroy the world by water as He had done; and He set the rainbow in the sky as a symbol of this covenant

So also God will bring Zion through all the misery of this world and put her in a place of total security where He will live as a husband to his bride in PERFECT SECURITY as a beloved wife!!

The love of Christ for the Church will be MORE PERMANENT THAN THE MOUNTAINS!!!!

Verse 10 AND the Book of Revelation both make it plain that the mountains will be removed from their place:

Revelation 6:14 The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

D. God Will Marry Zion and Live as a Husband to Her FOREVER... and Nothing Will Change That!!

1. So many images in the New Testament of this marriage between Christ and the church
2. John the Baptist called Jesus "the Bridegroom" and said the Bride belongs to her... the Bride is the church... the disciples... the followers
3. Jesus told parables about a Father who was throwing a lavish wedding banquet for His Son and invited people to come
4. Ephesians 5: Paul said every marriage is a picture of Christ and the church
5. Revelation calls the New Jerusalem the Bride of Christ

Revelation 19:6-7 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Revelation 21:2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 21:9-11 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel

MORE IN A MOMENT!!!

6. Isaiah 54 pictures the day when all anger from God will be gone and we will live in total, covenant security as the Bride of Christ

III. Zion a Formerly Destroyed City, Will Be Beautiful and Secure (vs. 11-17)

A. Zion Formerly Destroyed... Now Made Radiant By God

Isaiah 54:11-12 "O afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted, I will build you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with sapphires. ¹² I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones.

1. The city is called "afflicted"... meaning humbled, poor, lowly, debased
2. The city is said to be "lashed by storms, not comforted"... referring to the attacks of wicked people, the persecutions, the judgments from God... all the TRIBULATIONS God's people have had to endure at the hands of governments, unbelievers, oppressors
3. These picture the judgments of God when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem; they also represent all the sufferings God's people have ever endured since them
4. NOW... God is committed to build Zion with costly stones, and adorn her foundations with sapphires; her battlements (pinnacles) will be adorned with rubies, her gates of sparkling jewels... all her walls of precious stones
5. INCREDIBLE BEAUTY, INCREDIBLE WEALTH!!!

B. Similar Teaching in Revelation

Revelation 21:10-14 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

C. It Represents the Glories of the Elect, the Redeemed as they Beautify the New Jerusalem

1. The "building" metaphor for the church is powerful
2. Ephesians 2: Paul says the church is like a holy temple built together and rising to become a place in which God lives by His Spirit
3. 1 Peter 2: We are "living stones" quarried from Satan's Kingdom and put in place in the walls of the sanctuary

4. Isaiah says the glories of the nations are brought into Zion...

Isaiah 60:9-11 Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your sons from afar, with their silver and gold, to the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor. ¹⁰ "Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Though in anger I struck you, in favor I will show you compassion. ¹¹ Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations-- their kings led in triumphal procession.

5. So... as people from every tribe and culture come to Christ, they bring a different beauty, a different radiance to the New Jerusalem

D. Zion Will Be a Place of the Knowledge of God and of Peace

Isaiah 54:13-14 All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace. ¹⁴ In righteousness you will be established

1. These are the blessings of the New Covenant!
2. Israel was judged by God because they didn't know Him or His Word
3. But in the New Covenant in Christ:

Jeremiah 31:33-34 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

4. Jesus spoke of this:

John 6:45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

5. Zion is characterized by RIGHT DOCTRINE... pure understanding of the true God; taught from His mouth directly

Hebrews 8:11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

6. And it will be a place perfectly at peace with God through righteousness
 - a. This is the fruit of the atoning work of Christ!!

- b. Made perfectly righteous by faith in Christ
- c. Perfectly at peace through Him

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

E. The New Jerusalem Will Be Completely Secure!!

Isaiah 54:15-17 If anyone does attack you, it will not be my doing; whoever attacks you will surrender to you. ¹⁶ "See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc; ¹⁷ no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD.

1. God guarantees the security of Zion!!
 2. On earth, the church will still be afflicted and assaulted... but it is not WRATH from the Lord...
 3. God did not send them to destroy Zion!
 4. God is sovereign...
 - a. He creates the blacksmith and rules over his skill
 - b. He creates the destroyer to invade and destroy
 - c. So He can also STOP THEM anytime He chooses
 - d. There is no weapon that can be forged against the people of the Lord that will succeed!!
 - i) This is a great encouragement to the suffering church!!
 - ii) Tertullian
- “The blood of martyrs is seed for the church”
- The more Christians they kill, the more spring up from their blood
- iii) Isis!! They cannot win
 - e. Furthermore, all FALSE ACCUSATIONS will fail
 - i) Earthly accusations of wrongdoing will be clearly exposed as false

ii) Satan's accusations on judgment day will fail too!

Romans 8:33-34 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

5. Again, notice how clearly this MUST refer to what Paul calls "the Jerusalem that is above"... the heavenly Zion... for the Romans totally destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70!... Many weapons forged against the earthly Jerusalem have succeeded... but this promise is transferred to the Heavenly Jerusalem

6. The New Jerusalem will be eternally and completely at peace

Isaiah 60:11 Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night

Revelation 21:25-26 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

IV. Applications

A. See the Connection Between Isaiah 53 and Isaiah 54

1. Because Christ died for the sins of His people, out of that comes an ETERNALLY GLORIOUS and secure Zion, Heavenly Jerusalem
2. That city is blood-bought!
3. Come to Christ for salvation!!! Find righteousness and peace with God in Him!!

B. Embrace the Missionary Theme of this Chapter!

1. The clear implications of this are for missions
2. The "barren woman" is now giving birth to supernatural children of God by the power of the Spirit!!
3. ENLARGE THE TENT!! STRENGTHEN THE STAKES!! LENGTHEN THE CORDS!!
4. This is clearly speaking about missions
5. So when it comes to missions, embrace William Carey's two great applications
 - a. **EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD**
 - b. **ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD**

6. What “Great Things” do you expect God to do through FBC in 2015 in missions?
 - a. Express them to God in bold prayer!
 - b. Adopt unreached people groups and pray boldly
 - c. Read current events and ask God to do amazing things, like converting Isis people, or Imams from Iran, or emirates from Dubai
 - d. Dream big! Have a prayer life that is as big as the God of Isaiah!!
 7. What “Great Things” are you willing to ATTEMPT for God??
 - a. How can we partner with Matt and Christina to help reach the Northern Bai and plant a church among them
 - b. How can we see funds raised for Chase and Laura Jenkins to go with GC2 program?
 - i) [Explain GC2 as a new funding approach from the IMB]
 - c. What funding can we raise for our Great Commission Fund? Twelve months a year commitment to missions!
 - d. How can we expand our short-term missions ministry? What trips can we go on?
 - e. How can we step out in faith right here in Durham to see more and more people saved right in our own community??
- C. Understand the Transformation of Zion in this Chapter
1. From a disgraced, barren woman to a supernaturally fruitful one
 2. From a disgraced, rejected wife to one totally secure in a covenant of peace with our husband, Jesus Christ
 3. From a destroyed city to one eternally radiant and secure!!
- D. Study the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21-22 and delight in its promises!!