

Thankful (2)

(Isaiah 54:14)

Thankful to be Free from Oppression and Fear

Introduction: Nowhere in scripture will you see a clearer picture of the horrible price that was paid for our redemption than in Isaiah chapters 50 - 53. These chapters speak of the anguish our Savior, Jesus endured as He paid for our sin as the servant of the Lord. (*Isa 50:6; 52:14; 53:3, 7, 12*) *This is an amazing and yet difficult picture to take in...* But then we come to Isaiah 54, and after the hard description of our Lord's suffering, comes God's call to Israel to rejoice in her future. The *message of Isaiah 54:14 is a message about being established in righteousness and being free from fear and oppression.* The powerful promise in the message of Isaiah 54:14 is, *when we walk in the righteousness of God, He gives us a life free from oppression, fear, and terror.* I want us to consider three truths about how the greatness of our God should free us from oppression and fear and instead fill us with gratitude.

I. God is greater than our circumstances:

This isn't something we can do in our own strength or effort; it's about standing in the righteousness God gives us through Christ. (Gen. 15:6)

God's righteousness is given to us in response to our faith (believing Him...) (Rom 4:3; Gal 3:6; James 2:23)

The phrase "established in righteousness" speaks to a profound reality of our relationship with God.

1. Righteousness is a gift, not something we earn

- a. Isaiah prophesied about a righteousness that is freely given by God— a righteousness that doesn't rely on our efforts but on God's mercy and grace.
- b. Later, in the New Testament, Paul would emphasize this by saying in *2 Corinthians 5:21*,
- c. This is an exchange God makes with the believer – (Rom.. 3:23-25)

2. It secures an identity that withstands the storms of life (Psalm 1:3).

- a. When we're firmly rooted in God's righteousness, we stand strong, no matter what comes our way.
- b. Jesus illustrated this beautifully in *Matthew 7:24-27*

3. We are empowered to live a new way because, being "established in righteousness" is transformative. Rom. 6:13

4. Confidence in God's promise of protection and peace

- a. This is a promise of peace and protection, not because our lives are free from trouble but because God is our fortress.
- b. We can face challenges and uncertainties, knowing that our lives are covered by God's love and protection and presence.

II. God is greater than our fears:

The Word continues with the promise: "*You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear.*"

Here the Lord tells us – the ones established in His righteousness have no reason to have fear for two reasons:

1. When we are established in His righteousness, we are free from fear because He is with us. (Mt. 28:20)

2. No weapon formed against you shall prosper:

- a. The sovereign God — *who created the blacksmith, who created the spoiler to destroy — also has the power to protect.*
- b. Whatever weapon is raised against God's people (Notice He didn't say there won't be any weapons formed against us) He simply said whatever one is, is destined to be destroyed itself.
- c. God will ultimately even protect His people from criticism. "*Indeed, every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn.*" (v.17)
- d. The tongue which rises against you can really hurt. (*Js. 3:9-10*).
Because of our flesh, we use the gift of speech as an instrument for evil instead of good.
- e. Now, it's important to note: This is not a blanket promise for any churchgoer. The LORD specifically says *this is the heritage of the servants of the LORD.* *Are you a servant of the LORD?* Then you can rest easy in His promised protection. *We don't need to be held captive by fear?* (2 Timothy 1:7).

3. God is greater than our enemies:

"You shall be far from terror, for it shall not come near you."

1. Terror and oppression are often caused by the enemies we face in life.

- a. Sometimes these are literal enemies—those who stand against us—
- b. but sometimes the enemies are spiritual or even internal.

2. God promises to be defender of the afflicted. (v 11, 15)

David knew this truth when he faced Goliath. (1 Sam. 17:47)

- a. This promise speaks directly to His protection and provision over us, especially when facing opposition, challenges, or hostility.
- b. This assurance was especially meaningful for Israel, who often faced enemies threatening their peace and security.
- c. For us, this means that even when people, circumstances, or forces try to harm us or derail God's plans for our lives, they cannot succeed if God is with us.
(*Ps 27:1; Rom. 8:31*)

This means I don't need to spend any energy running from our problems or trying to outsmart our enemies. Instead, we can trust that God will protect us and give us peace.

Conclusion: Isaiah 54:14 is a promise for those who are "*established in God's righteousness.*" If you're a child of God, this promise is for you!

Because of this promise, you are free from oppression, free from fear, and free from terror. Whatever your circumstance, whatever fear you may have, whatever enemy stands before you—be thankful, because God is greater!

So today, let's live with a heart full of gratitude. Let's rejoice and give thanks, knowing that through God's strength, we are free. Let's go out from here established in His righteousness, fearless and victorious, shining as living testimonies of a God who is greater than anything we face!