

114 49:14-22

1. The love of God to His people is far greater than the natural love of a woman for her child.
2. The brutal tyrant may be far stronger than his victim, but God is still stronger and will overcome the tyrant.
3. There is no basis for thinking that God has forsaken Israel.

He is punishing her for her transgressions, but His relationship with her, which is compared to that of a husband to a wife, will never be broken, and His power will be exerted for her deliverance.

In addition to the three answers, the LORD gives a beautiful glimpse of blessings that He promises to send in the more distant future (vv. 17-23). This passage is presented immediately after the first of the three answers, which reads as follows:

(14) But Zion said, The LORD has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me. (15) Can a woman forget her nursing child that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but will not forget you. (16) See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. Your walls are continually before me.

In this first of the three answers, God declares that His love is far greater than any human love. The next verses look far into the future.

(17) Your builders hurry; your destroyers and devastators will depart from you. (18) Lift up your eyes and look around. All of them gather themselves together, they come to you. As I live, declares the LORD, you will surely put all of them on as jewels and bind them on as a bride. (19) For your waste and desolate places and your destroyed land will now become too narrow for the inhabitants, and those who swallowed you will be far away. (20) The children of your bereavement will yet say in your ears, The place is too narrow for me; make room for me to dwell in. (21) Then you will say in your heart, Who has begotten these for me, seeing I have lost my children and am barren, an exile and a wanderer? Who has reared these? See, I was left alone. Where did these come from? (22) Thus says the Lord Goo, See, I will lift up my hand to