

God's answer to the problem of sin -- that problem that in the previous chapters has been coming more and more to the front.

With this chapter we have our last occurrence in Isaiah of the phrases, "Servant of the LORD " and "my Servant," which have been so frequent in recent chapters. After this the word "servant" is only used in the plural. It refers to the servants of God -- those who are the followers of the great Servant of God -- those who are redeemed Through what He has done.

Isaiah 54 begins a great call to extend the Gospel message to all the Gentiles, and in chapter 55 we have the wonderful Gospel call itself, the result of what God has done, as described in chapter 53.

### **Isaiah 54:1-56:8**

#### **The Results of the Work of the Suffering Servant**

The section we are about to study cannot be understood apart from its relation to what precedes. Chapter 53 gave the glorious climax of the work of the Servant of the Lord, describing His humiliation and suffering, and touching upon the resulting redemption and justification of those many people whose iniquities He bore. Now we learn in more detail some of the results of this work.

The section divides naturally into three parts:

- (1) Isaiah 54:1-17 assures God's people of future extension and blessing, as a result of the work of the righteous Servant.
- (2) Isaiah 55:1-56:2 gives the Gospel call, inviting individuals to avail themselves of the free offer of salvation.
- (3) Isaiah 56:3-8 declares that the call is not limited to any race or nation, but is open to all.

It is important to note that in this section the prophet is addressing the people of God, who at the time of Isaiah formed a substantial part of the nation of Israel. These chapters have little specific reference to Israel as a nation, but deal with God's true people, regardless of racial or national background. They are the people who feel the certainty of the coming exile, and who, during the course of