

**Text: Isaiah 54:14-17**

**Title: “God’s Got Your Back”**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Open your Bibles to Isaiah 54:14. As you’re turning, I want to invite you to an interest meeting tonight concerning a trip to the Holy Land next May, 2007. Dr. Eric Mitchell and I will be hosting the trip, and among the many places we will visit, we’ll visit what is called the Shrine of the Bible at the Israel Museum. And inside the Shrine of the Bible there are displayed many ancient manuscripts of the Bible, including the oldest manuscript of the book of Isaiah that you have opened before you today. Join us tonight at 7:15 upstairs in the Welcome Center to get more information about this exciting experience. Now let’s read from God’s Word ... Isaiah 54:14-17.

Isaiah is looking through the curtain of time to a day when God will do a tremendous work in and through His people. Israel has been carried off into captivity. They have suffered because of their rebellion. But God would restore them. Isaiah saw the day when Israel would return to their homeland and repopulate it.

But what the Spirit of God revealed to him was more than just that. Because this prophecy also looks beyond the immediate fulfillment to the day when God would send the Christ to rescue Israel, and all people, from their sins, that we all might have life and have it too the full. We’ve just read from Isaiah 54. But in Isaiah 53 we have the tremendous prophecy of the coming of the Suffering Servant, the Christ who would die for the sins of the world. So the prophecy we just read from Isaiah 54 was fulfilled in the blessings that come to believers in Christ.

But there’s more. I believe that these prophecies also point to a day when Christ will return to establish his millennial kingdom upon the earth.

So what we have before us today is a tremendous promise of the blessings that we can claim as the people of God ... for our lives and for our church. But I want us to think today about what this means for our marriages, for our children and grandchildren.

Today families are on my heart. Our families are in a war zone. Marriages are under attack. Children are being targeted by the Enemy. Students face tremendous assaults.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Campus Life magazine a few years ago carried an article about a 76-year-old man by the name of Bill Baker married a woman by the name of Edna Harvey. She happened to be his granddaughter’s husband’s mother. That’s where the confusion began, according to Baker’s granddaughter, Lynn. She said, "My mother-in-law is now my step-grandmother. My grandfather is now my step-father-in-law. My mom is my sister-in-law and my brother is my nephew. But even crazier is that I’m now married to my uncle and my own children are my cousins."

This gives new meaning to Einstein’s theory of relativity. Unfortunately most stories of messed up relationships aren’t so funny.

But I'm here today with a powerful assurance to you, people of God ... "God's Got Your Back." When it's all boiled down, that's what these words tell us. As the people of God we don't just have to sit back and take the bullets Satan and this world shoot at us.

I'm impressed this morning that we should just claim these promises for our families ... right here and right now. Set aside your note sheets and fix your eyes on the Scriptures.

Let's just look back for a moment to v.13.

**Isaiah 54:13 – All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace.**

Isn't that what we want for our children ... to be taught by the Lord how to live their lives?

The peace that is spoken of here is not just peace of mind. It is a total well-being of body and soul.

PRAY – For God to teach your children ... for God to use you to teach your children ... Children, students, pray for God to teach you ... for your children to have great peace .... Children, students, pray that God will let you live your life in peace.

**Isaiah 54:14a - In righteousness you will be established...**

"Righteousness" here means "integrity" or "blamelessness."

"Established" means "to be prepared to stand firm..."

PRAY – For your family to be established and to stand firm in righteousness, integrity, blamelessness ... for

**Isaiah 54:14b - Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you.**

Look at those words ... tyranny, fear, terror!

"Terror" has just become a way of life for us in America. And if what the experts tell us is true, our children and grandchildren will live in a world continuously tyrannized by enemies whose main weapon is fear.

We must come against the spirit of fear.

**2 Timothy 1:7 - For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (fear), but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.**

PRAY – For an end to the terror ... for your family to fight courageously the battles you have to face ...

I reminded today that all this is fueled by the Prince of Darkness, Satan.

**1 Peter 5:8-9 - Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith,**

**because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.**

Isaiah's prophecy sees this as well.

**Isaiah 54:15 - If anyone does attack you, it will not be my doing; whoever attacks you will surrender to you.**

**Isaiah 54:17a - no weapon forged against you will prevail,**

Note: This doesn't mean that weapons won't be formed against us, and against our families. Notice the Lord says, "No weapon forged against you will prevail."

**ILLUSTRATION** – One of our men was telling me this weekend about a severe car accident his college daughter had in which her car was totaled, but she walked away with just some bruises. She was making a quick trip to the convenience store to get some snacks while she was studying for finals. At an intersection, a drunk driver pulled out in front of her. She told her dad that as she hit the breaks, she realized that she wasn't going to be able to stop. There was going to be a crash ... and a bad one. Then she thought, "This is going to hurt." Sure enough, a violent collision occurred. Then, the girl, as if in slow motion, saw the air bag deploying. And she thought, "Thank God." She walked away from what could have been a deadly crash.

Attacks come in different shapes ... physical, spiritual, emotional, mental.

**PRAY** – Claim victory today against the attacks of Satan ... claim protection from the weapon of pornography ... claim protection against the weapons of drugs and alcohol ... claim protection against anyone who would try to destroy your home ... claim physical, spiritual, emotional protection for your children, and for your mate.

**Isaiah 54:17b - and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.**

Satan loves to tell you lies, and many of us today are believing the lies of the devil.

**John 8:44 – The devil ... was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

**PRAY** – Lord, I refute the lie of Satan that You don't love me ... I refute the lie of Satan that the short-term pleasures of sin are better than the long-term blessings of obedience to God ... I refute the accusations hurled at me and my family that the failures of the past are not covered by the blood of Jesus and that we still have to keep paying for past mistakes.

**Isaiah 54:17c - This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,**

People of God, this is our heritage ... this is our inheritance. Claim it today.

**PRAY** – Claim a godly heritage for your family

**Isaiah 54:17D - and this is their vindication from me,” declares the LORD.**

The word “vindication” is a tremendous word. Actually it means “integrity” or “blamelessness.” And notice, it comes from God.

PRAY – Claim this integrity and righteousness for your home from God.