

I Will Lay Thy Foundations With Sapphires

Isa 54:11; 10 "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee. 11 ¶ O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. 12 And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. 13 And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. 14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. 15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. 16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. 17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."

Isaiah 54 is a prophetic picture of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, which he would establish at his first coming to earth, and which shall remain until his second coming. **Isa 54:10 "but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee."** gives us the surety, of the salvation by the grace of God, which is eternal mercy, peace, and love.

Isa 54:11 "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted," This is the picture of the church of God under the law service. Because of their unfaithfulness to God, God sent afflictions upon Israel. Israel was tossed about as a ship without a rudder upon stormy seas. Israel, the church under the law, had no comfort, because they had abandoned God for idolatry, and they could find no peace that their sins were laid aside, for they were beset with enemies on every side.

Isa 54:11 "behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours," However, God gives a prophetic message of hope, to both the law church, and to the Gentiles, of the coming church of Salvation by Grace. How? "**I will lay**" (to make a fold, make to rest) "**thy stones**" (to build, begin to build, obtain children, make, repair, set up) "**with fair colours**," (dye, glistering) This wording, and the definitions of the words, give us the picture of the building of a city and place of rest for God's people. The rest (peace and comfort) of the church, of Salvation by Grace, is that Christ has already done the work of redemption of sins. The "**stones with fair colours**" are the picture of the born-again children of God, each set in the place God would have them to fill. Those who have been dyed in the blood of Christ, indwelt with the Holy Spirit, and now they refract the prismatic light of the glory of God.

Isa 54:11 "and lay thy foundations with sapphires." Where will the "**stones with fair colours**" be laid? They will be laid upon the foundations of the building, the Church of Salvation by Grace, which is Christ. However, we point out that the text says, "**foundations with sapphires**," plural in its use. (sapphires means: to score with a mark as a tally or record, to inscribe) Thus, we get the picture of "**the foundation stone**" Jesus Christ, who is the one stone upon which the Church of Salvation by Grace is built, as seen in: **Mt 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** The rock is not Peter, it is the truth Peter stated in: **Mt 16:16 "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."** Thus, we have the very strength of Jesus Christ, the one true and sure foundation stone, upholding the whole of the church of Salvation by Grace. The church is like a city here in the world. Everywhere that God has an assembly of people worshipping him in Spirit and Truth, we see a building, which is a part of the holy city of God.

Laid upon this one, sure, foundation, Jesus Christ, are the foundation stones of the Church of Salvation by the Grace of God, which testifies to us of the 12 disciples of Christ, who were used to establish the Church of Salvation by Grace upon the earth, as seen in: **Re 21:14 "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."** Now, we have the picture of the foundations, upon which the church is to be built, which in eternity is described as the holy city of God.

Remember, when we build upon earth the foundations of the buildings are hidden from view. Thus is the church of Salvation by Grace in the world. Our foundation, Jesus Christ, Saviour, and Lord is hidden from all who are not born again. If you have not been eternally saved, by the grace of God, your eyes are blinded to the sight of the foundation stone. The new birth, spiritual regeneration, gives us the ability to see our Saviour, the foundation of the church.

Now, let us remember; the Revelation text refers to the church as the holy city of God. Each time a child of God is regenerated, another building is added to the holy city of God. With each new birth, that we know of, we have a new neighbor in the city, with whom we may visit, and see the displayed beauties of their gifts granted to them by Christ. Each, Child of God, refracts the light of Christ, in the measure of grace given unto them. We may observe, through their walks and conversation, that they are built upon the sure foundation, and we know; when the trials by fire come, the work of Christ in them shall remain.

Isa 54:12 "And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones." This verse gives us the description of the individual buildings of each Child of God. Our "windows of agates" are the truths of God, which we see by the spiritual eyes of faith. It is only in the Spirit that we can see the beauty of the surety of our salvation by grace. By the Holy Spirit power, we see the revealing of each wonderful grace, and mercy, of God, as they are manifested in our lives, and in the lives of our neighbors.

The "gates of carbuncles" give us the picture of Christ, the door, giving us entrance into the church. Now, that we are in the church, we can go in and out, of our individual houses, and find pastures, of God's grace and love, to feed upon, as seen in the words of Jesus in: **Joh 10:9 "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."**

"and all thy borders of pleasant stones." God's word of truth sets the limits of our habitations. The bible defines where we should be, and what we should do, in our Christian lives. It also clearly defines; where we should not be, and what we should not do. With spiritual eyes, we see that the truths of God's word, (the thou shalts, and the thou shalt nots) which seem hard to the flesh nature, are really put in place to protect, and keep us in safety and quiet. Seen in this light, they are defensive armor and pleasant stones to us.

Isa 54:13 "And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. 14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee." The teaching of the Holy Spirit and the promise of the finished work of Jesus Christ, are our knowledge and peace in this world, and in our houses. Christ is our foundation. Christ is our wall of eternal protection. Christ is the roof over our heads. This is where the attributes of our new nature become known. As we grow in the knowledge of the truth, we see in Christ our walls of defense against the wiles of the devil, and the temptations of life in this world. With the recognition of each gift of mercy, our homes are established on earth. Our homes are decorated, as we display the virtues of Christ in our walks and talks. The doors of the church are opened to allow us to commune with our neighbors in this holy city of God.

Surrounding the whole, of the holy city of God, is our wall of protection, the finished work of Jesus Christ. Nothing can break or move the foundation of the church of Salvation by Grace. Nothing can break through the eternal wall of protection surrounding the holy city of God. We are told of this security in: **Isa 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."**

The full beauty and the completion of this building will be revealed at the end of time, as seen in: **Re 21:9-14; 9 "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."** We see, in this text, both, the 12 tribes of Israel from the Old Testament, and the 12 apostles of Christ from the New Testament, are included. This testifies to us that both Jew and Gentile will inhabit this holy city of God, and we are reminded; this is the revealing of the plan and purpose of God. We see the church of salvation by grace as a prophetic picture of the New Jerusalem. At the end of time, we shall see the holy city, whose builder and maker is God, and we shall see all the saved of the twelve tribes of Israel, and all the Gentiles, who are saved in the age of salvation by Grace, fully revealed. They all shall be reflecting the beauty and majesty of Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Hallelujah! Amen!