

Fourth Reading

Isaiah 54:5-14

⁵Your Creator will be like a husband to you -
the Lord Almighty is his name.

The Holy God of Israel will save you -
He is the ruler of all the world.

⁶Israel, you are like a young wife,
deserted by her husband and deeply distressed.

But the Lord calls you back to him and says:

⁷"For one brief moment I left you;
With deep love I will take you back.

⁸I turned away angry for only a moment,
but I will show you my love forever."

So says the Lord who saves you.

⁹"In the time of Noah I promised
never again to flood the earth.

Now I promise not be angry with you again.

I will not reprimand or punish you.

¹⁰The mountains hills may crumble,
but my love for you will never end;
I will keep forever my promise of peace."

So says the Lord who loves you.

¹¹The Lord says, O Jerusalem, you suffering,
helpless city, with no one to comfort you,
I will rebuild your foundations with precious stones.

¹²I will build your towers with rubies,
your gated with stones that glow like fire,
and the wall around you with jewels.

¹³I myself will teach your people
and give them prosperity and peace.

¹⁴Justice and right will make you strong.

You will be safe from oppression and terror.

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