

Stones Set in Antimony

Isaiah 54:11

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These several verses here in Isaiah 54:11-17 speak of the coming radiant beauty of Israel as a restored nation. She is likened to

- a beautiful city, 11–12.
- Her citizens shall be spiritually taught; will become spiritually prosperous, 13–14;
- and be victorious and secure, 15–17.

Of particular interest here is her beauty as a nation restored from the ugly darkness of her spiritual failings before the captivity as well as what will be true of Israel at the return of her Messiah at the time of the end. The full accomplishment of what is described here for Israel awaits the millennial age. Notice what the Millennium will mean with respect to Jerusalem (vv. 11–12), children (v. 13), and security (vv. 14–17). It seems like Isaiah's point is to speak of Israel as having endured much, but then being restored like a ruined city rebuilt with the finest materials.

¹¹ “O you afflicted one,
Tossed with tempest, and not comforted,
Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems,
And lay your foundations with sapphires. (Isaiah 54:11)

There is almost a mournful note to Isaiah's speaking in the first part of the verse. “O you...” seems to be lamenting and speaking of their condition as if it was some that can be (and surely will be, given the rest of the prophecy) repaired or done away with. “Afflicted” is a word that, in OT Hebrew, speaks of

one who is completely without resource, from what is needed to purchase the goods necessary to meet needs all the way through to property and other

Just as a note, we see that Isaiah is speaking forcefully and definitely as God Prophet particularly using the term “**behold, I**”. He means to say that it is God alone Who will glorify His people as spoken of here. The phrase “*Tossed with tempest*”, and not comforted” clearly speaks of the idea of a storm-tossed boat facing and being abused by a great storm. Clearly Isaiah’s point is to call to mind the awful and distressing turmoil that God’s people had (and will have from Isaiah’s point of view) until the time that the Messiah returns and delivers them! The idea here is that the Lord HIMSELF will rebuild the city!!

The idea is well said and seems very definite. Also, the gem referred to here underscores the great value that God lays on His people Israel. He WILL one day restore them to the condition that He originally intended for them for to be in!