

Breaking Free From Containment: 1

Rejoice! Your Days of Containment Are Over

Isaiah 54.1-3

Containment means to 'control or prevent something from moving, increasing or extending'

Too often we are contained by things in our lives – we like things to be comfortable, just right, we don't like anything that rocks the boat.

God has a purpose for each one - contained people will not complete that purpose or fulfill that destiny in God.

This prophetic word was spoken over Jerusalem, during the time of her captivity. She was likened to a woman without child, a woman unable to give birth. Only by extending her borders would she have more children than she could have ever dreamed of.

It was a reproach for a woman to be childless – **Genesis 30.22-24**

- Rachel was barren and childless.
- This caused her problems with her sister, she envied her (v1).
- She blamed Jacob, she blamed God.
- She tried to fill that void in her life through her maid Bilhah (v3-8). This situation caused an ongoing resentment and competition between the two sisters.

Eventually God opened Rachel's womb and she bore a son.

- God has taken away my reproach. She calls his name Joseph (let him add)
- She is beginning to break free from the limitations that she had set for herself - possibly having resigned herself that she would never have children, limiting herself to one channel of blessing

You cannot grow and increase to fulfill your destiny if you're contained. You can only grow and develop as far as the limits that you place.

We contain ourselves according to

- our abilities
- our inhibitions
- fear
- what we feel
- what we're comfortable with

we set boundaries and limitations and live within them, expecting God to conform and work in 'our way and to our satisfaction'.

Sarah did the same (Genesis 16.1-4), limiting God to providing a son for Abraham through Hagar.

Break Forth!

This prophecy from Isaiah was spoken over Jerusalem, during the time of captivity.

- Her sons and daughters had been carried away into a distant land.
- It was a time of weeping, it was as though she was barren.

But God had a word for her – ***Rejoice O barren! Break forth into singing!*** More are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman.

God was going to add to her more children than she had before

- He was bringing them back from the exile into their own land.

But there was a price – she had to break free from the things that contained her. It was containment that led them into captivity.

Containment always brings us into bondage! - to situations, circumstances, comfort, abilities

Containment is a dam on the rivers of blessing - when we contain and limit God the blessing stops flowing.