

# Breaking Free From Containment: 2

## Enlarge the Place of Your Tent

### Isaiah 54.1-3

The word *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.

### People that don't change are contained!

Breaking free from containment will mean change - a new direction, out of our depth – during those times of transition God is bringing us into something better.

This prophecy was spoken over Jerusalem at the time of the captivity and exile. She was likened to a barren and desolate woman, without child.

- God's purpose and plan was to bring back those who had been taken captive to their own land.
- This is an instruction to prepare for increase – ***enlarge the place of your tent!***

When a woman conceives a child, her whole outlook changes, even before the baby is born changes begin to take place.

- Her body changes as it adapts to the baby growing inside her, and preparing her for motherhood.
- Preparations are also made in the home for the arrival of the baby, the nursery is decorated, equipment is bought (cot, pram), may be a move to a new house is necessary to accommodate the new baby.
- What this mother is doing is enlarging the place of her tent - she is making room for the new baby, both in her body and her surroundings.

### Enlarge the place of your tent.

This word *enlarge* can also mean 'to make room, to broaden, to make wide'.

This word is often used in the Old Testament in connection with land – eg. when talking about enlarging territory, enlarging borders or boundaries.

The *place of your tent* is a reference to the location of their habitation, in other words where they lived, their territory, their land.

### Boundaries contain us

God gave Joshua instructions to take the land.

- God set the borders or boundaries of the land

- Joshua had to cast out the enemies and take possession of it all.

The places that we live have boundaries – walls, fences, hedges. These boundaries contain our home, our garden, the place where we live.

In the natural we cannot just move our fence to get more garden space, so unless we move to a larger property, we have to fit in and fill our land – we become contained, governed by these boundaries, the limits of our land.

Often we bring this mentality into the things of God and live within the containment of our limits – *but in the Spirit we can enlarge the place of our tent*. We are not governed by circumstances, situations, limitations, boundaries.

### **Genesis 13.1-18**

In this chapter Abram found himself in the position of being contained.

- He had left Haran at the word of God, taking his nephew Lot with him. (v1)
- They were both blessed of God having great herds, livestock, gold and silver (v2, 5)
- The land was not able to support them both (v6)
- Abram and Lot agree to separate (v9)
- Lot chooses to go down to the plains of Jordan (vs11-12)

***Abram was in the place that God wanted him***, the place that God had destined for His people, yet the land was unable to support the two families.

Was the land too small?

- there was still much more land to possess.
- this same land was going to become the home of every tribe of Israel.
- They had grown and filled the extent of their boundaries which led to frustration, friction between them.

(vs14-16) The word of God came to Abram

- He was to lift his eyes – everywhere he could see God was giving him. Then God told him to walk through the land.
- God was telling him to enlarge the place of his tent – to break free of the things that contained him and to take possession of new territory.

“Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre” (v18)

He enlarged the place of his tent – he didn't move to a new land, this was still the same place that God had called him to, but he broke free from the things that contained him.

It's time to enlarge the place of your tent!

- Make room for God to move in a new way in your life.
- Don't limit God to conform to your way but rather let Him have his way.
- Dare to move some boundaries:
  - Increase what are you believing God for
  - Broaden your vision
  - Step out of your comfort-zone
  - Walk in the land that God shows you