

# FORMED ISN'T FINISHED

Echo Church | Sermon Notes | Isaiah 54:16–17 | Pastor Rich Saunders Jr

"Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler to destroy. No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me, says the Lord."

**Isaiah 54:16–17 (NKJV)**

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## THE BIG IDEA

God is not finished with what He has formed. The same sovereignty that shaped you governs everything sent against you.

Isaiah 54 is covenant language, not motivational language. God speaks not only as Creator, but as the One who formed both the instrument and the fire, with authority over both.

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## PART I: FORMED, The Anatomy of a Weapon

Before we can understand why the weapon does not prosper, we need to understand how it is built. Verse 16 does not skip to the promise... it walks us through the process. The text gives us the full sequence: the blacksmith, the coals, the blowing, the instrument. God is not just aware of the finished weapon. He watched every stage of its making.

### 1. The Fire Comes Before the Form

The coals precede the weapon. What you are experiencing right now, the pressure, the heat, the friction, may not be the attack itself. It may be the forge.

You cannot have a weapon without fire first. The enemy does not start with a blade. He starts with heat. And heat, by itself, is not defeat... it is process.

The question is not: why am I in the fire? The question is: what is being shaped in it?

### 2. The Blowing Is Intentional

The blacksmith does not just light a fire and walk away, he blows the coals. Someone is tending the flame. Discouragement does not sustain itself. Accusation does not amplify itself. There is an agent feeding what you are feeling.

The intensity you are experiencing is not accidental... it is assigned. Opposition has an author. It has a target. It is being deliberately stoked.

But so is the limit on it. The one who blows the coals does not own the forge. God does.

### 3. The Weapon Has a Shape, And God Saw It First

Out of the fire comes something formed. A weapon is not generic, it has specific design for a specific target. The opposition you face was crafted for you. Which means it was also known by God before it ever left the forge.

By the time the weapon reaches you, God has already seen every stage of its making. The blacksmith. The coals. The blowing. The shaping. None of it happened outside of His sight.

He did not just see the finished weapon. He watched it being built. And He let it leave the forge.

That is not abandonment. That is sovereignty. The weapon being released does not mean God lost control... it means He already knows it will not prosper.

Where in my life am I feeling the heat of the forge right now, and what might God be forming in it?

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## **PART II: WEAPON, Condemn What Was Never Meant to Be Carried**

God does not just permit your trial, He formed the one who brings it. This is not passive permission. This is active sovereignty.

**Callback — Isaiah 54:5:** "For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name." The Hebrew *osayikh*, "your Makers" (plural of majesty), shares the same root *asah* as the creative act in verse 16. In verse 5, God is the Maker of you. In verse 16, God is the Maker of the weapon and the one who wields it. You and your opposition share the same Maker, and He is not neutral. Verse 5 adds the covenant layer: this is not just a powerful God. This is a husband defending what is His. The weapon does not prosper not only because of God's power... but because of His covenant loyalty to what He made.

### **1. The Weapon Was Not Formed Without God's Knowledge**

"I have created the blacksmith..." God is not surprised by opposition. He preceded it.

What threatens you does not exceed what formed you. Your Maker is greater than your adversary.

### **2. Two Types of Weapons, Both Are Covered (Isaiah 54:17)**

Isaiah 54:17 names two distinct categories of attack, and God's covenant covers both:

- **Physical Weapons:** "No weapon formed against you shall prosper." Tangible opposition, circumstances, loss, systems, attacks. The things you can see coming at you. God's promise is not that they won't be formed... it is that they will not succeed.
- **Words & Accusation:** "Every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn." Verbal, reputational, and legal opposition. The accusations spoken over you, the judgments passed against you, the narratives others build to define you. This is the tongue that tells you who you are not.

Both are covered. What is formed against your body and what is spoken against your name, neither prospers when covenant is your ground.

### **3. The Problem: We Are Coddling What Should Be Condemned**

Notice what verse 17 says: "every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn." The condemnation is yours to exercise. God gives you the verdict. But what happens when you never use it?

You start agreeing with the weapon.

- The circumstance formed against you becomes the story you tell about yourself.
- The accusation spoken over you becomes the identity you wear.
- The tongue that rose in judgment becomes your own inner voice.

You stop being the one who condemns it, and start being the one who carries it. You've made it a crutch. You've coddled what covenant says should be condemned. The weapon doesn't need to prosper externally when you've already let it prosper internally.

### **4. The Promise Holds... Even When You've Been Wielding It on Yourself**

Here is the weight of God's sovereignty: He does not wait for you to get it right.

Even when you've been agreeing with the accusation. Even when the tongue that rose in judgment is now your own tongue... the covenant still holds. God will not let it prosper. Not because you finally condemned it. But because He is still the Maker. He is still the Husband. And what is His does not fall under the jurisdiction of what was formed against it.

The condemnation is the invitation. The covenant is the guarantee.

Romans 8:28, all things work together for good to those who are called according to His purpose. The weapon you have been carrying is still included in "all things."

What weapon have I been coddling, agreeing with, carrying, or using against myself?

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## PART III: HERITAGE, No Hustle Required

"This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord." Heritage is not a reward for performance. It is a possession passed through covenant relationship.

**Hebrew:** נַחֲלָה (nachalah) — possession, inheritance, property. Something received by lot or allotted, particularly land or an estate passed through family lineage. The root נָחַל (nachal) means to get or take as a possession, to inherit, to occupy. The possession is already secured, the heir simply steps into what has been allotted. This is the same word used for Israel's possession of the Promised Land: not conquered by their strength, but given and assigned by God as their rightful portion.

**Callback — Isaiah 54:3:** In verse 3, the promise is "your descendants will inherit the nations," Hebrew יָרַשׁ (yarash), the active, forward-moving act of taking possession. By verse 17, God lands on nachalah, the settled, covenantal state of possession. Yarash is what you do; nachalah is what you are. Chapter 54 moves the reader from promise to possession, and by verse 17, God is not calling you to take ground. He is declaring that the ground already belongs to you by covenant right.

### 1. You Receive, Not Achieve

Heritage flows from identity, not effort. You do not work your way into God's protection. You walk in it as a servant, one who belongs to Him.

Romans 8:29, God predestined you to be conformed to the image of His Son. Your formation has a destination: Christlikeness.

### 2. Righteousness Is from Him, Not from You

"Their righteousness is from Me, says the Lord." The ground of your standing is not your track record. It is His covenant faithfulness.

You cannot out-fail God's intention for you. Your background does not disqualify you from your heritage.

### 3. Inheritance Requires Participation

Heirs do not earn an inheritance. But they must step into it. God has formed you for purpose, will you live like someone who belongs to that promise?

What promise am I waiting to receive, or struggling to believe belongs to me?

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## PART IV: FINISHED, God Completes What He Starts

Formed isn't finished. The One who shaped you is still working. The process is not evidence of failure... it is proof of continuation.

### 1. Philippians 1:6 Is a Covenant Guarantee

"He who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." God does not start and abandon. He finishes.

## 2. Present Pressure Is Not Final Verdict

The season you are in is not the sentence on your life. You are still being formed. The clay does not dictate to the potter when it is done.

## 3. You Are Not What Opposition Says You Are

"Every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn." The verdict of covenant always outranks the verdict of opposition.

What area of my life have I prematurely declared finished, that God is still forming?

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## TAKE IT WITH YOU: Five Declarations

- Formed is not the final word. God is still at work.
  - The weapon does not define me. God's purpose does.
  - I am not earning my heritage. I am walking into it.
  - What was started in me will be completed, not by me, but by Him.
  - My righteousness is not from my record. It is from the Lord.
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## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What boundary is God calling me to trust Him with this season?

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What am I afraid of as God continues the forming process?

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One action I will take this week:

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