

# Isaiah 51:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

## Analysis

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The call 'Hearken unto me, my people' establishes covenant relationship before issuing commands. The promise 'a law shall proceed from me' and 'I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people' depicts Torah as divine gift providing guidance. The universal scope 'light of the people' anticipates Gentile inclusion - God's law isn't ethnic restriction but universal revelation of His character.

## Historical Context

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This anticipates new covenant when law is written on hearts (Jeremiah 31:33) and Gentiles are grafted into Israel (Romans 11:17). Christ as 'light of the world' (John 8:12) fulfills this promise - His teaching illuminates all peoples.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do you view God's law - as restrictive burden or gracious guidance providing 'light' for life's path?
2. In what ways should Christ's universal light-giving compel you toward evangelistic concern for all peoples?

## Interlinear Text

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הִקְשִׁיבוּ	אֵלַי	עַם יִם	וְלֵאמֹר י	אֵל י	הֶאֱזֵינוּ	כִּי
Hearken	H413	of the people	unto me O my nation	H413	and give ear	H3588
H7181		H5971	H3816		H238	
תּוֹכָה	מִאֲתִי	תֵּצֵא	וּמִשְׁפָּטִי	לֹא זֶר		
for a law	H853	shall proceed	from me and I will make my judgment	for a light		
H8451		H3318	H4941	H216		
עַם יִם	אֲרִגִּיעַ:					
of the people	to rest					
H5971	H7280					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 2:3** (Word): And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**Isaiah 42:6** (Light): I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

**Isaiah 49:6** (Light): And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

**1 Peter 2:9** (Light): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**1 Corinthians 9:21** (Word): To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

**Micah 4:2** (Word): And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

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