

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

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

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

כִּי פָאֵץ יְכוֹנֵן אֶל־לְאָוֹת יְבוֹן
Hearken H413 of the people unto me O my nation and give ear H3588
H7181 H5971 H3816 H238

לَا וְרַבְתָּם שְׁפָטִים תֹּצֵא מִתְּמִשְׁפָטִים
for a law H853 shall proceed from me and I will make my judgment for a light H216
H8451 H3318 H4941 H238

עַמּוּם יְמִינָה אֶרְגִּיעַ
of the people to rest H5971 H7280

Additional Cross-References

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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