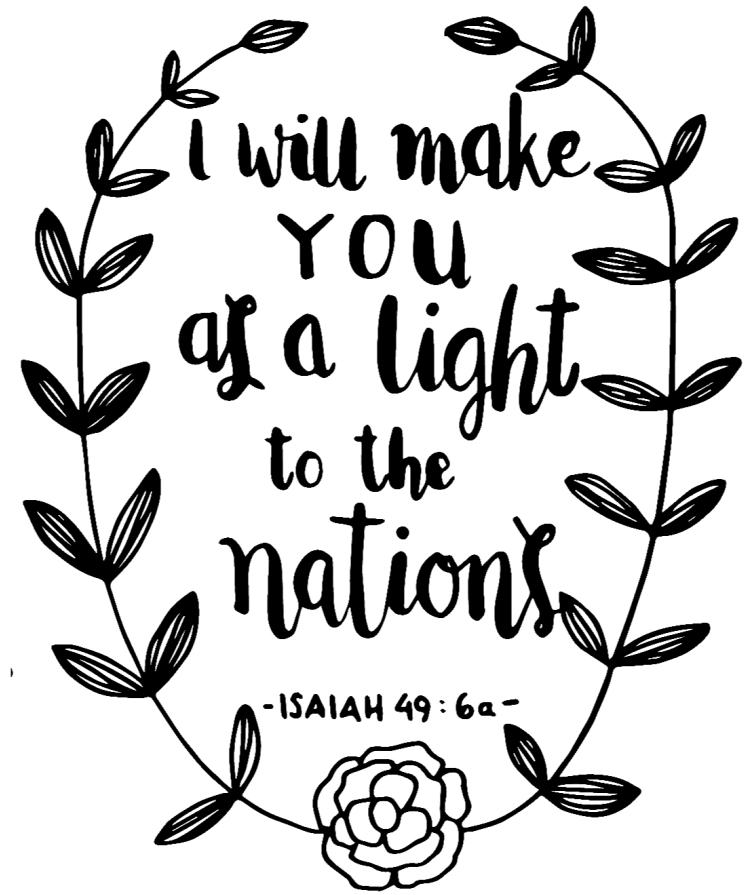


Questions for Reflection

1. What do you think of the Robert Murray M'Cheyne quote? How does this bring freedom? Why might God have reminded the Israelites of what he had done for them?
2. Chris Wright says, "Obedience to the covenant was not a condition of *salvation* but a condition of *mission*." How have you experienced trust and obedience to God's word as a blessing in your own life? How has God used that to bless others? (This need not be boasting – it is simply the way God has done what he said he will do.)
3. Why do you think God would use *people* to be his agents? Why not simply do it directly himself?



My Treasured Possession

January 19, 2020 | Exodus 19:3-8 | Pastor Roger Williams

If the church is to be a "come and join us" people who embody the coming kingdom of God in the midst of the world, of necessity their lives must exhibit a redemptive tension with and a challenge to the idolatrous cultures of the world, including Western culture...The early Christians understood themselves to be different from others in their culture, and lived together as an alternative community nourished by an alternative story.

-Michael Goheen, *A Light to the Nations*, 6-7

Exodus 19

³while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

⁷So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸All the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

1 Peter 2

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

¹³Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

My Treasured Possession

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God redeems his people so they may experience being his treasured possession among all peoples.

Courage is experienced by trusting God’s redemptive activity.

I did to the Egyptians ^(v.4)

I bore you on eagle’s wings ^(v.4)

I brought you to myself ^(v.4)

Do not take up your time so much with studying your own heart as with studying Christ’s heart. For one look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ!

-Robert Murray M’Cheyne, Memoirs, 92.

Calling is experienced through obeying God’s voice.

Obedience to the covenant was not a condition of *salvation* but a condition of *mission*. Only through covenant obedience and community holiness could they claim or fulfill the identity and role offered to them. -Chris Wright, *The Mission of God*, 333.

My treasured possession for all the earth is mine ^(v.5)

For this reason God chooses Israel: the whole earth is his and he is taking it back.

-Michael Goheen, *A Light to the Nations*, 38.

A Kingdom of Priests ^(v.6)

Israel is to be a display people, a showcase to the world of how being in covenant with Yahweh can change a people.” - John Durham, *Exodus*, 263.

A Holy Nation ^(v.6)

The Church exists in its prime reality from Monday to Saturday, in all its members, dispersed throughout the fields and homes and offices and factories, bearing the royal priesthood of Christ in every corner of his world. On the Lord’s Day it is withdrawn into itself to renew its being in the lord Himself.

-Lesslie Newbigin, *Four Talks on 1 Peter*, 96-97.