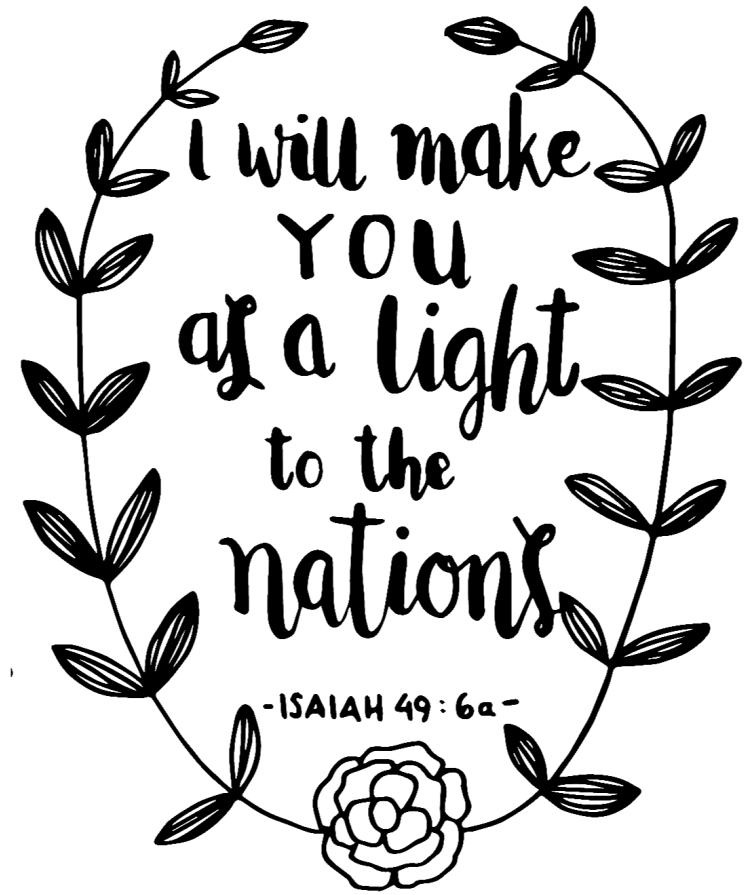


Questions for Reflection

1. Which of the quotes on the inside captures your attention the most right now? Why?
2. What is one way you personally experience the “redemptive tension” with our culture? (Where do you sense the story of the gospel in your life in most tension with our culture?)
3. What motivational benefit is there from seeing ourselves as “sojourners” or “resident aliens”? (A resident alien is a person who lives permanently in a country of which he or she is not a citizen.)



Redemptive Tension

February 16, 2020 | 1 Peter 2:4-17 | 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

1 Peter 2

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

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.

¹³**Be 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. ¹⁷**Honor** everyone. **Love** the brotherhood. **Fear** God. **Honor** the emperor.

The grace of Jesus brings us into inevitable redemptive tension with our culture.

We are brought into a story God is already unfolding... ⁽⁴⁻⁸⁾
I am laying in Zion a stone...

where we share the story and receive a calling... ⁽⁹⁻¹⁰⁾
You are...you are...you have...so that

to be lived out in our lives... ⁽¹¹⁻¹²⁾
as sojourners and exiles...abstain/keep...so that

and lived out in our world. ⁽¹³⁻¹⁷⁾
(as sojourners and exiles) who are free...be subject...honor, love, fear, honor...so that

- a) The constant temptation throughout Israel's history and also throughout church history has been to forget the missional purpose of election and to stress only privilege, salvation, and the status of being a recipient. -Michael Goheen, *A Light to the Nations*, 31.
- b) Election does not mean that God has his favorites but simply that he has a chosen channel of blessing for all. Election...has to do with his means of extending that blessing to all." -Craig Broyles, *Psalms*, 280.
- c) Suffering comes, therefore, as the church refuses to live in conformity with the dominant public faith of his culture. -Michael Goheen, *A Light to the Nations*, 187.
- d) Our task as a Church is to be God's temple, so filled with his presence that we expand and fill the earth with that glorious presence until God finally accomplished this goal completely at the end of time. -Greg Beale, *Eden, the Temple and the Church's Mission*, 31.
- e) The danger of idolatry for God's Old Testament people had come chiefly from without, from the surrounding nations. Now God's New Testament people are set right in the midst of these nations and must live their lives in that cultural context, as a stateless and multiethnic minority community. -Michael Goheen, *A Light to the Nations*, 181.