



He is Light to Nations

“I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations” (Isaiah 42:6 NASB).

Here, God is speaking about the Messiah He has promised to Israel as a new covenant to all people, reconciling men to God. The first covenant God made with Israel was through the Law of commandments and the blood of animal sacrifices—*“the former things”* that God says *“have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you”* (Isaiah 42:9). This new thing is establishing the Messiah as a covenant to the people, which is the second, or new, covenant through the blood of Jesus Christ, Who reconciled men to God by His blood, purchasing men from every tribe, tongue, and nation *“to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth”* (Revelation 5:9-10).

During Passover, Jesus *“took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup which is poured out for you is the **new covenant** in My blood’”* (Luke 22:19-20). Jesus is God’s righteousness to all mankind, which is sentenced to death because of sin, *“so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through **righteousness** to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 5:21).

Jesus is the light to the nations, which still strive vehemently to remain in darkness and reject the righteousness of God. Isaiah prophecies about Him: *“And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My*

strength), He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, To the despised One, To the One abhorred by the nation, To the Servant of rulers, ‘Kings will see and arise, Princes will also bow down, Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You’” (Isaiah 49:5-7). Jesus is the chosen Holy One of Israel Who *“was **despised** and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was **despised**, and we did not esteem Him”* (Isaiah 53:3), yet we know that *“at the name of Jesus **every knee** will bow”* (Philippians 2:10a) when He returns in glory.

Jesus is despised by the world, because He said: *“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life”* (John 8:12). Mankind, however, *“loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil”* (1 John 3:19b), because *“everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed”* (John 3:20). This darkness comes from *“the god of this world”* who *“has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”* (2 Corinthians 4:4). Believers, however, see and know the Light, *“for God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ”* (2 Corinthians 4:6) *“to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen”* (Hebrews 13:21b).