

Ask The Rabbi – April 12, 2022

Question:

I received several questions pertaining to Isaiah 42:5 – 9.

Rather than share the questions here, I will share them within the response.

Response:

We read of Yesha'yahu convey a message from Adonai.

Isa 42:5 Thus says God, Adonai, who created the heavens and spread them out, who stretched out the earth and all that grows from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk on it:

Isa 42:6 "I, Adonai, called you righteously, I took hold of you by the hand, I shaped you and made you a covenant for the people, to be a light for the Goyim,

Isa 42:7 so that you can open blind eyes, free the prisoners from confinement, those living in darkness from the dungeon.

Isa 42:8 I am Adonai; that is my name. I yield my glory to no one else, nor my praise to any idol.

Isa 42:9 See how the former predictions come true; and now new things do I declare—before they sprout I tell you about them."

The first thing to establish is Yesha'yahu's audience. 1:1 establishes this for us.

Isa 1:1 This is the vision of Yesha`yahu the son of Amotz, which he saw concerning Y'hudah and Yerushalayim during the days of `Uziyahu, Yotam, Achaz and Y'chizkiyahu, kings of Y'hudah:

Much of the focus for the questions is on verse 6:

Isa 42:6 "I, Adonai, called you righteously, I took hold of you by the hand, I shaped you and made you a covenant for the people, to be a light for the Goyim,

1. Who is the Lord calling in “righteousness and will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,”

This message that Yesha'yahu is conveying is to the nation of Israel.

“I took hold of you by your hand” is an allusion to the Passover and what Adonai had said he would do through Moshe:

Exo 6:1 Adonai said to Moshe, "Now you will see what I am going to do to Pharaoh. With a mighty hand he will send them off; with force he will drive them from the land!"

Exo 6:2 God spoke to Moshe; he said to him, "I am Adonai.

Exo 6:3 I appeared to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov as El Shaddai, although I did not make myself known to them by my name, Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [*Adonai*].

Exo 6:4 Also with them I established my covenant to give them the land of Kena`an, the land where they wandered about and lived as foreigners.

Exo 6:5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Isra'el, whom the Egyptians are keeping in slavery; and I have remembered my covenant.

Exo 6:6 "Therefore, say to the people of Isra'el: 'I am Adonai. I will free you from the forced labor of the Egyptians, rescue you from their oppression, and redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

Exo 6:7 I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am Adonai your God, who freed you from the forced labor of the Egyptians.

Where does righteousness come from? Sha'ul conveys the following...

Rom 2:12 All who have sinned outside the framework of Torah will die outside the framework of Torah; and all who have sinned within the framework of Torah will be judged by Torah.

Rom 2:13 For it is not merely the hearers of Torah whom God considers righteous; rather, it is the doers of what Torah says who will be made righteous in God's sight.

The Hebrew word for righteousness is...

צֶדֶק

tsedeq

tseh'-dek

From **H6663**; the *right* (natural, moral or legal); also (abstractly) *equity* or (figuratively) *prosperity*: - X even, (X that which is altogether) just (-ice), ([un-]) right (-eous) (cause, -ly, -ness).

That which is right and just, not according to what man considers right to be but what Adonai has established through His Word.

Sha'ul affirms this further.

Rom 7:7 Therefore, what are we to say? That the Torah is sinful? Heaven forbid! Rather, the function of the Torah was that without it, I would not have known what sin is. For example, I would not have become conscious of what greed is if the Torah had not said, "Thou shalt not covet."

Rom 7:8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, worked in me all kinds of evil desires—for apart from Torah, sin is dead.

Rom 7:9 I was once alive outside the framework of Torah. But when the commandment really encountered me, sin sprang to life,

Rom 7:10 and I died. The commandment that was intended to bring me life was found to be bringing me death!

Rom 7:11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me; and through the commandment, sin killed me.

Rom 7:12 So the Torah is holy; that is, the commandment is holy, just and good.

2. Who is (the covenant) to the people?

“I shaped you and made you a covenant for the people”

Adonai took Israel by the hand out of the land of Egypt, led by Moshe and established the foundation of a nation that was established by a covenant.

Exo 19:1 In the third month after the people of Isra'el had left the land of Egypt, the same day they came to the Sinai Desert.

Exo 19:2 After setting out from Refidim and arriving at the Sinai Desert, they set up camp in the desert; there in front of the mountain, Isra'el set up camp.

Exo 19:3 Moshe went up to God, and Adonai called to him from the mountain: "Here is what you are to say to the household of Ya`akov, to tell the people of Isra'el:

Exo 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

Exo 19:5 Now if you will pay careful attention to what I say and keep my covenant, then you will be my own treasure from among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine;

Exo 19:6 and you will be a kingdom of cohanim for me, a nation set apart.' These are the words you are to speak to the people of Isra'el."

3. Who are the people?

Who are the people of the Covenant? The only people that Adonai has established any covenant with directly that being the Jewish people. First beginning with Avraham. It would be his offspring Yitz'chak that would be the person who the promise to his father would flow through.

Gen 15:1 Some time later the word of Adonai came to Avram in a vision: "Don't be afraid, Avram. I am your protector; your reward will be very great."

Gen 15:2 Avram replied, "Adonai, God, what good will your gifts be to me if I continue childless; and Eli'ezer from Dammesek inherits my possessions?"

Gen 15:3 You haven't given me a child," Avram continued, "so someone born in my house will be my heir."

Gen 15:4 But the word of Adonai came to him: "This man will not be your heir. No, your heir will be a child from your own body."

Gen 15:5 Then he brought him outside and said, "Look up at the sky, and count the stars—if you can count them! Your descendants will be that many!"

Gen 15:6 He believed in Adonai, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Thus establishing the origin, the foundation of the nation of Israel.

4. How does the person fulfill the covenant to the people?

This person is ultimately a nation of people. It would be through what Adonai establishes through these people that would be the means by which their purpose would be revealed.

It is through what Adonai has established through Israel and the Jewish people propels the message of Adonai pertaining to Messiah.

Rom 9:1 I am speaking the truth—as one who belongs to the Messiah, I do not lie; and also bearing witness is my conscience, governed by the Ruach HaKodesh:

Rom 9:2 my grief is so great, the pain in my heart so constant,

Rom 9:3 that I could wish myself actually under God's curse and separated from the Messiah, if it would help my brothers, my own flesh and blood,

Rom 9:4 the people of Isra'el! They were made God's children, the Sh'khinah has been with them, the covenants are theirs, likewise the giving of the Torah, the Temple service and the promises;

Rom 9:5 the Patriarchs are theirs; and from them, as far as his physical descent is concerned, came the Messiah, who is over all. Praised be Adonai for ever! Amen.

5. Who is the light to the nations (Gentiles)?

The light here is not really just a who (singular), but a who (plural). In this case Adonai has established the nation Israel. Yesha'yahu conveys... "I shaped you and made you a covenant for the people, to be a light for the Goyim,"

I will share another section from Yesha'yahu that will confirm the who.

These verses are actually affirmed several chapters later, again through Yesha'yahu...

Isa 49:1 Coastlands, listen to me; listen, you peoples far away: Adonai called me from the womb; before I was born, he had spoken my name.

Isa 49:2 He has made my mouth like a sharp sword while hiding me in the shadow of his hand; he has made me like a sharpened arrow while concealing me in his quiver.

Isa 49:3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Isra'el, through whom I will show my glory."

Isa 49:4 But I said, "I have toiled in vain, spent my strength for nothing, futility." Yet my cause is with Adonai, my reward is with my God.

Isa 49:5 So now Adonai says—he formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Ya`akov back to him, to have Isra'el gathered to him, so that I will be honored in the sight of Adonai, my God having become my strength—

Isa 49:6 he has said, "It is not enough that you are merely my servant to raise up the tribes of Ya`akov and restore the offspring of Isra'el. I will also make you a light to the nations, so my salvation can spread to the ends of the earth."

Isa 49:7 Here is what Adonai, the Redeemer of Isra'el, his Holy One, says to the one despised, whom the nations detest, to the servant of tyrants: "When kings see you, they will stand up; princes too will prostrate themselves, because of Adonai, who is faithful, the Holy One of Isra'el, who has chosen you."

Ultimately, Yeshua is the epitome of the Jewish people and thus is the source. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun that is not the source, so to Israel is supposed to reflect the light of God, that is Yeshua.

Verses 5 – 9 were the second part of this prophecy and it is spoken to the nation of Israel, the Jewish people. Here is the first part...

Isa 42:1 "Here is my servant, whom I support, my chosen one, in whom I take pleasure. I have put my Spirit on him; he will bring justice to the Goyim.

Isa 42:2 He will not cry or shout; no one will hear his voice in the streets.

Isa 42:3 He will not snap off a broken reed or snuff out a smoldering wick. He will bring forth justice according to truth;

Isa 42:4 he will not weaken or be crushed until he has established justice on the earth, and the coastlands

wait for his Torah."

I don't want you to lose sight of the first part Adonai spoke to Yesha'yahu (Isaiah). This is Yeshua.

Thus, we see Yeshua come to the Jew first, preparing them to be a light to the nations.

And what is the light that Yeshua has revealed, but the Gospel, that is God's redemption...

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the Good News, since it is God's powerful means of bringing salvation to everyone who keeps on trusting, to the Jew especially, but equally to the Gentile.

Rom 1:17 For in it is revealed how God makes people righteous in his sight; and from beginning to end it is through trust—as the Tanakh puts it, "But the person who is righteous will live his life by trust."

In that it reveals the relationship that the nations did not have...

Eph 2:11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth—called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised—

Eph 2:12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

Eph 2:13 But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood.

and that it is the absence of that relationship and the action of Adonai in reconciling the entire world through the sacrifice and resurrection of Messiah that draws the world closer. The Gospel message is the light of Messiah that originates through the nation of Israel and the Jewish people that is to be transmitted.

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed.

Joh 3:17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but rather so that through him, the world might be saved.

Joh 3:18 Those who trust in him are not judged; those who do not trust have been judged already, in that they have not trusted in the one who is God's only and unique Son.