

I Lift My Lamp

The Statue of Liberty is more than a monument. She is a beloved friend and a living symbol of freedom to millions around the world. The exhibit is a tribute to the people who created her, to those who built and paid for her, to the ideals she represents, and to the hopes she inspires.

Located on a 12 acre island, the Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the people of the United States and is a universal symbol of freedom and democracy. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on October 28, 1886, designated as a National Monument in 1924 and restored for her centennial on July 4, 1986.

There is a poem engraved on the Statue as follows:

The New Colossus

“Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Emma Lazarus, 1883 av JC

Now, let us compare these verses to the Bible:

Isaiah 54:11-55:3

“O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, *and* not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children *shall be* taught of the LORD; and great *shall be* the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, *but* not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise

against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which is* not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.”

To highlight, there are similar principles in the two sections-

- The afflicted people are offered shelter. (See *Matthew 5:1-12*).
- A lamp is lifted to all people with an invitation to come. (See *Matthew 5:14-16*).
- A door is opened so people can enter and find freedom. (See *John 8:28-32 and Revelation 3:20*).

We are all promised a great freedom and liberty in Christ. Christ came to set us free from the spiritual bondage of sin (*Romans 6:18-22*). This truth is illuminated by the lamp of God's truth (*Psalms 119:105*).

This lamp is still lifted today and showing all who dwell in the shadows of darkness that glorious freedom is available and accessible in Jesus Christ!