

EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #89

Isaiah 61:1-11

When Jesus Christ was in Galilee, at the beginning of His earthly ministry, He would go into synagogues and teach the people and initially the people praised Him. One day He went into a synagogue in Nazareth and a copy of Isaiah was handed to Him. He stood and He opened the scroll to **Isaiah 61:1** and started to read. He read **verse 1** and the first part of **verse 2** and then He closed the scroll and sat down and said, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:14-21). **Jesus said He was the Person to whom Isaiah 61 was referring.** What He didn’t read was the rest of **Isaiah 61:2** which says, “And the day of vengeance of our God.” **What is revealed in that amazing text of Dr. Luke is that when Christ came the first time, He fulfilled many Messianic things Scripture predicted He would fulfill; but when Christ comes the second time, He will fulfill everything else.**

Now **Isaiah 61** is an amazing chapter because as Jesus Christ began His public ministry, He started by quoting this chapter. **The reason why is because in this one chapter we see the totality of the work of Jesus Christ in His First and Second Coming.**

Israel became a nation again on May 14, 1948. As a nation she is now sixty-two years old. But she is still suffering and hurting and depressed because she still has not turned to Jesus Christ, her Messiah. This terrible hurt has been going on ever since the days of Isaiah. So what is happening now is a continuation of what started in the Old Testament.

I am convinced that a major reason for her depression is that people will not turn to Jesus Christ. Instead of seeing the sin, admitting the sin, and asking Jesus Christ to save them from the sin, many fall into a serious depression and think some medicine will cure it. If ever there is proof that nothing except Jesus Christ works, it is Israel. She is a depressed nation and will continue to be until Jesus Christ comes back and takes charge. That is what we see in **Isaiah 61**. What we learn is this:

JESUS CHRIST’S FIRST AND SECOND COMING GUARANTEES SOME WONDERFUL ETERNAL FUTURISTIC BLESSINGS FOR ISRAEL AND FOR US.

In **Isaiah 61:1** the text begins with Jesus Christ stating that “the Spirit of the Lord GOD (Adonai-Jehovah) is upon Me.” **In this first verse, all three members of the Trinity are there (The Spirit, the Sovereign LORD the Father, and the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Son).** The actual word “anointed” is the Hebrew word “Messiah” which means anointed one. In Greek the name “Christ” means the same thing. So this is Israel’s Messiah speaking here. As Keil and Delitzsch point out, this word “anoint” proves the speaker and the Messiah are the same person (*Isaiah*, Vol. 7, p. 425).

Jesus Christ is the member of the Godhead who has been specifically anointed by God to be Israel’s Messiah. When exactly did this “Spirit” moment happen? When was this “Spirit” anointing realized? **This all happened at His baptism when He was inaugurated into His Messianic office.**

People actually saw the Spirit of God come upon Jesus Christ and heard God the Father speak from heaven (Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32). Those religious leaders knew that Jesus Christ was speaking of Him being the Messiah because the synagogue was filled with rage and they wanted to kill Him (Luke 4:28-29). They knew Jesus Christ claimed to be Israel's Messiah and Savior.

So what we see in this chapter of Isaiah are the amazing reasons why God the Son came to this world. We learn about His Messianic and salvific mission in coming into the world, both at His First Coming and at His Second Coming.

Much of this pertains to Israel; however, there is also certainly a mention of the nations in **Isaiah 61 (verses 6, 9)**. There is no question that what Jesus Christ will do for Israel nationally He can also do for you individually. He can turn a dark, dismal existence into one of gladness and joy.

PART #1 – The reasons for Christ's First and Second Coming into this world. **61:1-3**

There are nine reasons why Jesus Christ came into this world stated here which are for Israel and applicable for us. **The first four reasons partially occurred at His First Coming and the final five reasons will all completely occur at His Second Coming:**

Reason #1 - Jesus Christ came to this world to preach good news to the afflicted. **61:1a**

The words "bring good news" literally mean in Hebrew to announce or proclaim as a messenger the good news of God (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 146). Think of what is revealed here; the Lord, Himself, came to this world to proclaim good news to Israel and good news to the afflicted. The word "afflicted" is one that means to be in a miserable and wretched and depressed condition (*Ibid.*, p. 643). Jesus Christ came to offer miserable wretched sinful people some good news; in fact, it is wonderful news.

The real job of a Christlike minister is to preach the Word of God. One of the themes that must be preached is that there is good news for those who are in a miserable and wretched state. That good news is news about a Person who came into this world and His name is Jesus Christ.

Reason #2 - Jesus Christ came to this world to bind up the brokenhearted. **61:1b**

There are no greater wounds that need to be bound like the wounds of the heart. It is certainly bad to have broken bones but not nearly as bad as having a broken heart. The one who can heal the broken heart is Jesus Christ. He heals the heart that has been broken by guilt. He heals the heart that has been broken by rejection. He heals the heart that has been broken by bereavement or affliction. Jesus Christ came to bind up broken hearts.

Reason #3 - Jesus Christ came to this world to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners. **61:1c**

That word “proclaim” means to cry out or call out. The language used here is language that stems from the law of the “year of jubilee” which occurred every fiftieth year (Leviticus 25:10, 13; 27:24). After seven sabbatical periods or forty-nine years, the fiftieth year was a year of jubilee in which all debts were canceled, and those who were bound or captive were set free, and they received back their land.

Sin enslaves people. Sin wears you down. Sin can take you captive. Jesus Christ can set you free from the burden, the guilt, and the enslavement of sin. It is our responsibility to proclaim this message.

Dr. Warren Wiersbe said if you have believed on Jesus Christ you are living right now in your “Year of Jubilee.” You have been set free from bondage and your spiritual debt has been fully paid (*Be Comforted*, p. 156).

God wants us crying out or calling out to people that they may be set free from their sin by faith in Jesus Christ.

Reason #4 - Jesus Christ came to proclaim the favorable year of God. **61:2a**

For over 2000 years the proclamation of favor or the grace of God has been proclaimed. Any sinner can enter in to a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Reason #5 - Jesus Christ came to proclaim the day of the vengeance of God. **61:2b**

When Christ comes again, He will come to execute the full brunt of the wrath of God. Notice carefully that the favorable time is called a “year” and the vengeance time is called a “day.” God’s wrath will come with lightening speed. Compared to grace, it is short-lived.

Reason #6 - Jesus Christ came to comfort all who mourn. **61:2c**

The implications of this are profound. Jesus Christ has the power to comfort all people who mourn if they will turn to Him.

Reason #7 - Jesus Christ came to comfort all who mourn in Israel. **61:3a**

Now the specific place that is named where this will happen is Zion, which is the highest spot located in the city of Jerusalem. This verse is not talking about bringing joy to Kalamazoo, or Atlanta, or Dallas; it is specifically talking about Him bringing joy to Israel.

In the aftermath of the Tribulation, Israel will certainly welcome this comfort. The final 3½ years are the time of Jacob’s trouble in which the Antichrist is pouring out his wrath against Israel. However, when Jesus Christ returns a second time, her sorrow will be turned into joy.

Reason #8 - Jesus Christ came to this world to turn Israel's fainting into praise. **61:3b**

There is coming a day when Israel will be so anointed with the oil of gladness that they will forever be a nation of praise.

Reason #9 - Jesus Christ came to make Israel become a glorious oak of righteousness. **61:3c**

What an amazing moment this will be when Israel stands tall and stands strong for the glory of God like an oak tree. Throughout many, many years, Israel is a nation that has failed to respond to the Word of God. She is known for her unbelief. But there is coming a day in which God will show that He has planted that nation and she will grow to become as strong and tall as an oak tree. She will tower as a strong and righteous nation of God.

This is great encouragement for you and me. Sometimes we don't look too impressive when it comes to our relationship with God. We don't respond to the Word of God the way we should, and frankly, don't behave the way we should. Isn't it good to know that we have been planted by God. He planted us into His family by the power of the Holy Spirit and one day we too will stand as tall as an oak tree.

PART #2 – The results of Christ's Second Coming into this world. **61:4-9**

There are nine results of Jesus Christ coming into this world. All of these results will be realized by Israel when Jesus Christ returns again.

Result #1 - The ancient devastated areas will be rebuilt and repaired. **61:4**

There is a program called "Extreme Home Makeover" in which a team of builders get together and completely rebuild a house in one week. Here in Isaiah it is predicted that God will give Israel an Extreme Sovereign Makeover. Nothing like what is described here has ever happened. Jesus Christ will cause an Extreme Home Makeover to take place over all of the Promised Land in Israel. This part of the Middle East will become like a Garden of Eden existence.

It is specifically stated that Israel's cities have been in a state of ruin for "many generations." This is absolute historical fact. In fact, it has been this way since the days of Isaiah, which means it has now been 2700 years. But God promises one day this will all change. One day people from all over the world will want to see the Makeover in the Promised Land of Israel.

Result #2 - Non-Jewish people will serve Jewish people. **61:5**

Jesus Christ promises Israel such a level of prosperity that strangers and foreigners are serving Israel. What a prediction here! All of the world will be interested in the welfare of Israel and will want to help her and serve her.

Result #3 - Israel will be called the priests and ministers of God. **61:6a**

God's original plan was to have the nation Israel become a nation of priests. He said this clear back in the days of Moses (Exodus 19:6).

One day this will happen. Israel is going to become a nation of priests and ministers to the Lord. He promised that one day Israel would be a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation. Jesus Christ will return and that is exactly what will happen.

Result #4 - Israel will be given the wealth of the nations. **61:6b**

They will be able to actually boast about the fact that the nations of the world are supporting them.

Result #5 - Israel will have joy in her land and not shame or humiliation. **61:7**

Notice this is about Israel's Promised Land. As Edward Young said, this refers to the promised land of Canaan, which is the promised land to Israel, known as Palestine (*The Book of Isaiah*, Vol. 3, p. 464). What is described here is that there will be a fullness of joy in the land, an "everlasting" joy which is something Israel has never known.

Result #6 - Israel will have a true worship. **61:8a**

Israel's worship services today are not real worship services from God's perspective. In fact, what Israel is doing now actually robs God of His glory. But that will all change. God will change it. Never again will Israel's worship be just a bunch of meaningless rituals. Never again will she rob God of His offerings. Both her heart and her worship will be right with God.

Result #7 - Israel will have an everlasting covenant with God recognized by all nations. **61:8b-9**

This covenant is the same covenant described by Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31-37) and it is a new covenant to which we are connected. It was instituted by the death of Jesus Christ. What this means for Israel is that one day she will be recognized as the great nation of God. There will never again be any anti-Semitism for the Jews. All nations and all peoples will honor Israel, realizing she is the nation of God.

Result #8 - Israel will rejoice and exalt God because she is finally saved and righteous. **61:10**

One day Israel will be a nation of joy. She will rejoice "greatly." But carefully notice why she is rejoicing, because of God. Her joy is found "in the LORD" and "in My God."

Friend, see this and learn this. You will be the happiest person you can ever be in a relationship with God. When you have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and you are pursuing a righteousness based on Scripture, and when you are adorning yourself with the beauty of God's Word, you will be joyful and happy. Joy is found in His salvation, in His righteousness.

Result #9 - Israel will blossom into becoming a beautiful and fruitful nation of righteousness and praise. **61:11**

This land of Israel will turn into a fruitful garden.

There is only one Person who can make all of this happen - Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ will turn Israel's present depressed status into a status of joy. What Jesus Christ will do for Israel nationally, He can do for you right now individually.

Perhaps your heart has been broken and wounded. Perhaps you are in a miserable and depressed condition. Turn your life to Jesus Christ and He will rebuild you and repair you and turn your sorrow and humiliation into joy and praise.