

ISAIAH 61 vs 1

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The book of Isaiah has two great divisions; **first**: chapters 1–39; God's Criticism of both rebel houses **Israel** and **Judah**, thereby affecting all the local neighbors in the hood; and **second**: chapters 40–66; God's Consolation to both houses who have separate histories. The great Isaiah scroll found in the Qumran caves, dated from the 2nd century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah.



In this chapter we find the grace of Christ published in the everlasting gospel, by Himself to a lost world.

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me / the One who created mankind, He is the best expositor of scripture and has given us the best exposition of these verses, even our Lord Jesus, who read this in the synagogue at Nazareth (it was the lesson for the day) and applied it entirely to himself – Matthew Henry;

for the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the meek / He did not say: to the stiff necked, hardhead or weak folks, though they also may have been sitting there yawning; meek = like a powerful horse put under a harness. Moses, was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth... with him I speak face to face -- **Numbers 12**. The Good Preacher came with good tidings = Good news, **not** rancid news. God's Good Words... sweeter than honey, like a light to our path.

People often ask: what can I do for the LORD? Well, how about: **1**. Learn what He said. and **2**. Do what He said. That's why Jesus the Messiah came... not to do His own thing... but to do His Father's will.

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon Me; for the LORD has anointed Me [1] to preach good tidings to the meek;

He sent Me / and as Mary Geegh, missionary to India once said: to whom God guides, He provides.

[2] to bind up the brokenhearted / those with shattered hearts; He was a Preacher and a Healer not merely of physical needs, but more so of spiritual needs – He was sent to the heart of the matter,

[3] to proclaim liberty to the captives / to declare freedom to those who are enslaved,

[4] and the opening of the prison to them that are bound / go out! Their Auschwitz was over, telling prisoners, hostages and captives they were free; providing grace sufficient to loosen us from our sin; so He was a Preacher, a Healer, a Deliverer;

² [5] To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD / it's obviously a favorable period of time; but for how long? Don't know. Perhaps like the front of a hurricane... a glorious yet brief period of God's favor. Have you noticed how free most of mankind is? Free to do just about anything we want or imagine doing. We are free. God created Adam and his race **in God's image and likeness**; but have you noticed just how quickly so many freely embezzle His gift of life to use it for their own purposes? So be warned, we are also free to ignore the Lord of glory -- which might not be the best thing to do.

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Thankfully, we are still free to come [and learn from Him that we might find rest for our souls](#).

Luke tells us how it was the custom of Jesus to attend the synagogue in Nazareth where He grew up... having on one occasion read **these words from Isaiah**... Then Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him, and He began by saying to them, [Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing](#) -- Luke 4:18.

When Messiah came the first time, it was to accomplish these 750-year-old promises... checking off 4 days on His calendar: Passover, **Unleavened Bread**, **Firstfruits** and **Pentecost**. **Done!** In Leviticus Moses told us: **7 Days were on the Lord's calendar**; 4 were fulfilled in Christ when He came the first time.

When Messiah comes the second time... it will be in great power and glory; and He will deal with the rest of this prophecy. By the way, the LORD's calendar is **not** that Liturgical calendar... which is just a manmade tradition that has run its course and ruined many people. **Check out on the link below the 3 last days**.

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, The Preacher, the Healer, the Deliverer did all that He was asked to do; He's so different than us isn't He? Here is where the Lord stopped and closed the book.

When Jesus the Messiah came the first time, He came in great humility to find and teach and save the lost; those who were wandering through life, without a shepherd; and daily, He willingly suffered the contradiction of sinners against Himself – **Hebrews 12**.

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.

And the day of vengeance of our God / there is a Day of wrath coming... In The Proverbs we read: **Six things God hates; and the seventh is always abominable to Him**. If there is objective truth and a moral component to our universe, then we all know it is wrong to crash into another person on the freeway; or take their food cart from the grocery store parking lot... or 10,000 other things. Good mothers know it is wrong for their little child to be molested; good fathers know they will protect their family at all costs.

Even the world knows there is a terrible Day of wrath and judgment coming... but they probably don't realize... the time leading up to it will last for 3 ½ years -- which is as long as when Jesus taught those who first responded to His kind message, willing to substitute His life for our lives. There is a Day coming, and He will allow the world to go after each other with a horror that cannot be described. Messiah will finish it when He comes in power and great authority, and Satan and all the powers of darkness will be defeated.

Isaiah says:

to strengthen all who mourn / ALL who are grieved with personal sadness, particularly how we offend the Lord like sheep gone astray... whatever their sore or sorrow is – Matthew Henry; perhaps this phrase goes best with the next verse:

³**To assign to them who mourn in Zion** / **What is Zion?** Zion is mentioned in Isaiah, Jeremiah and the Psalms 153 times in the OT. Jeremiah says: Let us declare in Zion the work of our LORD.

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ZION is never mentioned in the NT. Jamieson, Fausset & Brown in their Commentary on the Bible write: David's first military campaign was to take Zion deemed so impregnable the blind and lame were sent to man it, in mockery of the Hebrew king's attack. Zion was the towering height seen in every part of the city.

For centuries, the Roman church declared it is the fulfillment of the OT promises which is why they warred to take Jerusalem in their Roman Crusades. Their concordats with Hitler and Mussolini are nothing new. They tried to keep the people from reading the Bible and discover nothing in their traditions are required. Do you know anyone who would have joined a bloody crusade to destroy Jewish people I don't. Jesus said, the night He was betrayed: By this they will know you are My disciples; if you love one another.

In sleepy churchianity where there are hymnals in the pews, we can still sing songs like:

We're marching to Zion, beautiful Zion... the City of God.

Even in the Lutheran church hymnal we read:

ZION STANDS BY HILLS SURROUNDED, Zion, kept by power divine;
All her foes will be confounded, though the world in arms combine.

Is Zion mythical? **NO!** It is the homeland... Jerusalem, it is where the flock gather; it is the City of David; and it is the City of the Messiah to be fully realized... when He comes the second time in great power and glory.

To assign to them who mourn in Zion,

to give to them beauty for ashes / one day that dreadfully terrible war that is coming will be over... when He comes King of kings, and Lord of lords. The kingdoms and lordships that HE will rule are His ordinary peoples' little kingdoms and lordships that will do extraordinarily beautiful things for Him; it is when most of the hardheaded will be NO MORE; which I guess is why He still comes with a rod of iron,

Matthew Henry noticed in the Hebrew: **beauty** = *pheer* ... **ashes** = *epher*. MH wrote: The Lord will turn their sorrow into joy as quickly and as easily as you can transpose a letter: for He speaks, and it is done.

the oil of gladness, instead of mourning, the garment of praise, instead of a spirit of heaviness / instead of all those secrets kept to themselves ... piling up high;

God's promises have had many opportunities to be fulfilled in individuals who care to follow Him; as His people did after 400 years when they were led out of Egypt; as they were brought to the land promised to Abraham and his descendants forever. But we know the **House of Israel** didn't remain faithful... and they were taken to Assyria and scattered primarily throughout the Caucasus Mountains heading north and west.

But the **House of Judah** didn't learn from Israel's lessons... so 170 years later the House of Judah was led to Babylon. 90% of Judah did not return to rebuild Jerusalem. Most chose to stay with the Baal worshiping nations. Only in the 1900s have they once again returned... but have they learned anything?

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Isaiah repeatedly warns: **the Lord has stretched out His hand**... like a Father pointing at their kid with a stern look: STOP IT. Jeremiah picks up this theme adding... **and He has NOT withdrawn it**. So far, The LORD has done several transplants. When will His people get it right? because the LORD and His citizens of eternity want to get on with His original agenda, next phase... which no eye has seen, no ear has heard.

that they might be called trees / oaks of rightness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.

4 And they will rebuild the old wastes, they will restore the former desolate places; and they will repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations / you can almost hear the LORD say: FINALLY! The most desolate places were **hearts and minds**, God doesn't care about brick buildings, He died for people, not places; heaven and earth will pass away. When He wipes it from their memory, no one in all creation will be more joyful than HIM;

And yes, these verses include His promise to return His people to their original places; they are returning; but He expects to populate His eternity not with the trailer trash of earth. The unsanctified soul is like a city that is broken down, like a house in ruins; but by grace it will be a habitation of God through the Spirit.

5 Strangers will stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien will be your plowmen and your vinedressers / aliens and strangers from every nation who became fellow-citizens with all the saints; they will be your plowmen; probably your telecommunications industry specialists, doctors, surgeons, finance professionals and educators also. But the Lord was in a hurry and didn't have time: He will have enough eternity to tell us the whole story.

6 But you will be called priests of the LORD / but **not** after the order of Aaron -- no more bloody sacrifices will ever be needed; instead priests after the order of Melchisedec:

They will call you the ministers of our God, you will eat the riches of the Gentiles / but not riches seized with violence – Matthew Henry; this is not yet fulfilled. The best way to minister to God is to shut up and let Him do the talking. it was women who ministered to the Lord as He died on the cross. What do you think they did? Hand out church punch, coffee and chocolate chip cookies all that afternoon?

and in their glory, you will exchange yourselves / those who came would take the place of those who changed their glory for what did not profit – **Jeremiah 2**; you who were the least He chose to make the greatest among nations; to lift the great name of the LORD from the rising of the sun to its setting.

7 Instead of your shame / in Hebrew: **boshet**, and doesn't it sound like God is cussing them? What was their **boshet**? Jeremiah tells us several times Judah and citizens of Jerusalem had disgraced themselves, that degenerated into burning their children as offerings to whatever demonic queen of heaven they served. Imagine it: they considered the most vulnerable in our society as nothing, and fathers and mothers murdered their littlest thinking they were doing service to ___ to whom? **Not** to the God of Abraham. So it is **boshet**.

Instead of your boshet you will have a double portion, and instead of your humiliation,

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they will rejoice in their portion / you will have the birthright portion; instead of disgrace due to your practices; those who respond to His word; God was teaching the world a lesson with all this mess:

therefore in their land they will possess the double, and everlasting joy will be theirs / they will possess the birthright portion; not just Judah but all who will rejoice in the Lord, HE will make it happen.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery for burnt offering / the Lord GOD is not an anarchist; the IRS might grant deductible tax credits to the thieves and robbers of the world, but God won't;

I will direct their work in truth and I will make an everlasting covenant with them / [written on their hearts](#) – [Jeremiah 31](#); [God who is spirit must be worshiped in spirit and truth](#) – [John 4](#).

⁹ And their seed will be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people, all who see them will acknowledge them / one day the prejudice against the House of Judah; and the citizens of Jerusalem... will be finished; when the nations recognize the Lord comes a second time,

that they are the seed which the LORD has blessed.

And prophet Isaiah speaking for the House of Judah in Jerusalem at a time of deportation... says:

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul will be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation / at its root is the name: [JESUS](#), **He has covered me with the robe of rightness, as a Bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a Bride adorns herself with her jewels.** / this verse reminds us, there is a joyous Wedding Day coming; [the 5th Day, the next day still on the LORD's calendar](#) -- [Psalm 19](#).

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth her bud, and as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to blossom; so the Lord GOD will cause His righteousness and His praise to blossom before all the nations.

[3 Days are still on His Calendar](#)

[Every Praise](#)

[JESUS it is YOU](#)

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