

The Acceptable Year of the Lord

(Warning & Comfort for Today)

Isaiah 61:1-3

January 17, 2021

Introduction

2021

We need *good news!*

Isaiah prophetic book, 2 sections...

- **Judgment on Judah & surrounding nations**
- **Messiah is coming as their Savior & King!**

Isaiah 61:1

Bring Good News

evaggeliz / evangelize (root for evangelism) =

***To make known God's message of salvation
with authority and power...***

NT = "to preach the Gospel"

Isaiah 52:7

Message intended for the "down and out"

Jesus also ministered to such audiences

Luke 4:16-21

Jesus reads Isaiah (v. 18-19)

- **“Lxx” = Septuagint (Greek translation)**
- **He clearly identifies Himself... Messiah!**

Lesson: speak the truth with grace

**Jesus fulfills Feast, Law, Messianic
prophesies about the Suffering Servant**

Jesus' First Advent

Reasons

- **To proclaim the Gospel to Israel**
- **To pay for sins of many, die as Lamb of God**
- **to pattern a life of service to God**

Spiritual part of God's redemptive plan

- **To provide H.S to comfort, counsel, convict**
- **To give disciples power to bring Gospel**
- **To proclaim age of grace and the Church**

Jesus' earthly ministry

Physical miracles validate His identity

Death on the cross

- **Wrath of God was satisfied for sins...**
- **Personally believe, call, surrender**

Year of Jubilee

Lev 25... (intro: v. 8-13)

50th year – Acceptable / Favorable

- **All debts cancelled or forgiven (v. 23-38)**
- **Everyone released from bondage**
 - **All prisoners / captives set free,**
 - **Slaves released**
 - **Property returned to original owners**

Picture of NT Themes:

Jesus proclaims lasting good news...

- **Redemption, Forgiveness**

Trust Christ = spiritual “year of jubilee”

- **Set free from bondage, slavery to sin**
 - Rom 8:2; Gal 5:1, 3:22
- **Sin debt to God paid (Jesus’ substitute)**
 - Col 2:13-14
- **Acceptable by grace thru faith, not works**
 - Heb 4:9-10

Best News Ever Proclaimed

God sent His only Son, Jesus...

- **Delivering promise of spiritual salvation**
- **Announcing reign of righteousness**

Isaiah's prophecy partially fulfilled

- **61:2 – Jesus stopped before reading...**
 - **“and the day of vengeance of our God”**
- **Consider main purpose of His first advent**
 - **John 3:17-18**
 - **Rom 8:1**
 - **1 Thes 5:9**

Vengeance and Cheer

God's vengeance, wrath, condemnation

- **Eternal consequence for sin, unbelief**

Testing, tribulations, trials, trouble

- **Temporal... limited to life in fallen world**
- **John 16:33... Jesus has overcome!**

True disciples have spiritual wholeness

- **H.S. helps, comforts... through this life**
- **Physically whole (redeemed) when glorified**

Isa 61:1 taught in Matt 5:1-12

Spiritual reality: salvation, cost of following

- **Who are the “poor” ...**
 - “broken hearted” ...**
 - “imprisoned” ...**

Jesus miraculously met physical needs while instructing about eternal needs

We still have time to proclaim His message

- **This is the “acceptable year of the Lord”**
- **But it will end!**

Rapture, then Wrath

Isaiah 63:4 “...year of My redeemed”

Rapture is NOT “second advent” of Christ

- Rapture, then God’s attention on Israel
- Great Tribulation = 7 years of God’s wrath

Vengeance belongs to the Lord (Deut 32:25)

*punishment inflicted, retribution exacted
for an injury or wrong... can be beyond physical*

- Israel’s national rejection of Messiah
- Persecutors of the Church, rejectors of Gospel

Plans for the Remnant

2 Thes 1:6-10

God is furious, angry, yet mercifully holding back wrath against His enemies... for now!

Great Tribulation: a “day of vengeance”

- **Specific, curtailed time in Israel’s future**
 - Deep mourning, repentance
 - Cry out for Messiah to save them
- **Redeemed and spiritually regenerated...**
 - Comforted, consoled, joyful, praising God in Zion
 - Israel/Church rule/reign in Christ’s earthly kingdom

Second Advent of Christ

Isaiah 61:2b-3... Conquering King (finally!)

- **Real hope of living in complete salvation**
- **Fully redeemed, healed, liberated people**

Present kingdom of God is a down-payment

- **Already exchange ashes of mourning for fruit of righteousness in Christ!**
- **Already anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit**
- **All wearing garment of salvation & praise (think also of God's armor in Ephesians 6)**

Reminder for Troubling Times

“Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. Our broken lives are not lost or useless. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out his wonderful plan of love.”

(Eric Liddell, British Olympic Gold Medalist runner and Christian missionary, in Disciplines of the Christian Life)

Grow in Grace, Knowledge of Him

Isaiah 61:3b... become like healthy trees

- **Righteous deeds, by supernatural strength**
- **Bearing fruit (John 15), bringing glory to God**

“The branches of growing trees not only reach higher, but their roots grow deeper. It's impossible for a strong tree to have high branches without having deep roots. It would become top-heavy and topple over in the wind.” ... “The same is true with Christians. It's impossible for us to grow in the Lord without entwining our roots around His Word and deepening our life in His commands.”

(Joni Eareckson Tada, in Diamonds in the Dust)

Fruit of the Spirit

Psalm 1 (reflect on v. 1-3)

Isaiah 61:3... indwelling Spirit is the source

- **“Trees of righteousness”**
 - Christ is our only source of righteousness
- **“The planting of the Lord”**
 - It is His doing... that He may be glorified!

Growth = change to Biblical worldview...

Jesus commanded: bear fruit, believe, love

1 John 5:3-5

Warning & Comfort

Calendar year 2021 will end for all of us...

This favorable season of grace will also end...

Bridegroom returning for the Bride...

Matt 24:36 – timing not revealed to anyone

Doctrine of “Imminence”

Phil 3:20-21 – ready, longing, eagerly waiting

1 Cor 15:51-53 – all changed in a moment...

at last trumpet: incorruptible, immortal

Waiting for the Rapture

Waiting is not in a “passive” sense...

Be active in the power of the Spirit

- Useful vessel for serving our Master
- Filled to overflowing
- Praying continually

Christ's imminent return motivates us to live in a way that pleases God

Living to Please God

3 themes emphasized by Christ & NT writers

- **Love one another**
- **Walk in Purity & Holiness**
- **Work Diligently & Properly**

Love one another...

- **John 13:34-35**
- **1 John 3:18, 23**
- **Phil 1:9-11**

Living to Please God

Walk in Purity & Holiness

- **James 4:7-10**
- **1 John 3:2-3**
- **Titus 2:11-13**

Work Diligently & Properly

- **1 Cor 15:58**
- **2 Peter 3:14-15**

Summary: 1 Thes. 3:12-13; 4:1-2, 7-12

Challenge & Reminder

Fear the Lord God over all others

Seek those things above

Sacrificially love well –especially to believers

Live in a way that pleases our Lord

Are you ready to meet Jesus?

**Are you living to please God, or shackled to
doing what pleases the earth-dwellers?**

Podcast Summarized (1)

Society trying to shame us through...

- **political correctness**
- **rhetoric that exploits people's emotions**
(Methods not new, but accelerated by tech)

Practice of hypocrisy is...

- **demeaning to mankind**
- **denigration to the glory of God**

Propaganda designed to...

- **humiliate, erode, destroy people**
- **continually repeat lies**

Podcast Summarized (2)

Buying into the lies: cooperating with evil

We've been conditioned for a year+...

- **truth-tellers are not welcome**
- **no questions – just do what we say**

How to thrive in our society (Principles)

- **Nobody shames us unless we're trying to please them!**
- **God is judge; only be ashamed of disappointing Him!**
- **There is a TRUTH above the State; be ready to speak it!**
- **Free will; by choosing God's ways, Biblical worldview, it will cost us something!**
- **Confidently enter society chaos w/Christ, Gospel; pray!**

Confident, Bold, Blameless

1 John 2:28-29

1 John 4:17-18

2 Cor 6:1-3

*The heart (and ministry) with blame
results in a life without shame!*

Warning & Comfort:

Believe

Love

Make Disciples

...because *eternal lives matter!*

Closing

Born-again believers have been given...

- **Fresh, new beginning**
- **Restored identity**
- **Relationship with God**
- **Victorious hope of eternal life**

Still in “Year of Jubilee”... not indefinitely!
(age of grace, choice to believe & receive)

Today (now) is the time... be assured of life

- **True believers can be taken at any moment**
- **Then God’s wrath will be poured out**

Instruction, Encouragement

All will be judged by God

- **Heb 9:27**
- **2 Tim 4:1**

***Following Christ is never the safe option, but
it is the eternally secure option***

**If you do not yet know Jesus as your Savior,
Let this Warning also become your Comfort!**

Instruction, Encouragement

If you claim to be saved by grace thru faith...

- **God does not save us to remain the same**
- **Life is not about becoming a better version of our old self (“trouble-shooting / fixing”)**
- **Learn God’s principles, be “transformed” by walking in the power of the Spirit**
- **We are set-apart people, for God’s glory... He refines us to become more like Christ**

Run with endurance

Persevere in walking with our Lord daily

Stand on the Truth of God’s Word

Follow His command in Spirit’s power & prayer

FINALLY

Christ is coming... with a reward!

Be found...

- **Fervently watching and active in our waiting**
 - **Fully established in His love, pure & blameless,
no reason to be ashamed in His presence**
 - **Faithfully sharing the good news of Jesus...**
 - **His first advent, promised rapture**
- AND**
- **His second advent!**

Receive Jesus... Live in light of eternity...

Love and enjoy the Lord – now & forever! -Amen

Good News!

Salvation



It is as simple as ABC

Responding to God's Offer

- **A = Admit you're a sinner, in need of the Savior**
 - Rom 3:10
 - Rom 3:23
 - Rom 6:23
- **B = Believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord**
 - Rom 10:9-10
- **C = Call upon the name of the Lord**
 - Rom 10:13

