

# Good News

Isaiah 61:1-3

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**BIG BEND  
BIBLE  
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## **Isaiah 61:1-3 – What the Messiah will do (NIV)**

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.*

## **v1 – On whom is Spirit of the Lord?**

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me:* Here, Isaiah prophetically speaks for the Messiah, and the Messiah announces that He is blessed and empowered by the Spirit of the Lord GOD.

## **When did Jesus speak these words?**

In Luke 4:16-22, Jesus spoke in the synagogue of Nazareth, His hometown. He opened up the scroll to Isaiah 61 — perhaps an assigned reading, perhaps chosen by Him — and read from the beginning of the chapter through the first line of verse 2. When He sat down, He simply said today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.

- Jesus is the person described in Isaiah 61:1-3 and He is the one the Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon.

## **Jesus is God, why did He need the Spirit of the Lord?**

Jesus set aside His prerogatives (or abilities) as God for His mission on the earth.

*Philippians 2:5-7 – Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

Indeed, He even attributed the miracles He performed as the Father...

*John 5:19 – Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner*

Jesus set aside His prerogatives as God so that He could perform His mission on earth to pay the penalty for our sin.

*Hebrews 4:15 – For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

If Jesus, the Son of God and God the Son, perfect in both His deity and humanity, needed the Spirit of the Lord GOD, how much more do we.

## **What does it mean the Lord has anointed Me?**

This identifies the speaker as the Messiah because Messiah means “Anointed One.” Passages such as 1 Samuel 2:10 refer to the Messiah as His anointed.

## **What does it mean to anoint?**

The word “anoint” means to rub or sprinkle on; apply an unguent, ointment, or oily liquid to. Persons in the Old Testament were often literally anointed with oil. For example, priests were anointed for their special service to the LORD (Exodus 28:41).

- Literal oil would be applied, but as a sign of the Holy Spirit upon their lives and service. The oil on the head was only the outward representation of the real, spiritual work going on inside them.

## **How have Christians been anointed?**

*1 John 2:20 – But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.*

In the New Testament sense, anointing has the idea of being filled with, and blessed by, the Holy Spirit.

- This is something that is the common property of all Christians, but something we can and should become more submitted and responsive to.

How is our anointing as Christians similar to the baptism of the Spirit?

*1 Corinthians 12:13 – For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body*

As water baptism is a representation of identifying with Christ (His death – burial – resurrection), it is also a physical representation of our spiritual baptism of the Holy Spirit.

### **What was the Messiah anointed to preach?**

*To preach good tidings to the poor:* The Messiah announces that He is here to heal the damage that sin brings. Sin has done great damage, so there needs to be a great work of redemption.

- This is not just the poor economically but the poor spiritually.

### **What were the good tidings Jesus preached?**

That salvation is not a matter of our performance, it is a gift of God to all who trust in His provision...

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Salvation is not by works; we are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus who paid the penalty for our sins when He died on the cross.

### **What did the Father send the Messiah to do?**

*to bind up the brokenhearted* – The “brokenhearted” are people who are weakened, crushed, or destroyed in spirit.

- The term describes those who feel spiritually bankrupted, needy, and helpless.
- They yearn for the Lord’s help, comfort, and salvation. The verb translated “bind up” in the original language means “to inspire with confidence, give hope and courage to, to encourage, to bandage, to dress by covering, wrapping, or binding.”

*to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners* – Because sin makes captives, He will proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

### **v2 – What was the year of the Lord’s favor that Messiah proclaimed?**

That the Messiah was there in their midst. And what He would accomplish on their behalf was the result of the Lord’s favor... His grace.

### **How did the Messiah proclaim the day of vengeance of our God?**

Jesus’ Olivet Discourse described the time leading up to His return to establish the Millennial Kingdom. Jesus also revealed details of the Tribulation through His apostles and prophets.

### **What is the day of vengeance of our God?**

God pours out His wrath on the world to prepare it for the Millennial Kingdom. This is a 7-year period of time also called the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel, the Great Tribulation the time of Jacob’s Trouble, Day of the Lord, the Apocalypse, etc.

### **Why must there be such a terrible time of God’s vengeance?**

Sin is a crime that must be avenged and sin’s consequences will build up to a point where God intervenes initiating His Great Reset. The outcome will be the Millennial Kingdom that will be the utopia God has put in the hearts of all people.

### **How will the proclamation of the day of vengeance of our God comfort all who mourn?**

God is bringing true justice to the earth punishing those who are His enemies and the enemies of His people. Signs of the day of vengeance of our God is especially comforting to Church Age believers who have a correct view of the rapture...

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 – *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

The rapture is only a comfort if it is pre-trib.

### **Why did Jesus stop reading Isaiah 61 before mentioning the day of vengeance of our God?**

Because that is not why He came. He came to proclaim the first part of His coming. The day of vengeance of our God is associated with His return.

- This shows us something of the nature of Biblical prophecy: it may “shift gears” and time frames quickly and without warning.

### **v3 – What did God promise those who grieve in Zion?**

- Instead of the ashes of mourning, He gives His people a crown of beauty.
- Instead of the mourning itself, He gives His people the oil of joy.
- Instead of the spirit of despair, He gives His people the garment of praise.

Why do we sit in the ashes, why do we mourn, why do we indulge the spirit of despair when Jesus gave us something so much better?

### **What does it mean they will be called oaks of righteousness?**

The restored place of God’s people is glorious. They are as strong, beautiful, and useful as trees — and trees of righteousness at that. Most wonderfully, when people look at the trees, they see they are the planting of the LORD.

**What applications come to mind from our discussion?**

- Christians have been anointed to be God's representatives on earth... we must shine!
- Jesus brought the Good News of God's plan of salvation; we are called to be like Him!
- Jesus fulfilled prophecy by simply reading it... we are blessed when we read it!