

“The Year of the Lord’s Favor” Isaiah 61

- I. Introduction

- II. The Year of the Lord’s Favor promised
 - A. The presence of God in this text
 1. “The Sovereign Lord”
 2. The Spirit of the Lord God
 3. “is upon me”

 - B. The Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:9)
 1. Decreed in conjunction with the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
 2. Slaves set free
 3. Land returned to original owners
 4. God revealed as Judge and Savior

 - C. Incredible Promises – what will the “Anointed One” bring?
 1. Good news
 2. Healing
 3. Proclamation – big announcements from the King
 - a. Liberty – freedom!
 - b. “The Year of the Lord’s Favor is here!”
 - c. “The day of vengeance of our God”

 4. Comfort
 5. A huge grant! (undeserved funds that do not have to be paid back)
 - a. Crown – a beautiful headdress, gems included! (vs. 3,10)

- b. Oil of gladness (vs. 1,3) the anointed One brings oil to anoint
- c. Garments (Vs. 3,10)
 - Garment of praise
 - Garments of salvation
 - Robe of righteousness

D. The Day of Salvation

“In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2)

“When God offers deliverance, it is wise to respond immediately, before the offer is withdrawn. ‘Now’ in a broad sense refers to the Gospel age, while in a specific sense it refers to the time when an individual hears God’s offer of salvation.” – Reformation Study Bible, page 1679

III. A Shocking Fulfillment

A. Who is “me” in verse 1? (Luke 4:17-21)

B. Who are the oaks of righteousness in verse 3?

1. A remnant of people who will glorify God
2. What exploits will they do?
 - Build up the ancient ruins
 - Raise up the former devastations
 - Repair ruined cities – the devastations of many generations
3. What sort of fruit will they bear?
 - Strangers will stand and tend their flocks
 - Foreigners will be their plowmen and vinedressers

C. Language

1. Marriage
2. Agriculture

IV. Our Joyful Application

- A. I will rejoice GREATLY in the Lord! (vs. 10)
- B. My soul shall exult in my God!
- C. Who are the recipients of all this favor? (vs. 1-4,7)

- 1. The poor
- 2. The brokenhearted
- 3. The captives
- 4. Mourners
- 5. Weak – faint in spirit
- 6. Ruined
- 7. Devastated
- 8. Shamed
- 9. Dishonored

D. How should we respond?

- 1. Thanksgiving
- 2. Joy
- 3. Giving and receiving gifts
- 4. Pray, invite, encourage