

Isaiah 61
The Ministry of the Messiah

Proclaiming God's favor (1-3)

Preaching the good news (II Corinthians 5:14-15)

Compelled by Christ's love for us.

Proclaiming freedom (John 8:34-36 / Galatians 5:13 / I Peter 2:16)

Freedom from sin, freedom to serve, and freedom to submit (as a bondsman)

Providing comfort (II Corinthians 1:3-4)

He provides comfort (I Peter 5:7) that we might comfort others.

Planting of the LORD (Matthew 13:23 / John 15:16 / Colossians 1:10)

He plants us in good soil that we might bear lasting fruit for Him.

Priests of the LORD (4-7) (I Peter 2:9) ***who enter His presence, enter His service, offer sacrifices, mediate, represent God, give counsel, give judgments, and give exhortation.***

Rebuilding ancient ruins (Ephesians 2:20 / I Timothy 3:15)

Laying the correct foundation.

Restoring places that were devastated (Colossians 2:13-15)

Sin, the Law's guilt, and demons all defeated by the CROSS!

Receiving the priesthood (ministers of God) (Revelation 1:5-6)

A privilege position directed and empowered by our High Priest.

Rejoicing in their inheritance (Ezekiel 44:28 / Romans 8:17 / I Peter 1:3-4)

Not of this world. We are heirs with Christ, our inheritance can't be diminished

People blessed by the LORD (8-9)

Everlasting covenant (Genesis 17:7-8 / Jeremiah 31:36-37; 33:25-26)

His promise for His people.

Exalted among the nations (Deuteronomy 28:10-13)

Israel as head of the nations and no longer the tail.

Praise before all nations (10-11)

Rejoicing in ***my*** God (John 17:3)

We have a personal relationship with our Creator.

Robed in righteousness (Romans 13:14 / Ephesians 4:20-24)

Removing the old clothes and being robed in His righteousness.

Rising up in righteousness and praise (II Corinthians 5:17 / I Peter 2:9 / Titus 2:14)

We are made new, with the desire and ability to declare His excellencies.

We are His special people, who are eager to please His and do what is good.

Discussion questions for Isaiah 61

In what ways are we to proclaim God's favor? (II Corinthians 6:1-2 / I Peter 2:9 / Psalm 107 / Psalm 136 / Psalm 145) ***His grace is free but His time is limited, NOW is the time of His favor. We are chosen by Him to praise Him, declaring the excellencies of His character and His work with our mouths and our lives. We praise Him for His deliverance, His wondrous works and for His greatness and love.***

How are we to serve as His priests here on earth? (II Corinthians 5:18-21 / James 5:16 / I Timothy 4:12 / John 13:14-17) ***We are His ambassadors. We have been given both the ministry and the message of reconciliation, introduce lost mankind to our Savior. We have the privilege of praying for one another for healing and the forgiveness of sin. We can live under the influence and power of the Holy Spirit so our lives can be examples of Christ. We have the privilege of serving others in the Name of Jesus.***

What is the connection between righteousness and praise? (contrast with wickedness) (Proverbs 29:2 / Daniel 4:37 / Revelation 15:3-4; 16:9 & 11) ***A righteous life leaves no regrets. Not that life is without pain and struggle, but that those who walk with God do not carry the burden of guilt and shame. When the righteous rule, justice and peace are the result. Therefore, people has a reason to praise God. (righteousness comes only from God)***

The wicked, even when facing God's wrath for their sin, will not repent but continue to curse the name of God.

We praise God because He is righteous and just, yet He provides a way for the unjust to be redeemed and to experience His great love.

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