

A BETTER KING, SERVANT, CONQUEROR

The Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 61—63:6

Verse to Remember

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness.... Isaiah 61:10a

Day 1 — Read Isaiah 61:1-3.


When Jesus applies **Isaiah 61:1-2** to himself (Lk. 4:14-22), he stops after the words “to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,” because this gracious proclamation was the purpose of his incarnation. Jesus’ first coming inaugurated the “year” of God’s favor, an extended time when salvation would be made available to all people. Jesus’ second coming will inaugurate the “day” of God’s vengeance, a short period of time when God will bring his final judgment and destroy his enemies. This week’s passage follows this same structure: 61—62 focus on God’s favor, while 63:1-6 focus on God’s vengeance.

1. This passage begins with Isaiah’s Messianic figure speaking about himself and his ministry.
 - a. How has this figure been prepared for his mission? (Is. 61:1a)
 - b. In 61:2, what two things has he been called to proclaim?
 - c. How do these two proclamations capture the themes we have repeatedly seen in Isaiah?

2. Read Luke 4:14-21. What claim does Jesus make about himself in verse 21?

3. Complete the chart to see the amazing transformations God will bring about in his people through the Anointed One.

	For those who are...	In the year of the Lord’s favor, the Anointed One will...
61:1	poor	preach the good news
61:1	brokenhearted	
61:1	captives	
61:1	prisoners	
61:2b	mourning	
61:3	grieving	

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4. After the Anointed One has done his work in the people of God, they will be called “oaks of righteousness” (61:3). What does this title imply about what they will be like?
5. Reread the closing sentence of 61:3. What is the purpose of the transformations that will take place?

Day 2 — Read Isaiah 61:4–11.

1. What changes will take place in the relationship between God’s people and the people of other nations? (Is. 61:5, 6b)

In the near future, the exiles will return from Babylon and will rebuild their broken city (61:4). This rebuilding is a picture of the transformation the Anointed One will bring, though it will not be fully realized until he comes again. At that time, all the brokenness of life will be transformed – in people’s hearts, in their surroundings, in their relationships – “all ... long-standing and inherited brokenness will be restored.”¹

2. What will God’s people receive in place of their shame and disgrace? (Is. 61:7)
3. What will God’s justice and faithfulness bring about for them? (Is. 61:8–9)

4. The speaker in 61:10–11 could either be Zion or the Anointed One. Either way, what causes the joy behind the singing? (Is. 61:10)

Days 3 & 4 — Read Isaiah 62:1-12.

1. What two things is the Anointed One committed to accomplishing in Zion? (Is. 62:1)

2. After the Anointed One accomplishes his work in Zion, how will the nations and kings see her? (Is. 62:2a)

3. The LORD gives Zion new names to reflect her new status: “Hephzibah” means “my delight is in her,” and “Beulah” means “married” (62:4). How do these new names capture the transformation the LORD has brought about? (Consider Zion’s “old names” in 62:4.)

4. In 62:5, Isaiah uses the image of a wedding to illustrate how God feels about Israel, his bride.
 - a. Describe what it means for a bridegroom to rejoice over his bride.

Crown
The result of the Anointed One’s work is that Zion will be a crown or diadem. Zion will not *wear* the crown, but will be the crown in the Lord’s hand: thus, “The Lord’s people will *be* the sign that he is King.”²

- b. This description only begins to express how God feels about you. How is such delight possible? (Review what we have read so far in this week’s passage.)

5. What does God promise on oath in 62:8-9?

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6. In the past, Jerusalem's gates existed to offer protection and keep out other nations. What will be different in the New Jerusalem? (Is. 62:10; Is. 60:11)
7. What proclamation does God want the entire earth to hear? (Is. 62:11)
8. Isaiah lists four more new names for his people. What do these names say about them? (Is. 62:12)

Day 5 — Read Isaiah 63:1–6.

This passage describes the day of vengeance proclaimed by the Anointed One in 61:2. It is a conversation between the prophet and the Anointed One, Jesus, who by his might has accomplished the final defeat of all his enemies.

1. Give a general description of what this day of vengeance will be like.
2. Why is Jesus worthy to bring this about? (Is. 61:1; Acts 17:31; Rev. 19:11–16)
3. Why is God's vengeance necessary? (Is. 59:14–18; Is. 63:5)
4. The Anointed One talks about his righteousness, about being mighty to save, about the day of vengeance being the year of his redemption, and about working salvation (63:1c, 4, 5). How do you think this salvation and the bloody vengeance depicted in 63:1–6 fit together?

¹J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1993), 501.

²Motyer 506.