

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

ISAIAH 61

Isaiah 61

Isaiah sixty-one is part of the last section of the Book of Isaiah and describes in detail the Messianic age and what life will be like during that era. The opening verses are familiar to those who know the New Testament that is related to the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus. The passage reads, ***"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..."*** (61:1-2a) This passage is what Jesus quoted when He came to the synagogue in Nazareth upon His return to the city, after His baptism.

"So, He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are

oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:16-19).

Notice the Lord Jesus does not finish the verse as recorded in Isaiah 61:2. Jesus only quoted half the verse from Isaiah. The reason is that at His first coming, He only came to preach the ***"acceptable year of the LORD."*** The later part of the verse talks about the vengeance of God that will be executed when the Lord returns to earth.

When Jesus referenced Isaiah sixty-one, Isaiah when speaking of the "acceptable year" was talking about what most people refer to as the year of "Jubilee" that happened every fifty (50) years. This was the time God designed to make sure that everyone got a ***"fresh start"*** in life. When Jesus said, He came to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, in essence He was announcing that He came to give everyone a ***"fresh start!"***

Prayer and Action Steps

Father thank you that you gave me a fresh start. Please help me to begin fresh today to love you and serve you as never before. Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
