

Isaiah 61 — The Anointed One and the Year of the LORD's Favor

The Anointed Mission (Isaiah 61:1–2a)

*“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...”* (Isaiah 61:1–2a, NKJV)

Jesus read these words in the synagogue and said, *“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”* (Luke 4:21, NKJV; see Luke 4:18–19, NKJV). God sovereignly anointed His Messiah; we are called to receive the good news, open our hearts to His healing, and walk out of captivity into liberty.

Personal application: Where are you “poor” today—empty, stuck, grieving, bound? Bring that place to Jesus. Ask Him to heal what is broken and to open what has been shut.

Comfort after Vengeance—Two Horizons (Isaiah 61:2b–3)

*“...And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
To console those who mourn in Zion,
To give them beauty for ashes,
The oil of joy for mourning,
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
That they may be called trees of righteousness,
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”* (Isaiah 61:2b–3, NKJV)

Jesus stopped reading before “the day of vengeance,” because that belongs to His future return. Yet even now He comforts mourners, trades ashes for beauty, heaviness for praise, and plants people so they become strong “trees of righteousness.”

Personal application: Exchange, do not hoard. Hand your ashes, mourning, and heaviness to the Lord. Consciously “put on” praise, and ask Him to make you steadfast and fruitful for His glory.

Rebuild, Raise, Repair (Isaiah 61:4–7)

*“And they shall rebuild the old ruins,
They shall raise up the former desolations,
And they shall repair the ruined cities,
The desolations of many generations.”* (Isaiah 61:4, NKJV)

*“But you shall be named the priests of the LORD,
They shall call you the servants of our God.
You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles,
And in their glory you shall boast.*

*Instead of your shame you shall have double honor...
Everlasting joy shall be theirs.” (Isaiah 61:6–7, NKJV)*

God promises restoration and re-commissioning. He raises up a priestly people to serve Him and rebuild what sin and sorrow have ruined. He provides; we participate—receiving honor in place of shame as we take up His work.

Personal application: Where has desolation lingered in your family, neighborhood, or Bible study group? Ask God how you can partner with Him this week to rebuild, raise, and repair—through prayer, service, generosity, or peacemaking.

The LORD Who Loves Justice (Isaiah 61:8–9)

*“For I, the LORD, love justice;
I hate robbery for burnt offering;
I will direct their work in truth,
And will make with them an everlasting covenant.
Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles...
All who see them shall acknowledge them,
That they are the posterity whom the LORD has blessed.” (Isaiah 61:8–9, NKJV)*

God’s covenant faithfulness is steadfast, and His people must mirror His heart for justice and truth. He establishes; we embody—living distinctly so others recognize the Lord’s blessing.

Personal application: Let your worship match your workplace. Refuse shortcuts and manipulations; seek what is right in public and private because the LORD “loves justice.”

Robed for Joy (Isaiah 61:10–11)

*“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
My soul shall be joyful in my God;
For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its bud,
As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth,
So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
To spring forth before all the nations.” (Isaiah 61:10–11, NKJV)*

God clothes; we rejoice. Salvation and righteousness are His gifts, and He causes righteousness and praise to bloom publicly.

Personal application: Begin and end your day by consciously “putting on” what God has given—salvation and righteousness. Let praise be the soundtrack of your life so others hear what God has planted.

Salvation Invitation

The Messiah has come, and His good news is for you. He died for your sins and rose again so you can be forgiven, healed, and set free. Scripture says, *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (Second Corinthians 6:2, NKJV) and, *“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved’”* (Romans 10:13, NKJV).

If you are ready to respond:

“Lord Jesus, I turn from my sin and trust You. Thank You for dying for me and rising again. Please forgive me, heal my broken heart, set me free, and clothe me with salvation and righteousness. I receive You as my Savior and Lord. Amen.”

Challenge for Believers

1. Arise and announce (Isaiah 61:1–2a): Share one concrete piece of good news with someone hurting this week; pray for healing and freedom in Jesus’ name.
2. Exchange your heaviness (Isaiah 61:3): Replace complaint with praise each time discouragement rises.
3. Rebuild something broken (Isaiah 61:4): Choose a practical act that mends—reconcile, volunteer, mentor, or give.
4. Practice public righteousness (Isaiah 61:8): Make a just, truthful decision that costs you something—and offer it to God.
5. Wear your robe (Isaiah 61:10–11): Start each day by thanking God out loud for the “garments of salvation” and the “robe of righteousness.”