

A Trek Through Isaiah 83 - 61:1-9

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<u>The Work Accomplished 59:14 - 63:6</u>
Situation and remedy: the promised Conqueror 59:14-21
The universal city 60:1-22
The Anointed One and His transforming work 61:1-9
The Savior and His gathered people 61:10 - 62:12
Consummation of the work 63:1-6

- In the book of the Conqueror (56 - 66)
 - Question: How will God's people fulfill their promise?
 - Three areas of emphasis
 - The contrast between the ideal community and the actual community
 - God's glorious promises for the faithful.
 - A Conqueror: the third messianic figure who accomplishes God's purpose and fulfills His promises.
- The Work Accomplished 59:14 - 63:6
 - God's purposes accomplished.
- Today: The Anointed One and His transforming work 61:1-9

- 61:1-9 The Anointed One and His transforming work
 - V1-4 First testimony of the Anointed One
 - The second song of the Conqueror
 - The Anointed One speaking
 - Three-part testimony
 - V1a His preparation
 - V1b-3a His task
 - V3b-4 His results: transformation
 - Read by Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth Lk 4:16-22
 - Confirmed that this passage is about the Messiah.
 - Divided Isaiah's vision into two parts: a time of favor, and a time of vengeance..
 - Favor (grace) and vengeance are acts of God.

- V1a His preparation

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;

- Two parts
 - Anointed with the Spirit
 - Given good news: God's word.
- As Is 59:21 My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart...
- Good news,
 - The gospel
 - As Is 50:4 The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.
- to the poor.
 - Also "afflicted".
 - Those under the oppression of sin.

■ V1b-3a His task

1 ...he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit...

- to bind up the brokenhearted
 - Personal ministry
 - Conviction of sin.
- to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
 - Parallel structure
 - External: Freedom from the bondage of sin
 - Same phrase used in Lv 25:10 to describe the Year of Jubilee: And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you...
- to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
 - Extended period of grace.
 - Started with His first coming
 - Continues to the Great Tribulation
- and the day of vengeance of our God;
 - The time of judgment: the Great Tribulation
 - Ends the time of favor
 - Comparatively short: 7y
 - Exact giving of what is due
- to comfort all who mourn;
 - Exact recompense for wrongs suffered
 - As Is 40:1-2 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

- to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
 - Those who mourn in Zion. Over sin.. The church (Jews and Gentiles)
 - Grant. God's decision
 - Give. God's action to carry out His decision.
 - Mourning. Over sin.
 - Replacing sorrow with blessing
 - a beautiful headdress instead of ashes
 - the oil of gladness instead of mourning.
 - As Ps 45:7 speaking to the king: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
 - Anointing with oil was a common way of showing joy; lack of oil showed grief.
 - the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit.
 - All-covering wrap: the whole person
 - Boisterous praise bursting forth
 - Progression from top to bottom: headdress, oil (on the head), garment (on the body)
 - Progression from outer to inner: ashes (applied to the exterior), mourning (of the heart), faint spirit

■ V3b-4 His results: transformation

3 ...that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

- V3 New nature
 - that they may be called.
 - Lit it will be called to them. Stating an objective reality.
 - A new name indicating a new nature
 - Oaks of righteousness
 - Strong and durable
 - Righteous because justified
 - the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified
 - Picture of trees planted
 - All due to the Lord
 - For His glory
- V4 new activity
 - If the nation Israel: Rebuilding of Jerusalem and the cities of Judea.
 - If the church: Refers to the building up the church and repairing the ravages of sin.
 - Will be able to reconstruct all that has been broken down for a long time.

○ V 5-9 Transformation elaborated

■ Structure

- Spoken to the nation Israel
- V5-6a World community, willing service.
- V6b-9 The LORD's covenant with His people

■ V5-6a World community, willing service.

5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; 6 but you shall be called the priests of the Lord; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;

- Your...you. To the nation Israel.
- Strangers...foreigners. Believers from the nations.
- stand.
 - Steady continuance
- tend your flocks...be your plowmen and vinedressers
 - Representative tasks.
 - Willing service in the work of the community
- you shall be called the priests of the Lord
 - As the LORD told Moses on Mt Sinai in Ex 19:6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
 - Supplying spiritual needs

■ V6b-7 Recompense and reversal

6 ...you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. 7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

- V6b you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.
 - The nation Israel will thrive on the gifts brought by converted Gentiles.
 - She will boast in their riches and glory which the Lord has brought to her
- V7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
 - shame ... dishonor
 - What they had
 - double portion..rejoice in their lot.
 - What they will have
 - therefore
 - The outcome
 - in their land
 - Established in their inheritance
- V7 they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.
 - Repeated for emphasis

■ V8-9 Divine justice and covenant

8 For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

- For.
 - The basis of the Lord's actions.
- I the Lord love justice
 - The Lord has made Himself known.
 - He has made known His law, which is the standard of righteousness.
 - He has made known the penalty for breaking the law.
 - All are without excuse.
 - Out of love, the Servant has satisfied the demands of the law.
 - The Lord can be just and the justifier of those who believe.
- I hate robbery and wrong
 - Better the ESV footnote: "I hate robbery in burnt offering."
 - God's standard is that in the burnt offering nothing should be held back.
 - As Gen 22:17-19 when Abraham did not withhold his only son Isaac but offered him up as a burnt offering to the LORD and was commended.
- I will faithfully give them their recompense
 - Referring to the nation Israel.
 - God is faithful to live up to His own standard.
 - He will provide a just recompense to His people for all wrongs suffered.
- I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
 - In the covenant, the Lord is fulfilling His promises and acting in accord with His name.
- Their offspring shall be known among the nations...that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.
 - The content of the covenant
 - The ideal intended.

Dt 4:5-7 See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 6 Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' 7 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

- God gets the glory.

■ they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

- 1. Good news to the poor 61:1-2a**
 - a. Seeing myself as poor. Mt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit...**
 - b. Seeing the gospel as good news**
 - i. The brokenhearted bound up**
 - ii. The captives set free**
 - iii. The bound released**
- 2. Mourning over sin 61:2b-3**
 - a. Mt 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn...**
 - b. Jn 11:35 Jesus wept.**
 - c. Paul in Ro 9:2 ...I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.**
- 3. Oaks of righteousness 61:3b-4**
 - a. The planting of the Lord**
 - b. Repairing the ancient ruin**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week: The Savior and His gathered people 61:10 - 62:12

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