

Handout 1: Isaiah Lesson 23

The Redeemer is anointed by Yahweh like prophets, priests, and kings (verse 1). In Hebrew the word for “anointed one” is *mashiach* or in English, messiah. Isaiah 61:1 uses verbal form of the noun “messiah”/ “anointed one.”

God has given the Redeemer-Messiah a specific mission in 61:1b-2. There are the five aspects of his ministry. The reference to “year” designates a “time” or “age” and not a literal year and the word translated “vengeance” in Hebrew means “balancing the scales.”

1. He is to preach good news of God’s intervention to the afflicted.
2. He is to bring comfort to the spiritually brokenhearted through a ministry of mercy.
3. He is to proclaim freedom and release to captives and prisoners
4. He will usher in a time of divine justice for society and will restore the rights of the oppressed.
5. He will proclaim both God’s divine favor and His judgment.

In 61:3 Zion’s mourning will turn to gladness and the covenant people will be changed from their former sad condition in five ways:

1. They will be crowned with a garland (sign of royalty) instead of wearing ashes on their heads that are a sign of mourning.
2. They will be anointed with the oil of gladness.
3. They will wear not mourning clothes but will dress as for a festival.
4. They will be called those who demonstrate “saving justice.”
5. All this will take place because God has “planted”/established them to glorify Him.

Then in 61:4-7 the Redeemer makes five promises that will be fulfilled in the new age of God’s grace that the Redeemer is bringing about through his ministry:

1. They covenant people will rebuild what had been destroyed.
2. Gentiles will work with them to establish a prosperous society.
3. There are those of the renewed Israel brought about through the ministry of the Redeemer who will be called “priests of Yahweh” and “ministers of God.”
4. The kingdom of the Redeemer will be supported by the wealth of Gentile nations.
5. The faithful of the renewed Israel will receive the joyful “double portion” as the “firstborn sons” of the eternal covenant.

Notice the repetition of “fives.” In the symbolic use of numbers in Scripture, five is the number of power and grace.

In 61:8-9 Yahweh makes five statements about Himself and His plans for the faithful of the new Zion:

1. God loves righteousness that brings fair judgment.
2. God hates robbery and wrong-doing.
3. He will reward the faithful with an everlasting covenant.*
4. The new Zion will be famous throughout the Gentile world.
5. They will be identified as having been blessed by Yahweh.

*This is the second time we have seen the promise of the fulfillment of the everlasting Davidic covenant. In 55:3 Isaiah told the people in Yahweh’s invitation to come and be spiritually renewed: *Pay attention, come to me; listen, and you will live. I shall make an everlasting covenant with you in fulfillment of the favors promised to David.*

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Isaiah 61:1-9 is fulfilled in Jesus our Redeemer-Messiah:

1. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit at His Incarnation (Lk 1:35), and anointed by the Spirit of God at His baptism (Mt 3:13-17; Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22).
2. Jesus came to bring good news to the poor and afflicted and to soothe those who mourn (Mt 5:5 Lk 6:20-23).
3. Jesus released the captive, imprisoned souls in Sheol prior to His resurrection (1 Pt 3:18-20; 4:6).
4. Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection merited an age of reconciliation with God and divine grace for all mankind (Rom 5:8-11).
5. Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead in a final day of judgment (Mt 25:31-46; Jn 5:28-29; Rev 20:11-15).
6. Jesus is the fulfillment of the eternal Davidic covenant (Lk 1:32-33; Acts 2:29-36).
7. The Kingdom of the Church established by Jesus has fulfilled the worldwide blessing promised to Abraham (Gal 4:25-29).
8. The members of the New Covenant Church are anointed in Christian baptism to be a priestly people who continue to carry the Gospel of salvation to the nations (1 Pt 2:9; Rev 1:6).

In Isaiah 62:1-5 Isaiah uses three aspects to describe Zion's marriage to Yahweh:

1. God's determination to bring it about.
2. Zion's spiritual splendor.
3. The glory of the wedding celebration.

The short poem in Isaiah 62:10-12 is a conclusion to the oracles in Isaiah chapters 60-62 and repeats several themes in the Book of Consolation. The themes repeated in this passage are also found in Isaiah 40:3-5, 10; 49:22; and 57:14:

1. God will prepare sacred highway to bring back His people.
2. Israel's redemption will be a signal to the Gentile peoples, and salvation will be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

Verse 11b, *Say to the daughter of Zion, "Look, your salvation is coming; with him comes his reward [sakar], his achievement precedes him!"* looks forward to the event of Jesus riding into the holy city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday: *This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: Say to the daughter of Zion: Look, your king is approaching, humble and riding on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden [ass]*" quoting from Isaiah 62:11b and Zechariah 9:9.

Isaiah 63 recounts God's vengeance on the Gentile nations for their cruel treatment of Jews during the period of the Babylonian Exile, the vindication of the people of Zion/the old covenant Church, and the glorification of the holy city of Jerusalem. The key elements in the text of this chapter are:

1. The judgment against the Gentile nations that surrounded Israel and contributed to her suffering.
2. The future of Israel, God's Covenant people.
3. The faithfulness of the God of Israel who will come as His people's Redeemer.

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Book of Isaiah References in the Gospels	Book of Isaiah References in Other New Testament Books
<p>Matthew 1:23 ~ Isaiah 7:14, 8:8, 10 (LXX) Matthew 3:3 ~ Isaiah 40:4 Matthew 4:15-16 ~ Isaiah 9:1-2 Matthew 8:17 ~ Isaiah 53:4 Matthew 12: 18-21 ~ Isaiah 42:1-4 Matthew 13:14-15 ~ Isaiah 6:9-11 Matthew 15: 8-9 ~ Isaiah 29: 13 (LXX) Matthew 21:5 ~ Isaiah 62:11 Matthew 21:13 ~ Isaiah 56:7</p> <p>Mark 1:3 ~ Isaiah 40:3 Mark 4:12 ~ Isaiah 6:9-10 Mark 7:6-7 ~ Isaiah 29:13 (LXX) Mark 11:17 ~ Isaiah 56:7 Mark 12:32 ~ Isaiah 45:21</p> <p>Luke 4:18-19 ~ Isaiah 61:1-2 Luke 8:10 ~ Isaiah 6:9 Luke 19:46 ~ Isaiah 56:7 Luke 22:37 ~ Isaiah 53:12</p> <p>John 1:23 ~ Isaiah 40:3 John 6:45 ~ Isaiah 54:13 John 12:38 ~ Isaiah 53:1 John 12:40 ~ Isaiah 6:10</p>	<p>Acts 7:49-50 ~ Isaiah 66:1-2 Acts 8:32-33 ~ Isaiah 53:7-8 (LXX) Acts 13:22 ~ Isaiah 44:28 Acts 13:34 ~ Isaiah 55:3 (LXX) Acts 13:47 ~ Isaiah 49:6 Acts 28:26-27 ~ Isaiah 6:9-10</p> <p>Romans 2:24 ~ Isaiah 52:5 Romans 3:15-17 ~ Isaiah 59:7-8 Romans 9:29 ~ Isaiah 1:9 Romans 9:33 ~ Isaiah 8:14 Romans 9:33 ~ Isaiah 28:16 Romans 10:11 ~ Isaiah 28:16 Romans 10:15 ~ Isaiah 52:7 Romans 10:16 ~ Isaiah 53:1 Romans 10:20 ~ Isaiah 65:1 Romans 10:21 ~ Isaiah 65:2 Romans 11:8 ~ Isaiah 29:10 Romans 11:26-27 ~ Isaiah 59:20-21 Romans 11:34 ~ Isaiah 40:13 Romans 14:11 ~ Isaiah 45:23 Romans 15:12 ~ Isaiah 11:10 Romans 15:21 ~ Isaiah 52:15</p> <p>1 Corinthians 1:19 ~ Isaiah 29:14 1 Corinthians 2:9 ~ Isaiah 64:4 1 Corinthians 2:16 ~ Isaiah 40:13 1 Corinthians 14:21 ~ Isaiah 28:1-12 1 Corinthians 15:32 ~ Isaiah 22:13 1 Corinthians 15:54 ~ Isaiah 25:8</p> <p>2 Corinthians 6:2 ~ Isaiah 49:8 2 Corinthians 6:17 ~ Isaiah 6:17</p> <p>Galatians 4:27 ~ Isaiah 54:1</p> <p>Hebrews 2:13 ~ Isaiah 8:17 (LXX) Hebrews 2:13 ~ Isaiah 8:18 Hebrews 10:37 ~ Isaiah 26:20</p> <p>1 Peter 1:23-25 ~ Isaiah 40:6-8 1 Peter 2:6 ~ Isaiah 28:16 1 Peter 2:8 ~ Isaiah 8:14 1 Peter 2:9 ~ Isaiah 61:6 1 Peter 2:9 ~ Isaiah 43:20 1 Peter 2:9 ~ Isaiah 43:20 1 Peter 2:22 ~ Isaiah 53:9 1 Peter 3:14-15 ~ Isaiah 8:12-13</p>

LXX refers to a quote from the Greek Septuagint translation of Isaiah.

Chart adapted from The Greek New Testament, editors Kurt Aland et al., 3rd edition (London: United Bible Society, 1975), page 899. Michal E. Hunt Copyright © 2016