

WEDNESDAY

The Year of God's favour (v1-3)

Isaiah 61:1-11

JOY

FROM THE ASHES

5-11 AUGUST 2023



Comfort

Isaiah's experience of forgiveness and grace (6:7-8)

God's gracious response

The initiative with God

Cleansing from the altar
(painful – the cross applied)

Guilt removed, sin atoned



A sacred moment

A God who is kindly disposed towards us, who wants to do us good, beyond what we deserve or expect - Luke 2:10, 2:14

The year of Jubilee (Lev 25) which is a picture of the day of salvation

Every 50th year, following the day of atonement



Jubilee! Leviticus 25

A release of people from slavery, by divine decree

(v9-10, 41)

All debts discharged

Restoration of possessions and property (v28)

Reconnection with others (v13)

Rest (v11-12)



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A day of vengeance v2

A time of judgement on the nations – freedom possible because Babylon defeated.

Jesus does not include this because His focus was on salvation, and judgment will come when He returns.

The Anointed Conqueror 59:17-18, 63:4



What the Messiah does

- Proclaims
- Binds up
- Releases
- Comforts
- Provides
- Bestows



“It is one thing to know the doctrines of the incarnation and the atonement and a hundred other vital doctrines. It is another, more searching matter to know His heart for you.”

Dane Ortlund



The great exchange – where He finds us (v3)

A very sad picture:

- Sitting amongst the ashes
- In mourning
- Shrouded with despair



Lament

“The cries for help which echo through the gospels were expressions of lament directed to someone whose love and kindness reflected that of Yahweh and brought healing and deliverance to the oppressed and suffering.”

Dr David Smith



The great exchange – where he takes us (v3)

A happy transformation:

- A crown of beauty
- The oil of joy
- A garment of praise



A crown of beauty

The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths.

These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.

Eliz K-Ross



The oil of joy

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete (John 15:11).

Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no-one will take away your joy (John 16:22)



The garment of praise

People who have come to know the joy of the Lord do not deny the darkness, but they choose not to live in it.

They claim that the light that shines in the darkness can be trusted more than the darkness itself and that a little bit of light can dispel a lot of darkness.

Henri Nouwen



Awake, awake! 52:1-3

Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, Daughter of Zion, now a captive.

You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed.



An encounter with God

It may take time, but there is hope

It happens step by step, little by little

Our lives will tell a different story and we will have a new song to sing.



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