

2 Corinthians 6:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

Analysis

I have heard thee in a time accepted (καίρῳ δεκτῷ, *kairo decto*, 'acceptable time')—Paul quotes Isaiah 49:8 (LXX), applying the Servant's restoration promise to the present gospel age. The perfect tense *epēkousa* ('I have heard') indicates completed divine action with ongoing results. God's hearing implies answered prayer and covenant faithfulness.

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation—The doubled *idou* ('behold') creates emphatic urgency. Paul shifts from Isaiah's prophetic future to realized eschatology: the 'favorable time' prophesied has arrived in Christ. *Kairos* (opportune moment) differs from *chronos* (chronological time)—this is the decisive salvific moment in redemptive history.

The parenthetical nature of verse 2 emphasizes its supporting role: Paul's entreaty (v.1) is grounded in the theological reality that the messianic age has dawned. Delay in responding to the gospel is not merely unwise but tragic, squandering the divinely appointed moment of grace.

Historical Context

Isaiah 49:8 originally addressed Israel's restoration from Babylonian exile, promising God would answer the Servant and restore the nation. Paul applies this typologically to the gospel era, where Christ the Servant brings universal

salvation. The 'now' contrasts with the old covenant's shadows and anticipations—the reality has come in Christ's death and resurrection.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that you live in 'the day of salvation' create urgency in your response to God and witness to others?
2. In what ways might you be presuming on future opportunities for repentance or obedience rather than responding 'now'?
3. How does Paul's application of Isaiah 49 demonstrate the unity of Scripture and Christ-centered interpretation of the Old Testament?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	γάρ	καιρὸς	δεκτῷ	ἐπήκουσά	σου	καὶ	ἐν	ἡμέρα
he saith	(For	in a time	accepted	I have heard	thee	and	in	is the day
G3004	G1063	G2540	G1184	G1873	G4675	G2532	G1722	G2250

σωτηρίας	ἐβοήθησά	σοι	ἰδού,	νῦν	καιρὸς
of salvation	have I succoured	thee	behold	now	in a time
G4991	G997	G4671	G2400	G3568	G2540

εὐπρόσδεκτος	ἰδού,	νῦν	ἡμέρα	σωτηρίας
is the accepted	behold	now	is the day	of salvation
G2144	G2400	G3568	G2250	G4991

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:8 (Salvation): Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and

give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

Hebrews 4:7 (Parallel theme): Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Hebrews 3:13 (Parallel theme): But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Isaiah 61:2 (Parallel theme): To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Hebrews 3:7 (Parallel theme): Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Luke 4:19 (Parallel theme): To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Ezekiel 16:8 (Parallel theme): Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.