

Isaiah 49:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

God's promise 'in an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee' establishes divine timing as crucial - not when we demand but when God deems 'acceptable.' Paul quotes this in 2 Corinthians 6:2 ('now is the accepted time...now is the day of salvation'), applying the Servant's experience to gospel proclamation. The Servant mediates covenant renewal: 'give thee for a covenant of the people.'

Historical Context

The 'acceptable time' for Christ was the crucifixion moment - not when triumphal-entry crowds wanted Him crowned, but when Father ordained sin-bearing. This teaches that God's timing, though mysterious, is always perfect for redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that 'now is the day of salvation' create urgency in evangelism?
2. In what ways do you resist God's timing, wanting 'help' on your schedule rather than His 'acceptable time'?

Interlinear Text

עָנֵיתִ יְהֹוָה	בְּעֵת	יְהֹוָה	אָמֵן רְצֹן	בְּעֵת	יְהֹוָה	אָמֵן	כִּי
H3541 Thus saith	H3068 the LORD	H6256 time	H7522 In an acceptable	H6030 have I heard			
H559	H3444	H5826	H5341	H5414			
וּמָתַתְּךָ	וְשֹׁעַדְתָּ	עִירָתִיךְ	וְשֹׁמֵעַתָּךְ	וְאֶתְּנָתַתָּךְ			
thee and in a day	of salvation	have I helped	thee and I will preserve	thee and give			
H3117	H5971	H6965	H776	H5157			
לְבָרֵךְ יְהֹוָה	לְפָקַד יְמֵינוּ	אֶצְרָעָל	אֶלְעָלָה	לְפָנָיכֶם יְהֹוָה			
thee for a covenant	of the people	to establish	the earth	to cause to inherit			
H1285	H5971	H6965	H776	H5157			
שְׁמִינּוֹתִים	גְּדוּלָה	וְתִּתְּנָה					
heritages	the desolate						
H5159	H8074						

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 6:2 (Salvation): (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.)

Isaiah 42:6 (Covenant): I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

Psalms 69:13 (Salvation): But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Isaiah 61:4 (Parallel theme): And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

Hebrews 12:24 (Covenant): And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Isaiah 51:16 (Parallel theme): And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

Hebrews 5:7 (Salvation): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Isaiah 58:12 (Parallel theme): And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Isaiah 44:26 (Parallel theme): That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:

Isaiah 26:3 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.