

Isaiah 61:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Analysis

This prophetic passage, which Jesus read in the Nazareth synagogue and declared fulfilled (Luke 4:17-21), describes the Spirit-anointed Messiah's mission. 'The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me'—divine empowerment for ministry. 'Anointed me'—mashach, the root of Messiah (anointed one), designating Him for prophetic, priestly, and kingly service. His mission includes: 'preach good tidings unto the meek'—announcing the gospel (euangelion) to the humble and poor; 'bind up the brokenhearted'—healing emotional and spiritual wounds; 'proclaim liberty to the captives'—spiritual freedom from sin's bondage; 'the opening of the prison to them that are bound'—releasing those imprisoned by sin, Satan, and death. This is Christ's job description—bringing holistic salvation.

Historical Context

Isaiah likely spoke initially of his own prophetic ministry, but Jesus's application showed it pointed ultimately to Himself. The concepts of jubilee (liberty, release) rooted in Levitical law found ultimate fulfillment in Christ's spiritual liberation. When Jesus read this passage in Luke 4:18-19, He stopped mid-sentence (before 'the day of vengeance'), indicating His first coming focused on salvation; His second coming will bring judgment. The early church understood their mission

continued Christ's work: preaching the gospel, healing broken hearts, liberating captives from sin through the Spirit's power.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's mission described here address your specific needs—whether brokenness, captivity to sin, or spiritual poverty?
2. In what ways are you called to participate in Christ's continuing mission of preaching good news, healing hearts, and proclaiming liberty?

Interlinear Text

ר וּחַ	אֲדֹנָי	יְהוָה	עָלַי	יַעֲנֵן	מָשַׁח
The Spirit	of the Lord	GOD			hath anointed
H7307	H136	H3069	H5921	H3282	H4886
	יְהוָה	אֵתִי	לְבַשׁ רַ	עַנְוֵי יָם	
is upon me	because the LORD		me to preach good tidings	unto the meek	
	H3068	H853	H1319	H6035	
שָׁלַח נִי	לִבִּי שׁ	לְנִשְׁבְּרֵי	לִי ב	לְקַרְא	לְשִׁבּוּיָם
he hath sent	me to bind up	the brokenhearted		to proclaim	to the captives
H7971	H2280	H7665	H3820	H7121	H7617
דֶּר וֹר	וְלֹאֲסוּרֵי יָם	פָּתַח	קוֹמִים:		
liberty	to them that are bound		and the opening of the prison		
H1865	H631	H0	H6495		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 7:22 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

Isaiah 42:7 (Parallel theme): To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Matthew 11:5 (Parallel theme): The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Psalms 147:3 (Parallel theme): He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Isaiah 42:1 (Spirit): Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 57:15 (Spirit): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Acts 10:38 (Spirit): How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Isaiah 49:9 (Parallel theme): That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

Psalms 34:18 (Spirit): The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Isaiah 48:16 (Spirit): Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

