

# Luke 4:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

## Analysis

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After reading Isaiah 61:1-2, Jesus declares: 'This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.' The Greek 'peplērōtai' (πεπλήρωται, has been fulfilled, perfect tense) indicates completed action with ongoing effects—the prophecy finds its fulfillment in Jesus' presence and ministry. This bold claim asserts Jesus is the Spirit-anointed one Isaiah prophesied—the Messiah who brings good news to the poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. Jesus' self-identification as prophecy's fulfillment was clear and shocking, dividing His audience between faith and offense.

## Historical Context

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Isaiah 61 was recognized as a messianic prophecy describing the coming deliverer. Jesus' application to Himself clearly claimed to be the Messiah. His hometown audience initially responded positively ('all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words,' v. 22), but when Jesus confronted their unbelief and cited examples of Gentiles receiving God's blessings (v. 25-27), they became enraged and attempted to kill Him (v. 28-29). This inaugural sermon set the pattern for Jesus' ministry—offering grace, confronting unbelief, facing rejection even by those closest to Him.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jesus' declaration that Scripture is 'fulfilled in your ears' teach about how Old Testament prophecy finds its ultimate meaning in Him?
2. How does the mixed response to Jesus' claim (initial wonder, then rage) illustrate the divided reception the gospel always receives?

## Interlinear Text

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|          |           |        |       |        |       |         |            |
|----------|-----------|--------|-------|--------|-------|---------|------------|
| ἤρξατο   | δὲ        | λέγειν | πρὸς  | αὐτοὺς | ὅτι   | Σήμερον | πεπλήρωται |
| he began | And       | to say | unto  | them   | This  | day     | fulfilled  |
| G756     | G1161     | G3004  | G4314 | G846   | G3754 | G4594   | G4137      |
| ἡ        | γραφὴ     | αὕτη   | ἐν    | τοῖς   | ώσὶν  | ὑμῶν    |            |
| G3588    | scripture | this   | in    | G3588  | ears  | your    |            |
|          | G1124     | G3778  | G1722 |        | G3775 | G5216   |            |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 3:18** (Parallel theme): But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

**Matthew 13:14** (Parallel theme): And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

**John 5:39** (Word): Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.