

The Servant's Glorious Provisions

Text: Isaiah 61:1-11

Date: 5-28-23 10:30 AM

I. The Servant's Good News (Isa. 61:1-3)

The Lord Jesus Christ is the supreme and ultimate fulfillment of the One who will restore Jehovah's people.

This divine appointment empowered the Lord to do several important actions:

- **Preach good tidings to the meek** – the good tidings are good news which is the message of salvation and deliverance to the lowly, humble, and contrite ones of prior chapters. The deliverance is from the bondage of sin.
- **Bind up the brokenhearted** – the words *bind up* give the idea of *encourage, help, give hope to*. The broken-hearted are those who have been crushed by the weight of sin. This is an inward spiritual captivity.
- **Proclaim liberty to the captives** – The Lord Jesus will liberate those taken captive. The word *liberty* was used in Lev. 25:10 in the Year of Jubilee which occurred every 50th year whereby debtors and slaves had to be released. This was God's way of "balancing the economy and keeping the rich from exploiting the poor".¹ Here this may refer to the outward captivity.
- **Opens the prison to those who are bound** – With possibly an initial fulfillment in the return of the captives from exile, Isaiah has something much deeper in mind. The people were captive to their sin and bound to the darkness of their wickedness. Isaiah is no doubt highlighting more than a physical prison but a spiritual darkness in which the people had been imprisoned.

While the nation will be justly punished for its pride, idolatry, and immorality, the promises of old will not be forgotten.

The Servant will change the status of those who had mourned over these difficult things.

In the future the Lord Jesus will transform the mourning into joy.

Where there were once ashes of mourning they will be turned into beauty, a word meaning a *head-dress or turban*. The spirit of heaviness corresponding to a fainting heart or a lack of strength will be changed into clothing of praise. Instead of clothes of mourning the people will wear festive clothes of celebration similar to that one would wear to a wedding.

They will be called trees of righteousness indicative of their strength and endurance, sturdiness, beauty, and fruitfulness. Jehovah will plant them and through this He will be glorified. See Psalm 1:3; Jer. 17:7-8.

II. The magnificent conditions of the coming kingdom (Isa. 61:4-9)

v. 4: Restoration: The Jews will restore their old ruins, raise up that which had been devastated, and repair their ravaged cities.

v. 5: Renewal

v. 6: Worship: The nation will finally become a *kingdom of priests* that they should have been in Moses' day. These will not be physical priests but priests set apart to do the Lord's work and who are offering themselves as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1).

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*Be Comforted*](#) (p. 156). Victor Books.

v. 7: Eternal Joy: Just as Israel had received its just due in punishment for its sins, the effective pardon by God brought a perfect balance of everlasting joy and blessing. This includes the inheritance in the land and also the holy mountain (Isa. 57:13), a picture of the spiritual blessings from Jehovah Himself.

God's justice is free of bias, deception, favoritism, or selfish ways. Whether God executes judgment or provides joy it is always based on His perfect justice.

God's justice demands that His enemies be destroyed and His people are delivered. Israel will be rightfully restored to its proper standing and rewarded faithfully for the wrong done to her. This recompense will be done in truth which "indicates the certainty and faithfulness of His own character, the basis for His actions" (Hailey 495). God will make an eternal covenant with His people and His people "will never again, as at present, become a prey for unrighteousness; but the fruit of their work will be secured against unjust prey" (Young 464).

III. The praise song of Zion (Isa. 61:10-11)