

ISAIAH 61 | Messiah's Mission

Messiah's Mission

1 The Spirit of the Lord Yahweh (רוּחַ אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה) is upon me [Messiah], because Yahweh has anointed (מָשַׁח)¹ me to bring good news (בְּשָׂרָה) to the humble. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, 2 to proclaim the year of Yahweh's grace (רִצְוֹן), and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort (נַחֵם) all who mourn, 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful head wrap/turban (פָּאֵר) instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit, that they may be called oaks of righteousness (קִצְדִיק), the planting of Yahweh, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins. They shall raise up the former devastations. They shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Israel's Double Portion

5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks. Foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers. 6 But you shall be called the priests of Yahweh (כֹּהֲנֵי יְהוָה). They shall speak of you as the ministers of our God (מְשָׁרְתֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ). You shall eat the wealth of the nations (גוֹיִם), and in their glory you shall boast. 7 Instead of your shame (בְּשֹׁת) there shall be a double portion (מְשֻׁנָּה).² Instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot. Therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion. They shall have everlasting joy (שְׂמֵחַת עוֹלָם).

The Nations' Acknowledgement

8 For I, Yahweh, love justice (מִשְׁפָּט). I hate robbery and wrong. I will faithfully give them their reward (פְּעֻלָּה), and I will make an everlasting covenant (בְּרִית עוֹלָם) with them. 9 Their seed (זֶרַע) shall be known among the nations, and their descendants (צִאֲצָאִים) in the midst of the peoples (עַמִּים). All who see them shall acknowledge (נִכְר) them, that they are a seed (זֶרַע) Yahweh has blessed.

Righteousness Sprouts Up

10 I will greatly rejoice in Yahweh. My soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation (יִשׁוּעָה). He has covered me with the robe of righteousness (צְדָקָה), as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts (צֹמָחַ), and as a

¹ 2 Sa 2:4 4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed (מָשַׁח) David king over the house of Judah.

² Job 42:10 10 And Yahweh restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And Yahweh gave Job twice as much as he had before. Zec 9:12 12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope. Today I declare that I will restore to you double.

garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up (צמח), so Lord Yahweh will cause righteousness (צדקה) and praise (תהלה) to sprout up (צמח)³ before all the nations.

³ **Ge 2:9** 9 And out of the ground Yahweh God made to sprout (צמח) up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Ge 3:18** 18 ...Thorns and thistles it shall bring sprout (צמח) for you.... **Ps 132:17** 17 There I will make a horn to sprout (צמח) for David. **Is 42:9** 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare. Before they sprout forth (צמח) I tell you of them. **Is 43:19** 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing. Now it sprouts forth (צמח), do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. **Is 44:3-4** 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground. I will pour my Spirit upon your seed, and my blessing on your descendants. 4 They shall sprout up (צמח) among the grass like willows by flowing streams. **Is 55:10** 10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout (צמח), giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth. It shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. **Is 58:8** 8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall sprout up (צמח) speedily. **Jer 33:15** 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to sprout up (צמח) for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **Zec 6:12** 12 And say to him, Thus says Yahweh of hosts, Behold, the man whose name is the Branch (צמח), for he shall branch (צמח) out from his place, and he shall build the temple of Yahweh.

www.firmfoundation.org.nz | mail@firmfoundation.org.nz | 027 557 9314

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Discussion Questions

1. Review.

- a. Who are the servants we have met in our study? What have we learned about the Messianic Servant?
- b. Who is the primary recipients of the promises throughout these chapters?
- c. When will these chapters be fulfilled?
- d. What is Isaiah's purpose in writing?
- e. Has your study of Isaiah helped you to better understand the New Testament?

2. Overview.

- a. What stood out to you this week?

3. Isaiah 61.

- a. Who is being spoken of in vv. 1-4? What will this person do?
 - (1) Where is this paragraph quoted in the New Testament?
 - (2) Have these things happened yet?
- b. What promises does God make to Israel in vv. 5-7?
 - (1) When will these things take place?
- c. What will all the nations acknowledge, according to v. 9?
- d. Who is speaking in vv. 10-11? What imagery does Isaiah use?
 - (1) Are these promises fulfilled by the church?

4. Isaiah 62.

- a. What do we learn about Zion in vv. 1-5?
- b. Who is being addressed in v. 6? Why they to give Yahweh no rest?
 - (1) When are vv. 8-9 to be fulfilled?
- c. For whom is the highway of v. 10?

5. Isaiah 63.

- a. Why are Edom and Bozrah mentioned in v. 1? What is the answer to the question in v. 1?
- b. What is the answer to the question in v. 2?
- c. What do vv. 3-6 tell us about character of Jesus? How would we explain these verses to a seeker?
- d. What do we learn about God's character in vv. 7-9?
- e. What do we learn about Israel in vv. 10-14? The Holy Spirit?
- f. What is Israel's situation in vv. 15-19? How is God described?

6. Application.

- a. What is a lesson for life you want to take away from this week's study?

Commentary

1. Overview.

- a. The fact the Servant would accomplish his mission in two advents, separated by at least 2000 years, was unknown to Isaiah and the other prophets.
- b. Is 60 describes the blessings the remnant of Israel will enjoy in Messiah's future kingdom. Is 61 focuses on the mission of the Messiah in bringing forth that kingdom.
 - (1) The kingdom must wait until Messiah returns. In no way can we usher in the kingdom.
- c. Is 61:1-4 could be called the fifth Servant song, though the term "Servant" is not found. The other four Servant songs are:
 - (a) Is 42:1-4.
 - (b) **Is 49:1-6** 1 Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. Yahweh called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword. In the shadow of his hand he hid me. He made me a polished arrow. In his quiver he hid me away. 3 And he said to me, You are my Servant, [the new] Israel, in whom I will be glorified. 4 But I said, I have laboured in vain. I have spent my strength for nothing and emptiness. Yet surely my right is with Yahweh, and my recompense with my God. 5 And now Yahweh says, he who formed me from the womb to be his Servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of Yahweh, and my God has become my strength— 6 he says: It is too light a thing that you should be my Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel. I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.
 - (c) **Is 50:4-7** 4 The Lord Yahweh has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens. He awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. 5 Lord Yahweh has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious. I turned not backward. 6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard. I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. 7 But Lord Yahweh helps me, therefore I have not been disgraced. Therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
 - (d) Is 52:13-53:12.

2. Messiah's Mission (Is 61:1-4).

- a. **Is 61:1-4** 1 The Spirit of the Lord Yahweh (רוּחַ אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה) is upon me [Messiah], because Yahweh has anointed (מָשַׁח)⁴ me to bring good news (בִּשְׂרָר) to the poor. He has sent me to bandage those who hearts are broken, to announce freedom to the captives, and the opening of the eyes to those who are blind, 2 to announce the year of Yahweh's grace (שָׁנַת חַסְדֵי יְהוָה), and God's day of revenge, to comfort (נַחֵם) all who mourn, 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful head wrap/turban (פְּאֵר) instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead

⁴ 2 Sa 2:4 4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed (מָשַׁח) David king over the house of Judah.

of a faint spirit, that they may be called oaks of righteousness (קִדְדֵי), the planting of Yahweh, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins. They shall raise up the former devastations. They shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

- b. The Spirit of Yahweh is on Messiah (v. 1a).
- (1) The Spirit of Yahweh being on someone connotes supernatural wisdom and ability.⁵
 - (2) When David was anointed, the Spirit of Yahweh rushed upon him.
 - (a) **1 Sa 16:13** 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed (מָשַׁח) him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of Yahweh (רוּחַ יְהוָה) rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.
 - (b) **2 Sa 23:1-5** 1 Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the messiah (מָשִׁיחַ) of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: 2 The Spirit of Yahweh (רוּחַ יְהוָה) speaks by me. His word is on my tongue. 3 The God of Israel has spoken. The Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, 4 he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth. 5 For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant (בְּרִית עוֹלָם), ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire.
 - (3) Is 11:1-5 is a close cross-reference of this Servant song.
 - (a) **Is 11:1-5** 1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall produce fruit. 2 And the Spirit of Yahweh shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of Yahweh. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the humble of the earth. And he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
 - (4) The first Servant song is also very similar.
 - (a) **Is 42:1-4** 1 Behold my Servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench. He will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his Torah.
 - (5) According to Is 48:16, Messiah and Yahweh's Spirit are sent together.
 - (a) **Is 48:16** 16 Draw near to me, hear this. From the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there. And now Lord Yahweh has sent me [Messiah], and his Spirit.

⁵ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 564.

- c. Yahweh anointed Messiah (v. 1b) in order for him to:
- (a) In the Old Testament, only three categories of persons are anointed: prophets, priests, and kings. Being anointed is a big deal. Yeshua serves in all three offices. At his first coming, he was the Prophet. Now he's the Priest. When he returns, he'll be the King.
 - (b) **Ps 45:7** 7 ... You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed (משח) you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions....
- (2) Bring good news to the bowed/humble/pious/poor/distressed (עָנִי)(v. 1c) by:
- 1) Jesus does not only bring good news, he is the good news.
 - (b) Bandaging the brokenhearted (v. 1d).
 - 1) **Is 1:6** 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds. They are not pressed out, bandaged, or softened with oil.
 - 2) **Mt 9:12-13** 12 But when [Jesus] heard it, he said, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are ill. 13 ...I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.
 - (c) Announcing freedom (פְּרוּר) to the prisoners (שְׁבוּיָה) (v. 1e).
 - 1) **Ps 146:7** 7 Yahweh sets the prisoners free....
 - (d) Announcing the opening of the eyes to the blind (v. 1f).
 - (e) Announcing the year of Yahweh's grace (v. 2a).
 - 1) **Le 25:10** 10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and announce freedom throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.
 - 2) The 50-year jubilee foreshadows Israel's final redemption.
 - (f) Announcing God's day of revenge (v. 2b).
 - 1) **Is 34:8** 8 For Yahweh has a day of revenge, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.
 - 2) Because of the nations' rebellion, Yahweh's day of revenge is necessary.
 - a) **Ps 2:2** 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yahweh and against his Messiah saying....
 - 3) Vengeance is required for the positive aspects of Messiah's mission to happen. We live in a world of antithesis.
 - a) "It is a great source of comfort to anyone who is oppressed to know that the source of the oppression will one day get exactly what it deserves, and that its power will be broken."⁶
 - 4) Yahweh's day of revenge will take place at the end of the tribulation.
 - (g) Comforting all who mourn (v. 2c).
 - (h) Granting those who mourn in Zion (v. 3a):
 - 1) A beautiful headdress instead of ashes (v. 3b).
 - 2) The oil of gladness instead of mourning (v. 3c).

⁶ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 566.

- a) **Ps 45:7** 7 ... You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions....
- 3) The garment of praise instead of a faint spirit (v. 3d).
- (3) The remnant of Israel will be called:
- (a) Oaks of righteousness (v. 3e).
- 1) A great reversal is taking place.
- a) **Is 1:29-31** 29 For they shall be ashamed of the oaks that you desired, and you shall blush for the gardens that you have chosen. 30 For you shall be like an oak whose leaf withers, and like a garden without water. 31 And the strong shall become tinder, and his work a spark, and both of them shall burn together, with none to quench them.
- 2) **Ps 1:3** 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
- (b) The planting of Yahweh (v. 3f).
- 1) **Is 60:21** 21 Your people shall *all* be righteous. They shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified.
- 2) **Ro 11:25-26** 25 Lest you [Gentile believers] be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers and sisters: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fulness of the nations has come in. 26 And in this way *all* Israel will be saved....
- (c) For Yahweh's glory (v. 3g).
- 1) **Jn 15:8** 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you produce much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.
- (4) The remnant will:
- (a) Build up the ancient ruins and former devastations (v. 4a).
- (b) Repair the ruined cities of many generations (v. 4b).
- 1) **Am 9:14** 14 I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them.
- 2) "Assyria and Babylon are piles of dust, while Jerusalem, in spite of seemingly endless wars and destructions, is a thriving city."⁷
- d. Partial fulfillment.
- (1) In the Nazareth synagogue, Yeshua asserted he was fulfilling vv. 1-2a (but not vv. 2b-4). He doesn't continue reading past v. 2a. This is because a gap of time between v. 2a and v. 2b will separate his first and second comings. This is the Church age. This gap became necessary because of Israel's rejection of Yeshua at his first coming.
- (a) **Lk 4:16-21** 16 And [Yeshua] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: *18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of*

⁷ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 571.

sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, Today this Scripture has been fulfilled (πληρώω, perf. pass.) in your hearing.

- (2) Nazareth's rejection of Yeshua on that day foreshadows Israel's rejection of him.
- (a) **Lk 4:22-30** 22 And all spoke well of him and marvelled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. But they said, Is not this Joseph's son? 23 And he said to them, Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, Physician, heal yourself. What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well. 24 And he said, Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian. 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up, drove him out of the town, and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

3. Israel's Double Portion (Is 61:5-7).

- a. **Is 61:5-7** 5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks. Foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers. 6 But you shall be called the priests of Yahweh (כֹּהֲנֵי יְהוָה). They shall speak of you as the ministers of our God (מְשָׁרְתֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ). You shall eat the wealth of the nations (גוֹיִם), and in their glory you shall boast. 7 Instead of your shame (בְּשׂוֹת) there shall be a double portion (מִשְׁנֶה). Instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot. Therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion. They shall have everlasting joy (שִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם).
- b. Strangers and foreigners will be the remnant's agricultural workforce (v. 5).
- (1) **Is 14:2** 2 And the peoples will take [the remnant] and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them in Yahweh's land as male and female servants. They will take captive those who were their captors, and rule over those who oppressed them.
- c. The strangers and foreigners will call the remnant:
- (1) The priests of Yahweh (v. 6a).
- (2) The ministers of God (v. 6b).
- (a) **Ex 19:6** 6 ...And you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.
- (b) "...[T]he Israelites would not oppress their former oppressors. Rather than tilling the land and tending flocks, the Israelites would serve in the exalted position of being priests of Yahweh. They would mediate between God and the Gentiles. As the priests in Israel lived off the contributions of their fellow

Israelites in the past, so all the Israelites would live off the contributions of the Gentiles in the future.”⁸

- (c) “Israel is not ruler of the world, but priest of the world. . . . Israel’s exalted position is to be one not of privilege but of responsibility. As a *priest* is to be a mediator between humans and God, assisting humans in their worship of God, and teaching humans the ways of God, Israel is to be a priest to the nations.”⁹
- d. The remnant will eat the wealth and boast in the glory of the nations (v. 6c).
 - (1) **Is 60:5** 5 Then you [Israel] shall see and be radiant. Your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- e. Instead of dishonor, the remnant will possess a double portion in their land (v. 7).
 - (1) **Dt 21:17** 17 . . . But he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.
 - (a) **Ex 4:22** 22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, Thus says Yahweh, Israel is my firstborn son. . . .
 - (2) **Job 42:10** 10 And Yahweh restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And Yahweh gave Job twice as much as he had before.
 - (3) **Is 40:2** 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from Yahweh’s hand double [blessing] in place of all her sins.
 - (4) **Zec 9:12** 12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope. Today I declare that I will restore to you double.
- f. Israel’s permanency.
 - (1) “All that we can safely infer from his prophecy is, that the nationality of Israel will not be swallowed up by the entrance of the heathen into the community of the God of revelation.”¹⁰

4. The Nations’ Acknowledgement (Is 61:8-9).

- a. **Is 61:8-9** 8 For I, Yahweh, love justice (מִשְׁפָּט). I hate robbery/looting (גְּזוּל) and injustice (עוֹלָה). I will faithfully (אֱמֶת) give them their reward (פְּעֻלָּה), and I will cut (כרת) an everlasting covenant (בְּרִית עוֹלָם) with them. 9 Their seed (זָרַע) shall be known among the nations, and their descendants (צִאֲצָאִים) in the midst of the peoples (עַמִּים). All who see them shall acknowledge (נכר) them, that they are a seed (זָרַע) Yahweh has blessed.
- b. Yahweh loves justice and hates robbery and injustice (v. 8a).
 - (1) **Ps 11:7** 7 For Yahweh is righteous. He loves righteous deeds. The upright shall behold his face.
- c. Yahweh will:
 - (1) Give the remnant their reward (v. 8b).

⁸ Thomas Constable, “Notes on Isaiah,” 425.

⁹ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 571-572.

¹⁰ Delitzsch, 2:429.

- (a) **Is 40:10** 10 Behold, Lord Yahweh comes with might, and his arm rules for him. Behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
- (2) Cut an everlasting covenant, the New covenant, with them (v. 8c).
 - (a) **Is 55:3** 3 ...I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my faithful loyal love for David.
 - (b) Because of the Servant's sacrificial death, the Mosaic covenant is satisfied, and the New covenant may be ratified, one that is written not on stone but on the human heart.¹¹
 - (c) Church age believers are recipients of the New covenant promises (forgiveness of sins, new hearts, the pouring out of the Spirit), even though they are not a party to the New covenant.
 - (d) The church may not appropriate/"steal" the blessings God has directly promised to the remnant of Israel. The church is not Israel, nor does it replace Israel.
- d. The remnant's descendants will be known among the nations (v. 9a).
- e. The nations will acknowledge they are a seed Yahweh has blessed (v. 9b).
 - (1) **Ge 12:1-3** 1 Now Yahweh said to Abram, Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation [Israel], and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
 - (2) "Israel will not disappear among the nations, absorbed and no longer existent as a separate nation. Since human history began, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people-groups have disappeared into the larger mass. How easily that could have been true of Israel."¹²
 - (3) "...God is promising here that Israel will be able to fulfill the function for which he revealed himself to Abraham in the first place. Nothing that the nations can do to them will prevent that function from being carried out. Israel will continue to exist; Israel's faith will continue to exist; and the life of Israel will testify to the righteous character of God."¹³

5. Righteousness Sprouts Up (Is 61:10-11).

- a. **Is 61:10-11** 10 I [Zion] will greatly rejoice in Yahweh. My soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation (עֲשׂוּיָהּ). He has covered me with the robe of righteousness (הַקָּדוּשָׁה), as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful turban, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts (הַצִּמְצִי), and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up (הַצִּמְצִי), so Lord Yahweh will cause righteousness (הַקָּדוּשָׁה) and praise (הַתְּהִלָּה) to sprout up (הַצִּמְצִי) before all the nations.

¹¹ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 573.

¹² John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 573.

¹³ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 573-574.

- b. Isaiah, speaking on Zion's behalf, greatly rejoices in Yahweh (v. 10a).
- (1) **Hab 3:18** 18 yet I will rejoice in Yahweh. I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
- c. This is because Yahweh has clothed Zion with salvation and righteousness, as a bridegroom or a bride (v. 10b).
- (1) **Re 21:2** 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- (2) There is nothing more beautiful than a bride on her wedding day.
- (3) This will be fulfilled in the Messianic kingdom/Millennium.
- (4) There are *three phases* of salvation, and three phases of righteousness.
- d. Yahweh will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations (v. 11).
- (1) **Is 62:7** 7 ...And give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.
- (2) Yahweh loves to sprout (צמח) new plants out of the dry, dusty ground.
- (a) **Ge 2:9** 9 And out of the ground Yahweh God made to sprout (צמח) up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- (b) **Ge 3:18** 18 ...Thorns and thistles it shall bring sprout (צמח) for you....
- (c) **Ps 132:17** 17 There I will make a horn to sprout (צמח) for David.
- (d) **Is 4:2** 2 In that day the branch of Yahweh shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel.
- (e) **Is 42:9** 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare. Before they sprout forth (צמח) I tell you of them.
- (f) **Is 43:19** 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing. Now it sprouts forth (צמח), do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
- (g) **Is 44:3-4** 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground. I will pour my Spirit upon your seed, and my blessing on your descendants. 4 They shall sprout up (צמח) among the grass like willows by flowing streams.
- (h) **Is 55:10** 10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout (צמח), giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth. It shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
- (i) **Is 58:8** 8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall sprout up (צמח) speedily.
- (j) **Jer 33:15** 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to sprout up (צמח) for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- (k) **Zec 6:12** 12 And say to him, Thus says Yahweh of hosts, Behold, the man whose name is the Branch (צמח), for he shall branch (צמח) out from his place, and he shall build the temple of Yahweh.

6. Application.

- a. Unlike the residents of Nazareth (Lk 4:28-29), welcome Yeshua and believe in him.

- b. Let Yeshua free you, heal you, comfort you, and beautify you (vv. 1-3).
- c. Rejoice that the remnant of Israel will receive their double portion in the future Messianic kingdom (v. 7).
- d. Acknowledge that the remnant of Israel are an offspring Yahweh has blessed (v. 9).