

INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

J. Vernon McGee, Th.D., LL.D.

Copyright @ 1960

CHAPTER SIXTY-ONE

THEME:

The First and Second Comings of Christ and particular emphasis upon the results of His Second Coming.

REMARKS:

This chapter is of peculiar interest in view of the fact that the Lord Jesus opened His public ministry in Nazareth by quoting from it. Under COMMENT on verses 1-2 we will see the incisive manner in which He used it to distinguish between the First and Second Comings.

This chapter continues the full blessings of the Millennium with Israel as the center of all earthly benefits. This last section projects us into the total benefits of the Millennium.

OUTLINE:

1. **DISTINCTION between the First and Second Comings of Christ.** Verses 1-3
2. **DESIGN for Living in the Millennium.** Verses 4-9
3. **DELIGHTS of the Millennium.** Verses 10-11

COMMENT:

Verse 1—The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lo 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;

This is the passage that Jesus read in His home town of Nazareth at the synagogue which initiated His public ministry.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor;

“he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them. This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears (Luke 4:16-21).

The way that Jesus handled this Scripture is profoundly significant. Read and reread both the passage in Isaiah and Luke.

Verse 2—To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

You will note that Jesus broke off the reading in the middle of this verse with the phrase, **“the acceptable year of the Lord.”** He broke off in the middle of the verse saying that all that went before related to His First Coming, he stated definitely that Scripture, up to this point, was fulfilled at His First Coming.

The following statement, **“and the day of vengeance of our God”** is connected with His Second Coming. This method of Christ reveals that the prophets (Isaiah at least) did not distinguish between the First and Second Comings of Christ. Peter confirms this.

Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow (I Peter 1:10-11).

This gives us a system of Biblical interpretation. The prophets saw the First and Second Comings of Christ as two mountain peaks on the horizon. They did not see the wide valley between the two. In this valley is the Church and the length of it has extended already 1900 years.

Verse 3—To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

Beyond the **“day of vengeance,”** which is amplified in chapter 63 is the peace and prosperity of the Millennium. Isaiah is making a play upon words with **“beauty”** and **“ashes”**—it is like saying in English that He will exchange joy for judgment or a song for a sigh.

Verse 4—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.

The land of Israel is yet to receive a “face lifting” which will restore its Edenic beauty.

Verse 5—And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. This is a picture of prosperity.

Verse 6—But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

It was God's original intention that the entire nation of Israel would be priests.

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel (Exodus 19:6).

Because of their sin this was never attained. It will be in the Millennium.

Verse 7—For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

This is fulness of joy.

Verse 8 —For I the Lord love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an ever-lasting covenant with them.

Their lives will adorn their religious ritual.

Verse 9—And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed.

Anti-Semitism will end. Pro-Semitism will begin because they are genuine witnesses for God.

Verse 10—I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

The Messiah continues to speak here, he is the bridegroom. All that are His can join in this psalm of praise.

Verse 11—For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Not only will there be material benefits and physical improve-ments, but the true blessings will be spiritual.

~ end of chapter 61 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>