

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 4, 2024

Passage: Isaiah 61:1–11

Memory Passage: Isaiah 61:1–3

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 61:1–11.** Review what you learned last week from your study of Is 60. As you read Chapter 61, explore and take note of how the two chapters are connected. Also, take note of who speaks in each section.
- (b) Note: the Hebrew verb translated “anointed” (v. 1b) is related to the Hebrew noun *māšīaḥ* translated “anointed one, Messiah.” The noun can be used for anointed men (e.g., priests) or specifically for the Anointed One, the Messiah. In the NT, the Greek word *christos* is translated as “Christ” and means “anointed one.” It is only used of Jesus, the promised Messiah. In the Septuagint (LXX, the Greek translation of the OT), the word *christos* translates the Hebrew word for “anointed one.”
- (c) What does the Messiah convey about Yahweh by the title “Lord GOD” (Adonai Yahweh)?
- (d) Explain what v.1a, b conveys about the Messiah. Consider how “Spirit” has been used in Isaiah, how the ideas of Holy Spirit and anointing are used in the rest of the OT, how the Holy Spirit is important in the life of Christ in the NT, and how the two lines are connected (1b begins with “because”).

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 61:1–11.** Do verses 1–3 describe physical realities, spiritual realities, or both? Defend your answer from the text.
- (b) Explain each commission the Messiah has been anointed to carry out in vs. 1–3. How do earlier verses from Isaiah help you understand these Messianic acts (e.g., 1:29; 11:2; 40:1; 42:1; 48:16; 59:21; et. al.)?
- (c) To whom does “they” refer (v. 4), and what will they do? Is this physical, spiritual, or both? Explain your answer.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 61:1–11.** The pronouns change in vs. 5–7. Who speaks, and to whom is he speaking (“you/your”)?
- (b) Who are the strangers, foreigners, and nations, what will they do, and to whom will they do these things (vs. 5–7)?
- (c) What is the “shame” and “dishonor” mentioned in v. 7a, b, and how is it reversed?
- (d) To whom does “they/their” refer in v. 7c, d?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is 61:1–11.** What does Yahweh promise to do for his people in vs. 8–9)? Again, does this refer to physical realities, spiritual realities, or both? Explain your answer from this chapter and from your Biblical theology.
- (b) How will Yahweh give his people their “recompense” (v. 8c)? What does this have to do with his “everlasting covenant?”
- (c) Why does the speaker in vs. 10–11 rejoice and exult in Yahweh (“for . . . for . . . so . . .”)?
- (d) Who speaks in these verses? Explain your answer from the context, especially the reasons why this person rejoices.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 4:16–21, Ex 19:5–6; 1 Pet 2:9–10, Heb 1:9, and Rev 1:6.** How do these passages help you understand Is 61:1–11? Do your findings change any of your conclusions about whether this chapter refers to physical realities, spiritual realities, or both?
- (b) What did you learn from Is 61 about the person and work of God the Father, Jesus the Messiah, and the Holy Spirit?
- (c) What do verses 4-9 reveal about who you are in Christ and what your mission should be?
- (d) In what activities should you be involved as one who is in an everlasting covenant with your God and has had your recompense paid in full (v. 8c, d)?

DATE: February 4, 2024**PASSAGE: Isaiah 61:1–11***The Anointed One’s Preaching, People, and Praise*