

book of
the Bible

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ISAIAH 61

928

The Anointed Bearer of Glad Tidings

Nor shall the brightness of the moon
give you light by night;
Rather, the LORD will be your light for-
ever,

20 your God will be your glory.ⁱ
No longer will your sun set,
or your moon wane;
For the LORD will be your light forever,
and the days of your grieving will be
over.

21 Your people will all be just;
for all time they will possess the land;
They are the shoot that I planted,
the work of my hands, that I might be
glorified.^j

22 The least one shall become a clan,
the smallest, a mighty nation;
I, the LORD, will swiftly accomplish
these things when the time comes.^k

CHAPTER 61

new
chapter

The Anointed Bearer of Glad Tidings

1* The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the
afflicted,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
release to the prisoners.^a

2 To announce a year of favor from the
LORD
and a day of vindication by our God;
To comfort all who mourn;^b
3 to place on those who mourn in Zion
a diadem instead of ashes,
To give them oil of gladness instead of
mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a faint
spirit.

Restoration and Blessing

They will be called oaks of justice,
the planting of the LORD to show his
glory.

4 They shall rebuild the ancient ruins,
the former wastes they shall raise up
And restore the desolate cities,
devastations of generation upon gener-
ation.^c

5 Strangers shall stand ready to pasture
your flocks,
foreigners shall be your farmers and
vinedressers.

6* You yourselves shall be called "Priests of
the LORD,"

"Ministers of our God" you shall be
called.

You shall eat the wealth of the na-
tions

and in their riches you will boast.^d

7 Because their shame was twofold*
and disgrace was proclaimed their por-
tion,

They will possess twofold in their own
land;

everlasting joy shall be theirs.^e

God's Word of Promise

8 For I, the LORD, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recom-
pense,

an everlasting covenant I will make
with them.^f

9 Their offspring shall be renowned among
the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of
the peoples;

All who see them shall acknowledge
them:

"They are offspring the LORD has
blessed."

Thanksgiving for God's Deliverance

10* I will rejoice heartily in the LORD,
my being exults in my God;
For he has clothed me with garments of
salvation,

and wrapped me in a robe of justice,
Like a bridegroom adorned with a dia-
dem,

as a bride adorns herself with her jew-
els.^g

11 As the earth brings forth its shoots,
and a garden makes its seeds spring up,
So will the Lord GOD make justice spring
up,
and praise before all the nations.

i. [60:19] Is 2:5; Rev 21:23; 22:5. — j. [60:21] Is 57:13c. — k. [60:22] Gn 12:2; 17:6. — a. [61:1] Is 40:9; 42:1; 48:16; 52:7; 58:7; Lk 4:18-19. — b. [61:2] Mt 5:4. — c. [61:4] Is 58:12. — d. [61:6] Ex 19:6; 1 Pt 2:9. — e. [61:7] Is 40:2. — f. [61:8] Is 55:3; 54:9-10; 59:21. — g. [61:10] 1 Sm 2:1; Ps 138:1-2.

61:1-2 The prophet proclaims that he has been anointed by the Lord to bring good news (cf. 40:9) to the afflicted and to comfort Zion. The background to the "year of favor" is the jubilee year of release from debts (Lv 25:10-11; Is 49:8).

61:8 The bestowal of a new name suggests a new identity and mission. The whole people will be priests (cf. Ex 19:6), even ministering to nations who will serve God's people.

61:7 *Twofold*: Israel was punished double for infidelity (40:2); the blessings of its restoration will also be double.

61:10-11 The new life of the restored Zion is expressed in nuptial (cf. also 62:5) and agricultural (cf. v. 3; 60:21) imagery.

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