Isa 61 is a beautiful passage about the Salvation the Lord accomplishes

as w/ so much of Isa, it has in view the Kingdom of God on earth

what we call the Millennium

the Thousand year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ from the Throne of David after He Returns that's its primary reference tho in expressing the principles of Salvation

it's entirely applicable to us in the Church it reads

- 1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,
- 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

That is the Servant, the Savior speaking

as we'll see, Jesus cites Himself as the fulfillment of these verses . . it continues v4

- 4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.
- 5 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner Shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

There's the Millennial context, Israel at the head of the Nations

foreigners, the Gentiles joyfully serving because as it says elsewhere in Isaiah

. . the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. [11:9]

- v6 But you speaking to Israel -
- 6 But you shall be named the priests of the LORD, They shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast.
- 7 Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, And instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs.
- 8 "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth. And will make with them an everlasting covenant.
- 9 Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, And their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, That they are the posterity whom the LORD has blessed."

then it closes on a more personal note v10

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God;

For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its bud,

As the garden causes 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.

Isaiah 61, a beautiful snapshot of the salvation the Lord is accomplishing

it's our text for this sermon but we won't be devoting more time to it as such

instead we'll pivot off one aspect of it and pursue that

as I said, Jesus quotes the opening vv, citing Himself as the fulfillment and that's what we'll be pursuing the way Isaiah is quoted in the New Testament out of the entire Old Testament Isaiah is the second most quoted book in the New Testament only the Psalms are quoted more frequently Deuteronomy comes in third, if you were wondering . . but the frequency and variety of quotations from Isaiah affirm what we've already learned on our journey thru it Isaiah is a uniquely comprehensive and profoundly nuanced portrait of Salvation He is formaly quoted with an introduction like 'as Isaiah said' or 'as it is written' . . 61 times in the NT for purposes of comparision Jeremiah, a prophetic book of comprable size is guoted 5 times in the NT Ezekiel, the only other prophet of comprable size is quoted 2 times in the NT So Isaiah's quoted 12 times more frequently than Jeremiah and 30x more frequently than Ezek and its not the same half-dozen verses over and over there are citations from 24 different chapters of Isaiah a total of 79 verses in the NT are quotations from Isaiah there are 7,956 verses in the NT which means the book of Isaiah word for word comprises 1% of the NT Taken together, those 79 verses, are larger than 7 complete books in the NT! [2 Pet 61, 2 Thess 47, Tit 46, Jude 25, Phlm 25 3 Jn 15, 2 Jn 13] Isaiah is a kind of 'Grand Central Station' pertaining to everything connected to everything and the NT authors draw from his well again and again the act of spending a year on a sermon series thru Isaiah will benefit us SUBconsciously we're gonna get things we didn't get before and see things we didn't see before But in this sermon I want to raise that to a CONscious level partly by focusing on HOW the NT quotes Isaiah and in doing so we'll see three things First the Bible, Old T and New is a Unified Message Second it is a Prophetic Message & Third it is a Gospel Message The Bible A Unified Message A Prophetic Message & a Gospel Message That the Bible is a unified Message comes as a surprise to many

because its two basic parts, Old Testament and New have so many apparent differences

the OT is much bigger 4x the size of the New . .

the OT is primarily about Israel the NT primarily about the Church

and while that's true enough

Such as God in the OT is a Stern Judge but God in the NT is a Loving Father or that the OT is primarily about Law the NT primarily about Grace & that the OT is primarily about Works the NT primarily about Faith

undoubtedly, and hardly surprisingly, there's a Progression, a Development from the OT to the New but upon further review, there is much less of a contrast than is commonly that the Old and New Testaments present a Single, Unified Message

Chuck Missler, of blessed memory,

used to say he wanted to tear out the page that didn't belong in the Bible and that gets your attention Which one is that?

the Page between the Old Testament and the New

to be sure the message progresses from seed to plant to fruition

But it's a single message, a unified message Old Testament and New

It's also a Prophetic Message

Prophecy being one of the most remarkable and unique aspects of the Bible
The Lord cites it as a validation of Who He is

9 . . I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done . .

Isa 46, 9 and 10

and in that marvelous passage in Chapt 44 where He talks about the idolater cutting wood cooking his food with one part of it, and making an idol to worship with the other - He challenges such idols to prophesy:

- $6\,$. .'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.
- 7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me . .

The idols can't do it not gonna happen that's Isa 44, 6 and 7

The Bible is a Unified Message a Prophetic Message and a Gospel Message
it's not the story of sinful people cleaning themselves up and working their way to God
it's the story of God coming to us and saving us

as it says in Isa 61 Giving us [3 . .]

beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness We rejoice because $\underline{\sf HE}$ clothes us ${\sf with}$ the garments of salvation,

HE covers us with the robe of righteousness, [v10

The New Testament affirms and amplifies all of this by quoting the OT especially Isaiah

ZZZ

So let's dig in . . with the quote that opens Isaiah 61

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; In Luke Ch 4 we find Jesus in His home town, Nazareth at the beginning of His ministry

it's the first thing Luke records After the Temptation

Jesus goes into the synagogue on the Sabbath and stands up to read

He is putting Himself forward to teach them

He's handed the scroll of Isaiah, opens it to Ch 61 and reads:

- 18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
- 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."
- 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.
- 21 And He [said] to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Lk 4:18-21

Clear Enough Jesus is the Fulfillment

He's the One the Spirit of the Lord is upon He preaches the gospel to the poor,

He heals the brokenhearted and proclaims liberty to the captives AMEN & AMEN

but there's something else, very Significant there that's easy to miss

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD COMMA, AND the day of vengeance of our God;

Jesus stops in the middle of that clause

He reads "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" then rolls up the scroll and sits down

That day That Scripture was fulfilled in their hearing

It WAS the acceptable year of the Lord but <u>NOT</u> the Day of Vengeance of our God

that was not fulfilled then, nor has it been fulfilled yet

it will be it's comin AMEN but not vet

The essential difference between the OT and the New

is directly related to why He stopped in the middle of that Clause

we've talked about it several times as we've gone thru Isaiah

the fact that the Church was a 'mystery' it was hidden, unrevealed in the OT

SWELL

if you read the OT straight-up it appears the Messiah comes, judges sin and sets up His kingdom

the wolf dwells with the Lamb, the Lion eats straw like the Ox [11:6,7

& the earth [is filled with] the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. [11:9 so it would seem.

but that's not what happened

In the Mother of All Plot Twists Messiah was rejected and then Crucified!

and then Rose from the Dead!!

Surprise Surprise

then, instead of that earthly kingdom everyone expected

the Mystery, the Church comes into being Nobody, including satan, saw THAT coming

it's the gap between the 69th and 70th weeks of Daniel in Daniel 9 it's the gap between the acceptable year of the Lord & the day of vengence of our God in Isa 61:2 We are the Church, we live in that gap thru us God is making disciples of all nations and when that process is complete when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in The Church will be removed in the Rapture & God will resume dealing w/ the nations thru Israel See Romans 11. 25 thru 27 which, BTW, includes a quotation from Isaiah! Ch 59, vv20 and 21 Okay, I know some of you are goin I lost track when Jesus sat down in the synagoge what did you just say? We're talkin about How the NT quotes Isaiah and we're starting with Jesus Himself quoting Isa but He did it wierdly, stopped in the middle of a clause because He knew the Mystery, the Church was coming tho at that point nobody else did now we'll turn to another passage from Isaiah, widely quoted in the New Testament which likewise pertains to the Unified message of the Bible this passage is cited <u>5 times</u> which puts it in rare company, only a handful of verses cited that many times to find it in Isaiah we've got to go back, back waaaay back to his comission the vision in chapter 6 . . in the year that King Uzziah died he saw the Lord, high and lifted up, & the train of His robe filled the temple you remember the Seraphim are saying Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord "Woe is me, for I am undone!" and Isaiah says Then one of the Seraphim takes a coal from the altar and touches his mouth with it ". . . Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." Then the Lord says "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" "Here am I! Send ME!!!" & Isaiah says wouldn't be surprised if you remembered ALL of that, b-cuz it's very dramatic ACTION But do you remember the message? that's somewhat harder to do partly because it's 'infromation' rather than 'action' but also because it's . . unexpected information doesn't seem to 'make sense' The message is, Isa 6:9 and 10 . . Go, and tell this people:

^{9 &#}x27;Keep on hearing, but DO NOT understand; Keep on seeing, but DO NOT perceive.'

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."

because they have repeatedly chosen NOT to see the Truth

the very ability to 'See the Truth' would be taken from them

THAT was the message given to Isaiah when He was commissioned

Fast Forward 7 centuries the Word becomes Flesh the Child is Born, the Son is Given

He's in their midst, speaking the Truth, performing the miracles

the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear and the good news is preached to the poor . . HIGH LOW

Why didn't they see? every gospel writer grapples w/ question & every one gives the same answer

Isaiah 6, 9 and 10 the references are Mt 13:14&15 Mk 4:12 Lk 8:10 & Jn 12:40

it's especially significant that John is included

because, as you probably know, Mt, Mk and Lk // one another

but when it comes to this basic question everybody including John knows the Answer

Isa 6, 9 & 10

Acts is the inspired history of the Early Church

from our perspective it may be frustrating because we'd like to know more of what happened

but Acts conveys what God thinks we need to know about what Happened

and it concludes by quoting Isa 6, 9 and 10

the apostle Paul is in Rome, awaiting trial before Ceasar

he has an official dialog with the Jews in Rome Acts 28, begining at v23

- 23 So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.
- 24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.
- 25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers,
- 26 saying, . . . 'Hearing you will hear, and . . . not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive;

. . . it's Isa 6: 9 and 10

Isaiah The Gosples The book of Acts Old Testament New Testament it IS a Unified Message

ZZZ

It is also a Prophetic Message

The Sovereign God, who works all things according to His Plan

knows and declares what will be before it is

and even tho it's not quoted in the NT i can't resist reminding you

of the amazing prophecy in Chapters 44 and 45 where thru the Prophet

The Lord addresses the Persian King, Cyrus, by Name a century & a half before he was born

The sermon on that was Sept 1st, 2019 available online 1 of the most stunning prophecies in Scpt . . . BUT turning to a passage the NT does cite We just talked about the Unity of the Old and New Testaments even tho they SEEM different one of the reasons they APPEAR so different is their seperation in time the last book in our OT is the prophet Malachi and he's usually thot of as the last OT prophet chronologically preaching around 430 BC what are called the 400 silent years when there was no Word from the Lord then the New Testament but what opens the New Testament? Where does it 'begin' yet as wonderful as that is you might say with Birth of Christ it's not the beginning not 'Officially' there is an 'Official Beginning' an Announcement made by an Announcer The Announcer is John the Baptist the Announcement is: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD' that's Isa 40, v3 and ff every Gospel, including John cites it I love how Luke anchors it in time and space: 1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; that's Lk 3, 1 thru 4 Mt 3:3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Mk 1:3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: & the Gospel of John quotes John the Baptist saying it of himself: they're asking him who he is 21 . . Are you Elijah?" "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" "No." 22 "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself? John 1:23 23 . . "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD," ' as the prophet Isaiah said." the Last Old Testament prophet was not Malachi it was John the Baptist the Voice of one Crying in the Wilderness really IS the Transition prophesied by Isaiah 7 centuries before Aaaand not coincidently the Prophecy of Transition from Old T to New That very prophecy occurs at the Transition in the book of Isaiah I remind you the book of Isaiah uniquely parallels the Bible as a whole

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The Bible has 66 books Isaiah has 66 chapters

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the basic division in the Bible, OT/NT
the basic division in Isaiah
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occurs between the 39th + 40th books occurs between the 39th + 40th Chapters

That 40th Chapter beginning:

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1 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God.
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2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned;

For she has received from the LORD'S hand Double for all her sins."

HANG

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Isa 40, 1 thru 3

Just as Jesus said of Isa 61, 1 and 2 "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" so John the Baptist says of Isa 40, verse 3

I AM The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD . .

It's an Amazing Prophetic Message . .

but maybe there's too much goin on too many things to keep track of so let's turn to one, simple prophecy . . earth-shattering . . jaw-dropping but One Simple Thing

. . Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son . . .

That is Isaiah 7:14 This is Mt 1:23

22 . . all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall [conceive], and bear a Son . . .

we just talked about the fact that the Birth of Jesus is not

strictly speaking the beginning of the NT Fair Enough

But that's not to take anything away from the Birth of Jesus

alongside the Crucifixion and Resurrection it's the absolute foundation of the Christian Faith

the Crucifixion and Resurrection are about 'What?'

the Virgin Birth is about 'Who?'

Who died for our sins? Who rose from the Grave?

No mere human nor an Angel nor any Created being

The Eternal Word of God who in the beginning With God / Was God

HE was crucified HE rose from the Grave

it's His divinity Combined with Humanity

that makes the Crucifixion AND the Resurrection mean what they do

you or I could be crucified and like Lazarus, you or I could be Resurrected

but it wouldn't 'count' it wouldn't 'do' anything for anybody else

it's BECAUSE the spotless Lamb of God died

and BECAUSE He was declared with power to be the Son of God by Resurrection

That's why His death matters it's why His blood is available to cover our sin

and the only way the Divine Son, the Eternal Word could become 'human' was thru a virgin Exactly how did that work? Couldn't tell ya Waaaay above my pay grade

there may be value in theologically speculating about the WHY of the Virgin Birth

But there is no doubt the Bible proclaims the FACT of the Virgin Birth

no doubt Isaiah prophesied it Chapter 7, verse 14.

and no doubt it was fulfilled By the Eternal Word Thru the Virgin Mary

Mt 1, 22 and 23 . . all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall [conceive] and bear a Son,

The New Testament's repeated citation of the prophet Isaiah

Demonstrates the Bible is a Unified message a Prophetic message and a Gospel message

777

7 weeks ago, October 13 that we did a sermon on Isa 53 & I opened that sermon by saying:

Let us Take off our shoes . .for the place where we stand is holy ground.

in one sense every portion of Scripture is holy

it's not that one part is 'more inspired' or 'purer' than another

it's that some parts address things more central, more essential than others

and in that sense, Isaiah 53 is a bullseye

addressing the Exact Center of God's Work in Salvation

I called it "The Gospel According to Isaiah" Chapt 53 begins:

- 1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.
- 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
- 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

that's vv1 thru 4 it goes on for 8 more verses in excruciating detail

to describe WHAT that Man of Sorrows did HOW & WHY He was aquainted with grief

but it doesn't stop there

Just as our Lord Himself never spoke of His Death without also speaking of His Resurrection

So Isaiah takes us Beyond The Grave v11

11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.

Isaiah 53 The Gospel According to Isaiah . . .

There are 12 verses in that Chapter 6 of them are quoted in the NT in 8 different places - 2 of them being quoted twice

We talked earlier about Isaiah's message of Judicial Blindness and how each of the Gospel writers raised the question of 'WHY won't they see?' and cited it Here's how John did that: Ch 12 beginning at v37

- 37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,
- 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

 "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" 28:30

That's Isa 53:1 Then he goes on to quote 6, 9 and 10 and they parallel one another but there's a difference in 6, 9 and 10 the emphasis is on the moral failure of the people they CAN'T see, they CAN'T hear In 53:1 the empahsis is on the Stunning Wonder of the message God Incarnate Suffering and Dying For US!! Who could Conceive!? Who could Imagine!? Who could believe the Report? Isa 53:1 is also quoted in Ro 10:16 where Paul expands on Judicial blindness . . you'll have to check that out on your own . . Mt 8, 16 and 17 Second 16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses." there quoting Isa 53, 4 a little expansively . . although physical healing isn't promised in the Atonement it's a sign of the Atonement . . an effect of the Atonement and as it pleases God, even today it can occur [3 & 4] Then there is First Peter chapter 2 where the subject is enduring unjust suffering beginning at v20 the Apostle asks: 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; That's Isa 53:9 / Peter continues 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-by whose stripes you were healed. That's Isa 53:5 5 In the 8th chapter of Acts, there's a quotation of special significance it's the first record of a Gentile convert to the Church he was an Ethiopian AND he was a Eunuch The Spirit directs Philip to run up to him as he's reading Scripture in his chariot Philip asks "Do you understand what you are reading?" [v30 "How can I, unless someone guides me?" [v31 he says turns out he's reading Isa 53, vv7 and 8 "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth . . "of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" he asks Philip

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and beginning at this Scripture [Philip[preached Jesus to him [v35 he goes on to be Baptized you know the story the Beginning of the Fullness of the Gentiles brought in by Isaiah 53 Well last on this list of quotations from Isa 53 He was numbered with the transgressors Mark puts it to very straightforward use Ch 15, v28 27 With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. 28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors." Luke cites it in a more . . expansive way in his Chapter 22, v37 he cites Jesus quoting it of Himself that's another one you'll have to follow up on your own . . Well. that's about as much as we have time for tho if you 'do the math' - 61 quotations comprising 79 verses you'll be aware we've barely scratched the surface We're investing a year in this sermon series thru Isaiah and it hasn't been easy challenging to listen to and challenging to Preach speaking as a preacher, I assure you, Isaiah requires more work than usual usually, you approach a text already having a basic idea of what it means not so with Isaiah at least not for me his poetic, majestic style and his comprehensive subject matter require significant effort to understand at the most basic level you have to soak in it to begin to get the meaning then you can proceed with the sermon as I said in introduction, at the end of the year we won't 'own' Isaiah in the sense of mastering the material Isaiah will 'own' us more deeply and powerfully than before BUT at the end of the year we'll experience much of that SUBconsciously and that's fine tho in this message I've aimed to bring part of it to the conscious level Isaiah is all over the New Testament Because the Bible Old Testament and New is a Unified Message Isaiah prophesies repeatedly and wonderfully about Jesus and His coming Kingdom because it's a Prophetic Message and Isaiah focuses again and again on the Saving Power and Saving Work of the Holy One of Israel

because it is a Gospel message