

The Acceptable Year of the Lord/Yehovah

December 21, 2013

Hi Folks,

How often have you found yourself reading a scripture or a group of scriptures and realized you have just understood something you have never seen there before? You know the scenario; you have read it dozens maybe even hundreds of times and all of a sudden something new jumps out at you. That has happened to me often as I am sure it has to you as well. Once again that has happened to me recently. Usually when that happens I jot down some quick notes and references to the thoughts I am having and then return to it later. The reason I usually do that is because each morning I read a couple of chapters before I am out and about with work so I do not have the time then to do an in depth study or investigation into it. So now I would like to share this one with you. Some of you may have already seen this but it is new to me.

Luke 4 starts out with an account of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness and then transitions into Him teaching in the synagogues located throughout Galilee. Let's pick it up in verse 16 and read through verse 19.

"So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day (day of Sabbaths is a more accurate translation here of the Greek text) and stood up and read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. 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 has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Dear brethren, verse 19 jumped out in my mind like it had never before and scriptures flooding through my thoughts. I am sure you have experienced such things before. They were actually whipping through faster than I could hold onto them. When that happens I usually will give a quick thank you to God for answering my prayer asked prior to reading that morning for understanding what I was about to read. I then set my NKJ version down and then open the JP Greens Interlinear Bible to those same verses. I then compare the two to see if they are conveying the same thing and then I look at the Greek (in this case) to see what the original text says without English grammar added. So let's do that now.

" And He came to Nazareth, where He was brought up. And He went, as was His custom, on the day of the Sabbaths (correct translation, plural which leads many to believe this is actually talking about Pentecost, the same phrase is also found in Acts 13:14) into the synagogue, and stood up to read. And the roll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to Him. And unrolling the book, He found the place where it was written: The spirit of the Lord is upon Me; therefore He

anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and new sight to the blind; to send away crushed ones in deliverance; to preach an acceptable year of the Lord/Yehovah.”

Here we have read 6 things He was anointed to do. However that is not all that is listed in Isaiah which He was quoting. The first 5 are addressed time and time again in the gospels, etc. But, what about number 6? Verse 19 in the Greek actually says; “to preach a year (the) Lord acceptable.” What does He mean by that? Have you ever asked yourself that question and why He decided to end His reading at that statement?

Let’s turn to those scriptures in Isaiah in chapter 61:1-2. “The spirit of the Lord God (Adonay Yehovih) is upon Me, because the Lord (Yehovah) 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; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (Yehovah), ...”

Stuff like this really peaks my curiosity. Once again let’s read it from the JP Greens. “The spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon Me, because Jehovah has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the meek, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and complete opening to the bound ones (very fascinating); to proclaim the acceptable year of Jehovah...”

The actual Hebrew reads; “The spirit of Adonay Yehovih (is) on Me; for has anointed Yehovah Me to proclaim good news to the meek. He has sent Me to bind up the broken of heart, to proclaim to captives liberty, and to the bound complete opening; to proclaim the year of acceptance of Yehovah...”

To proclaim the acceptable year of Yehovah! Is it a coincidence He stopped reading at this particular spot? I don’t think so especially if this day is the Feast of Weeks. Remember when reading Luke 4:16, I mentioned an accurate translation of the Greek says “on the day of the Sabbaths.” That is the literal translation. If this in fact were the Feast of Weeks or seven complete Sabbaths as many profess, is there a connection here to this prophesy of Isaiah that does not meet the eye right away. But that is not the point or message we are looking at today, however let’s just follow it for a moment. God does things with purpose and when Christ speaks I tend to examine what He is saying very closely. Paul calls many things in scripture mysteries or as the Greek can be translated hidden truth. Let’s continue along in Isaiah 61 to see more of the context from where Christ stopped to see if there is any linkage to the things He was anointed to do and if in fact there is any linkage to Pentecost or the Feast of Weeks. Before we start reading let me say that most of you know that I believe the scriptures teach us that Christ will return on Pentecost to secure His bride and that the marriage supper will take place after the dead rise in Christ first at the sound of the first trump and then those who are alive will be changed in the twinkling of an eye and also rise to be joined with Him in the air at the sound of the second or last trump after the pattern given us in Numbers 10. Let’s pay close

attention to what is now stated by Isaiah and see if any scriptures pertaining to the bride jump out at you.

61:2-3, "...and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to appoint to those who mourn in Zion; to give them beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of ashes, the mantle of praise instead of the spirit of infirmity; so that one calls them trees of righteousness, the planting of Jehovah in order to beautify Himself."

Isaiah continues on here in this chapter with a lot more. I would like to now move on to some specific answers to a question I asked earlier about why Christ was to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord/Yehovah. This is very dear to many of us in our understanding we have to date. We know that the Calendar of God is a watershed doctrine at the end of the age. We believe that Satan has used a false understanding of it to be followed and thus many today are keeping what they declare to be the moedim or appointed times of meeting with God on the wrong days. Today they are called the feasts of the Lord/Yehovah when in fact they are the feasts of the Jews after the traditions of Judaism.

Let's start with a little word study to get a firm grip on how God uses specific words here in specific contexts.

Acceptable in Luke 4:19 is the Greek word dektos #1184 which Strong's says means "approved." That is simple enough. Vines says of it, "a person or thing which has been regarded favorably and then gives us Luke 4:19, 24 and acts 10:35 and 2 Cor 6:2 as examples of its use. It also tells us it is to be a deliberate and ready reception of what is offered (accepted or to accept).

So this word here used in acceptable year of the Lord is also used in Luke 4:24, "Then He said, assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country." Acts 10:35, "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." 2 Cor 6:2, "For He says; in an acceptable time I have heard you, and in this (not the) day of salvation I have helped you. Behold now this acceptable time; behold now, this day of salvation."

As we can see this Greek word is used in some very significant contexts and ways. In all of them it is referring to something acceptable to God whether acceptable to men or not. Please keep this in mind when we think of "preaching the acceptable year of the Lord" and the context it is used in. As we have read already from the second covenant scriptures it is Christ Himself who was to be doing this. I ask you when did He ever give a sermon or a dissertation or a preaching on it? Can you name me one time and then quote it for me? You can't and neither can I. Does this somehow tie into John stating on several occasions such as John 5:1 and 6:4 a feast of the Jews?

John 6:4 states, "Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews was near."

John 11:55, "And the Passover of the Jews was near and many went from the country (not all) up to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves."

Have you ever asked yourself why John would refer to Passover as a feast of the Jews or the Passover of the Jews? He knew and we know that Leviticus 23:2 declares that Passover, and all the other appointed times or feasts, as My feasts are in reference to God Himself. They are no one else's feasts. The Passover and all the other festivals or holy days are the feasts of the Lord! The writings of John are only second to Paul's in volume given to us, the church, in the second covenant scriptures. Why would he repeatedly call Passover as being that of the Jews? Brethren it should not be a mystery to us as we have discussed this in the past. John was the last living of the 12 apostles according to tradition, history, and the sequencing of scriptures with lessons being taught. By the latter I mean his writings which give us a sense of his correcting that which had been incorrectly taught by second and third generation Christians and by the wolves and hirelings which had entered the church. When I read John's writing I get the distinct thought that he was setting the record straight. That is why my family and I spent so much time in his gospel and epistles after we left WCG in 1993 and subsequently all corporate churches in 1996. He was writing during a time of great apostasy just like we have all lived through in the 90's and which in many organizations is still carrying on today. Many of you probably have done the same. It is all relevant to us in our lifetime just as it was in John's. So at this time I would like you all to ask yourselves, why did Christ keep a different Passover than the Jews? The scriptures clearly tell us He did. The scriptures also tell us His disciples didn't question Him doing so. There were other things He had said and had done which they questioned, even to the extent that many turned away from Him. So why not His keeping of a different Passover than the Jews? Brethren, this is all very relevant to Him preaching the acceptable year of the Lord. The Greek word *kerusso* #2784 is translated preach in that verse. Strong's says of it, "of uncertain affinity; to herald (as a public crier) especially divine truth." Vines says of it, "signifies a) to be a herald, or in general, to proclaim... and b) to preach the gospel as a herald... c) to preach the word..."

So we can see that this Greek word which is translated preach is also translated proclaim. That is important to us today for the societal use of preach is recognized as one who speaks from the pulpit in a church setting for the most part. Proclaiming on the other hand encompasses a very broad spectrum which can be done through example or by one's actions or by what one says. That is exactly what Christ did. He proclaimed a difference by what He did. He made it clear that the Passover of the Lord was not the Passover of the Jews during His lifetime as a man. History and the bible itself clearly tell us that. We will come back to that but let's continue on a word study of the word used for preaching or proclaiming in this verse, but now from the Hebrew text. Both the NKJ and the JP Green use proclaim instead of preach in Isaiah 61:2. So let's do the same and key in on the word translated acceptable. It is *ratsan* #7522. Strong's says of it, "from #7521; delight..." #7521 is *ratsah*, "a prime root: to be pleased with; specifically to satisfy a debt..."

The Brown Driver Briggs says of #7522 ratson “goodwill, favor, acceptance, will.” It gives specific scriptures as examples of these uses. When used as according to ones will, we have Dan 8:4; 11:3, 16, 36 and Ezra 10:11 for just a few. When used as acceptable, we have Ex 28:38, Lev 1:3, 22:20 and 21, 23:11; Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 6:20.

Let’s read a few of them to get the meaning in context.

Ezra 10:11, “Now therefore, make confession to Yehovah God of your fathers, and do His will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the pagan wives.”

Dan 11:3, “Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.”

Ex 28:38, “So it shall be on Aaron’s forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be acceptable before the Lord.”

Lev 22:20, “Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf.”

21, “And whoever offers a sacrifice of peace offering to the Lord, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering, from the cattle or the sheep, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.”

Brethren, is it becoming clear what this word translated “acceptable” or “will” means to God. When describing the acceptable year of the Lord it is telling us one; that it is according to His will and without blemish or defect. It does not count to be close in this matter. It needs to be perfect. So when someone tells you it does not matter what day you keep and thus calendar they are dead wrong! Matthew 24: 45-51 comes rushing forward in my mind as well as many others. Remember it is the prelude context to the lesson on the 10 virgins. Let’s take the time to read it.

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant (big order to fill), whom his master appointed over his household, to give food in due season (or better translated; at the right time.)? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But if the evil servant says in his heart, My master is delaying his coming, and begins to beat his fellow servants (just like the Pharisees), and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for and at an hour he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Who does he repeatedly call hypocrites in the gospels? The Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes, the so called religious leaders of Christ’s time on earth. Those who proclaimed the authority to determine the festival dates and how one was to conduct himself in and at them. One example of that is the incredible hypocritical purification rituals they had all the people go through prior to keeping their Passover. Most of you reading this are aware of how far they have fallen since

that time with adding to and taking away from keeping the feasts of the Lord on the right days. Once again, close does not count as the scriptures surely tell us.

It is no coincidence that the Hebrew word for “acceptance” and “will” is used in Lev 23:11. This in the context of the 7 complete Sabbaths count to Pentecost or as it is called by God also the Feast of Weeks for the obvious reasons. It could just as easily be called the Feast of Sabbaths. It certainly is not a stretch to assume that the day of Sabbaths talked about in Luke 4:16 and Acts 13:14 is one and the same, but once again that is not the point of this lesson.

23:11, “He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord/Yehovah, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.” We understand this to be the wavesheaf offering (without blemish and thus no defect in it) which represents our risen Savior coming before the Father on our behalf. We are of His body as His bride, His betrothed, His wife. He makes it possible for us to be able to stand before the Father on mount Zion. He makes it possible for us to be accepted into the family of God, into the Fathers household. We are part of the same early harvest as Christ is, the barley harvest, the humble grain. It takes place over a seven week period which is numbered after seven complete or perfect Sabbaths.

Lev 23:15, “And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.”

Now with this all in mind we need to ask the question if Christ was to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord are we not talking about Him correcting or setting something straight that was wrong? I certainly think so and scripture has and will bear that out. When He stated to those present that one of His responsibilities as the Christ, the Anointed One, was to proclaim the acceptable (according to Gods will) year of the Lord. That is and was a very dramatic statement. There are years being kept which are not acceptable to the Lord. That is because they are flawed and full of defects. How can a year be flawed one might ask? By starting at the wrong time which places all the feasts of the Lord on the wrong days and in some cases out of season. Our Creator gave us a perfect means of keeping His appointed times of meeting with Him. The Jews have completely turned it upside down in their teachings of traditions rather than following the commandments of God. There are many others who follow their calendar errors as well. Many Churches of God have bitten from that bitter apple during our time. I did when I first started keeping them with an organization called the WCG. I have corrected that error as I learned what the scriptures say about such things. So have many, many, others as well. When thinking about this calendar folly which abounds among the Jews and Churches I can't help but think of Isaiah 1:14, “Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.”

God is not talking about His New Moons and Appointed Feasts for He tells us He delights in them. They describe to us the wonderful sequence of the plan of salvation. They are rehearsals which He commands to be kept on their day and no other. They teach us according to His will what is acceptable to His plan.

I asked earlier did Christ keep the same Passover as the Jews? The scriptural answer is clearly no! He proclaimed to us all, as well as them at the time that their sequence of days was flawed. John made sure we today all have a record of it. He made sure he differentiated between the Passover of the Lord and that of the Jews. He does so by name and through actual events. In Chapter 13 of his gospel he clearly shows Christ and His disciples keeping the Passover of the Lord the day before the Jews kept their Passover. He gave us a thorough account of Christ's subsequent activities after He kept it leading right up to His crucifixion. In 18:18 we read the following, "Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves (the Jews) did not go into the Praetorium lest they should be defiled (remember their ridiculous purification traditions), but that they might eat the (their) Passover."

Their Passover, the Passover of the Jews would not be eaten by them until after sunset that day. That would be the 15th day of Abib. That is a day set aside as the first day of Unleavened Bread according to Gods word. In spite of all the very clear scriptures which tell us the Passover was to be kept on and in the 14th day of Abib the Jews took it upon themselves to disobey God and change the days. We have talked about this in exhausting length in the past and have all the biblical and historical proofs contained in studies on the website so no need to do so now. Brethren, this is not a small matter to the Father. Christ was sent to correct it! If it was so important to God to correct what was flawed as to His acceptable year back then just imagine how important it is today with the Jews starting their year in the seventh month and counting backwards to get to the first month. In fact they seldom ever start it in the 7th month because they do not keep a biblical New Moon. They keep a no moon or as we know it a conjunction of the sun, moon, and earth. No visible light shining in that method which can be seen from the earth as we are instructed in Genesis the first chapter. That is equivalent to trying to keep time with a watch that has no hands pointing to numbers. How dumb and reckless is that. On top of that they have inserted all their postponements to satisfy the keeping of their traditions. They have completely bastardized the calendar. Many have been deceived and dumbed down into thinking the Jews Calendar is Gods Calendar and thus follow the Jewish feasts. The Jewish Calendar is flawed and defective and thus not acceptable to God. Just think He says to those who keep them, "Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me." The JP Green says, "They are a burden to Me."

That is very strong language. It is easy to understand why He hates them but why are they a trouble or burden to Him? Because it deceives and dumbs down some who are being called to be the bride of Christ!

Matthew 23:13, "But woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in." That is real bad business. Unfortunately that did not just exist at Christ's time only. It is rampant today.

Luke 11:52; “Woe to you lawyers! (of the law, self-proclaimed) For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.” We have an article on the site addressing this topic.

Brethren, I say again as bad as it was back then it is much worse now. We are told that we are to follow the Lamb of God wherever He goes in Revelation 14:4 in context with the bride of Christ already being married to the Son of God. That pertains to everything not just the keeping of the year acceptable to the Lord but in all things. Knowledge is required regardless of what you may be being taught to the contrary. It is a requirement to be the bride just like all the attributes of her resume as found in Proverbs 31:10-31. Many of you who are reading this have the same or a similar understanding that the bride of Christ will be united with Him on Pentecost her Jubilee, her release from the physical captivity into eternal life and taking up her inheritance with Christ in the Father's household. Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks and Feast of Firstfruits. It may also be called Day of Sabbaths in the second covenant scriptures. Whether it is or is not is not necessary knowledge but interesting all the same. Christ did not do anything by happenstance. Neither should we. That is why so many today are turning from a flawed and defective calendar. Christ promised us He would never leave nor forsake us for we are of His body. Unfortunately Satan is a vile opportunist and finds lots of room to confuse and deceive many as they are coming to an understanding that the Jewish Calendar and thus the timing of the feasts in it are in error.

Brethren, it is up to us as children of the Father and betrothed of Christ to keep proclaiming and preaching what is acceptable to God as to the start of the year and the annual festivals regardless of what the religious leaders of our day have to say. But that is not enough. The resume of the bride encompasses much, much, more as Proverbs 31:10-31 clearly delineates to us. Please remember these are spiritual attributes and functions but typified by the physical equivalent. We need to be putting the same zeal into all the other responsibilities Christ mentioned in Luke 4:18 as well. We need to be preaching the gospel to the poor. That does not mean we need a great organizational work with a constant demand for funding. It simply means exactly what it says. Ask yourself who are the poor? Do a study on it and then be about our Father's business following the Lamb wherever He goes with that one. We need to be making an effort to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and give new sight to the blind, and to liberate those who are oppressed. These are all spiritual equivalents of what is found in the physical. It is always helpful to regroup and get our bearings and one of my favorite places to do that is found in Matt 25:34-40 and James 1:27. Please take the time to read them. The church organizations are filled with all of these brethren in all of these conditions. We are our brother's keeper. It is not our calling to run to a cave and hide in it. If that is what we think whether by word or our actions we are no better than those who Christ called hypocrites.

Lots to think about!

As I stated in the beginning I wanted to share this understanding with you as to the acceptable year of the Lord. I also asked a question earlier as to why did Christ stop reading Isaiah 61:2 at that point when there was more to it. He did not continue on and say, “and the day of vengeance of God” did He! There is a lesson in that for us today here at the end of the age. That specific knowledge is not necessary for salvation and certainly not necessary for us to qualify to be the bride of Christ. Yes we need to have knowledge about it, to recognize the reality of it, but that is not to be our focus. However there are a lot of “sons of thunder” running around proclaiming anything they can come up with associated with it, that being Gods day of vengeance. By the efforts they put into it, one would think that is all that needs to be done at this time in our calling. What a shame that the prince of the power of the air has deceived and dumbed down so many to pursue that course.

Our peace we give to you.

Brian Convery