

Study Notes for Advent 3

[Isa. 61:1–62:12](#) The Anointed Preacher Renewing the World. The Messiah will preach into existence his new, liberated people, who will pray into existence his new, redeemed world.

[Isa. 61:1–3](#) The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me. This looks back to [48:16](#), and thus the speaker is the messianic servant, who creates a new people by his Spirit-empowered preaching (cf. [11:2](#); [59:21](#)). Isaiah explains the goal of Messiah's anointing with seven purpose clauses. The poor. See [11:4](#); [29:19](#); [Matt. 5:3](#). To proclaim liberty. See [Lev. 25:10](#). The opening of the prison. The return from Babylonian exile, but more than that: spiritual freedom from the oppression of sin and Satan. The year of the Lord's favour. A new era of blessing (cf. [Isa. 34:8](#); [63:4](#); [2 Cor. 6:2](#)). Quoting this text in Nazareth ([Luke 4:18–19](#)), Jesus did not include and the day of vengeance of our God because the display of his wrath awaits Christ's second coming (cf. [Isa. 5:25–29](#); [63:1–6](#); [Acts 17:31](#); [Rev. 6:15–17](#)). Oaks of righteousness. Grand, fruitful, lasting, and strong (cf. [Ps. 1:3](#)).

[Isa. 61:4](#) They shall build up the ancient ruins. The poor become, through the Messiah, creative restorers of the sad situations that man has had to live with for so long (cf. [54:3](#); [58:12](#)). Every human ideal falls into ruins in this world of death, but the new culture of life in the city of God will thrive forever.

[Isa. 61:8](#) The promises of God are guaranteed by the character of God (cf. [41:13](#); [42:6–8](#); [43:3, 15](#); [44:6, 24–28](#); [46:8–11](#); [48:17](#); [49:26](#); [51:12–16](#); [60:16](#)). An everlasting covenant. See note on [54:10](#).

[Isa. 61:10–11](#) The speaker is either the Messiah, the prophet Isaiah, or Zion herself. With the Lord God echoing "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me" in [v. 1](#), it is likely that the Messiah is speaking here. as a bridegroom ... as a bride. The Messiah will lead his people into the romance of eternal salvation (cf. [Eph. 5:25–27](#); [Rev. 21:2, 9](#)). As the earth ... as a garden suggests a bountiful harvest.

Key Themes in John

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| 1. Jesus is God. | 1:1–2, 18 ; 5:17–18 ; 8:58–59 ; 10:30–33 ; 20:28 |
| 2. Jesus existed before the creation of the world. | 1:1–2 ; 8:58 ; 17:5, 24 |
| 3. Jesus has supernatural knowledge. | 1:48 ; 2:4, 19, 23–25 ; 3:14 ; 4:17–18 ; 6:51, 70 ; 8:28 ; 9:3 ; 10:15, 17–18 ; 11:4, 14 ; 12:24, 32 ; 13:10–11, 38 ; 21:18–19 |
| 4. Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. | 1:36, 41, 49 ; 3:18 ; 4:25, 29 ; 5:25 ; 7:26, 27, 31, 41, 42 ; 9:22 ; 10:24, 36 ; 11:4, 27 ; 12:34 ; 19:7 ; 20:30–31 |
| 5. Jesus is the "I am." | 4:26 ; 6:20, 35, 48, 51 ; 8:12, 18, 24, 28, 58 ; 9:5 ; 10:7, 9, 11, 14 ; 11:25 ; 13:19 ; 14:6 ; 15:1 ; 18:5–6 (cf. Ex. 3:14–15 ; Isa. 41:4 ; 43:10–13, 25 ; 45:18 ; 51:12 ; 52:6) |

Source: The ESV Study Bible