

# Prophecy of Jesus Revealed

Luke 4:18-23 & Isaiah 61:1-2ff

## INTRODUCTION:

**JESUS Said to them.....today is the “scripture fulfilled in your ears”**

Every Sabbath day Jesus would go into a synagogue and read the scriptures and preach to those who would listen.

On one particular Sabbath day he was in the synagogue in Galilee in His home town of Nazareth. Whilst there He was given the scriptures of Isaiah by the synagogue attendant to read to everyone present.

But little did they know they were about to regret that very request and make the worst mistake of their lives.

The story unfolds in Isaiah Chapter 61, and in the first two opening versus the Jews are already confronted by Isaiah’s prophecy.

Then for us, the result of this reading of Isaiah is recorded in Luke Chapter 4 beginning in verse 18 through to verse 24.

**Let’s read.....and let pick up the context first.**

## Luke 4:14-44

<sup>14</sup> And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

<sup>15</sup> And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

<sup>16</sup> And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

<sup>17</sup> And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

<sup>19</sup> To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

**21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

**29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.**

30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

31 And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.

32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

33 And in the synagogue there was **a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil**, and cried out with a loud voice,

34 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

35 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for **with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.**

37 And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.

38 And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into **Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother** was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

<sup>39</sup> And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

<sup>40</sup> Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.

<sup>41</sup> And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

<sup>42</sup> And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them.

<sup>43</sup> And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

<sup>44</sup> And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee

1. When Jesus was handed the book of Isaiah he specifically looked for the place of **Isaiah 61**, and read beginning in verse 1.
2. **Jesus only read verse 1 and half of verse 2 and closed the Book.**
3. Imagine for a moment what the expectations were of the Jews. But Jesus closed the book as soon as he had read half of verse 2 and then gave the book back to the synagogue attendant.
4. There was to be no further reading. That must have stopped the Jews in their tracks, wondering why a scholar of the scriptures would do such a thing. They had no clue what was about to happen.

❖ **It shows me that Jesus knew exactly what he was going to preach about.**

- And what Jesus said was very profound to the Jews listening to Him in synagogue.
- They could not believe what their ears were hearing?
- In Luke 4:19 it tells us it was a stunning message. So profound was the proclamation from Jesus that Luke 4 verse 29 tells us that the Jews wanted to kill him straight away.

Verse 29.....<sup>29</sup> And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. <sup>30</sup> But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

But.....

What Luke 4:21 tells us is what Jesus said to the Jews....<sup>21</sup> **And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

- ✓ After that Jesus had closed the book of Isaiah 61,
- ✓ He laid that statement of verse 21 squarely at their feet.
- ✓ He was telling them that He was indeed that fulfilment of that scripture in Isaiah.

- What's interesting but more compelling and profound is that these verses Jesus had read to the Jews from their beloved prophet Isaiah was actually condemning them.
- Isaiah had told them in Isaiah 61:1-2 and in the following verses that a redeemer was coming, and Jesus now claimed that he was the fulfillment.

### **Isaiah 61:1-2.**

**1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;**

**2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD**, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

- In Luke 4:18-23 we see that Jesus stopped short of completing the sentence in Isaiah 61:2.
- The reason for this is clear, because in Luke 4:23 Jesus wanted to make the point of showing the Jews that the Isaiah 61 prophecy quoted was all about the coming messiah and redeemer of Israel which pointed to Him.
- The second half or remaining part of Isaiah 61:2 was to do with Jesus' judgments on the earth at the end of days of His second coming.
- If the Jews could not grasp His first coming they sure would not grasp His second coming.
- So Jesus saw no point in explaining the second part of Isaiah 61:2 which was to do with the vengeance of God at the second coming of Jesus.

This we can see from the book of Revelation 6:10 where those that are in Heaven who have already been martyred before the second coming of Jesus, who are seeking comfort in their mourning....as the second part of Isaiah 61:2 begs the question. But that is not for now as Jesus would show by stopping short of the ending of verse 2 of Isaiah 61.

### **Revelation 6:10**

**And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**

- So.....Jesus does not go into the judgment of His second time that He is coming to earth. Instead He focuses on the here and now for them to see.
- I hope that people who read this message also realize that Jesus has always been God, and been One with the Father in heaven.

The heading for the message I chose was specific to show again that Jesus was always from the beginning. Not from creation, he is not a created being, but always one with the Father in heaven. And that one day as Isaiah 61 prophesied that the redeemer would come. Which He did as He presented Himself to the Jews in Luke 4:18

This was to be the Revelation of Jesus. This Revelation was to show mankind that God did not lie, but is faithful and true, and would send His Only Son, to fulfill His prophecy through the writings of Gods words in the Book of Isaiah. As also is the cases in the entire Word of God.

As you read the closing verses of Luke 4 Jesus explained to the Jews that today they had heard the scripture of Isaiah 61 being fulfilled.

But even though the Jews had heard they did not believe, because they had no faith in Jesus.

That's why Jesus preached a little further with them before He departed out of the synagogue when they wanted to kill Him.

Jesus went on to tell them more about how some people even in the OT had been saved from a famine, or even diseases, and comparing this to the salvation that was offered to them from those hunger famines and diseases.

- ✓ But they could not see the connection without faith.

What Jesus told the Jews in Luke 4 of the closing verses was this.....

**Luke 4:** <sup>22</sup> And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

<sup>23</sup> And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

<sup>24</sup> **And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.**

<sup>25</sup> **But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; <sup>6</sup> But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.**

<sup>27</sup> **And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.**

<sup>28</sup> And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

- ✓ Jesus was comparing himself as the Saviour from the famine.
- ✓ A Saviour from the worst disease of leprosy.

That's right.....a person who is spiritually dead is compared to a famine and the disease of leprosy.

- ✓ Yet Jesus was sent to preach the gospel of glad tidings and to heal the broken hearted.

PRAYER.....CLOSE