**Isaiah 61-63**

The Year of the Lord’s Favor

**61**The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
    because the Lord has anointed me
    to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
    to proclaim freedom for the captives
    and release from darkness for the prisoners,
**2**to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor
    and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
**3**    and provide for those who grieve in Zion -
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
    instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
    instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
    a planting of the Lord
    for the display of his splendor.

**4**They will rebuild the ancient ruins
    and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
    that have been devastated for generations.
**5**Strangers will shepherd your flocks;
    foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.
**6**And you will be called priests of the Lord,
    you will be named ministers of our God.
You will feed on the wealth of nations,
    and in their riches you will boast.

**7**Instead of your shame
    you will receive a double portion,
and instead of disgrace
    you will rejoice in your inheritance.
And so you will inherit a double portion in your land,
    and everlasting joy will be yours.

**8**“For I, the Lord, love justice;
    I hate robbery and wrongdoing.
In my faithfulness I will reward my people
    and make an everlasting covenant with them.
**9**Their descendants will be known among the nations
    and their offspring among the peoples.
All who see them will acknowledge
    that they are a people the Lord has blessed.”

**10**I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
    and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
    and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
**11**For as the soil makes the sprout come up
    and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
    and praise spring up before all nations.

Zion’s New Name

**62**For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,
    for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
    her salvation like a blazing torch.
**2**The nations will see your vindication,
    and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
    that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.
**3**You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord’s hand,
    a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
**4**No longer will they call you Deserted,
    or name your land Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah,
    and your land Beulah;
for the Lord will take delight in you,
    and your land will be married.
**5**As a young man marries a young woman,
    so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
    so will your God rejoice over you.

**6**I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem;
    they will never be silent day or night.
You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest,
**7**and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem
    and makes her the praise of the earth.

**8**The Lord has sworn by his right hand
    and by his mighty arm:
“Never again will I give your grain
    as food for your enemies,
and never again will foreigners drink the new wine
    for which you have toiled;
**9**but those who harvest it will eat it
    and praise the Lord,
and those who gather the grapes will drink it
    in the courts of my sanctuary.”

**10**Pass through, pass through the gates!
    Prepare the way for the people.
Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones.
Raise a banner for the nations.

**11**The Lord has made proclamation
    to the ends of the earth:
“Say to Daughter Zion,  ‘See, your Savior comes!
See, his reward is with him,
    and his recompense accompanies him.’”
**12**They will be called the Holy People,
    the Redeemed of the Lord;
and you will be called Sought After,
    the City No Longer Deserted.

God’s Day of Vengeance and Redemption

**63**Who is this coming from Edom,
    from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson?
Who is this, robed in splendor,
    striding forward in the greatness of his strength?

“It is I, proclaiming victory, mighty to save.”

**2**Why are your garments red,
    like those of one treading the winepress?

**3**“I have trodden the winepress alone;
    from the nations no one was with me.
I trampled them in my anger
    and trod them down in my wrath;
their blood spattered my garments,
    and I stained all my clothing.
**4**It was for me the day of vengeance;
    the year for me to redeem had come.
**5**I looked, but there was no one to help,
    I was appalled that no one gave support;
so my own arm achieved salvation for me,
    and my own wrath sustained me.
**6**I trampled the nations in my anger;
    in my wrath I made them drunk
    and poured their blood on the ground.”

Praise and Prayer

**7**I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
    the deeds for which he is to be praised,
    according to all the Lord has done for us -
yes, the many good things he has done for Israel,
    according to his compassion and many kindnesses.
**8**He said, “Surely they are my people,
    children who will be true to me”;
    and so he became their Savior.
**9**In all their distress he too was distressed,
    and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
    he lifted them up and carried them
    all the days of old.
**10**Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit.
So he turned and became their enemy
    and he himself fought against them.

**11**Then his people recalled the days of old,
    the days of Moses and his people -
where is he who brought them through the sea,
    with the shepherd of his flock?
Where is he who set
    his Holy Spirit among them,
**12**who sent his glorious arm of power
    to be at Moses’ right hand,
who divided the waters before them,
    to gain for himself everlasting renown,
**13**who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in open country,
    they did not stumble;
**14**like cattle that go down to the plain,
    they were given rest by the Spirit of the Lord.
This is how you guided your people
    to make for yourself a glorious name.

**15**Look down from heaven and see,
    from your lofty throne, holy and glorious.
Where are your zeal and your might?
    Your tenderness and compassion are withheld from us.
**16**But you are our Father,
    though Abraham does not know us
    or Israel acknowledge us;
you, Lord, are our Father,
    our Redeemer from of old is your name.
**17**Why, Lord, do you make us wander from your ways
    and harden our hearts so we do not revere you?
Return for the sake of your servants,
    the tribes that are your inheritance.
**18**For a little while your people possessed your holy place,
    but now our enemies have trampled down your sanctuary.
**19**We are yours from of old;
    but you have not ruled over them,
    they have not been called by your name.