

# The Acceptable Year of the Lord

*Pastor Anthony J. Shetley, Sunday, December 28, 2025*

The acceptable year of the Lord or the year of God's favor reflects **the Year of Jubilee** legislation of Leviticus 25.

- Sabbath Years every seven years
- Year of Jubilee every 50 years

During the Sabbath Year

- debts were forgiven
- slaves were released
- the land was given rest along with the people who would forgo the work of harvest.

During the Year of Jubilee the same was true of the Sabbath year but in a greater sense. Additionally

- debts were forgiven
- slaves were released
- the land was given rest along with the people who would rest from the work of harvest
  - **Question** of the people: How will we survive? (a year of no sowing and harvest)
- all lost land would be restored

The Sabbath year brought forgiveness, but the Year of Jubilee brought full restoration!

Isaiah prophecies concerning One Who will come with the anointing of the Holy Spirit to declare the "acceptable year of the Lord's favor!"

## Read Isaiah 61:1-4

Isaiah prophecies to a people who are suffering under oppression due to personal and national sin. They are living in perilous times. They had a lot to worry about and to be afraid of. Isaiah's words offer a present and a future hope.

Their present hope could be realized in God's sovereignty and in His desire for their restoration.

They would go on to suffer greatly. They would lose all to the Babylonian Empire and be taken into exile and captivity. They would suffer much affliction, become broken hearted, taken captive, become prisoners, and be brought to a time of mourning. They would be longing for the "Good News" of God's returned favor toward them.

**The acceptable year of the Lord** would result in the rebuilding of the ancient ruins, rising up from former devastations; they restoration of their ruined cities – the desolations of many generations.

These promises find fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

**Luke 4:17–19 (NASB95)** <sup>17</sup> And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup> To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."

Some scholars believe that Jesus read these words in the year of what would have been the year of Jubilee.

Either way, the time of grace was inaugurated in Jesus Christ. The year of Jubilee always began on the Day of atonement. The atoning work of Jesus offers way more than forgiveness! Jesus offers us complete restoration.

## **True Jubilee.**

Jubilee is not a date on a calendar. It's not a new year's resolution. It is a person, Jesus Christ.

What affliction are you living under?

Are you brokenhearted?

What are you a prisoner of?

What do you need to be delivered from?

## **Jesus stopping point.**

It is important to take note of where Jesus stopped His reading of Isaiah. Jesus finished reading with, *"To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD"* and Isaiah would go on to say, *"To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God,"* **Isaiah 61:2 (NASB95)**.

This present age of grace is a closing window of opportunity.

## **Jubilee means Trumpet.**

The year of Jubilee began on the Day of Atonement, and it was proclaimed by the blowing of the ram's horn or the trumpet.

## **The trumpet will sound at the appearing of Jesus in the sky.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (NASB95)** <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (NASB95)** <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

## **Jesus' Second Coming**

**Matthew 24:30–31 (NASB95)** <sup>30</sup> "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> "And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

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*This is the Acceptable year of the Lord!  
Today is the day of salvation! Receive your New Life today!*

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