

THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD



(Luke 4:20; Isaiah 61)

YAHSHUA, after having gone through baptism and forty days fasting in the wilderness where He was tested exceedingly by the devil, went to Galilee, full of the Holy Spirit to lead a course of teachings in their synagogues. Nazareth, the place where He grew up, was also included. He entered the synagogue, as was His custom on the Sabbath day and stood to read. And there was handed to Him [the roll of] the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the good news to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed, to proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound. [Isaiah 61:1,2] then He rolled up the book and gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were gazing at Him. And He began to speak to them: **Today this Scripture had been fulfilled while you are present and hearing** (Luke 4).

There, stood in their midst YHWH incarnate, the Author of the Scriptures, the Originator and Creator of all living things, the Author of life itself, but Israel had no idea Who that Man was. He read a passage from the Prophet Isaiah book which was inspired by Him hundreds of years ago. A fulfillment of a prophecy which was brought to light through Him at their very own eyes. However, Israel rejected Him for not having recognized Him. Although, He shone truth, performed miracles and wonders for all to see, still the nation as a whole, would not benefit from the acceptable time God was offering them. Darkness, as their choice, remained in them; their eyes remained closed to the Truth, even though a few desired to see and were able to. But the majority walked in the darkness of their understanding with consequences, as YAHSHUA so uttered: (Jerusalem) would that you had known personally, even at least in this your day, the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For a time is coming upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank about you and surround you and shut you in on every side. And they will dash you down to the ground, you, [Jerusalem] and your children within you; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not come progressively to recognize and know and understand the time of your visitation [that is, when God was visiting you, the time in which God showed Himself gracious toward you and offered you salvation through Christ] (Luke 19: 42-44). And again, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who continue to kill the prophets and to stone those who are sent to you! How often I have desired and yearned to gather your children together as a hen her young under her wings but you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken! And I tell you, you will not see Me again until the time comes when you shall say, Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! (Luke 13:34-35)

YAHSHUA'S heart ached for that nation's future. Even while on his way to be crucified, once again He warned them of their destiny: ... Weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Behold, the days are coming during which they will say, Blessed are the barren and the wombs that have not borne, and the breasts that have never nursed! Then they will begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us! And to the hills, Cover us! (Luke 23:28-30). On His prophetic discourse of Matthews 24th He repeated the warning to His disciples: Do you see all these? (the temple) Truly I tell you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down (vs2). Israel was under judgment not very far into the future. Her fate was clearly expressed by the Lord for they had not recognized the YHWH's favorable time toward them.

The people who were listening to Him, while speaking well of Him, doubted Him to the point of asking the question, Is not this "Joseph's Son? As "Joseph's Son," (according to them), YAHSHUA'S honor was not credited to Him, because He grew up among them. A home-grown prophet's honor is never accepted among their own family and neighbors. With that attitude, they threw out the words that YAHSHUA had just uttered to them: "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled while you are present and hearing." Had they been listening, and receiving, they would have heard, perceived, and understood the meaning of YAHSHUA'S words: **I am He of Whom Isaiah spoke of.** Instead, they expressed rejection of YAHSHUA'S messiahship. YAHSHUA then responded to them: Solemnly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable and welcomed in his [own town (country)]. (Luke 4:24). It had been about two and a half years since YAHSHUA had been ministering to the nation of Israel, but the attitude of many toward Him never changed. They tried to kill Him, instead but were not successful at that time. YAHSHUA escaped them and landed in Capernaum, a town of Galilee where He was well received.

The acceptable year of the Lord is an allusion to the year of Jubilee in Leviticus 25:10-12 which reads: and you shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, and each of you shall return to his ancestral possession and each of you shall return to his family. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it, you shall not sow, or reap and store what grows of itself, or gather the grapes of the uncultivated vines for it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat the increase of it out of the field. YAHWEH'S Son was to the nation of Israel, "the year of Jubilee." God was willing to accept sinners and forgive them. When YAHSHUA stood to read that passage of Isaiah, He was proclaiming to the nation of Israel that the favorable year of the Lord had come. He was the anointed One to preach the good news to the poor; He was the One sent to release to the captives and recover the sight of the blind, to deliver those who are oppressed, to proclaim the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound (Luke 4:18-19). Through Him, all that pertained to the blessings of the year of Jubilee was being fulfilled. It was confirmed when He said, Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled while you are present and hearing." (vs.21).

Every opportunity a person has to hear the message of the Gospel of the Lord YAHSHUA, it constitutes the favorable year of the Lord in that person's life. It is

the time when YHWH is willing to forgive and give men a new life through the gift of His Son's life, YAHSHUA. Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion and their provocation and embitterment in the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers tried and tested and found I stood their test and they saw My works for forty years. And so I was provoked with that generation, and said, they always err and are led astray in their hearts, and they have not perceived or recognized My ways and become progressively better and more experimentally and intimately acquainted with them. Accordingly, I swore in My wrath and indignation, they shall not enter into My rest (Heb. 3: 7-11). The Lord is patient toward (us), not desiring that any of (us) should perish, but that all should turn to repentance (II Peter 3:9). He does not desire anyone to be condemned, but there is a frame of time given to all of us to make a decision that will impact our spiritual destiny. The frame of time is today. The day that you hear the Gospel of YAHSHUA, accept Him. Today is salvation, and forgiveness abounding for you. Today is your year of Jubilee! There is no better opportune time.