

## MESSIAH'S MESSAGE

The good news that Jesus declares in Luke 4:16-21 echoes throughout the New Testament, as the announcement that God's promises in the Old Testament had now come to pass. Jesus Christ pronounces their fulfillment in His own personal coming. The "age of Messiah" is here!

Though this is the best news anyone could hope to hear, Jesus' own hometown rejected this gospel. They would not receive Jesus or His announcement of God's grace to all mankind. They preferred to think that some lives mattered more than others, contrary to God's words.

Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*" The "age of Messiah" has come in Christ Jesus!

**1- Mission of the Messiah** - As we have seen, the apostles repeated the good news all through the book of Acts and the New Testament epistles, such as Ephesians 2:11-22. "*But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. He has broken down the wall of hostility to create in Himself one new man, to reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross.*" The apostle switches metaphors, expanding his thought from one new man, composed of both Jews and Gentiles, to describe this as the household of God.

Then he builds from the metaphor of people composing the household of God, to a word picture of the people forming the house itself, as living stones. He says, "*so you are members of the household of God, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, the one the builders rejected, but in whom the whole structure grows together into a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*"

**2- Measure of the Messiah** - The Bible presents the age of Messiah as inaugurated, and the promises being fulfilled by Christ Jesus in the lives of believers, all from every ethnicity, who put their trust in Him as Lord and Savior. This is Jesus Christ the master builder at work in your heart and mind and will, regenerating you to saving faith, lived out by His power within.

This household of God is all about the people, not the building. 1 Peter 2 declares of believers, "*you are living stones, being built into a spiritual house, a living temple, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices.*" That's why Peter commands to put away all malice, deceit, envy, hypocrisy, slander, things that bring down the house. That's what happened in Jesus' home synagogue, as their unrepented resentment against others prevented them from experiencing God's grace, so graciously offered to the undeserving, freely for their taking.

Peter commands to abstain from passions of the flesh which wage war with your soul. Don't reject the renewing work of Christ in your life. He comes to set you free from habits, hangups, hurts, harmful resentments toward unbelievers and believers alike. He sets you free as you personally receive Him with His good news of liberty and release. All this so your new life will "*proclaim the excellencies of Him who calls you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*"

**3- Magnify the Messiah** - There can be no construction of the reconciled household of God without reconstruction of their spiritual lives. There can be no release without forgiveness. No repentance without regeneration. All of this is God's work of grace through the Holy Spirit, as believers become new creations who are restored and renewed in the image of Christ Himself. This is the redemption of the captive ones, fulfillment of the promises, by the Promised One.

That's why Jesus commands you to put off the old self and put on the new self, created in His image. Will you let go of the old self? Will you let Jesus set you free? Scripture presents this as the work of the Holy Spirit, applying God's favor, pouring out His grace, setting you free in Christ from the power of sin, and giving you the power of His Spirit to say no to sin and yes to God's Word and ways. May this be true of you! Believe this good news by personal trust, by receiving Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior, then living out His new life - all by His power within! ☐