

**THE GREAT OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGIAN**  
**A SCRIPTURAL STUDY OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH**  
**(Chapters 40-66)**  
***Loving God and Neighbor***

**Isaiah chapter 58; Acceptable Worship**

**In verses 1–3a of this chapter, what is the presenting problem which the Prophet will address?**

**Verses 3b–4 provide God’s response. What is it God wants to say to the Hebrew people who appear “outwardly righteous?”**

**What would an acceptable fast in God’s sight look like? (see verses 5–7, 9b–10a, 13)**

**How would God respond to such sincere and appropriate acts of piety? (see verses 8–9a, 10b–12, 14)**

**What words of Jesus would support this theme of God’s deep and abiding concern for the poor?**

**How do you find this teaching from Isaiah a challenge for your life at present?**

**How might you begin to show increased concern for poor and oppressed persons?**

**Isaiah chapter 61; God's Concern for the Poor**

**What message has Yahweh given his prophet to proclaim to those who have returned from exile?**

**What are the various facets of mission God gives those who returned from the Babylonian exile? (see verses 1-3)**

**In verse 3 we read that God will allow those returning from exile in Babylon to “be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.” How is it possible that a sinful people, whose disobedience caused their exile, will be called “oaks of righteousness?” In verse 8, how is it that as Yahweh’s “disobedient children” the returning Jews shall possess a double portion of their inheritance, as was the case in ancient times with the firstborn?**

**How do the returned exiles view themselves in verses 10 and 11, as a result of God’s actions on their behalf?**

**Verse 4 is explicit about the challenging task the returnees from exile face. What is that task?**

**In verses 5 through 7, what is said about the God-given role of the people of Judah? What blessings does God promise to shower upon them?**

**In what context does Jesus quote from some of the words from Isaiah 61? (see Luke 4:16-30)**

**What claim was Jesus making for himself?**

**In what ways does the quote from Isaiah 61 describe Jesus' ministry?**

**Where in the text of Isaiah 61 does Jesus stop his quotation? Is there any special significance to that?**

**What does Jesus suggest elsewhere in the New Testament about his ministry in relationship to God's judgment on human sin?**

**Taking the above into account, for what reason(s) might the hometown congregation in Nazareth have turned distinctly hostile toward Jesus, in light of His message?**

**Jesus seems to intuit the congregation's reaction to what He has said in verses 23–27. In response, how does He further antagonize or offend this group of Galilean Jews?**

**How did the congregation in Nazareth react to Jesus' words in the synagogue?**

**What does Jesus' use of these words from Isaiah 61 mean for the Christian Church today as we contemplate our mission and purpose?**