



## *Correspondent's Corner*

### **He Preached the Acceptable Year of the Lord**

**March, 2020**

The gospel of Luke tells us that the Lord Jesus was brought up in the town of Nazareth which is about 24 km. west of the Sea of Galilee. As The Lord became about thirty years of age he entered his time of

public ministry. Early on in the approximately three and one half years of his public ministry Luke chapter four tells us that the Lord Jesus came to his home town of Nazareth. It was his common practice to go into the local Jewish synagogue on the Sabbath, which is Saturday. The Lord took the opportunity to read to those gathered a portion of the prophecy of Isaiah in chapter sixty one and verse one and the beginning of verse two. The portion reads: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Then the Lord stopped reading and closed the scroll and gave it to the synagogue attendant and sat down.

Luke tells us that every eye was fastened on the Lord. The Lord then said unto the people gathered that "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Then we read that the people wondered at the gracious words that came from the mouth of the Lord Jesus and asked the question "Is not this Joseph's son? The Lord then spoke to them of how they would not believe the reports of his miracles in other towns but would demand him to perform a miracle among them here in his home town of Nazareth. He then spoke to them of two prophets named Elijah and Elisha who could only do miracles for non Jewish people during their time of ministry many years before the Lord Jesus was here. The reason for this was the unbelief of the Jewish people in their day. Then the people that were gathered in the synagogue that heard the Lord read the scriptures were filled with wrath and led the Lord out to a precipice and tried to throw him over the edge, but the Lord just walked through the crowd and left, going on his way to Capernaum. The people of Nazareth had rejected the claim of the Lord that he was their Messiah.

It must have been quite a voice to the people of Nazareth to hear this One preach. The people of Nazareth had watched him grow up and now he was preaching with such authority and passion to the people who had known him all the years of his early life. The Lord made it clear to them that he was the One that Isaiah wrote of over seven hundred years before the Lord's time here. He was anointed to preach the glad tidings to the poor. The glad tidings are that

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. He was sent to heal the broken hearted. It is written of him that while on the cross the reproaches of those who hated him had broken his heart. This One who offered deliverance to the captives was arrested himself and crucified. He brought recovering of sight to the blind but while he was on the cross he was brought into darkness and not into light. He brings liberty to the bruised but he was bruised for our iniquities on the cross.

The last part of the portion that the Lord read was “to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” It was and is a time of great favour being given to people from God. Eternal salvation is being given to any who will trust God’s son as their own personal Saviour. The Lord did not read the next part of Isaiah’s prophecy. It says “and the day of vengeance of our God.” He left it out on purpose because he came not to judge the world but that the world through him would be saved. God is not willing that any should perish, that is why he sent his son who loved us and gave himself for us and is raised from the dead and lives in the power of an endless life.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

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