



Deliverance

Gospel: Part Three

He preached deliverance to the captives.

The words of Jesus Christ state a six-fold effort that he undertook at God's request.

(Luke 4:18-19) 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 brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, {19} To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.



He preached the gospel to the poor.

He healed the brokenhearted.

He preached deliverance to the captives.

He preached recovering of sight to the blind.

He set at liberty them that are bruised.

To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

That work still takes place today. When the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached, five distinct effects unfold: healed hearts, delivered

captives, healed blind, freed bruised ones, and preaching of the acceptable year of the Lord. I must tell you, straight away, that these phrases might not mean what they appear to say. For instance, the phrase "deliverance to the captives" means, "forgiveness of sins to the enslaved captives." The meaning is a far cry from how the English reads. I suggest that we review the meanings of each phrase for the now, obvious reason—incorrect translations. If I'm right, you could be on to something big, something that will minister to every aspect of your life and allow you to live victoriously according to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

He preached deliverance to the

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captives:

Particular inspiration can be achieved if you meditate on the most unique phrase—to preach deliverance to the captives—in Luke 4:18.

(Luke 4:18) 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 brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

On the surface, we understand that the preaching of Jesus Christ's gospel will bring deliverance to those held captive. Further study could reveal the exciting possibility of learning just what deliverance is and what captives are.

“Deliverance” means, “pardon”

or “forgiveness.” It is often translated “remission,” but specifically relates to the spiritual freedom associated with the accomplishments of Jesus Christ. Jesus preached freedom from sins. Did you know that Paul also did?

(Acts 26:18) To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

The word “forgiveness” in this verse is the same Greek word as “deliverance” in Luke 4:18. Isn't that a surprise? Why didn't the translators translate it the same throughout the Bible? It's a shame if you ask me. Paul was held responsible, by a personal visit from Jesus Christ, to teach people that their sins were

forgiven. That's fantastic!

To capitalize on the meaning of “deliverance,” I'd like to provide a couple key verses that use this same Greek word.

(Eph 1:7) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness** of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Ephesians teaches us that we have forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

(Col 1:14) In whom we have **redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

Colossians teaches us that we have forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

And Hebrews confirms that the shed blood of Jesus Christ was necessary to complete the plan

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of forgiveness.

(Heb9:22) And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Truly, Jesus introduced, accomplished, and made available forgiveness of sins.

What does “deliverance” mean from the Old Testament prophecy of Luke 4:18?

This word “deliverance”, in Luke 4:18, can better be understood when we cross-reference the Old Testament to gain a fuller understanding. We can do that in Isaiah 61:1.

(Isa 61:1) The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the

brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

“Deliverance,” used in Luke 4:18, was first spoken of in Isaiah 61:1 through the word “liberty.” The Hebrew word for “liberty” means, “freedom,” very specifically, “spontaneity of outflow, rapid liberty.” That’s an interesting concept. The freedom Christ made available happens really fast; it isn’t earned or worked for. Because of this, it is considered “pure.” God’s proclaimed liberty, through Jesus Christ, is the purest form of forgiveness there is, and it happens quickly.

But, we need to understand what “captives” mean as well in order to put this all together.

This word “captives” in Luke 4:18 is used only once. We must cross-reference the Old Testament to

gain a fuller understanding and we can do that in Isaiah 61:1.

“Captives” means, “exiled, captured, prisoners.” It means, “to take away.” It is used 47 times in the Old Testament.

(Num 21:1) And when king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners.

“Prisoners” is this same Hebrew word.

Speaking of the captivity of Israel, we learn that this word specifically relates to those in captivity.

(Ezra 9:7) Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have

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we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to **captivity**, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

Ezra was describing the ongoing situation of his people. They had been in and out of captivity for quite some time.

(Psa 68:18) Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led **captivity** captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

Captivity is that which captivates and turns people captive. Jesus Christ led everything which could captivate people captive. It has all been corralled and quadrant off for one reason—that we may be free.

(Isa 20:4) So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians **prisoners**, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

Isaiah 20:4 paints a stunning depiction of what a captive or prisoner is, based on the use of this Hebrew word.

Needless to say, none of us would ever desire this kind of captivity, or worse. Imagine being held captive by spiritual darkness. Being a prisoner under any form of subjugation is most undesirable. The gospel of Jesus Christ frees us from any and all forms of captivity by providing us with forgiveness of sins. People are held captive by satan, their own actions, other's actions, varying circumstances, and the list continues. True freedom can only be experienced

through the acceptance of the accomplishments of Jesus Christ. Once you accept them, you will truly be delivered, freed, from any form of captivation. Wouldn't it be good to accept these words of freedom and forever cast off the shackles of sin? The work has been done; finalization of the act of freedom/deliverance now rests squarely on your shoulders.

The preaching of deliverance to the captives is uniquely inspirational—we have all been freed from the agony of an unforgiven life. Forgiveness of sins releases the chains of captivity and frees the captive.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown