

# Jesus Preached "Good News" of "Liberation" From Babylon???

The publication: *Isaiah's Prophecy -- Light for All Mankind*, volume 2, page 322, paragraph 4 makes the following comment:

*"... Isaiah writes: "The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah is upon me, for the reason that Jehovah has anointed me to tell good news to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening of the eyes even to the prisoners." (Isaiah 61:1) Who is the one commissioned to tell good news? Likely, **in the first instance it is Isaiah, who is inspired by God to record good news for the captives in Babylon.** However, Jesus pointed to the most important fulfilment when he applied Isaiah's words to himself. (Luke 4:16-21) Yes, Jesus was sent forth to tell good news to the meek, and to this end he was anointed with holy spirit at his baptism. — Matthew 3:16, 17."*

We recall this bible text the Watchtower Society is speaking on is drawn from **Isaiah 61:1-2** which says:

*The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah is upon me, for the reason that Jehovah has anointed me to tell good news to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, **to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening [of the eyes] even to the prisoners; 2** to proclaim the year of goodwill on the part of Jehovah and the day of vengeance on the part of our God; to comfort all the mourning ones." (Isaiah 61:1-2)*

We notice in **verse 1**, it says to "proclaim liberty to those taken captive and a wide opening of eyes even to prisoners." As shown above, these scriptures are explained by the Watchtower Society as a special message of "good news for the captives in Babylon" who are '**liberated' from captivity to Babylon**...for those returning from Exile in Babylon. This was to be a message of comfort and hope for the Jewish nation, after leaving captivity in Babylon. Therefore, this message then, became a message of "good news" of release from captivity from Babylon, originally, as penned by the prophet Isaiah. This is how we are to understand these verses...the "good news" of release from captivity to Babylon, as shown in **Isaiah 61:1**.

However, we are also reminded that at **Luke 4:18**, Jesus applied these SAME WORDS to his "ministry" to the nation of Israel, in the first century. We remember, Jesus said:

(Luke 4:18) "Jehovah's spirit is upon me, because **he anointed me to declare good news** to the poor, he sent me forth **to preach a release to the captives** and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the crushed ones away with a release,"

Now, we must ask ourselves an important question: Why did Jesus apply these words, the words from **Isaiah 61:1, 2** to his own ministry in the first century?

Could it be, Jesus was too, in a "liberation" work...liberating spiritual "captives" from a sort of spiritual "Babylon" ... of his time? Perhaps, Jesus here gave us the key to understanding "Babylon The Great," namely when he ***SPIRITUALIZED***, yes spiritualized "Babylon The Great" for us. Jesus changed the setting of Babylon from being a powerful political nation/army as a world power, to being a *spiritual entity* for us, during his day. Ask yourself, could this be the key to unlocking the secret of "Babylon the Great" for our day and time???

Yes, just as the scripture says, Jesus preached the "good news" of "liberation" to the Jewish nation who were in ***SPIRITUAL CAPTIVITY*** to the religious leaders of his day. Jesus preached a message of "liberation" from a *spiritual* "Babylon" of his time. And thus, Jesus "liberated" his spiritual brothers from an oppressive, religious system, that enslaved the people of his day...those that took away the "key of knowledge" and that worked to constantly *hinder* the nation from entering into the "kingdom of God." An oppressive *religious system*, that left the entire nation, spiritually bankrupt, spiritually in need and impoverished, spiritually "imprisoned," a nation spiritually "blind." Thus, Jesus came to "open the eyes of the blind," and "preach the good news to the [spiritually] poor" within the nation of Israel. -- See Matthew 11:5, Luke 11:52.

When we compare **Isaiah 61:1** with **Luke 4:18**, we can begin to discern, that Jesus really saw the religious leaders, the Pharisees & Sadducees of his time, ***truly comparable to Babylon***. Yes, Jesus actually portrayed these oppressive, religious *enslavers of people*, as those who rendered the nation to a state of abject slavery. As ones who had brought the nation down to a type of spiritual "captivity" to be controlled, by those wicked religious leaders of the nation. Even though, many viewed these religious leaders as "lofty ones" before God, still these proved to be in the end, "disgusting" leaders in God's sight. They proved to be the real villains before God, who had actually "skinned" and "thrown" the sheep all about, before Jesus came. -- See Matthew 9:36; Luke 16:15.

Therefore, Jesus came in the capacity as a Great "Liberator" of the people. He came, yes, as ***The "Greater Cyrus,"*** to truly "liberate" the "lost sheep of the House of Israel" from the existing *religious* tyranny exercised over the nation itself. Jesus came to give a "release" from this special form of spiritual "captivity" imposed upon the nation, by the religious leaders of the nation. And thereby exposing, what we today can consider actually, the first century *equivalent* of ***enslaving "Babylon"*** of his time. As we recall, Jesus' ministry was confined to the nation of Israel. And we remember, he went only to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel," ... those who were truly in spiritual "captivity" to this miniature oppressive "Babylon" of his day. -- Matthew 10:6; Matthew 15:24

So when we think about this, we'd have to say, this is a very interesting idea to ponder over, a provocative thought, wouldn't you say? Namely, that ***Jesus "liberated" the nation of Israel, with a message of "good news" of "release" from spiritual "Babylon" of his time.*** Thus, the real reason he quotes from **Isaiah 61:1, 2** in the first place. Think about it.

But lets go a little further with this, lets take a look at **Revelation 11:8**:

***(Revelation 11:8) And their corpses will be on the broad way of THE GREAT CITY which is in a spiritual sense called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was also impaled.***

I think we all can agree that this scripture is talking about **Jesus' impalement**. As we recall, Jesus was impaled just outside the city of Jerusalem. (Hebrews 13:12, 13) And here the inspired writer refers to Jerusalem as the "**great city.**" Yes, this is the same "city" that Jesus' "impalement" was associated with...with the city of Jerusalem, the place where Jesus was "impaled." However, we notice this city "Jerusalem," is also called the "great city" ...does this sound familiar? Well, if you are a reader of Revelation then it should. As this phrase (the "great city") is mentioned some **eight times in the book of Revelation**, referring in all instances to the Greater Mystery, **Babylon The Great** of our modern-day time. (For more details on identifying Modern-Day "Babylon The Great" of our time, please see link below.) -- See Revelation 11:8; Revelation 16:19; Revelation 17:18; Revelation 18:10, 16, 18, 19, and 21.

See Link to Article: [Babylon The Great -- What Is It?](#)

Thus we notice, this verse above shows us the city of "Jerusalem" was in a *spiritual sense*, filthy, decadent, oppressive, tyrannical in God's eyes. Thus, in this "spiritual sense" then, it became comparable to ancient Babylon, which held God's People Israel, in *spiritual* captivity during Jesus' day. Therefore, above we see:

**Jerusalem = Decadent "Sodom"**

**Jerusalem = Oppressive "Egypt"**

**Jerusalem = The "Great City" = Babylon, captors of "my people" Israel (Rev. 18:4)**

So Jesus has told us something in his own words from **Luke 4:18**. Jesus quotes **Isaiah 61:1** because Jesus also has a "liberating message" for the Jewish nation...a message of "good news." Jehovah God sent his "anointed" Son to **"liberate" the nation of Israel with the 'good news' or message of "release" from a "miniature" Babylon the Great,** so that they would no longer be "captives" to a wicked *religious system* that guided the nation of Israel at that time.

Of course, we know...not many a 'hearer of the word,' will give the above information, real serious consideration. In fact, it becomes just like in Jesus' day, when many failed to "see," "hear," or recognize the great importance of the message that he preached. (John 12:39, 40) However, if you are one of the 'chosen ones' that is truly searching for Divine Truth...if you are one who wishes to "worship God in spirit and truth" (John 4:24), then it is just like the scripture says in Isaiah 61:1, you too can have a **"wide opening of the eyes even to the prisoners."**

Just as Jesus said...

"My sheep *listen* to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27)

"He that is from God *listens* to the sayings of God..." (John 8:47)

"He that is on the side of Truth *listens* to my voice." (John 18:37)

***Indeed, Jehovah's Witnesses are NOT LISTENING to Jesus as "God's Word," but to the word and "commandment of men" ... Hence, the Babylonian "Captivity" foretold to come in Revelation Chapters 17 & 18.*** It is the ability to "take away" the normal "thinking process" [Key of Knowledge] from otherwise rational individuals, exactly as the Pharisees did in Jesus' day. Thus, Jehovah's Witnesses have been made into "slaves" of men. (John 1:1; Matthew 15:8, 9; Luke 11:52; Revelation 11:8; Revelation 18:13)

### ***A Special Letter written to the President of the Watchtower Society in 1937***

Please notice the comments of astute Jehovah's Witness **Walter Salter** below made back in **1937**, when objecting to this wicked Babylonian "captivity" [Revelation 18:4] systematically being imposed upon the brethren of that day:

*...While recognizing your position as President of the corporation I have always reserved the right to think. It has been well said, **"A man who cannot think is an idiot, a man who won't think is a fool, and a man who is afraid to think is a coward."** I absolutely refuse to have any person do my thinking for me. I could not do otherwise and be faithful to my God. I could not be a Russellite and be faithful to God; I could not be a Rutherfordite and be faithful to God; I could not be a Channelite and be faithful to God; and I could not be a Dawnite or any other Ite and be faithful to God. To be such, to my understanding of the Scriptures, would mean one was defiled with women (organizations) and subject to their will and not the will of God. (Revelation 14:4) "He that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully (And not the deductions and sophistries of men" no matter what they may claim for themselves or their office - or organization with which they happen to be associated,) "Behold. I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord...and cause My people to err by their lies, and by the lightness." Jeremiah 23:28,42. True, all these Ites or Iarns have some truth: some more, some less. Otherwise they could not deceive the people. It is with that very truth, together with the sophistries of men, that Satan blinds men; in fact the more truth they have when wrongfully used, the more deceptive they are. Each claim to speak with authority, some much more dogmatically than others. Paul well counsels, "Beware any lest man spoil you through philosophy..." - Col. 2:8.*

Link to comments from **Walter Salter**, in a *revealing 1937 letter* written to J F

Rutherford: <http://www.jehovahs-witness.net/watchtower/beliefs/236576/1/Do-the-Governing-Body-live-like-Kings>

Please find below an interesting quote from the June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1967 Watchtower entitled, "Move Ahead With Jehovah's Organization," page 338, paragraph 12 which goes to show us the extent of the Watchtower's control of the reading and research habits of Jehovah's Witnesses:

<sup>12</sup> How will we put these four things into effect? First, study: **We may think of study as hard work, as involving heavy research. But in Jehovah's organization it is not necessary to spend a lot of time and energy in research, for there are brothers in the organization who are assigned to do that very thing, to help you who do not have so much time for this, these preparing the good material in The Watchtower and other publications of the Society.** But you do not study enough? Take this suggestion: Often the very best and most beneficial studying you do is that done when you read a new *Watchtower* or *Awake!* or a new book with the joy of getting the new truths and a fresh view. You remember the points. You talk enthusiastically to others about them. So try this: Pick up each *Watchtower* or *Awake!* as it comes and read it, just for the joy and pleasure it gives. Remember, you are not sitting down to *study*, just to enjoy the information. This will increase your joy of reading and will give you incentive for more definite, organized study. Jehovah wants you to enjoy your study. He does not want it to be drudgery to you. He is the *happy* God, taking pleasure in providing all this rich spiritual food. -- 1 Tim. 1:11; Acts 20:35.

In this same article paragraph #8...obedience to the organization is equated with obedience to Jehovah...quote:

"...What, can we say, is the basic principle underlying the movement of Jehovah's living organization? It can be expressed in one word: OBEDIENCE. Loving obedience from the heart is all. This is the basic formula upon which the organization rests and operates."

Please see this link:

<https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1967403#h=11>

***Do you realize that when you agree to get baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you were willingly agreeing to mental and spiritual captivity?***

**Think About It!**