

~ACCEPTABLE TIME (293)

- For he says: In an **acceptable time** I heard you, and in a day of salvation I helped you. Look! Now is the especially **acceptable time**. Look! Now is the day of salvation. (**2 Corinthians 6:2**)
- The apostle Paul quotes from the prophecy of;
- This is what Yehowah has said; In a time of goodwill I have answered you, and in a **day of salvation** I have helped you, and I kept safeguarding you that I might give you as a covenant for the people, to rehabilitate the land, to bring about the repossessing of the desolated hereditary possessions. (**Isaiah 49:8**)
- Which says; This is what Yehowah has said; In a **time of goodwill** I have answered you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you, and I kept safeguarding you that I might give you as a covenant for the people, to rehabilitate the land, to bring about the repossessing of the desolated hereditary possessions. In its original setting this statement was evidently made to Isaiah as representing or personifying the nation of Israel.
- And he went on to say to me; You are my servant, O Israel, you the one in whom I shall show my beauty. (**Isaiah 49:3**)
- It was clearly a restoration prophecy and, hence, had its first fulfillment at the time of the liberation of Israel from Babylon when the call went to the Israelite prisoners; Come out! They thereafter returned to their homeland and rehabilitated the desolated land.
- To say to the prisoners; Come out! To those who are in the darkness; Reveal yourselves! By the ways they will pasture, and on all beaten paths their pasturing will be. (**Isaiah 49:9**)
- However, the words that I might give you as a covenant for the people in verse 8 of this chapter and the preceding statement in verse 6 that this servant of Yehowah would be given as a light of the nations, that God's salvation may come to be to the extremity of the earth, definitely mark the prophecy as Messianic and as therefore applying to Christ Jesus as God's servant.

- **Look! My servant, on whom I keep fast hold! My chosen one, whom my soul has approved! I have put my spirit in him. Justice to the nations is what he will bring forth. (Isaiah 42:1)**
- **He will not cry out or raise his voice, and in the street he will not let his voice be heard. (Isaiah 42:2)**
- **No crushed reed will he break, and as for a dim flaxen wick, he will not extinguish it. In trueness he will bring forth justice. (Isaiah 42:3)**
- **He will not grow dim nor be crushed until he sets justice in the earth itself, and for his Law the islands themselves will keep waiting. (Isaiah 42:4)**
- **I myself, Yehowah, have called you in righteousness, and I proceeded to take hold of your hand. And I shall safeguard you and give you as a covenant of the people, as a light of the nations. (Isaiah 42:6)**
- **For you to open the blind eyes, to bring forth out of the dungeon the prisoner, out of the house of detention those sitting in darkness. (Isaiah 42:7)**
- **Compare with;**
- **Look! My servant whom I chose, my beloved, whom my soul approved! I will put my spirit upon him, and what justice is he will make clear to the nations. (Matthew 12:18)**
- **He will not wrangle, nor cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the broad ways. (Matthew 12:19)**
- **No bruised reed will he crush, and no smoldering flaxen wick will he extinguish, until he sends out justice with success. (Matthew 12:20)**
- **Indeed, in his name nations will hope. (Matthew 12:21)**
- **Since the time of goodwill was a time when Yehowah would answer and help his servant, it must apply to Jesus earthly life when he offered up supplications and also petitions to the One who was able to save him out of death, with strong outcries and tears, and he was favorably heard for his godly fear.**

- In the days of his flesh Christ offered up supplications and also petitions to the One who was able to save him out of death, with strong outcries and tears, and he was favorably heard for his godly fear. ([Hebrews 5:7](#))
- Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. ([Hebrews 5:8](#))
- And after he had been made perfect he became responsible for everlasting salvation to all those obeying him. ([Hebrews 5:9](#))
- Compare,
- Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me out of this hour. Nevertheless, this is why I have come to this hour. ([John 12:27](#))
- Father, glorify your name. Therefore a voice came out of heaven. I both glorified it and will glorify it again. ([John 12:28](#))
- Jesus spoke these things, and, raising his eyes to heaven, he said; Father, the hour has come, glorify your son, that your son may glorify you. ([John 17:1](#))
- According as you have given him authority over all flesh, that, as regards the whole number whom you have given him, he may give them everlasting life. ([John 17:2](#))
- This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ. ([John 17:3](#))
- I have glorified you on the earth, having finished the work you have given me to do. ([John 17:4](#))
- So now you, Father, glorify me alongside yourself with the glory that I had alongside you before the world was. ([John 17:5](#))
- And he himself drew away from them about a stone's throw, and bent his knees and began to pray. ([Luke 22:41](#))
- Saying; Father, if you wish, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, let, not my will, but yours take place. ([Luke 22:42](#))

- Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. (**Luke 22:43**)
- But getting into an agony he continued praying more earnestly, and his sweat became as drops of blood falling to the ground. (**Luke 22:44**)
- And Jesus called with a loud voice and said; Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit. When he had said this, he expired. (**Luke 23:46**)
- It was, therefore, a day of salvation for God's own Son, during which period of opportunity he demonstrated perfection of integrity and, as a result, became responsible for everlasting salvation to all those obeying him.
- And after he had been made perfect he became responsible for everlasting salvation to all those obeying him. (**Hebrews 5:9**)
- Additionally, Paul's quotation from this prophecy indicates a still further application to those Christians whom Paul urges not to accept the undeserved kindness of God and miss its purpose, and to whom he says after quoting
- This is what Yehowah has said; In a time of goodwill I have answered you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you. I kept safeguarding you that I might give you as a covenant for the people, to rehabilitate the land, to bring about the repossessing of the desolated hereditary possessions. (**Isaiah 49:8**)
- Look! Now is the especially **acceptable** time. Look! Now is the day of salvation.
- Working together with him, we also entreat YOU not to accept the undeserved kindness of God and miss its purpose. (**2 Corinthians 6:1**)
- For he says: In an acceptable time I heard you, and in a day of salvation I helped you. Look! Now is the especially acceptable time. Look! Now is the day of salvation. (**2 Corinthians 6:2**)
- Such Christians had become the spiritual Israel of God from Pentecost of **33 C.E.** forward.

- And all those who will walk orderly by this rule of conduct, upon them be peace and mercy, even upon the Israel of God. (**Galatians 6:16**)
- But there was a need for them to prove worthy of God's undeserved kindness, so that the **acceptable time** might indeed prove to be **a day of salvation** for them.
- The fact that the prophecy in its original application was one of restoration would likewise indicate an application to **a time of release from spiritual captivity and of restoration to full favor** with God.
- But as for me, my prayer was to you, O Yehowah, at an **acceptable time**, O God. In the abundance of your loving-kindness answer me with the truth of salvation by you. (**Psalms 69:13**)
- Deliver me from the mire, that I may not sink down. O may I be delivered from those hating me and from the deep waters. (**Psalms 69:14**)
- O may not the flowing stream of waters wash me away, nor the depth swallow me up, nor the well close its mouth over me. (**Psalms 69:15**)
- Answer me, O Yehowah, for your loving-kindness is good. According to the multitude of your mercies turn to me. (**Psalms 69:16**)
- And do not conceal your face from your servant. Because I am in sore straits, answer me quickly. (**Psalms 69:17**)
- Do come near to my soul, reclaim it, on account of my enemies redeem me. (**Psalms 69:18**)
- To natural Jews who failed to appreciate the favorableness of the time and the opportunity that was theirs for entry into Spiritual Israel, Paul announced that he was turning to the non-Jewish nations, and he quoted
- And he proceeded to say; It has been more than a trivial matter for you to become my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back even the safeguarded one's of Israel. I also have

given you for a light of the nations, that my salvation may come to be to the extremity of the earth. ([Isaiah 49:6](#))

- **In support, saying; In fact, Yehowah has laid commandment upon us in these words, I have appointed you as a light of nations, for you to be a salvation to the extremity of the earth.**
- **In fact, Yehowah has laid commandment upon us in these words, I have appointed you as a light of nations, for you to be a salvation to the extremity of the earth. ([Acts of Apostles 13:47](#))**
- **Since time and day are terms indicating temporariness, they imply urgency and the need to use wisely an opportune period or season of favor before its end comes bringing the withdrawal of divine mercy and offer of salvation.**
- **Do this, too, because you people know the season, that it is already the hour for you to awake from sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than at the time when we became believers. ([Romans 13:11](#))**
- **The night is well along, the day has drawn near. Let us therefore put off the works belonging to darkness and let us put on the weapons of the light. ([Romans 13:12](#))**
- **As in the daytime let us walk decently, not in revelries and drunken bouts, not in illicit intercourse and loose conduct, not in strife and jealousy. ([Romans 13:13](#))**
- **So, then, let us not sleep on as the rest do, but let us stay awake and keep our senses. ([1 Thessalonians 5:6](#))**
- **For those who sleep are accustomed to sleep at night, and those who get drunk are usually drunk at night. ([1 Thessalonians 5:7](#))**
- **But as for us who belong to the day, let us keep our senses and have on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation. ([1 Thessalonians 5:8](#))**
- **Because God assigned us, not to wrath, but to the acquiring of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ([1 Thessalonians 5:9](#))**
- **He died for us, that, whether we stay awake or are asleep, we should live together with him. ([1 Thessalonians 5:10](#))**

- **Therefore keep comforting one another and building one another up, just as you are in fact doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)**
- **So keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise but as wise persons. (Ephesians 5:15)**
- **Buying out the opportune time for yourselves, because the days are wicked. (Ephesians 5:16)**
- **On this account cease becoming unreasonable, but go on perceiving what the will of Yehowah is. (Ephesians 5:17)**
- **Also, do not be getting drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but keep getting filled with spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)**
- **Speaking to yourselves with psalms and praises to God and spiritual songs, singing and accompanying yourselves with music in your hearts to Yehowah. (Ephesians 5:19)**
- **In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ giving thanks always for all things to our God and Father. (Ephesians 5:20)**