

truth regarding the Messianic King, and Isaiah 48:16 relates it to "the Servant of the Lord."

The Anointed One

The second phrase of the verse is the only place in the entire book where Isaiah applies to the Redeemer the verb, *masah*, "anoint", from which the noun "Messiah" (Heb., "anointed one" = Greek, "Christ") is derived: "The LORD hath anointed me to preach glad tidings unto the meek." Ordinarily the word "anointing" is applied in the Scripture to the designation of a king or of a priest for the work of ruling or for that of interceding. Here, however, it is directly connected with the prophetic work of Christ as the preacher of good tidings.

The Redeemer declares that His preaching is for "the meek." Christ Himself said: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5). God's blessings are for those who confess their own unworthiness and humbly accept His Gospel ("good tidings").

Even the third statement of the verse does not involve physical healing. It is the broken hearted whom He declares that He will bind up. Again we note that the blessings described in these three verses are principally spiritual in nature.

The last two statements of the verse differ from one another in that the first is more specific and the last more general. The second of these statements proclaims "opening of the prison to them that are bound," declaring that anyone who is bound by the power of sin can receive freedom through acceptance by faith of the results of Jesus' death on Calvary. The statement which immediately precedes this one -- "to proclaim liberty to the captives" -- is more specific, for the word that is here translated "liberty" is a technical term used in the Scripture for the proclamation in the Year of Jubilee that all who were enslaved for debt were then permitted to go free (Lev. 25:10; Ezek. 46:17). The phrase does not predict the giving of freedom, one by one, to each who believes on the Lord as Savior, but must refer to something which comes at the same time for all. Clearly it points forward to that wonderful day described in Romans