

Thesis: **Jesus was born to raze hell!**

INTRODUCTION

Jesus was born to raze hell! (Remember 1 John 3:8.) I know that sounds a little harsh, when we are thinking about “gentle Jesus, meek and mild,” as Charles Wesley penned in his song by that name. In fact, I think we are more comfortable with a gentle Jesus than with a strong warrior who battled Satan and won. It is true that He was gentle, that He was meek, and maybe even that He was mild, but that is not the whole story. He is a hell-razer! He has taken the worst hell could throw at Him and He’s still standing!

Today I want us to look at another passage that speaks of His hell-razing. I want you to sense the joy that comes to us because of the Christ who was born on Christmas day. Turn with me to Luke 4:16-22:

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

*18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

*20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."
NKJV*

Never forget that the world into which Jesus came was a world under the sway of Satan, a world where hell manifested itself in a multitude of injustices. Into that world, **Jesus was born to raze hell!**

Before we look at verses 18 and 19, please notice these truths:

1. Jesus was accustomed to being in the synagogue on the Sabbath.
2. God's appointing was accompanied by God's anointing! (Messiah)

Now let's look at the central verses in our text and ask this question:

What hell was Jesus born to raze?

1. Jesus was born to raze the hell of a beaten-down life.

Expl. *To preach the gospel to the poor* (v. 18)

God has a particular concern for the poor!

Jesus came to proclaim the Good News to the weak: The word "poor" literally means "someone who is unable to care for himself." A better rendering would be the word "needy" or "weak."

(Travis Marks)

Appl. One word that gets close to conveying the meaning of "poor" in the Old Testament is the word "powerless."

In every society, there are those who feel beaten down.

This is a work of the enemy, an evidence that hell is at work.

Jesus was born to raze hell!

His gospel lifted up those who were beaten down!

He offered them a place of significance in His kingdom!

Illus. Angel Food Ministry and KTTS Christmas Crusade . . .

We are razing hell!

We are in good company!

Jesus was born to raze hell!

He razes the hell of a beaten-down life!

2. Jesus was born to raze the hell of a broken heart!

Expl. *To heal the brokenhearted*

Jesus quotes from Isaiah 61:1-2.

The historical context is the Babylonian captivity.

The hearts of the people were broken!

Illus. Listen to a lament from this time, recorded in Psalm 137:1-4:

*By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept
when we remembered Zion. 2 We hung our harps
upon the willows in the midst of it.*

*3 For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a
song, And those who plundered us requested mirth,*

saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" 4 How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land? (Ps 137:1-4NKJV)

Expl. In every generation, heartbreak is a reality.

It was true when Jesus was born, and it is true today.

Satan specializes in breaking hearts!

Appl. People break our hearts! Circumstances break our hearts! Shattered dreams break our hearts! Hell is all around us!

Illus. Brokenhearted people are not easy to minister to because it's not easy to walk with someone who's hurting, to listen to their repetitive rambling, to dry their seemingly endless tears. And yet these are they to whom Jesus came lovingly, tenderly, and specifically. (John Courson)

Appl. The good news of Jesus can mend a broken heart!

His heart was broken for you, and your heart can be healed by Him!

Oh, What a Savior!

Appl. **Jesus was born to raze hell!**

He can heal the brokenhearted!

What hell does Jesus raze? **The hell of a broken heart!**

Jesus razes the hell of a beaten-down life and the hell of a broken heart.

But notice another hell He razes:

3. Jesus was born to raze the hell of a life in bondage.

Expl. *Deliverance to the captives*

Jesus was probably not speaking primarily in a physical sense.

He was speaking of the bondages that beset our lives.

This hell is especially present in this generation!

Bondage to substances

Bondage to greed

Bondage to lust

Bondage to bitterness

Appl. Satan has many different handcuffs he loves to slip on God's people!

Hell is manifested in a multitude of bondages.

Jesus came to free us!

John 8:32 *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

John 8:36 *Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

Romans 6:22-23 *But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.*

Illus. "God gives rest to the man in chains of yesterday!"

Jesus came to raze hell!

He razes the hell of a life in bondage!

Jesus razes the hell of a beaten-down life, the hell of a broken heart, and the hell of a life in bondage. But there is another hell He razes:

4. Jesus was born to raze the hell of a life in darkness.

Expl. *Recovery of sight to the blind*

Jesus did this on several occasions.

It is probable that the primary emphasis remains on spiritual blindness.

Listen to Paul as he describes the work of the devil and the hell-razing work of Jesus:

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Appl. Every conversion is a creative miracle of God!

Satan rules the darkness! Jesus dispels the darkness with His light!

Jesus was born to raze hell!

He razes the hell of a life in darkness!

5. Jesus was born to raze the hell of a life that is bruised and broken.

Expl. *To set a liberty those who are oppressed* (bruised)

Satan is the oppressor!

He delights in bruising and shattering lives.

Matthew pictures Jesus using words from Isaiah 42:

*18 "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen,
My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased!
I will put My Spirit upon Him,
And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.
19 He will not quarrel nor cry out,
Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.
20 A bruised reed He will not break,
And smoking flax He will not quench,
Till He sends forth justice to victory;
21 And in His name Gentiles will trust."*

Appl. This is our mandate as well!

We are not to bruise the world with our words, but speak the gospel
which can bring restoration and health to our lives.

Jesus was born to raze hell!

He razes the hell of a life that is bruised and broken!

CONCLUSION

The “how” of His hell-razing is found in the last words of verse 19: *to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

Jesus’ words plainly stated that the offer of the favorable year of the Lord (i.e., the kingdom time) was being made to them through Him (v. 21).¹

The acceptable year of the Lord *It alludes to the year of release, or that of jubilee, which was an acceptable year to servants, who were then set at liberty; to debtors, against whom all actions then dropped; and to those who had mortgaged their lands, for then they returned to them again. Christ came to sound the jubilee-trumpet; and blessed were they that heard the joyful sound, Ps. 89:15. It was an acceptable time, for it was a day of salvation.*²

i.e. *id est*, that is

v. verse

¹Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:214

²Henry, Matthew: *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible : Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody : Hendrickson, 1996, c1991, S. Lk 4:14

Christ was declaring victory over darkness, victory over despair, victory over doubt, even victory over the devil! (WHB)

2 Cor 6:1-2

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says:

*"In an acceptable time I have heard you,
And in the day of salvation I have helped you."*

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
NKJV

Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah who could bring the kingdom of God which had been promised for so long—but His First Advent was not His time for judgment.³

As I close, notice where Jesus ended his quotation from Isaiah:

Isa 61:1-2

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me,
Because the LORD has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,
And the day of vengeance of our God;

Please know that the day of vengeance of our God will come! However, we can make things right with Him today, because **Jesus was born to raze hell!**

³Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:214