

Acceptable

(δεκτός = 'dektos')

Accepted, acceptable, favour, regarded favourably, expressed approval.

Luke 4:18-19, “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; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Another translation says, “To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

The Greek word “*dektos*” that is found here has definitely to do with “favour”, it denotes a person or a thing that has been regarded favourably and expresses “approval”. Therefore, the “year” that the Lord is talking about is a period in time that is fully acceptable and well pleasing to God - a season of true liberty.

In verse 18, Jesus said that He had come to “*set at liberty those who are oppressed*” or “*proclaim deliverance to the captives.*” Then immediately He declares that He was sent to proclaim the “***acceptable year of the Lord.***” On the Day of Atonement, in the Year of Jubilee, liberty was to be proclaimed throughout the land. In other words, the captives got to go free that year. I don't think it's unreasonable to conclude that Jesus was likening His coming ‘atonement’ (and its resulting liberty to the captives) to the Year of Jubilee (“***the Year of the Lord’s favour***”).

This is a period in time when God’s favour (*‘dektos’*) would be visible through the “freedom” experienced by all of Christ’s followers. In this instance, liberty is a physical expression of “approval” – the approval of the Most High God! Indeed, Jesus came to set the captives free. Free from debt, destitution and disease. But why could this legally take place? Because the shed blood of Jesus Christ made atonement for us all and we are now fully accepted and regarded favourably by God.