

# A Hymn of Praise

Isaiah 12:1-6

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**BIG BEND  
BIBLE  
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Isaiah chapter 11 spoke powerfully of the reign of the Messiah as king over all the earth. This brief chapter of praise comes from the heart of the one that has surrendered to the Messiah as king, and enjoys the benefits of His reign.

## **Isaiah 12:1-6**

*And in that day you will say:*

*"O Lord, I will praise You;*

*Though You were angry with me,*

*Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me.*

<sup>2</sup> *Behold, God is my salvation,*

*I will trust and not be afraid;*

*'For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song;*

*He also has become my salvation.' "*

<sup>3</sup> *Therefore with joy you will draw water*

*From the wells of salvation.*

<sup>4</sup> *And in that day you will say:*

*"Praise the Lord, call upon His name;*

*Declare His deeds among the peoples,*

*Make mention that His name is exalted.*

<sup>5</sup> *Sing to the Lord,*

*For He has done excellent things;*

*This is known in all the earth.*

<sup>6</sup> *Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion,*

*For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"*

## **v1 – What will the faithful do when they realize God is angry with them?**

The worshipper decides to praise the LORD, even though he has felt the LORD's anger against him.

## **Does God get angry with us under the New Covenant?**

There is a sense in which all the anger and wrath of God against us was poured out upon the Son of God on the cross. In this sense, there is no more anger from God towards us, because His anger has been "exhausted." But there is also a sense in which we receive chastening or discipline from the LORD, which certainly feels like His anger. This chastening is unpleasant, but it really shows the fatherly love of God instead of His hatred.

## **Why would you praise God even when you realize that He is chastening us?**

Hebrews 12:6 – *For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.*

God allows us to have consequences for our sin out of His love for us... He wants us to repent and turn back to Him. God is all about relationships and wants us to turn back to Him.

## **What does it mean to be chastened?**

Another word for "chasten" is "discipline."

Proverbs 3:11-12 – *My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.*

Proper discipline is a proof of love.

## **How does thinking of God as a Father and us as His children help us to better understand His chastening?**

He uses the analogy of father/child because we understand it. He compares Himself to a loving father who not only blesses but disciplines His beloved children for their own good.

- Hebrews 12 goes on to show that those who do not receive God's discipline are not His children (v8).
- When a born-again child of God refuses to resist temptation, our Heavenly Father brings chastening into his life to direct him back to holiness.

## **How does God chasten us?**

Chastening can come in the form of guilty feelings, unpleasant circumstances, loss of peace, relationship fractures, or any number of negative consequences for choosing sin. Sometimes, the chastening of the Lord can be physical illness or even death (1 Corinthians 11:30).

## **Does God punish us for wrong choices in the past?**

All our punishment for sin was exhausted by Jesus on the cross so no wrath remains. However, our wrong choices in the past have brought about unpleasant consequences now. God does not necessarily remove the natural consequences of sin when we repent. Those consequences are tools God can use to teach us, to prevent us from repeating the same mistakes, and to remind us of God's grace.

### **How is God's anger turned away from us?**

*Your anger is turned away:* God's anger is turned away because of what Jesus did on the cross. Jesus put Himself in between us and the anger of the LORD, so that God's anger is turned away from us!

### **How does God comfort us in our chastening?**

*And You comfort me:* God disciplines us as a perfect parent, knowing perfectly how to comfort us after we have been chastened. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter.

- Sometimes, like rebellious children, we refuse the comfort of God after discipline, but that is always our fault, not His.

### **How is the Holy Spirit the Comforter?**

The Holy Spirit is called the "Comforter" in the American Standard Version, English Revised Version and King James Version all translate the Greek word *paraclete* as "Comforter."

John 14:26 – *the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said to you.* (KJV)

*Paraclete*, no perfect English equivalent. Basically, a *paraclete* is "one who is called alongside"; the implication is that a *paraclete* gives support or help.

- *Paraclete* can be translated as "Helper," "Counselor," "Comforter," or "Advocate."
- Translating the word as "Helper," (ESV & NKJV) better represents the broader ministries of the Holy Spirit. He doesn't just comfort, He also guides, seals, baptizes, regenerates, sanctifies, and convicts.

### **What does it tell us that Jesus told His disciples that He would send "another" *paraclete* in John 14:16?**

This means that He Himself had served as a *paraclete* during His earthly ministry. He had been the One guiding the disciples, but now He would send the Holy Spirit as their Guide, Counselor and Comforter.

- Jesus is comforting the eleven faithful disciples during the Last Supper, telling them not to be afraid and promising that their sorrow would turn to joy (John 14:1; 16:21). He would be leaving them, but another Helper or Comforter would be on the way.
- When the word *paraclete* is used of Jesus in 1 John 2:1, most translations use the word *advocate*. Jesus is our intercessor before the Father.

### **Why does God comfort us?**

God is all about relationships. Being comforted by Him brings us closer to Him and it helps us be more effective in representing Him to others...

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 – *our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted*

### **What does the comfort from God look like?**

God comforts us in many ways: through the wonderful promises of His Word, through fellow believers, and of course through the Holy Spirit's indwelling who blesses us with the fruit of the Spirit...

Galatians 5:22-23 – *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

### **v2 – Why does this verse begin with the word *behold*?**

Those faithful to God want others to see what is true. We should be excited about what God has done in our life, and invite all to behold the work of the LORD.

### **What is the truth we should behold?**

*God is my salvation:* To say God is my salvation is also to say, "I am not my salvation. My good works, my good intentions, my good thoughts do not save me. God is my salvation."

- Any idea that one could be saved by keeping the Law is cleared up in this verse... salvation has always been by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9).

### **Why are there so many who don't ever feel they need salvation?**

They think their lives are fine, and only come to God for a little help when they feel they need it. But they never see themselves as drowning men in need of rescue, or see themselves as hell-destined sinners in need of salvation.

### **Why is the idea that God is my salvation repeated here as having become my salvation?**

For emphasis and is making it personal. Not only is God the source of our salvation, I recognize that He is my Savior.

**What does recognizing that *God is my salvation* look like?**

*I will trust and not be afraid:* There is peace and security that comes from knowing that God is my salvation. When we are our own salvation, it is hard to trust and not be afraid in ourselves. But when God is our salvation, we can trust and not be afraid.

Romans 5:1 – *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* The place of peace and "no fear" comes only from trusting in God, and not in ourselves, for our salvation.

**What is my *strength* and my *song* of God's faithful?**

*For YAH, the LORD:* The LORD is not only the salvation of His children, He is also his strength and song. Some find it easier to consider the LORD their salvation in a distant "bye-and-bye" sense than to take Him today as their strength and song.

**What does it mean that the Lord is our strength?**

When the LORD is our strength, it means that He is our resource, He is our refuge. We look to Him for our needs, and we are never unsatisfied.

**What does it mean that the Lord is our song?**

When the LORD is our song, it means that He is our joy, He is our happiness. We find our purpose and life in Him, and He never disappoints.

The word *Yah* here is probably a mistake; and arose originally from the custom of the Jewish scribes, who, when they found a line too short for the word, wrote as many letters as filled it, and then began the next line with the whole word. Yahweh means LORD.

**v3 – What do the faithful to God do?**

*You will draw water from the wells of salvation:* Jesus promised us whoever drinks in Him will have eternal life...

John 4:14 – *whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.*

Thank God we can come to Jesus and draw water from the wells of salvation!

**How is there special significance to drinking water to people in the arid climates of Israel & West Texas?**

We can appreciate the need for life giving water. When water is rare, a well is life. To have a place where you can continually come and draw forth to meet your need is a precious gift.

**Why does it say *wells of salvation* in plural here?**

**Does this mean there are many ways to be saved?**

No, this doesn't mean that there are many ways to be saved. All of the wells draw forth from the same reservoir of salvation, Jesus Christ. But many wells can bring water from the same water table.

- The LORD's resource is not limited. There is not just one well of salvation, there are many wells of salvation.

**In what sense is the salvation of the Lord something that occurs in the past, present and future?**

Our justification happened in the past when we realize that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross. Our sanctification happens in the present as we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to be more like Jesus. And our glorification will happen in the future when we receive our eternal resurrected bodies.

**Is the salvation of God passive or active on our part?**

The fact that we must *draw water* means there is something for us to do... God doesn't meet our needs as we sit in passive inactivity. We must reach out and draw forth what He has provided. At the same time, it is His water, His well, His rope, and His bucket that we draw with!

**How is it that we should draw our water of salvation with joy?**

Because it is all of the LORD and joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit working in us. Knowing that the God who is control loves us and will work together all things for our good is a joy.

**v4 – What should we do if we have drawn from the water of salvation?**

*Praise the LORD, call upon His name:* This is an exhortation to praise, and an encouragement to worship the LORD and trust in Him.

*Declare His deeds ... Make mention that His name is exalted:* Those who have drawn from the water of salvation can't stop talking about God's greatness and the great things He has done.

**v5 – To whom should those who've been saved sing?**

*Sing to the LORD:* First, the LORD was the song of the worshipper (Isaiah 12:2). Now, he sings this song of the LORD to Him! If the LORD has become your song, then sing it!

**How is it that the excellent things God has done is known in all the earth?**

This will be the case during the Millennial Kingdom...

Habakkuk 2:14 – *For the earth will be filled  
With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,  
As the waters cover the sea.*

**v6 – What should the inhabitants of Zion (Jerusalem) do when the Holy One is in their midst?**

*Cry out and shout:* This is excited praise that will be the case during the Millennial Kingdom!

- We should all abhor the artificial, "Let's-whip-them-up-into-a-manufactured-enthusiasm" kind of worship. But if our worship will never cry out and shout, there is something lacking in it.

**Why are people often half-hearted in their worship of God?**

It is actually a salvation-by-works mentality; as if it were our duty to bless God... we want to get through it as quickly as possible and the sooner the better.

- Mechanical worship is easy, but worthless. We should rouse ourselves and remember Who it is we worship!

**Why should praise for God during the Millennial Kingdom be great?**

*For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst:* Two reasons... First, because of who God is: the Holy One of Israel. Second, because of where God is: in your midst.

- Both of these reasons are why everyone should praise God in the here and now!

**What applications come to mind from our discussion today?**

- Being chastened by the Lord shows that He loves us... respond accordingly with praise.
- The Holy Spirit comforts us to bring us closer to God and to comfort others.
- Our salvation is from God alone... the good news is that we are saved by grace through faith.
- Children of God have been justified, are being sanctified, and will be glorified... God wants us to know we have eternal security.