

The Book of ISAIAH – Chapters 1-39

Catholic Scripture Study

Memory Verse: Isaiah 12:2-3

***Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.***

The Wells of Salvation (Isaiah 12:1-6)

I. REVIEW

Isaiah 12:1-6 is a beautiful two-part hymn of praise and thanksgiving by the remnant that at last God's anger is **turned away** and replaced by comfort.

You may recall the continuous refrain in Chapter 9: ***“Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.”*** Well, ***in that day*** (some future time appointed by God), God's anger is finally turned away and is replaced by his comfort.

In review, Isaiah has challenged Ahaz to trust the Holy One of Israel, who has revealed himself to Isaiah.

When Ahaz rejected that invitation and the offered sign of God's presence with his people (Immanuel), Isaiah announced that what Ahaz has trusted in place of God, namely Assyria, would turn on Judah and destroy her.

But, demonstrating how genuinely trustworthy God is, the prophet then declared that God would give light in place of Judah's self-

induced darkness – light in the form of a descendent of David who would be the Messiah, **“God with us.”**

Furthermore once Israel faced the fact that it was God who controlled her destiny and not Assyria, God would demonstrate that truth by destroying arrogant Assyria and bringing about a messianic kingdom of peace peopled not only with his own people but also with representatives of all the nations.

Should such a God be trusted? Absolutely! And that is just the response we find in 12:1-6.

God should be trusted simply because he is God, but how much more should he be trusted when we realize that he himself has turned his righteous anger to “comfort” or encouragement.

This concludes the first major section of Part I of Isaiah, chapters 7-12.

II. OVERVIEW (12:1-6)

As on the shores of the Red Sea, the people (the remnant) can say what they have learned about God. He is “strength,” he is “song,” he is “salvation.”

Actually, the remnant is singing just like the Hebrews sang after their deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 15:1-21). They give thanks that God’s anger is replaced by comfort.

They will trust God and acknowledge him as the source of their salvation, in contrast to the wicked of the past that trusted in some human superpower like Assyria. They will give thanks for God’s deliverance and give witness to the nations.

Verse 4 describes the behavior of the believer after deliverance, that is, **thanks, prayer, and witness**. The witness is to what God has done: there is no one as mighty and holy, yet loving and compassionate as the God of Israel.

A. Water as a Symbol of Salvation

Drawing **“water from the wells of salvation”** is not only to avail oneself of the deliverance God has offered, but it is also to live out the implications of that salvation in obedience and witness.

The witness is in the form of a song. Works like those the Holy One has performed cannot be proclaimed with a long face. They must be sung joyfully to the entire world (v. 5).

Read: Isaiah 12:1-6

[1] You will say in that day:

***"I will give thanks to thee, O LORD,
for though thou wast angry with me,
thy anger turned away,
and thou didst comfort me.***

**[2] "Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation."**

[3] With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**[4] And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the nations,
proclaim that his name is exalted.**

**[5] "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

**[6] Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."**

B. Redemption (12:1)

Redemption results in praise: ***"I will give thanks to thee, O LORD.***

As once the Israelites sang the praises of God for the mighty deliverance from Egypt, so in the future the people, united as one, will again praise God for his wondrous redemption.

Although God has indeed been angry and rightly so, his anger has turned. In that thought lies the heart of redemption. God's anger has turned, turned from me to Christ. And I who deserved the anger of God to be poured out upon me have received his comfort instead.

C. Salvation (11:2-3)

"Behold, God is my salvation. At last the long-awaited deliverance has arrived. My salvation is God Himself. Now the great truth is clearly stated. A remnant will return to the LORD GOD!

Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord. How happy the one who can say, **"God is my salvation. I shall trust and not be afraid."** If God is my salvation, there is no need to fear: I need only to trust.

What does it mean when the prophet states that God is his salvation?

It means that God is the author, the cause, the agent, the accomplisher of that salvation. Salvation apart from God is unthinkable.

- From eternity God the Father ordained life and salvation for His people;
- In time God the Son accomplished that salvation by his death on Calvary's cross, and
- Also in time God the Holy Spirit applies to the hearts of His own the blessings which Christ has obtained for them by His death.

In obtaining salvation for man God was active. In salvation we are delivered from the guilt and shame of our sins, and we receive the wondrous blessings and righteousness of Jesus, the eternal Christ.

God is our Father, and by an act of his all-powerful grace adopts us as his own children. In the fullest and deeper sense, we receive God. What more can we have – what more do we need than God himself?

He is our salvation.

D. The Wells of Salvation (11:3)

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

In the burning wilderness of Sinai the Hebrews had murmured because there was no water. In response to their murmuring, Moses had smitten the rock, and from it water gushed forth.

Here was grace in the desert!

And all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ” (1 Cor. 10:4)

If Sinai was a desert, how much more dreary is the desert of life! Yet even in this barren wilderness there are life giving springs of water. From these wells the redeemed will draw that which gives and strengthens and sustains their life, the very waters of salvation.

Water is a beautiful figure of salvation and its attendant blessings. How refreshing and reviving to a wanderer in a thirsty and dry land. How fit an emblem for salvation! As it says in Isaiah 41:17-18:

***[17] When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the LORD will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.***

**[18] I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.**

Continuing the Old Testament metaphor Jesus said (John 4:14),
**“but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will
never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”**

As the water in the wilderness was provided by the goodness of
God, so the water in the wells of salvation is a gift of His goodness.

E. Feast of Tabernacles

John Chapter 7 describes Jesus' visit to Jerusalem during the very
important Feast of Tabernacles.

During this feast on each of the seven mornings a procession went
down to the fountain of Gihon which supplied the waters to the pool
of Siloam. There, a priest filled a golden pitcher with water, as the
people sang Isaiah 12:3: **With joy you will draw water from the
wells of salvation.**

It was while they were singing this song **On the last day of the
feast, the great day,** that:

**Jesus stood up and cried out, "If any one thirst, let him come
to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has
said, `Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water'"** (John
7:37-38).

Salvation is entirely of grace! And Jesus, (Hebrew: Yeshua means
God saves or salvation).

**“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is
not your own doing, it is the gift of God -- not because of
works, lest any man should boast”** (Eph 2:8).

It is with joy that we draw water from these blessed springs. We are to enjoy God forever. And the life of the believer is one of joy, where he knows that the terrible burden of his guilt, which has separated him from God, has now been removed and no longer stands between him and his God.

And all because of the work of Christ! Truly we may rejoice in the Lord, now and always.

“And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price” (Revelation 22:17).

F. Witness and Proclamation (12:4-6)

Verses 4 to 6 form the second part of this concluding hymn of praise. The first part (v. 1-3) spoke about redemption and salvation. The second part (v. 4-6) is about witnessing and proclaiming these mighty works of God.

The world must know who God is. They must be enabled to draw the correct implication from the salvation of God's people.

Far from trusting in the nations for her own salvation, Israel is intended to be the vehicle whereby the nations can come to know and believe in the One True God.

For whatever they may believe, there is only One who can lay claim to the title the Holy One, and he is the God of Israel - the only source of salvation.

This section ends with the great confession of faith:

***Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”***

Preparation for Isaiah Week 14

An Oracle Against Babylon

1. Read Isaiah, Chapter 13
2. Read Chapter 4, pgs 35-36, in *Come and See Catholic Bible Study – Isaiah*.
3. Answer questions 1 and 2 in *Come and See* (pg. 39).
4. Read the following paragraphs from the CCC:

Article 3 – Sacred Scripture

Section II - Inspiration and the Truth of Sacred Scripture – paragraphs 105-108