

## The Wells of Salvation

Harmony M.B.C.; Oct. 1, 2006; May 27, 2018

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**Isaiah 12:1** And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

**Isaiah 12:2** Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation.

**Isaiah 12:3** Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

As can be seen from verse one, and as our hearts tell us when we deal with God, when He comforts us we find a lot of reasons to praise Him and to speak of His goodness toward us. It is really a great time when we have come from a place where we knew the Lord had reason to be angry with us to a place where we know there is peace with Him and a place where we can feel His comfort.

In the same way, lost souls coming to Christ leave a place where God's anger thunders, and come to a peaceful valley where His gentle words soothe and give them peace. In that former place there was always a righteous but wrathful God waiting around every corner, where every reminder of the presence of the Judge of all the earth made it uncomfortable, and certain ruin and punishment threatened from every side. A soul in that place feels condemned and imaginations run wild as the conviction of being a sinner seize the heart with nightmare realizations that if God suddenly called them to judgment, the absolute damnation of hell fire awaited them. But in His mercy, the all knowing, all powerful holy Judge of humankind gives the condemned criminal a pardon through faith in Christ, and that reprieve causes the greatest sense of God's anger being completely removed and of the arrival of a most blessed comfort.

In a spiritual condition as Isaiah outlines in vv. 1-2, the Lord's people are prepared to really enjoy Him. In such a state they are sensitive to all the goodness that fellowship with their Lord brings. But most importantly, they find fresh joy in the Lord and this joy makes their lives and hearts a fertile ground for receiving the greatest benefit of their relationship in the salvation God gives. And this is the premise for verse 3 of our text. This is a most amazing verse because it captures in just one sentence one of the most blessed states of any saved person and it opens the treasure house of God regarding the potential pleasures of a trusting and abiding relationship with Him (read the verse again).

**I.** According to the verse, joy becomes the equivalent of a bucket by which one would draw water from a well.

❖ It is joy that gives us access to what the Lord has secured for us in His great

salvation

- Have you ever noticed that when a person is suffering from depression, one of the most common thoughts, and one of the most common statements you hear from them is, “I don’t have anything to be happy about.”
- But, you let a person come to a place where something has given them great joy, and they find plenty to mention that makes them happy; they find plenty of happy things to think about.
- The human psyche is made up this way, and God knows it. He knows that things that build positive feelings in people come from things of joy. So, joy in God gives us a means of getting refreshment from the things that relate to our salvation.
  - When I was a small kid, we lived with my grandmother and granddad. We got our water from a 100 foot well (describe the well, the chain, the pulley, the bucket, the top). My brothers used to gripe about having to draw water from that well for us to use. But, us little ones would sometimes get to be standing there near that well when they drew water. I’ll never forget that clear, cold water sloshing out of that bucket as they pulled it out of the well-top. I’ll never forget getting the first drink of water out of the freshly drawn bucket. How wonderful! Just like that, joy in the Lord delivers us a bucket of His precious spiritual water to drink!
- The bucket was essential to get the water out of the well.
- If we envision those items that were used to get water out of that well years ago as being emblematic of spiritual things that are part of our connection with God, we can draw a word picture of how joy is the key to our drinking from the wells of salvation:
  - We have the arm strength of faith that can supply the spiritual energy to get that water
  - We have the pulley of the Holy Spirit’s accommodation in our efforts to drink of the things of God
  - We have the rope or well chain of hope that provides what we can connect our bucket of joy to
  - We have the water in the well; God guarantees that
  - But without the bucket of joy we cannot bring that water out

**II.** “Water” is the word used to metaphorically speak of the wonders of refreshment and quenching of thirst that reside in salvation

- ❖ I remind us again, without the bucket of joy we can’t reach those precious

refreshments

- ❖ But, let's say we have found that joy. Now, what can we expect?
  - Let's first remember that in the days of this writing, **having water available was everything**, and in the land of Israel, wells provided that water for life wherever people lived unless they were beside a river.
  - Christian life can't develop and grow where there is no spiritual water, or where spiritual water is limited – and it is limited if we stand with a bucket in our hands and don't draw some!
    - As we think about the metaphor we have to be reminded about what water could do (how it could be used, and how much is available). This is determined the life-style of the inhabitants – Which speaks to our use of the bucket of joy to get and enjoy the waters of God's salvation!
    - (David declared in) **Psalms 63:1**, "...my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is"
  - As we think about the availability of water, we are reminded that one of the biggest confrontations and unrest between Abraham and Lot (Gen. 13) was probably over water availability and amount (when they separated into two areas, Lot made his decision to take the plain of Jordan because it was well watered)
  - Again, Isaac had trouble getting along with the people of Gerar (**Isaiah**) because they caused trouble over the wells of water that Abraham and his people had dug, which Isaac cleaned out to use again.
  - This story in **Gen. 36** has an additional lesson to it in metaphor when we remember that the Philistine heathen had stopped those wells, and it took Isaac and his family of promise to clean them out for use again.
    - In a very short summary, enemies of the Lord's people will always attempt to make the wells of salvation unusable, but the Lord's people can undo that work with the help of the Lord!
    - But the most pointed observation I want to make about this discord we see in relation to the availability of water is this: folks, we can expect discord when the Lord's people do not have adequate access to the water within the Lord's wells of salvation; even though such lack is their own fault

**III.** Our text speaks of **wells** of salvation. This is nothing less than a **plurality** of life-giving and refreshing spiritual water to be had through the process described. (We think of salvation in the singular; one salvation. But the sources of refreshment from salvation are many

❖ Salvation contains **many wells** of spiritual blessings; if we approach them with joy toward God in our hearts, we can drink of them at will.

- That bucket of joy is portable!
- Some of those wells are: Love, Faith, Hope, Security, Assurance, Power, Happiness, Peace. We want to consider 3 of these: Love, Faith, Hope:
- Let's think about the Love well
  - Drink of God's love to the undeserving sinner
  - Drink of what that love made possible
  - Drink of what that love has laid up for us
- Let's think about the Faith well
  - Drink of the fact of the unspeakable gift that saved us
  - Drink of the unfailing constancy of your trust in Christ and His faithfulness to you
  - Drink of the refreshing elements of faith as a set of doctrines
    - God's eternal plan for redemption
    - God's sovereign choosing of us
    - His preparation for making us acceptable to Himself
    - His failsafe provision to guarantee our conversion (the Holy Spirit's calling power)
    - His willingness to declare us innocent
- Now, let's think about the well of Hope
  - Drink of escape from death
  - Drink of getting rid of every effect and tendency to sin
  - Drink of the expectancy of eternal life
  - Drink of the expectancy of an unfettered, undamaged body
  - Drink of the expectancy of the potential for limitless mind expansion; ability to understand, to acquire divine knowledge

**IV.** So, our verse talks about **what we can and will do** when we get to this spiritual state. But, it is no good to talk about being in this state if we cannot discern how to get there. So, as a final part of this message, let's go back and look at how the prophet came to the place to say in verse 3, "Therefore..."

- ❖ First, Anger Turned Away - "...thine anger is turned away..."
  - The Lord's people need to remind themselves from time to time that **God's anger is ALWAYS turned away when we plead the blood of Jesus Christ.** When our lives are not just right and we are off-center of the will of God, it is easy to imagine that God's anger is brewing. What we really need to remember is that it is **God's concern that is brewing** and that He **has**

**obligated Himself BY HIS LOVE FOR US to do something about our cold, or distant, or back-slidden, or uncaring condition.** It takes the form of chastening and we might wisely ascribe anger to the act of God when He breaks out the rod of correction, although it is unsheathed because of His love. So, it is our state of mind, our dread and our unclear view of our Heavenly Father's attitude that causes us to see the ANGER and become disoriented spiritually by that kind of view. God IS however, angry at sin...ALWAYS. So, if we see ourselves closely associated with sin, we are in the path of God's anger. The way we get out of that path is by confessing our sins, discover His forgiveness of our sins and our cleansing from all unrighteousness (**I John 1:9**). Which opens the way for:

- ❖ Second, The Lord Comforting Us (“...**thou comfortedst me.**”)
  - As soon as we realize that God's anger is turned aside, we will know comfort
  - The fact that God's anger is turned aside **assures** that He will comfort us
  - Getting the right view of God's anger and God's dealing with sin opens the door to His comfort
    - See **Psalms 23:4** (“Thy **rod AND thy staff** they comfort me.”- i.e. representing the whole office of Christ; His role as King and His role as Supporter; His role as directing Shepherd and His role as guarding Shepherd) (Note: Shepherds do not beat their sheep with their staffs)
    - **Psalms 94:17-19** Unless the LORD *had been* my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. **When I said,** My foot slippeth; **thy mercy,** O LORD, **held me up.** In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy **comforts** delight my soul.
- ❖ Third, The Heart Is Brought Into a Condition To Respond To God Positively - Behold God (is) my salvation - **when we are ready and willing to showcase the Lord, we are in a place to feel joy...**to get a hold on joy and draw waters from the wells of salvation
  - I Will Trust and Not Be Afraid
    - **Psalms 56:3** “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”
    - What keeps us from getting to this place of laying aside fear and trusting in God? Without exception, it is an internal condition in which we remember that we have not been totally upright, we have regarded iniquity, we have sinned. But God knows it already. What we fail to take advantage of is the great mercy and kindness of the Lord toward His children. Listen to Zophar the Naamathite as he lectures Job: **Job 11:13-15:** “If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him;

If iniquity *be* in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be steadfast, and shalt not fear:”

- When we are in a place where we **REALLY ARE** trusting the Lord and driving out fear, we are in a place to get hold of joy and draw spiritual water from the wells of salvation
- ❖ Last, here are verses that gives us a great insight into how to get to the place of joy in the Lord:
  - **Psalms 5:11** But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.
  - **Psalms 16:11** Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy;
  - **Psalms 35:27** Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause:
  - **Psalms 126:5** They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.
  - **Prov. 21:15** *It is* joy to the just to do judgment: (Believers find joy in doing right and making right choices)

Conclusion: Are you in a condition to draw waters from the wells of salvation? That is, do you have joy in the Lord right now? Is there something you can do about it if you do not have joy? Yes! You can examine your personal condition and seek the Lord’s mercy to make it right. Getting to the right place with God will allow the joy to appear. With it, you will have the tool to reach deep into the wells of salvation and pull up those cool sweet waters that will satisfy your soul!