

# Singing Praise to the God of Our Salvation

## Isaiah 12

Pastor Adam McMurray

### Salvation and the Response of Praise

Chapter 12 of the book of Isaiah stands at the end of the first major part of the book (chapters 1-12), but its content indicates that it is not merely the end—but the climax. In it we find the culmination of all that Isaiah has written to this point and this culmination is a response of praise! The account of the Messiah's reign which began in 11:1 as a tender “shoot from the stump of Jesse” now comes to a final and dramatic conclusion in which praise is the only appropriate response. Isaiah writes, “In that day you will say: I will praise you, O Lord”. The praise foreshadowed in this chapter is to be in response to the blessings anticipated in Chapter 11. The righteous and perfect reign of the true Messianic King, Jesus Christ will be glorious and awesome and will result in the gathering of all of God's people to fellowship together finally in perfect community with one another and with the Lord. What we find in Isaiah 12 is a profound picture of salvation. The message of Isaiah is that if we understand the true nature of the saving work of the LORD, we **will** praise him! It is the natural response to the God who saves.

### Draw Deeply From the Well of Salvation

The call to worship in Isaiah 12 is based upon the prophetic promise of verse 3 in which Isaiah proclaims, “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”. It is a beautiful and much needed picture of the true nature of salvation. It is a prophetic vision that we deeply need in the church today, a vision in which a community of saved individuals gathers to drink fully the blessings of the saving work of Christ. Salvation is not merely a “get out of hell free” card—a guarantee of heaven in our future with no impact on our present. The vision of salvation in Isaiah is that of a group of individuals who have been rescued from bondage, comforted by a holy and just God, and formed into a community in which “the Holy One of Israel” Himself dwells (vs 6). This community is invited to drink fully of Christ in a manner similar to the rescued community of Israel that was led out of the bondage in Egypt and into an abundant provision of water in the desert. The vision of salvation in Isaiah 12 is a picture of communion and fellowship with Christ Himself. Immanuel. God with us. The powerful Messianic King is not only the God who saves, but the God who invites us into relationship. This is the picture of salvation that we need to grasp today. If we truly get it, we will respond with praise and worship.

### When Our Praise Overflows into Evangelism

“Make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted”.(vs4) In Isaiah 12, the imperative is not only to embrace salvation and to respond with praise, it is also a call for proclamation. The fruit of the work of Christ is a community in which each knows God's saving work, all drink the saving waters and share a testimony to the world. The songs of this chapter celebrate good news which, in the end, cannot be contained. As we drink fully of Christ, it overflows from our lives! We respond in praise towards the heavens and proclamation towards our world. Only as the nations hear of the Lord's glorious deeds will they be able to recognize at last that He alone is God! This is so important for us to grasp. Thankfulness and praise overflow, as they always must, into evangelism. For why would we keep to ourselves such a precious treasure as the salvation that we have received from Christ? Today, let's open our hearts to the Lord, let's receive from Him the full gift of salvation, let's worship and praise, and let's proclaim the name of our God who is mighty to save!

## **RW Happenings...**

### **Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> •**

#### **Parent Prayer Group at River West @ 7-8pm**

Come and join other parents of Jr. High or High School students on the first Wednesday of each month to pray for our students and the Student Ministries leaders. For more information contact Cynthia Weston @ 515-1464 or cwweston@juno.com

### **Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> •**

#### **Grade Move-up Day for all Kids at River West!**

If you have questions contact Lindsay Bailey or Pastor Josh at 699.2226 or lindsie@riverwest.org or josh@riverwest.org

**Shuttle Bus:** The shuttle service is taking a break for the summer - Today is the last day to take a ride!

### **2 Summer Studies for Women**

**Tuesdays starting June 10<sup>th</sup>** 7pm in the Fellowship Hall is a study for young moms lead by Linda Steger and Charlaire Carlock. For more information, contact: Emily Mickelson at 639.8733 or Stephanie Paulson at 454.0889

**Mondays starting June 23<sup>rd</sup>** 7pm in the Community Center, the study is 1 John "Love each Other" by John Ortberg. For more information, contact Barb McCarthy at 524.1150 or kevbar@comcast.net

### **July 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> •**

#### **Vacation Bible School K-5<sup>th</sup>**

Registration starting now...forms is in the lobby & at the church office. For more information contact Lindsay at 699.2226 or lindsie@riverwest.org