

## Isaiah 12: The Proper Response to God's Kingdom

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Have you ever thought long and hard about a gift you wanted to give someone and were so excited?
  - A. Yet, once they opened it, their reaction was far less than you expected, far less thankful and joyful. Do you remember the disappointment and loss you felt?
  - B. What we will talk about today has to do with a gift God has given us and our response to it.
2. I want to talk about it because last week's lesson concerned the establishment of God's kingdom as prophesied in Isaiah 11 and fulfilled in Christ and the church and the blessing it is to the saved.
  - A. We learned of the blessing of having Jesus, the descendent of David, as our king.
    - i. We considered Christ's seven endowments of God's Spirit that showed Him to be the right king with the right characteristics to rule!
    - ii. We saw the excellence of His rule, judging in righteousness/equity for the poor/meeek.
  - B. We considered the *extraordinary changes God brings upon His subjects*, causing them to become a people of peace and harmony seen by all.
  - C. We saw the worldwide scope of His kingdom and how God had made the way of salvation unhindered for all people, both Jew and Gentile throughout the world.
3. At the end of that lesson I asked you how you were going to respond to the work of God done in Christ to bring about this kingdom and the blessings it bestows upon you.
  - A. I asked because I wanted you to think about your present response...right then.
  - B. But, I also wanted to plant a seed that would lead into today's lesson taken from Isaiah 12.
4. For, Isaiah 12 continues the context of the Kingdom begun in Isaiah 11 and reveals the *proper response* God expects of His people concerning His amazing gift of the Kingdom in Christ.
5. It is my hope that by examining Isaiah's words, we will examine our hearts and our appreciation for what God has done for us to see if our lives hold up to the Holy Spirit's standard.

### BODY:

#### **I. Subjects of God's kingdom praise Him for turning His anger into comfort (12:1):**

- A. Some things to note:
  1. "In that day" is the time frame of the recovery and redemption of the second remnant to God from among the nations (11:11).
  2. Verses 1-3 are addressed to the *individual*, while 4-6 is to the congregation of the saved.
- B. As part of God's remnant of grace (Rom. 11:15), like Israel in the Exodus, will sing a song of thanks and praise to Jehovah for turning His anger to comfort (12:1).
  1. Up until now Isaiah had said that God's anger would not be turned away from Israel/Judah—they would be brought low (Isa. 5:25; 9:12, 17, 21; 10:4).
  2. Don't miss that those God is addressing here includes us—those in Christ and subjects of Christ's kingdom. He was angry with us as sinners and subjects of His wrath!
    - a. As *unbelievers* (John 3:36 – "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.").
    - b. As *ungodly* (Rom. 1:18 – "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.")
    - c. As those who *had not obeyed the truth* (Rom. 2:8 – "but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath").
  3. We sing to God because His love and grace in Christ has changed all that for us.
    - a. In Christ we have been justified and saved from His wrath (Rom. 5:8-9 – "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.<sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.").
    - b. Instead of wrath, we are now comforted by God (2 Cor. 1:3-4 – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,<sup>4</sup> 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 by God.").

4. God expects praise from His people because times of salvation and joy have come! Are you thankful, really thankful, personally, to God for your salvation?

## II. Subjects of God's kingdom sing of their trust in Him (12:2)

- A. Note how verse 2 is bookended by *God being our salvation*.
  1. That *God* is our salvation is amazing because the problem of sinners is **God's wrath**. And, until His wrath was turned, or propitiated, there could be no salvation!
  2. As subjects of Christ's kingdom, we sing:
    - a. "God is my salvation," having *experienced deliverance* from His wrath through His work of salvation in Christ and the gospel.
    - b. "God **has become** my salvation," likely indication that He has also become our *assurance of eternal salvation* through His work in Christ.
  3. This makes God the fullness of our salvation—the beginning, middle, and end of our salvation—from His own wrath that we actually deserve to face!
- B. Because God is our salvation, our lives are to be filled with...
  1. Trust – We have *confidence* in God, but also *security* in this confidence.
  2. For, lack of fear follows:
    - a. Being subjects of Christ's kingdom brings us courage (2 Tim. 1:7-8 – "For God **has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power** and of love and of a sound mind. <sup>8</sup> **Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord**, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God").
    - b. We are *God's* people! And if we truly believe that, we must not be controlled by fear, or let it dictate our words and actions, causing us to close our mouth from praise of God or refuse to take a stand for righteousness!
  3. Strength – God's salvation brings us sturdiness in the face of life
    - a. This because God is the strength in which we stand.
    - b. We must never forget that our King is seated at the Father's right hand "far above all principality and power and might and dominion" (Eph. 1:21), and we must "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10).
  4. Song – the expression of the *inner joy* for this confidence, courage, and strength we have because of our salvation!
  5. Do these characterize you and the life you live?

## III. Subject of God's kingdom draw the water of salvation with joy (12:3):

- A. To appreciate this point, we need to remove ourselves from our situation of plentiful water—always—and consider the arid nature of Israel's existence.
  1. During their first 40 years as a nation they travelled about as a nomadic people, constantly searching for water in desert places!
    - a. There were no water faucets to turn on—no water purification plants to pump it to them.
    - b. Twice God even provided water from a rock (Horeb Ex. 17:6; Meribah Num. 20:7-8).
    - c. And, upon coming into the land, real wealth and good living was found in having land with good wells from which to drink and water their livestock!
    - d. We take all this for granted, but they didn't (and we shouldn't).
  2. Because of sin and rejection of God, Israel and Judah became spiritual deserts, people without water, thirsty and dying (Jer. 2:11, 13 – "Has a nation changed its gods, which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory for what does not profit...<sup>13</sup> "For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.").
  3. Now, through the work of God, God's spiritual Israel, both Jew and Gentile, can fill their buckets in God's wells of salvation!
    - a. There is no rationing of these waters.
    - b. With joy they can partake of this water time and again!
- B. The point is that God doesn't provide salvation for us in His kingdom, in His church, in meager—hand to mouth—portions! He does so in abundance!

1. God provides...
  - a. An abundance of grace (Rom. 5:17 – “For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive **abundance of grace** and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”).
  - b. Salvation through the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in abundance (Titus 3:4-7 – “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,<sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,<sup>6</sup> **whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,**<sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”).
2. Do you have real joy in your salvation, drawing from it in your life daily to bring you confidence, courage, strength, joy, and hope?

#### IV. The saved testify of God’s salvation to the world (12:4-6):

- A. I like the NASB rendering (12:4-6 – “And in that day you will say, “Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; **make them remember** that His name is exalted.”<sup>5</sup> Praise the Lord in song, for He has done excellent things; **let this be known throughout the earth.**<sup>6</sup> Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”).
- B. *In that day* the *congregation* calls on all to praise the Lord and call on His name in worship (12:4).
  1. The *congregation* is referred to because the *you* is now plural, when in 12:1 it was singular.
    - a. Praise to God begins with personal thankfulness for our salvation, etc.
    - b. Yet, when bound together as a congregation, our praise is united in one glorious song.
  2. Whether individually or congregationally, gratitude for what God has done should cause praise, calling on His *name* in *worship* for *who He is*, and a desire to tell the world.
  3. We who have been blessed to truly know Him and have experienced His work in our lives should ceaselessly thank him and make Him and His exalted name known to others.
- C. Our song of joy and adoration for the Lord is proclaimed to the world (12:5-6).
  1. We sing aloud His praise because of He has done *excellent things* in our lives (12:5).
    - a. We should do this for God because we do this of anything else.
    - b. We are passionate and tell others when we find something that is good, or excellent.
    - c. If something good happens to us, we want to tell others. If you won a nice new car/truck, would you keep that quiet or tell others?
  2. We in Christ have found, or experienced, the greatest thing on this earth!
    - a. We are recipients of God’s salvation in His kingdom!
      - i. Since it is abundantly offered to everyone, why do we shy away from telling others?
      - ii. I am not talking about being obnoxious or annoying, but of just telling others of the wonders of God’s salvation through Christ in our lives!
      - iii. Are we afraid or simply unconvinced of its greatness? Why are we concerned if others think us weird or reject us, unless we are unconvinced ourselves?
    - b. **Every one of us are saved to evangelize**, to tell *the whole world* of our God and His wonderful salvation (i.e., hope, joy, eternal life)!
    - c. Those truly blessed with salvation in the kingdom want others to be saved!
  3. It is more than that. The redeemed of God’s kingdom know He deserves the praise of all creation and we want others to give Him that praise (12:6).
    - a. We want all to know of His wisdom, power, love, grace, salvation, care, kindness!
    - b. Do you feel that way about God? You should! And, we need to be bolder, more outspoken, about our love for Him and what He has done for us and can do for all!
    - c. This is God’s desired response from His people, from His kingdom subjects!

#### CONCLUSION:

1. When you really consider it, the exhortations of Isaiah 12 are the natural responses of the kingdom subjects to Isaiah 11!

2. This is the life that Christians are to live—it is our natural purpose, befitting who we are as those living with God in their midst—in the salvation, peace, hope, and joy of Christ!
3. Is this you? Has God been allowed to put his stamp on you, to make you a different person? Has the world seen a different you as a Christian, a joyous, loving, caring, *vocal* proponent of God in your life and the changes He has brought?
4. Or, are you still outside looking in on the blessings that God has continually offered you in Christ, choosing rather to live in the fear of God's wrath that will come on all who do not obey the gospel.
  - A. That day will come when Christ will return (2 Thess. 1:8-10 – “in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,<sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”).
  - B. What side you will be on may very well be determined by the choice you make right now. What will it be?