

Isaiah 12:1-6

"Words Of Worship"

The psalmist, in thinking upon the might & the majesty of God, wrote these words...

*"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?"*¹ He concluded by saying, *"O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!"*² In Psalm 86 we read, *"Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore. For great is Your mercy toward me, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol."*³ Ps 139, *"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."*⁴

What's my point? That *wonder* leads to *worship*. Meditation & contemplation upon what God has done, revelation concerning who God is, will lead to the exaltation of His Holy name... It may be over the vastness or beauty of His creation, it may relate to the indescribable work of His salvation, perhaps revelation of His person. His great mercy, His great love, His unsearchable wisdom, His compassion, forgiveness, holiness, power & might. But it's the wonder that leads to worship.

Ch 11 of the book of Isaiah speaks (in part) to all the above. Isaiah is given a glimpse into the coming kingdom. A time when the Messiah will rule & reign upon the earth for 1,000 yrs. He gives us insight into His Person, a glimpse of a restored creation, the restoration/reconciliation of Israel & the peace that will be experienced under His rule. A time when fear will find no place & the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea... Ch 11 brings him to a place of awe & wonder. Any guesses what that leads to in Ch 12? 😊

Vs 1

As you study the scripture, you come to realize that there's only 1 interpretation to the Bible. Meaning, it only says what it says & it means what it means. However, there seemingly infinite applications.

Here in Vs 1, the prophet is speaking to the time in which Jesus will reign over the earth, & how Israel will not only have returned to Him, but how they will respond toward Him. "In that day..." the day that the things of Ch 11 are fulfilled.

¹ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 8:3-4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 8:9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 86:11-13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 139:14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

In *that* day, you will say, “O Lord, I will praise You, though You were angry w/me, Your anger is turned away, & You comfort me.”

In Daniel Ch 9, you discover that God has determined 70-7s upon the nation of Israel. 70-7 yr periods of time in which He will deal w/the nation, ultimately ushering in the summation of life under the order of the current state of creation. Daniel wrote, *“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;”*⁵ (Or 69-7 yr periods of time [483 yrs] until Jesus would be publicly revealed as the Messiah).

Now, I’m not going to go into detail on that Ch, you can listen to my study on Daniel Ch 9 if you’re interested in the “in depth” of it all. It ties into Nehemiah, when the command went forth historically & all the rest. *The short of it is that, that day (the Day of the “reveal”) landed on April 6th, 32 A.D. The day that we refer to as the “Triumphal Entry” of Christ or “Palm Sunday” (This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice & be glad in it [Ps 118]. Which day? The day the Messiah would be revealed to the nation...)*

Daniel continues on, *“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;”*⁶ What’s he saying? Was Jesus officially accepted as the Messiah by the nation of Israel? No. He was rejected, cut off, crucified (but not for Himself, for you & me, for the sin of the world.)

Again, to keep it brief. What we discover is at that point the prophetic “time clock” was stopped concerning the nation of Israel. Israel rejected Jesus, God rejected Israel (though You were angry w/me). *Though not every Jewish person individually is blinded to who Jesus is, overall, nationally, they are. Paul speaks to this in the book of Romans, the veil (or blindfold) is removed in Christ.*

& As you know, it was when Israel rejected Jesus that the gospel went out & the Gentiles accepted Jesus, & Jesus has built His church throughout this “age of the Gentiles”. Paul the apostle said, *“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”*⁷ So, God “owes” the nation of Israel one more 7 yr period of time. His “anger” will be turned away & He will comfort/console & save the nation. They will see Jesus for who He is & receive Him as their Messiah by faith.

When does this happen? During the great tribulation.

⁵ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Da 9:25). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Da 9:26). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ro 11:25). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The final 7 yr period of time (you read of it in the book of Rev) prior to this millennial kingdom. The church will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess 4:17) & God will reconcile & comfort the nation of Israel through J.C. (& What a glorious day that will be). That would be the interpretation 😊. But there's application for you & me beyond that...

As for the unbeliever, (he/she) needs to understand that in their current state, the wrath of God abides upon them. The Bible is clear, *"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."*⁸ (Not a fun or wise place to be!) God is justifiably "angry" w/sin.

But "comfort" comes, God's anger is turned away, in Christ. Jesus is the One who paid the price for our sin. It's not what we do, it's what He's done. It's through *Him* that we have peace w/God. Again, Paul writes, *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"*⁹ & Can I just tell you that if you've been translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. If you've gone from condemnation to comfort... Then like the prophet here, it should resonate in your soul, "O Lord, I will praise You!"

If you're a believer then I want to encourage you, God isn't angry *at* you, nor will He get angry w/you. How do I know that? Because the wrath of God was completely satisfied at the cross of J.C. You might even say that God's anger has been "exhausted" in the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf.

That doesn't mean that He's a docile Deity who just winks at our sin (don't get it twisted), whom the Lord loves He *chastens* (Heb 12)! God will still discipline His own, not out of anger, out of love. But you & me, we now know God (2 Cor 1:3-4) as the "God of all comfort" who comforts us in all our tribulation.

Hey believer, if you know God as the God of all comfort, the One who's not angry *at* you, but brings peace, assurance & comfort *to* you. It should resonate in your soul, "O Lord, I will praise You!"

Vs 2

I love the word, "Behold". His praise/worship is beginning to adopt overtones of evangelism. He wants everyone around him to see that what he's saying is true. He's excited about the great work that God has done for him & he wants everyone to see it!

⁸ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Jn 3:36). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁹ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ro 5:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Listen, I want you to recognize/realize that essentially the only difference between worshipping & witnessing (worship or evangelism) is whom you're addressing! If you're speaking to *God* of His great works, the wonder of His word, salvation/reconciliation & all the rest, that's worship! If you're speaking to someone else about God's great works, the wonder of His word, what He's done in your life, salvation, reconciliation, restoration, so on & so forth, that's *evangelism!*

"Behold, God is my salvation!" Notice he doesn't say, "God *provided* salvation." He says, "God is my salvation." Salvation isn't a program, it's not a prayer, it's not a ritual, a work or some kind of system you make your way through. Salvation is a Person & that Person is the Lord J.C. **"But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—"¹⁰** Jesus is your salvation!

Good thoughts won't save you, good intentions won't save you, doing good things won't save you. Jesus saves you. *He is your salvation.*

"God is my salvation; I will trust & not be afraid." What's the take home here? Faith conquers fear. The key to overcoming fear is learning to trust in the Lord & lean not on my own understanding.

W/in this context. I'm not going to be worried, I can have peace; I can have security/assurance when I know that *God* is my salvation. In other words, if it's up to me to somehow save myself... I'm going to be freaking out & afraid all the time! Ladies & gentlemen, many of us find it a daunting task even to save a little *money*, let alone our very soul! But is there *anything* too hard for God? Perish the thought! & Since *God* is our salvation, we can trust & not be afraid.

Btw I should say, you *can* trust. You *can* believe. Some people put this thought out there, they'd really like to believe, they just can't. It's fair to say you *won't*. But don't say you *can't*. Nowhere in scripture is the exhortation, "Try & believe!" God has furnished more than ample evidence. The command to us is simply, "Believe on the Lord J.C. & you will be saved."

But listen, not only is the Lord your salvation, He is your strength & your song... Your strength. Meaning, He is your resource, your sustenance, your all in all. He's not part of your strength, He supplies it all. As for you (& me) our spirit may be willing, our flesh is weak. What I will to do I don't do, what I don't want to do, I find myself doing...

¹⁰ *The New King James Version*, (1982). [1 Co 1:30]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

That's what I can provide. But we're *more than conquerors through Him* who loved us. He is our strength & our song, our joy, our everything.

Vs 3

If we lived in an arid, dry, desert kind of land, this Vs would take on a much deeper meaning to us. The picture would be of the joy deriving from a reliable, living, flowing fountain that never runs dry... A rare & truly precious gift. Such is the precious gift of God's salvation.

It's hard for us to read this Vs & not think of the illustration that Jesus gave to the woman at the well. "Whoever drinks of this water (Jesus said, perhaps pointing at the well) will thirst again. But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst." (Jn 4:13). – You can drink all you want from the wells of the waters of this world. **The well of materialism or hedonism or name the well of your choice, but you'll thirst again... You won't be satisfied, not truly, not ultimately. & If you're thirsting today, trust me when I tell you, don't go back to those old "watering holes". Come to the Lord Jesus. Taste the living waters, drawn from the wells of salvation & you'll never thirst again.**

It's in Jn Ch 7. ***"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"***¹¹

& We might note that there's no limit to God's resource of salvation. There's not just one well. There are many "wells". That doesn't mean there are many ways to be saved. Picture a great water table underground that has many wells drawing from it. Jesus is the reservoir of salvation, but you can draw from His resource from anywhere at any time.

Btw before we move on you might note that w/*joy* you will draw. Listen, there is *joy* in the Lord! Some people think that if you're a Christian, you have to be some sort of somber, always serious, never smiling kind of person or something... But when I survey scripture & see people's lives transformed through an encounter w/J.C. ... Man, they jump for joy! The joy of the Lord is your strength!

That doesn't mean we'll never know sadness, or that we can never pour out our struggles before the Lord. What I'm saying is no somber faces at the Lord's well of *salvation!* In His presence there is *fullness* of joy! If your name is in the book of life, then rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say (Phil 4) rejoice!

¹¹ *The New King James Version*, (1982). [Jn 7:37-38]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs 4

Having drank deep from the wells of salvation, the worshiper sounds forth the *exhortation* to praise the Lord. Those rivers of living water overflowing from him, encouraging others to worship & trust in the Lord. “Call upon His name.” From salvation to sanctification, whatever our need may be, our hope, our help, our healing is in J.C.

But I love the exhortation here to “praise the Lord.” He recognizes, realizes that God is worthy of more praise than he can possibly provide by himself! So he’s beckoning to others to join *in*, to help him *out*, to collectively glorify & magnify His name!

& Look at this, “Declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted.” & I believe this applies both in the assembly & beyond the walls of the corporate gathering. Remember? Worship/evangelism... they’re like 1st cousins, closely related. We do well to declare God’s deeds among the people. **I love it when people inform me of what God has done, or is doing in their lives. It’s edifying for us to hear the works of God. To realize that He’s still moving, still saving people, setting people free, giving people victory, opening doors, opening eyes & opening hearts. It stirs us to give Him praise!**

But beyond these walls, we need to understand that God desires (& has *always* desired) that we (as His people) would make known to others who He is & what He’s done. Both for us (personal testimony) & for them in the Person of J.C. How that all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God, & the wages of sin is death. **But Jesus has come & paid the debt He didn’t owe because we owed the debt we couldn’t pay. How that God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Remember? He was “cut off” but not for Himself... God chooses to use those whom He’s redeemed to spread the message of redemption.**

But here’s the deal. Until you have a heart for the lost, until you gain a glimpse of the burden that God has for those who are perishing... the odds of you declaring His deeds among the people... are slim to none. **Until it truly *bothers/burdens* you that people are slipping off the planet apart from J.C. you probably won’t interject the gospel or what God has done for you in the conversation. In fact, you might be a bit embarrassed to talk about it. But I’m just encouraging you, you’ve got to care for others more than what you care about what they think of you. That’s why Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,”** ¹²

¹² *The New King James Version*, (1982). [Ro 1:16]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

He didn't care about what anyone thought, he wanted to see people saved. He knew what Christ had done in *his* life, that He could do the same in *your* life, so he made the news known.

Vs 5-6

Ladies and Gentlemen: If the Lord has become your song... then *sing!* Sing to the Lord, when you're alone, when we gather together, sing to the Lord! For He has done excellent things!

"Cry out & shout!" It's almost like it's ok to be excited about what God has done! 😊 Listen, we never want to "pump you up" or inject an artificial sense of enthusiasm into our time of worship in song. But I'm just telling you, if our worship will never cry out & shout, then there's something amiss in there. More than not, we worship in a ½ hearted kind of "I guess it's our duty to do this" way... Or we wonder when it'll be over so we can move on to the study... It ought not be! Exhort yourself after the manner of the psalmist, "*Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!*"¹³ (Close)

Why? Why should we praise God so exuberantly, so intentionally? Well, we've made mention of several reasons throughout our time. But Isaiah leaves us w/2 final reasons for lavishing praise upon the Lord. #1 Because of who God is, "The Holy One of Israel." & #2 Because of where God is, "in your midst!" God is w/you, He lives *in* you... (& I'll throw you a bonus 3rd reason here). #1 He's Holy, #2 He's in your midst & #3 (see it there) He is great! That is He is *powerful, mighty to save*. Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. The resurrection power of the Spirit of God dwells in you

So may you find yourself in wonder, & may you worship & exalt God w/all that you are for He has done marvelous, glorious, incredible, indescribable things... Amen? Amen.

Prayer Points:

God we thank You for Your word! The wonderful reminder of the great things You have done. May we be a people of worship, who declare your deeds among the people. May many come to know You through Your work in our lives. All honor, & power & blessing & praise be to You & You alone.

Call upon His name. There's a wonderful promise we find in God's word that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. That's where it starts. Recognize you're a sinner & you need salvation. That's where Christ comes in. He's the way... He's the truth... He's the life, no one comes to the Father but by Him. Turn from your sin, believe on the Lord J.C. & you will be saved.

¹³ *The New King James Version*, (1982). [Ps 103:1]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.