

Isaiah 12:1-6 God Is My Salvation April 3-4, 2021
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Introduction

In my last two years of classroom studies at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, I had Professor John Jeske as my sermon class professor. Professor Jeske was a great Bible scholar and a great teacher. I still think of things he taught and emphasized. One of them is don’t go throwing around willy-nilly all kinds of theological jargon in your sermons like redemption, justification, sanctification, salvation, especially on occasions when you have lots of worshipers in church who may not understand them. Today may be such a day. But Professor Jeske is with Jesus and for him the old order of things is remembered no more. So, he doesn’t know what’s happening here at St. Paul’s this Easter. Therefore let’s think about this: **“God Is My Salvation!”** I believe that I have justification for doing so in Isaiah 12.

Isaiah 12:1-6

¹In that day you will say: “I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.” ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴In that day you will say: “Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

I didn’t choose the theme as an in-your-face to my former prof. I did so because it’s so appropriate and Professor Jeske said if you’re going to use those terms, explain them. I’ll do that. So let’s think about:

God Is My Salvation!

Take it! Trust it! Tell it!

Setting

Isaiah initially wrote these verses for the people of Judah who would live about 100 years after his time. They lived in corrupt times. For the most part their kings were corrupt; their nobles, corrupt; their priests, corrupt; their people, corrupt. Idolatry, adultery, cruelty, injustice, lovelessness, and all kinds of other ungodliness were a way of life. God was angry with them. God was justified in being so!

God’s Anger with Us

In Ephesians 5:6 and elsewhere in the Bible God’s Word says, **“God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.”** If we knew, recalled, and together piled up all the disobedience in our lives, how high and how big would the mountain of sin be? In just the last few days what comes to mind for which God could be angry with you? Unclean thoughts? Unkind words? Uncaring deeds? Things left undone? Promises broken? Time wasted? Money misused? Misplaced trust? Worry? Doubt? Complaining? God has reason to be angry with us, doesn’t he? He has reason to destroy the earth like in the days of Noah, and to damn us to hell like he will do his enemies on the last days of their lives and on the Last Day.

But he still loved his people in ancient times. God still loves you and me. You understand, don’t you, how we can be angry with someone and yet still love them? In this love God called his people to turn

from their sins and turn back to God for forgiveness and blessing. While some did, most didn't. So God allowed the Babylonians three times to invade and conquer Judah, take thousands of her people into exile, and destroy their land. During this time God continued to call his people to repentance. Some listened. Others didn't. But there was still a remnant of the faithful God would not forsake.

That Day

In Isaiah 12 God is giving comfort and hope to this remnant. He's giving comfort and hope to us. **"¹In that day you will say: 'I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ²Surely God is my salvation'"**

Some might say, **"That day"** to which Isaiah points must be when God brings his people back from exile in the days of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah." There's some truth in that. But **"that day"** is Good Friday when Son of God hangs suspended between heaven and earth on the cross. He is completing his perfect life of love and obedience. This is his Father's will. Instead of God the Father taking his anger out on the Jews or on us as, as we all deserve, he laid it on his sinless Son. Rather than making us suffer the torments of hell, he heaps them on his Son. Rather than our paying for our sins, Jesus pays for them as he dies.

"That day" refers to early in the morning on the first day of the week when the women went to the tomb to finish the burial process for Jesus. In the message of the angel they found the reason that Isaiah could write, **¹In that day you will say: 'I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ²Surely God is my salvation'"**

Wells of Salvation

Jesus's resurrection is proof God's law is fulfilled for us. It is proof our sins are forgiven. It is proof that we are innocent in God's eyes – justified! It is proof that there is life after death and the resurrection of the body! It is power that gives us new life and purpose. Like hydrogen and oxygen joining to make water. These gospel truths flowing from Jesus' resurrection join to make the water and wells of salvation!

Isaiah wrote, **"³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."** The women who went to the tomb were exposed to the water of the wells of salvation. At first, they were doubtful and afraid. But eventually, with joy they drank from the wells of salvation. They took it. They trusted it. They told it! Others did too that first Easter!

Take It!

"That day ..." is today. God is our Salvation. The wells of salvation are here ... in God's Word and in the Sacraments. This is the Good News that God's law is fulfilled for you. Your sins are paid for. You are innocent in God's sight. You are an heir of eternal life. God is with you to bless you and keep you.

Take it in. Every day we sin, and sin makes us spiritually thirsty with guilt. Drink the comforting water of salvation as you daily recall, read or listen to the message of God's love, Jesus' life, his death, and his resurrection. Take in the water of salvation as you regularly receive the Lord's Supper and hear the words of Jesus, "This is my body ... this is my blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

Every day we face troubles that dry us out. Drink from the wells of salvation as you recall, read, or hear the message that your Savior lives, rules, and intercedes for you.

Everyday God's love for us and our love for him challenges us to love and live for him as well as to love others. That result is spiritual perspiration and potential spiritual dehydration. Drink from the wells of salvation as you take in the gospel and the Holy Spirit recharges your spirit and renews the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Take it in.

Trust It!

Trust it. When it comes to the Gospel, the news of salvation, don't just hear or read it, trust it. When you think, read, or hear about Jesus' life, trust that he lived for you and his perfect life is credited to you. When you think, hear, or read of Jesus death, trust that he died for you and paid for your sins. When you think, read, or hear that he rose again, trust that he rose for you and that God declared you to be innocent. Trust it!

When God says that he loves you, trust it; he does. When Jesus says, "**I am with you always,**" trust it because he is. When Jesus says, "**I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live. For whoever lives and believes in me will never die (Jn 11).**" When Jesus says, "**Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door will be opened to you (Lk. 13),**" trust it. It will. God will hear and answer your prayers in the right time and right way.

You will be a fulfillment of Isaiah's words, "**Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.**"

Tell It!

Also tell it! The Holy Spirit moved Isaiah to describe a result of God being our salvation and our drinking from the wells of salvation: **⁴In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."**

This week likely someone, somewhere, sometime is going to ask you, "What did you do for Easter?" Now you can give them the secular answer about hamming it up, egging others on, cracking each other up, or saying, "It was sweet." But why not say, "I went to or watched an Easter service where I heard about God's love and forgiveness in Jesus' rising from the dead?"

There are those times when we get bad news, but we don't get blown away. We know Jesus lived, died, and rose again. We know he lives and reigns for us. When people ask you how you can be calm about this news, tell them, "I have Jesus, my Savior, who lived, died, and rose again for me. He loves me, is with me, and will help me get through this."

When you're having a good day, and someone asks what makes you so happy, you can relate the earthly reason. But you can say in addition to this, "God is my salvation." You might be surprised at the discussion this stimulates and doors it opens to tell others about their Savior.

Conclusion

In a few moments we are going to sing, "I Know that My Redeemer Lives." It reminds us that **God Is Our Salvation**. At the end of our service we're going to sing, "The Day of Resurrection, Earth Tell It All Abroad." Let's do it! In how we live and in what we say! Happy Easter!