

Text— Isaiah 12:1-6

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

The prophet Isaiah is well known to us Christians since he, by inspiration of God, penned several prophecies concerning the Messiah and Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. For example, during the Christmas season we often hear the words of Isaiah 7:14 which declares: “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” And then, in Isaiah 9:6-7 we read, “unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” Accordingly, it is a fact that Isaiah wrote about the Messiah who would be and is true man and true God, the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yes, Isaiah wrote about Jesus Christ the Savior of sinners, for we also read in Isaiah 53:4-6, “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Hence, Jesus Christ is indeed the Savior foretold of old, the God/man who has paid for all of our sins in full with His own holy and precious blood that He shed while nailed to the accursed tree of the cross.

Furthermore, immediately preceding our Scripture selection Isaiah prophesied in chapter 11:1-10, “there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of

Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.” Thus, the prophet Isaiah wrote of the wonderful saving work Jesus Christ our Lord and King would accomplish, and he pictured the real peace which Jesus would establish— peace of heart with God for both Jews and Gentiles who hear His Word and believe on Him.

Therefore, as we Christians recall the amazing work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our sermon text in effect urges us:

“BE GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR SALVATION”

With that as our theme may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) Why we are to be grateful to God for salvation
- 2) How we are to show we are grateful to God for salvation

Verse 1, -----. (Isaiah 12:1)

Moments ago in the introduction to this sermon we considered the fact that prior to our text Isaiah wrote of the wonderful saving work Jesus Christ our Lord and King would accomplish. Now, our Scripture selection opens by informing us: *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.*

Realize the phrase “that day” refers to the great day of salvation, the time of grace established by Jesus Christ when He came to this earth, took upon Himself a real human nature in the womb of the Virgin Mary, kept God’s Law perfectly for all people, died on the cross of Calvary where He shed His holy and precious blood to pay for all the sins of all people, and then triumphantly and bodily rose from the dead after three days in the grave, and visibly ascended into heaven 40 days later, for “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:9-10) And, John 3:36 plainly states: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” Accordingly, we read in 2 Corinthians 6:1-2, “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”

Yes, right now is the day of salvation! Therefore, it is imperative that folks sincerely repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the

world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18) But, take it to heart that faith in Jesus Christ is itself a gracious gift of God wrought in the hearts of people by the Holy Ghost working through the Word of God, the Gospel of Christ in particular, for Holy Writ reports: “the gospel of Christ... is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Romans 1:16-17; 10:17; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Ephesians 2:8-9)

Consequently, each and every Christian continues to enjoy the day of salvation and is to repeatedly say from his or her heart: *O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.* Oh beloved, note well that it is a personal confession which is to be made by every individual Christian, for our text uses the first person singular pronouns “I” and “me.”

Fellow Christians, God had and has every right to be angry with us because we are sinners and He is holy and just, for 1 Peter 1:16 informs us, “it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” And yet, Ecclesiastes 7:20 reports, “there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.” But thankfully, we have hope since Romans 6:23 states: “the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Therefore, fellow Christians, each and every one of us is certainly to repeatedly say from his or her heart: *O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast*

angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Indeed, we Christians have comfort from the Lord through His Holy Word in which He says to each and every one of us again and again: “be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.” (Matthew 9:2) Let us be grateful to God for salvation, His gracious gift to us!

Verse 2, ----- (Isaiah 12:2)

The personal confession which every Christian is to render to the Lord continues: *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.*

The expression “LORD JEHOVAH” is quite powerful in the Hebrew, being “Yahh Yehovah” thereby emphasizing the ONE TRUE GOD as the ONLY Supplier and Author of salvation. My friends, think of the wonderful words of old Simeon when the Christ child was brought into the temple to be presented to the Lord, for we read in Luke 2:25-32, “And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” Therefore, looking at Jesus Christ with the eyes of faith, every Christian should regularly confess: *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.*

Fellow Christians, when it comes to salvation, the LORD has done it all for us! It's as Titus 3:4-7 reports: “after that the kindness and love of God

our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” God does the saving, all of it. Our works do not and cannot contribute to our salvation because in themselves even our best works are still sinful since Isaiah 64:6 informs us: “we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” Thus, we need the perfect righteousness which the Lord Jesus Christ supplies; and, by God's grace, mercy, and power we Christians have it. So, let us be grateful to God for salvation.

Let each and every one of us regularly confess from our heart: *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.*

We Christians have no need for fear since our salvation is sure and certain being that it is based upon the Lord's work and not our work. The Lord Jesus Christ has kept God's holy Law perfectly for us and has paid the price in full for our lack of keeping God's Law. Regarding Jesus Christ, Hebrews 4:15 reports: “we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” And, 1 Peter 1:18-21 declares: “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.” Therefore, let each and every one of us

Christians frequently confess from our heart:
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.

Verse 3, -----. (Isaiah 12:3)

We Christians have joy in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for we know that we have the forgiveness of sins and salvation by His grace, mercy, and power. Hence, our text informs us:
Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

The “wells of salvation” refers to the living water, the water of life, the Gospel of Christ through which the Holy Ghost constantly works in our heart, refreshing our soul by sustaining us in the faith of Jesus Christ, growing us in that faith, and making us fruitful in that faith, for in John 7:37-39 we read: “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” Accordingly, we are to be grateful to God for salvation because our salvation is all God’s doing—His gracious work for us and in us.

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As we ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see how we are to show we are grateful to God for salvation.

Verses 4-6, -----. (Isaiah 12:4-6)

Notice that it is by worship of the LORD and encouraging fellow Christians to do likewise that we are to show we are grateful to God for salvation, for our text says in regards to the day of salvation, the time of grace we Christians enjoy on earth now: *in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings*

among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Just think of it: the Holy One of Israel is in the midst of us! Jesus Christ is the Holy One of Israel, since He was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary into this world, and Colossians 2:9 reports: “in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Furthermore, Jesus Christ promised His disciples: “lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:20) Indeed, Jesus is always with all Christians, for He says in John 14:23, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” Let us Christians be thankful to Jesus for being with us.

Let us show we are grateful for the salvation the LORD provides by regularly praising the LORD, regularly praying to the LORD, regularly testifying of the LORD to others, regularly mentioning that the LORD’s name is exalted, that He is far above everything and everyone else, for it is as Psalm 145:3 informs us: “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.”

It is known in all the earth that the LORD has done excellent things, for Romans 1:19-20 relates: “that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” Yes, even the people who believe in science falsely-so-called and the ridiculous theory of evolution know that the materials from which all things originated were put in place by a higher power. Indeed, if folks would be honest they must admit it’s as Psalm 19:1 states: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” Hence, we Christians will continue to testify that the LORD has done excellent things.

Observe that our text closes by instructing: *Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.* "Zion" here refers to spiritual Zion, the Holy Christian Church, "Jerusalem which is above... which is the mother of us all," as Galatians 4:26 puts it. Thus, each and every Christian is to show he or she is grateful to God for salvation by crying out and shouting to the LORD in prayers and hymns of praise.

Fellow Christians, let us continue to glorify the Lord God personally and in public worship, thereby showing we are grateful to God for salvation. Let us never forget, "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not," as Lamentations 3:22 states.

Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins. Let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord. And, let us go forward never forgetting to be grateful to God for salvation. Amen.

m.e.l.