

## *ISAIAH 12 | Survivors' Salvation Song*

### *First Stanza: Individual Thanksgiving*

1 You (sing.) will say in that day:<sup>1</sup>

I (sing.) will give thanks to you, Yahweh, for though you were angry with me. Your anger turned away, that you might comfort (נָחַם) me (sing.).

2 Behold, God is my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה). I will trust and will not be afraid, for Yahweh is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה).<sup>2</sup>

### *Interlude: Wells of Yeshua*

3 With joy you (pl.) will draw water<sup>3</sup> from the wells<sup>4</sup> of Yeshua (יְשׁוּעָה).

### *Second Stanza: Corporate Proclamation*

4 And you (pl.) will say in that day:

Give thanks to Yahweh, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **Is 10:20** 20 In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. **Is 11:10-11** 10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. 11 In that day Yahweh will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people....

<sup>2</sup> **Ex 15:2** 2 Yahweh is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה). **Ps 118:14** 14 Yahweh is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה).

<sup>3</sup> **Jn 4:13-14** 13 Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I [Jesus, יְשׁוּעָה] will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. **Jn 7:37-38** 37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus [יְשׁוּעָה] stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

<sup>4</sup> **Is 7:3** 3 And Yahweh said to Isaiah, Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. **Is 8:6** 6 Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah....

<sup>5</sup> **Ps 105:1** 1 Give thanks to Yahweh! Call upon his name! Make known his deeds among the peoples! **Ps 145:4-6** 4 One generation will commend your works to another and will declare your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. 6 They will speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. **Ps 148:13** 13 Let them praise the name of Yahweh, for his name alone is exalted. His majesty is above earth and heaven.

5 Sing praises to Yahweh, for he has done gloriously.<sup>6</sup> Let this be made known in all the earth.<sup>7</sup> 6 Shout and sing for joy, inhabitant of Zion, for great in your (sing.; Israel) midst is the Holy One of Israel.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> **Ex 15:1** 1 Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to Yahweh saying, I will sing to Yahweh, for he has triumphed gloriously. The horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. **Ps 98:1** 1 Sing to Yahweh a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

<sup>7</sup> **Ps 46:5** 5 God is in the midst of her. She will not be moved. God will help her when morning dawns. **Hos 11:9** 9 I will not execute my burning anger. I will not again destroy Ephraim. For I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

<sup>8</sup> **Is 41:14-16** 14 Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares Yahweh. Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. ...16 You will rejoice in Yahweh. In the Holy One of Israel you will glory.

## Commentary

### 1. Introduction.

- a. The Book of Immanuel (Is 7-12) ends with this victory song, a fitting close. Next comes oracles of judgment against the nations that have oppressed Israel (Is 13-23).
- b. Is 12 is a two-stanza victory song that will be sung by the remnant in the Messianic kingdom. It will be the earthly counterpart to the heavenly song of Re 19:6-7.<sup>9</sup>
  - (1) **Re 19:6-7** 6 Then I [John] heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder crying out, Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.
  - (2) **Re 5:9-13** 9 And they sang a new song saying, Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth. 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! 13 And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, in the sea, and all that is in them saying, To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing, honor, glory, and might forever and ever!
  - (3) **Re 15:3-4** 3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb saying, Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! 4 Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
- c. Isaiah blends songs already written to create a new song.
  - (1) **Ex 15:1-2** 1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to Yahweh, saying, I will sing to Yahweh, for he has triumphed gloriously. The horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. 2 Yahweh is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation [Yeshua]. This is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.
  - (2) **Ps 118:14** 14 Yahweh is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.
  - (3) Commentator John N. Oswalt calls this "The Song of Trust."
  - (4) "The truths are made the more powerful because they are put in the lyrical language of worship rather than in mere discursive prose. In this way, the hearer and the reader are no longer spectators or objects of instruction. Now they are participants involved on the emotional and volitional levels as well as the cognitive one."<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> W. E. Vine, *Isaiah*, 51.

<sup>10</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 291-292.

## 2. First Stanza: Individual Thanksgiving (Is 12:1-2).

- a. **Is 12:1-2** 1 You (sing.) will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, Yahweh, for though you were angry with me. Your anger turned away, that you might comfort (נחם) me. 2 Behold, God is my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה). I will trust (בטח) and will not be afraid, for Yah Yahweh (יְהוָה יְהוָה) is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה).
- b. In vv. 1-2, the pronouns are all singular, picturing an individual member of the remnant giving thanks to Yahweh for his individual salvation.
- c. “In that day” refers to the Messianic age.
  - (1) **Is 10:20** 20 In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.
  - (2) **Is 11:10-11** 10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. 11 In that day Yahweh will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people....
  - (3) “Here, the frequently repeated phrase *in that day* takes on a diametrically opposite tone from the one found in such places as 2:20; 3:18; 4:1; 7:18, 20, 21, 23. There the coming day was one to be dreaded, but here, as in 4:2; 10:20; and 11:10, it is a day to be hoped for.”<sup>11</sup>
- d. Propitiation is the soothing of Yahweh’s just anger through substitutionary sacrifice. Propitiatory atonement is necessary for God to turn from anger to comfort. The basic problem facing every sinner is the just anger of the holy God. God’s comfort may come only after sin has been atoned for.
  - (1) **Is 1:18-19** 18 Come now, let us reason together, says Yahweh. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land....
  - (2) **Is 6:3-7** 3 And one [seraph] called to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh of hosts. The whole earth is full of his glory! ...5 And I said: Woe is me! For I am lost. For I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts! 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: Behold, this has touched your lips. Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.
  - (3) **Is 53:10-12** 10 Yet it was the desire of Yahweh to crush [Messiah]. He has put him to grief. When his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his seed. He shall prolong his days. The desire of Yahweh shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied. By his knowledge shall the Righteous one, my Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death

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<sup>11</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1–39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 292.

and was numbered with the transgressors. Yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

- (4) **Ge 8:20-21** 20 [After the flood] Noah built an altar to Yahweh, took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when Yahweh smelled the pleasing aroma, Yahweh said in his heart, I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.
  - (5) **Hos 11:9** 9 I will not execute my burning anger. I will not again destroy Ephraim. For I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.
  - (6) **Le 17:11** 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.
  - (7) **He 9:22** 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
- e. Yahweh will comfort individual Jewish believers. Comfort may be the theme of Isaiah.
- (1) **Is 40:1-2** 1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from Yahweh's hand double for all her sins.
  - (2) **Ps 23:4** 4 Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
  - (3) **2 Co 1:3-4** 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Messiah, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
  - (4) "I will trust and not fear" is what Isaiah was attempting to get Ahaz to say in 7:2-9.<sup>12</sup>
- f. The word "salvation," used three times, is the name "Yeshua." God doesn't just save; he is salvation.
- (1) **Mt 1:21** 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Yeshua, for he will save his people from their sins.
  - (2) **Lk 19:9-10** 9 Jesus said to him, Today Yeshua has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
  - (3) Every time you see the word "salvation" in the OT, substitute the name "Yeshua" or "Jesus" and the ultimate sense becomes clear.
  - (4) "...[S]ong is the natural expression of the spirit which is free, and no spirit is so free as that one which has discovered that its destiny is not dependent upon its striving but rather upon the infinite power of the Almighty...."<sup>13</sup>

### 3. Interlude: Wells of Yeshua (Is 12:3).

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<sup>12</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 293.

<sup>13</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 294.

- a. **Is 12:3** 3 With joy you (pl.) will draw water from the wells of salvation (יְשׁוּעָה).
- b. In the Messianic age, Israel will draw water from Yeshua with joy.
  - (1) **Is 7:3** 3 And Yahweh said to Isaiah, Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field.
  - (2) **Is 8:6** 6 Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently....
  - (3) **Is 9:3** 3 You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
  - (4) **Ps 46:4** 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
  - (5) **Ps 116:13** 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of Yahweh.
  - (6) **Je 2:13** 13 My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.
  - (7) **Jn 4:13-14** 13 Jesus said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.
  - (8) **Jn 7:37-38** 37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.
  - (9) **Php 4:4** 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice.
  - (10) See *Water*.

#### 4. Second Stanza: Corporate Proclamation (Is 12:4-6).

- a. **Is 12:4-6** 4 And you (pl.) will say in that day: Give thanks to Yahweh, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. 5 Sing praises to Yahweh, for he has done gloriously. Let this be made known in all the earth. 6 Shout and sing for joy, inhabitant of Zion, for great in your (sing.) midst is the Holy One of Israel.
- b. In the Messianic age, Israel will make Yahweh's deeds known in all the earth (vv. 4-5).
  - (1) **Ps 105:1** 1 Give thanks to Yahweh! Call upon his name! Make known his deeds among the peoples!
  - (2) **Ps 145:4-6** 4 One generation will commend your works to another and will declare your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. 6 They will speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.
  - (3) "Far from trusting in the nations for her own salvation, Israel is intended to be the vehicle whereby the nations can come to God."<sup>14</sup>
  - (4) In gratitude, we go. As recipients of God's Yeshua, we don't remain silent. The world must know who God is.
- c. Yahweh will be seen to have done gloriously (v. 5).
- d. The Holy One is great in the midst of Israel (v. 6).

<sup>14</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 294.

- (1) **Is 57:15** 15 For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.
- (2) **Ps 46:5** 5 God is in the midst of [Israel]. She will not be moved. God will help her when morning dawns.
- (3) **Ro 11:36** 36 From him, through him, and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
- (4) “Live near to God, and so all things will appear to you little in comparison with eternal realities.”<sup>15</sup>
- (5) See *God’s Holiness*.

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<sup>15</sup> Robert Murray McCheyne.