Isaiah 12:1-2 In that day you will say: “I will praise you, O Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

If you know anything about the book of Isaiah, you would know then that this chapter is an “interlude” chapter, that is, it is the Holy Spirit moving Isaiah to take a break from the sharpness and horror of the law that he was to proclaim. Did you get that? Isaiah was a preacher of the law. Read the book and see how judgments are proclaimed, sin is condemned and the call to repentance is found throughout. And not just for the Jewish people. Isaiah is lead to even make God’s pronouncements upon the nations all around his people.

What was the problem? Well, the problem was unbelief. The Jewish people by this time have swallowed wholeheartedly their belief in their own work righteousness. That they were so good, so holy, so wonderful that God had no choice but to bless them. Only they weren’t righteous. They weren’t good and holy and so wonderful. Even the very first commandment, “You shall have no other gods” was something that they had long ago abandoned. The nation is divided into Northern and Southern kingdoms. The North by this time has completely thrown out the truth of God and actually had two religious centers where golden calves had been set up to worship. The South was not much better only they hadn’t set up golden calves. In truth their idol of worship was themselves. The belief in their own personal goodness before God.

If you understand this history of the book of Isaiah then you will understand the wonderful and sweet message that chapter 12 is. Before us is the whole chapter, yep, just six verses but my, oh my, what those verses can teach. Our theme will be: **SURELY GOD IS MY SALVATION. 1st. In that day. 2nd. The Savior has come. 3rd. Great is the Holy One.**

Clearly as you look at these verses you get a sense of the joy and marvel that they proclaim. From the very outset you find such words as: Praise, comfort, joy, thanks, exalt and again joy. Those are not shallows words but words designed to lead the people to focus on the Lord their God and his promises. Remember these were a people who tended to focus on works and their own righteousness for salvation and here is the Lord himself letting them know they need to direct their souls to Him.

How does it all start? The opening verse and verse 4 direct us to the key to properly understanding the context of these words. Remember these are words of praise, comfort, joy, thanks and exaltation. But why and how? We hear, **“In that day you will say.”**

What wonderful words these are. They tell us just what God is referring to. Without any doubt these words whenever they occur in Scripture are a reference to the wonderful promises that God has proclaimed about his promised Savior. **“In that day”** is a phrase that speaks of what the Messiah will bring and accomplish. It shouldn’t be understood as referring to just one day, although it could, but rather it is a phrase that speaks of the entire period of the Messiah’s work. **“That day”** is so awesome because of what the Messiah, the Christ will come and accomplish. He will do the work of the Lord. He will reveal the wonder of God’s goodness and grace!

And isn’t that phrase fulfilled in the New Testament? We have the privilege of standing in the future and looking back at what God has done. We have the perspective of being able to see, contemplate and hear the wonder of the message of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We have heard the message of good news at the birth of Jesus. We have marveled at his power displayed in miracles and wonders before the people. We have heard the message of Jesus, the promise of forgiveness and eternal life, not in us but rather in and through Him. We have been able to watch in horror as this perfect man, this Holy Jesus is put to death like a common criminal though he had done no wrong. But most important we have been able to be filled with awe and wonder as on the third day we heard the cry, **“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.”** In other words, the joy of the people, the comfort, peace, praise, thanks and exaltation is found in Jesus.

Now do you remember when I said that this phrase is about the whole New Testament message but that it could be about just one day? Let me tell you why I state that. Please note that verse one starts this way, **“In that day you will say.”** I want you to know that the “you” is singular, actually masculine singular. These words are pointing to one individual and what that one person will say. And then note how the singular pronoun “I” is used!

**“I will praise you, O Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”**

I want to tell you that there are a number of commentators on this verse that will tell you that this person speaking is nothing more that the nation of Israel speaking as a unit. I reject that idea. I will simply tell you that these words belong to Jesus. To our God and Lord and what he will accomplish.

What does Jesus prophetically say? He gives absolute praise to God. Why? Look at his words. **“Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.”** Don’t these words fit Jesus on the day of his resurrection? It is true, that as Jesus was crucified he endured the wrath and anger of God for the sins of the world…thus the “**You were angry with me.”** But it is equally true that God’s anger against sin was finally and completely expended on Jesus. And when it ended, what happened? Jesus rose. Jesus was restored to life, restored to his exalted position as God’s Son who sits at the right hand of the Father. Jesus was comforted by the fact that everything the Father had said and promised was now true. Sin has been paid for and Jesus, not just for his comfort, but for the comfort of the whole world, was raised from the dead and exalted in the highest heavens.

And really, doesn’t Jesus figuratively proclaim through his Apostles and the evangelists who wrote his New Testament the message of the next words! He does. And we know the truth of these words! We know the impact of Jesus as our Savior, as the atoning sacrifice for all the world. And it is clear that Jesus in his very resurrection proclaims to us, **“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and song; he has become my salvation.”**

How true it is for us and how true it was for Jesus that the Lord is our strength and song, the Lord has become our salvation. For Jesus these words simple tell the people of Isaiah’s time that he would accomplish his work. He would atone for sins and he would make it so that every soul could have and know this wonderful gift He would win. For us, these words are the very heart and core of our faith. God has forgiven my sin. God does this in and through Jesus. I don’t have to doubt, I don’t have to be afraid but rather I can absolutely trust this promise to be true. God, the Lord Jesus is my salvation. This is so sure for us because it all depends on Jesus and not on us. God has done it all. God has won it all in Jesus. I plead with you to grasp the wonder of this prophecy and what Jesus will do and accomplish.

And now verse three states, **“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”** If you don’t immediately think of how Jesus talked about “living water” and how that water throughout the New Testament is clearly the source of our salvation then you didn’t listen to what I said earlier. These words simply proclaim all the more clearly that Jesus, the Water of Life, is the heart and core of eternal life. And there is more.

In verse 4 we again hear: **“In that day you will say.”** Please note that now the “you” is masculine plural. In other words, now this is the people speaking, speaking because salvation has been won. And what do the people now know in the Savior!

The people say, **“Give thanks to the Lord…Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things…Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion...”** That is what is found in every Christian heart. Full thanks to God for the wonderful gift he has given. That thanks is expanded to be singing and shouting for what God has done. And what has God done for us in Jesus? Glorious things. Eternal things. Salvation things that declare our redemption. No wonder the people will give thanks to God, it is just a part of our life because of Jesus and what He has done!

**“Call on his name…proclaim that his name is exalted…for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”** Do you understand that that’s what we are doing here at worship? The whole point of worship is to focus on the Lord God and his gracious gift in Jesus. We call on his name. We exalt Him and glorify Him. Who? The Holy One of Israel. That phrase is only and always about the Messiah, about Jesus, the Son of God. Worship and praise, glory and honor is what our Savior deserves.

**“Make known among the nations what he has done…let this be known to all the world.”** There is our job ever since Jesus rose, ascended and sent the Holy Spirit. We are to proclaim him, to preach and teach the wonder of our Savior to the world. God tells us that it is the Gospel in Word and sacrament that will change hearts and minds, that will bring the Holy Spirit and the gift of faith in Jesus. Let our message be of Jesus. Not about Jesus and what he shows us. Not how we are to live and act in the name of Jesus. But about Jesus the savior from sin. How Jesus died for us to pay for sin. How in Jesus sin is atoned for and only through Jesus can we know the sureness of salvation! Jesus is God and Lord. Jesus, his cross, his resurrection, and His victory for us is what the world needs to know, what we need to know.

I always feel bad for the many people who day after day only hear a message of who they should be, what they should do, how they must love, how they need to chase God’s blessings and on and on. There is no hope, no sure hope in what we do and accomplish. If works could save, then what was the point of Jesus? His point is that He saves. He won the victory. He forgives your sins and grants eternal life and salvation. When you truly grasp that then you will know the truth behind, **“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.”** God grant you such a faith in Jesus. Amen.