

General Comments on Isaiah 12

Note: this chapter appears in 2 Nephi 22.

This chapter is a song of salvation sung by Israel after their delivery from the Assyrian hordes and the remnants are gathered from all nations.

KJV Isaiah 12

1 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 comfortedest me. 2 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. 3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

4 And 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. 5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this [is] known in all the earth. 6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great [is] the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

JPS Isaiah 12

In that day, you shall say:
"I give thanks to You, O LORD!
Although You were wroth with me,
Your wrath has turned back and You comfort me,
²Behold the God who gives me triumph!
I am confident, unafraid;
For Yah the LORD is my strength and might,
And He has been my deliverance."

³Joyfully shall you draw water
From the fountains of triumph,
⁴And you shall say on that day:
"Praise the LORD, proclaim His name.
Make His deeds known among the peoples;
Declare that His name is exalted.
⁵Hymn the LORD,
For He has done gloriously;
Let this be made known
In all the world!
⁶Oh, shout for joy,
You who dwell in Zion!
For great in your midst
Is the Holy One of Israel."

Specific Comments on Isaiah 12

1 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 comfortedest me. 2 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. 3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

v1-3 Israel rejoices because the Lord is no longer angry with her, and is now comforting her (v. 1). The Lord is once again Israel's strength and salvation (v. 2), no longer her chastisement. Israel now drinks from the wells of salvation (v. 3), and not the bitter cup.

v1 Although the Lord has been angry with Israel, his wrath has relinquished. This follows the theme of the "Yet His anger has not turned back,/And His arm is outstretched still" repeated from chapters 5 to 10 and we are told will cease in 10:25. It has ceased with the establishment of Zion and the remnant praises the Lord for bringing about this great work, cp. 62:8-12.

v3 Contrast this statement with the one in 8:5-8 where Ahaz rejects the gently flowing waters of the Siloam. Also compare 55:1-2, and the John 4 usage of "living water", John 7:38-39, and Rev. 21:6. Drinking from the wells of salvation is the opposite case of drinking from the bitter cup, cf. 51:17-23.

4 And 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. 5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this [is] known in all the earth. 6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great [is] the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

v4-6 Israel praises the Lord's name in front of all nations (v. 1-2), becoming the servant she was intended to be (cp. 41:8-9, 44:1-4, 49:3-6). Zion will shout for joy because the Lord is with her (v. 3).

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