

Isaiah 12:1-6

Every phase of life from **childhood** to the **senior** years, is a part of God's creative work, and every phase brings with it its own unique **challenges** and **characteristics**. We have the tendency to look around at the world in which we live, and to think that everything is so **different** from the way it was in the **past**. Perhaps in particular, we might look at the fields of communication, transportation, and medicine, and we would be able to see **advances** which our **parents** and **grandparents** could never have **dreamed** of seeing. But while these advances are **different** from the past, we still need to recognize that there have **always** been **innovations** in **these** fields, as well as in all the **others**. King Solomon said it very well in the Book of Ecclesiastes, "*What **has** been will be **again**, what has been **done** will be **done** again; there is **nothing new** under the sun.*"

Of course one area where that **sameness** is a real advantage for **us** and for everyone **else**, is the fact that we all have the same unchanging **Savior**, and His unchanging **love**. And that brings us to our text for today from Isaiah 12. The verses we have before us make up one of the many **songs** of Isaiah. But it's not just **Isaiah's** song, it's a song which belongs to **every believer** in Jesus. It's the Holy Christian **Church's** song, and God encourages each one of us to **Sing The Song Of Redemption**.

What was Isaiah **thinking** about when he wrote these words, "*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'*"? Isaiah wrote these words some 700 years before the birth of Jesus, and he wrote them to the people of the Northern Kingdom of **Israel**. As descendants of Abraham, God had given them the promise of a **Savior**. And to **protect** that promise, He had called them to live their lives **separately** and **differently** from all other nations - something which they had **failed** to do. Unfortunately, the people of the Northern Kingdom got mixed up in **greedy** business schemes, the worship of **false gods**, and a dog-eat-dog **lifestyle**, just like their **heathen** neighbors. God was **not** pleased, so in His **anger**, He announced that their **destruction** was on the way. God was going to use the powerful heathen nation of **Assyria**, to **invade** their land, and to **carry off** His own people into **exile**. Not much of a reason for **singing**.

But that was not the **only** prophecy which God shared with them. Through His prophet Isaiah, God also announced that a **portion** of the people would **repent** of their sins, and God would **deliver** them from the hand of their enemies, and would **return** them to the Promised Land. Although the size of that portion would

be **very small**, once again they would enjoy God's comforting **love**, and in **that** day, Isaiah said, a song of **praise** would again be **heard** from God's people. *"I will praise you, O Lord ... Your anger has **turned away** and you have **comforted** me."*

But there is **more** to Isaiah's prophecy than just the events which took place in **Old Testament** times. He also foretold a **far-range** deliverance - a much **greater** deliverance. Isaiah spoke about that time in the **future**, when God would send the **Savior** who would deliver **us** from God's **anger** over **sin** - a time when **we** would rejoice with a song of praise.

You probably realize that there are many people in our world **today** who refuse to believe that **God** can even **get angry**. They only see Him as a god of **love**. Have they even **read** their Bibles? What do they do with passages like, *"The LORD is a **consuming** fire,"* or *"**Cursed** is everyone who does not **continue** to do **everything** written in the Book of the Law,"* or *"I, the LORD your God, am a **jealous** God, **punishing** the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me."* The **truth** is that God **does** get angry, and He has every **right** to get angry - especially considering how **poorly** we treat Him.

But, how **happy** we can be, knowing that Isaiah's prophecy is also for **us**, *"Although you were **angry** with me, your anger has **turned away** and you have **comforted** me."* God **does** get angry because of our **sins**, but He also **turns aside** His anger, and showers His **goodness** on us - sending us **sunshine** and **rain** to cause the earth to produce food to **sustain** us, and **flowers** for us to **enjoy** - giving us our **bodies** and **minds**, our **talents** and **abilities**, our **families** and **friends** - and most important of all, **forgiveness** for our sins, **life**, and **salvation**. God turned His anger away from **us**, and placed it entirely on His **Son**, Jesus. Isaiah writes about that too, in the 53rd chapter of his book, *"**He** was pierced for **our** transgressions, **he** was crushed for **our** iniquities. The punishment that brought us **peace** was upon **him** and by **his** wounds **we** are healed."*

Sing The Song Of Redemption. God has **comforted** us with the Good News that He has **forgiven** our sins. Jesus has **redeemed** us with His blood, and **delivered** us from the heavenly Father's **anger**. He has brought us safely into His **merciful** arms. Even though we will still face our share of **hard knocks** in this earthly life, we have the **comfort** of God's **promise** that He's on our **side**, and He's working all things out for our **good**. Even when God **disciplines** us, and lets us **feel** what His anger would be **like**, it's only for a **short** time, and it's meant to produce a harvest of **good** - a **strengthening** of our faith.

So, since we have been **redeemed**, we can **sing** that **Song Of Redemption**, *“Surely God is my **salvation**. I will **trust** in him and **not** be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my **strength** and my **song**; he has become my **salvation**.”* Isaiah sang this song, and it is **our** song too - a song which is meant to be sung **personally**, by **every generation** of believers.

That song is also a song of **joy**. Isaiah goes on to say, *“With **joy** you will **draw water** from the wells of salvation.”* A well in Bible times was a place which was visited **every day**, because **water** is one of the **essentials** of life. The people would come and fill their clay jars with **water** for **drinking, cooking, and washing**; and they were **happy** that they **had** a convenient and bountiful **source** of water at their disposal. And wouldn't you know it, God has provided **us** with a convenient and bountiful source of **water** too - **spiritual** water - the water of **God's Word**. How joyful **we** can be to have this water of life at **our** disposal. We can come to God's Word **every day**, and fill **these** clay jars with God's **comfort, strength, love, and forgiveness**.

This is a **joy** that we can't keep **bottled up**. It has to **flow out** of us in a river of **enthusiasm**. God's great love for us moves us to **share** His love with one another. As Isaiah said, *“**Make known** among the nations what **he** has done, and **proclaim** that his name is **exalted**. **Sing** to the Lord, for **he** has done **glorious things**; let this be **known** to all the world.”*

This is our **song** - **The Song Of Redemption**. Jesus' name is above **every** name, because He is the **Savior** who has bought us **back**. He is the **Savior** who has risen to His heavenly **throne**, and who will come **again** to gather His redeemed people **home** to heaven.

In every generation let us **Sing The Song Of Redemption**. It's the song of **everything** Jesus has done for us - coming here to the earth to be our **Savior** - living a **perfect life** to keep the requirements of God's Law - offering that life as a **sacrifice** to pay for the sins of the world - and **rising** from the dead to **assure** us that the price which God demanded, has been paid-in-full. Jesus **bought us back** from the **slavery** of sin, death, and the devil, so we can be **free** to live our lives for **Him**. May we continue to **appreciate** the price which Jesus paid for us, and may we continue to **proclaim** His **name**, and what He has **done**. Amen.