

¹ And in that day you will say: “O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. ² Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’”

³ Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And in that day you will say: “Praise the LORD, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. ⁶ Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!”

Text: Isaiah 12 A 5-3-26 James 1:16-18, 21 John 16:5-15 Psalm 67 Responsive Psalm: 40
Hymns: 193, 744, 198, 15

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS SALVATION AND HELP

1. For you

2. For everyone

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

1

Twice in our text we’re told, “*In that day....*” What day? From the chapter before our text we learn that “*that day*” refers to when Messiah would come. Our text is from the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Isaiah was telling the people to look forward to the time when Jesus would come. So as you hear these wonderful words, keep in mind that they’re talking about what God does for us in Jesus.

God is called, “*YAH, the LORD.*” “*Yah*” is a shortened form of “*Jehovah.*” “*YAH, the LORD*” is literally, “*the LORD, the LORD.*” Several times in our text God is referred to as “*the LORD*”: “*Jehovah.*” The idea from the original is that God is the living God who saves us.

We’re told, “*Behold*”: Pay attention. “*God is my salvation. ... He has done excellent things.*” The most excellent thing God has done is save us. Moses and the children of Israel praised God for delivering them from the Egyptians at the Red Sea (Ex. 15). The words of our text were a great cause for rejoicing whenever God’s Old Testament people were being oppressed by their enemies. God’s earthly deliverances were a blessing throughout the Old Testament era. But God was especially urging His people to look for deliverance in the coming Messiah, and God’s spiritual and eternal blessings in Him.

We’re certainly grateful for all of God’s earthly blessings, and all the times He delivers us when we have problems. Our greatest reason for thanking and praising God is our salvation in Jesus. Our salvation in Jesus is our great certainty throughout life, and in death.

We’re told, “*Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away.*” There were many times when God was angry with the Old Testament Jewish nation because so many of them were continuing in rebellious unrepentance and unbelief. But all who repented of their sins, God forgave.

Martin Luther rightly said that if it weren't for Jesus, we would only know God's anger. We are sinners. We sin every day. God is holy. God hates sin. We deserve "temporal and eternal punishment," as we confess in our liturgy. We deserve God's judgment – we deserve God's earthly punishment, and we deserve God's eternal punishment in hell. But for Jesus' sake, God turns His anger away from us. Jesus took the punishment we deserve when He died for our sins on the cross. *"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ... He"* (the Father) *"shall see the labor of His"* (of Jesus) *"soul, and be satisfied."* (Is. 53:5, 11)

We're told, *"You comfort me."* God gave His Old Testament people comfort when He rescued them from slavery in Egypt, when He allowed them to come home after the Babylonian Captivity, and at many other times. Through good times and bad, their real, lasting comfort was in the coming Messiah and His eternal salvation.

"[God's] anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning" – Psalm 30:5. Paul, who suffered very much himself, tells us, *"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God"* (Ac. 14:22). God doesn't keep all bad things from happening to us. We live in a sinful world, and sometimes bad things happen. God sees us through the bad times, and comforts us and strengthens our faith. Our real, lasting comfort is in Jesus. When we're sorry for our sins, Jesus forgives us. *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"* (Ps. 46:1). In many places the Bible calls Jesus our "Rock." Peter says, *"The God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, [will] perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."* (1 Pet. 5:10)

We're told, *"God ... is my strength."* There are things in life that we can't handle on our own. The Lord told Paul, *"My grace is (enough) for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"* (2 Cor. 12:9a). Paul responded, *"Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me"* (2 Cor. 12:9b). The eleventh chapter of Hebrews talks about many heroes of faith. We're told, *"Out of weakness [they] were made strong."* As children we were taught to sing, "We are weak, but He is strong." When we realize our own weakness and rely on the Lord for strength, He makes us strong. *"Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint"* – Isaiah 40:31.

We're told, God *"is my ... song."* Singing a favorite hymn, feeling joyful over some special blessing in our life, we loudly sing our thanks and praise to God. That's good. As the farmer viewed his crop ruined by hail he nevertheless sang, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." The introduction to Psalm thirty-four reads: *"A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed."* The Holy Spirit inspired David to write this Psalm before David became king. Saul was the king at the time, and he was chasing David all around, trying to have him killed. Back then many believed that a crazy person was 'touched by the gods,' and they left him alone. David fled from King Saul into Philistia. Abimelech, the Philistine ruler of the area where David had fled, found out that David was the one who killed the Philistine

champion, Goliath. Abimelech was going to have David killed. But David pretended he was crazy, so Abimelech left him alone and chased him away. Things were really bad for David. It was at that time that David wrote: *“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together”* (Ps. 34:1-3). David encourages us to praise God also in the bad times, even when we’re not feeling happy. God teaches us to sing His praises in good times and in bad. We’re not happy about the bad times. But we know that the Lord is with us. We know that He is causing all things to work out for our good (Romans 8:28). This is how we can say, *“The LORD ... is my song.”*

We’re told, *“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”* Isaiah and the people of his day lived in semi-arid country. A well from which they could draw water was very important to them. We absolutely must have water to stay alive. We absolutely must have God’s Word to give us spiritual and eternal life. Keep coming to church to hear God’s Word. Keep studying your Bible. Your faith depends on it. Speaking of Himself and His Word Jesus says, *“Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”* (Jn. 4:14)

2

We’re told about the Lord, *“Call upon His name.”* When we hear the name of someone we know, we think of that person. We know about God from the Bible. Don’t keep God’s Word to yourself. Share it with others. Share the Bible’s message of salvation in Jesus. We know that Jesus died for us. We can tell others that Jesus died for them, too.

We’re told, *“Declare [God’s] deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted.”* Tell people about our mighty God who made everything. Talk to people about God’s great power and wisdom and love. Tell people that the God who made everything can help them with their problems and needs. Talk to them about God’s love evident in nature, and in sending us His Son. Tell them about their salvation in Jesus alone. Tell them that Jesus has a perfect, eternal home for His people in heaven.

We’re told, *“Sing to the LORD, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!”* Praise God for His salvation and help for you. Praise God for His salvation and help for everyone.

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator’s praise arise; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, through ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen. (TLH #15)