

**” Shout Aloud and Sing for Joy!”  
Isaiah 12: 1-6**

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(All Scripture Quoted from the NIV Bible)

**I. Historical Background and Biblical Context:**

This chapter is in direct correlation to the vision given to the Prophet at Isaiah 10:5-14, where prophecy of the punishment of the arrogant Assyrian king is foretold and must also be seen in light of He that comes forth from the stump of Jesse, Christ Jesus. Isaiah had prophesied of a time of deliverance for the nation from the threatened invasion of the Assyrians throughout chapter 10. In chapter 11 he foretells the times of the Messiah and describes the certainty of His coming, the character He would possess and consequences of His reign. Chapter 11 closes (Vs. 24-32) with a promise to the Lord’s people living in Zion, His remnant, the faithful and obedient few. In it the Prophet describes the utter destruction of Assyria and references the deliverance of the nation from the bondage and oppression of Egypt. That deliverance was celebrated with a song of praise and thanksgiving sang to the Lord by Moses and the Israelites after surviving the Red Sea crossing and witnessing the destruction of Pharaoh and his army (Exodus 15). Just as there was celebration following that deliverance, Isaiah’s prophecy in this chapter predicts that the deliverance, the salvation of God’s people will be celebrated in the same manner. This is a song of praise.

**II. The Lesson: “*Shout Aloud and Sing for Joy*”**

1. **vv. 1. “In that day you will say: I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.”**

Isaiah declares that in that day, in the time of their deliverance from the oppression of the Assyrians, the response from the remnant will be an offering of praise to the Most High God. ***This is the proper response for the saving graces of the Lord!*** Although Isaiah speaks of a communal praise, this also, by use of the wording “***you shall***” indicates a personal or individual expression of gratitude and praise. See here also the grace of the Lord admonished as if acknowledging that His punishment was justly

deserved. It speaks as if there is an admission of guilt for which one should be punished, but God's love and compassion for His people prevail and the resulting **Grace and Mercy** are imparted as a final outcome. Doesn't this sound familiar! As believers we first admitted our faults and our sin, and instead of being punished as we so rightly deserved, because of God's love for us and His mercy (anger turned away), we were given grace (comfort) through the sufferings of Christ Jesus.

Also, even though the people deserved God's discipline, they can now shout as experienced witnesses to the Lord's mercy with certainty that though He disciplines, His anger is only for a time and does not last. The Psalmist says it this way; "**For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning**" (Psalm 30:5).

2. **vv. 2. "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation."**

The first part of this second verse is an acknowledgement of both **"Who" and "What"** the Lord is to the one or ones that are in receipt of His saving graces. Here it is acknowledged without reservation, that it is the Lord who is truly the **author and source of salvation**. This remnant can now sing out as witnesses to His limitless power and love for those whom He has created. If their faith in His care and concern was ever in doubt, for them it is now without question. Knowing that the Lord is Himself the source of salvation, the One who has all power, the One who saves and our faith being sure in Him, there is no place for fear.

The second part of this verse is a repeat of the words sang by Moses and the Israelites following their deliverance from Egypt (Ex. 15). Calling out the name of the Lord twice in succession places special emphasis on the belief that all strength and protection are of God. Herein also, is the humbling revelation that humans have no real strength nor a true ability to protect themselves, but it is the Lord's strength, it is only in the Lord's protection we can truly rely upon. His is without fault or failure. With this in mind we can boast aloud of the absence of fear of any enemy that might come against us; for in Him we have true salvation, true freedom.

### 3. vv. 3. “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well “***Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life***” (John 4:13-14). Psalm 36:9 states that ***in the Lord is the fountain of life; in His light we see light*** (paraphrased). This water and fountain are crucial to our understanding the need we have of the Lord. As human beings there is nothing on earth that is more necessary to our survival than is water. The Lord is the fountain (source) and this water (Holy Spirit) contains all and everything we need to truly live righteous. As we drink of this living water we can begin to see with the same love, compassion and concern with which the Lord sees. Should we allow ourselves to become saturated with this living water we can then live according to the righteousness that the Lord desires of every believer, that brings about eternal life.

**“Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so!”**

### 4. vv. 4-5. “In that day you will say: “Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; 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.”

The first verses of this song of praise focuses on praising the Lord personally. This next section focuses on going outside of our personal spaces and praising Him publicly in such a way that the world might take notice and praise Him also. Here Isaiah basically says, in recognition of your deliverance, in recognition of having received your salvation from your calamity, ***GIVE GOD PRAISE EVERYONE EVERYWHERE, BECAUSE HE IS WORTHY TO BE CELEBRATED!*** This praise however is not simply a bit of lip service in privacy where no one hears you but God. This praise is to be an emboldened praise. A mighty praise. This praise is to be done so that all might see. This praise is done so that the world might know that the Lord, He is God and that He alone was and is capable of saving His people. This praise is to let the world know that God alone is to be glorified. Its to let all peoples of the world know of His greatness.

**Read aloud Psalm148:1-14**

**5. v. 6. “Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”**

In this final verse, Isaiah calls on Israel and Judah, the people of Zion, to fulfill their purpose. He implores that they, like a town crier of yesteryear, shout out with a loud and joyous cry about their God! Isaiah is saying, shout out about what your God has done for you. He is saying shout out about your God’s mercy; shout out about the grace your God has bestowed upon you; shout out about the grace your God has given. Isaiah is saying to these people and to us Shout Out about the GOODNESS AND THE GREATNESS OF THEIR GOD, OF OUR GOD!

**III. Conclusion:**

Just as Isaiah was letting the remnant of the people of know to be vocal witnesses regarding the great things God has done, is doing and will do; we too are called to inform the world of His greatness; to

**LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT HE IS A GOD!**