

Is. 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 comfortedst me.

This is a prophecy that tells us that Israel will be full of praise for the LORD God. They will recognize that His anger toward them was righteous, but that time of anger has been replaced by a time of comfort. According to Webster, the word *comfort* means to “make strong, invigorate, fortify...encourage, relieve, cheer.” I usually think of comfort as encouragement and giving help where needed, but this really gives more emphasis to strengthening, which to me is healing and making whole again.

Is. 12:2 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.

As I read this verse, it sounded like such a familiar refrain, and for good reason; its truth is repeated in so many areas of scripture.

Exodus 15:2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God,

2Samuel 22:3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour;

Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 56:11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Psalms 62:7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Psalms 118:14 The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

I believe this statement of praise will result from hearts showing great influence from the Word of God. I believe the time of tribulation leading up to the millennium will be a time of great spiritual awakening in the nation of Israel in particular, and the Word will once again become a precious possession to them.

Insights from the Hebrew:

“salvation” – deliverance, prosperity, health, safety, preservation

“trust” – for refuge, be confident, bold, secure

“strength” – in various applications (force, security, majesty, praise), boldness

“song” – the idea of making music with instruments and voice in praise

It almost always stretches my thinking when I look at the meanings given in the original language. Salvation is more than deliverance from, it's preservation to. *Trust* includes the idea of being bold because you are secure. *Strength* emphasizes the boldness and security of *trust* and adds the thought of strength in praise and majesty (because we are reflecting God in our lives). When our heart is focused on God's salvation and love for us, it will be reflected in and should be the focus of our music.

Is. 12:3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Is. 12:4 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.

Isaiah knows that the children of Israel will rejoice in all of God's care and provision for them as they experience restored fellowship with Him. They will be eager to praise the Lord, to communicate with Him, to tell others about Him and what He is doing in their lives, and to honor His name.

That should be the natural response of all of God's children now. How eager are we to give Him praise each day? How joyful are we for His deliverance and provision? Does it show in our lives? In our countenance? How eager are we to share our testimony, to tell others the difference God makes in our life? How often do we make light of His name rather than giving it the honor it so deserves? How often do we use statements like, "O my God," "Jesus," even an insincere "Praise the Lord," etc.

Is. 12:5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

Is. 12:6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Jesus will be ruling and reigning in Zion, Jerusalem. Everyone on planet earth will be aware of all the wonderful blessings resulting from His rule. The words for *cry out* and *shout* include doing so with great cheer and joy. The people of Israel will be encouraged to eagerly and joyfully give thanks to God and praise Him to others.

I can't help but make the comparison again. We don't have Jesus physically with us yet, but we do have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us as children of the King. Our joy and praise should be just as boldly and loudly proclaimed. We should be doing our best to make everyone on planet earth aware of all the blessings available through faith in Jesus.

Also, as I think of the people on earth during the time of Jesus' wonderful reign, I can't help but be totally amazed at the fact that Satan will be able to amass a great multitude to join him in rebellion when he is released at the end of those 1000 years.

Revelation 20:7-8 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the

earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.