

Title: **“BEHOLD, GOD IS MY SALVATION”**

Text: Isaiah 12:2

Date: Sunday Morning—October 10, 2004

Tape # Y-45a

Reading: *Exodus 12:1-21*

Introduction:

Last week, you will recall, I showed you that in the Word of God the word that is used more often in direct connection with the word “*salvation*” is the sweet, personal, possessive pronoun “*my*.” How I love the way our great, gracious, all-holy God teaches us to use this personal, possessive pronoun in connection with his great gift of grace. — “**MY SALVATION!**” I have been rolling those two words over in my heart like a sweet piece of candy all week. Today, I want to share the sweets with you. I am going to talk to you about my salvation. But, as I talk to you about my salvation, I hope you can enter into what I have to say. If you can, you will hear me talking about your salvation, and you will leave here today, singing with Habakkuk, “*I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation*” (Habakkuk 3:18).

I have told you many times that “salvation” is a very big word, an immensely broad term. It is the word used in the Bible to refer the deliverance, safety, preservation, healing, and soundness of our souls. Salvation is the great inclusive word of the gospel, gathering into itself all the redemptive purposes, acts and processes of God’s amazing, free, and sovereign grace in Christ. It includes,

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but is by no means limited to election, predestination, and providence, righteousness, redemption, and regeneration, justification, sanctification, and preservation, faith, forgiveness, and freedom, grace, goodness, and glory. And this salvation is mine! — “*I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation!*”

That fact has been on my heart all week long. For every chosen, redeemed sinner, there is a day appointed when the Lord God will make himself known, and cause him to sing with Moses, “*He is become my salvation!*” **This is what Moses taught the children of Israel** to sing, as they stood on the glory side of the Red Sea (x. 15:1-2).

(Exodus 15:1-2) “Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. (2) The LORD *is* my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he *is* my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father’s God, and I will exalt him.”

Turn with me to Isaiah 12, and let me talk to you about the most joyful fact imaginable.

(Isaiah 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.”

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- My salvation is God my Savior. — Not a Doctrine! — Not a Decision! — Not an Experience!
- It is my salvation because God gave it to me and wrought it in me. — “*Thou also hast wrought all our works in us*” (Isa. 26:12).
- It is my salvation because I receive it as my own by faith from his bounteous hand of grace.

(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 62:2) “He only *is* my rock and my salvation; *he is* my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.”

(Psalms 118:14) “The LORD *is* my strength and song, and is become my salvation.”

- **This is the song our God teaches his elect to sing in the day of his visitation.**

(Isaiah 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.”

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Yes, “*I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.*” Let’s stay right here in Isaiah 12. Read these six verses with me. Then I will try to lead you in the praise of our God, who has become our Salvation. May God who is our Salvation be our Teacher.

(Isaiah 12) “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. (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.”

There is a day that God has appointed for each of his elect, which will be for them the day of salvation. The prophet Isaiah here tells us what happens “*in that day.*”

AN ETERNAL WORK

I fully realize that the work of our Lord in redeeming and saving his people is an eternal work. There can be no

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question about that fact. Long before time began God, in his eternal counsel, purposed to have a people like Christ. This is the will of God. And he sovereignly works all things after the counsel of his own will (Rom. 8:28-29; 2 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 1:11).

(Romans 8:28-29) “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. (29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

(Ephesians 1:11) “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.”

(2 Timothy 1:9) “Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”

- His Covenant of Grace is called “*The Everlasting Covenant*” (Heb. 13:20).
- His Son is described as “*The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*” (Rev. 13:8).
- His People are called “*The Elect*,” chosen in Christ before the world began (Eph. 1:4-6).

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There is no getting around this fact: Salvation is God’s eternal work *“Known unto the Lord are all his works from the beginning.”* Our God declares the end from the beginning. All that he does in time by the power of his grace he did from eternity by the purpose of his grace in sovereign predestination.

Soon the Lord Jesus shall stand with one foot on the sea and one foot on the earth, and declare that *time shall be no longer and that the mystery of God is finished* (Rev. 10:6-7). Christ shall come. There shall be a new heaven and a new earth. In that great day the dead shall be raised and stand before God. All the elect shall be gathered unto God, holy, unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight. And all the wicked shall be cast into hell. *“This corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory”* (1 Cor. 15:54). And we shall reign forever with the Lord in everlasting glory (Rev. 21:1-7). In that day the purpose of God in eternal election shall be fulfilled (Rom. 8:29-31). Those whom he loved with and everlasting love in eternity past, he will *“in that day”* glorify. Salvation is God’s eternal work. It is a work of eternal, immutable, irresistible, sovereign grace.

LIFELONG WORK

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I also realize that the work of our Lord in redeeming and saving his elect is a lifelong work of grace.

- We have been saved. —Regeneration.
- We are being saved. —Preservation.
- And we shall be saved. —Resurrection Glory.
- And “*Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed*” (Rom. 13:11).
- The hand of God is upon his elect from the womb to the tomb (Jer. 1:5; Gal. 1:15).
- The Lord Jesus Christ is revealed in the heart of the chosen sinner, when it pleases God (Gal. 1:15).

Illustration: As God said to old Simeon, it can be said, with regard to all his elect, “*he shall not see death, before he has seen the Lord’s Christ*” (Luke 2:26). (See John 6:37-39, 44-45).

(John 6:37-39) “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (38) For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (39) And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”

(John 6:44-45) “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. (45) It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that

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hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”

- And once a sinner is born of God, called and saved by grace, it is by the power of God that we are kept in Christ (Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Jude 24-25).

(Philippians 1:6) “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:”

(1 Peter 1:3-5) “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

(Jude 1:24-25) “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, (25) To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.”

We have come to Christ. We are coming to Christ. And by the grace of God we shall come to Christ. God will see to it (Jer. 32:38-40).

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(Jeremiah 32:38-40) “And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: (39) And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: (40) And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.”

He will keep me ‘til the river
Rolls its waters at my feet;
Then He’ll bear me safely over,
Where my Savior I shall meet!

Though this glorious divine work of redemption, grace and salvation is an eternal work, though it is through the good providence of God a continual revelation of Christ, a continual coming to Christ, and a continual growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ there is a day of divine visitation, a day of salvation and grace, when the sovereign Redeemer is pleased to meet a sinner and reveal himself in salvation. Ezekiel calls it “*thy time*” and “*the time of love.*” Isaiah calls it “*that day.*”

Illustration: *The Adulterous Woman—John 4*

I am not talking about a twenty-four hour day! You do not need a calendar to mark the time of your conversion. You do not need to remember a time, or place, or day in which you first met the Lord. In fact, if you have to look

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back to a given event as the proof that you are saved, you are not saved.

Illustration: *My Birth Certificate*

But you can mark this down: There is a day of salvation. There is a time when the living God gives life, repentance and faith in Christ to his elect, by the power of his Spirit through the preaching of the gospel of his grace.

Proposition: There is a day appointed when God will meet every chosen, redeemed sinner in saving power and grace (Ezek. 16:6-8; Isa. 2:11; 10:20; 11:10-11; 12:1).

(Ezekiel 16:6-8) “And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live. (7) I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: *thy* breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou *wast* naked and bare. (8) Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time *was* the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.”

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Illustrations: *Abraham—Jacob—Moses—
Isaiah—Paul*

Look at the way Isaiah speaks about that day.

THAT DAY

Verse 1 — **“In that day”** — This chapter 12th chapter is Isaiah’s conclusion to the sermon that began in chapter 8. The whole sermon is a prophecy of the coming of Christ and the day of God’s salvation and grace. This day of salvation was **typified in the deliverance of Israel out of Egyptian bondage.** (11:16). The redemption of Israel out of Egypt was threefold.

- A Redemption by Promise — As God promised to bring Israel out of Egypt after 400 years of bondage, so God who cannot lie promised eternal life to his elect in Christ before the world began (Tit. 1:2).
- A Redemption by Price — The Blood of the Lamb.
- A Redemption by Power — *“His Mighty Wind”* (11:15-16; John 3:8).

In the day that God comes to a sinner in saving grace there will be a conversion of sinners by his almighty grace (11:6-9).

(Isaiah 11:6-9) “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little

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child shall lead them. (7) And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (8) And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. (9) They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

Conversion comes by the revelation of his Son (11:10; Zech. 12:10).

(Isaiah 11:10) “And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.”

(Zechariah 12:10) “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.”

When Christ is revealed God’s elect are gathered to him (11:11-12).

(Isaiah 11:11-12) “And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left,

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from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. (12) And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

This whole work is accomplished by the outpouring of his Spirit, — “his mighty Wind” (11:15).

(Isaiah 11:15-16) “And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make *men* go over dryshod. (16) And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.”

(John 3:8) “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

OUR CONFESSION

Verse 1 — “*And in that day thou shalt say, **O LORD, I will praise thee.** — Because God is my salvation, I will praise him. The first thing we learn from this chapter is the fact that **when the Lord God visits his elect with***

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saving grace, they praise him with joyful hearts and praise him alone. No flesh will ever glory in his presence. Those who know the Lord, those who are visited by the Lord, glory in the Lord (Isa. 2:11; Ps. 115:1; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Phil. 3:3).

(Philippians 3:3) “For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

(Isaiah 2:11) “The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.”

(Psalms 115:1) “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, *and* for thy truth’s sake.”

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31) “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called:* (27) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (28) And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea,* and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: (29) That no flesh should glory in his presence. (30) But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (31)

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That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

The word for “praise” here is “confess.” It means “to worship, wringing the hands in thankful praise.” That is what it is to “*call upon the name of the Lord*” confessing Christ. When God comes to his elect in saving power and grace, the sinner he saves confesses Christ (Rom. 10:9-13).

(Romans 10:9-13) “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (11) For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (12) For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. (13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

- It is a confession of heart faith.
- It is a vocal confession.
- It is our baptismal confession.

And this is the confession we make to God our Savior, for the praise of the glory of his grace.

GOD’S ANGER

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Verse 1 — “**Though thou was angry with me**” — Have you ever known the wrath of God upon you? When he comes in saving grace the first thing he does is to reveal his wrath against sin. Paul said, “*We had the sentence of death in ourselves that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead*” (2 Cor. 1:9). Have you ever been there? Do you know what it is to be lost, condemned before God, under such a sense of God’s just anger that you were sure you would soon be in hell itself? Until you are lost you will never be saved (Rom. 7:9-10).

(Romans 7:9-10) “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. (10) And the commandment, which *was ordained* to life, I found *to be* unto death.”

ANGER TURNED AWAY

Verse 1 — “**Thine anger is turned away!**” — It was turned away by the precious blood of Christ, when he reconciled us to God at Calvary (2 Cor. 5:18-20). And turned away from my screaming, condemning conscience by the gracious application of the Savior’s blood to my heart (Heb. 9:12-14). Do you remember what he said in Isaiah 27:4? — “*Fury is not in me!*” When I looked away to Christ, God the Holy Spirit sprinkled my heart and purged my conscience from guilt.

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It’s screaming voice was silenced by that word from my God. — “*Fury is not in me!*” Christ took it away!

MY COMFORT

Verse 1 — “**And thou comfortest me!**” (Isa. 40:1-2). How does God comfort me? **He comforts me through the preaching of the gospel by the power of his Spirit by which the love of God is shed abroad in my heart** (Rom. 5:1-5).

(Romans 5:1-5) “Therefore being justified, by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (3) And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; (4) And patience, experience; and experience, hope: (5) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

He comforts me with the forgiveness of sin is proclaimed in my soul (1 John 1:9), the gift of grace and salvation brought to light and made known by Christ (2 Tim. 1:9-10), and by the sweet assurance of acceptance with and access to him as my Father granted to my conscience (Heb. 10:15-23). God is my Salvation. And he is my Comforter.

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(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 comfortedst me.”

(Hebrews 10:15-23) “*Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, (16) This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; (17) And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (18) Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin. (19) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, (20) By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (21) And *having* an high priest over the house of God; (22) Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (23) Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering (for he *is* faithful that promised).”

Read verse 2...

Verse 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.”

“Behold, God is my salvation.” — The Lord Jesus Christ, the great Savior spoken of throughout these

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chapters is that God who is my Salvation. He is “*the great God and our Savior.*” Because he is God he is fit to be my Savior. He is the Savior...

- appointed by the Father,
- provided in covenant,
- promised in the Word,
- and sent in the fulness of time.

“Behold, God is my salvation.” — That is my comfort! Do not fail to observe the word with which verse 2 begins — “*Behold!*” It is a declaration of wonder, admiration and confidence, pointing to Christ alone as the One to whom I look for salvation.

Because **“God is my salvation, I will trust, and not be afraid.”** — Being confident of this fact and enjoying it, I look upon myself as one perfectly, absolutely and forever safe and secure from all wrath and condemnation and from every enemy. Therefore, “*I will not be afraid*” of sin, Satan, the world, death, hell, and wrath to come. Read on. — “*For the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.*”

- The Lord Jehovah is my Strength. — In Temptation — In Weakness — In Life — In Death!
- The Lord Jehovah is my Song.
- The Lord Jehovah is my Salvation.

Now, look at verse 3...

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WELLS OF SALVATION

Verse 3 — *“Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.”*

Christ is the Fountain of Living Water (Jer. 2:13). The wells of salvation from whence this Living Water is drawn is the Book of God. Drawing from Christ the Water of Life, I am both full and overflowing - (John 7:37-39).

(John 7:37-39) *“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”*

- We draw the water of refreshment to our souls.
- We draw the water of mercy and grace to help in every time of need.
- We draw the water by faith and prayer.
- We draw the water with joy!

Read verse 4...

HIS PRAISE

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Verse 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.”*

Because God is my salvation, because his anger is turned away, because he is my comfort, because he is my strength, because I draw water out of the wells of salvation, I say to my own soul and to you who know my God to...

- *“Praise the LORD.”*
- *“Call upon his name.”* — Worship him.
- *“Declare his doings among the people”* (Ps. 40:9-10).

(Psalms 40:9-10) **“I have preached righteousness** in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. (10) I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; **I have declared thy faithfulness** and **thy salvation**: I have not concealed **thy lovingkindness** and **thy truth** from the great congregation.”

Now, let's read the last two verses of this blessed chapter.

SING

(Isaiah 12:5-6) *“Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. (6) Cry*

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

“Sing unto the LORD!” — Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs unto the Lord, and make him the subject of all your songs. Sing about how great and good he is. Sing about what he is in himself, what he is to you, and what he has done.

“For he hath done excellent things.” — He has wrought out an excellent salvation, complete and everlasting salvation for our souls! It is excellent because it glorifies and honors him in all his perfections. It is excellent because it brings eternal glory and happiness to his people. He has brought in an excellent righteousness, the very righteousness of God, perfect, pure, spotless, and infinitely meritorious! He has offered up an excellent sacrifice, a sacrifice of infinite worth and efficacy, to atone for our sins and take them away. He has obtained an excellent victory over all his enemies and ours: sin, Satan, the world, death, hell, and the grave. And he has made us more than conquerors in his conquests (Ex. 15:1-2).

(Exodus 15:1-2) “Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. (2) The LORD *is* my strength and song, and he is become

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my salvation: he *is* my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father’s God, and I will exalt him.”

“Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion!” — Let all who are born and brought up in freedom in Zion sing the high praises of God.

“For great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee!” — Christ our God, the Holy One of Israel, is great and *“he shall be great.”* — “How great thou art!”

- Great in His Person!
- Great in His Purpose!
- Great in His Power!
- Great in His Propitiation!
- Great in His Providence!
- Great in His Pardon!
- Great in His Provision!
- Great in His Protection!
- Great in His Preservation!

“THE AUCTION IS CLOSED”

An art collector had in his collection works by some of the greatest painters of the world — Rembrandt, Van Gogh, de Vinci, Picasso, etc. But his favorite portrait was one of his own son, who had died in battle. A fellow soldier had painted a rather inept portrait of the son and given it to the broken-hearted father, and though the

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painting was “amateurish,” .it was deeply cherished by the father and had hung alongside the works of the legendary artists of history. When the collector neared the end of life, he wrote out his will and specified that his art collection be put up for sale .at an Auction.

At the Auction, it had been specified that the portrait of the collector’s son should be featured first. But the bidders were not interested in the portrait, and there was grumbling among the crowd, as they were anxious to get on to the famous works.

The Auctioneer could hardly rouse a bid for the portrait of the son; but finally, after some minutes of the usual “auctioneering” sing-song, a bid of \$10 was meekly offered. No further offer could be conjured up by the Auctioneer’s efforts, so without a single competing bid, the portrait was sold for that amount.

Then the Auctioneer said, “According to the Will, the Auction is now closed.”

You can imagine the consternation that went over the would-be bidders, and the outburst of inquiries as to what was going on! “What about all the other great works?” a would-be purchaser. asked in a loud voice over the noisy, disappointed crowd.

The Auctioneer explained that, “According to the Will, all of the art collection goes with the portrait of the son.

“BEHOLD, GOD IS MY SALVATION”

Whoever purchased the portrait of the son also becomes the owner of the remainder of the collection. Everything goes with the portrait of the son!”

“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for. us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)

Christ my God is my Salvation; and “Christ is all.” Everything goes with the Son!

(Habakkuk 3:17-19) "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls: (18) Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. (19) The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments."

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

Amen.