

The Praises of His People

Isaiah 12:1-6

In Exodus 15, Moses and the Israelites burst out in praise after being rescued by God from Egypt. Just as salvation led to praise then, so salvation leads to praise in Isaiah 12 and in our lives today.

Personal Praise (vv. 1-3). Isaiah says that first we are to praise God personally or individually. As we meditate on the fact that his anger has been turned away from us and placed instead on Christ, thankfulness, trust and joy are to well up inside of us. Now, God is our salvation, our strength and our song. In this desert of life he provides water from wells of salvation to keep us going *with joy* (i.e. remembering the Gospel and our status in Christ).

Public Praise (vv. 4-6). As each of us look to the gospel, we then are called to let this overflow into external or public praise. First we praise God with other believers, with his children. There is a power in worshipping God with His people week after week after week. This praise of his people is then to overflow once more into sharing the Gospel with those around us. People from all over the world, in all the earth are to know the wonderful works of God. Finally, Isaiah closes this beautiful chapter by telling us that great in our midst will be the Holy One of Israel.

Amazingly, this has been God's goal from the beginning – to dwell with his people. We will praise Him forever with joy with people all throughout history from all over the world in His presence!

Questions for Individuals, Families, and Community Groups

- 1) How have you seen the gospel grow you in thankfulness, trust or joy? (verses 1-3)
- 2) What are helpful ways for you to “draw water from the wells of salvation”?
- 3) How does looking back on your salvation in Christ help you share the gospel with those around you?
- 4) How does looking to the end goal (God dwelling with His people forever) help you share the gospel with those around you? (verses 4-6)