

## Cry Out and Shout, Inhabitant of Zion

We began the study of this chapter with these words, "O Lord, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me." And we had noted that God was rightfully angry with us because we had sinned against Him and broken His most righteous law, and yet we found comfort in this, His anger had been turned away from us. And then we read of the reason given, "Behold, God is my salvation."

We began this chapter with these words, "O Lord, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me." And we had noted that God was rightfully angry with us because we had sinned against Him and broken His most righteous law, and yet we found comfort in this, His anger had been turned away from us. And then we read of the reason given, "Behold, God is my salvation." Indeed God Himself had left the glories of heaven above, had stepped away from His most high throne and made Himself of no reputation, taking upon Himself the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men, in the appearance of a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross, that He might as our substitute take upon Himself our sins and bear the wrath of God in our place, and thus the anger, the wrath of God was turned away. (cf. Phil 2:7-9)

I found it of great interest that Calvin translated verse 3 that we would with joy draw water "from the fountains of the **Savior**" rather than "from the fountains of salvation". Then he gives this explanation, "this word is more appropriate to this passage than if he had said, "from the fountains of God;" for it yields more consolation when we know that he is the author of our salvation, and therefore the Prophet has skilfully adapted this term to the situation in which it is placed." For indeed the Hebrew for salvation here is Joshua, which we in the New Testament transliterate as "Jesus" for Jesus is the very fountain of our salvation. Being mindful of the words of our Lord at the well to the woman of Samaria, when Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." (John 4:10) Truly saints of God let us, as the Psalmist says, like a dry and thirsty land, desire the waters of the Lord. (Psalm 143:6.)

Now, as we come to the passage before us this morning, Isaiah calls out to us, the people of God, the redeemed of the Lord, to offer praise to God and to proclaim His greatness and His deeds of salvation before all people. With these words Isaiah calls to us: *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. 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!"* (Isa 12:4-6) Isaiah here calls upon the people of God to give praise through proclamation and song. We shall consider this passage then under these headings this morning, 1) We are called to give praise and to proclaim God's deeds among all people, 2) As inhabitants of Zion we are called to sing and cry out and exalt the Lord before all men, and 3) Isaiah then gives the reason for this praise, the Holy One of Israel Himself is in our midst.

- A. We are called upon to give praise and to proclaim God's deeds among all people - *Praise the Lord, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted*
1. *And in that day you shall say.* - Probably first to be understood as in the day they return from captivity
  2. But the greater meaning is in that day when the Messiah would come and provide salvation through His obedience to the Father.
  3. And then for us personally when we are awakened, called, converted and redeemed by our Lord.
  4. We are to call upon His name
    - a. Call upon Him that we might not glory in another or in ourselves

*Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, **that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth.** For in these I delight," says the Lord.* (Jeremiah 9:23-24.)

5. Make known His works among the peoples
  - a. As Paul we are to preach Christ and Him crucified
  - b. Jesus and His work upon the cross is to be the central theme of our witness
  - c. The message is to go to the nations
  - d. To the Jew first, to Samaria, then to the utter ends of the earth
  - e. Let our witness be seen before all men
  - f. It should be our greatest desire that the goodness of God may be *made known* to all, that all may join in the same worship of God.
  - g. We ought especially to be inflamed with this desire, having been delivered from the tyranny of Satan and from everlasting death

- B. As inhabitants of Zion we are called to sing and cry out and exalt the Lord before all men - *make mention that His name is exalted. 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*
1. Note that our songs are to be to the end that God's name is exalted - *make mention that His name is exalted.*
    - a. Too often the songs sung by the church today are about the believer and their love for God.
    - b. But our songs are to be about God and His love for us.
    - c. The purpose of our hymns ought to be to glorify God declaring His greatness, goodness, and power
  2. Sing to the Lord, for He has done excellent things;
    - a. *God sent his Son* to reconcile us to himself and deliver from death and Satan (Jn 3:16, 17, Heb 2:14.)
    - b. When we think of our deliverance we have abundant ground for praising God
  3. Our singing should be joyful and full bodied - *shout and sing*
    - a. I am not talking about wild fire, I'm talking about fervency
    - b. I am talking about singing with a joyful understanding of the words we sing.
- C. The reason for this praise from the inhabitants of Israel of Zion - *Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion*
1. God, the Holy One of Israel is in our midst.
    - a. Can you think of anything more precious than that
    - b. God is here in our midst this morning

*Matt 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*

*Ps 73:23-24 **Nevertheless I am continually with You;** You hold me by my right hand. **You will guide me with Your counsel,** and afterward receive me to glory.*

2. This is, in a very real sense, the earthly throne room of God this morning.

*Jer 3:17 "At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the Lord, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem.*

3. Listen to the name God gives the church

*Ezek 48:31 ". . . and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE."*

4. Now if you think this promise does not include the Church made up of Gentiles hear this promise of God

*Zech 2:10-11 "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the Lord. **"Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day,** and they shall become My people. **And I will dwell in your midst.***

- a. We are properly the Zion of God this morning - *"the King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst."* (Zeph 3:15)
- b. We can properly say the King of kings is in our midst this morning

Conclusion: Fellowship in the church ought to be our greatest pleasure for Christ Himself is in our midst

We have no other happiness than to have **God dwelling in the midst of us.**

If one dislikes church he dislikes the presence of the Lord

And finally, this also speaks of our hope of heaven and eternity for in we read in Revelation where it is speaking of all those that come out of great tribulation this words.

*Rev 7:15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.*

*Rev 21:3-4*

*And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

Truly we have something to sing and shout about

Let us sing about the greatness of our Redeemer King