

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 12 — A Song of Salvation

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 12 is a song.

After:

Judgment.

Fear.

Invasion.

Scattering.

Discipline.

And the glorious promises of the Messiah in Isaiah 11,

Isaiah now gives God's people words to sing.

The chapter is only six verses long.

Yet it summarizes some of the greatest truths of salvation.

God's anger has turned away.

God comforts His people.

God becomes:

Salvation.

Strength.

Song.

Fear is replaced by:

Trust.

Thirst is replaced by:

Water from the wells of salvation.

Silence is replaced by:

Public praise.

God's people are called to proclaim His deeds among the nations.

The chapter ends with the greatest source of joy:

“Great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

The blessing is not merely:

What God gives.

The blessing is:

God Himself among His people.

Isaiah 12 therefore serves as the joyful response to the restoration described in Isaiah 11.

The people who were:

Scattered.

Judged.

Afraid.

Oppressed.

Now sing.

The central truth of Isaiah 12 is:

Salvation turns God's righteous anger into comfort, replaces fear with trust, fills His people with joy, creates public praise, and centers their deepest celebration in the presence of the Holy One of Israel among them.

I. GOD'S ANGER TURNS TO COMFORT

Isaiah 12:1 — “I Will Praise You”

“In that day you will say: ‘O Lord, I will praise You. Though You were angry with me, Your anger has turned away, and You have comforted me.’”

The speaker does not deny that God was angry.

God's anger was righteous.

Sin had brought:

Judgment.

Discipline.

Consequences.

But anger does not have the final word.

Now:

Comfort comes.

The proper response is:

Praise.

Cross References

Psalm 30:5

God's anger lasts only for a limited time, while His favor brings life; weeping may remain through the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Micah 7:18

There is no God like the Lord, who forgives sin, passes over rebellion, does not remain angry forever, and delights in faithful mercy.

Hosea 14:4

God promises to heal His people's unfaithfulness and love them freely because His anger has turned away.

Spiritual Principle

God's discipline is not the final destination for His restored people.

Key Truth

The God who corrects is also the God who comforts.

II. GOD HIMSELF IS SALVATION

Isaiah 12:2 — “I Will Trust and Not Be Afraid”

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord, the Lord Himself, is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.”

Notice what Isaiah does not say.

God merely:

Gives salvation.

He says:

“God is my salvation.”

Salvation is deeply personal because God Himself is the Savior.

The result is:

Trust.

Fearlessness.

Strength.

Song.

Cross References

Exodus 15:2

After crossing the sea, Israel sang that the Lord was their strength and song and had become their salvation; He was their God and worthy of praise.

Psalms 118:14

The psalmist declares that the Lord Himself is his strength and song and has become his salvation.

Psalms 27:1

The Lord is the psalmist's light and salvation; therefore there is no ultimate reason to fear, because the Lord is the stronghold of life.

Spiritual Principle

Fear loses power when salvation becomes personal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Faith does not merely say:

“God can save.”

Faith says:

“God is my salvation.”

III. SALVATION IS LIKE WATER DRAWN WITH JOY

Isaiah 12:3 — Wells of Salvation

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

Water represents:

Life.

Refreshment.

Cleansing.

Satisfaction.

In a dry land, a well means survival.

Isaiah pictures salvation as an abundant source from which God's people draw:

Joyfully.

Repeatedly.

Freely.

Cross References

John 4:14

Jesus promises that the water He gives becomes within the recipient a spring continually rising toward eternal life.

John 7:38

Jesus declares that whoever believes in Him will experience rivers of living water flowing from within.

Psalms 36:9

God is the fountain of life, and in His light people receive true light.

Spiritual Principle

God's salvation is not a dry doctrine.

It refreshes the soul.

Key Truth

What God gives in salvation is sufficient for the deepest thirst of the human heart.

IV. GOD'S SAVING WORK MUST BE PROCLAIMED

Isaiah 12:4 — Make His Deeds Known Among the Nations

“In that day you will say: ‘Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known His deeds among the nations; proclaim that His name is exalted.’”

Salvation produces:

Thanksgiving.

Prayer.

Witness.

Proclamation.

God's deeds are not to remain private.

The nations must hear.

Cross References

Psalms 105:1

Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, and make His deeds known among the peoples.

1 Chronicles 16:8

God's people are commanded to thank Him, call upon Him, and tell the nations what He has done.

Psalms 148:13

All creation is called to praise the name of the Lord because His name alone is exalted and His glory stands above heaven and earth.

Spiritual Principle

Grace received becomes testimony shared.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If salvation is good enough to celebrate, it is good enough to proclaim.

V. SING BECAUSE GOD HAS DONE GLORIOUS THINGS

Isaiah 12:5 — Let the Whole Earth Know

“Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things; let this be known to all the earth.”

Worship has a reason.

God has:

Acted.

Saved.

Delivered.

Restored.

His works deserve:

Song.

Proclamation.

Global witness.

Cross References

Psalms 98:1

Sing a new song to the Lord because He has performed marvelous works and accomplished salvation by His own power.

Exodus 15:21

Miriam called Israel to sing to the Lord because He had triumphed gloriously over their enemies.

Psalms 96:3

God's people are commanded to declare His glory among the nations and tell every people about His marvelous works.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical praise is rooted in what God has done.

VI. THE HOLY ONE IS GREAT AMONG HIS PEOPLE

Isaiah 12:6 — God's Presence Is the Greatest Joy

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

The chapter reaches its climax.

Why rejoice?

Because:

God is among His people.

This echoes the great theme already seen in:

Immanuel.

God with us.

The greatest gift is:

His presence.

Cross References

Zephaniah 3:14

Zion is called to sing, shout, rejoice, and celebrate wholeheartedly because of God's saving presence.

Zechariah 2:10

Zion is told to sing and rejoice because the Lord promises to come and dwell among His people.

Psalms 89:18

The Lord is the true defender of His people, and the Holy One of Israel is their King.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation reaches its greatest joy when the saved person delights in the Savior Himself.

Key Truth

Heaven is glorious because God is there.

VII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 12

1. God's Anger Is Not the Final Word for the Restored

God turns from judgment to comfort.

Principle:

Grace brings restoration after discipline.

2. God Himself Is Salvation

The believer does not merely receive something from God.

The believer receives God as Savior.

Principle:

Salvation is relational before it is merely experiential.

3. Trust Replaces Fear

“I will trust and not be afraid.”

Principle:

Faith and fear compete for the same heart.

4. Salvation Produces Joy

Water is drawn from the wells of salvation:

With joy.

Principle:

Grace gives the soul reason to celebrate.

5. Salvation Produces Worship

The saved sing.

Principle:

A silent heart has not fully considered the greatness of salvation.

6. Salvation Produces Witness

God's deeds are proclaimed among the nations.

Principle:

Grace turns recipients into witnesses.

7. God's Presence Is the Greatest Blessing

“Great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

Principle:

The highest joy is not merely God's gifts but God Himself.

VIII. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is described as:

God Himself.

Strength.

Song.

Water.

Joy.

Comfort.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Biblical salvation does not merely rescue from danger.

It restores relationship with God.

IX. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S ANGER

God's anger is:

Real.

Righteous.

Not arbitrary.

But for His restored people:

It turns away.

Spiritual Principle

God's holiness takes sin seriously, and His mercy takes restoration seriously.

X. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT COMFORT

God does not merely stop judging.

He comforts.

That means He moves toward His restored people with:

Care.

Reassurance.

Presence.

Key Truth

God's restoration includes emotional and spiritual comfort.

XI. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT TRUST

Isaiah says:

“I will trust.”

Trust is an intentional response.

Because God is salvation:

Fear no longer has final authority.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Trust grows when we focus more upon who God is than upon what frightens us.

XII. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT FEAR

The believer says:

“I will not be afraid.”

This does not mean:

Nothing fearful exists.

It means:

God is greater.

Spiritual Principle

Courage is not the absence of threatening circumstances.

It is confidence in God in the middle of them.

XIII. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT JOY

Joy comes from salvation.

Not:

Possessions.

Status.

Circumstances.

The deepest joy comes from knowing:

God has saved.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Salvation gives joy that circumstances cannot manufacture.

XIV. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT WORSHIP

The chapter is full of worship verbs:

Praise.

Give thanks.

Call.

Proclaim.

Sing.

Shout.

Rejoice.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation should engage:

The heart.

The mouth.

The life.

XV. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT WITNESS

God's works are announced:

Among the nations.

To the earth.

Salvation is never intended to become private possession only.

Key Truth

People who know God's salvation should want others to know God's Savior.

XVI. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT THE NATIONS

The message is outward-looking.

God's deeds must be known:

Beyond Zion.

Beyond Israel.

Among the nations.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Biblical worship naturally moves toward mission.

XVII. WHAT ISAIAH 12 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S PRESENCE

The chapter ends:

“The Holy One of Israel among you.”

God's presence is:

Near.

Personal.

Central.

Spiritual Principle

The greatest answer to loneliness, fear, and exile is the presence of God.

XVIII. FROM ANGER TO COMFORT

Isaiah 12 begins with contrast.

God was angry.

Now:

He comforts.

This movement summarizes restoration.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's discipline is never meant to make His repentant people believe they are beyond His comfort.

XIX. “GOD IS MY SALVATION”

This is personal language.

Not:

Their salvation.

A salvation.

Possible salvation.

But:

My salvation.

Spiritual Principle

Faith receives God's promise personally.

XX. “I WILL TRUST”

Trust does not happen accidentally.

The believer chooses to rest in God's character.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fear asks you to surrender your peace.

Faith says:

“I will trust.”

XXI. “THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH”

Human strength is limited.

God's strength is not.

Spiritual Principle

When personal strength is exhausted, divine strength is not.

XXII. “THE LORD IS MY SONG”

God becomes:

The subject.

Reason.

Center.

Of worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When salvation fills the heart, worship finds its voice.

XXIII. THE WELLS OF SALVATION

A well provides water repeatedly.

Isaiah does not picture salvation as:

One drop.

But:

A well.

Spiritual Principle

The resources of God's grace are not exhausted by our need.

XXIV. MAKE HIS DEEDS KNOWN

Worship moves outward.

Tell others:

What God has done.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A testimony does not need to make us impressive.

It should make God impressive.

XXV. HIS NAME IS EXALTED

God's people do not proclaim:

Their own greatness.

They exalt:

His name.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy worship lowers self and raises God.

XXVI. LET ALL THE EARTH KNOW

The scope becomes global.

Salvation cannot remain confined to one location.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's glory is too great for a small vision of His mission.

XXVII. THE HOLY ONE AMONG YOU

The chapter ends where salvation ultimately leads:

Presence.

The Holy One is:

Among them.

Spiritual Principle

The goal of salvation is not merely escape from judgment.

It is restored fellowship with God.

XXVIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why does the speaker praise God in verse 1?

Because God's anger has turned away and His comfort has come.

Question 2

Was God's earlier anger unjust?

No.

Isaiah presents it as the righteous response to sin.

Question 3

What does verse 2 mean when it says God is salvation?

It means salvation is rooted in God's own character, power, and saving action.

Question 4

What replaces fear?

Trust.

Question 5

What does God become to the believer?

Strength.

Song.

Salvation.

Question 6

What do the wells of salvation represent?

The abundant, refreshing, life-giving provision of God's saving grace.

Question 7

How should salvation affect the believer emotionally?

It should produce joy.

Question 8

How should salvation affect worship?

It should produce praise, thanksgiving, singing, and rejoicing.

Question 9

Should God's saving works remain private?

No.

They should be made known among the nations.

Question 10

What does God's people proclaim about His name?

That His name is exalted.

Question 11

Why should Zion shout for joy?

Because the Holy One of Israel is great among His people.

Question 12

What is the greatest blessing in the chapter?

The presence of God among His people.

XXIX. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 12 asks several searching questions.

Am I Praising God for His Mercy?

Do I remember what He has forgiven?

Do I Truly Believe God Is My Salvation?

Or am I depending upon:

Myself?

Money?

People?

Religion?

What Fear Do I Need to Replace with Trust?

What would change if I said:

“I will trust and not be afraid”?

Am I Drawing from the Wells of Salvation?

Or am I spiritually thirsty while standing beside God's provision?

Is There Joy in My Salvation?

Have I allowed familiarity to make grace seem ordinary?

Do I Tell Others What God Has Done?

Who needs to hear my testimony?

Is God's Name Being Exalted Through My Life?

Or am I trying to exalt my own?

Is God's Presence Enough?

Do I value Him more than merely what He gives me?

XXX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Salvation Turns the Heart from Fearful Silence into Joyful Witness”

Isaiah 12 begins:

“I will praise You.”

Then:

“I will trust.”

Then:

“Make known His deeds.”

Principle:

Grace received should become trust expressed, worship offered, and testimony shared.

XXXI. SALVATION AND SONG

Exodus 15 and Isaiah 12 use strikingly similar language.

After deliverance:

God becomes:

Strength.

Song.

Salvation.

Spiritual Principle

Saved people should become singing people.

XXXII. DRAWING WATER WITH JOY

Water must be:

Drawn.

The well is available.

The person comes to it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not merely admire the well.

Drink from what God has provided.

XXXIII. PRAISE AFTER DISCIPLINE

The people can praise because:

God did not leave them under judgment forever.

Spiritual Principle

Do not let yesterday's discipline hide today's mercy.

XXXIV. TRUST WITHOUT FEAR

Isaiah does not say:

I will trust because nothing can go wrong.

He says:

I will trust because:

God is salvation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The foundation of courage is not certainty about circumstances.

It is certainty about God.

XXXV. PUBLIC PRAISE

Isaiah says:

Tell:

The nations.

The whole earth.

Spiritual Principle

Private gratitude should eventually become public testimony.

XXXVI. GREAT IS THE HOLY ONE

The chapter ends by emphasizing:

God's greatness.

God's holiness.

God's presence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The greatest reason for rejoicing is not that everything around us is perfect.

It is that God is among His people.

XXXVII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 12 is what salvation sounds like when it begins to sing.

The people have known:

Judgment.

Fear.

Discipline.

Loss.

But now they say:

“I will praise You.”

Why?

Because anger has turned to:

Comfort.

Then comes the declaration:

“God is my salvation.”

This is more than theology on paper.

It is personal.

God is:

My salvation.

My strength.

My song.

That changes fear.

The believer can say:

“I will trust and not be afraid.”

Not because life contains no danger.

But because God remains greater than the danger.

Then Isaiah gives one of Scripture's most refreshing images:

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

God's grace is not a dry reservoir.

It is:

Living.

Abundant.

Refreshing.

Come thirsty.

Draw deeply.

Then:

Tell others.

Make known His deeds.

Proclaim His name.

Sing.

Shout.

Rejoice.

Why?

Because salvation should never end with:

“What has God done for me?”

It should continue:

“Let the nations know what God has done.”

And finally Isaiah gives the greatest reason for worship:

“Great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

Not merely:

His gifts are among you.

Not merely:

His blessings are among you.

But:

He is among you.

That is salvation's greatest treasure.

God with His people.

Therefore:

Praise Him.

Trust Him.

Drink deeply from His grace.

Tell others.

Sing.

And rejoice that the Holy One is near.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your salvation.

Thank You that Your righteous anger does not remain forever against those You restore.

Thank You for:

Mercy.

Comfort.

Forgiveness.

Grace.

Father, teach us to say with confidence:

You are our salvation.

When fear rises:

Help us trust.

When weakness comes:

Be our strength.

When sorrow silences us:

Become our song.

When our souls are dry:

Lead us again to the wells of salvation.

Give us joy in what You have done.

Protect us from becoming so familiar with grace that we stop being amazed by it.

Father, put praise in our mouths.

Help us:

Give thanks.

Call upon Your name.

Tell others what You have done.

Proclaim Your greatness.

Sing of Your glorious works.

Let our testimony point to You rather than to ourselves.

And Father, thank You that the greatest blessing is Your presence.

You are:

The Holy One.

The Savior.

The God who dwells among His people.

May our hearts rejoice in You more than merely in Your gifts.

May our lives declare to the world:

Great is the Holy One of Israel.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord, the Lord Himself, is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.” — Isaiah 12:2

Central Truth

God's salvation turns righteous anger into comfort, replaces fear with trust, becomes strength and song for His people, fills them with the joy of living water, and sends them into the world proclaiming the greatness of the Holy One who dwells among them.

Isaiah 12 in One Sentence

Isaiah celebrates the day when God's restored people praise Him for turning anger into comfort, trust Him as their salvation and strength, draw joy from the wells of His grace, proclaim His works among the nations, and rejoice because the Holy One of Israel is present among them.