



Praise as “Living Water”

Praise and worship are an essential preparation for meditation and prayer. They bring you into God’s presence where you feel His peace and can hear what the Spirit is speaking; but more importantly it declares who God is as the One who answers our asking.

Isaiah 12 describes a praise response.

Here are some insights for meditation on Isaiah 12. The context is important to understand the significance of what Jesus did on this occasion. At the very point when the priest was pouring out water at the feast of Tabernacles, Jesus stood and in a loud voice identified Himself as the long awaited Messiah.

Isaiah 12:1 “And in that day you shall say, ‘O LORD, I will praise You;”

Praise here is yadah in Hebrew, a word for praise. It carries instructions to raise your hands and **confess Who God is**. (**LORD** is Yahweh in Hebrew/Jehovah in English)

v1 “Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me.”

Now God’s anger was turned away through Jesus as Messiah who took our sins and “saved” us. **Comfort** here speaks of the reconciliation with God that brings comfort.

v2 “Behold, God (El, The Strong One) is my salvation,” (**Salvation** here is Hebrew, Yeshuwa. Jesus’ Hebrew name is from a form of this verb for salvation, Jeshua) This is looking through hundreds of years of prophesy to Jesus as Messiah/Savior.

v2 cont. “I will trust and not be afraid; For YAH, the LORD (Yahweh or Jehovah), is my strength and song (instrumental music, praise); **He also has become my salvation.”** (**Salvation** is the **same word Yeshuwa/Jeshua**). **Strength** here can be translated, strength, power, praise.

This same word for **strength** is found in **Psalm 8:2**.

“Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You (God) have ordained (established) strength because of Your enemies, that you may silence (still) the enemy and the avenger.”

In Matthew 21:16, Jesus quoted this and changed the word strength to praise. **“Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You (God) have perfected praise.”** Matthew 21:16 **Praise** here is strength to silence the enemy.

v3 “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” (Again, **salvation** is the same word that Jesus’ name comes from, Yeshuwa/jeshua).

Context: Verse 3 from Isaiah 12 was recited daily during the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths) as water was poured out on the altar from a golden pitcher, symbolic of the water provided in the 40 years wandering in the desert, Exodus 17.)

It was then that Jeshua/Jesus/salvation cried out offering salvation as Messiah, **“If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart (inner most being) will flow rivers of living water.” John 7:37,38** (referring to the Holy Spirit who was not yet given)

Immediately there was a division, some believing he was the Prophet, others believing He was the Christ/Messiah. (John 7:40-43) Jesus fulfilled this feast of Tabernacles, Booths when He became flesh and tabernacled among us.

v4 “And in that day you will say: “Praise (yadah) the LORD, call upon His name, declare (yada) His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted.”

Two different but similar looking words are used here. **Praise** is yadah in Hebrew, praise that confesses Who God is. **Declare** here is yada, to know, to see His deeds for yourself.

Verse 4 could be understood as, “Confess/praise the LORD, call upon His name, declare/ know/understand by the deeds you have seen, the miraculous works that I, Jesus have done among you. Know that I am Messiah, and exalt My name.”

v5 “Sing to the LORD, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth.” Jesus is pointing these verses to Himself, inviting praise.

v6 “Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!” Since the people knew Isaiah 12, they knew Jesus was referring this to Himself in verses 4 and 5, instructing the people to recognize Him, cry out and shout with joyful, triumphant shouts that Messiah has come.

Application Response:

Jesus offers Himself as living water, water that will satisfy man’s thirst. Here, as you praise, it is like drawing living water from the wells, the depths of Jesus’ salvation.

Draw living water out as praise and pour it out on the dry places of your soul, changing the spiritual atmosphere. Once you taste the living water, nothing else will satisfy.

Use your imagination, see this living water drawn up from within, poured out on the dry places of your life. Through praise make an oasis where there was desert. Do this for your own soul, your neighborhood, cities, nation(s).

Application: Use any insights for prayer.