

The Wells Of Salvation

Introduction. Isaiah 12 is a beautiful hymn of praise extolling the greatness of God after He revealed prophecies of the Messiah in chapters 7, 9, and 11. Vv. 2-3 express the lovely thought that God is our salvation, and from Him we will draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Water is mentioned over 570 times in the Old Testament, and 90 times in the New Testament. Water is what saved Noah and his family, but destroyed the wicked world around them (1 Peter 3:20). Water is what saved the Israelites and destroyed the Egyptians (Exodus 14:21-31). It also separated Israel from Canaan (Joshua 3:14-17). It stood between the leper Naaman and his cleansing (2 Kings 5:10, 14). Water is what is used by the obedient in baptism, and condemns those who are not baptized (Acts 8:36-39; 10:47-48; Luke 7:30). Water is significant in the Bible and we will see how this life-preserving agent is a fitting metaphor for the life-giving word of God.

I. There Are Different Methods Of Obtaining And Storing Life-Giving Water

- A. Wells have been dug, pumps have been installed, reservoirs have been prepared, and cisterns have been chiseled for catching the rain.
- B. We have all seen several ways utilized to preserve water. This has also been the case in obtaining and storing the water of eternal life.
 - 1. Since the word is the only means by which God communicates His will to us, study is necessary to learn and apply it (Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 2:1-5; 3:13).
 - 2. The word has to be brought to our remembrance (1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:6; 2 Peter 1:12-13, 15; 3:1; Jude 5), for we do not want to be ignorant (Romans 1:13; 11:25; 1 Corinthians 10:1; 12:1; 2 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13). This is done by preaching (Romans 10:14-15).
 - 3. But some study it the wrong way and do not rightly divide it (2 Timothy 2:15), digging for themselves cisterns that cannot hold water (Jeremiah 2:13).

II. Many Allow Their Wells Of Salvation To Be Filled With Debris

- A. Those who are older and lived in rural areas remember periodically cleaning your well in order to get the debris out of it that had accumulated over time.
 - 1. Abraham dug wells but the Philistines filled them (Genesis 21:25-31).
 - 2. Isaac cleaned the wells of his father and dug others too (Genesis 26:12-33).
- B. We must, in order to get to the pure water, keep the wells clean (James 1:21).
 - 1. The apostles, by direction of the Holy Spirit, dug wells of pure water but men have filled them with creeds, manuals, and catechisms. We are to be filled with pure water (the Bible) leaving no room for debris (Acts 20:29-30; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Timothy 4:1-3).
 - 2. Error acts like trash which poisons the true and living water. God was very plain in commanding that nothing be added to His word (Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Proverbs 30:5-6; Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19).

III. The Blessings Of The Gospel Are Like Pure Water

- A. Water refreshes, so does the gospel (Acts 3:19).
- B. Water revives from drought, so does the gospel (Isaiah 35:1-2).

- C. Water purifies the body, the gospel purifies the soul (1 Peter 1:22-23).
- D. Water cleanses the body, the gospel cleanses the soul (John 15:3).
- E. Water is a universal necessity.
 - 1. Most of the Earth is covered in water, and we are mostly composed of water. All men everywhere need it for washing, growing, and quenching thirst. Man cannot live where there is no water.
 - 2. The good news also is universal (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). It is needed by all men everywhere for washing (John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26), growing (Hebrews 5:13-14; 2 Peter 2:2; 3:18), and quenching thirst (John 4:13-14).

IV. Jesus Is The Source Of This Living Water

- A. This fact was prophesied of Jesus (Zechariah 13:1; 14:8).
- B. Jesus declared Himself as the source of living water (John 7:37-38).
 - 1. The Feast of Tabernacles included a daily procession of priests from the temple to the Siloam Pool, where they drew water for a libation at the altar.
 - 2. This offering of water memorialized God's provision for the people in the wilderness, but the water had been poured out and had left them unsatisfied.
- C. According to Isaiah 12:3, everyone should draw this water with joy:
 - 1. Because it is free (Revelation 22:17).
 - 2. Because it satisfies (Isaiah 49:10; Jeremiah 17:8; John 4:13).
 - 3. Because it springs up unto eternal life (John 4:14).
 - 4. Because one cannot live without this water (Job 8:11-13; Psalm 1:3).
 - 5. Because it cannot be obtained from the world's cisterns (Psalm 63:1).
 - 6. Because it never fails or dries up (Psalm 23:2; Isaiah 58:11).

Conclusion. To be filled with living water, one must thirst after it (Psalm 42:1-2). Do not die of spiritual thirst, but draw from the wells of salvation and drink of the water of life freely. Are you hungering and thirsting after eternal salvation (Matthew 5:6)? Come to the fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins, for sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.