

“This double function of chapter 12 confirms that the Messiah of chapter 11 is none other than God himself in the flesh. Chapter 12 celebrates both the rule of the Messiah and God dwelling among his people; they are one and the same thing. This is the goal towards which both the Zion prophecies of chapter 2 and 4 and the messianic prophecies of chapters 9 and 11 point” (Webb 1996: 78).

“Chapters 1-12 have stressed again and again the holiness of God and the fact that the culmination of his saving work would be reached in Zion. Here that culmination is described in terms of the final realization of the ancient covenant ideal: *the Holy One* dwelling in the midst of his people. What greater good could be imagined? That is climax indeed and therefore a just cause for celebration!” (Webb 1996: 77).

#### ADDITIONAL QUOTATIONS

“Thus praise and thanks are essential to robust spiritual life, not because God needs them like some neurotic tyrant, but because we need to give them. It is only in this way that we can refocus our attention upon how much we have received from a loving Father and in that appreciation stop attempting to use him as our servant (idolatry)” (Oswalt 1986: 292).

“These songs will exalt God alone, as 2:11,17 predict. God’s people will no longer be those who are “ever hearing but never understanding” (6:9) or never responding to God’s grace” (Smith 2007: 283).

“No doubt the whole collection, chapters 6–12, was put together by Isaiah for this purpose: to give heart to a beleaguered remnant of the Lord’s people by sharing his own experience, reviewing and explaining the ways of God and the certainty of his promises, and strengthening them with a diet of truth, experience and sure hope” (Motyer 1993: 128).

#### SOURCES CITED

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John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*, NICOT, 1986.  
Gary V. Smith, *Isaiah 1-39*, New American Commentary, 2007.  
Barry G. Webb, *The Message of Isaiah*, The Bible Speaks Today, 1996.

#### I. INDIVIDUAL PRAISE (vv. 1-3)

##### A. Recognition of Deliverance (v. 1)

“Whenever Israel focuses primarily upon her needs she is in difficulty, for supply of those needs becomes the ultimate goal and all else, including the Sovereign of the universe, becomes but a means to that end” (Oswalt 1986: 292).

“The words *In that day* (1, 4) link the song to the day when the old exodus will be superseded by the new (11:10–11). And just as the old exodus occasioned individual (Ex. 15:1) and communal (Ex. 15:21) song, so will the coming exodus (1–2, 4–5)” (Motyer 1993: 127).

“It is not an accident that the deliverance at the Red Sea issued in a song or that the throng gathered about the throne of the Lamb will be singing. For song is the natural expression of the spirit which is free, and no spirit is so free as that one which has discovered that its destiny is not dependent upon its striving but rather upon the infinite power of the Almighty (cf. 26:1-15)” (Oswalt 1986: 294).

“In the end, ‘comfort’ (= salvation) can be found only by fleeing into the arms of the righteous God whose wrath we have incurred” (Webb 1996: 78).

## B. Declaration of Trust (v. 2)

Exod 15:2a “The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

“It is not merely *that* he saves; he *is* salvation. To know him is to know deliverance and not to know him is to be deluded about deliverance. This is why the prophets in general, and Isaiah in particular, heap such scorn upon attempts to find deliverance in the might of this world (30:1-5; 31:1-3; Jer. 42:7-17; Ezek. 29:6-9; Hos. 5:13, 14; 7:8-12; 8:8-10). Liberation, whether political or personal, is found in God or it is not found at all” (Oswalt 1986: 293).

“*I will trust and not fear* is what Isaiah was attempting to get Ahaz to say in 7:2-9. In fact, Ahaz could not say it. Overcome by his fear of Ephraim and Syria, he could not believe that God was with him. As a result, he put his trust in an alliance with his ultimate enemy, Assyria” (Oswalt 1986: 293).

“The objective mark of salvation and the fruit of trust is *strength*, durability in the face of life, and its subjective mark is *song*, an inner welling up of joy” (Motyer 1993: 129).

## C. Blessing of Provision (v. 3)

## II. COMMUNITY PRAISE (vv. 4-6)

### A. Exhortation to Exalt (vv. 4a, 5a)

Exod. 15:21a “Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.’”

“The reason for joyful singing and praise does not lie in material wealth, absence of fears, or the return to Zion. Praise relates primarily to God’s greatness, his holiness (12:6b), and his great deeds (12:5b). Praise is also given because God is “in your midst” (*bēqirbēk*). He will personally be present with his people in his glory, the stain of sin will be removed, his people will be holy, and the knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth (2:1-4; 4:2-6; 6:3; 11:9)” (Smith 2007: 284).

### B. Exhortation to Evangelize (vv. 4b, 5b)

“But as 2:1-4 has made clear, the final establishment of the Lord’s rule in Zion will have implications for *the nations*, and this is why the second song in particular places such stress on worldwide proclamation (4b, 5b). The two songs of this chapter celebrate good news which, in the end, cannot be contained. It must be proclaimed far and wide, for only as the nations hear of the Lord’s glorious deeds will they be able to recognize at last that he alone is God, and come to Zion to learn of his ways (2:3). Thankfulness and praise overflow, as they always must, into evangelism” (Webb 1996: 79).

“The focus of attention will be on God, just like Isaiah’s focus was on God when he saw his glory in 6:1-4. The people’s overflowing joy and natural exuberance will exalt God’s name and tell others about him. Just as Isaiah wanted to go tell others about God (6:8), so these people will want to make known the exalted name of God among the nations. In this picture, worship and evangelism are connected at the hip, inextricably joined as two sides of the same coin....For worship to become evangelism it has to be done outside of the four walls of a church, where non-believers can hear God’s praise” (Smith 2007: 284)