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**DHW BIBLE CLASS
LESSON 12
THE BOOK OF ISAIAH
CHAPTER 12**

Theme: “What will Believers say in the millennium?”

THEME VERSE

Isaiah 12:2 (KJV) “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.”

INTRODUCTION

Praises from the hearts are rare. We are stingy with praises but very generous with our complaints and fault finding. This is the sad part in a believer’s life. We hold back our praises even as we criticize those who sincerely praise the LORD. They might not have the truth and are not praising the LORD correctly but they ARE PRAISING the LORD sincerely. From one extreme to another, believers today in fundamental churches are poor praise-rs of God.

There are those who cry foul when musical instruments are used, even the use of piano is disdained by them. They sing only psalms and not even hymns as they are seen as written by man and not by God. Such

myopic understanding of God’s Word has hurt these sincere but misguided worshippers tremendously. By one stroke of their pseudo-spirituality, they have erased from their worship all the New Testament revelation of God especially of Christ. The name of Christ will never be sung as Old Testament Revelation had not revealed what is taught in the NT yet.

On the other hand, many modern and contemporary churches have ignored reverence and replaced it with entertainment. There is no holds bar in their theology of worship. It is an “anything goes” mentality where every song is aimed to please the carnal man. These user-friendly churches pander to the whims and fancies of the worshippers and are nothing but entertainers playing church. They have brought so much of the world into the church that the church is spiritually dead and the glory of God has departed from these churches. God is substituted by grandiose multi-million dollar buildings and large auditoriums that seat thousands. Pastors are dressed in contemporary garments more for comfort and style than that they might decrease and Christ increase. The central focus of attention is the pastor and his team of supporting actors. Sprinkled into their worldly words and entertainment are a few Christian phrases and the name of Christ thus giving them that Christian flavour. This is called the modern-day church!

Somewhere in between the straight-jacket legalistic and pseudo-worship and the contemporary modern

entertaining church is the true church with the right worship.

Here in Isaiah 12 we are given a glimpse of how the dwellers in the millennium worship explain to us their content and focus of worship.

OUTLINE

1. The Praise Accepted (v.1);
2. The Reasons for Praise (v. 2-3);
3. The Focus of Praise (v. 4-6).

COMMENTARY

The Praise Accepted – 12:1

In that day sets the continuous tone from the previous chapter. This is how we know that chapter 12 is still in the period of the millennium. Chapters 11 and 12 are to be understood together. The former described the new environment that is on the earth during the millennium. Isaiah 12 describes the deeds of the people on earth as they enter the millennium.

The praise of the people of God was not to be taken for granted. Praises will not be accepted by God if God is angry with His people. When is God ever angry with His people? The ONLY time that God is angry with His people is when His people fall into sin and remain in sin. This rule has not changed at all. It remains the same today and always. The word for praise in verse 1 is one of raising the hands. It is more of action than words. It is more the body language rather than the words.

The people of God will say that they will praise the LORD although

they admitted that the LORD was angry with them but that His anger is turned away. The only way God's anger is turned away is when the sins of the people of God have been washed by the blood of Christ. This would be the time when only believers were allowed to enter the millennium. The separation of the goats and sheep has been completed. Only believers can enter the millennial kingdom of Christ on the new earth and new heaven.

The LORD in turn comforts all who praise Him. To know that one's sins have been washed by the blood of Christ and taken away forever from one's presence is definitely the greatest comfort one could ever receive from God. Our sins are remembered no more. It is as if the believer has never sinned before. The praise from the hearts of the believer is real. This should not be the only time in the millennium that true believers truly and sincerely worship God. They can worship God right now on the earth for the anger of the LORD has also been turned away the moment their sins are washed by Christ's blood. The same comfort is given to the believers today just as it will be given in the millennium. The difference between then and now is that at the beginning of the millennium, it will be done by only believers whereas today in the local churches, it is done by believers standing side by side with some who might not be believers.

The Reasons for Praise – 12:2-3

The first reason for praise is that God is the believer's salvation. Can there be anything that will occupy the

mind of the believers at this point of man's life in light of eternity? All other things that appear so important today like our many earthly appointments, schedules, schemes, quarrels, goals and aspirations will fade into nothingness. The first thing, which comes to mind standing at the threshold of the most momentous period of man's future history, is to thank God for salvation so rich and so free. God is the One that saved me from all my sins! Bear in mind the stupendous sight that is before the believer. This was a period after the Great Tribulation where the Antichrist, False Prophet and Satan were soundly and thoroughly defeated by the spoken word of Christ who came on His glorious white horse together with all the glorified saints and angelic beings. The recreation of the old earth and old heaven has also just been completed. The millennial Temple has just come down from heaven. These were all completed in the sight of the believer and this is all part of the great work of salvation of Christ done by God! Truly the believer's salvation is immensely great and wonderfully complete!

The second reason is that the believer is able to trust the LORD and not be afraid. Fear is gone forever. Total and complete trust has replaced fear. The basis for this is "for the LORD JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation." The use of the double "Jehovah" (LORD) is very rare. This is definitely for emphasis. The covenantal relationship between the believer and Christ is the emphasis by the use of the double Jehovah. The believer is

not afraid but is full of trust because the LORD is his strength and song. The word "strength" points to the boldness of the believer standing before God knowing that it is based upon the finished work of Christ that he is on the brink of entering the new heaven and new earth to dwell in it for 1,000 years. The word "song" means to praise in words. Obviously the content of his praise is Christ! "Christ has become my salvation" means that the salvific work of Christ in the lives of the believers is completed. All the promises of God will be fulfilled in the millennium. For after the millennium, eternity will begin and a brand new chapter will begin again with another new heaven and new earth.

The third reason is that of joy. The believers will draw joy from their salvation. The joy they felt in their hearts comes from their salvation. It is like someone whose thirst is quenched by water. This is obviously a metaphor as the water is drawn out of salvation. The basis for the believer's joy is his salvation. This was no perfunctory singing where the heart is empty and the worshipper is going through a ritual as if he is in a rut. The praises and his entire body language are involved in this praise and worship for the joy was experienced in the depths of his soul. This is true joy. This is a joy that is based entirely upon spiritual blessings founded on his salvation in Christ Jesus. This joy is unlike the joys that are founded on material and physical blessings. The latter is easily seen in the worship of churches today.

It appears that from beginning to end, the entire content of the believer's praise is his salvation in Christ Jesus. This is the central theme of praise and worship with real joy in their hearts as believers stand at the threshold just before they enter the millennium.

The Focus of Praise – 12:4-6

In that day, like in the first verse, is a reminder of the period in the millennium. The resounding praise from the lips of all believers is "praise the LORD." The LORD will be the only focus! His Name Jesus Christ that is hated by many today will be the only name that will be heard throughout the new heaven and new earth. This refrain will be in every mouth. Christ's Name is used as a swear word by many. The world hates that name. They do not mind the word "God" being used and mentioned. However, the name of Christ offends many. In the millennium, the only Name that will be heard throughout the whole earth is Jesus Christ.

All will call upon His Name. What a tremendous time that would be where everyone is calling on the Name of Christ. Christ's Name would be openly heard and rejoiced by all who hear. The sound of the Name of Christ will be uttered everywhere and by everyone. Some today are ashamed to even utter the Name of Christ for fear of being ridiculed. However, the Name of Christ will be the only Name that will be remembered and praised for eternity. How can God's children today be ashamed of the Name of Christ?

All believers will declare His works among the people. Everyone will

be telling one another the works of Christ. The conversation between believers will be focused on Christ and what He has done in their lives and all around them. Everything else will fade into insignificance. Christ's Name alone will be highly exalted. His works will be praised and declared by all. Christ's Name will be exalted above all. The whole earth and heaven are what they will be in the millennium because of Christ. All the inhabitants are delivered from Hell and are bound for heaven because of Christ. Believers will make mention i.e. to keep in remembrance that His Name is exalted. The Name of Christ will be elevated high by all believers. There will be no one who would disparage His blessed and Holy Name.

Believers are commanded to sing out loud for the LORD has done excellent things. This is known in all the earth. The return of Christ is global. There is no corner of the earth that will not experience His presence. Every part of the earth will know of the Lord's excellent doings. His deeds will be all of creation in its new state. This includes the believers in the glorified state and the believers in the mortal state as they have endured through the Great Tribulation by the grace and mercy of God without dying. They will also sing praise to the LORD for His great deliverance. Singing is the best way to praise the LORD. God gave us this gift and made all of us able to praise Him.

Cry out and shout are in the imperatives to describe the intensity of the blessed state. The ones who were

told to cry out and shout are the believing Jews. It appears that other believers call out to them to shout and cry out and praise the LORD, everyone is doing it. The reason given to them is the greatness of the LORD. He is in the midst of Israel. He is described here as “the Holy One of Israel”. The church age is over, the period of the restoration of Israel as promised by the LORD in Romans 11 is now fulfilled prior to the start of the millennium. Christ will always be known as the Holy One of Israel. Israel was the only Christian nation. It is the only nation designed and cared for by God from the beginning to the end. Israel was the only nation given the responsibility to be a spiritual witness to a world that was in spiritual darkness from the time of the fall. What a blessed and wonderful time that would be to see a world where only believers dwell. There are no unbelievers prior to the start of the millennium.

May the return of Christ be soon that what is recorded and described for us in Isaiah 12 will soon become a reality.

PRACTICAL VALUE

True Praises today? – The praises of God and Christ by God’s people today are messy and confusing. The praises today are man centred and has brought much dishonour to the blessed name of Christ. True praises of God and Christ are rare and difficult to find. Those who have gone overseas for studies or business would attest to this difficulty in finding a God honouring church for

worship every Lord’s Day. It is a crying shame that we do not appreciate what we have in CPBPC.

Constant vigilance has to be brought to the fore to ensure that the worship in CPBPC does not become legalistic or entertainment. The use of musical instruments such as the piano and organ has to be carefully regulated. All who serve in this musical capacity must remember that Christ is the focus and not us. Dressing and the manner of playing by all pianists and organists must be subdued under the power of the Holy Spirit whereby Christ must increase and we decrease. A good musician for worship is one who plays in such a manner that the worshippers focus only on Christ and not on the music or them.

Christ the only Focus! – The focus of our worship today is not Christ but man. The lyrics and the music are carnal and appeal more to the flesh than to the spirit. Much of modern music tends toward this trend and if our people are not mindful and spiritual, it will slide very quickly downward to carnality. Not all contemporary music is carnal but most of them are. The shallow spirituality of our age and times does not beget strong theological truths or theologically strong hymns. Many of today’s music appeal more to the flesh than to the soul. It is more sentimental than spiritual. If it is spiritual, it is considered boring and dull such the hymns of old.

Most of the lyrics written by neo-evangelicals are shallow and flavoured by anthropomorphism. This is the bane

of our musical genre in these last days. What some fundamentalists have written has been stained by modernistic critical methodologies in their approach to the Bible. The centrality of Christ in modern hymns is lost. The theme is found primarily in the classical hymns written in an age not contaminated by modernistic influences. In the millennium, Christ Himself will restore all hymn singing to its proper emphasis.

Israel will Surely Be Restored – All the promises of God must be fulfilled according to the Holy Revelations in the Bible. One such promise is the return of Israel into the primary role as the national witness of the goodness and faithfulness of God. This will be accomplished in the millennium. Israel will praise the LORD as a nation, which she used to do in the days of King David. However, Israel failed the LORD when she rejects Jesus of Nazareth and the Christ. This honour is given to the local churches all over the world to be God’s witness of His goodness and faithfulness.

That is why we see in this chapter of Isaiah 12 that the believers are made up of both Gentiles and Israelites. This is all part of the wonderful plan of God’s salvation which will climax in the millennium. It will be a blessed and wonderful time of praise where Christ and His marvellous work of salvation will be the central theme in all our praises. Isaiah 12 is a blessed and wonderful revelation of what believers will do at the end of this present world! AMEN.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Isaiah 12:1-6;

TUESDAY: Isaiah 12:1-6;

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 12:1-6;

THURSDAY: Isaiah 12:1-6;

FRIDAY: Isaiah 12:1-6.

Discussion Questions

- 1. How is your life of praise today? Do you like to praise the LORD in song? Do you think that all believers must love to praise?

- 2. Is it true that the only time God is angry with His children is when they have sinned against Him and refuse to repent? Please explain your answer.

3. How does God comfort His children in times of bereavement or loss of a job?

4. Do you believe that the worship in CPBPC is pleasing to God? Please explain how you evaluate?

5. How do you find the singing in CPBPC? Is it good or does it have a lot of room for improvement? Please explain.

6. Is it necessary for a chairman at worship service to be able to sing properly such as singing in tune? If he cannot, can he still chair the service?

7. Do you have a favourite hymn? Please explain your choice.

8. Should choruses be sung during worship services? What do you think of those churches that do not use any musical instrument and they sing everything acappella?

9. Do you think that it is theologically correct to believe that man should sing only psalms and not hymns of choruses because the latter are written by man whereas the former by God? Please explain your answer.

11. What are some of the greatest hindrances to praise and worship in the church by true believers? Please explain.

10. Is there a difference between worshipping God on the Lord's day and worshipping God at a fellowship level? Give reason for your answers.

12. Is salvation the best reason for praise? What about blessings and answers to prayers? Please give reasons for your answer.

13. What lessons can you learn from this chapter about God's Word and about yourself?
