

## God my salvation

*And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.*

*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.*

*Isaiah 12:1-2*

After the famous Messianic prophecy of chapter eleven, Isaiah describes unto the prophesied remnant of Israel, whom the Lord will gather from all lands where they have been scattered, their expected response. In that day, the day of His judgment of the nations who had been the enemies of Israel, and of His regathering of the believing remnant who will finally recognize and turn to the Lord Jesus as that promised Branch out of the root of Jesse, they will praise Him as their salvation. They will also recognize his just anger against their unbelief, which had resulted in their scattering, and will rejoice in His comfort as they are regathered by His gracious salvation. They will replace their wrong expectations of an exclusively military Messiah, whom they thought would bring worldly power and wealth to their nation, with an understanding that He alone as God *is* their very salvation. They will no longer desire just the effects of salvation, which are simply by-products of the relationship with Him who saves, but will enjoy the very essence of His person, who brings comfort and trust, and absence of fear. He does not only provide strength, but in fact *is* their strength and song.

Although this promise is to the remnant of Israel, we can also rejoice that Jesus, who prayed for His Jewish disciples to know the Father, the only true God and Jesus the Christ whom He sent (John 17:3), sent them after His resurrection not only to the remnant of Israel who would believe, but then also to Gentiles, to proclaim the truth of His new and better covenant (Hebrews 8:6-13). Through this new and living way, He invites all, who deserve His angry judgment, to instead know Him personally as their salvation, strength and song, with all the accompanying benefits, blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Let us all continually praise Him who is alone our salvation, and make His excellent ways known in all the earth! (Isaiah 12:4-5)