

“I Will Trust Him”

Isaiah 12:1-5

Little William’s father died when he was a young child, so he went to work as a pawnbroker’s apprentice to help his mother. He saw poverty day after day, and became to despise it. After attending a service at a Wesleyan Chapel, William became a believer. He was a teenager, and his faith grew strong. He became an evangelist for the Wesleyan Church, traveling all around England preaching the gospel to the poor and downtrodden. Observing the poor day after day, and seeing how many churches did not minister to them or accept them into their fellowship, William and his young wife, Catherine, in 1865, started what is now called the Salvation Army. They had a battle plan to reach the poor, the drunkards, the prostitutes, and the orphans for Christ, even though they faced opposition from every segment of society. Ministering through epidemics, disease, and depressions, they started soup kitchens, refuge homes, and rehabilitation centers to help the ones to whom they were ministering. And since most churches would not allow these “sinners” into their fellowship, William and Catherine Booth started their own congregation to disciple the “down-and-outers.” In their lifetime, they started chapters of the Salvation Army in 58 other countries, demonstrating in a practical way the love of Jesus. Their ministry awoke the church to its spiritual and social responsibility in the world. The Salvation Army

is still carrying the gospel to the poor and despised people all over the world.

The prophet Isaiah brings a song of salvation to the people of Israel. Yes, his people will face times of judgment and hardship, but then they will experience God’s salvation and blessing. During this pandemic that has caused many people hardship, fear, and difficulty, let us turn to the God of our salvation and trust in Him.

1. I will trust God for strength in troubled times (12:1-2)

“I will praise You, Lord, although You were angry with me. Your anger has turned away, and You have had compassion on me. Indeed, God is my salvation; I will trust Him and not be afraid, for Yah, the Lord, is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.”

- Isaiah told his people that God would send harsh judgment for their sinful lifestyle, and their refusal to turn away from their sinful ways. God’s anger would bring about a judgment that would alter life as they knew it. But he invited his people to turn to God and find compassion and salvation; strength and songs of praise.
- In these troubled times, let us turn to God, and find compassion and salvation. Let us turn to our Savior and find salvation and hope. When we put our trust in God, we don’t have to fear our circumstances. When we trust in God, we find strength to face

these difficult times, and His Spirit puts a song in our hearts. It is a song of praise to God for His love and faithfulness.

- Paul said: *“I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”* (Galatians 2:20). Live in Christ, not in fear. Faith is trust in God, and when you live by faith, you are living each day trusting in God and His faithfulness.
2. I will trust God for salvation and deliverance (12:3-5)

“You will joyfully draw water from the springs of salvation, and on that day you will say: ‘Give thanks to Yahweh; proclaim His name! Celebrate His works among the peoples...’”

- The people of Israel were facing a terrible judgment for their rebellious living. They were in for some dark and troubled times. But Isaiah assured them that God’s anger would subside, and that His compassion would bring them salvation and deliverance.
- Isaiah’s name in Hebrew means *“Jehovah is salvation.”* God called a prophet whose name represents the God of salvation to tell the people that they would *“joyfully draw water from the springs of salvation”* (v. 3). Just as cool water soothes your parched throat, God’s salvation soothes your troubled soul. It brings joy and hope in times of trouble. The people of Israel had

sung this song when they were delivered from slavery in Egypt, when they crossed the Red Sea, and when they built the second Temple in Jerusalem. They would sing this song in the future when they would be delivered from their sins.

- Trust God in these troubled times. Celebrate what God has done for you through His Son, Jesus Christ. Let others know how God is faithful, and meeting your needs in these challenging times. Paul said: *“He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, in Him”* (Colossians 1:13-14).

The late Warren Wiersbe said: *“The Lord will never forsake His people. No matter how difficult the days may be, or how long the nights, for the people of God, the best is yet to come.”* Say with Isaiah: *“I will trust Him and not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my song”* (v. 2). Where is your faith? Where is your trust? What is your strength? Trust in God. He loves you and deeply cares for you.