

## “Nothing to Dread” Isaiah 12:1-6

**Context:** Isaiah, as a prophet, served as God’s prosecuting attorney, declaring God’s indictment and punishment of Judah and Jerusalem for their self-indulgent values, idolatry, and injustice. This punishment was primarily intended to turn Judah from their sin and back to worshiping God alone. The response of most was to see the dread of punishment, not the discipline of God. A few disciples, however, responded by attaching themselves to God through Torah and testimony. These, called the remnant, were promised deliverance from the curse of everlasting misery. As God rescued a remnant from Egypt and another from Babylon, He promised again to rescue a remnant through the appearance and reign of the Messiah (cf. Is. 11:1ff). This rescue was prophesied as coming through God’s incarnation as Jesus Christ and was a symbol for the redeemed throughout the ages. Today’s reflection discloses the future response of the remnant to their salvation. **Life Principle:** See your circumstances of dread from the perspective of Scripture; then lean on God for His relief.

### 1. Dread tamed by trust – Isaiah 12:1-3; cf. John 4:10ff; 7:37ff

The description of the epoch of Christ’s dominion continues. Personal salvation is disclosed through the use of “I” and “me.” Recognition of God’s forgiveness causes thankfulness and comfort. Pardon is shown by God, with nostrils flared in anger, turning His wrath away from the offender. The crushing torrents of life and the dread of worse things around the bend give way to the broad still waters of God’s rescue. Trust in God brings a heart-felt welling up of Christ’s resurrection power, symbolized by ‘springs of salvation.’ By trust, dread is tamed.

### 2. Dread traded for thanks and praise – Isaiah 12:4-6

A shift to salvation in community is revealed by the use of the plural pronoun “you.” This is followed by commands to participate in His salvation as community. The remnant’s recollection of God’s nature shown by His power, acts of deliverance, and ceaseless holy presence should cause them to give thanks, witness, and worship loudly with praise. In community, dread is traded for thanks and praise.

### Study questions:

- We trust that all “who have accepted God’s gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ shall receive their inheritance of glory in the kingdom of the Father” (see footnote 9 ‘On Last Things’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at [www.gracepointfellowship.org](http://www.gracepointfellowship.org)). “In that day,” used in Isaiah 12:1, can be interpreted differently depending if you are post-millennial, pre-millennial, or a-millennial in your eschatology (cf. Erickson’s *Christian Theology*, pp. 1212-1224). How do these positions affect real-life decisions? What comfort exists regardless of one’s eschatological position?
- Isaiah 12:1 reveals God turning His fiery anger away from the offender. Who does Isaiah reveal as the One receiving the brunt of God’s anger (cf. Isaiah 53:1-12)? How is this revelation associated with the salvation depicted in Isaiah 12:2-3?
- Building an understanding of Scriptural vocabulary is essential for interpreting the Bible and the world around you. As a **Bible study method**, look up the word “salvation” in a Bible word dictionary like *TWOT #929e* or *Vine’s NT Dictionary*. What does it mean? Specifically, from what is the remnant saved? From what specific bondage are you being saved? How does that Hebrew word relate to the name of Jesus and Isaiah? What personal significance do you find in their names?

### Transformation exercise:

Memorize Isaiah 12:2. Recall this verse each day when you awake and before you drift off to sleep at night. Is there any dread in your life? If so, lean on God in prayer, seeking His wisdom to show you how to think differently about your situation. If there is no dread, give Him thanks for the past dreads from which He has delivered you.