

## “The Wells of Salvation”

(A Companion Paper to the Sermon Delivered October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, By James Moriello, at Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket, RI)

*“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”* (Isaiah 12:3)

Isaiah Chapter Twelve is the ‘Hymn of Praise of God’s Redeemed.’ *“And in that day you will say: “O LORD, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’” Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And in that day you will say: “Praise the LORD, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!”* (Isaiah 12:1-6).

I can picture this song as the third number in God’s heavenly hymn book, alongside the *“Song of Moses”* (Exodus 15) and the *“Song of the Lamb”* (Revelation 15:3-4). This is the greatness of our God, who promises a better day for all His people, saying, *“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts”* (Revelation 21:4-6). This *“water of life”* is in heaven indeed, but it is available on earth also. *“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”* Today we shall go together to the *“wells of salvation.”* When we arrive there, we shall draw water from these wells together.

In Bible times, it was customary for women only to go to the wells for water, and usually only at specific times of day (its beginning and end). But this morning, we shall all go, for the *“wells of salvation”* are drawn from by men and women, rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, black and white (Galatians 3:28). If we arrive there at an off hour, perhaps we shall be surprised who we may meet there. The *“wells of salvation”* require great strength and stamina to be reached. Many have set out to journey to them on their own strength, and none of these have reached the wells. But Christ

“*Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses*” (Matthew 8:17), and offers us His strength for our trip. So let us now pray, “*Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage*” (Psalm 84:5). Then let us proceed. Beware of the “*viper’s eggs*” on the way, for they often hatch when we least expect. Watch also for the “*spider’s webs*”, lest you be entrapped by them (Isaiah 59:5). Did you see the man who started out with us who fell by the wayside. I do not know his name, but some are speculating that his name was “You.” In that man, the Scriptures were fulfilled which say, “*If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small*” (Proverbs 24:10), and “*No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God*” (Luke 9:62). There is a fork in the road now, and we are beginning to get tired. There are two roads ahead. They appear to run parallel. Both seem to head in the direction of the “*wells of salvation.*” The left road looks wide and smooth, but the right road looks narrow and bumpy (cf. Matthew 25:33-34). I remember reading that “*broad is the way that leads to destruction*” and “*difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*” (Matthew 7:13-14). So let us travel the right road, the narrow road, single file. Stay close to the people in front of you and behind you, lest any are tempted to go “*in the way of Cain*”, for we must each be our “*brother’s keeper*” (Jude 11; Genesis 4:9). The sons of Korah are ahead of us on the road. I hear them singing “*as they pass through the Valley of Baca* (Weeping)” (Psalm 84:6). I am sure that they will make it to the “*wells of salvation*”, because it is written, “*They go from strength to strength: Each one appears before God in Zion*” (Psalm 84:7). Here we are, at the “*wells of salvation.*” It is “*about the sixth hour*” now, and there is a Samaritan woman here drawing water (John 4:6). I have heard of this woman. She is promiscuous, having had several men, and is even now living in sin. Maybe this is why we find her here at this off hour. The sign by the wells says, “Ask for a drink. Then you may drink from the wells of salvation” (Cf. John 4:10; Isaiah 12:3). There is a Man here, clothed in white raiment, and I have heard that the “*wells of salvation*” are His “*purchased possession*”, having been bought by “*His blood*” (Ephesians 1:14, 1:7). Let us ask Him (His Name is Jesus) if we may draw from the “*wells of salvation.*” I hear Him say, “*Let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely*” (Revelation 22:17).

The owner of these wells is inviting us to draw water! Let us draw water from the “*wells of salvation*” together. There are a great many earthenware pitchers here. And the owner of the place invites us to take of them freely and fill them! Let us draw deeply from the first well. This is the water of the Well of Christ’s Yoke. Look at

Rebekah easily carrying her pitcher on her shoulder (Genesis 24:15). Let us do likewise. Do you feel lighter all of a sudden, or is it just me? This is what the Lord has said: *“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light”* (Matthew 11:29-30). Over there, our sister is drawing from the second well. This is the Well of Love and Joy! This calls to mind the Scripture which says, *“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full”* (John 15:9-11). We have come to God’s wells through Jesus Christ His Son, and received help and joy. “Let us go away now”, someone is saying in a serpent voice. No, friends. Let us wait. The Lord of the place is coming to us, bearing another pitcher from a third well. He hands it to us, saying, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”* (John 14:27). Then silence. And our souls hear, *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing”* (John 15:4-5). I don’t know about you, but I’m content to dwell here by the *“wells of salvation.”* I’m not leaving to go back to the old country, for this country is far better. I can speak for myself. But I cannot speak for you. Let us pray.