

Isaiah OT651-2/12/23
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What is one new thing you learned or idea to which you were exposed?

The one thing I learned this week as I read Isaiah 12:1-6 is that I was woefully lost and there was absolutely nothing I could do to turn my situation around. Isaiah has challenged Ahaz to trust the only one who could save Israel. Isaiah uses the phrase “In that Day”. What day? The day of salvation. What individual or nation would not trust the creator of the universe who longs to bring his people out of trouble and turns his anger away to comfort and strengthen them? First, God is the one who has chosen Israel. They did not choose him. The Bible says he set his love upon them not because they were more in number rather, he loved them and he would keep the oath he had sworn to their fathers (Deut. 7:7-8). Just like the Jewish nation the church is also God’s elect. According to Eph 1:4, “he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”. Israel’s covenant was unilateral which meant it was not dependent upon what Israel did or didn’t do. According to Professor David F. Ford of Cambridge University; ““The people of the God of Israel are not about being pure, without struggle or reconciled over time. It is not constituted by human faithfulness to the exclusion of unfaithfulness. It is constituted by God's faithfully holding human faithfulness and

unfaithfulness together with forgiveness, and this constitution is the work of God's election".¹

So, why would Israel or any other nation take advantage of or spurn God's love? Why would a husband commit adultery when his wife loves and cherishes him and is committed to him totally? The answer lies in the nature of man. Jeremiah says, "But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction (Jer. 17:23)". Stephen in Acts 7 also called the Jewish leaders stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears. David says in Psalms 51 that we are born in sin and shaped in iniquity from our mother's womb. Isaiah 53:6 says, "*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.* The apostle Paul echoes the depravity of man, when he says, "O Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (Rom.7:24) The apostle Paul's answer is that it's only through Jesus Christ God's Son. I must be reminded that salvation is of the Lord and there's nothing good in me apart from God. There is nothing I can do that would ever earn God's favor. Absolutely nothing! Theologian Steven L. McAvoy states: "The divine covenant motif is that which God alone pledges Himself to a course of action through a series of unilateral ramifications. McAvoy further mentions that the divine covenant is irreversible and is also not cancellable as a result of human failure. As, such, the perpetuation of the covenant is contingent upon God alone."² "In

¹ David F. Ford, *Self, and Salvation: Being Transformed* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), 55.

² Steven L. McAvoy, "Abrahamic Covenant," *Dictionary of Premillennial Theology: A Practical Guide to the People, Viewpoints, and History of Prophetic Studies*, ed. Mai Couch (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1996), 1:27-31.

that Day” we will break forth in glorious worship to the one true God who rules both in heaven and on earth. Oswalt states: “Our response must finally issue in songs. No other form of human expression so captures the whole human psyche as does singing.”³

³ John N. Oswalt, “The NIV Application Commentary: Isaiah, Grand Rapids, MI 2003 pg. 194