

1. Invite a friend to LifeLines!
2. LifeLines for 2/6 will be 2 Chronicles 16:9a.

LifeLines January 30, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

Isaiah 12:2

**Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, & will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength
& my might; He has become my salvation.**

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

Chapter 12 ends the opening section of Isaiah's prophesy which spoke of God's judgment & cleansing of Israel. Israel was in the midst of foreign invaders, political instability, loss & deprivation. (By the way, this chapter follows Isaiah's eschatological* prophesy regarding deliverance & restoration. Chapter 11 is the familiar prophesy of the Messiah: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse....the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him.")

This is Isaiah's song of praise to the Lord, rejoicing that Israel will one day be saved as a remnant of God's chosen people. Interestingly, "Isaiah" means, "the Lord is my salvation," & He affirms that God *is his* salvation, as well as Israel's. He also thanks God for replacing His anger toward Israel with mercy (similar to the gospel message).

Isaiah's verse echoes Moses' song after passing through the Red Sea when he led the Israelites in their Exodus *away from* the Egyptians *to* their salvation. God continues to show Himself faithful & trustworthy.

Think about our last 3 weeks of verses (Hope, Joy, Peace) & other verses you know. There are themes that define some of the attributes of our God – God doesn't just provide & give us these blessings. He *is* the blessing! God *is* Hope! God *is* Joy! God *is* Peace! God *is* Salvation! God *is* Love! He *is* each of

the nine Fruit of the Spirit & so much more! Think of all the gifts/blessings God has given us. He gives us *Himself*. Our Triune God *is* the Gift.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

CEV (Contemporary English Version)

I trust You to save me, Lord God, & I won't be afraid. My power & my strength come from You, & You have saved me.

GNT

God is my Savior; I will trust Him & not be afraid. The Lord gives me power & strength; He is my Savior.

GW (God's Word Translation)

Look! God is my Savior. I am confident & unafraid, because the Lord is my strength & my song. He is my Savior.

KJV

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, & not be afraid; for the Lord Jehovah is my strength & my song; He also is become my salvation.

MSG

Yes, indeed – God is my salvation. I trust, I won't be afraid. God – yes God! – is my strength & song, best of all, my salvation.

NCV (New Century Version)

God is the One who saves me; I will trust Him & not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord gives me strength & makes me sing. He has saved me.

NIRV (New International Reader's Version)

God, You are the One who saves us. We will trust in You. Then we won't be afraid. Lord, You give us strength. We sing about You. Lord, You have saved us.

NIV

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust & not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord Himself, is my strength & my defense; He has become my salvation.

NLT (New Living Translation)

See, God has come to save me. I will trust in Him & not be afraid. The Lord God is my strength & my song; He has given me victory.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE – Note that each statement is a positive declaration in the present tense. What does this imply?

*Surely...*The writer has no doubt about his confidence & trust in God.

*God is my salvation...*This is a declaration recognizing we are not the source of our own salvation! It proclaims God as the Author & Source of salvation. Our good works, intentions & thoughts do not save us! God alone is Israel's rescue & ours. Some people think their lives are fine without God. They only come to God when they feel in dire need. They don't realize faith leads to salvation which is a refreshment for *all* weary & parched people. Salvation is conferred (granted & bestowed) on us by God.

*I will trust, & will not be afraid...*This is also a declaration & confident statement expressing the will of the worshiper, a *decision* the worshiper has made. Fear is a natural response to any kind of threat, so if we rely on ourselves for rescue or salvation, no wonder it's hard to trust & not be afraid!

Humans can't always muster trust in the face of danger. Trust comes from a Source of strength inside us. That Source is there to sustain us if we have faith. It's another gracious gift of God. In His hands we are safe. He's the Foundation & Source of our confidence & salvation. We needn't fear *any* enemy, wrath, condemnation, sin, Satan, or hell.

*for the Lord God is my strength & my might...*When the Lord is our strength, He's the Source for all our needs. He's also our refuge, & we look to Him to supply all we need. Some versions say God is our "song." When God is our song, it means He is our joy, our happiness, the one in whom we find our purpose & our very life. He never disappoints us.

*He has become my salvation...*God has an abundant supply of all His gifts, including salvation. Salvation is more than deliverance from danger, anger, sorrow, despair. It is one of our highest spiritual blessings from God. This repetition of the first part of the verse stresses its importance.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Add other related verses as you think of them.)

Exodus 14:14, The Lord will fight for you, & you have only to keep still.

Exodus 15:2a, (This is from the Song of Moses) The Lord is my strength & my might (or song), & He has become my salvation;

2 Chronicles 20:15, (The Spirit of the Lord is speaking) He said, “Listen all Judah & inhabitants of Jerusalem, & King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you: ‘Do not fear or be dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God’s.’

2 Chronicles 20:17, This battle is not for you to fight; take your position, stand still, & see the victory of the Lord on your behalf.

Psalms 27:1 (A Triumphant Song of Confidence. Of David.), The Lord is my light & my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 56:2c-4, O Most High, when I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid; what can flesh do to me?

Psalms 91:14-16, Those who love Me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know My name. When they call to Me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them & honor them. With long life I will satisfy them & show them My salvation.

Psalms 105:1, O give thanks to the Lord, call on His name, make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wonderful works.

Psalms 105:4, Seek the Lord & His strength; seek His Presence continually.

Psalms 118:14 (A Song of Victory. It doesn't name David as author, but it's assumed to be of David.), The Lord is my strength & my might; He has become my salvation.

Isaiah 12:3-4, With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known His deeds among the nations; proclaim that His name is exalted.

Isaiah 26:4, Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 45:17, But Israel is saved by the Lord with everlasting salvation; you shall not be put to shame or confounded to all eternity.

Isaiah 51:6, Lift up your eyes to the heavens, & look at the earth beneath...the earth will wear out like a garment...but my salvation will be forever, & my deliverance will never be ended.

Luke 2:30-32, For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles & for glory to Your people Israel. (Do you know who spoke this?)

John 8:12, Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Acts 4:12, There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.

Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first & also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith." (Our LL verse, 5/2/22)

Romans 5:1-2, Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; & we boast in the hope of sharing the glory of God.

Romans 8:1, There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:57, But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:10, Finally, be strong in the Lord & in the strength of His power.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

2 Peter 3:8, The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:14-15a, Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by Him at peace, without spot or blemish; & regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Revelation 7:10, They (a great multitude) cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, & to the Lamb!"

SUMMARY

Salvation, *to be saved*, is a term usually thought of in context of the New Testament because of the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ. It's important to note, however, that salvation was sought in the Old Testament as well. In the Old Testament, people awaited the Messiah. Don't be confused about salvation for those who lived before Christ.** Remember – ours is a Triune God. Jesus *is* God. He is *God the Son*. He's been present since before time began - in Genesis & throughout the Old Testament, as seen in our LifeLines verse, & in many of our related scriptures.

God loves us so dearly & offers the gift of salvation; so, ask yourself this question – Why would a loving God offer us salvation if He weren't willing to offer the abundant gifts & blessings of His provision, grace, mercy, power, strength, & might to protect us while we're on earth? He is *trust-worthy!* With Him in our corner, we needn't fear. Since Christ came, we have a full, purposeful, blessed guarantee that our faith in Him assures us of our salvation.

CONCLUSION

Salvation is the gift of freedom from our sins. Jesus made that gift possible by taking the punishment for our sins on the cross, sacrificing Himself to make salvation possible for all who believe in Him as Savior.

The way we view God has a great deal to do with the way we worship Him & what we expect of Him. One way we worship Him is by demonstrating our trust in Him & His provision for our lives. When we have an intimate relationship with our Creator, we can approach Him with confidence & trust in His gracious mercy, power & might as we present our petitions. After all, we are His beloved children.

We trust *in Him*. We can speak the words of Moses, David, Isaiah & others. God's grace & gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ impact a believer's soul & spirit. Believers know our eternal life begins here & now! Jesus, Immanuel, is God with us, & the Holy Spirit lives in believers...

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, & will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength & my might; He has become my salvation.

Let this verse be a *LifeLine* for you!
Let's Continue Learning!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –
LifeLine!

*Eschatology involves a study of “end times,” & final events in the history of this world. It's a major part of the entire Bible's story. It encompasses things such as prophecies of Jesus' first appearance; prophecies of end times; details God revealed through the prophets of events to come; resurrection from the dead; the rapture, judgment; & anticipation of Jesus' Second Coming. Isaiah, Daniel & Zechariah have many eschatological sections. So do many New Testament books &, of course, Revelation.)

** This is related to our study from the perspective of salvation for folks in the OT. I added it mostly for Sherry Ketner! She & I have been discussing this. Many of you may want to be reminded of this passage, too. We'll read it if there's time

References: biblia.com; bible.com; biblegateway.com; cepreaching.org; blogs.tms.edu; Merriam-webster.com; enduringword.com; workingpreacher.org; dailyverse.knowing-jesus.com; biblestudytools.com; openbible.info; biblehub.com