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Sermon Notes

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Celebrating God's All-Conquering Grace

Isaiah 12:1-6

Some books change your whole way of thinking about something vital in the Christian life, and Randy Alcorn's book on *Heaven* did that for me

I have to be honest, I was among those who had trouble with the boring view of heaven... sitting on clouds, strumming harps, bored for eternity

Alcorn's book helped dispel the disembodied wispy ethereal view of heaven and made the reality, the physical nature of the resurrected body and the resurrected earth come alive for me

Imagining what it will be like to walk with energetic legs on a verdant, resplendent, perfect earth, breathing perfectly clear air, looking at perfectly flowing water, in a world constantly lit by the glory of God... having fellowship with other resurrected people, no sin, no jealousy, no arguing... just perfect joy

These aspects of our future in the new heaven and new earth

But yet, for all of that, I come back to this... the central joy and purpose and task we will have in heaven is praising and worshipping the Triune God

And no, it will NOT be boring... how could it be, when creation is so varied, and the stars so majestic? If there are hundreds of thousands of varieties of plants, animals, tropical fish, birds, etc. how could the God who made it all ever be boring himself?

Jonathan Edwards; *Praise one of the chief employments of heaven*

WHY? First, because they there see God. This is a blessedness promised to the saints, that they shall see God, Mat. 5:8. That they see God, sufficiently shows the reason why they praise him. They that see God cannot but praise him. He is a Being of such glory and excellency that the sight of this excellency of his will necessarily influence them that behold it to praise him. Such a glorious sight will awaken and rouse all the powers of the soul, and will irresistibly impel them, and draw them into acts of praise. Such a sight enlarges their souls, and fills them with admiration, and with an unspeakable exultation of spirit.

'Tis from the little that the saints have seen of God, and know of him in this world that they are excited to praise him in the degree they do here. But here they see but as in a glass darkly; they have only now and then a little glimpse of God's excellency. But then they shall have the transcendent glory and divine excellency of God set in their immediate and full view. They shall dwell in his immediate glorious presence and shall see face to face, 1 Cor. 13:12. Now the saints see the glory of God but by a reflected light, as we in the night see the light of the sun reflected from the moon. But in heaven they shall directly behold the Sun of righteousness, and shall look full upon him when shining in all his glory. This being the case, it can be no otherwise, but that they should very much employ themselves in praising God. When they behold the glorious power of God, they cannot but praise that power. When they see God's wisdom that is so wonderful, and infinitely beyond all created wisdom, they cannot but continually praise that wisdom. When they view the infinitely pure and lovely holiness of God, whereby the heavens themselves are not pure in comparison with him, how can they avoid with an exalted heart to praise that beauty of the divine nature! When they see the infinite grace of God, and see what a boundless ocean of mercy and love he is, how can they but celebrate that grace with the highest praise!

So it is with a sense of the perfection of praise that we come to Isaiah 12... a little Psalm of praise after a display of God's amazing grace to sinners in Israel, Judah and the world

I. For the Praise of His Glorious Grace

A. God's Ultimate Goal: His Glory

1. There was a time when God was all there was
2. God is the massive center of the universe; all heaven is arrayed in concentric circles, totally focused on this overwhelming majesty
3. God does all things to display His glory
4. The greatest display of God's glory ever has been the immense undertaking of saving rebellious sinners and fitting them for heaven
5. Ephesians 1 tells us that God planned redemptive history for this one purpose...

Ephesians 1:4-6 he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:11-14 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the

word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory.

What is this phrase, “To the praise of His glorious grace”? What does it mean that we might be for the praise of His glory? Why did the indwelling Spirit come to guarantee our redemption, again, “To the praise of His glory?”

6. I think it means that, when history is finally over, we will at last see Him in all His glory. Then also we will be able to look back over the span of the ages, across the flow of the eras, one after another, and see all the ways that God displayed His glorious nature
 - a. His amazing grace to sinners as wretched as us
 - b. His overwhelming patience to blasphemers like Paul
 - c. His incredible kindness and tenderness to brokenhearted wretches, who deserved to be left on the scrapheap of history
 - d. His awesome power displayed in protecting us from Satan and all His demonic horde
 - e. His terrifying wrath poured out on Satan, his devils, and all the reprobate of humanity
 - f. And the display will take us all eternity to take in in its fullness
 - g. This is the purpose of God... to put Himself on full display in the salvation of a countless multitude from every tribe and language and people and nation

B. God’s Second Highest Goal: Our Joy in Him

1. God is a God of love... of a deep compassion, who yearns to do us good, to make us happy, to fill our very beings with all the joy they can hold
2. He yearns to expand us to an astonishing degree in the inner man, so that we can take in more and more of His glory
3. He deeply desires to do us good, and to make us eternally joyful
4. This is God’s second highest goal... our blessedness in beholding His glory
5. to this end Christ prayed

John 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

6. to this end Christ lived a sinless life, to this end He died an atoning death, to this end He was raised from the dead on the third day... to give us an unchanging basis for eternal joy
7. thus we can understand this incredible Psalm of praise for God... Isaiah 12; six verses saturated with deep gratitude, with joyful praise

C. What Grace Had to Conquer

1. these chapters (Isaiah 1-11) have depicted very clearly the wickedness of God's people
2. Isaiah 1 spoke of Israel's sin in graphic terms
 - a. God openly despised their efforts at self-salvation through religiosity
 - b. God hated their prayers and their religious convocations
 - c. For their hands were dripping with the blood of injustice toward the poor and needy
3. Isaiah 2 spoke just as graphically of Israel's pride, arrogance and self-worship
 - a. He despised their idolatry, their false religion
 - b. Even worse, God hated their pride, their self-importance, their arrogance
4. Isaiah 3 laid open the filth of their bad leadership, of their cowardly men, of their plundering, robbing, corrupt judges, magistrates
5. Isaiah 5 continued the tragic gaze at Israel's depravity:
 - a. A beautiful vineyard, planted with the choicest vines... having received every possible benefit, yet producing only bad grapes
 - b. Those clusters of bad grapes he then defined in a series of six woes
 - Woe #1: Aggressive Greed
 - Woe #2: Sinful Excess
 - Woe #3: Shameless Sin and Mocking of God
 - Woe #4: Relativism and Redefining of Truth

- Woe #5: Arrogant False Wisdom
- Woe #6: Drunken, Corrupt Justice System

Isaiah made it clear that each of these six woes would result in specific judgments from God

6. Isaiah 6: the prophet's own call, poignant in that even Isaiah, the best of men, felt acutely his wretched sinfulness... in the view of God's overwhelming holiness

Isaiah 6:1-3 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Isaiah 6:5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

7. Isaiah 7: evil King Ahaz, terrified by a crisis (the alliance of the northern kingdom of Israel and the pagan country of Aram), offered a blank check from God, a sign whether in the deepest depths or the highest heights, threw it in God's face; then he decided to save himself by a faithless and shameful alliance with Assyria
8. Isaiah 8-10, the destruction of Judah by Assyria, and the subsequent destruction of Assyria as well

Romans 3:10-18 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." ¹³ "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

By the time we get to the Messianic vision of Isaiah 11, it would be the last thing any thinking and feeling Jew would expect... that God would still give them a beautiful, perfect, eternally peaceful kingdom, where Messiah would reign

Isaiah 11:1-9 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- ³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he

hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

9. O the astonishing measure of grace God has lavished on wretched sinners like us!! How overwhelming it is

Romans 5:20 but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more

10. All that is left by the time we get to Isaiah 12 is to praise God for His glorious grace!!!

D. Praise: The Healed from Insanity to Healthy Delight

1. more and more as I minister and study God's word, I have come to see worship as the most reasonable thing any created being can do
 - a. look at the greatness of God Himself... the perfection of His character... all His attributes, his immensity, his eternity, his goodness, mercy and love, the unapproachable light in which he dwells, his omnipotence, his wisdom
 - b. look at the greatness of God's achievements and mighty acts in creation... the sun, moon, and stars... the earth with all of its beauty and wonder, the creatures he made to inhabit it, their marvelous variety
 - c. look at the even more majestic greatness of God's achievements in redemptive history
2. in light of all that God is, and all that God has done, to praise Him with total abandon, with perfect joy, is the most reasonable and fulfilling thing we can do
3. the fact that we don't praise Him is a sign of unreasonableness that must look like insanity to the holy angels who surround his throne and constantly cry their praises to one another

in heaven, the redeemed pick up on this theme... not to worship God seems like insanity

Revelation 15:3-4 "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. ⁴ Who will not fear you, O Lord, and

bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

4. insanity cured by salvation, we will praise God

Daniel 4:34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

II. Your Personal Theme: "God is My Salvation" (vs. 1-2)

Isaiah 12:1-2 In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

A. Personal Salvation, Personal Praise

1. in that day, you (singular) will say
2. this is a word of prophecy spoken to individual persons whom God will save
3. after that immense work of salvation is consummated (or perhaps while it is) individual sinners saved by grace will say these things
4. we are saved as individuals, personally saved, personally called by name to follow Christ

John 10:3 He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

5. so Isaiah speaks to the individual sinner saved by grace and says, "In that day, you will praise God"
6. "In that day..." In what day??
 - a. Phrase usually used by Isaiah to speak of future day of judgment... he uses it 42 times in the first 30 chapters
 - b. Again and again pointing to the future when God will act powerfully, usually in judgment on Israel for their sins
 - c. But here, Isaiah is speaking of a future celebration of God's grace in salvation

- d. It could refer to heavenly worship... or perhaps earthly celebration of forgiveness from God while our final salvation is still being worked out

B. God's Wrath Satisfied

Isaiah 12:1 "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me."

1. God's passionate reaction to all evil is intrinsic to His character
 - a. God is an emotional being
 - b. But His emotions are perfectly constrained by His character
 - c. God's wrath different than ours

J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*:

"It is not the capricious, arbitrary, bad-tempered and conceited anger which pagans attribute to their gods. It is not the sinful, resentful, malicious, infantile anger which we find among men. It is a function of that holiness which is expressed in the demands of God's moral law, 'be holy because I am holy' (1 Peter 1:16)..." (p. 166)

- d. Throughout Isaiah, the passionate reaction of God toward sin is prominently displayed
 - i) Repeated phrase... stated again and again **"Yet for all this his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised."**

Isaiah 5:25 Therefore the LORD's anger burns against his people; his hand is raised and he strikes them down. The mountains shake, and the dead bodies are like refuse in the streets. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

- ii) Assyria was called the rod of God's anger

Isaiah 10:5-6 "Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath! ⁶ I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger me, to seize loot and snatch plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets."

2. But now, God's anger has been completely turned away
 - a. What an incredible turn of events!!
3. Propitiation
 - a. Many deny that God has any wrath against human sin

- b. They portray God as all-loving, all-forgiving, fatherly, who is just patiently waiting people to come back to Him
- c. But Isaiah has consistently portrayed the wrath of God against sin
- d. And here in this verse he turns His anger away
- e. This brings us to the essential doctrine of propitiation... the turning away of God's wrath by the offering of blood sacrifice

John Murray: "The idea of propitiation is precisely this, that God loved the objects of His wrath so much that He gave His own Son to the end that He by His blood should make provision for the removal of this wrath. It was Christ's so to deal with the wrath that the loved would no longer be the objects of wrath, and love would achieve its aim of making the children of wrath the children of God's good pleasure." [*The Atonement*, p. 15]

- f. Only God can turn his own anger aside
- g. Pagan religions had the idea of appeasing the wrath of the gods by sacrifice

Packer: "In paganism, man propitiates the gods, and religion becomes a form of commercialism and, indeed, of bribery. In Christianity, God propitiates His own wrath by His own action..." by setting forth Christ to be a propitiation for us

- h. No human works, no human plot or scheme could ever have done it
- i. Christ alone can accomplish this by dying in our place as our substitute

Isaiah 53:5-6 he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 3:23-25 all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

The end result of Christ's work on the cross... God will never be angry with us again; rather all His wrath is poured out on the substitute

Now God is able to speak words of comfort to us:

Isaiah 40:1-2 Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

Isaiah 66:13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you

C. God IS Salvation

Isaiah 12:2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

1. profound concept here: not merely that God is our Savior... the one who reaches out and rescues us from His wrath and from hell and all danger
2. it is far deeper than that... it is that God Himself IS our salvation
3. the good news of the gospel is that, when God is done exerting all His saving power toward us and rescuing us from sin, that we will have the greatest reward imaginable... GOD HIMSELF

Revelation 22:3-4 The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

4. many people think of heaven in lower terms... what we get—the pearly gates, seeing grandma again, playing golf on some celestial golf course
5. John Piper in his book *God Is the Gospel*, asks a very poignant question:

If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there? [p. 15]

Heaven is heaven precisely because God is there, loving us, knowing us, embracing us, showing us Himself fully

Hell is hell precisely because God is not there, not positively, but only by the steady outpouring of His wrath

III. Our Corporate Pleasure: Joyful Satisfaction in God (vs. 3)

Isaiah 12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

A. Something Shared

1. now Isaiah moves to plural form, you (pl.)
2. he is addressing the whole community of believers and is sharing what they will enjoy

B. Deep Satisfaction

1. image is one of total refreshment, of delight, of satisfaction, of joy
 - a. Near East a place of deserts where everyone knows the value of water
 - b. Wells are dug with great effort, at great cost
 - c. Sometimes wars have been fought between nomadic desert tribes over ownership of wells

Darfur and the entire region has had a serious **water** problem that has, for generations, been a source of unending conflict among various sections of the Darfur population. In particular the settled and nomadic tribes have **fought over water** for a long time. In November 2004 Brian Smith wrote “**Water** is strategically important, given that the blue Nile and white Nile meet in Sudan and constitute the lifeline of Egypt immediately north.

The discovery this year of an underground mega-lake the size of Lake Erie under the windblown sands of northern Darfur has made the Darfur region even more valuable. A “1000 **wells** for Darfur” initiative was recently agreed upon to help bring survival to the people who live in that area and end armed conflict over water

Bottom line: wells mean water, and water means life

- d. The image here: finding an endless source of cool, refreshing water from which you can drink whenever you are thirsty

2. consistent image in the Bible: salvation is like water

Psalm 36:8-9 They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. ⁹ For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

John 4:14 whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 7:37-38 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

3. one of Satan’s biggest lies... “God hates pleasure”
 - a. Satan portrays himself as the real joy-giver
 - b. He lies saying that his agenda of lust of the eyes, of the flesh and the pride of life is “Where it’s at... what’s hot... what’s fresh and cutting edge”... in other words, this is where the true pleasure lies

4. God INVENTED pleasure!!
5. Heaven is a place of ultimate delights

Psalm 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

C. Ongoing Refreshment for Eternity in Christ

1. the book of Revelation speak much of this theme of refreshment
2. the idea there is that joy and delight in drinking deeply from God will last forever

Revelation 21:6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Revelation 22:1-2 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

IV. Our Universal Mission: Magnify the Greatness of God (vs. 4-6)

Isaiah 12:4-6 In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

A. Evangelism: Proclaiming Among the Nations the Greatness of God

1. the Psalm of praise ends with a focus on evangelism... and specifically evangelism as worship
2. the psalm focuses on thanksgiving... giving thanks to God for his marvelous salvation
3. "Call on his name"
 - a. This is the central message of the gospel

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- b. The call on the name of the Lord is to ask Him for salvation... to plead with Him that He might become our salvation... to ask Him to live up to His character and His promises
4. “Make known among the nations what he has done...”
- a. A rehearsing of the great acts of God in redemptive history
 - i) the calling of Abraham and the way he enabled a 100 year old man and a 90 year old barren woman to conceive a child
 - ii) the great multiplication of the descendents of Abraham until they were like the stars in the sky and like the sand on the seashore
 - iii) the rescue of the Jews from bondage in Egypt by Moses... by signs and wonders, by the ten plagues and the awesome Red Sea crossing
 - iv) the giving of the Ten Commandments at Sinai... and all the Mosaic Covenant
 - v) the patience of God in dealing with sinful Israel, with a stiff-necked people who refused to love God and obey Him... the prophets God sent again and again to warn Israel
 - vi) all the miracles God did in Israel’s history to deliver His people from one enemy after another
 - vii) the Babylonian exile and restoration of the Jews from Babylon
 - viii) In the fullness of time, the birth of God’s only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to a virgin
 - ix) The miracles Christ did to display God’s glory
 - x) The Sinlessness of Christ, his astonishing teachings
 - xi) The atoning death of Christ, his mighty resurrection
 - xii) The giving of the Holy Spirit, the amazing spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth over twenty incredible centuries of church history
 - b. The gospel is a call to the nations to understand what God has done in Christ to save us from His wrath and bring us to eternal life
 - c. The good news is that God has done it!!
5. evangelism and missions is simply making known to the people what God has done in Christ

'and proclaim that his name is exalted'

God is high above all things

The greatness of God, his exalted position on His throne is the centerpiece of our mission to the world

B. Worship: Immersed in the Greatness of God

Vs. 5-6 Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.

1. singing is worship raised to its highest level

in the Chronicles of Narnia,

The Magician's Nephew. When Diggory, Polly, and the rest enter into Narnia for the first time, they find it a void, and a voice—later revealed to be Aslan—sings the new world into existence. Aslan represents Jesus Christ, so C.S. Lewis is ascribing creation to Christ as Colossians does... but amazing that Christ does it by singing

So in salvation, Christ sings

Hebrews 2:12 He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

And God the Father will join in the song

Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

2. there is something spiritual about a skillfully composed song... something that reaches to the very fiber of our souls
3. but there is a kind of music that has never been heard on earth but that will resonate with our souls

Revelation 14:1-3 When I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. ³ And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

4. the theme of the song... the greatness of God

‘great is the Holy One of Israel among you’

5. and of his achievements

‘he has done glorious things’

The people of God will spend eternity immersed joyfully in song, celebrating the greatness of God and the rehearsing of His achievements

One theme that has much occupied my mind: the rehearsing of testimonies of God’s saving work among the nations from every generation

- European peasants saved during the 14th century when the Black Plague spread death over 1/3rd of the continent... some godly and courageous believers risked life and health to bring the gospel and medical attention where no one else dared to go
- Tribal people in Irian Jaya will relate the story of how missionaries came after WWII to share the gospel with them
- American Indians will speak of the sacrifices David Brainerd made to bring them to Christ... an of how they then took the gospel to other tribes as well
- There will be many hidden stories coming from Mongolia and China in the imperial era, of how God secretly worked to save His elect
- We will see the tapestry of grace woven through history and we will sing God’s praises forever