

This chapter is a Song of Deliverance—a song the collective people of God sing as they are liberated from their enemies—in many ways it resembles the song the OC people of God sang when liberated from Egyptian bondage—thus the salvation described in this chapter could rightly be identified as a new or second exodus—but, as I mentioned last week, it is a greater exodus—it's deliverance from a greater bondage, by a greater deliverer, at a greater cost...

- I. Water
- II. Wells
- III. Drawing

I. Water

1. V3—"Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation—the "therefore" ties v3 back to verses 1-2...
2. Because God's anger has been turned away and we've been comforted, because Christ is our strength, song, and salvation—"therefore"—having made peace with God—we now continually draw fresh water from wells of salvation...
3. Now—before I go any further—let me briefly point out that this song is likely following the events of the first exodus...
4. Verse 1 speaks about God's anger being propitiated—this was shadowed in the blood of the Passover lamb...
5. Verse 2 speaks about liberation and salvation—while enslaved their tongues were dumb—they were silent...
6. What did the OC people of God do when they were liberated from their enemies—they sang a song of deliverance...
7. Verse 3 speaks about the provision of water—this refers to the provision of water through their wilderness journey...
8. Thus—in v1 we have the appeasement of God's anger, v2 liberation and a song, and v3 the provision of water...
9. This is the same order we find in the first exodus—the passover (Ex.12), liberation celebrated by singing (Ex.15), and the provision of water from the rock (Ex.17)...
10. Ex.17:6—"Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel (Ps.114:7-8)..."
11. Isa.48:20-21—"Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! With a voice of singing, Declare, proclaim this, Utter it to the end of the earth; Say, The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob! And they did not thirst when He led them through the deserts; He caused the waters to flow from the rock for them; He also split the rock, and the waters gushed out..."
12. This is a prophecy of the returning remnant from Babylonian captivity—who will return—"with a voice of singing..."
13. Notice—WHAT they will sing—"The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob! And they did not thirst when He led them through the deserts..."
14. That is—they sing a song of REDEMPTION and PROVISION—redemption from captivity and provision of water...
15. Thus—the question remains—what exactly is meant by "water"—"with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation..."
16. Well—for starters—"water" is closely connected to salvation—this water comes from the wells of salvation...
17. Thus—fundamentally, by "water" is meant—the grace associated with salvation—God's gracious salvation...
18. Furthermore, throughout the prophets—"water" is closely associated with the person and work of the Spirit...

19. Joel 2:28—"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh"—pour like water...
20. Thus—I suggest—by "water" is meant—the gracious work of the Spirit in applying saving and sanctifying grace...
21. Thus—here I want to briefly answer the question—why does Scripture liken salvation and grace—to water...
22. [1] Water revives—that is, it gives life—and Scripture uses at least two imageries to illustrate this point or fact...
23. [a] Thirsty souls—that is—just as physical water gives life to the body, so spiritual water gives life to the soul...
24. [b] Dry ground—that is—our souls are barren by nature, and it's the water of His grace that makes them fruitful...
25. Isa.44:1-5—"Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel whom I have chosen. Thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb, *who* will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; and you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring; they will spring up among the grass like willows by the watercourses.' One will say, 'I *am* the LORD's'; another will call *himself* by the name of Jacob; another will write *with* his hand, 'The LORD's,' and name *himself* by the name of Israel (Isa.49:10)..."
26. [2] Water rejoices—water refreshes the body, so this water refreshes the soul—it brings gladness to the heart...
27. Ps.46:4—"There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High..."
28. [3] Water satisfies—by this I mean—this water is able to satisfy the deepest needs or thirst of a man's soul...
29. Simply put—every person who drinks from these wells, will never again, look for salvation anywhere else...
30. Jn.4:13-14—"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life..."
31. Ps.36:7-9—"How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light (Isa.55:1-3)..."

II. Wells

1. The Hebrew word rendered "wells" literally means "fountains or springs"—it refers to fresh running water...
2. The Scriptures refer to this as "living water" as opposed to stale or stagnant water found in a cistern or tank...
3. In ancient days there were two kinds of well—the first was a pool of water that could eventually be depleted...
4. The second drew it's water from an underground spring—this water was always fresh and it NEVER ran out...
5. This is what's referred to here in v3—it's for this reason some translations render it "springs" and others "wells"...
6. Thus—the same Hebrew word here rendered "wells" (NKJV), is used in Ps.114 in relation to the first exodus, and rendered "fountain"...
7. Ps.114:7-8—"Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turned the rock *into* a pool of water, the flint into a fountain of waters..."
8. Thus—either way if our text speaks about a fountain above ground, or a beneath the ground, accessed through a well—the point is the same...

9. This is a place where water has become accessible—where we can obtain it—where we can access it for ourselves...
10. Furthermore, and this is very important—this water is always fresh and abundant—it will never be depleted...
11. Thus—the question becomes who or what is meant by a well—or, where has God deposited water for thirsty sinners...
12. Well—fundamentally and primarily I suggest—Christ is the well, fountain, or spring—in which we find water...
13. This is hinted at in the phrase—"the wells of salvation"—the Hebrew word rendered "salvation" is—Yesh-oo-aw...
14. It would largely be this word that would become JESUS—which literally means—"the LORD is salvation..."
15. Matt.1:21—"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins..."
16. Now—I can anticipate the question—If by wells of salvation is meant Christ, then why is it "wells" and not "well"...
17. Simply put—the prophet uses the plural instead of singular, because of the abundance of salvation found in Christ...
18. There is in Christ "wells" of salvation—there's a well for our justification, sanctification, and glorification...
19. Isa.32:1-4—"Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice. A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, and a cover from the tempest, as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. The eyes of those who see will not be dim, and the ears of those who hear will listen. Also the heart of the rash will understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers will be ready to speak plainly..."
20. Jn.7:37-39—"On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified..."
21. Thus—here I want to suggest that grace or water is found in Christ—exclusively, deservedly, and abundantly...
22. [1] Exclusively—that is—there is only one place where God has deposited saving water and that is in Christ...
23. Here—I want to take a few minutes and survey the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation with relation to water...
24. Gen.2:10—"Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden" Gen.3:23—"therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden..."
25. Throughout the rest of the OT—promises are made of a coming Messiah, in whom this water will be given...
26. Thus—we find in the gospels our Savior repeatedly inviting thirsty sinners to come and drink water found in Him...
27. Rev.22:1—"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb..."
28. [2] Deservedly—my this I mean—grace, or water, is found in Christ as the result of His redemptive labors...
29. Ex.17:6—"Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel (Ps.114:7-8)..."
30. 1Cor.10:4—"For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ (typified Christ)..."
31. Now—I think it's rather evident that by "striking" the Rock is typified Christ being struck with the blows of justice...

32. Zech.13:7—"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion, Says the LORD of hosts. Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones..."
33. [3] Abundantly—by this I mean—there is enough grace within Christ—for every Christian to have their fill...
34. This of course is underscored by the terms "fountain" or "spring"—the grace that's in Christ is an ever flowing source...
35. If grace was in Christ like a cistern, it would slowly be depleted, but it's within Him as a fountain ever flowing...
36. This again can be illustrated in the type—in that, the water provided for OC Israel was in great abundance...
37. Ps.78:15—"He split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink in abundance like the depths [oceans]..."
38. There was an abundance of water provided for the nation of Israel, though it likely numbered more two million...
39. Oh—my friends—it's impossible to grasp how much grace is found in Christ—sufficient for all of God's people...
40. Jn.1:14-16—"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace..."

III. Drawing

1. Here I want to address the question—How is water drawn from these wells, fountains, or springs of salvation...
2. It makes little difference how much water is in the well—if we fail to draw the water to ourselves and drink...
3. [1] Faith—that is—faith is the means through which, or by which, we draw water from the wells of salvation...
4. Let me make this point very clear—fundamentally, faith is the bucket used to draw water, or grace, from Christ...
5. Thus—we are justified and sanctified BY FAITH—faith is the means, whereby, we draw grace from Christ...
6. Faith is the means through which, or by which, water (grace) is communicated from Christ, to the thirsty soul...
7. Let me illustrate—think of a village located at the foot of a mountain in a valley—undergoing a severe drought...
8. Let's simply say for the sake of illustration—there existed up within the mountain—a fresh spring of water...
9. Now—what's needed is a means whereby the water can be transferred from the springs down to the village...
10. Well—what if a pipe was placed in the fountain that would carry the water down from the mountain to the village...
11. This is what faith does—it's the channel through which grace, which is found in Christ, is brought to the soul...
12. Now—this is proven in that, Scripture describes faith by the imagery of coming to Christ and drinking from Him...
13. Jn.7:37-38—"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water (Rom.5:1-2)..."
14. Notice—coming to Christ and drinking is one and the same with believing—believing is the same as drinking...
15. [2] Faith exercised in and through means—that is—the means ordained of God to have dealings with Christ...

16. Now—I've mentioned the means of grace allot over the years—thus let me simply provide three practical helps...
17. [a] The means of grace are ordained of God—that is—they are specifically chosen by God to serve as means...
18. Thus—historically, sometimes they are referred to as "the ordinances"—that is—things appointed by God...
19. Public means—the reading and preaching of the word of God, singing, praying, fellowship, and sacraments...
20. Private means—reading, memorization, meditation of Scripture, and prayer—these are the private means of grace...
21. Now—it's important to understand that these are intentionally ordained of God to serve as wells of salvation...
22. It's for this reason several commentators understand these wells (pl) to refer to the ordained means of grace...
23. These are ordained places where Christ is uniquely and especially found—where water is to be drawn from...
24. [b] The means of grace are means not ends—that is—they are means whereby we have dealings with Christ...
25. Perhaps another way of putting it would be—they are means of grace insofar as are hearts interact with Christ...
26. [c] The means of grace are used by thirsty souls—have you ever wondered why we often neglect these means...
27. Here's the reason—our hearts simply are too full and busy with the things of this world—we don't thirst for God...
28. Rev.21:6—"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 (Rev.22:17)..."
29. Ps.63:1—"God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water..."