

# Isaiah's Testimony of Salvation-Joy

*Isaiah 61:10*

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**Introduction:** The year was 1976. The month was July. It was Saturday, the 31<sup>st</sup>. It was two in the afternoon, on a very hot day in northern Virginia. What was so important about that particular day? It was the day Gwendolyn Sue Heflin became the wife of Michael Wayne Lynn. It is 46 years ago today that one of the most significant days in my life occurred. In fact, only one other day holds any greater significance in my life, that being March 24, 1968. That was the day, while riding home from Sunday School on a church bus, that I, as a 13 year-old boy bowed my head & received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. As I would be told later by my Jr. High Sunday School teacher, Eddie Thornton, the two most important decisions that I would ever make in this life would be the decision to trust Christ as my Lord & Savior, & the decision as to whom I would marry. I'm here to tell you today that I greatly rejoice in both of those decisions. That is why I find it interesting here in our text of Isaiah 61:10 that Isaiah's salvation-joy is likened unto wedding-day-joy. Let's set the context: Isaiah chapters 1-39 speak of **condemnation**; chapters 40-66 speak of **consolation**. The last 27 chapters can be divided: God's greatness in 40-48; God's grace in 49-57; & God's glory in 58-66. Consider with me this morning Isaiah's testimony of salvation-joy, & ask yourself whether or not you could offer a similar testimony here today. Note the indication, the identification, & the illustration of Isaiah's salvation-joy given in 3 pairs of parallel phrases.

## I. The **indication** of salvation-joy > a verbal exclamation

### A. The **substance** of his joy:

1. Its emphasis > "*greatly rejoice*" – literally, "joyfully I rejoice."
2. Its expressions > (Do you express joy in these things?).
  - a. In singing – Isaiah 35:2; 52:9; & cf. Psalm 100:1; 98:4,6 [Illustrate: "Hymn Spins"].
  - b. In soulwinning – Psalm 126:5-6 & cf. Proverbs 11:30.
  - c. In supplicating (praying) – Philippians 1:4.
  - d. In submitting – Galatians 5:16, 22-23.
  - e. In studying – Jeremiah 15:16 [Illustrate: "Some minutes in the morning"].
  - f. In suffering – James 1:3; Philippians 4:4 [Illustrate: Richard Wurmbrand].

### B. The **subject** of his joy:

1. "*In the Lord*" > in His presence – Psalm 16:11 & cf. Jude :24.
2. "*In my God*" > in His pleasure – Psalm 37:23, II Corinthians 5:9 (& cf. Romans 12:1-2, 14:18, Ephesians 5:10, & Hebrews 12:28).

## II. The **identification** of salvation-joy > a vital examination

### A. The **initiation** of **redemption** by God:

1. "*He hath clothed me*" > salvation is provided by Christ's shed blood.
  - a. Its necessity – Genesis 3:21 & cf. Hebrews 9:22.
  - b. Its sufficiency – Ephesians 1:7 & cf. Revelation 1:5.
2. "*He hath covered me*" > salvation is procured by man's heart belief.
  - a. Conviction unto salvation – John 6:44 (& see 6:37).
  - b. Confession unto salvation – Romans 10:9, John 1:12-13 [Illustrate: The only one who saves].

### B. The **imputation** of **righteousness** by God:

1. "*Garmets of salvation*" > implies man's pretension (his pretext, claim, or assertion).
  - a. His previous ragged robes of self-righteousness – Romans 10:1-3.
  - b. His previous ritualistic rags of religion – Matthew 23:5-33 & Isaiah 64:6 (cf. Mt. 22:11-14).

2. *“Robe of righteousness”* > indicates God’s provision.
  - a. Spiritual cleansing – forgiveness; see Colossians 1:14 & I John 1:9.
  - b. Spiritual clothing – righteousness; see II Corinthians 5:21 & Philippians 3:9.

Note: Justification involves both the forgiveness of sin & the imputation of righteousness. See Romans 4:4-8, illustrated by Abraham & David [cf. Mark 5:1-20, “Maniac of Gadara”].

### III. The **illustration** of salvation-joy > a visual expression

#### A. **Excitement** in that day:

1. By way of comment > see Isaiah 62:5.
  2. By way of contrast > see Jeremiah 7:34, 16:9, 25:10, 33:11 & Revelation 18:23.
- Application: We should relay our excitement. Why? Knowing our sins are forgiven, our home is in heaven, & God is our heavenly Father. Compare & contrast worldly excitement – sports, politics, hunting?? What do you & I get excited about? Do you ever get excited about your salvation?

#### B. **Extravagance** of that day:

1. As a bridegroom with ornaments.
  - a. Adorned as a king – wearing a crown of gold (or garland of fresh flowers), scented garments (with frankincense & myrrh), & silken girdle (sash) – see Psalm 45:8.
  - b. Addressed as a prince – “For the time, the peasant seemed a prince among his fellows, & all paid him the deference due to exalted rank” (Wright, “Manners & Customs of Bible Lands”).
2. As a bride with jewels.
  - a. Her hair braided with gold & pearls (cf. Jeremiah 2:32).
  - b. “She was decked with all the precious stones & jewels that the family had inherited from previous generations. Those who were too poor to afford much themselves would borrow what they could from their friends” (Wright).

Application: We should recall our extravagance. What is that? The song writer puts it, “I’m a child of the King...” > given material riches? Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:19.  
> given spiritual riches? Ephesians 1:3, Psalm 68:19.

**Conclusion:** Is this your testimony here this morning? Is your life indicating salvation-joy? Isaiah’s verbal exclamation emphasized a joyful rejoicing & found expression in his life. Do you express joy in your singing, in your soulwinning, in your supplicating, in your submitting, in your studying, & in your suffering? Is the joy of the Lord your strength here this morning? Does spending time in His presence bring you joy? Does your service for Him bring joy to His heart, a smile to His face?

Isaiah identified salvation-joy by the realization that his salvation was initiated & his righteousness imputed by God. This vital examination needs to be made in your life. Have you been justified – declared righteous in God’s sight – having experienced the cleansing forgiveness of sins & the spiritual clothing of righteousness?

And Isaiah illustrated his salvation-joy by means of a visual expression – wedding-day excitement & extravagance. Are you excited this morning to know that you are a Christian? Though not rich in the eyes of the world, are you rich in faith? Are you enjoying the extravagance of God’s spiritual blessings? If you do not share Isaiah’s testimony of salvation-joy, maybe you are not saved. Why not come forward this morning & be saved today! Or perhaps you have lost the joy of your salvation because of sin. Consider the steps of repentance taken by David in Psalm 51 & pray his prayer to God: *“Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation...”* (:12). My prayer is that every one of us would leave here today, echoing this testimony of Isaiah, *“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, & as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”*