

Isaiah 11: 15-12:3

The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dry-shod. There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.

And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'" Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

The Anchor Holds

Several years ago a family crossing Lake Erie in their newly purchased sail boat narrowly escaped loss of life. As they travelled from the Cleveland toward Port Burwell, a storm developed which began to toss their boat around mercilessly. To avert destruction the novice sailors cast their anchor out from the stern. The waves crashed over the stern, tearing the anchor loose and capsizing the boat. Fortunately, although the boat was destroyed, the family was washed ashore in safety, wearing life jackets.

This story reminds me of the words of an old hymn: "Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?" God speaks of an anchor that all men need: "Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain" (Hebrews 6:17-19 NIV). Here God makes a promise and an oath to confirm the hope of salvation as an anchor of the soul.

See first the description of this anchor. It is "sure", meaning safe or unbreakable. Like the four inch steel cables that secure the anchors of great ships, this hope of salvation is an unbreakable anchor. It is also "steadfast", meaning solid, grounded and unmoving. This hope of salvation cannot shift, time and circumstance will not shake or move it.

See next the location of this anchor. It is within "the inner sanctuary", this is the place of the very presence of God "where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf." (Hebrews 6:20 NIV). Our hope of salvation is an anchor as sure and steadfast as the power of God in raising Christ from the dead, our anchor is the Lord Jesus Christ, who "died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ... was buried, (and) ... was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NIV).

As the storms of life come, many seek refuge in financial security, inner strength, or even "religion" (without a personal relationship with God). Often too late, these people find their error; the anchors do not hold! There is only one sure anchor of deliverance in our present circumstances and for eternity; Jesus Christ the Son of God. To know him is to be assured of safe arrival (like wearing life jackets), but to follow Him (hold to His Word as authority and guide in life - "Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalms 119:105) is to be held secure through storm by the anchor of hope. What is your anchor of security?

What is my response:
