

FEAR NOT

“FEAR THOU NOT: FOR I AM WITH THEE, BE NOT DISMAYED; FOR I AM THY GOD.”

Isaiah prophetically looks into his future and sees a crushed and discouraged people. They are a people held captive by an oppressor, and their situation was of their own making.

Years before they sought their own way and fell into sin. Their disobedience and resistance to God resulted in a hopeless captivity.

They found themselves in a place where there was no way out. They had no place to flee. All their resources were spent, and the realization of their hopeless situation had finally sunk in.

In this passage we will see God giving all who look to Him hope. He does this in a very real and tangible way. When all human hope is gone, He demonstrates His ability to do the impossible. He wants us to know that when the time comes that we are so crushed and have no possible way out, that in Him there is still hope.



Perhaps you feel this way — hopeless and lost. It may even be due to your own devices and your craftiness brought you to the place far from God.

I have good news, in this passage God is demonstrating His power to help a people who had lost their way. This is a picture of deliverance for all generations that call upon the name of the Lord. It is recorded for us. It is here to remind us that when we find ourselves painted into a corner, He is still able to rescue us.

1. Israel was a chosen people. Read Isaiah 41:8-9 and note the term “chosen” in that passage. **Discuss how God also uses this term regarding those in Christ. — Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 8:33; Colossians 3:12; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 1:2; 5:13**

ANSWER:

“But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have **chosen**, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have **chosen** thee, and not cast thee away.”

This portion is to God’s people – chosen. Yes, it is for the nation of Israel. It depicts a historic event in the life of the nation. It shows us how God responds to His people. They were chosen – not because they were great or better than everyone else – but rather because of God’s love and His purpose of making His power known to the world.

In like manner, if you are in Christ, you are chosen. In the New Testament, the word “chosen” in Greek is ἐκλεκτόν. It is the same Greek word translated “elect” in other passages.

“He hath **chosen** us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” – Eph. 1:4

God calls those who placed their trust in Christ “a **chosen** generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” – 1 Peter 2:9

Rom. 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s **elect**? *It is* God that justifieth.

Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as the **elect** of God . . .

2Tim. 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the **elect’s** sakes . . .

Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s **elect** . . .

1Pet. 1:2 **Elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father . . .

1Pet. 5:13 The *church that is at Babylon*, **elected** together with *you* . . .

2John 1 The elder unto the **elect** lady and her children,

2John 13 The children of thy **elect** sister greet thee. Amen.

Certainly, “God hath **chosen** the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath **chosen** the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God **chosen**, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are” – 1 Cor. 1:27-28

2. **Discuss the promises in Isaiah 41:9, 10 in relationship to the situation Israel was facing in this passage.**

ANSWER:

“I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.”

And again, the promises in Isaiah 41:10 –

“I will strengthen thee; yea help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

God is giving these promises to a people who felt they had disqualified themselves. They felt they had sinned so much that God no longer cared for them. They had made such a mess that their trouble stunk to high heaven.

It was due to their own devices that they ended up in this hopeless, helpless state of captivity. Their situation was so bad, they lost their homes, their place of worship, and were defeated, humbled and repentant. They were now ready to look up to Him.

In this hopeless condition God stoops down and whispers

“I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.”

“I will strengthen thee; yea help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Christians can sin as well. We can lose sight of God. We can lose blessing upon blessing and God can lock us into a situation that we cannot get out of. But, in this low estate God is able to reach down to His people when they turn to Him and say,

“I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away . . . I will strengthen thee; yea help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

WOW. What great news.

3. What does God tell His people in Isaiah 41:10? What does God tell us in the New Testament? — Matt. 10:26; 28; Luke 8:50; 12:7, 32; Rom. 8:15; 2Tim. 1:7; Rev. 1:17

ANSWER:

Isaiah 41:10 – “Fear thou not: for I am with thee, be not dismayed; for I am thy God.

In our passage Israel has no other place to go. They are humbled and recognize the sinful deeds that got them there. God is speaking to a people ready to return to Him and says to them . . . Stop Fearing. If you are in this place then, God is also saying to you to stop fearing.

Matt. 10:26 **Fear** them **not** therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall **not** be revealed; and hid, that shall **not** be known.

Matt. 10:28 And **fear not** them which kill the body, but are **not** able to kill the soul: but rather **fear** him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 8:50 But when Jesus heard *it*, he answered him, saying, **Fear not**: believe only, and she shall be made whole.

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not** therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:32 **Fear not**, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Rom. 8:15 For ye have **not** received the spirit of bondage again to **fear**; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

2Tim. 1:7 For God hath **not** given us the spirit of **fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Rev. 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, **Fear not**; I am the first and the last.

4. Historically, what has God done to give "teeth" to back up His promises to a troubled people.

ANSWER:

There are numerous examples in Scripture of God's ability to deliver in impossible situations. Israel's deliverance from Egypt, Peter's deliverance from prison (twice). Deliverance when Israel was surrounded by their enemies. etc.

Regarding the Isaiah 41 passage, Isaiah is prophetically seeing a real event in Israel's future. In it, God is raising up a man from the east. A feared ruler who would subdue the nations surrounding the Middle East. God even calls him by name 190 years before he was born (Isaiah 45:1.)

This prophecy is designed to show **God's ability to know** and to **control** the future. It is a picture of redemption. It is important for us to grasp God's sovereignty. God knows and is able to control the future. Especially for us when we stumble in this life. God knows the problems we will encounter and where we will end up. He has a plan of escape for those who look to him (1Cor. 10:13).

This is a picture of Israel's Babylonian captivity. Ultimately, their homes were destroyed, their temple was wasted, and their families were scattered. It is a hopeless situation for the people, however in love God draws them near and says unto them, stop fearing, stop being dismayed I will deliver you. I already assigned a deliverer by the name of Cyrus. He will do my bidding and return you to the land.

5. Are there conditions regarding these promises?

ANSWER:

Though Israel was God's chosen people. It was not until they were in captivity and they turned their hearts to him for answers that God gave these promises. We can get ourselves into a whole heap of trouble, and God will allow us to go there. But it is when we turn to Him with sincere hearts that we can see and enjoy the promises that God gives.

6. Share a few impossible situations you experienced where you saw God answer prayer.