

“A Vital Promise”
Isaiah 41:10

INTRO:

The text we will explore today is an important one. God gave it first to Judah as He tried to encourage them in their difficulties. Truthfully, in the first place, the promise was a promise for His old covenant people. We are God’s new covenant people bound together through the blood of Christ. Therefore, we too can take hold of this promise and recognize God has also given it to us.

What then did God the Father promise His Old Testament People and what did He promise us? ***“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*** (Isaiah 41:10).

I. His Presence

II. His Power

III. His Promises

I. His Presence

A. We recognize this promise was given to God’s covenant people. (Isaiah 41:8-9)

“But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend. You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away’”

1. Primarily this is a promise to national Israel in the midst of her situation there in the time of Isaiah. Yet, is there not something here for us?

2. Since we who know the Lord as Savior are also those whom God has called, this also applies to us. We know this also because these very promises are repeated for us in the New Testament.

B. Let us then consider the first statement that our Lord made here. He commands us to not be afraid. ***“Fear not, for I am with you.”***

1. The exhortation to not fear is one that we hear from the lips of our Lord often. Do you remember in **Luke 5** when the people pressed upon Jesus to hear the Word of God? Jesus borrowed Peter’s boat as a pulpit? Afterward, He told Peter to cast his nets out and He blessed him with many fish. Peter’s response was fascinating, ***“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!’”*** Our Lord’s response was, ***“Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”*** (Luke 5:8, 10b)

2. Another time, in **Matthew 14**, when the disciples were in the boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee and in the midst of a storm, that the Lord Jesus came to them walking on the water. Do you remember what He said to them? ***“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”*** Does He not come to us in the midst of the storms of our lives and say to us, ***“Do not be afraid?”*** (v.27)

3. I positively love the statement that Jesus made to His disciples in the upper room in **John 14:27**. ***“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”***

We are not to let our hearts be troubled or afraid. How in the world do we do that? We learn how keep our hearts unafraid here in **Isaiah 41:10**.

C. How can we not allow our hearts to be troubled? We can because the Lord promised to be with us in the midst of any trouble we can experience. ***“Fear not for I am with you.”*** He is here with us. This is a very important truth that the Lord strives to drive home again and again in Isaiah’s prophecy.

1. For example, in **Isaiah 43:1-2**;

“But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.’”

When the trouble comes, do not be afraid. Why not? The Lord Himself will be with us.

2. A second example is in **Isaiah 43:5-7** we read of God’s promise to restore Israel to the land of promise.

“Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth— everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”

Again, the basis for our conquering fear is that He is right there with us!

II. His Power

A. God did not stop with this one command, to not fear. He added another command in the next phrase of our verse. ***“Be not dismayed, for I am your God.”*** The Hebrew means ***to look anxiously about.***

B. The answer to dismay and anxiety is the power of God. ***“I am your Elohim.”*** The name Elohim speaks of God’s unlimited power. We meet our God first in the very first verse of the Bible, ***“In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.”*** The eternal, all powerful God of the universe, who created everything out of nothing promised to be our

personal God. If He could call stars and planets into being by the mere action of His will, how can anything be too difficult for Him?

2. This God is also the one who knows all things. Remember what David said in **Psalm 139?**

“O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.”

If God knows all these things, how can anything take Him by surprise? It can't.

III. His Promises

A. We must not fear for He is with us. We are never alone while we travel through the valley of the Shadow of death. We must not be anxious, for the all-powerful God is there to provide for us and keep us. If that is not enough, the LORD made three specific promises to us. First, ***“I will strengthen you.”*** God promised to give us the strength to do that which we cannot do alone. Do you remember how Paul prayed in **Ephesians 3:14-16?**

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner person.”

God the Spirit working in us, enables us to have victory over sin and to be able to serve God acceptably.

B. The second promise is: ***“I will help you.”*** In short, God promised to give us what we need at the point that we need it. We read of the fulfilling of this promise in the giving of the Holy Spirit to be our helper, He who is called along side to help. He never leaves us alone, and He never leaves us without help.

C. Finally, our God promised: ***“I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”*** This means that God takes providential care of us. He does not let us fall by the wayside. The Psalmist reminds us,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.” (Psalm 37:23-24)

Lest we fail to believe, God repeats His promise in **Isaiah 41:13;**

“For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, ‘Fear not, I am the one who helps you.’”

With these promises as our strength let us go forth and face the year ahead. Although we do not know what tomorrow brings, we do know who holds tomorrow.