



"Have No Fear-God Is Here!!"

Isaiah 7:1-14; 8:8-10; Matthew 1:22, 23

We are living in fearful times. People all over the world are full of fear. The earth is warming at an abnormal rate. The world economies are collapsing and people are losing their means of income, their shelter, and their perspectives on life. Shortages have caused people to think irrationally and to trust themselves rather than God as their source for survival and success.

The Advent Season or “the celebration remembering God adorning human flesh and coming to earth to redeem us” seems to provide a platform upon which fear and oppressions are built. God has, throughout time, promised those who obey, trust, and follow Him that He would always be with them. When you believe and know that God is with you, that God has not forsaken you, then all fear should be gone. Unfortunately, most people harbor some form of fear, because they simply do not trust that God is near and that He will provide whatever is needed.

The prophecy, by Isaiah, in today’s sermon tells of God giving a sign to King Ahaz about a future or coming event. This prophecy is fulfilled in Matthew 1:22, 23 and has become one of the cornerstones of the Christmas celebration. To appreciate what Immanuel truly means we need to understand the context in which God told Isaiah how to remove his worries, doubts and FEARS.

The Bible tells us that Syria and Israel had banded together to conquer King Ahaz, a despicable, disobedient, sinful king who was worse than many of the kings of Israel, who ruled Judah. King Ahaz was full of fear and emptied the treasury to obtain help from the Assyrians. He even offered his own son as a sacrifice (2 Kings 16:3). King Ahaz did not trust God because he was full of fear (Isaiah 7:2). Isaiah, through his prophecy from God, assured him that Judah would be victorious, but King Ahaz was too filled with fear to comprehend God’s challenge. King Ahaz decided to test God, and Isaiah told the King that God would give him a sign—proof that His word is sovereign. Isaiah 7:14 reads that “a young woman, a virgin, will give birth to a child and His name shall be called ‘Emmanuel,’ which means GOD IS WITH US. In other words, Isaiah was saying “Have No Fear—When God Is Near.”

The prophecy was realized in Matthew 1:22, 23 when a boy child was born to a young virgin and was named Immanuel. This ancient story should give us all hope that regardless of the enemies, which may seek to destroy us, “The worst enemy is fear itself,” said Franklin D. Roosevelt. Paul says that God did not give us the spirit of fear, but of a sound mind and love (2 Timothy 1:7).

As we celebrate this Advent Season and remember the promise from God that He is with us, let ALL fear, distrust, and anxiety be removed from you and receive God’s mercy, grace, forgiveness, love and peace.

Have No Fear—God Is Here: Immanuel is alive—God is with us, and since God is with us who can be against us, and win? (Romans 8:31-39).

Right now, go to God in prayer and receive His time proven promise that He is with you and that you can live a victorious life because He lives. Because “He lives, all fear is gone and we know who holds the future.”

Rejoice, fear free, as we prepare to celebrate Immanuel’s birthday and God’s fulfilled prophecy—TO BE WITH US—Always!

Pastor Gerald L. Durley