Do Not Fear, God is in Control

Isaiah 41:10

As people of color, we have always had to be vigilant. In the days ahead, we must be even more so. The events unfolding before us are real and cannot be ignored. However, we must not, under any circumstances, live in fear. Isaiah's message to Israel is one we would be wise to embrace. Isaiah 41:10 says, *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* This is a message we can embrace with confidence and assurance, knowing that these words are spoken to all believers for all time—not just to the nation of Israel, but to all of us who feel threatened. It is easy to let our imaginations wander and project into a future that only God knows.

Israel faced the looming threat of first Assyria and then Babylon. Yet, God told them to continue trusting in Him. This scripture offers hope and reassurance in challenging times. In the midst of these threats, God promises His presence, strength, and support. It is difficult for us to understand the encouragement God is giving and reconcile it with the threats approaching. It is hard to see that God is always working to reconcile us to Himself. In this case, He was reconciling Israel to Him, using Babylon as part of that process.

God's ways are not our ways. We say this often, and some see it as an escape hatch for not having an answer. However, this is not the case at all. Isaiah 55:8-9 says it best: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* This phrase is not a dismissal but a statement of the depth and mystery of God's wisdom.

As the people of God, we must choose life over fear. We must trust and believe that God is in control. Every day, we face a choice: Will we live in fear, or will we be overcomers? We must not allow fear to blind us to the fact that God is moving and acting beyond the immediate trouble. When we face challenges that seem beyond our abilities, we must gather ourselves, step out in faith, and trust in God's provision and care.

There are two parts to the way God brings about reconciliation. The first is correction. Correction is God's way of getting our attention. Just as a loving parent disciplines their

child to teach and guide them, God sometimes allows us to face challenges and hardships to draw us closer to Him and refine our character. This process can be painful and confusing, especially when we don't immediately see the purpose behind it. Some may view this as God imposing correction on those who have not done wrong. However, we must not forget, *"We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* No one is exempt from God's correction.

So, what is the message of Isaiah 41:10? It is one of divine comfort and protection in the face of trouble and threat: *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God."* This verse speaks of God's unwavering presence and faithfulness, offering strength, help, and support to His people. It is a powerful reminder that no matter what trials we face, we are not alone. God's promise to uphold us with His righteous right-hand highlights His power, protection, and care. Ultimately, Isaiah 41:10 calls us to trust in God's strength over our fears, finding peace in His constant presence and loving guidance.

Always remember, God is in control.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool