

Message – Sunday March 22, 2020

Text: Isaiah 41:10

Intro:

What can be said during such a time as this that will encourage us and draw us closer to our God? No doubt many heads are drooped and countless hearts failing because of fear. For the true people of God “we know that all things work together for good to them that love God...” At the outset of this message, we can readily see that this pandemic of covid-19 has already spurred many acts of kindness and compassion all across our great land, even among unbelievers.

I believe that this text from the great Book of the prophet Isaiah will lift us above these unpleasant circumstances and as song writer Johnson Oatman Jr. writes: “Lord lift me up and let me stand, By faith on heaven’s table land. A higher plane than I have found, Lord plant my feet on higher ground.”

I see five great promises in this beautiful verse. Allow me to share them with you, and may you be encouraged by them.

Promise Number One: “Fear thou not; for I am with thee...”

The Hebrew word here for “fear = yare” means simply to be afraid. Israel must pass through the humiliation of an exile and the bondage of a captivity in order to see the deliverance of God and understand their dependence upon Him. Fear is a very normal emotion, but our Bible tell us: “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.” (Psalm 56:3) and again, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of who shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)

Do not ever forget Who it is that says “Fear thou not...” For He also says: “for I am with thee.” He is the Great I am that I am, the creator and sustainer of this vast universe, the author and finisher of our faith!

There is no need to fear, dear one, because HE IS WITH THEE!

Promise Number Two: “...be not dismayed; for I am thy God...”

Here the Hebrew word for “dismayed” = “shaah” It means to be bewildered or confused. Never forget that God is not the author of confusion. He never makes a mistake. He is omniscient and knows the outcome long before it comes to pass. Don’t be upset and beside yourself over the present circumstances. Remember we are in it together as a people and God is on our side! He said: “for I am thy God...” He is in total control. His purpose is to draw men to Himself. Jesus said: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” (John 12:32) It is time for we as believers to lift up our Saviour for He is our God! We are the winners in this battle!

Promise Number Three: “...I will strengthen thee...”

Herein is a straight forward promise. The Lord will endue us with sufficient strength to endure the testing we are going through. His desire for us perhaps is for us to “...be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might” so that we may be of help to some needy soul who is troubled. The strength He offers is often supernatural and has much longevity. It is when we are at our weakest that His strength kicks in! Reach out to someone, beloved. Draw upon His strength.

Promise Number Four: “...yea, I will help thee...”

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

(Psalm46:1) Our God is available 24/7/365. He never slumbers nor sleeps.

His line is open around the clock. This bombardment of coved-19 is no match for our God! Things could always be worse. What is it that God is trying communicate to us? Lay hold upon His help. After all He offers it to you.

Promise Number Five: “Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my

righteousness.”

Wow! He will uphold us! Uphold = “tamak” It means to sustain. We don’t know just how long we will be in this mess, but what we do know is that no matter how long, the Lord will sustain us and hold us up with the right hand of His righteousness. Since He is perfect, what have we to lose. God will bring us through. David said: “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

So, dear one, put your trust in our great God, Jesus Christ, He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He loves you and cares for you. We will all make it through this ordeal!

Conclusion:

Pray for those who have been tested positive for the virus, the families who have lost loved ones, and all those who are on the frontline treating patients.

We should be grateful for the presidential task force who are working around the clock to put an end to this mess. Those who have gone beyond the call of duty deserve our prayers for their dedicated service. God bless you. We will get through this together!

ps – Since we couldn’t meet together I wanted to send this message for you to encourage you until we can meet again. I was planning on being in the pulpit this week, but the Lord had other plans. Thank you for your prayers for me, it has really been appreciated and it has helped me to recover.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Ken

