

## Fear Not, For I Am With You

### *Battling Anxiety With The Presence of God*

Isaiah 41:1-13

We have established early in this series that anxiety is one of the most crippling mindsets that we will face on this side of eternity. Pastors suffer from this, as well as every human being, and walk of life. Recent studies have shown that an over exposure to media and social media as well as the unlimited connection to individuals via cell phones have even played greatly to a heightened state of anxiety. I'm anxious for Israel as I watch the news. I know it will affect us! I'm concerned that Christ will return and many will not be ready! It has been within the recent 25 years that we've experienced an explosion of media intake from the internet. Before, occurrences in Israel, China, or North Korea wouldn't have affected us as much as it does today, yet because we are always being told that the "sky is falling," it causes great anxiety! In our study of Philippians 4:4-7, we saw that we should battle anxiety through praising God, through God's presence, through prayer, and through basking in the peace of God's promises. Today we'll key in on battling anxiety with the presence of God.

**The Affirmation of God's Supremacy (Isaiah 41:1-7)** So Isaiah the prophet, the hope-monger, has been given this timely word from the Lord. It was timely because the Israelites are in captivity maybe by the Babylonians at this time, and God is preparing Cyrus from the Persian kingdom to whip the Babylonians. God lets us know that we may go through a time of discipline, judgement, and correction, but Isaiah encourages God's chosen people, that they will be protected. The first part of verse 2 shows this: ***"who stirred up one from the east."*** The east referring to the incoming Persians. Isaiah states in these first 7 verses that only God has the power to control these events. Verse 2 ***"so that he tramples kings underfoot; he makes them like dust with his sword."*** God is using man to conquer the enemy of Israel. Very timely considering recent news, right? Verse 4 ***"Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he."*** Proverbs 21:1 ***"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."*** If you think your problems are too big for God, think again. If He can raise His son from the dead, saving you is easy! If He can make an axe head swim, there's nothing heavy for Him! When we pray we are calling upon the power and presence of God for our good and His glory! Those who see the power of God the most do the most for His glory! If God can crush kings and kingdoms, He alone has the power to pull us through our problems! Do you believe this? The Lord determines the times set for all peoples and the exact places where they should live. To think otherwise is to put limits on God or make Him small. Listen to Amos 9:8 ***"Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob," declares the LORD.*** And listen to Act 17:26 ***"And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their***

***dwelling place,***” When we battle anxiety with the presence of God we are affirming of God’s supremacy!

**The Assurance of God’s Security (Isaiah 41:8-10)** verses 8-9 establishes the connection with God, acknowledging that Israel, Abraham’s offspring is God’s chosen. You and I, if we place faith in Christ are grafted into this same category, friends of God, Abraham’s offspring. The presence of God by the Holy Spirit is reserved for the believer. Romans 8:9-10 states: ***“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”***

Verse 10 really is the hinge or center of this whole sermon, displaying God’s power, presence, and promises. Here are five truths about God’s presence for the believer. These are five absolute comforts at which you can rest your head on always.

1. God is with me -“for I am with you.”
2. God is my God -“for I am your God.”
3. God will strengthen me - “I will strengthen you”
4. God will help me – “I will help you”
5. God will uphold me – “I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Let’s also be reminded of the passage that is just before this in Isaiah 40:31. This is a passage of security! Also, most people’s favorite Psalm, Psalm 23:4 ***“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for you are with me...”***

**The Acknowledgment of God’s Specialty (Isaiah 41:11-13)** What is God’s specialty? His specialty is salvation! God saves us from our enemies; the enemy of sin, our selfishness, and Satan. He saves us from the penalty of sin, the perils of selfishness, and the paralysis of Satan. In this context Isaiah was describing God’s salvation from and the conquering of the enemies of Israel, but look at verse 12. Verse 12 is a prophecy of Christ and His kingdom reigning forever! The enemy is not political or the armies of nations, the true enemy is spiritual. God’s specialty is summed up in Luke 19:10 ***“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”***

Run to Isaiah 41:10! May this be the verse that sustains you! God is with you, for you, He strengthens you, helps you, and upholds you! What does this mean? **God is over you, by you, inside of you, around you, and underneath you for your good and His glory!** When you are anxious, may this be the arrow that you always pull from that reminds you of the mighty presence of God, ***“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.”*** You will not have His presence unless you have His salvation!