

# Isaiah 21:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me.

## Analysis

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'My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me.' Continuing Isaiah's distress: heart pounding, overcome by terror. 'The night of my pleasure' turned to fear—possibly referring to the vision occurring at night, or to anticipated rest replaced by anxious fear. The prophet experiences viscerally what the vision portends—no detached observation but participatory suffering. This demonstrates that God's revelations aren't always comfortable religious experiences but can be terrifying encounters with divine holiness and judgment. The phrase emphasizes that knowing God's plans doesn't produce smug superiority but appropriate fear. Those who encounter divine realities properly are often terrified (Daniel 10:8; Revelation 1:17). Casual familiarity with divine judgment indicates insufficient understanding.

## Historical Context

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Biblical prophets regularly experienced overwhelming physical responses to divine encounters—Daniel fainting (Daniel 10:8-9), Ezekiel struck dumb (Ezekiel 3:15), John falling as dead (Revelation 1:17). These weren't theatrical performances but authentic responses to encountering transcendent reality. The pattern validates genuine spiritual experience versus manufactured emotionalism. True encounters with God's holiness and justice produce appropriate terror, not comfortable feelings. Church history shows genuine revivals often included this element—people overcome with conviction, trembling under sense of divine presence. Modern tendency toward comfortable, therapeutic religion lacking holy fear

suggests distance from genuine encounter with God's majesty and judgment. Isaiah's terror models proper human response.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does Isaiah's terror at divine revelation teach about proper response to encountering God's plans?
2. How does this contrast with casual comfortable approaches to divine judgment?
3. Why do genuine encounters with God's holiness often produce fear rather than comfortable feelings?

## Interlinear Text

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חִשְׁקֵן אֵת נִשְׁאָר בְּעֵת תְּנִי פָּלָצ וְתַּלְבֵּב יְתַפֵּע ה  
panted My heart fearfulness affrighted H853 me the night of my pleasure H2837  
H8582 H3824 H6427 H1204 H5399 H2837

לְתַפְּרִדָּה: לְשָׁם  
hath he turned H0 into fear  
H7760 H2731

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