

Isaiah 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And say unto him, Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah.

Analysis

God's command 'Take heed, and be quiet; fear not' addresses anxiety with faith. The dismissive description of enemies as 'two tails of smoking firebrands' reduces seemingly powerful threats to spent embers—fierce appearance but no lasting heat. This perspective transformation reflects faith seeing reality from God's viewpoint rather than circumstances. The command for quietness (Hebrew 'shaqat'—be calm, rest) anticipates Psalm 46:10 ('Be still and know that I am God').

Historical Context

Despite Syria and Israel's current aggression, both would soon fall to Assyria (Damascus in 732 BC, Samaria in 722 BC). God's perspective saw their imminent demise.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's view of our threatening 'firebrands' differ from our fearful perspective?
2. What does the command for quietness teach about faith's posture amid crisis?

Interlinear Text

וְלִבָּבָם	תִּיבֹּא אֵל	וְהָשֵׁק ט	הַשֵּׁם ר	אֵלָיו	וְאָמַרְתָּ
H3824	H408	H8252	H8104	H413	H559
	fear	and be quiet	unto him Take heed		And say
הָאֵשׁ יִם	זַנְבֹת וְ	מִשְׁנֵי י	יִבֹּן	אֵל	
H181	H2180	H8147	H7401	H408	
firebrands	tails	for the two	not neither be fainthearted		
וְאֶכֶם	רֶצֶן	אֵף	בְּחֵרִי	הָאֵשׁ	יִם
H758	H7526	H639	H2750	H428	H6226
with Syria	of Rezin	anger	for the fierce	of these smoking	
וְכֵן	רֵמְלִיָּהוּ:				
H1121	H7425				
and of the son	of Remaliah				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 35:4 (Parallel theme): Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

Isaiah 30:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Deuteronomy 20:3 (Parallel theme): And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them;

Lamentations 3:26 (Parallel theme): It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

Zechariah 3:2 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

Matthew 24:6 (Parallel theme): And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Amos 4:11 (Parallel theme): I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 41:14 (Parallel theme): Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

2 Chronicles 20:17 (Parallel theme): Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

1 Samuel 17:32 (Parallel theme): And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.