

Isaiah 8:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid.

Analysis

God forbids conspiracy accusations and commands freedom from fear. The 'confederacy' likely refers to the Syro-Ephraimite alliance, which some Judahites supported while others viewed them as conspirators. God calls His people to transcend political paranoia and fear-driven reactions. 'Fear ye not their fear' means refusing to adopt the world's anxieties. This reflects the Reformed emphasis on God's sovereignty producing courage—if God controls all things, believers need not fear human machinations. True security comes from trusting God, not political alliances.

Historical Context

The political situation was complex: some Judahites supported Syria-Israel against Assyria, others supported Ahaz's pro-Assyrian policy. Both sides likely accused the other of treason. Fear dominated public discourse. Isaiah was called to rise above partisan politics, neither joining the northern alliance nor panicking at their threats. This prophetic independence marked true faith, trusting God rather than political calculations.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do we avoid being drawn into conspiratorial thinking or political paranoia in our age?
2. What does it mean to refuse to 'fear their fear'—to reject the anxieties that drive worldly people?
3. How does trust in God's sovereignty liberate us from the fear that dominates political discourse?

Interlinear Text

יֹאמַר אֲשֶׁר לְכֹל לֵאמֹר
H3808 Say H559 A confederacy H7195 H3605 H834 Say H559

לֹא מוֹכָא וְיִתְּנוּ לָהֶם
to all them to whom this people H2088 A confederacy H7195 H853 ye their fear H3808 H4172

תִּירָא וְלֹא תִּירָא
neither fear H3372 H3808 nor be afraid H6206

Additional Cross-References

Luke 21:9 (Parallel theme): But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

Psalms 53:5 (Parallel theme): There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them.

Isaiah 30:1 (Parallel theme): Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org