

Matthew 14:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Analysis

Jesus' immediate response 'Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid' addresses the disciples' terror. 'Be of good cheer' (Greek: *tharseō*) means take courage. 'It is I' (Greek: *egō eimi*) echoes God's self-revelation to Moses (Exodus 3:14)—the divine name 'I AM.' This identifies Jesus as Yahweh. 'Be not afraid' is God's common command to His people encountering His presence. Jesus transforms their terror into assurance through His self-revelation.

Historical Context

The disciples' fear upon seeing someone walking on water was natural—this violated natural law. Jesus' 'It is I' (literally 'I am') carries theological weight beyond mere identification. Throughout John's gospel, Jesus uses 'I am' statements to claim deity. His presence transforms life-threatening circumstances into platforms for divine revelation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' 'It is I' bring courage to your fearful circumstances?
2. What does Jesus' use of the divine name teach about His identity?

Interlinear Text

εὐθὲως δὲ ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων,
straightway But spake unto them G3588 Jesus saying
G2112 G1161 G2980 G846 G2424 G3004

Θαρσεῖτε ἐγώ εἰμι· μὴ φοβεῖσθε
Be of good cheer I it is not afraid
G2293 G1473 G1510 G3361 G5399

Additional Cross-References

Acts 23:11 (Good): And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

John 16:33 (Good): These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 41:4 (Parallel theme): Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.

Isaiah 51:12 (Parallel theme): I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

Matthew 17:7 (References Jesus): And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

Matthew 9:2 (Good): And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

John 6:20 (Parallel theme): But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.

Matthew 28:10 (References Jesus): Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Luke 1:13 (Parallel theme): But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

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