

I am your God

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

After being bombarded by news that they would be led into captivity, God had given Isaiah a message of hope for his people.

Even though the people are walking through the valley of the shadow of death, God commands them not to fear. "Do not fear" appears in a variety of settings in the OT. It's used when Israel was about to cross the Red Sea with the Egyptians breathing down their neck. It's used when they were about to enter the Promised Land and all the unknowns that faced them.

Now the Lord promises that Israel's foes will again be defeated. His people need not do a thing, only trust (Ps. 46:10). The Lord will handle their two most pressing problems. Through Cyrus, he will defeat Babylon (Ch.47), and through Jesus, he will atone for their sin and conquer even death (53:10-12).

God dispels their fear with the promise that he is with them and is their God, that is, he is next to them and pledges to remain with them as a powerful source of help.

Today we, as Americans, face a pandemic, unrest because of racial inequity, draught in some parts of our land and flooding in others, excessive heat, hurricanes and tornadoes as well as our personal problems which often include isolation. These problems impact us mentally and physically.

Our title states, "I am your God." It takes us back to when God called Moses in the burning bush. God had told Moses to go to Pharaoh and ask him to release the children of Israel. Moses tried to get out of the assignment because he did not feel that he was capable of getting the job done. Moses said the people would question him as who had sent him. But, God countered with telling Moses that "I am" was sending Moses. It meant that God would always be with Moses.

The promise God makes implies taking someone's side in a way that brings protection, support, deliverance and success. It prompts the response of confidence and courage rather than fear.

Many churches are named "Immanuel." It means "God with us." That means God is with us through our pain and suffering, our confusion about what is going on in our world and reminds us of his promise to never leave or forsake us.

Dear Lord, there are so many confusing happenings in our lives. Help us to always trust you to be in our lives as we encounter whatever each day brings. Thank you for reminding us of their continual promise to be with us. Amen