

### Isaiah 37:33-38 Answering the Arguments of Fear (Part 3)

Fear presents arguments to us in order to unsettle our faith in God. We can answer the arguments of fear with the covenant faithfulness of God in Christ.

1) Answer fear with God's covenantal **promise** to protect His people.

a) "I will defend" (v. 35a)

i) (shield)—Gen. 15:1 "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield." Psalm 3:3 "But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head." Psalm 28:7 "The LORD is my strength and my shield."

ii) v. 36—"And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians."

iii) God's promise of protection is not the promise of a trouble-free life.

(1) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept** in heaven for **you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, **though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials**, so that **the tested genuineness of your faith**—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to **result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**"—1 Peter 1:3-7

(2) God's promise of protection is the promise of eternal life.

(3) "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."—John 10:27-30

b) We want to protect that which is most precious to us. What is most precious to you? Is genuine faith in Christ precious to you? What about ever increasing love for God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? How important is adding virtue to faith, and being effective and fruitful in the knowledge of Christ (2 Pet. 1:5-8)?

2) Answer fear with God's covenantal **purpose** to make His glory known.

a) "For My own sake" (v. 35b)

i) "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of My holy name, which you have

profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate My holiness before their eyes.”—Ezekiel 36:22-23

- ii) Note the irony that Sennacherib had mocked Hezekiah for trusting the LORD God, while his own god did not protect him even in his own house. When Hezekiah went into the house of the LORD he was heard and delivered; but when Sennacherib went into the house of his god he was murdered. v. 38—“And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword.” Cf. v. 20, “that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the LORD.”
  - b) Are you eager to see God glorified in your life? How might God be glorified through the fearful circumstances that you face?
- 3) Answer fear with God’s covenantal **pact** in Jesus, the Son of David.
- a) “For the sake of My servant David” (v. 35c)
    - i) 2 Samuel 7—“When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. . . . And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.” (vv. 12-13, 16-17)
    - ii) “My servant” is the Lord’s oft repeated designation for David (2 Sam. 3:18; 7:5, 8; 1 Kings 11:13, 32, 34, 36, 38; 14:8; 2 Kings 19:34; 20:6; 1 Chron. 17:4, 7; Psalm 89:3, 20; Jer. 33:21, 22, 26; Ezek. 34:23, 24). But here in Isaiah, that designation serves especially to connect the promised Son of David with the Suffering Servant of the Lord—a connection also made by the Father at Jesus’ baptism in the Gospels (“This is My beloved Son [Psalm 2:7], with whom I am well pleased [Isaiah 42:1].” Matt. 3:17; cf. Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22).
    - iii) “I will rescue My flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, My servant David, and He shall feed them: He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”—Ezekiel 34:23-24
    - iv) “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”—Romans 8:31-32
  - b) Are you trusting in Jesus for your eternal life? Eternal life is not some other life than the life you have now. Eternal life is living with God, enjoying peace with God. Trials and troubles can’t take this life from you. Persecution can’t diminish this life in you. Famine can’t starve this life. Death

can't end this life. In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.  
(Rom. 8:35-39)

Our fears are real. There are beasts. There is a dragon. There is a nasty harlot who drinks the blood of saints. But Christ's people are not the 'cowardly' whose end is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur (Rev. 13-21; esp. 21:8). By God's grace we overcome these fears, the dragon himself, by the blood of the Lamb.