



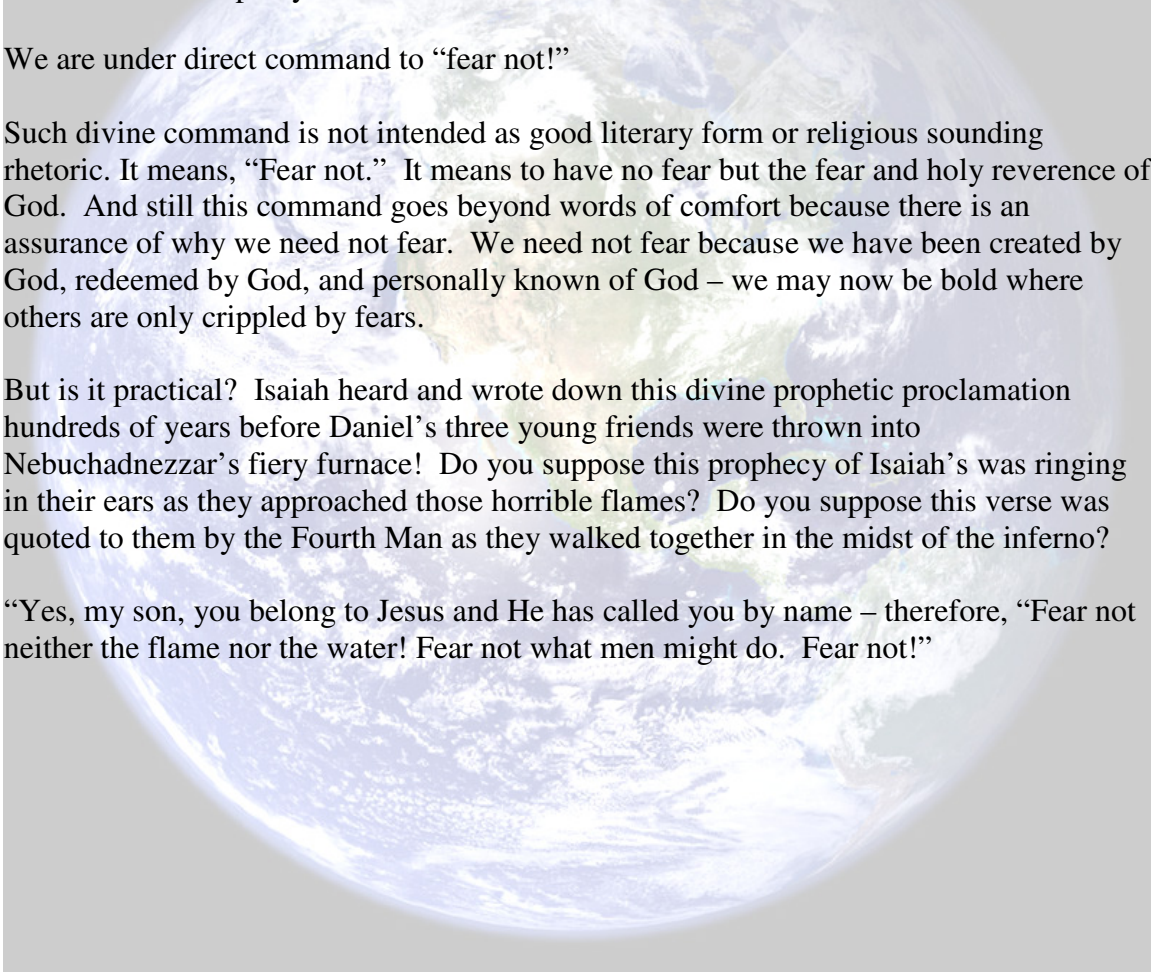
“But now, thus says the LORD that created you, O Jacob, and He that formed you, O Israel, “Fear not: for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you: when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon you!” Isaiah 43:1 – 2

We are under direct command to “fear not!”

Such divine command is not intended as good literary form or religious sounding rhetoric. It means, “Fear not.” It means to have no fear but the fear and holy reverence of God. And still this command goes beyond words of comfort because there is an assurance of why we need not fear. We need not fear because we have been created by God, redeemed by God, and personally known of God – we may now be bold where others are only crippled by fears.

But is it practical? Isaiah heard and wrote down this divine prophetic proclamation hundreds of years before Daniel’s three young friends were thrown into Nebuchadnezzar’s fiery furnace! Do you suppose this prophecy of Isaiah’s was ringing in their ears as they approached those horrible flames? Do you suppose this verse was quoted to them by the Fourth Man as they walked together in the midst of the inferno?

“Yes, my son, you belong to Jesus and He has called you by name – therefore, “Fear not neither the flame nor the water! Fear not what men might do. Fear not!”



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