



EXTINGUISHING FEAR

DECEMBER 26, 2021

Fellowship 
CHURCH

FIGHTING FEAR

Mark 4:35-41 | 12.27.2020

Fellowship 
CHURCH

Context of Isaiah

1 of 2

After David's rule, Solomon (his son) now becomes king. Solomon offers years of godly ruling (even though he all had his faults and struggles). Because the nation of Israel continued to struggle with authority issues, idolatry, and sin, they split into two kingdoms after the death of Solomon. The two kingdoms are the northern kingdom (named Israel, made up of 10 tribes) and the southern kingdom (named Judah, made up of 2 tribes).



Context of Isaiah

2 of 2

Which brings us to Isaiah, who is a prophet of God. Isaiah is writing to the people of God warning them that their sins will not go unpunished, and they will eventually end up in exile, but also that one day, the messiah will come to deliver them...for good.



ISAIAH 7:1-14



“Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. He did not do what was pleasing in the sight of the Lord his God, as his ancestor David had done. Instead, he followed the example of the kings of Israel, even sacrificing his own son in the fire. In this way, he followed the detestable practices of the pagan nations the Lord had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites. He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the pagan shrines and on the hills and under every green tree.”



The Fear (vs. 1-2)

At this time, Israel had become increasingly weak and vulnerable and because of the rising power, Assyria, they decided to join forces with Syria to attack Judah.

Their goal was to defeat Judah and set up a puppet king, “the son of Tabeel” (v. 6).



Their hearts:

*“shook as the trees of the forest
shake before the wind.” (v.2)*



The Assurance (vs. 3-9)

In verse 3, the Lord tells Isaiah to go meet with Ahaz, and to bring his son, Shear-jashub ("a remnant shall return").

Even as God is sending Isaiah to Ahaz, he will get yet another reminder that God will bring them victory and they should not be afraid...even if they will be greatly reduced.



The message:



*“Be careful, be quiet, do not fear,
and do not let your heart be faint”*

(v. 4a)



The Assurance (vs. 3-9)

1. Be careful (to keep or watch out for)



The Assurance (vs. 3-9)

1. Be careful (to keep or watch out for)
2. Be quiet (to rest)

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

PSALM 23:1-4



The Assurance (vs. 3-9)

1. Be careful (to keep or watch out for)
2. Be quiet (to rest)
3. Do not fear (or have reason to be afraid)

“I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

PSALM 121:1-2



The Assurance (vs. 3-9)

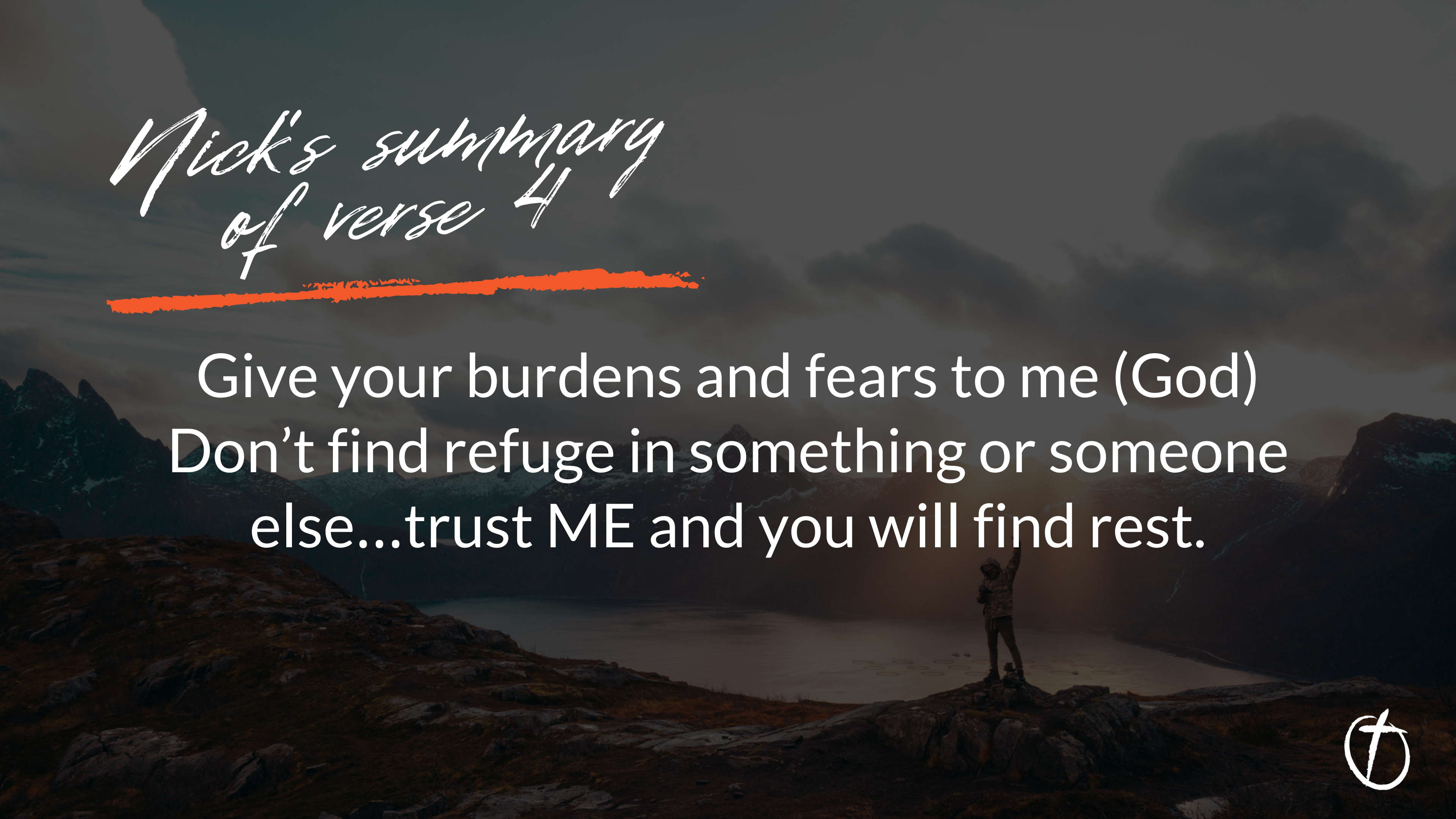
1. Be careful (to keep or watch out for)
2. Be quiet (to rest)
3. Do not fear (or have reason to be afraid)
4. Don't let your heart become faint (or weak)

“Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.”

PSALM 55:22



*Nick's summary
of verse 4*

A person is standing on a rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking out over a large lake. The background features dark, misty mountains under a cloudy sky. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting dawn or dusk.

Give your burdens and fears to me (God)
Don't find refuge in something or someone
else...trust ME and you will find rest.



“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

1 PETER 5:6-7



Do not fear...



“because of these two smoldering
stumps of firebrands...” -Isaiah 7:4b



“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.”

ECCLESIASTES 3:11



Humanity cannot see the whole
scope of God's work.



“It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. And within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered from being a people. And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.”



We may not know WHY something that was given has been taken away...because we don't know the full scope of God's plans...but we take heart and refuge in knowing that God always has a plan.



The Rejection (vs. 10-13)

- Through the prophet Isaiah, God invites Ahaz to ask for a sign.
- Not any average sign, but a sign from the deepest depths or the highest of highs

“Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?”

ISAIAH 7:10-13



The rejection:

“But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.”

(v. 12)



Why did Ahaz reject the sign? Perhaps...

1. Ahaz was bitter towards God because of their struggles
2. Ahaz was crippled with fear
3. Ahaz was angry at God
4. Ahaz didn't trust God
5. Ahaz thought he could do it on his own and didn't need God
6. Ahaz did truly believe God's word and that He would keep His promises
7. Ahaz didn't want to associate with God, who let it get this bad

ANY SOUND FAMILIAR OR RELATABLE?



Isaiah's response

“Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?”

(v. 13)



The Sign

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

(v. 14)



What was God's
response to Ahaz's fear?

HIS PRESENCE



Not only did Ahaz reject God, but he also went on to:

1. Form an alliance with Syria (2 Kings 16:7)
2. Stripped the silver and gold in the temple, then sent it to Assyria (2 Kings 17:8)
3. Copied and rebuilt their pagan altars, then gave sacrifices
4. Deconstruct and eventually close the temple
5. Place pagan altars on every street corner and high place, all to impress the king (2 Chr. 28:24-25)



What can we learn from Isaiah 7?

1. When fears come, seek refuge in God, not the world.
2. God always has a plan. There's nothing that happens that surprises God.
3. Sometimes we're going to have to trust it in ways that we may not understand.
4. The birth of Christ is a sign that we can have victory over our fears.



Remember:

Our ultimate enemy...sin, eternal separation from God...has been conquered through Jesus' death on the cross. And His resurrection **ASSURES** us the victory.



“...Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:54B-57



“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

JOHN 16:33





THERE IS NO FEAR THAT THE

GOSPEL

CANNOT EXTINGUISH



“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son
from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

JOHN 1:14



“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

REVELATION 21:1-4



Will you be like Ahaz, succumbing to fear
and running towards the world, finding
plastic peace?

OR

Will you trust in God's ways - Jesus Christ,
which leads to permanent peace.





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