

I Am, Be Not Afraid
John 6:15-21
March 23, 2025

Why is our fear potentially boundless? Why are we so afraid?

“Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live.” Dorothy Thompson

How can we overcome fear? (Isaiah 41:10)

Jesus can turn your fear into gladness. “I Am; be not afraid.”

The Fear of the Disciples, v. 16-19

What were they afraid of? The Storm.

Jews were afraid of seas and oceans. Thalassophobia.

Why is there no sea in Revelation 21:1?

The Sea symbolizes chaos, danger, and the unknown.

Only God could tame the raging sea. Job 38:8-11

They were afraid of the One walking on the water.

Who is this Jesus?

The Word of Jesus, v. 20

I Am, be not afraid.

We need to understand Exodus 3 to see what Jesus is doing here.

What does LORD mean in the Bible?

Why did Moses ask for God’s name?

“I Am who I Am!” is the answer. Yahweh, Jehovah, LORD.

How many times is this name found in the OT?

The Word of Jesus Overcomes Fear, v. 21

They went from frightened to glad in one verse.

What turned fear into gladness? “I Am; be not afraid.”

Jesus is praying for you. Hebrews 7:25.

1 John 4:18, “perfect love casts out fear.”

We are safe in the hands of a kind Providence. “I Am; be not afraid.”

Meditation

In the name Yahweh, God made Himself known as a *present* being—present with and for His people. And wherever God’s presence is invoked, that announcement is pregnant with the certainty of His attention, His care, His power, and His grace. Perhaps a helpful paraphrase of God’s words at the burning bush would be, “Say to the people of Israel, ‘*I Am Present* has sent me to you.’” God sent Moses to the people in Egypt with that marvelous announcement. And the subsequent exodus events would be an object lesson for all generations that God is Yahweh, present with His people in all their sufferings (cf., Exodus 5:2; 7:17; 8:22–23; 12:51; 13:21; 33:14–19; 40:34–38; also Numbers 6:23–27; Psalm 113:1–9).

God has many titles in Scripture, such as “Father,” “Almighty,” “King,” and “Savior.” Each of His titles reveals another of His many roles or attributes. But “Yahweh” is more than a title. Its meaning is clearly important for our understanding of the God of the Bible. It shows us not simply that God exists but also that He is near to His people in love.

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