

The Helper of Israel - Isaiah 41:1-29

Topics: Accomplishments, Advice, Anger, Answers, Arguments, Call, Confusion, Craftsmanship, Creation, Death, Enemies, Evil, Fear, Future, Gifts, Goodness, Good News, Help, Idolatry, Judgment, Poor, Prophecy, Punishment, Redemption, Rejection, Right, Righteousness, Serving, Shame, Silence, Strength, Understanding, War, Weaknesses

Open It

1. What is one situation in which you have felt completely powerless?
2. What examples do you know of how essential water can be to the life of a community?
- * 3. What experience did you have as a child of having someone step in to protect you?

Explore It

4. What challenge did Isaiah issue on behalf of God to all the nations of the earth? (41:1)
5. How did Isaiah describe the wrath of God's tool of righteousness? (41:2-3)
- * 6. Who did Isaiah say would take responsibility for the judgment being wrought against the nations? (41:3-4)
7. Where do the pagan nations turn for help in the face of God's judgment? (41:5-7)
- * 8. What relationship had God initiated with Israel? (41:8-9)
9. What words of comfort and strength did God announce to His people through Isaiah? (41:10)
10. What, according to the prophecy, would become of Israel's enemies? (41:11-12)
11. How did Isaiah contrast God's view of the people of Israel with His own power? (41:13-14)
12. How did God intend to use His people against their enemies? (41:15-16)
13. What images concerning water did Isaiah use to illustrate what God would do for His people? (41:17-20)
- * 14. What challenges did God lay before the idols of Israel's enemies? (41:21-24)
15. Where were the origins of the nation God would use against His enemies? (41:25)
16. Why did all of the idols prove totally inadequate in the face of God's wrath? (41:26-29)

Get It

17. What responses might you expect among the downtrodden people of Israel and Judah who heard God's strong words against their enemies?
18. What idols in our day seem as ludicrous as the images of wood and stone in Isaiah's day?
19. How did the virtues of the people figure, or not figure, into God's decision to save them?
- * 20. What are the implications in our lives of being chosen by God?
- * 21. What are some of the differences in serving a living God versus a man-made idol?
22. What is an appropriate response for someone who has been rescued from mortal danger?
23. Why is weakness in human terms not necessarily a cause for despair for the believer?

Apply It

- * 24. What idols in the world around you can you ask God to protect you from worshiping?
25. What weakness that you confront daily can remind you to rely on God as your source of strength?