

## ISAIAH 41

### *Fear versus No Fear*

#### *The Coastlands Draw Near for Judgment*

1 Listen to me in silence, coastlands. Let the peoples renew their strength. Let them approach, then let them speak. Let us together draw near for judgment (מִן־פֶּשַׁע). 2 Who stirred up one from the east whom victory meets at every step? He gives up nations before him, so that he tramples kings underfoot. He makes them like dust with his sword, like driven stubble with his bow. 3 He pursues them and passes on safely, by paths his feet have not trod.

4 Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, Yahweh, the first, and with the last. I am he (אֲנִי־יְהוָה). 5 The coastlands have seen and are afraid. The ends of the earth tremble. They have drawn near and come. 6 Everyone helps his neighbor and says to his brother,

Be strong!

7 The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith, and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering,

It is good.

And they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be moved.

#### *Fear Not, Israel*

8 But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the seed (זֶרַע) of Abraham, my friend (אֶהְיֶה), 9 you whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners saying to you,

You are my servant. I have chosen you and not cast you off,

10 fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. 11 Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded. Those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish. 12 You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them. Those who war against you shall be as nothing at all. 13 For I, Yahweh your God, hold your right hand. It is I who say to you,

Fear not, I am the one who helps you.

14 Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares Yahweh. Your Redeemer (גֹּאֲלֵךְ) is the Holy One of Israel. 15 Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge, new, sharp, and having teeth. You shall thresh the mountains and crush

them, and you shall make the hills like chaff. 16 You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in Yahweh. In the Holy One of Israel you shall glory. 17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I, Yahweh, will answer them. I the God of Israel will not forsake them. 18 I will open rivers on the bare heights and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water. 19 I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive. I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane, and the pine together, 20 that they may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of Yahweh has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

### *Idols Are Nothing*

21 Set forth your case, says Yahweh. Bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. 22 Let them bring them and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome. Or declare to us the things to come. 23 Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods. Do good or do harm, that we may be dismayed and terrified. 24 Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing. An abomination (תוֹעֵבָה) is he who chooses you. 25 I stirred up one from the north, and he has come, from the rising of the sun, and he shall call upon my name. He shall trample on rulers as on mortar, as the potter treads clay. 26 Who declared it from the beginning, that we might know, and beforehand, that we might say,

He is right?

There was none who declared it, none who proclaimed, none who heard your words. 27 I was the first to say to Zion,

Behold, here they are!

and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good news. 28 But when I look, there is no one. Among these there is no counselor who, when I ask, gives an answer. 29 Behold, they are all a delusion. Their works are nothing. Their metal images are empty wind.

### *Biblical Worldview*

1. Those who hope in idols are to greatly fear.
2. Those who hope in Yahweh are to have no fear.

*Notes*