

Isaiah 41
The Nations and their Idols

State your case before God (1-4) - ***We have no case!***

He will silence you (Proverbs 30:5-6)

(JOB 40:3-5) – He is omniscient and His word is flawless

He has called for your judgment (Revelation 20:12)

The status of Israel's enemies and all whose names are not written in His book

He (the first and the last – Revelation 1:8, 17; 21:6) will carry His purpose to completion

His purpose is certain! His plan is best! (Romans 11:33-36)

Spur one another on (5-7) – ***In which way are you spurring others on***

Trembling before God – those who will not turn

Your level of fear is dependent on where you put your trust

Trying to encourage others in their hopeless state (I Samuel 28:21-25)

It is futile to spur others to continue living in unbelief and/or disobedience

Trusting empty notions (Isaiah 55:2)

Plans apart from God will not succeed (Proverbs 16:4-5, 9)

Strength is found only in God (8-20)

Not in armies – not in self

Chosen by Him (8-9) (Ephesians 1:4)

We are chosen IN Him – secure in His love

Courage from Him ((10-14) – even though we are worms

(Psalm 22:6 to Philippians 2:9-11) from worms to glory

Conquerors in Him (15-16) (Romans 8:37)

More than conquerors – our victory is already secured (I Corinthians 15:55-57)

Consider His promises (17-20) (II Corinthians 1:20)

It keeps our focus on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2 / II Peter 1:4)

Seeing the future (21-29)

I don't know about today – He knows my every day (Psalm 139:15-18)

Proclaim what the future holds (21-22) – only God has that power

A challenge – are you willing to be accountable for your prediction?

Proving themselves worthless (23-24) (Psalm 115:8)

To trust in idols, makes you as worthless as idols

Prophesying about the future (25-26) – verification needed (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)

Two tests (Deuteronomy 13:1-3)

Providing true counsel (27-29) – He is the only reliable source (Proverbs 3:5-6; 16:1,9)

Seek counsel from the One who knows (Psalm 1:1-3)

Discussion questions

Since stating my case before God is pointless (i.e. I have no case), how might I prepare myself to give an answer to others? (I Peter 3:15)

(Acts 17:11) **Be eager to learn and test teaching with Scripture – Be a good Berean**

(Acts 20: 27, 32 / Deuteronomy 17:18-20 / Matthew 28:19)

Take in the whole counsel of God's word – READ IT (memorize-meditate-study)

(James 1:22 / II Corinthians 3:2-3) **Live His word and become a living letter of His truth**

(Colossians 4:2-6) **Pray! Ask God to help you in conversation – grace sprinkled with salt**

Spurring others on to turn from God is disastrous. How can we spur one another on toward love and good deeds? (Hebrews 10:24-25 / Acts 2:42-47 / Philippians 3:17)

We need to meet together – all the one another's require spending time together

Pray together – Praise together – Practice together (engage in discipleship)

We need to be continually growing in Him (II Peter 3:18), that we might be examples for Him.

When we find our strength in God, what do we gain?

(John 14:27; 16:33) **His peace to quiet our anxious hearts**

(Romans 5:3-5) **Hope that does not diminish because of His love and His Spirit**

(I Corinthians 16:13-14 / Hebrews 13:5-6) **Courage to go forward in obedience by faith**

(II Corinthians 1:3-4, 7, 9-11) **Comfort in knowing God will be with us a will deliver us**

What does God, who knows the future, ask of us?

(Micah 6:8) **Seek what is right – show mercy to others – walk in humility before God**

(Matthew 28:18-20) **Make disciples – be active in sharing His gospel and His teaching**

(II Corinthians 5:18-21) **Be His ambassadors – in the business of reconciling men to God**

(Ephesians 5:1-2) **Imitate God by living a life of love**

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