

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 41 — Fear Not, for I Am With You

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 41 continues the message of comfort that began in:

Isaiah 40.

But now the comfort is set against a courtroom scene.

The Lord summons:

Coastlands.

Nations.

Peoples.

Rulers.

Idols.

To appear before Him.

The question is:

Who really governs history?

Who raises rulers?

Who directs nations?

Who knows the future?

Who can predict what is coming?

Who can truly save?

The nations respond to fear by:

Gathering together.

Strengthening one another.

Building idols.

Fastening them with:

Nails.

So they will not:

Fall over.

The contrast is almost humorous.

The nations are afraid.

They tell one another:

“Be strong!”

Then they manufacture gods that need to be:

Strengthened.

Stabilized.

Nailed down.

Israel, however, has something very different.

Israel does not have a god that must be:

Carried.

Built.

Supported.

Israel has:

The living God.

And the Lord says:

“You are My servant.”

“I have chosen you.”

“I have not rejected you.”

Then comes one of the greatest promises in all of Isaiah:

“Do not fear, for I am with you.”

The answer to fear is not:

Israel's size.

Israel's military power.

Israel's political influence.

The answer is:

God's presence.

Then the promise expands:

"I will strengthen you."

"I will help you."

"I will uphold you."

The Lord does not merely command:

Do not fear.

He gives reasons:

I am with you.

I am your God.

I will strengthen.

I will help.

I will uphold.

Later He says:

"I, the Lord your God, take hold of your right hand."

This is intensely personal.

The God who governs:

Generations.

Nations.

Kings.

History.

Also takes:

His servant by the hand.

Isaiah 41 also presents God as:

Redeemer.

The Holy One of Israel.

The helpless “worm Jacob” will become:

A sharp threshing instrument.

The weak will overcome:

Mountains.

The poor and needy will receive:

Water.

The wilderness will receive:

Rivers.

Pools.

Trees.

Life.

Why?

So people will know:

“The hand of the Lord has done this.”

The chapter then returns to the courtroom.

God challenges:

The idols.

Predict the future.

Explain history.

Do something.

Anything.

Good.

Bad.

Show that you are:

Gods.

They cannot.

They are:

Nothing.

Their works:

Worthless.

Their idols:

Wind.

Confusion.

God, however, can announce beforehand:

What He will do.

The ruler raised in the chapter is best understood in the larger context of Isaiah as anticipating the coming conqueror whom Isaiah will later name explicitly:

Cyrus.

Isaiah 41 introduces the idea.

Isaiah 44 and 45 will make the identification unmistakable.

The chapter's central contrast is therefore:

Living God versus dead idols.

Divine sovereignty versus human fear.

Chosen servant versus frightened nations.

God's presence versus apparent weakness.

True prophecy versus empty claims.

The central truth of Isaiah 41 is:

The Lord alone governs history, raises rulers, foretells what is coming, strengthens His chosen people, defeats their enemies, provides for the poor and needy, and proves every idol powerless; therefore Israel need not fear, because the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel is personally present to strengthen, help, uphold, and guide His people.

I. THE NATIONS ARE SUMMONED BEFORE GOD

Isaiah 41:1 — Silence in the Divine Courtroom

“Be silent before Me, O coastlands, and let the peoples renew their strength. Let them come near, then let them speak; let us come together for judgment.”

The picture is:

Courtroom.

The nations are summoned.

Before speaking:

Silence.

They must:

Listen.

Then:

Present their case.

Cross References

Habakkuk 2:20

The Lord is in His holy temple, and all the earth is called to silence before Him.

Zechariah 2:13

All people are told to be silent before the Lord because He is rising to act from His holy dwelling.

Job 40:4

Job recognizes his smallness before God and places his hand over his mouth rather than continuing to argue.

Spiritual Principle

Human wisdom must first learn:

Silence.

Before divine wisdom.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The courtroom belongs to God.

The nations appear before Him—not He before them.

II. GOD RAISES A CONQUEROR FROM THE EAST

Isaiah 41:2 — History Moves Under Divine Direction

“Who has stirred up one from the east, whom He calls in righteousness to His service? He gives nations into his hand and subdues kings before him. He turns them to dust with his sword, to driven stubble with his bow.”

A ruler is:

Raised.

Summoned.

Used.

Nations fall before him.

Within the larger context of Isaiah, this figure anticipates:

Cyrus.

He will later be explicitly named.

Cross References

Genesis 12:1

God called Abraham from the east and directed him according to divine purpose, showing God's long-standing sovereignty in calling individuals from distant lands.

Isaiah 45:13

God later says He has raised up Cyrus in righteousness and will direct his ways for the restoration of Jerusalem.

Romans 4:12

Abraham becomes an example of faith for those who walk in the footsteps of trusting God.

Spiritual Principle

World history is not:

Uncontrolled motion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can raise a ruler before that ruler understands the role he will play.

III. THE CONQUEROR MOVES FORWARD

Isaiah 41:3 — Paths Previously Unknown

"He pursues them and passes safely, by paths his feet have never traveled."

The military advance appears:

Remarkable.

Unexpected.

Successful.

Cross References

Genesis 14:15

Abraham pursued enemy kings and overcame forces stronger than himself.

Judges 7:22

God caused enemy armies to turn against one another, producing victory beyond Israel's natural strength.

Joshua 10:9

Joshua advanced unexpectedly after traveling through the night, showing how sudden movement could alter battle conditions.

Spiritual Principle

God can open paths:

Before His instruments arrive.

IV. THE FIRST AND THE LAST

Isaiah 41:4 — God Calls the Generations

“Who has done this and carried it out, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord—the First, and with the Last—I am He.”

The answer to:

Who controls history?

God.

He is:

First.

With the last.

Before every generation.

Present through every generation.

After every generation.

Cross References

Revelation 1:8

God declares Himself the One who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 22:13

Christ identifies Himself as the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Isaiah 44:6

The Lord later declares Himself Israel's King and Redeemer, the First and the Last, with no God besides Him.

Spiritual Principle

God does not merely:

Observe generations.

He calls them forth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

History has a beginning before God and an ending under God.

V. THE NATIONS TREMBLE

Isaiah 41:5 — Fear Spreads

“The coastlands saw it and were afraid; the ends of the earth trembled. They drew near and came together.”

When people see:

Political upheaval.

Changing powers.

Rising conquerors.

They fear.

Their solution is:

Band together.

Cross References

Psalms 67:7

God's blessing and rule should lead the ends of the earth to reverence Him.

Psalms 65:8

People at earth's farthest reaches stand in awe of God's signs and works.

Micah 7:16

Nations are humbled before God and become ashamed of their own strength.

Spiritual Principle

Global fear does not prove:

God has lost control.

VI. PEOPLE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Isaiah 41:6 — “Be Strong!”

“Each one helps his neighbor and says to his brother, ‘Be strong!’”

On the surface:

This sounds good.

Encouragement is often:

Good.

But here the context leads directly into:

Idol-making.

They strengthen one another in:

False security.

Cross References

1 Samuel 30:6

David strengthened himself in the Lord his God during deep distress.

Deuteronomy 3:28

Joshua is to be strengthened and encouraged for the task God gives him.

Hebrews 10:24

Believers are called to stir one another toward love and good works.

Spiritual Principle

Encouragement is only as good as:

The direction it sends us.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

“Be strong” is not enough.

The deeper question is:

Strong in what?

VII. IDOLS NEED NAILS TO STAND

Isaiah 41:7 — Human Hands Strengthen Human Gods

“The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith, and the one who smooths with the hammer encourages the one who strikes the anvil. He says, ‘It is ready for soldering,’ and they fasten it with nails so it will not topple.”

The irony is powerful.

People are afraid.

So:

They make a god.

Then:

The god needs nails.

So it does not:

Fall over.

Cross References

Isaiah 40:19

Isaiah already described craftsmen constructing and decorating idols.

Isaiah 44:12

A craftsman uses his own strength to shape an idol from created material.

Jeremiah 10:4

Idols are decorated and then secured with nails and hammers so they will not move.

Spiritual Principle

A god that needs:

Support.

Cannot be:

Your support.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If you must nail your god down, do not expect it to hold you up.

VIII. “YOU, ISRAEL, MY SERVANT”

Isaiah 41:8 — Chosen Through Abraham

“But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, My friend—”

The contrast is immediate.

The nations:

Build idols.

Israel:

Is chosen by God.

Israel’s identity rests in:

God’s call.

Cross References

James 2:23

Abraham believed God and is called God’s friend.

Genesis 18:17

God speaks of sharing His purpose concerning Sodom with Abraham, reflecting the special covenant relationship.

2 Chronicles 20:7

Abraham is described as God’s friend, and Israel as his descendants.

Spiritual Principle

God’s servant identity begins with:

God’s choice.

Not:

Human impressiveness.

IX. GOD HAS NOT REJECTED HIS SERVANT

Isaiah 41:9 — Called from the Ends of the Earth

“You whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners—I said to you, ‘You are My servant; I have chosen you and not rejected you.’”

Exile could make Israel feel:

Rejected.

God says:

No.

Chosen.

Called.

Not rejected.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 7:6

Israel is described as a people set apart to the Lord and chosen for covenant relationship.

Deuteronomy 7:7

God’s choice of Israel was not based on numerical greatness but on His covenant love and faithfulness.

Romans 11:1

Paul explicitly rejects the idea that God has simply cast away His people.

Spiritual Principle

Discipline is not the same as:

Rejection.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A difficult season does not cancel a calling God has not revoked.

X. “FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU”

Isaiah 41:10 — Strength, Help, and Upholding

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

This is the heart of the chapter.

Five great truths:

Do not fear.

I am with you.

I am your God.

I will strengthen you.

I will help you.

I will uphold you.

Cross References

Joshua 1:9

Joshua is told to be strong and courageous because the Lord his God is with him wherever he goes.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Israel is told not to fear because the Lord goes with them and will not abandon them.

Matthew 28:20

Jesus promises His disciples that He is with them always, even to the end of the age.

Spiritual Principle

God does not merely command:

Fearlessness.

He gives:

Presence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The strongest answer to fear is not:

“I can handle this.”

It is:

“God is with me.”

XI. GOD’S ENEMIES WILL BE AS NOTHING

Isaiah 41:11 — Opposition Will Not Last Forever

“Behold, all who are angry with you will be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish.”

Enemies appear:

Strong.

God sees their:

End.

Cross References

Psalm 35:4

Those seeking the destruction of God’s servant are asked to be put to shame and confusion.

Psalm 129:5

Those who hate Zion are pictured being turned back in disgrace.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon ultimately formed against God’s servants will accomplish final victory over His purpose.

Spiritual Principle

Present opposition does not equal:

Permanent victory.

XII. THE ENEMY WILL DISAPPEAR

Isaiah 41:12 — Searching and Not Finding

“Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all.”

The threat that once filled:

The horizon.

Will disappear.

Cross References

Psalm 37:10

The wicked may flourish briefly, but soon they are gone and their place cannot be found.

Job 20:7

Human pride can disappear so completely that people ask where the person has gone.

Psalms 59:13

The psalmist asks God to consume violent enemies so His sovereignty becomes known.

Spiritual Principle

The thing you fear today may not exist:

Forever.

XIII. GOD TAKES ISRAEL BY THE HAND

Isaiah 41:13 — “I Will Help You”

“For I, the Lord your God, take hold of your right hand and say to you, ‘Do not fear; I will help you.’”

This is one of Isaiah’s most personal pictures.

God does not merely:

Stand far away.

He takes:

The hand.

Cross References

Psalms 73:23

The psalmist says he is continually with God and that the Lord holds his right hand.

Psalms 63:8

The faithful person clings to God while God’s right hand upholds him.

Isaiah 42:6

The Lord promises to take His servant by the hand and keep him for divine purpose.

Spiritual Principle

The God who controls nations also:

Holds hands.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes God does not remove the road immediately.

He takes your hand and walks it with you.

XIV. “DO NOT BE AFRAID, O WORM JACOB”

Isaiah 41:14 — Weakness Meets the Redeemer

“Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O little Israel; for I Myself will help you, declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”

“Worm Jacob” emphasizes:

Smallness.

Weakness.

Vulnerability.

It is not meant to erase:

Human dignity.

It magnifies:

God’s help.

Israel is:

Small.

God is:

Redeemer.

Holy One.

Cross References

Job 25:6

Human beings are described with worm imagery to emphasize smallness before divine majesty.

Psalms 22:6

The suffering figure uses worm imagery to express humiliation and weakness.

Judges 6:15

Gideon describes his clan and himself as weak and insignificant, yet God still calls him.

Spiritual Principle

God does not need His servant to appear:

Impressive.

Before He can help.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Your weakness does not embarrass your Redeemer.

It gives Him room to show His strength.

XV. GOD TURNS WEAK JACOB INTO A THRESHING TOOL

Isaiah 41:15 — Mountains Become Chaff

“See, I will make you into a new, sharp threshing tool with teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff.”

What a transformation.

Verse 14:

Worm.

Verse 15:

Threshing instrument.

God transforms:

Weakness.

Into:

Effectiveness.

The mountains symbolize:

Massive opposition.

Cross References

Micah 4:13

Zion is told to rise and thresh as God gives strength to overcome hostile nations.

Amos 1:3

Threshing imagery is associated with severe crushing and judgment.

Habakkuk 3:12

God is pictured marching through the earth and threshing nations in judgment.

Spiritual Principle

God can make:

The weak.

Effective against:

The massive.

XVI. THE WIND CARRIES THE OPPOSITION AWAY

Isaiah 41:16 — Rejoicing in the Lord

**“You will winnow them, the wind will carry them away, a whirlwind will scatter them.
But you will rejoice in the Lord and glory in the Holy One of Israel.”**

The end is not:

Self-congratulation.

Israel’s victory produces:

Rejoicing in God.

Cross References

Psalms 1:4

The wicked are like chaff driven away by the wind.

Psalms 35:5

Enemies are pictured like chaff before the wind under divine judgment.

Habakkuk 3:18

Even amid loss, the prophet chooses to rejoice in the Lord and take joy in the God of salvation.

Spiritual Principle

True victory should end in:

Worship.

XVII. THE POOR AND NEEDY SEARCH FOR WATER

Isaiah 41:17 — God Will Not Forsake Them

“The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I, the Lord, will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.”

The people are:

Desperate.

Thirsty.

Without resources.

Then:

God answers.

Cross References

Psalm 40:17

The poor and needy confess their dependence upon the Lord as Helper and Deliverer.

Psalm 34:6

A poor man cries out, and the Lord hears and delivers him from trouble.

John 7:37

Jesus invites the thirsty to come to Him and drink.

Spiritual Principle

Need does not:

Repel God.

It becomes the setting for:

Divine provision.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The empty cup is not a problem for the God who creates rivers.

XVIII. RIVERS APPEAR ON BARREN HEIGHTS

Isaiah 41:18 — Desert Becomes Watered

“I will open rivers on the barren heights and springs in the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water and the dry land into fountains.”

God supplies water where:

No natural source exists.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:6

Waters break out in the wilderness and streams flow in the desert under God’s restoration.

Isaiah 35:7

Burning sand becomes a pool and thirsty ground becomes springs.

John 4:14

Jesus speaks of the water He gives becoming a spring of life within the recipient.

Spiritual Principle

God is not limited by:

The landscape.

XIX. GOD PLANTS TREES IN THE DESERT

Isaiah 41:19 — Life Where There Was Wasteland

“I will put in the desert the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive tree. I will set in the wasteland the cypress, the plane tree, and the pine together,”

The transformation becomes:

Abundant.

Not one tree.

Many.

Variety.

Life.

Shade.

Fruitfulness.

Cross References

Isaiah 55:13

Thorns and briers are replaced by fruitful trees as a sign of God's lasting restoration.

Isaiah 60:13

The glory of Lebanon's trees is associated with the beautifying of God's restored dwelling.

Zechariah 1:8

Myrtle trees appear in Zechariah's vision as part of imagery connected with God's watchful restoration.

Spiritual Principle

God's restoration is often:

More abundant than mere survival.

XX. EVERYONE WILL KNOW THE LORD DID IT

Isaiah 41:20 — “The Hand of the Lord Has Done This”

“So that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.”

The purpose is:

Recognition.

See.

Know.

Consider.

Understand.

Who did it?

The Lord.

Cross References

Job 12:9

Creation itself teaches that the hand of the Lord has made what exists.

Psalm 109:27

The psalmist asks that people recognize that deliverance came from the Lord's hand.

1 Kings 8:60

God's works are intended to make all peoples know that the Lord alone is God.

Spiritual Principle

God's provision is also:

Revelation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The blessing is complete when people see the gift and recognize the Giver.

XXI. GOD CHALLENGES THE IDOLS

Isaiah 41:21 — “Present Your Case”

“‘Present your case,’ says the Lord. ‘Bring forward your arguments,’ says the King of Jacob.”

The courtroom scene returns.

God says:

Prove it.

Bring:

Evidence.

Arguments.

Cross References

Isaiah 43:9

The nations are summoned to present witnesses and prove their claims.

Micah 6:1

God summons His people to hear and respond to His covenant case.

Job 13:3

Job longs to reason his case before God, reflecting legal language of argument and defense.

Spiritual Principle

False gods fail when asked for:

Evidence.

XXII. CAN THE IDOLS EXPLAIN HISTORY?

Isaiah 41:22 — Tell Us What Has Happened and What Will Happen

“Let them bring them in and tell us what will happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their outcome. Or declare to us the things to come.”

God demands:

Explanation.

Prediction.

Knowledge.

The idols remain:

Silent.

Cross References

Isaiah 44:7

God challenges false gods to announce events and prove knowledge of future history.

Isaiah 45:21

The Lord declares that no other god foretells and saves as He does.

Deuteronomy 18:22

False prophecy is exposed when supposed divine predictions fail to come true.

Spiritual Principle

The true God is not:

Trapped inside time.

XXIII. “TELL US THE FUTURE”

Isaiah 41:23 — Do Something

“Tell us what the future holds, so that we may know you are gods. Do something, either good or bad, so that we may be dismayed and filled with fear.”

The tone is almost:

Mocking.

Do:

Anything.

Show:

Power.

Reveal:

Knowledge.

The idols cannot.

Cross References

Jeremiah 10:5

Idols cannot speak, walk, harm, or help and must be carried.

Deuteronomy 13:1

Even supernatural-looking claims must be tested against loyalty to the true God.

1 Corinthians 8:5

People may speak of many so-called gods and lords, but such claims do not create real deity.

Spiritual Principle

Claims to divinity must answer to:

Reality.

XXIV. IDOLS ARE LESS THAN NOTHING

Isaiah 41:24 — Worthless Works

“But you are less than nothing, and your works are utterly worthless; whoever chooses you is detestable.”

God’s verdict:

Nothing.

Worthless.

An abomination to choose.

Cross References

Isaiah 44:9

Those who make idols are themselves exposed to shame because the objects they value cannot truly see or know.

Psalms 115:8

Those who make and trust idols become like the lifeless things they worship.

Jeremiah 10:14

Human beings become foolish when they place trust in manufactured idols.

Spiritual Principle

Idolatry degrades:

The worshiper.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You become spiritually smaller when you worship something smaller than the God who made you.

XXV. GOD STIRS UP A RULER

Isaiah 41:25 — Rulers Like Clay

“I have stirred up one from the north, and he comes—from the rising of the sun he calls on My name. He tramples rulers as if they were clay, as a potter treads the clay.”

This continues the chapter’s historical prophecy.

Within Isaiah’s developing message, the ruler points toward:

Cyrus.

His empire approaches Babylon from:

The east/northeast.

God later names him:

Directly.

Cross References

Isaiah 45:1

Cyrus is later explicitly identified as God’s anointed instrument for conquering nations and accomplishing divine purpose.

Isaiah 45:13

God says He raised Cyrus in righteousness and will make his way straight.

Ezra 1:1

Cyrus later issues the decree allowing Jewish exiles to return and rebuild the Lord's house.

Spiritual Principle

God can prepare deliverance before His people see:

Any sign of it.

XXVI. ONLY GOD FORETELLS ACCURATELY

Isaiah 41:26 — “Who Told This from the Beginning?”

“Who told of this from the beginning, so we could know? Or beforehand, so we could say, ‘He was right’? No one foretold it, no one declared it, no one heard any words from you.”

The idols have:

No prediction.

No revelation.

No voice.

Cross References

Isaiah 43:9

False gods and nations are challenged to produce witnesses confirming predictive claims.

Isaiah 46:10

God declares the end from the beginning and announces what has not yet occurred.

Amos 3:7

God reveals His purposes to His prophets according to His sovereign will.

Spiritual Principle

Predictive prophecy demonstrates:

God's sovereignty over history.

XXVII. GOOD NEWS COMES TO ZION

Isaiah 41:27 — The Messenger Arrives

“I was the first to say to Zion, ‘Look, here they are!’ I gave to Jerusalem a messenger of good news.”

God announces:

Deliverance.

Before others can.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:7

Beautiful are the feet of the messenger announcing peace, good news, salvation, and God’s reign.

Isaiah 40:9

Zion is told to proclaim good news and announce:

“Behold your God!”

Nahum 1:15

The messenger of good news announces deliverance from oppression.

Spiritual Principle

God is not only:

Judge.

He is also the One who announces:

Good news.

XXVIII. THE IDOLS HAVE NO COUNSELOR

Isaiah 41:28 — No One Can Answer

“I looked, but there was no one—no counselor among them—who, when I asked, could give an answer.”

God searches the false religious system.

No:

Answer.

No:

Counsel.

No:

Truth.

Cross References

Isaiah 63:5

God sees that no one is able to provide the needed help, so His own arm brings salvation.

Ezekiel 22:30

God looked for someone to stand in the gap, yet found no one faithful enough for the role.

Psalms 142:4

The psalmist looks for human help and finds no one able to provide refuge.

Spiritual Principle

False gods cannot supply:

Counsel.

XXIX. THE FINAL VERDICT ON IDOLS

Isaiah 41:29 — Wind and Confusion

“See, they are all false; their deeds are nothing; their idols are but wind and confusion.”

The chapter ends with:

Verdict.

False.

Nothing.

Wind.

Confusion.

Cross References

Jeremiah 10:14

Idol makers are exposed as foolish because their images contain no life or truth.

1 Corinthians 8:4

Paul declares that an idol has no real divine existence and that there is only one true God.

Psalm 135:15

The idols of the nations are merely silver and gold shaped by human hands.

Spiritual Principle

False worship ends in:

Emptiness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

An idol promises substance and leaves you holding wind.

XXX. TEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 41

1. God Rules History

Principle:

Rulers rise within divine sovereignty, not outside it.

2. God's People Are Chosen

Principle:

Israel's calling rests on God's covenant purpose.

3. God Has Not Rejected His Servant

Principle:

Discipline does not mean abandonment.

4. Fear Is Answered by God's Presence

Principle:

"I am with you" is stronger than "You are strong enough."

5. God Strengthens the Weak

Principle:

Jacob the worm becomes a sharp threshing instrument.

6. God Provides for the Needy

Principle:

Dry places do not limit the Creator of rivers.

7. God's Blessings Reveal His Hand

Principle:

Provision should lead to recognition and worship.

8. Idols Cannot Predict

Principle:

False gods are trapped in silence because they possess neither knowledge nor sovereignty.

9. God Announces the Future

Principle:

Prophecy reveals that history is known and governed by Him.

10. True Hope Is in the Redeemer

Principle:

The Holy One of Israel alone can help, uphold, provide, redeem, and save.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT FEAR

Fear is addressed repeatedly.

Verse 10:

“Do not fear.”

Verse 13:

“Do not fear.”

Verse 14:

“Do not be afraid.”

God knows:

His people fear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not shame frightened people.

He gives frightened people reasons to trust.

XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT GOD’S PRESENCE

The foundational promise is:

“I am with you.”

Spiritual Principle

God’s presence does not guarantee:

No difficulty.

It guarantees:

No abandonment.

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT STRENGTH

The nations say:

“Be strong!”

God says:

“I will strengthen you.”

There is the difference.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Self-generated courage says:

“Find strength.”

Grace says:

“Receive strength.”

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT HELP

God repeats:

I will help.

Spiritual Principle

Divine help is not:

An abstract doctrine.

It is a promise from:

A personal God.

XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT IDENTITY

Israel is called:

Servant.

Chosen.

Offspring of Abraham.

Not rejected.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fear loses some of its power when you remember:

Who you are.

And:

Whose you are.

XXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT THE REDEEMER

God identifies Himself as:

“Your Redeemer.”

Redemption means:

Rescue.

Recovery.

Claim.

Deliverance.

Spiritual Principle

The One who helps Israel is not:

A stranger.

He is their Redeemer.

XXXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT WEAKNESS

“Worm Jacob.”

“Little Israel.”

Yet:

God helps.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can do large things through people who feel small.

XXXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT PROVISION

Poor.

Needy.

Thirsty.

No water.

Then:

Rivers.

Springs.

Pools.

Fountains.

Spiritual Principle

God's provision can exceed:

The need.

XXXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT RESTORATION

The desert receives:

Water.

Trees.

Life.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely rescue people from dying in the desert.

He can change the desert.

XL. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT PROPHECY

God can:

Announce beforehand.

Explain afterward.

Fulfill precisely.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord stands above:

Time.

XLI. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT IDOLATRY

Idols need:

Craftsmen.

Tools.

Metal.

Wood.

Nails.

God needs:

None.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The idol is the product of human hands.

Human hands are the product of God.

XLII. WHAT ISAIAH 41 TEACHES ABOUT CYRUS

The chapter does not yet name:

Cyrus.

But the larger sequence of Isaiah develops toward:

Him.

The conqueror from:

East.

North.

Will later be explicitly identified.

Spiritual Principle

God can announce an instrument of deliverance long before that person arrives on history's stage.

XLIII. THE NATIONS SAY “BE STRONG”

They strengthen:

One another.

Then strengthen:

Their idol.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human courage built on a false god is only organized fear.

XLIV. GOD SAYS “I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU”

Israel's strength source is:

Different.

Spiritual Principle

God does not ask His people to manufacture what He promises to supply.

XLV. CHOSEN, NOT REJECTED

Exile can feel:

Rejected.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never let present circumstances rewrite a covenant promise God has not revoked.

XLVI. “I AM YOUR GOD”

More personal than:

I am God.

Spiritual Principle

Covenant relationship turns:

Theology.

Into:

Assurance.

XLVII. THE RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND

God upholds with:

Power.

And:

Righteousness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's power is never separated from God's character.

XLVIII. ENEMIES BECOME NOTHING

Their apparent greatness is:

Temporary.

Spiritual Principle

Opposition has:

An expiration date.

XLIX. THE HAND-HOLDING GOD

God says:

I take your right hand.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God above history is not too exalted to come near one frightened servant.

L. THE REDEEMER OF WORM JACOB

Weak Jacob has:

A strong Redeemer.

Spiritual Principle

The effectiveness of redemption depends on:

The Redeemer.

Not:

The size of the redeemed.

LI. FROM WORM TO THRESHING TOOL

A dramatic reversal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can transform identity shaped by weakness into usefulness shaped by His power.

LII. MOUNTAINS BECOME CHAFF

What appears:

Immovable.

Becomes:

Blown away.

Spiritual Principle

Do not measure the obstacle before considering the God who can reduce it.

LIII. REJOICE IN THE LORD

The victory belongs to:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If the breakthrough makes you proud instead of worshipful, you have misunderstood the source.

LIV. THE THIRSTY TONGUE

Need becomes:

Extreme.

Spiritual Principle

God does not wait for His people to appear strong before answering.

LV. “I WILL NOT FORSAKE THEM”

This is the covenant heart of provision.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes the greatest provision is not water first.

It is the promise:

“I have not left you.”

LVI. RIVERS ON BARREN HEIGHTS

Rivers usually flow:

Low.

God says:

Barren heights.

Spiritual Principle

God is not limited by natural expectations.

LVII. SPRINGS IN THE VALLEYS

High.

Low.

Both:

Provided for.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

There is no elevation of life where God cannot supply what is needed.

LVIII. TREES IN THE WASTELAND

Trees represent:

Stability.

Shade.

Beauty.

Life.

Spiritual Principle

God can plant permanence in places marked by desolation.

LIX. “SEE AND KNOW”

God wants people to:

Notice.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not receive restoration so casually that you fail to recognize whose hand produced it.

LX. THE IDOLS ENTER COURT

God challenges:

Predict.

Explain.

Act.

Spiritual Principle

False religion collapses under:

Serious examination.

LXI. “DO SOMETHING”

The idol cannot:

Move.

Speak.

Save.

Predict.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never entrust your life to something that cannot answer God's challenge.

LXII. LESS THAN NOTHING

Isaiah's language is:

Strong.

Because idolatry is:

Serious.

Spiritual Principle

Replacing God with anything created is spiritually destructive.

LXIII. GOD STIRS UP CYRUS

The future ruler appears before:

Israel sees him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God may already be preparing the answer while His people are still praying about the problem.

LXIV. GOD SAYS IT FIRST

"I was the first to say to Zion."

Spiritual Principle

God's revelation precedes:

Human discovery.

LXV. GOOD NEWS AFTER FEAR

The chapter begins:

Nations trembling.

It moves toward:

Good news.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fear does not get the final announcement.

God does.

LXVI. NO COUNSELOR AMONG THE IDOLS

They have:

No answer.

Spiritual Principle

A silent idol cannot guide a confused life.

LXVII. WIND AND CONFUSION

The idols end as:

Wind.

Nothing to hold.

Confusion.

Nothing to trust.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every substitute for God eventually proves lighter than the promises made for it.

LXVIII. ISAIAH 40 AND ISAIAH 41

Isaiah 40

God says:

Wait upon Me.

I will renew your strength.

Isaiah 41

God says:

Do not fear.

I will strengthen you.

Key Truth

The strength promised at the end of Isaiah 40 becomes the personal assurance of Isaiah 41.

LXIX. ISAIAH 41 AND THE SERVANT THEME

Israel is called:

God's servant.

This theme will become increasingly important.

Isaiah will speak of:

Israel as servant.

And later:

A distinct Servant whose mission reaches beyond Israel and brings salvation.

Spiritual Principle

The servant theme develops progressively through Isaiah and should be read carefully in its immediate context before later passages are connected.

LXX. TEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 41

- 1. Frightened Nations → Sovereign God**
- 2. Manufactured Idols → Living Lord**
- 3. Idol Supported by Nails → Israel Upheld by God**
- 4. Rejected Feeling → Chosen Servant**
- 5. Fear → Divine Presence**
- 6. Weak Jacob → Sharp Threshing Tool**
- 7. Thirsty Desert → Rivers and Springs**
- 8. Wasteland → Forest**
- 9. Silent Idols → Prophetic God**
- 10. Confusion → Good News**

Key Truth

Isaiah 41 repeatedly contrasts what humans must support with the God who supports His people.

LXXI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who does God summon at the beginning of the chapter?

The coastlands and peoples of the nations.

Question 2

What are they told to do first?

Be silent before God.

Question 3

Who raises rulers and directs history?

The Lord.

Question 4

How does God describe Himself in verse 4?

As the First and the One who remains with the last.

Question 5

How do the nations respond to fear?

They gather, encourage one another, and make idols.

Question 6

Why is the idol picture ironic?

The supposed god must be fastened with nails so it does not fall.

Question 7

What does God call Israel?

His servant.

Question 8

Whose offspring are they?

Abraham's.

Question 9

What does God say about rejection?

“I have chosen you and not rejected you.”

Question 10

What is the great promise of verse 10?

God is with His people, strengthens them, helps them, and upholds them.

Question 11

What will happen to Israel's enemies?

They will be disgraced and eventually become as nothing.

Question 12

What does God do in verse 13?

He takes Israel by the right hand.

Question 13

How is Jacob described in verse 14?

As a worm and little Israel, emphasizing weakness.

Question 14

How does God identify Himself?

As Israel's Redeemer and the Holy One of Israel.

Question 15

What does weak Jacob become?

A sharp threshing instrument.

Question 16

What do the poor and needy lack?

Water.

Question 17

What does God promise?

To answer them and not forsake them.

Question 18

What does He put in the desert?

Rivers, springs, pools, fountains, and many kinds of trees.

Question 19

Why does God do these things?

So people will see and understand that the Lord's hand has done it.

Question 20

What challenge does God give the idols?

Explain history, predict the future, or do something demonstrating divine power.

Question 21

Can the idols answer?

No.

Question 22

What verdict does God give concerning them?

They are less than nothing and their works are worthless.

Question 23

What future ruler does the chapter anticipate?

The conqueror later identified explicitly as Cyrus.

Question 24

Who first announces good news to Zion?

The Lord.

Question 25

How does the chapter describe idols at the end?

As false, empty, wind, and confusion.

LXXII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 41 asks several searching questions.

What Am I Afraid Of?

Does that fear feel:

Larger than God?

What Has God Said to Fearful People?

“I am with you.”

Am I Trying to Generate Strength by Myself?

Or receiving strength from:

God?

What Idol Have I Nailed Down?

Money?

Control?

Reputation?

Politics?

Possessions?

Career?

A relationship?

Anything I expect to hold me up that actually needs:

Me.

To hold it up?

Do I remember that I am:

Chosen.

Called.

Not rejected?

Am I allowing a difficult season to make me believe:

God abandoned me?

Do I believe God is actually willing to:

Help?

Is there a mountain before me that I assume:

Cannot move?

Where am I thirsty?

Emotionally?

Spiritually?

Relationally?

Do I believe God can create rivers where there are no natural sources?

When God provides, do I recognize:

His hand?

What do I trust for knowledge of the future?

God's Word?

Or:

Fear?

Speculation?

False spiritual claims?

Is my hope in:

The Redeemer?

Or:

An idol that cannot answer?

LXXIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Do Not Fear—The God Who Holds History Also Holds Your Hand”

Isaiah 41 begins with:

Generations.

Nations.

Kings.

It moves to:

One frightened servant.

And God says:

“I take hold of your right hand.”

Principle:

The God who is sovereign over the largest movements of history is personally present in the smallest moments of your fear.

LXXIV. SILENCE BEFORE GOD

The nations are told:

Be quiet.

Spiritual Principle

Before we explain the world to God, perhaps we should first:

Listen.

LXXV. THE GOD OF GENERATIONS

He calls:

Generation after generation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

No century is outside divine sovereignty.

LXXVI. THE FIRST AND THE LAST

Every ruler appears:

Between.

God stands:

Before and after.

Spiritual Principle

Human history is surrounded by:

God.

LXXVII. FEARFUL PEOPLE BUILDING GODS

They tremble.

Then:

Manufacture security.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fear often creates idols because frightened people want something visible to control.

LXXVIII. THE IDOL NEEDS A HAMMER

A tool makes:

The god.

Spiritual Principle

What human craftsmanship produces cannot become the ultimate source of human existence.

LXXIX. GOD CHOSE ISRAEL

Not because:

Israel was strongest.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace begins with God's purpose, not human superiority.

LXXX. ABRAHAM, GOD'S FRIEND

Israel's identity is rooted in:

Covenant history.

Spiritual Principle

God's faithfulness stretches across:

Generations.

LXXXI. “NOT REJECTED”

Words for:

Exiles.

Discouraged people.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never let discipline convince you of something God explicitly denies.

LXXXII. THREE “I WILL” PROMISES

I will:

Strengthen.

Help.

Uphold.

Spiritual Principle

God answers fear with:

Commitment.

LXXXIII. THE RIGHT HAND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

His hand is:

Strong.

Right.

Faithful.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God never uses His strength unrighteously.

LXXXIV. SEARCHING FOR ENEMIES AND NOT FINDING THEM

A complete reversal.

Spiritual Principle

The enemy can feel permanent while it is present.

It is not necessarily permanent.

LXXXV. GOD TAKES THE RIGHT HAND

There is comfort in:

Contact.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Theology becomes especially precious when it feels like God is holding your hand through it.

LXXXVI. “I MYSELF WILL HELP YOU”

Not merely:

Angels.

Nations.

Circumstances.

But:

I Myself.

Spiritual Principle

The greatest help is:

God Himself.

LXXXVII. THE HOLY ONE IS ALSO REDEEMER

Holiness does not prevent:

Mercy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God too holy to tolerate sin is also the God willing to redeem sinners.

LXXXVIII. MOUNTAIN-THRESHING GRACE

Jacob begins:

Weak.

Ends:

Effective.

Spiritual Principle

God's calling can exceed:

Natural capacity.

LXXXIX. WINNOWING THE MOUNTAINS

Mountains become:

Chaff.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not assume a problem's size determines its permanence.

XC. JOY AFTER THE BATTLE

Israel rejoices in:

The Lord.

Spiritual Principle

God is both:

Source.

And:

Goal.

Of victory.

XCI. THE POOR SEARCH FOR WATER

They actively:

Search.

But find:

None.

Spiritual Principle

Human effort can reach the end of available resources.

XCII. “I WILL ANSWER”

At the point of:

No water.

God speaks.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The absence of visible supply is not evidence of absent Provider.

XCIII. THE DESERT DOES NOT STAY DESERT

God transforms:

Environment.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption reaches beyond survival into:

Renewal.

XCIV. THE FOREST IN THE WASTELAND

One day:

Nothing.

Another day:

Trees.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can create evidence of life where people previously saw evidence only of loss.

XCV. SO PEOPLE WILL KNOW

God's works point toward:

God.

Spiritual Principle

Miracle without recognition misses the larger purpose.

XCVI. THE COURTROOM CHALLENGE

God says:

Bring evidence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Truth does not fear examination.

XCVII. IDOLS CANNOT EXPLAIN THE PAST

They have:

No memory.

No mind.

Spiritual Principle

A false god cannot interpret history.

XCVIII. IDOLS CANNOT PREDICT THE FUTURE

They have:

No foreknowledge.

Spiritual Principle

Only the sovereign God can declare what He knows and govern what He declares.

XCIX. IDOLS CANNOT DO GOOD OR BAD

They possess:

No real agency.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not fear what cannot act and do not worship what cannot save.

C. CYRUS BEFORE CYRUS

Isaiah announces:

The ruler.

Before naming:

The ruler.

Spiritual Principle

God's plan can be real long before it is visible.

CI. THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

Rulers become:

Clay.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Those who treat nations like clay remain clay themselves before the true Potter.

CII. GOD DECLARES IT FIRST

Prediction validates:

Sovereignty.

Spiritual Principle

The future surprises us.

It does not surprise:

God.

CIII. GOOD NEWS FOR ZION

The chapter is not merely:

Courtroom condemnation.

It includes:

Hope.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's sovereignty is frightening to idols and comforting to His people.

CIV. NO ANSWER FROM FALSE GODS

Silence.

Nothing.

Spiritual Principle

False gods sound impressive until they are required to answer.

CV. WIND AND CONFUSION

What remains after idolatry?

Wind.

Confusion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Anything replacing God eventually creates less stability than it promised.

CVI. TWELVE GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 41

- 1. Nations Trembling → God Unmoved**
- 2. Humans Strengthening Idols → God Strengthening His People**
- 3. Idol Nailed Down → Israel Upheld**
- 4. Fear → Presence**
- 5. Rejection Fear → Chosen Identity**
- 6. Worm Jacob → Threshing Instrument**
- 7. Mountains → Chaff**
- 8. Thirst → Rivers**
- 9. Desert → Forest**
- 10. Idol Silence → Divine Prophecy**
- 11. Human Confusion → Divine Good News**
- 12. Dead Idols → Living Redeemer**

Key Truth

The chapter's deepest contrast is between gods humans must hold up and the God who holds His people up.

CVII. SEVEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 41

1. God Summons the Nations

The whole world answers to Him.

2. God Reveals His Control of History

Rulers rise within His purpose.

3. The Nations Build Idols

Fear produces false security.

4. God Reassures Israel

Chosen.

Not rejected.

Strengthened.

Helped.

Upheld.

5. God Transforms Weakness

Jacob becomes an instrument of victory.

6. God Provides in the Wilderness

Rivers and trees appear.

7. God Exposes the Idols

They cannot predict, answer, act, or save.

Key Truth

Isaiah 41 moves from the fear of nations to the faithfulness of God, from powerless idols to the powerful Redeemer, and from Israel's weakness to divine help and future victory.

CVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 41 begins with:

A courtroom.

The nations are called:

To account.

God asks:

Who controls:

History?

Who raises:

Rulers?

Who calls:

Generations?

The answer is:

The Lord.

Then something interesting happens.

The nations become:

Afraid.

And what do frightened people do?

They make:

Idols.

One craftsman helps:

Another.

They say:

“Be strong!”

Then they nail their god down so:

It will not fall.

That is the tragedy of:

Idolatry.

People are looking for something:

Strong enough to hold them.

So they create something that needs:

Them.

To hold it.

Then God turns to:

Israel.

And says:

You do not need:

An idol.

You have:

Me.

You are:

My servant.

Chosen.

Not rejected.

Then comes:

Verse 10.

“Do not fear, for I am with you.”

Notice God does not say:

Do not fear because:

You are powerful.

You have enough money.

You have enough soldiers.

The situation is easy.

Nothing bad will happen.

He says:

“I am with you.”

That is enough.

Then:

“I will strengthen you.”

“I will help you.”

“I will uphold you.”

Maybe today you feel:

Weak.

Small.

Overwhelmed.

God calls Jacob:

A worm.

Little Israel.

That does not sound:

Impressive.

But the next verse says:

I will make you:

A sharp threshing instrument.

That is what God does.

He takes:

Weak people.

And gives:

Strength.

He takes:

Small people.

And gives:

Purpose.

He takes:

Fearful people.

And gives:

His presence.

Then God says:

“I take hold of your right hand.”

Think about that.

The God who says:

I am the First.

I am with the Last.

I call generations.

I move kings.

I govern nations.

I create rivers.

I declare the future.

Also says:

Give Me your hand.

That is the God of Isaiah 41.

Then the chapter moves to:

Thirst.

Poor people search:

For water.

Nothing.

The tongue:

Dry.

The land:

Barren.

God says:

“I will answer them.”

And He does not merely give:

A cup.

He gives:

Rivers.

Springs.

Pools.

Fountains.

Then:

Trees.

A forest in:

The wasteland.

Why?

So people will say:

God did this.

Then God turns back toward:

The idols.

All right.

If you are gods:

Predict.

Speak.

Act.

Do something.

They cannot.

The final verdict:

Wind.

Confusion.

That means the choice of Isaiah 41 is simple.

Will you trust:

Something you must hold up?

Or:

The God who holds you up?

Will you trust:

What needs nails?

Or:

The hand holding your hand?

Will you trust:

An idol unable to speak?

Or:

The God who declares the future?

Will you fear:

The mountain?

Or believe the God who can reduce mountains to:

Chaff?

Will you stare at:

The desert?

Or trust the God who sees:

Rivers?

So when fear says:

You are alone.

Remember:

“I am with you.”

When weakness says:

You cannot continue.

Remember:

“I will strengthen you.”

When trouble says:

No one will help.

Remember:

“I will help you.”

When you feel:

Unstable.

Remember:

“I will uphold you.”

When you feel:

Forgotten.

Remember:

“I have chosen you and not rejected you.”

When you feel:

Small.

Remember:

Your Redeemer is not.

And when you do not know how to walk through the next moment:

Remember:

The God who holds history also holds:

Your hand.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You are:

The First.

And You remain with:

The last.

You rule:

History.

Nations.

Kings.

Generations.

Father, forgive us for:

Fear.

And forgive us for the idols we create because of:

Fear.

Things we expect to:

Protect us.

Control the future.

Give security.

Yet they themselves need:

Support.

Teach us to trust:

You.

Father, thank You that You call Your people:

Chosen.

Servants.

Not rejected.

When we feel:

Forgotten.

Remind us:

We are not abandoned.

When we are afraid:

Speak again:

“Do not fear, for I am with you.”

Strengthen us.

Help us.

Uphold us.

Take us by:

The right hand.

Father, when we feel:

Small.

Weak.

Insignificant.

Remind us that our Redeemer is:

Strong.

Holy.

Faithful.

Make us useful in:

Your hands.

Turn mountains into:

Chaff.

Turn weakness into:

Strength.

Turn fear into:

Faith.

Father, when we are:

Poor.

Needy.

Thirsty.

And there seems to be:

No water.

Answer us.

Open:

Rivers.

Springs.

Pools.

Fountains.

Bring life to:

Dry places.

Plant trees in:

Wastelands.

And when You do:

Help us recognize:

Your hand.

Father, expose every idol.

Anything false.

Anything empty.

Anything we trust more than:

You.

Teach us that no created thing can:

Predict.

Provide.

Protect.

Redeem.

Like You.

Thank You that You know:

The future.

You rule:

The present.

You remember:

The past.

And You hold:

Your people.

May this promise remain in our hearts:

“Do not fear; I will help you.”

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

Key Verse

**“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” —
Isaiah 41:10**

Central Truth

The Lord alone rules history, calls generations, raises rulers, declares the future, provides for the needy, and exposes idols as powerless; therefore His chosen people need not fear, because their Redeemer is personally with them to strengthen, help, uphold, guide, protect, and transform their weakness into fruitful service.

Isaiah 41 in One Sentence

Isaiah summons the nations before the sovereign Lord, reveals that God directs history and raises rulers according to His purpose, exposes idols as helpless objects that must themselves be supported, assures chosen Israel that it has not been rejected and need not fear because God will strengthen, help, uphold, and take it by the hand, promises rivers and life in the wilderness, and concludes that the Holy One of Israel alone can predict, provide, redeem, and save while every idol proves to be wind and confusion.