### Isaiah

## Chapter 41

1‘O [you gentiles who live] in the islands;  
 You should start holding feasts to His [Name]…  
 For the powers that be will be altered!  
  
‘So now, let them come and confer,  
 Then announce what they have decided!  
  
2‘For [He’s] stirred up one in the east  
 Who’ll bring justice and call it to walk on its feet.  
 To him, those gentiles will be given,  
 And before him, their kings will all be removed.  
  
‘He’ll force them to bury their swords,  
 And like twigs, he will shatter their bows.  
 3But, although he’s the one who’ll chase them,  
 His feet will walk peaceful paths.  
  
4‘By whose might will he accomplish these things?  
 By the One who called for this generation  
 Back in the very beginning…  
 By the One who said: I am God…  
  
 ‘I’m the first, and I’m into [the future]!  
 5Nations will see Me and fear…  
 They’ll be startled to the ends of the earth,  
 And then, they’ll be gathered together.’  
  
 6‘At that time, all their neighbors will choose  
 To help their brothers, and they’ll say:  
  
 7The one who brought us together is strong,  
 The blacksmith who forged it with a hammer;  
 But how long can [this unity] last?  
  
 ‘And He will give this reply:  
  
 ‘The bond [between them] is good;  
 For I’ve made it stronger with rivets…  
 I’ve made it so it can’t be broken!’  
  
 8‘But you, O IsraEl, My servant…  
 Yes, Jacob, the one whom I’ve chosen…  
 AbraHam’s offspring whom I’ve loved…  
 9Those whom I’ve snatched from the ends of the earth…  
 Those whom I’ve called from the heights…  
 Those to whom I said this:  
  
 ‘To be My servant, I chose you,  
 And you, I’ve never abandoned.  
 10So, don’t be afraid, for I’m with you…  
 Don’t stray from Me, for I am your God…  
 I’m the One who gives you your strength,  
 And sends aid with My righteous right hand.  
  
 11‘Look! Your enemies will all come to shame,  
 And no more will they fail to respect you;  
 For, they won’t exist anymore,  
 Since all who oppose you will perish!  
  
 12‘Then you’ll search and you will not find them…  
 Those drunks who’ve been shouting insults at you,  
 Because they will no longer be…  
 There’ll be none to wage war against you,  
 13For, I am your God who is at your right hand!  
  
 ‘I’m the One who is saying to you,  
 14O Jacob, don’t be afraid…  
 O IsraEl’s remnants, don’t [tremble],  
 Because, I’m your helper… Your God.’  
  
 ‘O IsraEl,  
  
 ‘I’m the One who paid the ransom for you,  
 15{Look!} And I’ve made you like a threshing device  
 That’s been fitted with many new teeth.  
 So, you’ll thresh the mountains and thin out the hills…  
 Then, into dust, you will turn them.  
  
 16‘Yes, you will winnow them all,  
 And the winds will blow them away…  
 By a windstorm, they will be scattered.  
 And among IsraEl’s holy, there will be joy.  
  
 17‘Then the poor and needy will start to rejoice,  
 As will those who’ve been searching for water  
 But haven’t been able to find it…  
 Those whose tongues have dried out from thirst.  
  
 ‘For, I am Jehovah, IsraEl’s God…  
 I’ll pay attention and I’ll not desert you.  
 18From the mountains, I’ll open up rivers,  
 And into the plains, I’ll put springs.  
  
 ‘Deserts, I’ll turn into marshes,  
 And into thirsty ground, I’ll put canals.  
 19In the waterless land, I’ll plant boxwoods and cedars,  
 Along with white poplars, myrtles, and cypress.  
  
 20‘Then, all who see them will know  
 That it came by the hand of Jehovah…  
 By IsraEl’s Holy One, they were planted.  
  
 21‘But now, your time of judgment has come…  
 Yes, the time for deciding is now,’  
 Says the King over Jacob.  
  
 22‘So, let all [your idols] step forward  
 And tell you the things that will happen.  
 For, they’re the ones to whom you have said:  
  
 ‘We’ll pay close attention you,  
 So we can know what will happen,  
 And how it will be [in the end]!’  
  
 23‘Therefore, ask [your idols] to tell you…  
 Yes, have them announce the things that will come!  
 Then we’ll know if they truly are gods  
 Who can choose good or bad for themselves…  
 We’ll wonder and see it at the same time.  
  
 24‘Then we’ll know the places from which they have come  
 And we’ll see the source of the things they can do…  
 These ones whom the people have chosen…  
 These disgusting things whom they have preferred.  
  
 25‘But, from the north, I’ll be raising one man,  
 And I’ll raise another from the sun in the east…  
 And they will be called by My Name.  
  
 ‘Then, both of these rulers will come here,  
 And like the clay of a potter  
 (The clay that he works [with his feet]),  
 They will trample you down.  
  
 26‘Now, which [of your idols] can tell you  
 How, in the beginning, it all came to be,  
 So we can know how it started?  
 Yes, have them tell us how it began!  
  
 ‘Aren’t any of them able to speak?  
 For, no one has heard a reply!  
  
 27‘I am the One who raised Zion…  
 The One who sent comfort to JeruSalem.  
 28Yet, {Look!} the nations have heard nothing at all…  
 No announcements have come from their idols!  
  
 ‘So, if I should ask where they came from,  
 No way could they give a reply.  
 29But you say that you were created by them…  
 How foolish are the ways in which you’ve been led!’