**CHAPTER** **41**

*The reign of the just one: the vanity of idols.*

**1** Let the islands keep silence before me, and the nations take new strength: let them come near, and then speak, let us come near to judgment together.

**2** Who hath raised up the just one from the east, hath called him to follow him? he shall give the nations in his sight, and he shall rule over kings: he shall give them as the dust to his sword, as stubble driven by the wind, to his bow.

**3** He shall pursue them, he shall pass in peace, no path shall appear after his feet.

**4** Who hath wrought and done these things, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, I am the first and the last.

**5** The islands saw it, and feared, the ends of the earth were astonished, they drew near, and came.

**6** Every one shall help his neighbour, and shall say to his brother: Be of good courage.

**7** The coppersmith striking with the hammer encouraged him that forged at that time, saying: It is ready for soldering: and he strengthened it with nails, that it should not be moved.

**8** But thou Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend:

**9** In whom I have taken thee from the ends of the earth, and from the remote parts thereof have called thee, and said to thee: Thou art my servant, I have chosen thee, and have not cast thee away.

**10** Fear not, for I am with thee: turn not aside, for I am thy God: I have strengthened thee, and have helped thee, and the right hand of my just one hath upheld thee.

**11** Behold all that fight against thee shall be confounded and ashamed, they shall be as nothing, and the men shall perish that strive against thee.

**12** Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find the men that resist thee: they shall be as nothing: and as a thing consumed the men that war against thee.

**13** For I am the Lord thy God, who take thee by the hand, and say to thee: Fear not, I have helped thee.

**14** Fear not, thou worm of Jacob, you that are dead of Israel: I have helped thee, saith the Lord: and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel.

**15** I have made thee as a new thrashing wain, with teeth like a saw: thou shalt thrash the mountains, and break them in pieces: and shalt make the hills as chaff.

**16** Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the Lord, in the Holy One of Israel thou shalt be joyful.

**17** The needy and the poor seek for waters, and there are none: their tongue hath been dry with thirst. I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

**18** I will open rivers in the high hills, and fountains in the midst of the plains: I will turn the desert into pools of waters, and the impassable land into streams of waters.

**19** I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, and the thorn, and the myrtle, and the olive tree: I will set in the desert the fir tree, the elm, and the box tree together:

**20** That they may see and know, and consider, and understand together that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

**21** Bring your cause near, saith the Lord: bring hither, if you have any thing to allege, saith the King of Jacob.

**22** Let them come, and tell us all things that are to come: tell us the former things what they were: and we will set our heart upon them, and shall know the latter end of them, and tell us the things that are to come.

**23** Shew the things that are to come hereafter, and we shall know that ye are gods. Do ye also good or evil, if you can: and let us speak, and see together.

**24** Behold, you are of nothing, and your work of that which hath no being: he that hath chosen you is an abomination.

**25** I have raised up one from the north, and he shall come from the rising of the sun: he shall call upon my name, and he shall make princes to be as dirt, and as the potter treading clay.

**26** Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know: and from time of old, that we may say: Thou art just. There is none that sheweth, nor that foretelleth, nor that heareth your words.

**27** The first shall say to Sion: Behold they are here, and to Jerusalem I will give an evangelist.

**28** And I saw, and there was no one even among them to consult, or who, when I asked, could answer a word.

**29** Behold they are all in the wrong, and their works are vain: their idols are wind and vanity.