

The One Who Helps

Isaiah 41:1-20

Isaiah 41

¹ Listen to me in silence, O coastlands; let the peoples renew their strength; let them approach, then let them speak; let us together draw near for judgment.

Isaiah 41

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, the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.

Isaiah 41

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.

Isaiah 41

⁸ But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; 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.

Isaiah 41

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, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.”

Isaiah 41

¹⁴ Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer 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, and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in the Lord; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

Isaiah 41

¹⁷ When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord 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.

Isaiah 41

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 the Lord has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

I am the One who helps

- **Our need for strength**
- **The strength of idols**
- **The strength of God**

1

Our need for strength

Isaiah 40:31

They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

1

Our need for strength

Isaiah 41:1

¹ Listen to me in silence, O coastlands; let the peoples renew their strength; let them approach, then let them speak; let us together draw near for judgment.

1

Our need for strength

Isaiah 41:1-5

² Who stirred up one from the east
whom victory meets at every step?...

⁴ ...I, the Lord, the first,
and with the last; I am he.

⁵ The coastlands have seen and are afraid;
the ends of the earth tremble; they have
drawn near and come.

2 The strength of idols

Isaiah 41:6-7

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.

2 The strength of idols

Isaiah 41:7

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.

3

The strength of God

Isaiah 41:8-10

⁸ But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
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.

3

The strength of God

Isaiah 41:11-13

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... ¹³ For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.”

3

The strength of God

Isaiah 41:14-16

¹⁴ Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer 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...

3 The strength of God

Isaiah 41:17-18

¹⁷ When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord 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.

The one who helps.
the Advent

3

The strength of God

Isaiah 41:11-13

¹¹ Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded...

¹² You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them;

John 8:10-11

¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you...

3 The strength of God

¹⁵ Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge, new, sharp, and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains... *(Isaiah 41:15)*

²² And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. ²³ Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. *(Mark 11:22-23)*

3

The strength of God

Isaiah 41:17-18

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them... I will make the wilderness a pool of water

3

The strength of God

John 4:10-14

“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

3 The strength of God

John 4:10-14

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

I am the One who helps

- Our need for strength
evidenced by our pain and search for significance
- The strength of idols
you must give to them!
- The strength of God
the advent of Christ