

God's Power to Execute Judgment upon All Who Defy Him

Isaiah 41:01–07

<p>1. <i>God's summons for the nations</i> To gather for a court trial: A picture of future judgment</p> <p>2. <i>God's two key questions</i></p> <p>a. Who has the power to raise up a ruler to execute judgment? A prediction of Cyrus, king of Persia (559-530 BC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He would destroy nations • He would be unstoppable <p>b. Who has the power to control the affairs of the human race?</p> <p>3. <i>God's answer:</i> <i>He, the LORD —</i> <i>He alone has such power</i></p> <p>4. <i>God's twofold purpose for the coming judgment</i></p> <p>a. To strike fear in the people: Giving them a chance to repent</p> <p>b. To expose their wicked hearts, their trust in one another (v. 6) and in their false gods (v. 7): Giving them a chance to turn back to the Lord</p>	<p>1 “Be silent before me, you islands! Let the nations renew their strength! Let them come forward and speak; let us meet together at the place of judgment.</p> <p>2 Who has stirred up one from the east, calling him in righteousness to his service? He hands nations over to him and subdues kings before him. He turns them to dust with his sword, to windblown chaff with his bow.</p> <p>3 He pursues them and moves on unscathed, by a path his feet have not travelled before.</p> <p>4 Who has done this and carried it through, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD — with the first of them and with the last — I am he.”</p> <p>5 The islands have seen it and fear; the ends of the earth tremble. They approach and came forward;</p> <p>6 They help each other and say to their companions, “Be strong!”</p> <p>7 The metalworker encourages the goldsmith, and the one who smooths with the hammer spurs on the one who strikes the anvil. One says of the welding, “It is good.” The other nails down the idol so it will not topple.</p>
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