

## ***“The Case of God vs. Idols”*** ***Isaiah 41***

### **A Call to Order V. 1**

Isaiah uses a complicated poetic form of Hebrew Parallelism with courtroom type language. ***Zechariah 3:1-6***

He first calls the court to order and tells the ungodly people to prepare their case.

### **Evidence For God V. 2-7**

“Who?” V.2-4 – The rhetorical question is answered in verse 4. God has directed all of history. Cyrus, the “one from the east”, is under the direction of God. God was from the beginning of generations and will be at the end of all generations. ***Revelation 21:5-8***

“Coastlands” V.5-7 – The ungodly respond in fear and reinforcing their idols.

***Romans 1:18-25*** “It is good” (the creator) ***Genesis 1:1-5***

### **Fear Not V. 8-20**

“Chosen” V.8-10 – They are chosen by God, His servant, the promised seed of His Friend Abraham. ***Genesis 17:1-8*** “Friend” – ***James 2:21-23***

If God was with Abraham won't he also strengthen you?

“Redeemer” V.11-16 – You fearful insignificant (“worm”) people, I will take care of you and destroy your enemies (Babylon). This is the first time the word redeemer (*go'el*) is used in Isaiah. ***Ruth 2:20*** God will redeem and deliver, same language as the Exodus.

***Exodus 6:2-8***

A threshing sledge was a wood platform with sharp objects on the bottom used to separate the harvested wheat.

“Water” V.17-20 – God will prove He is God by making the barren desert a lush garden, not only as provision for His people but to show the world that He is God.

***Psalms 107:33-38***

### **Evidence Against Idols V. 21-29**

“Your Case” V.21-24 – God then turns the floor over to the idol worshippers, now present you evidence that your god is god. Can your god explain past history and how or why he effected it? Can your god predict specific future events beyond the course of nature? The response is silence because their god is nothing and an offense to God and nature. ***Psalms 115:1-8***

“I will” V.25-27 – God responds by saying I will make a prediction that no one else will and make it happen in a way that can only be God. The “one from the north” is Cyrus the Persian who utterly destroys Babylon in one night fulfilling the prophesy of Daniel.

***Daniel 5:24-31***

“No one” V.28-29 – God listens for a rebuttal but hears no one for the idols and their worshippers are empty nothings.

### **Application**

### **Discussion Questions**

What filthy rags or empty idols do we cling to?

How has God worked in your life?

How can God's provision dispel our fear and weakness?

### **Homework**

**Read *Isaiah Ch. 42***

**Answer the following questions:**

1. What does God's Word say? List the facts.
2. What does God's Word mean? Learn the lessons.
3. What does God's Word mean to me? Listen to His voice.
4. How will I respond to God's Word today? Live it out.

**Pick one significant provision of God in your life recently. Remind yourself of this and thank God for it at least three times each day this week.**