

Isaiah 41:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment.

Analysis

God summons the nations ('islands'—Hebrew 'iyim' refers to distant coastlands) to a cosmic courtroom. The call to 'renew strength' (Hebrew 'chalaph') suggests gathering resources for legal battle. God initiates this confrontation, demonstrating His sovereignty to judge all nations and vindicate His purposes before witnesses.

Historical Context

This trial scene sets the stage for announcing Cyrus's rise (verse 2), showing that God, not chance or Babylonian gods, controls history and raises up world rulers according to His plan.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does viewing history as God's courtroom drama change your understanding of current events?

2. What does it mean that God invites nations to approach and argue, confident in His case?

Interlinear Text

הִחַר יִשׁוּ	אֵלַי	אֵי יָם	וּלְאַמּוֹת יָם	יְחַלּוּ יִפּוֹ
Keep silence	H413	before me O islands	and let the people	renew
H2790		H339	H3816	H2498
כֹּחַ	יָגִשׁוּ	אֵז	יְדַבְּרוּ	יַחְדָּם
their strength	let them come near	H227	then let them speak	together
H3581	H5066		H1696	H3162
לִמְשָׁפֹּט	נִקְרָבָה:			
to judgment	let us come near			
H4941	H7126			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:18 (Parallel theme): Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Habakkuk 2:20 (Parallel theme): But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Zechariah 2:13 (Parallel theme): Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

Psalms 46:10 (Parallel theme): Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Isaiah 34:1 (Parallel theme): Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.

Isaiah 11:11 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people,

which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

Job 38:3 (Parallel theme): Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

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