

# 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

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וְשִׁתְּוָן בְּפָנָי אַלְמִים לְאַמִּים יְרַחֵל יְפִי  
 Keep silence before me O islands and let the people renew  
 H2790 H413 H339 H3816 H2498

כַּח יִגְשְׁוָן אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ וְאֶת־זְבַחַת־אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ  
 their strength let them come near then let them speak together  
 H3581 H5066 H227 H1696 H3162

לִמְשָׁפֵט כְּזִקְבָּה:  
 to judgment let us come near  
 H4941 H7126

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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