

# Isaiah 41:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.

## Analysis

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God challenges idols to predict or act: 'shew the things that are to come hereafter' or 'do good, or do evil.' The either/or shows that any demonstration of power—beneficial or harmful—would prove divinity. Complete silence and inaction expose false gods as 'nothing.' The purpose is that observers would be 'dismayed' (amazed) and see together.

## Historical Context

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Babylonian gods remained silent about Cyrus's rise and Babylon's fall, while Isaiah's God declared both 150 years in advance. This concrete failure vindicated God's uniqueness.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do modern ideologies fail the test of predicting outcomes or changing reality?

2. What does the silence of false gods teach about discerning truth from deception?

## Interlinear Text

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הִגֵּד יְדוּ	הָאֵתִיּוֹת	לְאַחֲוָר	וְנִדְעָה	כִּי
Shew	the things that are to come	hereafter	that we may know	H3588
H5046	H857	H268	H3045	
אֱלֹהֵי יָם	אֵתֵם	אֵף יַעֲשׂוּ	וְתַעֲשׂוּ	וְנִשְׁתַּעֲמָה
that ye are gods	H859	yea do good	or do evil	that we may be dismayed
H430		H3190	H7489	H8159
וְנִרְאָה	יַחַד:			
and behold	it together			
H7200	H3162			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 42:9** (Parallel theme): Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

**Jeremiah 10:5** (Evil): They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

**John 13:19** (Parallel theme): Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.