**August 6, 2020**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**LET US COME NEAR**

**TOGETHER TO JUDGMENT**

**Isaiah 41:1-13**

***Isaiah 41:1 "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."***

The command to be silent is an admonition to all people of the islands before the Lord. It is advisable whenever God is speaking, all should keep silent. Especially in times of judgment. The renewing of the strength (spiritual) must be in the Lord. We will each have to account for ourselves in front of the Lord.

***Habakkuk 2:20 “But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.”***

We all shall stand before Jesus and be judged. The scripture speaks of five judgments, and they differ in four general respects; As to the subjects, place, time, and results of the judgments. The first judgment is that of the believer. Our past sins were judged in AD 30 at the cross resulting in death for Christ and Justification for the believer.

***1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:***

The second judgment is that of sin in the believer. Our present and future sins are judged at anytime and anywhere resulting in chastisement by the Lord.

***1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?***

The third judgment is that of the conduct or works of the believer. Our Christian walk and work will be judged in the rapture at the Judgment ("Bema") seat of Christ resulting in reward or loss, but he himself shall be saved.

***2 Corinthians 5:9-10***

***9Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.***

***10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.***

The fourth judgment is that of the nations. All nations shall be judged on their love and compassion for Christians at the Revelation (Christ coming with His saints) in the Valley of Jehoshaphat resulting in some saved and some lost.

***Joel 3:1-2***

***1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,***

***2I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.***

The fifth judgment is that of the wicked dead. All the lost, of all ages will be judged according to their works on a determined day after the millennium before the "Great White Throne" resulting in all who are not written in the book of life are cast into the lake of fire.

***John 5:28-29***

***28Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,***

***29And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.***

***Isaiah 41:2 "Who raised up the righteous [man] from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made [him] rule over kings? he gave [them] as the dust to his sword, [and] as driven stubble to his bow."***

This is reverting back and speaking of Cyrus. This Cyrus came from the east of Babylon. He could have been from Persia or Elam. It appears God called him for the task and empowered him with the ability to do just that. It was not his righteousness, but the righteousness God gave him. This man is of God's choosing to rule over kings in the land. His abilities are great, because God empowered him for the task. It was of no difficulty at all for Cyrus to conquer these lands and put them under his rule.

***Isaiah 41:3 "He pursued them, [and] passed safely; [even] by the way [that] he had not gone with his feet."***

It appears he had no trouble at all with the terrain that others had thought impossible to pass over. We must remember in this that the path was easy, because God has directed him. God makes whoever He wants to be ruler. God is in control.

***Isaiah 41:4 "Who hath wrought and done [it], calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I [am] he."***

We know the answer to this. No idol god could have done this for Cyrus. This is from the One true God. God is the First and the Last. LORD, in this particular instance, is speaking of Jehovah. The fact the First and Last was mentioned, shows the eternity of God.

***Isaiah 41:5 "The isles saw [it], and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, drew near, and came***."

The land, which had been so unlikely to be defeated, is defeated by Cyrus. It is difficult for others to comprehend why he was able to do this. It caused them to be afraid for fear he might conquer them, also.

***Isaiah 41:6 "They helped every one his neighbour; and [every one] said to his brother, Be of good courage."***

We see Isaiah telling them here, that the idols of their own, and the idols of their friends, are not enough to save them. They are helpful to each other, probably, for comfort and to have a friend when the trouble comes.

***Isaiah 41:7 "So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, [and] he that smootheth [with] the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It [is] ready for the soldering: and he fastened it with nails, [that] it should not be moved."***

All of these were involved in making these idols. They seem to encourage each other, that their trade for these would flourish, and they could make the sales they once made.

***Isaiah 41:8 "But thou, Israel, [art] my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend."***

We see that God has never forgotten His promises to Abraham. He has not forsaken His people {Israel}. Notice, also, that the blessings that came on Israel were because of God's love for His friend, Abraham. Problems come to Israel to make her return to the worship of the One True God. Israel of old belonged to God, because He had separated them out as His people and gave them the law. Spiritual Israel {Christians} belong to God, because we have been bought and paid for with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

***Isaiah 41:9 "[Thou] whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou [art] my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away."***

"The end of the earth", spoken of here, is Ur of the Chaldees. Of course, it could, also, be the children of Israel being brought out of Egypt {the world}. The Holy Land is the home of physical Israel. They may be temporarily dwelling in another place, but their home is Israel. God promised this land to the descendants of Abraham, forever. We saw in our study of Joseph in Egypt, how God blessed Joseph, because he never forgot God.

***Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."***

This is a promise to physical Israel, and a promise to spiritual Israel, as well. Fear is the opposite of faith. God does not want His people to fear, but to have faith in Him. He was with the children of Israel {physical}, when He dwelt in the holy of holies above the mercy seat. He is with all believers in Christ, because He dwells inside of us.

***Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."***

Jesus is the Right Hand of God. Jesus is the doer part of the Godhead. Jesus is Creator God. He is the Word of God that created all things.

***John 1:1-3***

***1"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."***

***2 "The same was in the beginning with God."***

***3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."***

Notice, it is His righteousness that we are strengthened and held up by. This is not just in the past tense, but in the future as well, since God never changes.

***Isaiah 41:11 "Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish."***

The Hebrews were feared, because of their relationship with God, but many were incensed against them. They were jealous of the Hebrews, because they were the chosen of God. God's wrath is against those who hate Israel. It really does not matter whether it is physical Israel, or the Christians {spiritual Israel}. God strengthens and protects His own. He will cause problems to come to anyone who comes against His family. It is a dangerous thing to come against God's chosen. God will see that the enemies of His chosen do not prosper. He will go so far as to do away with them.

***Isaiah 41:12 "Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, [even] them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought."***

This was proven before at places like Jericho, when God fought for His children. It was even more apparent when God caused Pharaoh to release His children after 10 plagues had come. God destroyed Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea, just after He had saved His own in the Red Sea. It is no problem to God to destroy millions, if it is necessary. It is His world. He can do what He wants to with the world and its inhabitants.

***Isaiah 41:13 "For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."***

The right hand of man symbolizes the spiritual side. The strength that we have is a spiritual strength. He is our very present help in trouble. We have nothing to fear, if we are totally obedient to God.

***Psalms 18:2 "The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower."***

***II Corinthians 12:9 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What message was sent to the islands in verse 1?
2. What type of renewing of their strength is spoken of?
3. How many judgments are there?
4. In what respect do they differ?
5. Who is the righteous man from the east speaking of?
6. Who, in truth, is responsible for someone being a king, or ruler?
7. LORD, in verse 4, is speaking of whom?
8. What do all of those mentioned, in verse 7, have in common?
9. God has never forgotten His promises to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Why would God bless the Israelites?
11. What is the meaning of "end of the earth" in verse 9?
12. What is Egypt symbolic of?
13. Why did God always bless Joseph?
14. What is the opposite of faith?
15. Where is He with the Christians?
16. Who is the Right Hand of God?
17. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is Creator God.
18. What will happen to those who oppress God's people?
19. Where are two places we see God destroy the believers' enemies?
20. What does the right hand symbolize?