

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – August 09, 2020

Theme: The certainty of God's word Topic: God's Promise of Help

Main Text: Isaiah 41:1- 20.

Key verse: Isaiah 41: 10 *"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Undoubtedly, help is what the world desperately needs. The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the futility of the world's systems. Countries and scientists are tripping over themselves to be the first to invent a vaccine against Covid-19. And on a different front of the fight against the pandemic, politicians and businesses are trying to grapple with the fall-outs of the pandemic; while families and individuals are trying to cope with heightened stresses on health, finances and even relationships. In Africa and other less developed countries, hunger, insecurity, and corruption are complicating matters further. In this study, we focus on the promise of divine help as outlined in our text. This word of promise of God's help is coming at the right time and cuts right at the heart of the matter such situation as we find ourselves in can elicit. So, He says *"Fear not...; be not dismayed...."* (Isaiah 41:10). In promising us divine help, God knew that situations arise when all humans need help.

- 1. (a) In Isaiah 41:2-4, God showed some of His attributes to build our confidence in His ability to help us. What are some of those traits? (b) Isaiah 41:5-7 paints a picture of how the nations try to cope with the challenges they face. What do they look like and how do they compare with the attributes of God in verses 2-4? (c) What differentiates us from the nations according to verses 8-10? How should that affect our attitude to the current challenges around and in the world according to verses 10, 13?**

When there are upheavals in our lives and in the world, God wants believers to remember that He is our victorious God, who alone guides every event of human history; who can lead through unfamiliar grounds (Isaiah 41:1, 3, 10); who we are to Him – His chosen ones (Isaiah 41:8-9). It is against this background that God now addresses two major issues of life - enemy attacks and our poverty and neediness (Isaiah 41:11 &17). Concerning enemy attacks, God says we should see ourselves as helpless as worms! The times we are in, globally and in different parts of our country, highlight our powerlessness as the "worm." In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world is looking to science for help. For the conflicts and insecurities, politicians and world bodies are tripping over themselves with different declarations and resolutions. But the word of God tells us that there is no help there (Is 41:29; 44:9, Ps 115:4-8). Real help is from God, who made heaven and earth (Ps 124:8).

- 2. (a) What is the nature of God's promised help to helpless 'worms' like us? See Isaiah 41:13-15 (b) How does Isaiah 41:16 help you to understand why God would rather help us in our difficulties rather than avert those difficulties? See also 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (c) How would you apply the lessons here to a situation which might be making you feel helpless like a worm?**

Just as human help is useless against enemy actions – insecurity/conflicts, it is also useless against poverty (spiritual or physical). So, God addresses this second major human need of hunger and thirst (Isaiah 41: 17). While we have a part to play in ending hunger (spiritual or physical) and restoring the environment, five times in our passage for today, God said *"I will" – "I will open rivers in desolate heights ...; I will make the wilderness a pool of water,... I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, ...; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine..."* (Isaiah 41: 18-19 NKJV).

- 3. (a) What do the five 'I wills' in verses 17-19 communicate to you? (b) How can we use this truth to deal with the sense of helplessness that some of the situations we face can provoke? (c) What is one such situation in your life where you can apply these lessons?**

Prayer: *Father God, grant us grace to know for certain that You can do what You promised, and to live in that certainty, in Jesus. Amen.*