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Idolatry on Trial
41: 1-29

The basic content of **Chapters 41** through **48** can be stated in this way. **God** will demonstrate **His** absolute superiority over the idols by doing something never before done in human history: causing a people, **His** people, to return from exile **(41:1** to **44:22)**. The background to this entire section is the **Babylonian** captivity. **Isaiah** is prophesying to events that are 150 years in the future. Therefore, the words penned here are not so much for **Isaiah's** generation, but for those **Jews** who would be living during the Captivity. **ADONAI** will not only punish **Babylon**; **He** will also demonstrate, as **He** did with the ten plagues of Egypt, that **the gods** of **Babylon** were utterly powerless. In this chapter **the LORD** puts the entire system of **Babylonian** idolatry on trial. **He** will prove **His** superiority over **Babylonian** idolatry by prophesying future events. In **41:1-7 He** gives a **near historical prophecy** regarding the coming of Cyrus. **He** will not name Cyrus until we get to **Chapters 44** and **45,** but it is obvious that Cyrus is the person **he** is talking about in **42:1-7.** Remember the prophetic system. After first successfully prophesying near historical events, **Isaiah's far eschatological prophecies** could be believed.