

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time  
The Work of the Holy One of Israel  
Isaiah 41:1-29

Sometimes life comes at us hard. We get into busy seasons at work where deadlines come and go. Our family members experience crises, and we need to be available. The doctor gives us a diagnosis that threatens our health and well-being. We worry about things beyond our control like the economy, national security, domestic policy, and the myriads of news items that come from our favorite cable news outlets. Where do we turn for help?

1. God is sovereign over history.
  
2. God is the source of Israel's strength.
  
3. God will work in nature to reveal Himself.
  
4. God cannot be compared or challenged.

Whether we are dealing with physical battles or spiritual battles, the Bible assures us that God is in the fight with us. Nothing that happens to us catches Him by surprise. In His sovereignty He orders our steps, and in His providence, He takes the bad and uses it for His purposes and for His glory. We can rest assured that even though we may continue to fight the battles, the war has already been won through the victorious work of Christ and His cross.

Reflection

How do you distinguish between the sovereignty of God and the providence of God? Take some time to research what these two terms mean. How can these aspects of God's work in creation be of comfort in times of trouble? How can the enemy use these aspects of God's work in creation to make us doubtful or angry towards God? How would memorizing Isaiah 41:10 and quoting it often help guard your thoughts in troubled times? How do you see the Holy Spirit's work in your life? What are the things in your life that rob you of your affections for Christ and cause you to fear or doubt? How can you better focus on the things that stir your affections for Christ so that you can share the gospel with others with confidence?