

41:11 But the Lord says that where their tongues failed for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. The theme of comfort to His people. But getting into the theme of deliverance. "I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry lands springs of water." And then He plants different trees in the wilderness, verse 19, and 20, "That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it." Now you've seen what we've had in the chapter so far. We start in with the coming of Cyrus, and God says it is he who triumphs. We see the nations in terror building new idols. We see God comforting Israel, telling them not to fear, because they are His own. And so now in verse 21, He addresses the idols. He says, "Produce your cause, saith the Lord, bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and show us what will happen." The theme of God's omniscience. God's proof here of His power is His knowledge. The fact that He can predict the future.

You say, well God causes these great things to happen in the world. How do we know that it was He who did it? One day I was in California with some friends, and we walked along, (it was about thirty years ago.) We walked along beside a great place on the side of the hill, and we looked out over the area which had been burned over. There was a big fire. All the trees were burned up. It was all barren and desolate. And then as we looked at it, we saw wild flowers springing up here and there. Very pretty wild flowers. And one member of our party said, isn't that lovely. Out in this area of desolation, burned over with the fire, the Lord had planted these beautiful wild flowers for us to enjoy. And just when she finished saying that a man came walking along and he looked at us and he said, you see, all those lovely flowers. He said, I planted those. He said, I thought it would be nice to make this place look a little better along here, so I got some seed and went up and planted all that a month ago. He said, isn't this pretty. And he went on. I thought, what a contrast. We just said the Lord did it. Now this man says, I did it. Well, if - we didn't know the man. He may have been lying for all I know. We don't know a thing about him. But if the man told you in advance he was going to plant flowers, there, and then you went and found flowers, you would know that