



Introduction

God challenges people to show what use their idols are.



Questions

1. Why does God tell Israel not to be afraid?
2. What are the strong reasons that God challenges anyone else to produce?
3. What does God conclude when he looks for a counsellor to answer him?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 7** God asks the people to say who makes things happen. He says that he does, but men make idols
- **v 8 to 16** Israel is God's chosen people. He is with them and will help them against their enemies
- **v 17 to 20** God will provide water and trees to demonstrate his creative power
- **v 21 to 29** God challenges the idols to predict the future like he does (see theme)

Timeline 850 BC (see below)



Theme

God has foretold Jewish history

A selection of verses showing that in the Bible, God has foretold Jewish history.

The Jews are descendants of Abraham to whom God made several promises, among which was the promise to develop his descendants into a great nation:

Genesis 12 verses 1 and 2

God promised that this great nation was to be located in the land of Canaan in which Abraham was living although he did not possess any of it:

Genesis 13 verses 14 to 17

When the nation of Israel came out of Egypt, God predicted through Moses what their destiny would be. It depended on whether they kept God's commandments or not:

Deuteronomy 28 verses 1 and 2

However the nation largely disobeyed God and was punished:

Daniel 9 verses 11 and 12

So the Jews have suffered the curses predicted in Deuteronomy. This has included suffering terrible persecution whilst being scattered from their homeland:

Deuteronomy 28 verses 64 and 65



The prophet Micah predicted the time when Jerusalem would be ploughed as a field. This occurred in AD 135 when Hadrian had the temple site in Jerusalem ploughed:

Micah 3 verse 12

Jesus said that Jerusalem would be trodden down by non-Jews for a limited time.

The Jews gained access to more parts of Jerusalem during the six-day war in 1967:

Luke 21 verses 23 and 24

Jeremiah assured the nation that they would not be destroyed. Despite suffering persecution while being out of their homeland for over 1900 years, they still exist as an identifiable nation:

Jeremiah 30 verse 11

A greater destiny awaits the nation when Jesus returns as king, for Jerusalem will be the centre of his world government as God promised through Micah the prophet:

Micah 4 verses 1 to 3

Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 10 and 11, Q 2: v 21 to 23, Q 3: v 28 and 29



Bible timeline

