

God Out of the Box

Description

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Isaiah 41:1-7

God had used the Israelites to humble many proud nations: Egypt, Edom, Moab, the Canaanites, the Philistines, and the Syrians among others. The Israelites had suffered defeat from time to time, but the tiny kingdom of Judah survived and even thrived at times in a very tough neighborhood. Judah had managed to hang on even when their brothers and sisters in Israel, along with its capitol, Samaria, had been destroyed. The Judeans may have believed that Solomon's temple was their lucky charm: "God won't allow the temple to be destroyed; who will worship Him then? God has to save us," they may have thought.

God refuses to be put into a box, even a beautiful marble and gold box like the temple. God will not sacrifice His holiness for our perfunctory worship or religious pretense. In the end, He will be found righteous in His judgment. The trouble begins when people believe "God is on our side," and they forget to ask themselves, "Are we on God's side?"

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