

Isaiah 46 - Judgment on Babylon and Her Idols

III. Prophecies of comfort (Is 40:1—66:24)

(1) Promises of Israel's deliverance from Babylonian captivity because of God's attributes (Is 40:1—48:22)

(H) Deliverance based upon predictions of Babylon's fall (Is 46:1—47:15)

(a) Powerlessness of Babylon's idols Bel and Nebo (46:1-13)

(i) God carries people while Babylon's burdensome idols had to be carried (46:1-4)

(ii) God is omnipotent while Babylon's idols were inanimate (46:5-13)

Isaiah 46

(H) Deliverance based upon predictions of Babylon's fall (Is 46:1—47:15)

(a) Powerlessness of Babylon's idols Bel and Nebo (46:1-13)

(i) God carries people while Babylon's burdensome idols had to be carried (46:1-4)

1 Bel has bowed down, Nebo stoops over; Their idols have become *loads* for the animals and the cattle. The things that you carry are burdensome, A load for the weary *animal*.

1 Bel has bowed down, Nebo stoops over; Their images are *consigned* to the beasts and the cattle. The things that you carry are burdensome, A load for the weary *beast*.

1 "Bel bows down, Nebo stoops low. Their idols are on beasts, on livestock. Your loads are more burdensome than their reports.

1 Bel boweth down, Nebo stoopeth, their idols were upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden; they are a burden to the weary beast.

2 They stooped over, they have bowed down together; They could not rescue the burden, But have themselves gone into **captivity**.

2 They stooped over, they have bowed down together; They could not rescue the burden, But have themselves gone into captivity.

2 They stoop, they bow down together, and they are not able to rescue the burden, but they themselves go off into captivity.

2 They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but themselves are gone into captivity.

- "...captivity" - free to make choices yet we will become enslaved to these choices

- Behind the idols of that day was satanic worship, which is becoming rather popular in our contemporary society
- The Word of God repeatedly warns us that our warfare is spiritual warfare

3 "Listen to Me, house of **Jacob**, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, You who have been **carried by Me from birth** And have been carried from the womb;

3 "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, You who have been borne by Me from birth And have been carried from the womb;

3 "Listen to me, house of Jacob, and all you remnant of the house of Israel, who have been upheld from before your birth, and who have been carried from the womb.

3 Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb:

- "...Jacob" - used instead of "Israel"

- "...carried by Me from birth" - can be speaking of the 12 Tribes of Israel or the nation as if it had been born in Egypt

— Israel is often spoken of as God's firstborn

4 Even to *your* old age I will be the same, And even to *your* graying years I will carry *you*! I have done *it*, and I will bear *you*; And I will carry *you* and I will save *you*.

4 Even to *your* old age I will be the same, And even to *your* graying years I will bear *you*! I have done *it*, and I will carry *you*; And I will bear *you* and I will deliver *you*.

4 Even until your old age, I am the one, and I'll carry you even until your gray hairs come. It is I who have created, and I who will carry, and it is I who will bear and save.

4 And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

(ii) God is omnipotent while Babylon's idols were inanimate (46:5-13)

5 "To whom would you liken Me And make Me equal, and compare Me, That we would be alike?

5 "To whom would you liken Me And make Me equal and compare Me, That we would be alike?

5 "To whom will you compare me, count me equal, or liken me, so that I may be compared?

5 To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?

6 "Those who lavish gold from the bag And weigh silver on the scale, Hire a goldsmith, and he makes it *into* a god; They bow down, indeed they worship it.

6 "Those who lavish gold from the purse And weigh silver on the scale Hire a goldsmith, and he makes it *into* a god; They bow down, indeed they worship it.

6 Those who pour out gold in a purse, weigh silver in a balance, hire a goldsmith in order to make a god, and then they bow down and even worship it.

6 They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.

7 "They lift it on the shoulder, carry it, And set it in its place, and it stands *there*. It does not move from its place. Though one may shout to it, it cannot answer; It cannot save him from his distress.

7 "They lift it upon the shoulder *and* carry it; They set it in its place and it stands *there*. It does not move from its place. Though one may cry to it, it cannot answer; It cannot deliver him from his distress.

7 And they lift it on their shoulders, carry it, set it up in its place, and there it stands. It cannot move from that spot. One may even call to it, but it cannot answer nor save him from his distress.

7 They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.

- Their idol was man-made, yet man looks to it to get him out of trouble

— Today, we've invented a more insulting idol to worship: nothingness, randomness, chance!

8 "Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you wrongdoers.

8 "Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors.

8 "Remember this, and stand firm; take it again to heart, you rebels.

8 Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors.

9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me,

9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me,

9 Remember the former things from long ago, Because I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like me.

9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My plan will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

10 I declare from the beginning things to follow, and from ancient times things that have not yet been done; saying, 'My purpose will stand, and he will accomplish everything that I please.'

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

- God authenticates these assertions by pointing out that He is outside time all together
- Time is not linear, it is a physical property relative to mass, acceleration and gravity
- God is outside time and therefore, can declare the end from the beginning!

11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a distant country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it*, I will certainly do it.

11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it*, *surely* I will do it.

11 I am calling a bird of prey from the east, and from a far country a man with his purpose. Indeed, I've spoken; I will certainly make it happen; I've planned it; and I will certainly carry it out.

11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

12 "Listen to Me, you stubborn-minded, Who are far from righteousness.

12 "Listen to Me, you stubborn-minded, Who are far from righteousness.

12 "Listen to me, you hard-hearted, you who are far removed from righteousness:

12 Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that are far from righteousness:

13 "I bring near My righteousness, it is not far off; And My salvation will not delay. And I will grant salvation in Zion, *And* My glory for Israel.

13 "I bring near My righteousness, it is not far off; And My salvation will not delay. And I will grant salvation in Zion, *And* My glory for Israel.

13 My righteousness is brought near and it's not far off, and my salvation won't delay. I'll grant salvation in Zion, and to Israel, my glory."

13 I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.