

Who Carries Who?

Isaiah 46

Do you carry your god or does God carry you?

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I. Idols Are Dead Weight (Isaiah 46:1-2)

Isaiah 46:1-2

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

A. They just take up space on the moving van (46:1-2a)

1. Bel - Short for Baal = "Lord" or "Owner"

Root for Beelzebub

Belteshazzar – Bel's prince

2. Nebo = "Speaker" or "Prophet"

Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan, Nebushasban

B. They can't move or deliver themselves (46:2b)

II. Idols Have Short Existences (Isaiah 46:3-6)

Isaiah 46:3-6

3 Harken 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:

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.

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

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.

II. Idols Have Short Existences (Isaiah 46:3-6)

A. Not like God (46:3-5)

- 1. God is present before birth, during life, and after death**

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

- 2. The only way we can know about God is through Jesus**

Philippians 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

B. The created (man) have to make them (46:6)

Made out of what man can afford

III. Idols Are No Help (Isaiah 46:7)

Isaiah 46:7

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.

A. Must be carried to be in man's presence

B. Cannot hear prayers

C. Cannot deliver from trouble

Habakkuk 2:18

What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

IV. Idols Make You Forget God (Isaiah 46:8-13)

A. Idols make you act like children (46:8)

Isaiah 46:8

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

B. Idols make you ignore the Only God (46:9)

Isaiah 46:9

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

- 1. Ignore the reality of all the fulfilled prophecies**
- 2. Ignore the results of all the miraculous deliverances**
- 3. Ignore the rain of all the blessings**

IV. Idols Make You Forget God (Isaiah 46:8-13)

C. Idols make you ignore the Truth of God (46:10)

Isaiah 46:10

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:

D. Idols make you ignore the Messages from God (46:11)

Isaiah 46:11

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.

IV. Idols Make You Forget God (Isaiah 46:8-13)

E. Idols make you not receptive to God (46:12)

Isaiah 46:12

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

F. Idols make you ignore the ever-available Salvation of God (46:13)

Isaiah 46:13

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.

**Are You Carrying Your god
or Is The True God Carrying
You?**