

Isaiah 46:1-13 **Dead Idols and the Living God**

Burden of Idolatry

1 Bel bows down, Nebo stoops; Their idols were on the beasts and on the cattle. Your carriages were heavily loaded, A burden to the weary beast. 2 They stoop, they bow down together; They could not deliver the burden, But have themselves gone into captivity.

Advantage of a Living God

3 "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: 4 Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Comparing God to Idols

5 "To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike? 6 They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. 7 They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it And set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though one cries out to it, yet it cannot answer Nor save him out of his trouble. 8 "Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors.

9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.

God's future plan for Zion and Israel

12 "Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, Who are far from righteousness: 13 I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, For Israel My glory.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Bel bows down, Nebo stoops; Their idols were on the beasts and on the cattle. Your carriages were heavily loaded, A burden to the weary beast. They stoop, they bow down together; They could not deliver the burden, But have themselves gone into captivity. [Isaiah 46:1-2]
- ✧ Bel & Nebo are pagan gods that are worshipped through idols which are transported in carriages drawn by beasts of burden.
- ✧ Idols cannot move about on their own, nor can they deliver the burden of their own weight from their idolaters or the beasts moving them, but have themselves gone into captivity.
- ✧ They cannot deliver their idolaters from any kind of danger.

Advantage of a Living God

- ✧ "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you. [Isaiah 46:3-4]
- ✧ Yahweh the living God does not need help from man or beasts to move about.

- ✧ Yahweh calls the remnant of His people the descendants of Jacob – Israel to hear His message to them.
- ✧ Instead of being a burden to man and beast, Yahweh Himself carries His people from birth to old age giving them strength for each day.
- ✧ Yahweh is the creator of His people.
- ✧ The promise of Yahweh to His people is that He will continue to carry them, bear them, and deliver them.

Comparing God to Idols

- ✧ "To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike? They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it And set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though one cries out to it, yet it cannot answer Nor save him out of his trouble.
"Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors. [Isaiah 46:5-8]
- ✧ Yahweh calls the idolaters to consider the lifelessness of their images which are made by men and have no power of their own but need to be carried and set in place.
- ✧ Images cannot move themselves from the spot they are placed, nor can they answer any kind of prayer, nor can they save anyone out of any kind of trouble. They are totally lifeless and useless.
- ✧ Remember the former things of old, For I am El (God), and there is no other; I am Elohiym (God), and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'
Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it. [Isaiah 46:9-11]
- ✧ From the beginning God has revealed His purpose and plans for mankind, revealing the things that were coming long before they happened in His demonstration that He is the living God and His omniscient knowledge.
- ✧ Everything God said He would do, He has done in the experience of the nation of Israel.
- ✧ God said He would bless Israel for their obedience and he did.
- ✧ God said He would punish them for their disobedience, and he did.
- ✧ From past experience we know that what God has said, He has done and we can be certain that what He promises for the future He is able to do and He will certainly carry out all His Word.
- ✧ No other has a reputation similar to His.
- ✧ God called the Assyrians from a far country to punish the Northern tribes of Israel and they came and did as He desired. He called the Babylonians to come and punish Judah the Southern tribes and they came and did as He desired.
- ✧ God's Word has never failed, but has always accomplished His pleasure and it always will.

God's future plan for Zion and Israel

- ✧ "Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, Who are far from righteousness: I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, For Israel My glory. [Isaiah 46:12-13]
- ✧ God's plan for Israel still stands to bring to the earth the Kingdom age when He will set His Holy One in Zion and Israel will be for His Glory as the entire earth is under the rule of the Messiah.

- ✧ At that time all the world will see the Salvation of our God and experience the blessings of abundance and peace that accompanies a truly righteous population. [[Isaiah 52:10](#), [Luke 3:6](#)]
- ✧ Like Jacob said, "For Your Salvation I have waited, O Yahweh." [[Genesis 49:18](#)]