

The Book of Isaiah

Chapter 46

I Am the LORD and Besides me there is No one Else

Who Is Able To Bear (vss. 1-2): Bel (Marduk, Merodach) and Nebo were the main gods of the Babylonians. Bel is abbreviated form of Baal – Beelzebub, one of Satan’s names / Belial = of that wicked one (Deut. 13:13, I Sam. 2:12; 2 Chronicles 13:7). Nebo (son of Baal).

On special celebrations priests would carry these gods on carts throughout the streets of Babylon as people worshiped them.

The idols of Babylon were unable to deliver the Babylonians from the Medo-Persian Empire, for the Persian army would carry the idols away in carts, so laden down were these carts with idols that the beasts could hardly move.

God Is Able To Bear Jacob (vss. 3-4): The beasts of burden where unable to bear the gods of the Babylonians, symbolic of this burden is what idol worship is to a people and to God, who continually bears their burdens (Isaiah 43:24). Unlike these idols of men’s hands, God continually carried Israel from their womb to their old age (Num. 11:12; Duet. 1:31; 32:11, 12; Isaiah 40:31). Notice **verse 4 “I am He”.. I carry you...I will bear you... I will carry and will deliver you”**.

Idols That Cannot Answer That Cannot Deliver (vss. 5-11): God throughout these chapters (43-47) continually challenges the abilities of these gods (idols). They are unable to deliver their worshipers from destruction, much less to prophecy to their worshipers of their coming. But God can, for it is God that can “**declare 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: calling a ravenous bird from the east the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yes I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass, I have purposed it, I will also do it.”** (vss. 10-11). For God says, “I am God and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.” (vs. 9).

The Stouthearted of Babylon (12-13): The phrase 'stout-hearted' would naturally, denote those who were bold and courageous. But here it means those whose hearts were strong against God; who resisted and opposed God's plans and government; who were stubborn and rebellious. The following chapter (**chapter 47**) bears this out.

God will bring near His righteousness; it shall not be far off (vs. 13): **"Thy Kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10)**. God's kingdom will be established on the earth: **"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."** (Da 2:44)

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. (Re 11:15)

God's Salvation Shall not tarry; it shall come to past is the idea (vs. 13). Though it has been over 2,000 years it matters not to God for He will come and bring Salvation, physical salvation to Zion and Israel His glory!