



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

“The Things You Are Carrying Cannot Carry You”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): *Is 46:1-8; Is. 45:20-25; 53:11-12; Deut. 1:30-31; 32:9-12; Ps. 28:8-9; Ex. 19:4; Prov. 3:5-6*

As we move into Isaiah 46, and the theme just keeps repeating itself like a drumbeat: the people are carrying, lifting, bearing burdens. But **“The Things You’re Carrying Can’t Carry You.”** That’s what the Lord is exposing. He’s not trying to humiliate people—He’s exposing the futility of idolatry and misplaced trust so that humility can bring clarity. In the end of Isaiah 45, the Lord makes that invitation again: *“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth—for I am God and there is no other.”* (Isa. 45:22). That’s His heart. He wants rescue, not ruin. He wants eyes opened, not faces smashed.

And what’s striking is how personal it gets. The nations are carrying wooden gods, praying to something that has no deliverance in it—no salvation, no rescue. They’re lifting up what they made, begging it to do what it **cannot** do. But the Lord stands over all of it and says, “Look at ME. Present your case. Who foretold? Who declared? Who has righteousness and salvation?” And then He moves from that courtroom language into something deeply relational: “You’re carrying gods that can’t carry you. But I have been carrying you from the womb, and I will carry you all the way into old age.” That is not ivory-tower theology. That is a Father speaking to weary sons and daughters.

1. THE “GODS” YOU CARRY BECOME BURDENS WHEN LIFE GETS HEAVY

Isaiah opens this chapter with an image that’s almost ironic: **Bel crouches. Nebo stoops.** These mighty Babylonian gods—so impressive in their temples—are suddenly reduced to baggage. *“Their idols are for beasts and cattle. The things you carry are borne as burdens on weary beasts.”* (Isa. 46:1). In other words, when the crisis hits, the “gods” don’t rise up to save anybody. They get loaded onto animals like heavy parcels. What looked powerful in peacetime becomes dead weight in trouble.

And Isaiah says it even plainer: *“They stoop, they bow down together—they cannot save the burden, but themselves go into captivity.”* (Isa. 46:2). They can’t rescue anyone, and they can’t even rescue themselves. That’s the Lord’s point: anything you have to carry like that—anything you must constantly prop up, protect, maintain, defend, and keep from falling—cannot be your savior. If your “god” needs you to keep it alive, it is not God. And you can feel how modern that is. People today still carry their “Bel and Nebo”—they just look like security, control, image, hustle, approval, money, busyness, or the need to always be right. And when the pressure hits, those things don’t rescue. They add weight.

2. GOD SAYS, “YOU NEVER HAD TO CARRY ME—I HAVE CARRIED YOU”

Then the Lord turns and speaks directly to His people: *“Listen to Me, house of Jacob... borne by Me from birth, carried from the womb.”* (Isa. 46:3). He’s not just saying, “I helped you once.” He’s saying, “I’ve been carrying you the whole time.” And the language is rich—because it’s not only “carried from the womb,” it’s tied to compassion, to a kind of womb-love. The Lord is reminding them: from the very beginning, I’ve been the One lifting you up, sustaining you, even forgiving you—carrying what you couldn’t carry.

And then comes one of the most tender statements in the whole chapter: *“Even to your old age I will be the same... until you are gray I will carry you... I have done it; I will bear you; I will carry you; I will deliver you.”* (Isa. 46:4). It’s emphatic—I, I, I. Not “you, you, you.” He’s saying: “You don’t graduate past dependence on Me. You don’t hit some point where you say, ‘I’m an old pro; I got it from here.’” Until you’re gray, He says, “I’m still carrying you.” And that’s why Moses could say, *“ADONAI... carried you as a man carries his son.”* (Deut. 1:31). That’s why the psalmist could pray, *“Shepherd them and carry them forever.”* (Ps. 28:9). That’s why the Lord said, *“I carried you on eagle’s wings and brought you to Myself.”* (Ex. 19:4).

3. IDOLS CAN’T MOVE, CAN’T ANSWER, CAN’T SAVE—BUT GOD LIFTS WHAT CRUSHES YOU

Isaiah goes after the absurdity of idolatry one more time: *“They lavish gold... they hire a goldsmith... they bow down... they worship it.”* (Isa. 46:6). And then: *“They lift it upon a shoulder and carry it... they set it in its place, and there it stands. It does not budge... Even if one cries to it, it cannot answer, nor save anyone from his trouble.”* (Isa. 46:7). That’s the heartbreak: you can cry all day to what you made, and it cannot answer. It has no *yeshuah* in it. No salvation. No rescue. No deliverance. No victory. And the text even connects “trouble” with bondage—Egypt language—captivity language. The false saviors don’t bring you out. They keep you locked in, exhausted, and still carrying.

But the Lord doesn’t leave it there—because He’s not only the One who carries His people; He’s also the One who carries their sin, their crushing weight, their iniquity. And Isaiah plants a seed that blooms fully in Isaiah 53: *“The Righteous One, My Servant... will bear their iniquities.”* (Isa. 53:11). *“He bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.”* (Isa. 53:12). That’s the deepest level of “carrying” in Scripture: God doesn’t ask you to carry your own salvation—He provides it. He lifts what you cannot lift. So yes—pray, act, obey—but don’t live like everything depends on your strength. *“Trust in ADONAI with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”* (Prov. 3:5–6). The Lord’s message is clear: stop carrying what can’t carry you, and let the One who has always carried you carry you again.

CONCLUSION:

So here’s the question Isaiah 46 puts on the table: **what are you carrying that was never meant to carry you?** Maybe it’s the need to be in control. Maybe it’s fear, anxiety, image-management, money, productivity, or the pressure to make everything work. Maybe it’s even a “religious” version of it—where you’re trying to rescue God’s reputation with your striving, your arguing, your defending, your frantic worrying. But God is not in danger. He’s the Defender. He’s the Savior. He’s the One who says, *“I am He.”* And if what you’re leaning on can’t answer you in distress, can’t deliver you from bondage, can’t save you from trouble—then it’s not worthy of your trust.

So today, bring your false supports into the light and call them what they are. And if you’ve never trusted the Lord for salvation—if you’ve been trusting your own strength, your own goodness, your own effort—today you can stop carrying what you were never built to carry. You can put your weight on Yeshua—the One who bore sin, the One who intercedes, the One who carries you from the womb to gray hair, the One who says, “I’ve got you.” If you want to respond, do it right now: “Lord, I’m done propping up what can’t save me. I’m turning to You.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some “modern idols” that don’t look religious, but function like saviors in our lives (control, approval, money, productivity, etc.)?
2. Where do you feel most “weary”—and how might that weariness be connected to something you’re carrying that God never asked you to carry?
3. Isaiah contrasts gods that must be carried with the Lord who carries His people. What does that reveal about the nature of God—and the nature of idolatry?
4. What does it look like practically to “*trust in ADONAI with all your heart*” (Prov. 3:5–6) in one specific area of your life right now?
5. How does Isaiah 53 deepen Isaiah 46—especially the idea that God not only carries us, but carries our sin and what crushes us?

CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI, we love You and we praise You. Thank You that Your intention is rescue—You expose what is empty so that we can be saved, not shamed. Lord, give us clarity where we’ve been depending on everything but You. Even when our lips say “I trust You,” show us where our lives reveal that we’re leaning on false supports.

And Lord, when You put Your finger on those idols—those things we’ve been carrying around and calling on—give us the grace to cast them aside. Teach us to acknowledge You in all our ways, to trust You with all our hearts, and to stop leaning on our own understanding. Thank You that You have carried us from the womb, and You will carry us into old age—and that in Yeshua, You have lifted what we could never lift. We turn to You again. Carry us, deliver us, and make us whole.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.