

God Will Carry And Save

December 13, 2020

The Vanity Of Idols

Isaiah 46:1-2 ESV

1 *Bel (the Baal of the Babylonians) bows down; Nebo (a Babylonian deity) stoops; their idols are on beasts and livestock; these things you carry are borne as burdens on weary beasts.*

2 *They stoop; they bow down together; they cannot save the burden, but themselves go into captivity.*

- *An idol is anything or any one we trust, revere or find pleasure in, before or instead of God.*
- *The idols that we trust in to save us cannot carry the burden of our lives; in fact, those idols themselves are a burden we must carry and support.*
- *As Christians, we walk a balance of never idolizing nor trusting in our nation, but praying for and seeking the good of our nation.*

Jeremiah 17:5-8 ESV

5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.

6 He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

8 He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 29:7 ESV

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

God Carries His People

Isaiah 46:3-4 ESV

3 *"Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb;*

4 *even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.*

- *God is drawing a clear contrast from verse 1. Instead of us carrying the burden of our idols, He wants to carry us, and bear the burden of our lives.*

- What does it mean for God to carry us?
 - We do not live nor walk under our own power. We can expect and will receive a supernatural supply.
 - God, and God alone, is responsible for the direction, provision and circumstances of our life.

Psalm 139:16 ESV

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Exodus 19:4 ESV

4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

Deuteronomy 32:11-12 ESV

11 Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions,

12 the LORD alone guided him, no foreign god was with him.

Deuteronomy 1:30-31 ESV

30 The LORD your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes,

31 and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.'

Isaiah 63:9 ESV

9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Romans 8:14-17 ESV

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

- "who are being led"
- led (agō) - to lead by laying hold of, to move, bring, impel, drive, carry

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Consequences Of Not Trusting In God

Isaiah 46:5-7 ESV

5 "To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be alike?"

6 Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales, hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship!

7 They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries to it, it does not answer or save him from his trouble.

- *Though we are deeply concerned for our nation, and rightfully so, our nation must never, can never, become our idol, our security, our source, our savior.*
- *Our nation is a terrible idol. Our nation cannot save us, and our nation, as an idol, is a burden too great for us to carry and prop up.*
- *Our retirement plans, our stock market investments, our bank accounts (whatever else we are trusting in) are all terrible idols. We must support, empty our souls for, and carry them. But they could all be gone in an instant. They cannot carry our burden nor save our lives. They cannot answer or save us from trouble.*

Isaiah 30:1-7 ESV

1 "Ah, stubborn children," declares the LORD, "who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin;

2 who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

3 Therefore shall the protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation.

4 For though his officials are at Zoan and his envoys reach Hanes,

5 everyone comes to shame through a people that cannot profit them, that brings neither help nor profit, but shame and disgrace."

6 An oracle on the beasts of the Negeb. Through a land of trouble and anguish, from where come the lioness and the lion, the adder and the flying fiery serpent, they carry their riches on the backs of donkeys, and their treasures on the humps of camels, to a people that cannot profit them.

7 Egypt's help is worthless and empty; therefore I have called her "Rahab who sits still."

Isaiah 31:1-3 ESV

1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD!

2 And yet he is wise and brings disaster; he does not call back his words, but will arise against the house of the evildoers and against the helpers of those who work iniquity.

3 The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and he who is helped will fall, and they will all perish together.

God's Absolute Sovereign Power

Isaiah 46:8-11 ESV

8 "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, 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 not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'
11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

Daniel 4:33-35 ESV

33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

Isaiah 46:12-13 ESV

12 "Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness:
13 I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory."