

## ISAIAH – Chapter 46

Vs. 1 Bel, a Babylonian god, will not be able to stand when Cyrus, God's shepherd, His anointed, comes to remove the Babylonians from power in preparation to send Judah home. Jer. 50:1-2ff (Marduk – same god, different name.)

Nebo, the god of learning.

Both gods were carried by the Babylonians loaded on animals and paraded around their cities on New Year's Day. (A donkey is smarter than the men of Babylon looking at these two gods as a load to carry that makes one weary.) In contrast, God has carried Israel from the womb, vs. 3 & 4.

Vs. 2 Rather than deliver Babylon, they will go into captivity with the ones who worship them.

Vs. 3-4 Listen to me – 44:1; 46:12; 47:8; 48:1, 12, 14, 16; 51:4; 52:8; 55:2

Listen  
Give ear to Me – pay attention  
Listen carefully to Me  
Hear this  
Listen to Me  
Come near to me, listen to this

The God of Israel has carried them from conception to old age. He has done it and will continue to do it.

He will:

Carry them  
Bear them  
Deliver them

Vs. 5 What god is there among the nations of the world that is like the God of Israel. All gods are incapable of action!!

Isa. 40:18-25

Vs. 6-7 The finest god that man can make.  
That man bows down before it.  
That man worships:

1. must be carried – it cannot move – it just stands there.
2. it cannot respond or answer.
3. it cannot deliver

Isa. 41:7; 44:9-20; 45:16, 20; 46:1-2

- Vs. 8 Remember this:  
Be assured  
Recall it often  
Question: Who are the transgressors – the Babylonians or the Israelites?
- Vs. 9 God has had a long history of relationship with Israel!  
Their God is different – there is none like Him!
- Vs. 10 God's ability to predict the future and make it happen makes Him stand alone as the unique God.
- Vs. 11 God's plan for Cyrus is certain. Babylon will be but for a time; a very short time.
- Vs. 12-13 God will bring His righteousness, that is, Cyrus to carry out His righteous will, which will result in salvation for Zion and deliverance from exile for Jerusalem.

Israel will again display God's glory.