

*THE LORD OR BEL,
Carry or Be Carried***

Isaiah 46

1. *BEL WILL BE CARRIED AWAY INTO CAPTIVITY* 1, 2
2. *THE LORD CARRIES ISRAEL FOR A LIFETIME* 3, 4
3. *THE LORD IS THE INCOMPARABLE SOVEREIGN, NOT A LIFELESS IDOL* 5 – 11
4. *THE LORD WILL PROVIDE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SALVATION FOR ISRAEL* 12, 13

The LORD, or YHWH, mocks Bel and Nebo as lifeless idols who must be carried, whereas He is the incomparable sovereign God, who carries Israel for a lifetime and provides righteousness and salvation.

Babylon and Babel have historically rebelled against the LORD and persecuted His people. They seem to represent the zenith of independent human achievement. Their “gods” or “religion” are pretty impotent, though, for they must be carried and cannot deliver them. At Babel they were scattered, in Isaiah 46 and 47 they are judged, and in Revelation 17 and 18 they are completely judged. Their self-confidence is revealed in 47:8, “I am, and there is no one besides me.”

Israel, on the other hand, is to trust in the LORD. He has stated, “I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no god” (45:5). He will provide righteousness and salvation, and in fact declares concerning the Messiah, “And this is His name by which He will be called, the LORD our righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6). The LORD is our righteousness.

The LORD credits righteousness to those who trust in Him, whether Abraham (Gen 15:6), Paul (Phil 3:9) or anyone else. Paul states that he wants to be “found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” (Philippians 3:9).

You may “carry” the burdens of your religion, or be “carried” by the LORD. Have you trusted in Him?

*Scripture quotations from the NASB // 102010