

DEALING DECISIVELY WITH YOUR IDOLS

Sunday, May 1, 2022 -- Isaiah 46 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

ISAIAH 46

English Standard Version ESV

- 1** *Bel bows down; Nebo 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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."*

SEE the FAILURE of false gods.

- Persia is conquering Babylon
- their gods are being carried off as loot
- their gods are no help!

SEE the FAITHFULNESS of YHWH GOD.

- He carries you faithfully.
- He knows you fully.
- He never changes.
- He makes you, bears your sin and brings His salvation.
see Isaiah 53:1-6
- He is incomparable!

SEE the FOOLISHNESS of false gods.

- you create them vs 6
- you carry their burden vs 7
- you cry in vain to them vs 7

SEE the FOREVER GOD who reigns.

- the command to Remember!
- the Great I AM who is incomparable
Isaiah 41:4; John 8:24; 18:5-8; 6:35; 9:5
- who has a comprehensive plan vs 10
- who is sovereign vs 10
- who is never thwarted vs 11

SEE God's SALVATION for sinners.

- Are you stubborn? Then Listen.
- God's salvation is near to you.
- He is quick to save!

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE:

1) Those who have no interest in God and do not pretend to.

(Psalm 14:1; 10:4; 53:1)

2) Those who pretend to have interest in God but actually do not.

(Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 33:31; Mark 7:6; Matthew 15:8; 23)

- they appear religious
- they like the amenities of God but not His holiness
- they ultimately worship something other than God (self, creation, etc)

} **THE WICKED.**

3) Those who are sinners yet have repented and come to true faith in God's salvation.

(Romans 1:16-17; Gal. 2:16; 3:11; James 2:23; Romans 4:1-25)

- OT and NT they are saved by faith in Messiah's sacrifice
- they are justified (made righteous) through faith
- their lives reflect God's salvation (on the upward path of sanctification)
- they are growing in love for and obedience to God
- they live in ongoing repentance and pursuit of God

→ **THE RIGHTEOUS.**

The Righteous (those who are truly saved) turn away from idols when they discover them.

The Wicked (both types above) either flaunt or rationalize their idols.

When the Righteous find idols, they destroy them.

Exodus 32 -- Israel and the Golden Calf (read it!) Moses grinds it up and the people drink it.

2 Kings 23 -- Josiah tears down the Asherah pole, pulverizes it and spreads it on graves.

Deuteronomy 12:2-3

You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place.

Deuteronomy 7:5

But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.

Ezekiel 30:13

"Thus says the Lord God: "I will destroy the idols and put an end to the images in Memphis; there shall no longer be a prince from the land of Egypt; so I will put fear in the land of Egypt.

Isaiah 2:17-18

And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. And the idols shall utterly pass away.

YOU AND IDOLS -- *What will you do with them?*

- 1) Recognize them for what they are.
- 2) Remove them, destroy them, repent of them.
- 3) Remember and serve the One True God who saves you.