

Isaiah 46,47

7-14-05

“To Carry, or be Carried...that is the Question!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Nate & Aide made it back home.
- 1.2. Dominic & Carrie Lee Gomez – baby.

2. **jhghgj! (46)**

- 2.1. **THE GREAT CONTRAST!** (1-4)
- 2.2. To **carry**, or **be carried**...that is the question!
- 2.3. **“An idol is a substitute for God, something that we value & serve other than God. We trust it & sacrifice for it; but in the end, it can do us no good.”** (www)
 - 2.3.1. We love to make gods in our own image. They are convenient, but ultimately they become a burden.
- 2.4. **Bel** – Babylonian form of the Canaanite god **Baal** (god of storm & agriculture)
 - 2.4.1. His name is found in the name **Belshazzar**.
- 2.5. **Nebo** was Bel’s son, *the god of learning*, & is found in the name Nebuchadnezzar.
- 2.6. As the Jews had God often in their name: *Elkanah, Ezekiel, Daniel*.
- 2.7. Martin Luther said, *“all such as rely & depend upon their art, wisdom, strength, sanctity, riches, honor, power, or anything else”* are guilty of worshipping idols.
- 2.8. (3,4) Their gods should have helped them but they were a hindrance.
 - 2.8.1. Here they were being hurried away to safety!
 - 2.8.2. In contrast the Lord carried Israel from their **beginnings** to their **old age!**
 - 2.8.3. This is the fundamental difference between false gods & the true.
 - 2.8.3.1. They have to be carried, He carries!
 - 2.8.4. This is a reoccurring theme throughout the bible(this contest of powers)
 - 2.8.4.1. **Elijah** & the prophets of Baal.
 - 2.8.4.2. Riot in Ephesus. **Paul’s** teaching clash w/worship of Diana.
 - 2.8.4.3. **John’s** command to **“keep yourself from idols.”** (1 Jn.5:21)
- 2.9. A story is told of a child who had to walk each evening past a dark, spooky house. Some adults sought to give him courage.
 - 2.9.1. **One** handed him a good luck charm to ward off the ghosts.
 - 2.9.2. **Another** had a light put on the dreaded corner.

- 2.9.3. **Still another** said earnestly, "It is sinful to be afraid. Trust God and be brave!" {The advice was good, but he offered nothing more}
- 2.9.4. **Then someone** said with compassion, "***I know what it is to be afraid. I will walk with you past the house.***"
- 2.9.4.1. He did nothing to remove the fear -- except to **lift it** from the child's shoulders and **place it** on his own.
- 2.10. We often make the mistake of **carrying** our anxieties & burdens **when** the Lord will **carry them** from our birth to old age...forever!
- 2.10.1. 1 Pet.5:7 "**Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.**"
- 2.10.2. Ps.55:22 "**Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.**"
- 2.10.3. Is.63:9 – **He bore them & carried them.**
- 2.10.4. Is.53:4 – "**took our infirmities & carried our sorrows.**"
- 2.10.5. We are not called to "**keep it up**" but He is committed to "**keep us up!**"
- 2.10.5.1. This is the **assurance** of the believer!
- 2.10.5.2. Haiti, Rincon church. Medical clinic. Tubs on donkeys & had to balance 45 min. walk. [keeping it up!]
- 2.10.5.3. Good example of people with their religion. [keeping it up!]
- 2.10.5.4. Does the flea keep up the dog, or the dog keep up the flea?
- 2.11. **Q:** Is your religion one that is a burden to you, or do you know One who will bear you even to your old age?
- 2.12. **Q:** How far are you trying to "keep it up" in your progress as a Christian, rather than allowing Him to "keep you up"?
- 2.12.1. **One more picture!** - **Deut.1:30,31**
- 2.13. **I have made, & I will bear!**
- 2.13.1. Our **atmosphere** presses upon us at the rate of several pounds for every square inch of bodily surface, yet we are unconscious of its weight!
- 2.13.1.1. No problem for the Lord! [we are dead weight, but it doesn't mater to Him!]
- 2.13.1.2. **Baby monkeys** in India would attach themselves to mom.
- 2.13.2. He will bear us on Eagles Wings!
- 2.13.3. But let's look at it another way. **Sin** – often isn't felt by many until it is revealed then they feel the weight of it. (like someone losing 50lbs, they didn't notice how much 50 lbs was, until they picked up that large bag of dog kibble & realized "I was carrying this around every day!")
- 2.14. **NO COMPARISON!** (5-7)

- 2.15. Idols are all alike, but Jehovah is different.
- 2.16. (6,7) **What a waste, great extravagance here.**
 2.16.1. Nothing but the best for my idol!
 2.16.2. Like Aaron & his Golden Calf! – Impressive, but absolutely ineffective.
 2.16.3. False religion will always be **costly, w/o any benefit.**
- 2.17. **PREDICTING & CONTROLLING THE FUTURE!** (8-11)
- 2.18. **Our God is Sovereign, & Unique**
 2.18.1. He **decrees & declares** all things! (*declaring the end from the beginning*)
- 2.19. (9) Here is a Bible trivia question for you to answer yourself, then try on a friend. What do the following words have in common? Tishri, Kislev, Nisan, Sivan, and Ab? (Hint: you could also add Adar.) Answer: They are all months in the Jewish calendar. For the devout Jew, the calendar was more than a way of marking time. It provided a ready-made way to recall annually God's dealings in the life of the nation. Nisan marked Passover, the time of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Sivan brought the Feast of Pentecost, the celebration of yet another bountiful harvest from God. Tishri took the people back to their wilderness wanderings through the Feast of the Tabernacles. Each holiday became a holy day -- a time of recalling, repenting, and renewing old commitments to follow the God of Israel. Why not establish your own annual "Feast of Purim," a time when you and your family rehearse God's special provisions for your family over the past year. And why not begin...tonight!
- 2.20. **Israel My Glory!** (12-13)

3. **FROM THRONE TO THROWN OUT! (47)**

- 3.1. The fall of Babylon is a prominent theme in Scripture.
 3.1.1. **Starting** w/Tower of Babel(Gen.11; built in Babylonia)
 3.1.2. **End** in Rev.17,18.
 3.1.3. Babylon is a picture of **worldly pride & ambition.**
- 3.2. **EATING HUMBLE PIE!** (1-3)
- 3.3. A song of triumph...Babylon's fall. (defeated by Persians 539bc)
- 3.4. (1) Another one bites the dust! – In humiliation & disgrace.
- 3.5. (2) The nation is seen as **a slave**, turning the large millstone in grinding grain.
- 3.6. (2,3) She will be reduced to a ½ naked slave girl toiling as a slave.¹
 3.6.1. A *virgin daughter*(1) only because she had never been defeated.

¹ Shepherd's Notes; Isaiah pg.71.

- 3.7. **NO COMPASSION!** (4-7)
- 3.8. (4) Wonderful names of God!
- 3.9. (5) No longer to be called **Lady/Queen of Kingdoms**.
- 3.9.1. Sometimes estimates are different from Gods!
- 3.9.2. At the heart of this beautiful city was emptiness.
- 3.9.2.1. **Las Vegas Strip** has many lights & is beautiful on the outside...but is dark on the inside.
- 3.10. (6) God was angry w/Israel; disciplined them by sending them to Babylon; But they showed them “*no mercy*”.
- 3.10.1. **Biblical truth...**those who show no mercy, don't receive any.
- 3.10.2. James 2:13 “**For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.**”
- 3.11. (7) They failed to think of the consequences.
- 3.12. **LIVING FOR PLEASURE!** (8-9)
- 3.13. (8) **Dwell securely** – She thought she'd never be defeated.
- 3.13.1. **Babylon: A walled city, 14 m. square, surrounded by a moat, outer walls 87' thick, 350' high.**
- 3.13.2. **But...Her feet were firmly planted in the air!**
- 3.14. Pictured as a **wife & mother**, Babylon would suddenly become a **widow & childless**.
- 3.15. (9) **Witchcraft & demonic forces** would not help them.
- 3.16. Those sitting in prosperity & luxury never conceive of the possibility there could be an end to all of it.
- 3.17. **DEPENDING ON OCCULT PRACTICES!** (10-15)
- 3.18. (10) **Pride** was their downfall. It took upon itself deity!
- 3.18.1. Referring to Ex. with Moses; & NT with Jesus' “**I am**” statements!
- 3.18.2. This was for God & God alone! – **Is.43:11**
- 3.19. (11) **Now trouble would suddenly come upon them!**
- 3.19.1. And its story is in Dan.5 (see 1-4)
- 3.19.1.1.539bc. Belshazzar holds a great drinking feast for 1000 nobles. – He desecrated the vessels from Sol's Temple. – They drank in praise of their pagan gods.
- 3.20. (12-15) The Lord taunts Babylon, inviting its astrologers to help the people. - **Barbara Bush** said she was told that because both she and her husband are Geminis, “*we probably should never have gotten married.*” She doesn't know what to do about it now after 43 YEARS! [So much for the merits of astrology!]
- 3.21. (14) Babylon would be destroyed, burned up like little sparkler!
- 3.22. (15) They as fast as the prodigals “friends” did!
- 3.23. **Q: Are you learning the practices of Babylon?**