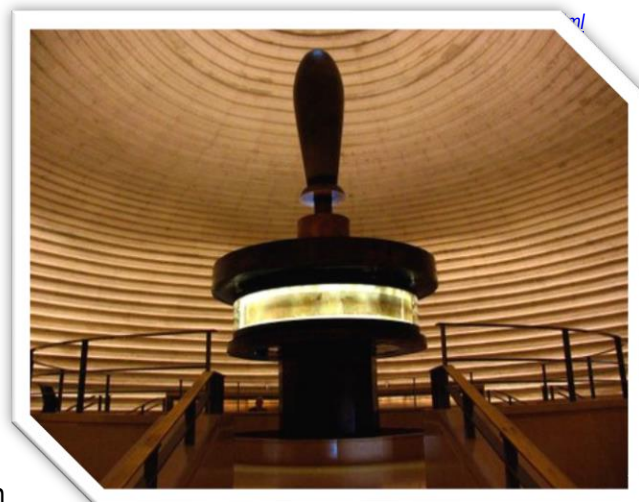


# ISAIAH 46 vs 1

The book of Isaiah has two great divisions; **first:** chapters 1–39; God's Criticism of both rebel houses **Israel** and **Judah**, thereby affecting all the local neighbors in the hood; and **second:** chapters 40–66; God's Consolation to both houses who have separate histories. The great Isaiah scroll found in the Qumran caves, dated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah.



**<sup>1</sup> Bel boweth down, Nebo stoopeth** / I've always wondered: did the earlier translators -- brilliant that each of them were, did they attribute a proper English elegance in their translation that was not necessary?

**Bel** (Marduk) is the sun god of Babylon; **Nebo** in Babylonian literature is the son of Marduk. Embedded in this chapter is the analogy: like father, like son... Historically and to our time, Bel is still remembered by those who promote fancy hocus pocus rituals in their churchianity; who pretend to imitate Christ, but do not. Jesus, the night He was betrayed, took simple bread and broke it; in your home, if you don't have bread, a cracker or cookie will do.



This chapter is a word picture of those busy men and women, sons and daughters... in Jerusalem preparing to flee ahead of the approaching Chaldean army. Typical as they flee, the people are grabbing all their valuables and heaping them on their animals and carts... they didn't have U-Haul rentals.

I'm sure this verse could have been translated:

**Bel topples over, Nebo falls off the cart,**

**their idols** / and what is an idol? I remember the meaning with this anachronism: **WAD**. An idol is whatever the individual **worships**, **adores** and is **devoted** to; believing it possesses a power available only to those who worship it. The word: **worship** is created from 2 English words: **worth + ship**. So an idol is whatever best answers the questions: to what do I ship and send... what is valued? What is most valuable to me or you? Now days in the 21<sup>st</sup> century most **worship**, **adore** and **devotedly** value: themselves.



**Bel topples over, Nebo falls off the cart, their idols were upon the beasts** / tied in bundles and heaped in piles on their braying asses, **and upon their cattle:**

**your carriages were heavy laden** / better now days we'd say...

**your cars... your carts** – their oxen, asses and cattle, big or small, their budget movers of former times,

# ISAIAH 46 vs 1

**their heavy-laden carriages were piled high** / much like today;

**their idols** / including Bel and Nebo...

**they are a burden to the weary beast** / an exhausting burden to the carrier.

<sup>2</sup>**They stoop, they bow down together** / and again, the translators were too elegant...

**They topple over, they all fall down together** / Joshua L. Chamberlain was a great military leader during the Civil War in America; who was a prolific journalist, fluent in 9 languages; he wrote of coming upon so many fleeing the south... *on carts piled high, broken carts that could not go forward or reverse...* things don't change much do they?

**they could not deliver the burden** / their dust collecting WAD became their burden, not freeing them,

**but themselves have gone into captivity.**

<sup>3</sup>**Hearken to Me, O house of Jacob** / listen to Me grandson of father Abraham, whenever the Lord uses this name in the OT, He reminds us: Jacob was a scoundrel, a thieving cheat, a swindler,

**Hearken to Me, O house of Jacob** / the swindler,

**and all the remnant of the house of Israel** / same group, whoever still remains swindlers and thieves are called to pay attention... including those few who claim they are still **ruled by God = Israel,**

**who are carried by Me from the belly, who are carried from the womb** / which is fair warning to those in our genius 21<sup>st</sup> century who promote abortion on demand... the LORD God is the God of the living; He is the Giver of life, even life in the womb; so He is skillful; but He also knows how to handle the living-dead:

<sup>4</sup>**And to your old age I Am;**

**even to your white hairs [1] I will carry you; [2] I have made, [3] I will endure; [4] I will carry [5] I will deliver you** / the Lord wants us to know, He has a whole handful of things He is doing; when He starts something He will finish it.

And like a good Math teacher... He asks a good equation:

<sup>5</sup>**To whom will you liken Me and make equal,**

**or compare Me, that we are alike?**

21<sup>st</sup> century geniuses will swear all religions are "really" the same... which only validates they are peanut-heads and not real genius; nor do they respect the nearly 7 billion people in the world who hold a belief in God.

# ISAIAH 46 vs 1

**<sup>6</sup>They lavish gold out of the bag,**

**and weigh silver in the balance,**

**and hire a goldsmith;**

**and he makes it** / it takes lots of effort and stuff to create their WAD, whatever it is they worship and adore and are devoted to...

**he makes it a god** / even though it isn't; it is just a block of clay, wood or rock bedecked with shiny stuff:

**they fall down,**

**yes, they worship** / they topple over their WAD.

**<sup>7</sup>They bear it on the shoulder,**

**they carry it,**

**and set it in its place** / and the Lord from his vantage point notices lots of attention made to this... this WAD – made from their imagination; no wonder God said, have no graven images before Me – they are replacing the Word of God with their manmade junk; this whatever it is that they set up... and then crudely attribute with power and dutifully serve for some perceived advantage,

**and it stands** / yep! Still standing there... collecting lots of dust, but hasn't moved an inch;

**from its place will it **not** move?**

**yes, one will cry to it** / one calls out to this WAD, calling for assistance; calling for 911 help,

**yet it can **not** answer** / no matter how loud they shout, that block of clay, wood or rock... that creation of their faulty imagination... will not budge,

**it can **not** save him out of his trouble** / the psalmist wrote: to the one *who dwells under the shadow of the Almighty... because He knows My name, he will call and I will answer; I with Him... in the trouble... to deliver him and honor him... and show him My salvation* – **Psalm 91**.

Almighty God... is a little different than our wildly creative imaginations and manmade WADs of stuff.

**<sup>8</sup>Remember this and be assured** / stand firm; there is none equal to the Lord God Almighty:

**Remind yourselves, O transgressors** / all of you who love to endlessly and carelessly step over the line; who always go beyond what is right or proper.

# ISAIAH 46 vs 1

**9 Remember the former things of old:**

**I am God, there is no other** / God is not foolish; He is not like the fool who says, *there is no God*;

**I am God, and no one is like Me,**

**10 declaring the end from the beginning** / 1/3 of the Bible, unlike any other religious book, is detailed prophecy, the Lord GOD tells us future events with enough detail to recognize that He is in control of history; startling events He permits to happen; because His foes want to discredit and prove His word is wrong,

**and from ancient times things not yet done,**

**saying, My counsel will stand,**

**and I will do all My pleasure** / I will accomplish all My purpose:

And the Lord gives a prophetic example:

**11 Calling a ravenous bird-brain from the east** / most likely referring to Cyrus,

**the man who executes My counsel from a far country:**

**yes, I have spoken, I will make it happen;**

**I have proposed, I will also do it.**

**12 Harken to Me, ye stouthearted** / now days, we might say:

**Listen to Me, you fat heads, who are far from right** / who are distant from doing what's right:

**13 I bring near My righteousness** / in case they are myopic and have difficulty seeing clearly;

**it will not be far off** / no one will be able to say, I didn't know,

**and My help will not delay:**

**and I will place My glorious Help in Zion for Israel.**