

IDOLS HAVE NO POWER (46:1-7)

Isaiah

46 Bel bows down;
Nebo stoops;

their false gods are carried by beasts of burden;
your loads are borne by weary beasts.

²They stoop;
they bow down together.

They cannot deliver the burden,
and they themselves go into captivity.

The LORD

³Hearken to Me, O house of Jacob,
and all of the remnant of the house of Israel,

who were carried by Me from the belly,¹⁵⁵
who were borne from the womb;

⁴and even to your old age, I am He;
to gray hair, I will carry.

I have made, and I will bear;
I will carry and rescue.

⁵To whom will you liken Me and consider Me equal,
and compare Me that we may be alike?

⁶Those who pour gold from a bag
and weigh silver in the scales,

hire a goldsmith,
and he makes it into a god;

they bow down,
and they worship.

⁷They lift it upon the shoulder;
they carry it.

They set it in its place,
and it stands;
it cannot move from its place.

If [they]¹⁵⁶ cry to it,
it does not answer
nor save him from his trouble.

155. The Hebrew verb *'ms*, translated here “borne,” sometimes refers to a beast of burden laden with a heavy load.

156. From JST.

THE LORD WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL HIS PURPOSES (46:8-13)

The LORD ⁸ Remember this and stand firm;
take it to heart, O transgressors.
⁹ Remember the former things of old,
for I am God, and there is no other God,
and there is none like Me.
¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times, that which has not been done.
Saying, “My counsel will stand,
and I will do that which I desire.”
¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east,
a man of My counsel from a far country.
Indeed, I have spoken, I will bring it to pass:
As I have purposed, indeed, I will do it.
¹² Listen to Me, you stubborn of heart,
you who are far from righteousness.
¹³ I bring My righteousness near;
it is not far off.
And My salvation will not delay.
I will give salvation in Zion, My glory to Israel.

BABYLON WILL BE DESTROYED (47:1-15)

The LORD **47** Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin¹⁵⁷ daughter
of Babylon;
sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans,
for they will no longer call you “tender” and “delicate.”
² Take the millstones
and grind flour.
Take off your veil,
strip off your robe,
uncover your leg, cross the rivers.
³ Your nakedness will be uncovered;
also, your shame will be seen.
I will take vengeance,
and I will spare no human.

157. Many terms present Babylon as feminine: “virgin” (47:1; is the Lord mocking Babylon