

† Isaiah

Summary

1. The Comforter Through Salvation (Chapters 40-66)
 - a. Comforting the people (40-44)
 - b. Cyrus attacks Babylon (45-47)
 - c. The coming of salvation (48-59)
 - d. The establishing of the 'City of the Lord' (60-66)

Monday (Read Isaiah 46)

As Cyrus and his armies were gaining strength, before capturing Babylon in 539 BC, the prophet proclaimed that Babylon and her gods were doomed including Bel and Nebo. These two gods were disgraced and exposed for their inability to protect their jewelries from Cyrus

God allowed His people to go into Babylonian captivity He Himself set them free by Cyrus, proclaiming His care for His children, carrying their burdens and troubles. There is nothing heavier than our life with our sins, yet He carried it for us through the cross:

"Even I will carry, and deliver you" verse 4.

"Even to your old age and gray hairs,

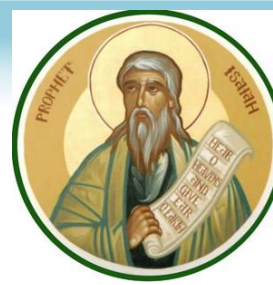
I AM HE,

I Am He who will sustain you.

I have made you and I will carry you;

I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

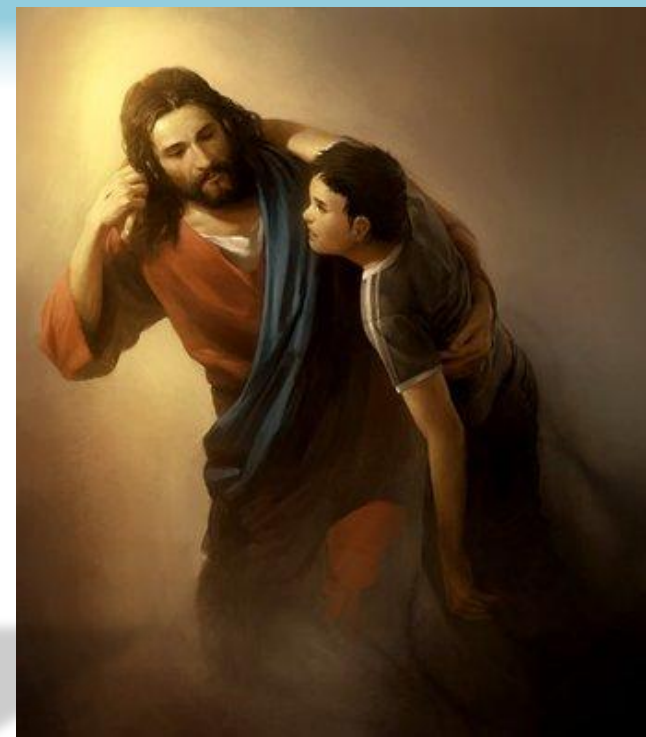
Isaiah 46:4



Who was Bel & Nebo? (Isaiah 46:1)

Bel and Nebo were two of the Babylonians' favorite gods. Bel was a god of war and was the main deity of Babylon.

Nebo was the god of education and wisdom and was thought to be Bel's son.



Tuesday (Read Isaiah 47)

Babylon's religion not only included sacrifice to idols but also faith in astrology. The prophet's spirited satire of Babylon's idolatry extended also to her star gazing and fortunetelling (verse 12 & 13). Babylon claimed itself as an all powerful and godlike nation, but God showed how it would become suddenly desolate.

Isaiah reveals what will occur to Babylon, the arrogant queen of kingdoms. We also see how God is speaking to the work of sin and its humiliation.

The sins of Babylon were:

- a. Violence and lack of mercy
- b. She assumed that she is above the law
- c. Seeking its own security and false peace
- d. Disregarding the fact that God is seeing her and is aware of her doings
- e. Leaning upon mere human wisdom



Wednesday (Read Isaiah 48)

Beginning with this chapter, the next 11 chapters talk about the coming of salvation. After presenting a word of admonishment to His people, characterised by hypocrisy, stubborn-heartedness, and deviation to paganism, God revealed His aim – to deliver them from captivity. And finally, He declares the happy news, that He issued the order of their quick release, accompanied by redemption.

However before proclaiming the release of His people from captivity, God, in a fatherly manner, reveals their weaknesses and transgressions, and also His aim in allowing for their captivity, for the sake of keeping them from returning again to their sins.

We see how God, who allows us to be chastised for the sake of our refinement, will lift it up as soon as it fulfills its goal.

Are you Stubborn as a Mule?

In verse 4 God says to them “because I knew you were obstinate”. Obstinate is another word for stubborn.

If the answer is yes then we find ourselves in good company. God has been dealing with stubborn people since the beginning of time. How does a farmer deal with a stubborn mule? Usually he beats it until it starts moving in the right direction. Sometimes God does the same with us – so rather than asking “Why me God?” we should thank Him!



Thursday (Read Isaiah 49)

God talks about that unique mission, in which the Son Himself glorifies us in Him, casts away the shame of humiliation, setting us a heavenly bride and a queen, to sit beside Christ the King, who fulfills all our needs.

The chapter begins with God addressing the coastlands, this means the all the nations. We also see in this chapter how we need to trust in God, our Savior, and should not be disturbed before the fierceness of the devil, because the Savior is capable of setting us free from his captivity, to restore us to His Church.



Friday & Saturday (Read Isaiah 50)

The Jew, when divorcing his wife, even with no reasonable cause, used to give her a certificate of divorce, before sending her out of his house. God, on His part, did not do that to them, He is asking the Jewish nation who denied Him, and rejected His faith, about her certificate of divorce if any, in confirmation that He did not intend to divorce or dismiss her, but she divorced herself by her own will, and dismissed herself out of God's house, her Groom, through her transgressions and uncleanness is breaking the holy matrimony. Every time we sin, we are betraying Christ, our heavenly groom.