

Sunday, November 17, 2019

God is My Salvation – Isaiah

57. I Am God, There is No Other – Isaiah 46:1-13

- I. Collapsed and Crumbling – vs. 1-2
  - A. Babylonian False Gods
    - 1. Bel – Baal, Marduk, chief god of Babylon
    - 2. Nebo – Bel’s son, Nabu, god of writing and wisdom
    - 3. Names: Nebuchadnezzar, Nabopolassar, Nabonidus, Belteshazzar
  - B. Bowed and Stooped Down
    - 1. Dragged down by a hook
    - 2. Falling over, falling apart
    - 3. Once paraded in grandeur, now carted off by tired beasts (as in Sennacherib’s attack in 703)
    - 4. Defeated by the One True and Living God – Dan. 4:34-37
    - 5. These false gods cannot deliver or save – they cannot even prevent themselves from becoming a burden or being taken into captivity
- II. Created and Carried – vs. 3-4
  - A. Listen!
  - B. Upheld
    - 1. God has been with His people since He brought them into being
    - 2. Carried from the beginning to the very end
    - 3. When a man carries god, the end is destruction; when God carries man, the end is salvation
  - C. I Am – I am He; I will carry; I have made; I will bear; I will carry and deliver
- III. Compared – vs. 5-7
  - A. To Whom will You Liken Me? – Ex 20:2-6; Deut. 4:15-19; Isa. 40:18, 25; 41:10, 20; 43:7
  - B. The Expense and Folly of Idols
    - 1. Someone must provide the material – gold, silver
    - 2. Someone must fashion the image
    - 3. Someone worships it – men bow down to what has just been created at their own expense
    - 4. Idols must be moved and secured
    - 5. Idols cannot hear, answer, or save when called upon – Rom. 10:13
- IV. Counsel Concerning Cyrus – vs. 8-11
  - A. Remember, Recall – admit it, you’ve worshipped these idols
  - B. Remember Your Own History
    - 1. I am God, there is not (another God)
    - 2. I am God, there is none like Me (true divinity)
    - 3. I declare (announce, decree) the end from the beginning
    - 4. My counsel (purpose) shall stand
    - 5. I will do as I please
  - C. Applied to Cyrus
    - 1. Bird of prey, conqueror executing My counsel
    - 2. You do not understand My using Cyrus, but you know Me – trust Me!
    - 3. God dictates the purpose of history
      - a. Indeed I have spoken

- b. Indeed I will bring it to pass (not a prediction, but the cause)
- c. Indeed I have purposed and will do it
- d. Realistic faith in the face of harsh reality – Rom. 4:19-20

V. Christ is Coming – vs. 12-13

A. Listen, You Stubborn-hearted

B. Righteousness (Salvation)

- 1. You are far from it – Rom. 3:10
- 2. I will bring it to you – Rom. 3:21-26; 5:18-19; 2 Cor. 5:21
- 3. If God does not act, Israel cannot be saved

C. In His Image

- 1. The idol maker makes the idol in his image
- 2. Israel's true destiny is to be made in the image of the Lord, this is their glory!