

God appeals to us to trust Him for salvation and to trust Him in such a way that we leave the idolatry of the world knowing that He alone knows what is best for us, He leads us by His Spirit, in the way we should go.

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- What is the “supreme folly of idol worship”? ... the supreme “wisdom of trusting God”?
- How does the salvation of God in our destination help transform our understanding of God's sustaining power in the journey?
- How does the promise of Isaiah 46:4 effect you? How can it help you in the difficult times? Why do you think it is given?
- Why might the “daughter of Babylon” not be concerned about her idolatry? Why do you think she felt secure in it?
- Who is “the daughter of Babylon” in our world today? How does “Babylon” in their present prosperity sometimes tempt the believer to think their idolatry is “working”?
- What does it mean to measure success with the eternal as the point of reference vs. measuring from a “now” reference point?
- What is the serious miscalculation which the idolaters made in our text?
- How is God's foreknowledge described in Isaiah 48? In other words, what did He know about them, and how did He respond?
- How does our call to trust God in salvation include our trusting Him to sustain us in the journey? How has He demonstrated His sustaining power to you in the past? How is He presently demonstrating His sustaining power to you?

The Faithful God Who Saves His Faithless People

Jerry Cisar — June 19, 2011

Text: Isaiah 46 – 48

Introduction: God's Power to Save

- A. The Supreme Folly of Idol Worship (45:20b)

- B. The Supreme Wisdom of Trusting God (45:22-25)

- C. God's saving power is measured by outcomes. Either we will be put to shame, or we will be saved.
 - i. Salvation in our daily experience is defined by its relationship to salvation in the end.
 - ii. God's salvation is not rooted in trinkets of momentary happiness but in true riches of lasting and final triumph.

- D. Why can we confidently trust in God's power to save?

I. The Faithfulness of God (Isaiah 46)

- A. Idols are a burden to be carried (46:1-2, 6-7)

- B. God is faithful to carry His people (46:3-5)

Salvation is not only in the destination, but it is also in how God will sustain us in the journey!

C. God's Faithfulness for the *far-from-righteousness* (46:8-13)

- i. God's faithfulness is not stopped by our faithlessness, it exceeds our ability to trust.

- ii. While the idol just stands there, unable to move, God's purpose, what He has planned will stand.

II. The Failure of Idolatry (Isaiah 47)

A. Don't be fooled by present prosperity. (47:1-4)

a) Psalm 37:1

b) Psalm 73:12

B. Idolatry's Miscalculation

The failure to bow to God, often seems to succeed, but only because God is working it into a bigger plan.

C. Putting Yourself in the Place of God Ends in Disaster

God's salvation is rooted in Him and His power, not us and our power.

III. The Foreknowledge of God

A. Will you not admit it? (1-6a)

B. God knew well in advance that His people would be as prone to idolatry as the Babylonians. (6-11)

God knew they were idolaters, God knew they would give false credit, God knew in advance, and God loved them anyway. That's foreknowledge.

C. God Not only knows the Future; God knows what could have been and what could be! (17-22)