

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our time
Our God Carries Us
Isaiah 46:1-13

We sometimes live in a disconnect between what is actually happening and what we think is happening. Since written words often do not convey tone or emotion, emails, social media posts, and texts can be misinterpreted and misunderstood. We are now forced to consider the overall character or political positions of our news media outlets in order to understand the spin that they put on what should be the objective reporting of events.

1. Idolatry places burdens on us that we choose to carry.
2. Idolatry convinces us that we don't need God.
3. Idolatry keeps us far from righteousness.

We might not worship statues made of gold or wood. Images and sculptures may not be a focus of worship for us. But our covetousness, materialism, and thirst for power are every bit as idolatrous as a worshiped statue. There are things in this life that are worth valuing. There are even things in this world that we would deem priceless. But if we value something in this world more than (or even equal to) Christ, we practice idolatry. Instead, we need to be intentional about delighting not in the idolatrous burdens we must carry, but in the righteous God who carries us, who sustains us.

Reflection

How does Isaiah 46 show what a burden idols are to those who have to carry them? How are modern day idols (money, material possessions, career ambitions, sex, pleasure, entertainment, addictive drugs, spectator sports, etc.) a terrible burden for those who live for them? How are these things able to convince us of the false reality that they are not burdensome? How does the defeat of Babylon expose the lack of saving power of the Babylonian gods. What does it mean for us that idols and idolatry will find their end in the day of judgment? What are some things that happen in this life that cause us to think that God is no longer interested in carrying us? What should our thoughts turn to when we begin to feel this way? Read Hebrews 7:25 and think about what it means that Christ always lives to intercede for us?