

## “God Acts” - Isaiah 46:3-13

Ask - “Who do you call to talk to during hard times? Why them?”

Background - Isaiah’s prophecy about the future Babylonian exile continues in today’s lesson. The Jewish exiles would face temptations to abandon God in a foreign land, but how would He act towards them?

“God’s Strength” - Isaiah 46:3-4

(v3) Who is God speaking to? What does He remind them of? What does it mean for the LORD to “carry” you?

(v4) What does God promise to continue to do? Not only would He carry the exiles through their captivity, but what else would He do? Discuss.

THE ISRAELITES WOULD SOMEDAY BE CARRIED AWAY INTO EXILE BY THE BABYLONIANS. EVEN THEN, GOD WOULD CARRY THEM THROUGH AND DELIVER THEM FROM THE HAND OF THEIR ENEMIES.

“The Idols’ Weakness” - Isaiah 46:5-7

(v5-6) To whom or what might the exiles compare God? How did the Babylonians make their idols and what did they do with them?

(v7) How were these idols moved from place to place? Why did they shout to the idols? What else did the idols lack the power to do? How is this the exact opposite of verses 3-4? (*they are carried, they can’t save*)

THE EXILES MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO COMPARE GOD WITH THE BABYLONIAN IDOLS THAT WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE.

“Reasons for Hopefulness” - Isaiah 46:8-11

(v8-9) What are the people urged to remember? How should it make them feel? How does God describe Himself? Why is remembering the past important?

(v10) What has God done in the past that should give them reassurance? According to this verse, what does God know that we don’t? (*the future*)

(v11) What specifically is the verse predicting will happen? Who is “the bird of prey from the east” and “the man of My purpose” mentioned here that defeats Babylon (*see 2 Chronicles 36:22-23*)?

GOD HAD BEEN FAITHFUL IN THE PAST AND WOULD BE IN THE FUTURE

ALSO. HE WOULD RESCUE THE EXILES AND DEFEAT THE BABYLONIANS THROUGH KING CYRUS OF PERSIA.

“The LORD’s Salvation” - Isaiah 46:12-13

(v12) How does God describe His people in this verse (and back in verse 8)? Are they deserving of His care and deliverance? Discuss.

(v13) When will this deliverance happen? To whom? Why does God protect and provide for Israel?

THOUGH HIS EXILES WERE UNDESERVING OF HIS SALVATION, GOD WOULD RESCUE THEM FOR HIS NAME SAKE AND GLORY.

Application - God does not speak empty words. His actions in the past confirm His faithfulness to His people. He keeps His promises and we can trust in Him even during difficult times. We don’t deserve God’s favor and goodness, just like these exiles, but He grants it anyway. Say a prayer of thankfulness for the LORD’s willingness to carry and save you.