

The burden of new gods **Isaiah 46 & 47**

Bel has bowed down, Nebo stoops over; their images are consigned to the beasts and the cattle. The things that you carry are burdensome, a load for the weary beast. They have stooped over, they have bowed down together; they could not rescue the burden, but have themselves gone into captivity. Isaiah 46:1-2

The gods of antiquity

- Man made images: _____
- Carried on the backs of donkeys and oxen: _____
- Set in permanent places: _____
- They cannot answer or save: _____

The image: gods on parade

- Festival celebrations: _____
- Mardi Gras: _____
- Carnivale: _____

The contrast

- Man-made gods that must be carried vs. God (Yahweh) who has carried us from the beginning: 46:3-4, _____ (from the beginning mankind has sought to deny any help from beyond ourselves.) _____
- Gods declaration: 46:8-9. **Remember**
 - Your history: _____
 - My purpose: _____

The humiliation of idols and self-deification

- *Come down and sit in the dust:*
 - The imagery: 47:1. _____
 - The repossession: _____
- You had an assigned task, but you overstepped your authority:
 - *You showed my people no mercy, 47:6.* _____
 - *You thought no one saw your wickedness. 47:10* _____
- *Your belief in your wisdom and knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart “I am, and there is no one besides me.” 47:10* _____

Fast Forward

The idolatrous and self-deifying language of today

- Political figures: _____
- Celebrities: _____
- Educators: _____
- Everyone else: _____

Back to the imagery

- Fifteen minutes of fame, and then “sit in the dust.” _____
- The enchantment of “self-fulfillment”, the head rush of power, yet you will still suffer the loss of children and widowhood. _____

What, then, is sacrificed, in pursuit of the goal of selfish fulfillment?

- Authentic love. _____
- The joy of reunion. _____
- Peace in truthfulness. _____

Paul on this generation

In the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.

II Timothy 3:1-5

Here’s what Jesus says about all this

• About this behavior:

But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to other children, and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.

Matt. 11:16-17

- The delusion: _____

• About the burden:

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and ‘You shall find rest for your souls.’ For My yoke is easy and my load is light.

Matt. 11:29-30

- The ultimate weight of “godhood.” _____