

Isaiah 46
Remember Your God

Loaded down by idols (1-2)

Bel (Baal) and Nebo – the Babylonian's chief god and his son the prophet

False gods of Babylon

Burdensome loads – carried with them into captivity (II Peter 2:17-19)

Idols lead us into slavery – enslaved by our own depravity

Bowed down – unable to rescue because false gods and false teaching cannot save

They may offer temporary pleasure – but never worth it (Hebrews 11:24-26)

Listen house of Judah (God's people) (3-14)

Never shut your ears or heart from receiving God's truth (Acts 17:11)

Rescuer – Our God sustains, carries and rescues (3-4) (II Thessalonians 5:23-24)

His rescue is not a temporary fix but a lasting solution

Reason – Our God to whom none can compare (5-7) (Psalm 113)

The Most High God looks to the needs of the lowly and poor (James 1:27)

Remember – Our God, fix these truths in your heart (8-12) (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Not just our minds (Deuteronomy 6:6)

He is the only God – thrice holy (Isaiah 6:3 / Revelation 4:8)

He is set apart and set above all things (Psalm 138:2)

He is omniscience – beginning to end (Revelation 1:8; 22:13)

He knows my story (Psalm 139:1-4, 16-18)

He is Sovereign

His purpose will stand (Proverbs 21:30) ***kick against the goads (Act 26:14)***

His pleasure is what He will do (Ephesians 1:5, 9-10)

To make us His own and bring all things under Christ

Righteousness brought near (Romans 10:5-8)

Do not be stubborn (II Thessalonians 2:10)

Refusing to believe what we know is right and true

Draw near to God (James 4:7-10)

He waits with open arms (Luke 15:20 – the prodigal son's return)

Delay no longer (II Corinthians 6:1-2)

There is no benefit in waiting to turn to God (Romans 6:20-21)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 46

Why does it become increasingly burdensome to put your trust in idols?

(Ephesians 5:15-16) ***They demand our time – keeping us from what matters***

(Psalm 115:5-8) ***They can offer no help but rather increase our load***

(Isaiah 59:4 / Colossians 2:4, 8) ***They need to be propped up by empty arguments***

(Matthew 13:22) ***They distract us from seeking the true source of salvation and help***

Why does God challenge us to reason together with Him? (Isaiah 1:18) In what ways is Christianity a reasoned faith? (as opposed to a blind faith)

(Proverbs 1:1-7 / Colossians 2:2-3) ***He is the source of all truth, knowledge and wisdom***

(Hebrews 11:1) ***Our faith is based on substance and evidence***

(Romans 1:18-23) ***Rejecting God leads to wickedness and foolish thinking***

What practices help us to remember who God is and what He's done?

(Psalm 146:7-11) ***Stop and look around – see what God has done***

(I Corinthians 11:23-26) ***Remember His work on the cross for us***

(Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25) ***We need the encouragement of one another***

(Deuteronomy 17:18-20 / Psalm 119:12-16) ***We need time with Him in His Word***

How is true righteousness obtained? (Romans 3:19-22 / Galatians 2:15-16 / Philippians 3:7-9)

Certainly not by any of our own efforts and/or good deeds. (Isaiah 64:6) Mine own effort to obtain righteousness becomes a stumbling block to receiving the true righteousness that is found in Christ. We must believe in the work of our Savior, who has paid in full the penalty for all our sins. Acknowledging our own failure and trusting His Word, that the resurrected Christ can resurrect my life. It is His righteousness imputed to me by faith that gives me a right standing with the Righteous One, making me fit to spend eternity in His presence. (II Corinthians 5:21)

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