

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

THE GOD OF OUR SALVATION

ISAIAH 46:1-13

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Things That Are Impossible”

Discovering the Salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Prophecies of Isaiah

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Israel, God’s Faithfulness, Cyrus, Righteousness

Isaiah 46:1-13

“What comes into our minds when we think about God
is the most important thing about us.”

A.W. Tozer

Things That Are Impossible

1.) Is that false worship cannot help you

vs. 1-4

Verse 1-4

1 Bel bows down, **Nebo** stoops; Their idols were on the beasts and on the cattle. Your carriages were heavily loaded, A burden to the weary beast. **2** They stoop, they bow down together; They could not deliver the burden, But have themselves - gone into captivity.

Bel & Nebo

the Aramaic form of Ba'al, the national god of the Babylonians. This is the Beelzebub of the Bible, of the Philistines – The Ba'al of the Canaanites.

(if you want to have some fun, go study the gods' of ancient Babylon and you will discover one of the god's went by the name of

Hubal (Arabic: هُبَل) **Moon-god**

He was the chief god among the gods of the Sabeans. He was represented by a crescent moon and was determined to be greater than the others – the Sabeans worship pre-dated Islam and its crescent moon.)

**Isaiah again reminds the nation that “things that we replace God with will always end up destroying your life.”
Thus is the nature of false worship.**

Just because someone “worships” in a spiritual context, does not make it a holy or righteous thing to the God of heaven.

We worship things that **(1)** we have no idea what we are talking about or **(2)** things we have full knowledge of.

Earlier this Week, Lisa and I were in Canada...

(1)

“mother nature wanted us to enjoy these falls colors”
“evolution decided that this environment would be best for moose.”

(2)

“we humans are most like the Bo’no’bos who were most likely our ancient fathers and mothers.”

“Bonobos are the best example of humankind’s ‘living ancestor,’ according to a new study. Researchers analyzing their muscular system found that they are more closely related to humans than even the common chimpanzee.”

Verse 3

3 “Listen to **Me**, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been **upheld** by **Me** from birth, who have been **carried** from the womb: *(brought out from)*

Verse 4a

4 Even to your old age, **I am He**, and even to gray hairs
I will carry you! *(saw-bal’ – be pregnant over you or for you, until the end)*

1. I will still be pregnant with the promises that I said I would keep.
2. I will still be pregnant with promises to you that I would finish what I started in you.
3. I will still be pregnant with the promises that heaven is when and where it makes sense.

And here is why He will do it for you – His way...

Verse 4b

I have made you,
Hebrew: aw-saw: to “think you forth” to “see you before you” ever existed. To bring forth with intent, a plan, a purpose.

Jeremiah 1:4-5

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: **5** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you ____ .

and **I will bear** you; even **I will carry** you, and **I will deliver** you.
(I say with heaviness of heart these days)

He **bears**; **to go through it all together and alongside you.**
He **carries**; **be pregnant over you and for you until the end**
He **delivers**; **to keep you and rescue you and to release you.**

When I was a just a Little Jack, I had to be born along.

I had to be carried around. I had to be delivered from this and from that. –
I was helpless.

Guess What Jack – I’ve always been helpless

#1 He’s always been there - in your life.

The LORD has been the one who has **upheld** you **from birth**,

#2 He’s always walked with you - even when you didn’t know it.

I have been the One to **carry** you **from the womb**:

#3 He’s always going to finish - what He’s started.

(a) Even to your old age, **I am He**, **(b)** and even to gray hairs **I will carry** you!

“But I can’t see how my sorry or my pain or my poverty or all of
the above can ever make any sense and turn out any good?”

Isaiah 55:8-11

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. **9** “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. **10** “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, **11** So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Verse 4b

**(c) I have made you, (d) and I will bear you;
(e) even I will carry you, (f) and I will deliver you.**

it's not so much the things in my life that I can understand
or think I understand – it is those things that are beyond me
that are impossible for me.

Psalm 139:1-18

O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. 13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You.

Things That Are Impossible

2.) Is that man-made gods will always fail you

vs. 5-7

Verse 5-7

**5 "To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal
and compare Me, that we should be alike?"**

(**alike** = daw-maw; consideration. Imagination, thought, image, likeness, idol)

There is none like God. He has declared himself to be alone in His deity.

Isaiah 42:8

I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another,

So then someone will ask, “why are you Christians so obsessive about Jesus?”
And that is the ultimate question and the answer is equally “Ultimate”

John 10:14-15

I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.
15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father;
and I lay down My life for the sheep.

John 10:17-18

“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

John 10:30

I and My Father are one.”

John 8:19

Then they said to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.”

This would be the apex of political incorrectness
“that we (all the god’s, all the beliefs, all the spirituality) should be alike?
!!! Impossible !!!

Church Family - Here’s a Warning for Us all:
Universalism, Globalism, Ecumenicalism, This “One World, One Faith,
Let’s all Unite” Is exactly what is ushering in a “World Church”

The Great Apostasy of the Last Days

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in Latter Times **some will depart** from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits** and **doctrines of demons**

“Most often, this will happen in a church in very subtle increments.

- (1) The value and prominence of the Bible is allowed to fade.
- (2) Entertainment begins to replace worship and praise.
- (3) “Felt needs” becomes the mission of the church.
- (4) The church and the world will look alike.
- (5) It’s “pastors” will begin to feed themselves at the lambs expense.”

Acts 20:29-31

For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. **30** Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. **31** Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Verse 6-7

6 They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. **7** They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it and set it in its place, and it stands; from its place it shall not move. Though one cries out to it, yet it cannot answer nor save him out of his trouble.

Idolatry's Evolution

Romans 1:18-23

For the wrath of God is **revealed** from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress** the truth in unrighteousness, **19** because what may be **known** of God is manifest in them, for God has **shown** it to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being **understood** by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are **without excuse**, **21** because, although they **knew** God, they did not **glorify** Him as God, nor were thankful, but became **futile** in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were **darkened** . **22** **Professing** to be wise, they became **fools**, **23** and **changed** the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man and birds and fourfooted animals and creeping things.

R. Kent Hughes writes,

“Creation reveals the existence of a God who presides in majestic, transcendent, sustaining power. It also reveals the infinite distance between us (the creatures) and Him (the Creator). “For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.” The word “plain” means manifest. This is not a secret, covert revelation. There is no need for a Diogenes with his lamp. You do not have to be an intellectual. All can understand as much as they need to know. “They are without excuse.” Atheist Bertrand Russell, who dismisses the existence of God is without excuse and so is the cabbie who has never read a book in his life. The truth is, it takes a concerted act of the will to deny that a vastly powerful God made and sustains His Creation. If one is not at least searching after God, he or she is suppressing the truth. The first distinctive of the anatomy of unbelief, then, is the suppression of the truth. The second is a perversion of the truth. “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.” From this we learn how the perversion of idolatry initially came about. “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God. . .” Meaning there was a time when idol-worshippers saw God as majestic, transcendent, all-powerful, infinitely greater than themselves. However, though they understood this, they did not honor him but instead worshiped images like themselves. They refused to worship God for who he is and rather reduced him to their own level through idolatry. They minimized, redefined, rationalized the vast chasm between the creature and the Creator.

This resulted in a progressively degenerating idolatry of reducing God from His rightful place in creation. “Their foolish hearts were darkened.” This is significant because “heart” is a comprehensive term for all man’s faculties. Not only was their moral judgment darkened, but their intellect and reasoning powers suffered also. The magnificent idea of God as revealed in Nature was lost to them. The tragedy of idolatry is that it falls infinitely short of giving its worshippers any idea of what God is really like! “Claiming to be wise, they became fools.” The root word for “fools” is the same root from which we derive our word moron. This is an ugly term that refers not so much to one’s intellect as to his or her moral condition. This reality portrays the progressive degeneration that the perversion of idolatry brings. First they worshiped an image of a man, second birds, then quadrupeds, and ultimately reptiles—crawling things. You cannot go any lower than this.”

R. Kent Hughes

Thoughts on Paul’s Epistle to The Church at Rome

We are about to hear from God Himself as to how you can know that He is real and true verses all other deities that are fabrications and false.

Things That Are Impossible

3.) Is that the God of the Bible knows what's next

vs. 8-10

Verse 8-9a

8 “Remember (heb.) this, and **show** (heb.) yourselves men; **Recall** (heb.) to mind, O you transgressors. **9 Remember** (heb.) the former things of old,

Verse 9b-10

For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, **10** Declaring (heb.) the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, “My counsel shall stand,
And I will do all My pleasure,’

I know that to the human eye,
it looks like there is no hope for the world.
And that it doesn't look like God is at work right now, but He's on the move.

“I will do all My pleasure”

The all prevailing Attribute, Nature, Personal Characteristic of **God is Love**. His pleasure is to relate and to reveal His love toward His creation. (you and I).

Things That Are Impossible

4.) Is that salvation is available to the worst of us

vs. 11-13

Verse 11-13

11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have **spoken** it; I will also **bring it** to pass. I have **purposed** it; I will also **do it**. **12** “Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, who are far from righteousness: **13** I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion,
For Israel My glory.

Grab Hold of This. Grab Hold of Him

“Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, Who are far from righteousness: I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger.

Philippians 3:8-9

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

So what are we to take away from this?

My answer is seemingly insignificant on the surface. It might even seem ridiculous. It most definitely will feel insufficient. But it's all true.

Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. 7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

Psalms 32:10b-11

But he who **trusts** in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. 11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

What Are Those **Things That Are Impossible** In
Your Life Right Now?

End of Study
