

Salvation in Zion

(Isaiah 46, Preaching: Pastor Stephen Magee, April 25, 2021)

1-7 Are you carrying your God, or does He carry you?

[1] Bel bows down; Nebo stoops; their idols are on beasts and livestock; these things you carry are borne as burdens on weary beasts.

[2] They stoop; ... they cannot save the burden, but themselves go into captivity.

[3] All the remnant of the house of Israel ... have been borne by me from before your birth, ...

[4] even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you.

I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

[5] To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be alike?

[6] ... gold ... silver ... a goldsmith ... makes it into a god; ... fall down ... worship!

[7] They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it ... it does not answer or save ...

8-13 Consider the eternal purpose of your God!

[8] Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors,

[9] remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; ...

[10] declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

[11] calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country.

I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

[12] Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness:

[13] I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay;

I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory.

Question: What is it that God intends to do? He will bring near His righteousness, and thus put salvation in Zion. - See Ephesians 1:3-14, 3:7-13

Key Verse: Isaiah 46:10 My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.

THE POINT: The gods of the nations have no plan, but the LORD will accomplish His eternal purpose.

Applying these verses:

1 Learn about the eternal purpose of God as you grow in His Word.

a) history from Adam to Jesus (Matt. 1), b) power and desire of Jesus today (Eph. 3:20-21)

2 Pray for me. I shall be bold in preaching the Lord's counsel.

3 I will pray for you. You shall be strong in the LORD forever and ever.

Old Testament Reading—Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 – Occupied with joy in a fleeting world

Gospel Reading—Matthew 9:27-31 – Have mercy on us, Son of David.

New Testament Reading—Philippians 1:12-30 – To live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Does God have an eternal purpose?

Ephesians 3:7–13

[7] Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. [8] To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9] and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, [10] so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. [11] This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, [12] in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. [13] So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Do you know the eternal purpose of the Almighty?

Ephesians 1:3–14

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, [4] even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. [7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

[11] In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, [12] so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. [13] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Why was I born?

WLC Q. 1. What is the chief and highest end of man?

A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

46:10 My Counsel Shall Stand

1 From Adam to Noah to Abraham, from Abraham to Moses to David,
From David and his sons to Babylon, from Babylon to Cyrus to Jesus.
My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.
My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.

2 His wonders His teaching His blood once shed, He lives again ascended to heaven,
The Spirit and the Word Thy kingdom come! Have mercy on us now Son of David!
My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.
My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.