

Book of Isaiah



Chapter 46

Theme: Pronouncement of judgment against idols

Michael Fronczak

**564 Schaeffer Dr.
Coldwater, Michigan 49036**

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Chapter 46

This chapter contains one of the finest satires against idolatry that is found in the Word of God. It opens with the announcement of defeat against the idols of Babylon in particular. This seems strange since Babylon had not yet come to the front as a world power and was not the enemy of Israel. Nevertheless, Babylon was the source of all idolatry, and it is fitting that after announcing the defeat of the idols of Babylon the prophet proceeds to denounce all idolatry with an injunction to Israel not to forsake the true God.¹

Babylon would be used by God to judge Judah, but she in turn would be destroyed by God. Her gods, mere idols, would not be able to save her from defeat (chap. 46), and Babylon would fall in spite of her sorceries and wisdom (chap. 47).²

- A. Let it first be established that every man with the exception of an idiot has a god.
1. God is not a name but a title.
 2. It is the guiding principle or master passion behind a man's life.
 3. Some acclaim to be atheists.
 - a. This just isn't so.
 - b. They are driven by some master passion.
 - c. What they mean is they do not believe in the true and living God who is the eternal creator.
 - d. Madaline Murray O'Hare is driven by her hatred for Christians to try to stop the Christian witness.
 1. I believe she is not an atheist, but a polytheist. She worships her.
 - a. Intellect -Baal.
 - b. She advocates hedonism - Molech.
 - c. She seems mastered by hatred.
 4. Three most popular gods in Old Testament times; Baal, Molech, Mammon, who were the deification of intellect, pleasure and power.
 - a. They had great idols to represent these gods.
 1. Sometimes they would carry them on their shoulders.
 2. Sometimes pulled in carts by oxen.
 - b. These same gods worshipped today only in a more sophisticated way.³

One of the things that really fascinates me about Bible study is that when you take the time to learn where places are, you find out that there are modern cities and countries being spoken of with ancient names.

For example, when you read about Babylon, Assyria, Nineveh, Ur of the Chaldeans, and the River Euphrates, these are all located in modern day Iraq.

¹ Thru The Bible with J. Vernon McGee.

² The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

³ https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/smith_chuck/SermonNotes_Isa/Isa_46.cfm?a=725001

At the end of Isaiah chapter 44, and through chapter 45, God had foretold of a man named Cyrus. God would raise this man up as His shepherd, who would deliver the Jews out of their 70-year captivity in Babylon. Cyrus would be powerful, a man who would conquer nations and kings.

Now, as we pick up in chapter 46, God continues on the subject, talking specifically about the fall of the Babylonian Empire.⁴

The gods of Babylonia vs. the God of Israel. This short speech contrasts the Lord, who is capable of mighty acts, and the gods of Babylonia, who are shown to be illusions.⁵

¹Bel boweth down, Nebo stoopeth, their idols were upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden; they are a burden to the weary beast.

Bel and Nebo

Bel was the chief domestic god of Babylon worshiped also by the Phoenicians, Canaanites, Moabites, and surrounding nations. It was supposed to be the idol used in worship of the sun, and Astarte or Astarte the one used in the worship of the planet Venus. Nebo was used in worship of Mercury. He was the scribe of the heavens supposedly, and recorded all earthly and heavenly events. He was the same as the Greek Hermes, the Latin Mercury, and the Egyptian Thoth. He was worshiped also by the Babylonians, as well as the Assyrians, and the Sabians in Arabia. The name was supposed to be derived from naba' (HSN-<H5012>), to prophesy. Nebo's office was to interpret for the other gods. He was the scribe of Bel; his symbol was a wedge or arrowhead. The whole picture here is that of conquest. All the idols were to be thrown down and those made of valuable metals were to be taken captive as spoils of war (Isa. 46:1-2; cp. Jer. 48:7). It was a common thing to have compound names using the titles of the gods that were worshiped. Bel or Baal was used in such names as Bel-shazzar, Bel-te-shazzar, Baal-Peor, Baal-zebub, Baal-Gad, Baal-Berith, etc. Nebo formed a part of Nebu-chadnezzar, Nebu-zaradan, Nabo-polassar, Nabo-nassar, etc.⁶

Bel and Nebo are gods of Babylon. Bel is the shortened form of Baal and is found in the first part of Beelzebub -- which is one of Satan's names. Nebo means "speaker or prophet." When Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra, the people thought Barnabas was Bel or Jupiter and Paul was Nebo or Mercury because he did the talking.

Behind the idols of that day was satanic worship, which is becoming rather popular in our contemporary society. The Word of God repeatedly warns us that our warfare is spiritual warfare.

God contrasts the helplessness of the idol, which is a burden to carry, to His own love and strength.⁷

⁴ <http://rondaniel.com/library/23-Isaiah/Isaiah4601.php>

⁵ The Jewish Study Bible Notes

⁶ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible:

⁷ Thru The Bible with J. Vernon McGee.

The Babylonian gods would not be able to save Babylon from being conquered. Bel, not to be confused with the Canaanite Baal, was another name for Marduk (cf. Jer. 50:2), god of the sun. Nebo, son of Marduk, was the god of learning, writing, and astronomy. Large images of those gods, carried about on Babylon's New Year's Day festival, were heavy and burdensome. So those idols could not help relieve the Babylonians' burden. In striking contrast, the God of Israel sustains and carries His people (Isa. 46:3-4).⁸

Bel, meaning "Lord," was a title of Marduk, Babylon's chief deity. Nebo, Marduk's son, was the god of fate, writing, and wisdom. Ironically, each of these gods is said to bow down, to stoop along with their idols. In pagan thought, the idols and the gods that they embodied were inseparable. The heavy idols that were expected to bring deliverance were themselves dragged away into captivity.⁹

Bel bows down, Nebo stoops: Bel and Nebo were names of two false gods the idol-worshipping nations served. It is as if now God gets personal, "naming names" when it comes to idols; and now these false gods are brought low.

The names of the pagan gods Bel and Nebo are familiar to us in the names Belshazzar and Nebuchadnezzar.

"In chapter 45 Isaiah declared that every knee will bow to the Lord, and here he pictures the gods of the great Babylon stooping low in humiliation." (Grogan)¹⁰

Your idols were on the beasts and on the cattle. Your carriages were heavily loaded: Isaiah pictures God's people going into captivity, in a forced relocation. Loaded on to their beasts and carriages are their idols - even their idols are carried away into captivity, and loaded on the moving trucks! The bottom line is they could not deliver the burden, but have themselves gone into captivity.¹¹

1-4 Cyrus would carry out God's judgment against Babylon. Bel was the chief deity of the Babylonians; Nebo was the god of science and learning. These gods, however, needed animals and people to carry them around and could not even save themselves from being taken into captivity. They had no power at all. In contrast, our God created us and cares for us. His love is so enduring that he will care for us throughout our lifetime and even through death.¹²

'Bel' is another name for Marduk, the chief deity of Babylon. His son, 'Nebo' (Akkadian Nabu), became an increasingly important deity during the last century of Babylonian independence. 'Carry [in procession]:' The Babylonians paraded the statues of their gods through the city on major holidays, such as the Akitu or New Year festival.¹³

⁸ The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

⁹ Nelson Study Bible

¹⁰ https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik_david/StudyGuide2017-Isa/Isa-46.cfm?a=725001

¹¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik_david/StudyGuide2017-Isa/Isa-46.cfm?a=725001

¹² Life Application Study Bible.

¹³ The Jewish Study Bible Notes

²They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but themselves are gone into captivity.

“Captivity” - free to make choices yet we will become enslaved to these choices. We will become captive to our own appetites. You will also become like the gods you worship. Make sure that you worship Jesus!¹⁴

The fall of Babylon is described here as though the city has been taken and the idols, that is, gods who were supposed to protect the Babylonians, are themselves part of the loot being carried off on beasts of burden. More evidence is continually being discovered which testifies to the truth of the fact that these descriptions are prophecies written centuries before the captivity of Judah began. The section continues what is purported to be comforting words. That is that although Judah is to be carried into captivity there will be deliverance and the captor will her self become a captive. This is simply a reiteration of what Isaiah has said many times beginning with chapter 13.¹⁵

Bel (Bale) and Nebo (Neb-O) were Babylonian deities. In the Babylonian's language, Bel meant "Lord." He was the chief god. Nebo, meaning "prophet," was the god of learning and education.

God says to the Israelites, "The Babylonians' chief god is bowing down, kneeling before Me. I have brought him low. Nebo stoops down before My superior knowledge. All these idols are is a burden for you and your pack animals to carry around. They are a burden, and can't rescue your burden. You will walk into captivity, but they have to be carried with you into captivity."¹⁶

³Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne *by me* from the belly, which are carried from the womb:

Jacob used verses Israel.

“Carried from the womb” can be speaking of the 12 tribes of Israel or the nation as if it had been born in Egypt. Israel is often spoken of as God’s firstborn.¹⁷

After predicting the captivity of the gods of Babylon (Isa. 46:1-2), God addressed the remnant of Israel and predicted that all of them would be protected and delivered from their own land (Isa. 46:2-4). This could have a double fulfillment of immediate deliverance from Babylon by Cyrus (Isa. 46:11; 41:1-3,25; 44:28; 25:1-6), and the final deliverance from the Antichrist, the future king of Babylon (Isa. 13:1 -- Isa. 14:27; Rev. 14:8; 16:17-21; 18:1-24).¹⁸

¹⁴ Chuck Missler, Notes on Isaiah, khouse.org

¹⁵ <http://www.moellerhaus.com/isa46-47.htm>

¹⁶ <http://rondaniel.com/library/23-Isaiah/Isaiah4601.php>

¹⁷ Chuck Missler, Notes on Isaiah, khouse.org

¹⁸ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible:

3-4 God's admonition to His people to listen to Him is frequent in Isaiah's prophecies (44:1; 46:3, 12; 47:8; 48:1, 12, 14, 16; 51:4; 52:8; 55:2). Besides caring for and carrying His people (see comments on 46:1-2), God also sustains them throughout their lives. From the time of conception (v. 3) to old age (v. 4) the Lord watches over His own and rescues them from trouble.¹⁹

The remnant is addressed. those who having gone into captivity remain faithful to the God of promise.

4And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

This is the real distinction between that which is true and that which is false. God had not only been carrying the nation Israel, but He had carried each individual from the cradle to the grave. Let me ask you the question, "Is your religion carrying you, or are you carrying your religion?" God carries our sins. "He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows" (Isa. 53:4). He also carries our cares, our burdens: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1Pet. 5:7). And God carries us today: "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them" (Deut. 33:27).²⁰

Who have been upheld by Me from birth, who have been carried from the womb: The false gods represented by dumb dead idols must be carried; but God carries His people. He carried them from before their birth, and He promises to continue to carry them (even to gray hairs I will carry you!).

I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry: This is the same Fatherly care Jesus spoke of in Luke 12:6-7: Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. When we understand that has made us, and we are valuable to Him, then we can trust Him to carry us.

It's a worthy question: do you have to carry your gods, or does your God carry you?²¹

Addressing the remnant (house) of His people, Yahweh reminded the Judahites that He had carried Israel (as a burden sometimes) throughout her history (cf. 63:9; Exod. 19:4; Deut. 1:31; 32:11; Ps. 28:9), and He would continue to do so. This, of course, is the opposite of what the Babylonians had to do to their idols (vv. 1-2). The Israelites had never carried Him, but it was He, and only He, who had always carried them.

Normally, we expect that as children reach maturity, they do not need to be carried any longer. Furthermore, there usually comes a time when the child must begin to carry the aged parent. This is where God transcends the imagery. There will never come a time when we outgrow our dependence on God. . . . Nor will there ever be a time when a doddering old

¹⁹ The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

²⁰ Thru The Bible with J. Vernon McGee.

²¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik_david/StudyGuide2017-Isa/Isa-46.cfm?a=725001

grandfather-God will somehow need to lean on us, and we will need to find a young, virile god for ²²a new age.

⁵To whom will ye liken me, and make *me* equal, and compare me, that we may be like?

The reason that it is so difficult to explain God is because He is infinite and we are finite and live in a finite universe. There is nothing with which to compare Him. He cannot be reduced to our terminology without losing all meaning. He cannot be translated into human language. This explains one of the reasons why God became a man. The only way we can know God is through Jesus. He revealed God.²³

5-7 Gods of gold and silver (cf. 40:19) cannot be compared (cf. 40:18, 25) to the true God because such gods are incapable of action. Pagans hired craftsmen to make heavy gods out of precious metals and then had to carry them to their resting places, from which they could not move. This is one of several times Isaiah belittled idols (cf. 40:18-20; 41:7; 44:9-20; 45:16, 20; 46:1-2). Unlike the false gods, the true God can answer peoples' prayers and save them.²⁴

⁶They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, *and* hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.

Idol fabrication described in contrast to God. "To whom will ye liken me..." (v.5).

Tenfold Vanity of Idols

1. People take gold out of a bag (Isa. 46:6).
2. People weigh silver in a balance.
3. People hire a goldsmith.
4. He makes a metal god.
5. People fall down and worship it.
6. They bear it upon their shoulders and carry it (Isa. 46:7).
7. They set it in its place.
8. From its place it cannot move again of itself.
9. People cry to it and get no answer.
10. They call upon it for deliverance from trouble but the deliverance never comes.

Idolatry is associated with demons (Lev. 17:7; Dt. 32:17; 2Chr. 11:15; Ps. 106:37; 1Cor. 10:20-21). There will be a revival of it at the very end of this age, both in Babylon and Jerusalem (Rev. 9:20-21; 13:11-18; 14:9-11; 16:2,13,16).²⁵

²² <http://soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/isaiah.pdf>

²³ Thru The Bible with J. Vernon McGee.

²⁴ The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

²⁵ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible:

This is a metallic image that excels the wooden image in beauty and value. The wealth of man is expended in making an idol. If a man doesn't have much money, he has a cheap god. If he is rich, he has a rich god. It actually amounts to men worshiping their own workmanship, which is self-worship. It is a form of humanism.²⁶

5 - 6: This is a further appeal to forsake false gods and idols who are mere human productions and have no ability to do anything for themselves, much less for anyone else.²⁷

⁷They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, *one* shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.

Idol, man-made yet man looks to it to get him out of trouble. Today, we've invented a more insulting idol to worship: nothingness, randomness, chance!²⁸

They lug their god around on their shoulders and put him in the corner when they get home! Listen to what God says to them in verse 8.

Treatment and use of idols. The images of deities in Mesopotamia were fed, dressed and even washed daily. Food sacrifices were brought to the deity on a daily basis (and no doubt eaten by the temple technicians). Other attendants were required to dress and undress the statue, and still others were employed to wash the statue and transport it in times of celebration.²⁹

⁸Remember this, and show yourselves men: bring *it* again to mind, O ye transgressors.

Four commands to sinners in Judah:

1. Remember this.
2. Show yourselves to be intelligent men.
3. Bring it again to mind.
4. Remember the former things of old (Isa. 46:9).

[shew yourselves men] This means: act like men -- throw away your childish idolatry. Quit acting like senseless brutes. It is the same as "quit you like men" in 1Cor. 16:13.³⁰

8-11 Israel was tempted to waver between the Lord God and pagan gods. Isaiah affirms the sole lordship of God. God is unique in his knowledge and in his control of the future. His consistent purpose is to carry out what he has planned. When we are tempted to pursue anything that promises pleasure, comfort, peace, or security apart from God, we must remember our commitment to God.³¹

²⁶ Thru The Bible with J. Vernon McGee.

²⁷ <http://www.moellerhaus.com/isa46-47.htm>

²⁸ Chuck Missler, Notes on Isaiah, khouse.org

²⁹ IVP Bible Commentary

³⁰ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible:

³¹ Life Application Study Bible.

8-11 The rebels, people of Babylon (cf. v. 12), were to remember that God is the only God; He is unique (v. 9; cf. 43:11; 44:6; 45:5-6, 14, 18, 21-22). Proofs of God's uniqueness include His knowledge and control of the future (cf. 45:21) and His ability to bring Cyrus from the east (cf. 41:2) like a quick bird of prey to accomplish His plans.³²

Further Appeal and Comfort: The appeal again is given to remember that God has revealed history from the beginning to the house of Israel through the prophets. Amazing events of the future are also revealed by God. Here, in this passage, Cyrus is again promised as a deliverer. He has been cited from chapter 40 onward. In this context which predicts the total extinction of Babylon as a world power, he is pictured not as a deliverer but as a ravenous bird which fits the context of being the one who will destroy Babylon. For Babylon, the subject of these two chapters, he is a ravenous destroying bird, while he is a messianic deliverer for Israel. He is from a far country, that is: not from Mesopotamia. God's council and pleasure mentioned here is "the end of Babylon." Cyrus is the man from the east who is God's agent in completing God's will. Cyrus will be alluded to only once more in these pages in chapter 48:15.³³

8-13: The former and latter things. The listeners are urged to recall what God did in the past (specifically, God saved and made accurate predictions). These demonstrate the salvation that God will bring in the near future. The reliability of earlier prophets also demonstrates the trustworthiness of Isaiah himself.

'Sinners:' God addresses the exiles as rebellious because their forebears' misdeeds caused the exile, but perhaps also because many of them failed to believe in Isaiah's message.

⁹Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

Ten Things to Remember

1. That I am God (Isa. 46:9).
2. There is no other God.
3. There is none like Me.
4. None declaring the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:10).
5. None declaring predictions from ancient times that are not yet fulfilled.
6. I will keep My Word and do all the pleasure of My own will.
7. I will call a ravenous bird from the east (Isa. 46:11).
8. I will call a man from a far country that will execute My will.
9. I have spoken and will bring it to pass.
10. I have purposed it and will do it.

[former things of old] The former predictions that were made of old and the creation itself, which prove that I am God and there is no other like Me.³⁴

³² The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

³³ <http://www.moellerhaus.com/isa46-47.htm>

³⁴ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible:

There is a lot of modern idolatry about. Face up to it. Do you receive anything when you go to church? For many folk church-going is a real burden to them. It is like a useless god they have to carry around. Oh, my friend, God wants to communicate to you. He has something for you. He doesn't want you to carry Him; He wants to carry you.³⁵

¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

“Declaring the end from the beginning...” God authenticates these assertions by pointing out that He is outside time all together. Time is not linear, it is a physical property relative to mass, acceleration and gravity. God is outside time and therefore, can declare the end from the beginning!³⁶

God's Eternal Plan

Again, reference is made to God's eternal plan for man from the beginning to the end (Isa. 46:10; 40:21; 41:4,26; 48:3-7,16; 64:4; Acts 15:18; Eph. 2:7; 3:9-11; Col. 1:15-18; Heb. 1:1-3). The Bible is the revelation of God's plan from eternity past to eternity future, and it cannot be rightly understood without a knowledge of that plan. One must become acquainted with the ages and dispensations, their outstanding features and purposes, and above all, the ultimate purpose of God in having a universal kingdom over which He will preside forever without the threat of new and continued rebellions among free moral agents, as the case has been since the fall of Lucifer, the pre-Adamites, and Adam of the present race on earth. Thousands of predictions accurately tell future events; the plan and purpose of God are unchangeable. If He had no plan He could not predict future events. In this passage God declares that He is powerful enough to bring events to pass as predicted which clearly shows design in His plan.

Seven Things Absolutely Certain:

1. God's plan is eternal; it has been declared in Scripture from eternity to eternity (Isa. 46:10).
2. Prophecies that are unfulfilled will be fulfilled in due time.
3. God's counsel will stand.
4. God's will and pleasure will yet be done on earth as in heaven.
5. God always finds a man who will do His will on earth (Isa. 46:11), even if He has to raise one up (Isa. 41:2,25).
6. God's spoken word will not return to Him void (Isa. 46:11; 55:11).
7. God's eternal purpose will be finally realized on earth (Isa. 46:11; Eph. 3:9-11).

[My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure] Predictions that are unfulfilled -- but true -- shall stand; those that are spoken on earth, will be fulfilled in due time (Isa. 46:11).³⁷

³⁵ Thru the Bible with nJ. Vernon McGee

³⁶ Chuck Missler, Notes on Isaiah, khouse.org

³⁷ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible:

Deity with purpose. The gods of the ancient Near East were not capable of controlling the destiny of the world without help. In Mesopotamia there existed the “tablets of destiny,” texts which contained the destinies of all things (including the gods) in the universe. Whoever controlled these tablets controlled fate. Occasionally these tablets came into the “wrong hands,” and chaos ensued. Some gods, including Enki, wore sorcerer’s hats, showing that they had the ability to control and predict the future, but only by way of spells and incantations. Conversely, Yahweh controlled all things without resort to superficial means of tablets or spells.³⁸

¹¹Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

[ravenous bird] Cyrus is called a ravenous bird, symbolic of a warlike king -- the speed of his conquest and the devastation he would make among the nations (cp. Ezek. 39:4). Warlike kings are also called an eagle (Jer. 49:22; Ezek. 17:3).

[east] Meaning from Persia, a far country.

[the man that executeth my counsel from a far country] God raised up Cyrus for this purpose -- to do His will in fulfilling prophecy (Isa. 41:1-3,25; 44:28; 45:1-4,13).³⁹

¹²Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that *are* far from righteousness:

God commanded the stouthearted of Judah to hearken to the message that:

1. His righteousness and salvation would be brought near to them (Isa. 46:13).
2. They would not be far off -- long in coming.
3. They would not tarry long before they would be here.
4. His righteousness and salvation would be placed in Zion for Israel His glory.⁴⁰

12-13 The stubborn-hearted and those far from righteousness were the Babylonians (cf. rebels, v. 8), who would be defeated by the Persian Empire. God would bring against the unrighteous Babylonians His righteousness, that is, Cyrus, who would carry out God's righteous will. This would result in salvation for Zion, deliverance from exile for Jerusalem, which would mean Israel would again display God's splendor or glory (cf. 44:23).⁴¹

¹³I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

“My righteousness” - God’s not ours!

³⁸ IVP Bible Commentary

³⁹ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible:

⁴⁰ Dake's Annotated Reference Bible:

⁴¹ The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Much of the book of Isaiah speaks of a future deliverance when we will all live with God in perfect peace. God offers not only this future hope but also help for our present needs. His righteousness is near us, and we do not have to wait for his salvation.⁴²

God would be faithful to His covenant promises and bring salvation to Zion (cf. 44:26-28; Rom. 3:21-25; 5:8; 1 Cor. 1:30). He would soon bring the righteousness that His people lacked. This deliverance would glorify His name. Some have interpreted the "stubborn-minded" in verses 12 and 13 as the Babylonians, rather than the Israelites, but this is a minority view.

This proves to be Isaiah's final appeal to Israel to accept the Lord's will, to believe what he says and trust what he does, though even as he make [sic] his appeal he senses that it is falling on deaf ears (12).⁴³

⁴² Life Application Study Bible.

⁴³ <http://soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/isaiah.pdf>