

## Draggin' a Wagon

About the time we think we have a handle on “things,” “things” fall apart and the handle won't let go. Idolatry is not as dead as some might have you to believe. In modern America, we don't ordinarily see many instances of people bowing down to carved images. Today, people place “things” in front of service to God in their life, which cannot be anything but idolatry, the lack of bowing notwithstanding. And deceptive...idolatry is so deceptive!

In Isaiah 46:1-2, the mighty prophet foresaw the destruction of Babylon. This great conquering nation took arrogant pride in decimating nations and carrying off their local gods, piling them up on their oxen carts, and returning home to revel in their superiority. ***They hadn't met Jehovah God!*** He wasn't some local-yokel, piece-of-pine to be carried about around the neck of some voodoo child. Neither would He be found jiggling about on the dashboard of some Babylonian chariot. And, He would soon reveal Himself, so *“that men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth”* (Psalm 83:18). The children of Israel had fallen so deeply into idolatry, they had lost touch with the true and living God. Therefore, Isaiah predicted the demise of Babylon as a warning to them, “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. They stoop, they bow down together; They could not deliver the burden, But have themselves gone into captivity.”

The prediction was basically this: the confidence in your conquest of idols will weigh you down to the point of defeat. And, thus it did, as the Medo-Persian Empire stormed the Babylonians and destroyed them; their demise went “unmourned.” You can almost visualize the hasty retreat of frightened Babylonians, fleeing for their life, pulling carts laden with captured idols, being overtaken by an enemy with no pity, all the while questioning the power of these carved images (Isaiah 46:6-7).

Christians are sometimes plagued with this malady. They cling to Christ with one hand and pledge their undying devotion to Him, and with the other, they're “draggin' a wagon” of a past life's priorities. Torn between the two, they miserably wallow between loyalties to God and self, until sin succeeds in selling out their soul. *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”* (Matthew 6:24).

The idols of which the Babylonians thought so highly turned out to be vanities instrumental in their destruction. So it is with the pursuits of life that impede our Christianity, which clutter our day with insignificant busyness. What we think we have conquered may only be pre-Christian accommodations and residue from the life we should have left behind long ago; we're just “draggin' a wagon.” Lose the dead weight of modern idolatry; *“seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness”* (Matthew 6:33), *“lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us”* (Hebrews 12:1), and serve the Savior above all else. Then, when enemies of God aspire to overcome us, we will be armed and ready, unfettered by life's distractions to fight the good fight of Faith. Otherwise, our idols will be our end.

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