

Isaiah 46:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken 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:

Analysis

The imagery of God carrying His people 'from the belly' and 'from the womb' emphasizes His covenant faithfulness from election through glorification. The Hebrew suggests both creation and sustenance, establishing God as sovereign originator and faithful sustainer. This refutes Pelagian self-sufficiency and establishes unconditional election - we don't choose God then maintain ourselves; He initiates and completes (Philippians 1:6).

Historical Context

This passage addresses the exilic community's fear that Babylon's conquest proved their God inferior. Instead, Isaiah shows that Yahweh's temporary discipline doesn't negate His eternal covenant commitment to carry Jacob/Israel through history.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God has carried you 'from the womb' change your view of current struggles?
2. In what ways do you try to 'carry yourself' instead of resting in God's sustaining grace?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמַע ו	אֵלַי	בֵּית	יַעֲקֹב	וְכָל	שְׁאֵר יֵת	בֵּית
Hearken	H413	of the house	of Jacob	H3605	and all the remnant	of the house
H8085		H1004	H3290		H7611	H1004
יִשְׂרָאֵל	הַעֲמִסִּים	מִנִּי	בִּטֹן	הַנֶּשְׂאִים	מִנִּי	
of Israel	which are borne	H4480	by me from the belly	which are carried	H4480	
H3478	H6006		H990	H5375		
רָחֵם:						
from the womb						
H7356						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:31 (Parallel theme): And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place.

Isaiah 51:7 (Parallel theme): Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

Psalms 71:6 (Parallel theme): By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.

Isaiah 1:9 (Parallel theme): Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Isaiah 51:1 (Parallel theme): Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Isaiah 10:22 (References Israel): For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.

Isaiah 48:1 (References Israel): Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness.

Exodus 19:4 (Parallel theme): Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

Isaiah 37:4 (Parallel theme): It may be the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.

Isaiah 44:21 (References Israel): Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.