

# God Works for Those Who Wait For Him

## Uniqueness of God

### Isaiah 64:1-4; 46:1-4

Thesis: The Bible says several times that our God is utterly unique among all the gods in the world and in history. But what makes him so unique?

Introduction:

1. Psalm 20:7; “Some *boast* in chariots and some in horses, But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God.”
  2. It is easy to have the Nebuchadnezzar attitude of self-reliance and accomplishment without the aid of the true God. (Daniel 4)
  3. This lesson will focus on boasting in the Name of the Lord, our God as a unique God - No other god works for those who wait on Him!
- I. Background and context of Isaiah 64
    - A. Isaiah 63 and 64 are one thought, a prayer of lament where Isaiah recalls how God had frequently rescued Israel from her enemies, sometimes rescuing Israel from herself by punishing her.
    - B. The prayer recalls the great wonders and acts of God and praises Him for:
      1. Great Exodus (Is. 63)
      2. Sinai encounter (Is. 63)
      3. God has always proven Himself faithful to His people (Is. 63)
    - C. The prayer laments that they are now suffering (Is. 63:18-19)
      1. Because of Israel’s rebellion and hardness of heart God removed His presence from the people and allowed Babylon to punish and purify them.
      2. From the people’s viewpoint they saw this as God’s abandonment, but it was a season of trial (Psalm 22)
  - II. God is unique: Call for God to act like He had in the past (Is. 64:1-4)
    - A. Often times when we want God to do a new thing we call on Him to remember how He did old things. (Exodus 15:2, 11, 18)
    - B. Vs 1-3 There is no other God who shows up like You do
      1. vs. 1 - Tearing open the heavens (lightening, thunder, smoke, fire - impressive and cannot doubt that this is God!)
        - a) Here God seems to be distant and not interested in His people.
        - b) The prayer is not considering that it is not God who has caused the separation, but man’s sins. (Is. 59:1)
      2. vs. 2 - Shaking the mountains at His presence, and causes water to boil (What other god can do this? Physical demonstration of His power.)
        - a) God is reminded how He showed He defeated His enemies
        - b) Now, the adversaries of God seem to have the upper hand because His children are being punished.
      3. vs. 3 - His actions were awesome, not expected because other god’s had never done anything like this before or ever! (Psalm 12:3)
  - III. What makes God Unique? (Is. 64:4)
    - A. There isn’t any other God like this God: “For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, Nor has the eye seen a God besides You...”
      1. Since the creation of Adam to today, no one has ever seen or heard of a God like Jehovah who can do what He does. Some refuse to understand the TRUE God because of their hard heart. (Cf. 1 Cor. 2:6-10)

2. What sets this God apart from other god's is more than His omnipotence...
  3. He **WORKS** for people who are willing to look to Him, trust Him and give Him credit for working, rather than presuming that God NEEDS more workers like me (or that God needs me in order to exist).
  4. All other gods say, "Prove yourself; carry me, then I will bless you.
- B. Contrast between Jehovah God and the false gods
1. Bel (Marduk), Nebo (Nebuchadnezzar), were being carried away as booty by the enemies. Ropes had been wrapped around them and brought down. They were being carried by the oxen.
  2. The imagery is that the worshippers were carrying away the god that was supposed to save them! The god that was supposed to make their lives easier was placing a heavy burden on them!
  3. These gods says, "Carry me." God says, "I will carry you." (vs. 4)
  4. Jehovah bears, carries, and saves (vs. 3-4)
  5. Other gods demand work and service in exchange for a blessing (works based salvation), Jehovah works for those who wait (trust) in Him, and not in themselves.

Applications:

1. Psalm 20:7; "Some *boast* in chariots and some in horses, But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God."
2. Structure your prayers with praise for how great God has been in your life and in the life of others. (Exodus 15:2, 11, 18; 46 The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior! 49 Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name. Psalm 18:46, 49)
3. Recall that God has always carried you, since you were in your mother's womb and will carry you till your gray haired head rests on the pillow.
4. Give God the glory for there is no other God like Jehovah
5. Learn to wait on the Lord, learn to go when He says to go and to stay when He tells you to wait.
6. Give up your idols.

Conclusion:

1. Since the fall o man God has revealed the scheme of redemption. Man has had a part in that plan, most of the time without his knowledge. However, from the Abraham's journey, to the sacrifice of his son Isaac, to Jacob and Esau's deal, Jacob's blessings, Joseph's bones, 400 years of slavery, Moses priests and the wandering years, Rahab's faith and the walls of Jericho, to the partial possession of the Promised Land, from the judges to the kings and prophets, from 400 years of silence to the young virgin, the Messiah came to this world to work for mankind for giving us the gift of salvation. Great is the Lord who does great works for those who wait on Him.
2. Plan of salvation.