

An illustration of a father with dark hair and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt and green pants, carrying a young child on his back. The child is wearing a green shirt and yellow pants. They are both looking towards the right. The background is a soft, light-colored wash.

He Carries Us Like A Father

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One of the most endearing titles of God is the term “Father”. This best explains the most intimate and affectionate relationship God has with His dear children. In Isaiah 46:3, the LORD calls “all the remnant of the house of Israel” to listen to Him attentively. These constitute the true Israel, the remnant according to the election of grace, born of God by faith and thus, are joined to God in covenantal love (v. 4). Therefore, what He says to them applies to us today. In this context, the LORD contrasts Himself with the impotent idols of the heathen (vv. 1-2, 5-7) in order to revive and strengthen the remnant’s faith in Jehovah. It is stating the obvious to say that He has no equal as the Saviour and Father of His people.

What did the LORD declare to His remnant people who were waiting upon Him? The LORD said, “And 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” (Isaiah 46:4).

There are several vital truths that we can glean from this declaration for our learning and comfort.

God Carries His Children

The word “carry” appears twice in this verse while its cognate, “bear”, appears once.

This repetition intensifies the meaning of this particular action of God. It means that not only will He surely carry without fail, He will also carry us with tender love and unswerving commitment.

To show the surety of His care, God says, “I am he” (v. 4a). That is to say, He is the ever living and unchangeable Jehovah, the author and finisher of the covenant. He is the One who is almighty and omnipresent. He is constantly by the side of His people each passing moment of every day. As their caring heavenly Father, He knows their frame and empathizes with their frailty (cf. Psalm 103:14). Accordingly, He commits Himself to tend to their problems arising from their weakness and to attend to their various needs of life.

As a compassionate Father, God carries His children in His bosom with all intense supervision and protectiveness. He not only supports and sustains them, but also raises them (when they sometimes unwittingly fall) out of the “horrible pit” of turbulent turmoil and distress. He further undertakes to set their feet upon a rock (high above the raging waves and, therefore, a place of security), establishing their footing and directing their steps in due course (Psalm 40:2; cf. Proverbs 3:6). Oh, what privilege and honour we have as God’s children, being assured of His constant care and nourishment!

God Carries Even to Old Age

“And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you” (v. 4a, b). God’s carrying extends from the womb to the grave (vv. 3-4; cf. Psalm 22:10). Our God is not limited by time. He ever lives to nurture and sustain His people. Our sojourn on earth comprises different seasons of life (cf. Ecclesiastes 3:1-11), with each appointed season inexorably descending upon us

with its share of joy and sorrow, success and failure, health and sickness, bounty and want, etc. Yet as an affectionate Father, God promises to carry His children in all seasons of their lives (cf. Deuteronomy 1:31). Just as our natural life is constantly sustained by His providence, our spiritual life is necessarily sustained by His grace. Therefore, in the midst of life’s uncertainties and unforeseen turn of events, we can depend on God’s providence and grace to safely carry us through.

Dear children of the heavenly Father, He is unchangeable! His love and care for His people remain the same at every age. He never fails His children! At every stage of our life (be it childhood, adolescence, adulthood or old age) and in various conditions of life’s journey (whether we be wealthy or deprived, full of mental / physical strength or infirm and disabled, at the peak of success or in the valley of distress), we can securely cast ourselves into the everlasting arms of our heavenly Father. He is ever committed to help, nourish and sustain us right to the end (“even to ... old age”). Indeed, He has covenanted with His people: “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5b).

God Carries to Deliver

“I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you” (v. 4c). The Almighty God, who is the unchanging and faithful Guardian of our soul, is also the tender Father who carries His people in order to deliver them from all physical or spiritual adversities through all the vicissitudes of life. He delivers us from every enemy of our soul. He delivers us from the many devices and snares of the devil every moment of our sojourning as “strangers and pilgrims” on this earth. Come what may, God’s power and love is ever available to secure the safety of His children constantly.

Our heavenly Father also delivers us from spiritual dejection. He delivers us out of the “miry clay” (Psalm 40:2) of wicked men’s contempt and smearing disdain. Admittedly, their false accusations and scandalous insinuations could so easily discredit our testimony and stain our good name. Though God’s people may be called all sorts of unflattering names and evil spoken of, God will deliver and vindicate them in due course. This comforting assurance of God’s careful attendance to His children’s deliverance is affirmed by the words of the psalmist: “The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore” (Psalm 121:7-8; cf. Isaiah 63:9).

Therefore, in the midst of trials and temptations of all sorts, we can confidently call upon the LORD to deliver us. He is the compassionate Father who sympathizes with us, the omniscient God who knows our every situation, the omnipotent Sovereign who delivers unerringly, and the faithful Friend who comes to our aid at any time and in any place. Let “all the remnant of the house of Israel” (i.e. the true Israel of God, the true disciples of Christ, the committed members of His body, the separated servants of Jehovah) trust in the living and true God. He stands by His Word (Isaiah 46:9-11)! And this is our firm security through all the changing scenes and seasons of this transient life. Amen.



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Exodus 35:21



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