

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, September 7, 2025

1. Read Isaiah 10:5-34
2. What does it mean that God is sovereign?
3. In our text Isaiah is giving us a glimpse behind the curtain to see what is going on, both from the divine perspective, as well as in the heart of the Assyrian King, as Assyria is invading the northern kingdom of Israel. In doing so, we learn what's really going on in this invasion. From the divine perspective what's going on, and why is it taking place?
4. From the perspective of Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser, why is he carrying out this invasion? What is in his heart as he is doing this?
5. What insight do you get from this passage on how divine sovereignty and human freedom interact with each other?
6. Why is it that God violates human freedom in regeneration?
7. God promises to restore a remnant of His people after He judges Assyria. What will characterize their restoration?
8. What do you learn from this exhortation in v.24 where the Lord tells His people to not fear the Assyrians? Why is it that the sovereignty of God should help to alleviate fear? How do

these to those two great acts of judgement and deliverance in Israel's history, first from Midian and then from the Egyptians, tie into that?

9. Question one of The Heidelberg Catechism asks, "What is your only comfort in life and death?" The answer is, "That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and redeemed me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me, that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must work together for my salvation. Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life." Where do you see the sovereignty of God in this answer?

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Romans 6:11-12

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father in heaven, how great and glorious you are! You are the one true and living God in whom alone there is life. Father, by the gracious work of your Spirit you have made us new in Christ, and yet how prone we are to think of ourselves in relation to our old way of life. We do not stand on the fact that sin has lost its controlling power over us now that we are in Christ, but when temptation comes we yield to it, feeling as though we are still slaves to it. We let sin reign in us and push us around as if it were still master over us when the reality is we have been raised to newness of life in our union with the risen Christ. For it is His resurrection power that has raised us from spiritual death and is now at work in us. This is the truth of the gospel, and we confess it and ask that you forgive us for not living in accord with it. Father, please help us to believe this great truth and to appropriate it, that we would not let sin reign in our mortal bodies, but we would walk in newness of life by the power of our risen Savior to whom we are joined by faith. We ask these things for His name's sake, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Romans 8:33-34

“Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-- more than that, who was raised-- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 1

1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and redeemed me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me, that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must work together for my salvation. Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready henceforth to live unto Him.

2. How many things are necessary for you to know, that you in this comfort may live and die happily?

Three things: first, the greatness of my sin and misery. Second, how I am redeemed from all my sins and misery. Third, how I am to be thankful to God for such redemption.

NT Reading: Acts 12:20-24

Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. ²¹ On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²² And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. ²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.