

# Sermon Study Questions

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

1. Read Isaiah 33
2. Describe the context surrounding this chapter. Who is v.1 addressed to, and what does it mean?
3. Throughout Judah's saga under the Assyrian threat we have seen how they have looked to man to save them, and now we see them looking to money to save them. But it has all been to no avail. So, now that they have exhausted all their resources they turn to the Lord as a last resort. In doing so we see them cry out to Him in a prayer of trust. What do they say about God in the prayer? What are they appealing to in crying out to Him to save them? What do you learn from that?
4. Beginning in v.7 we see that the way back to God involves brokenness, so that God brings us to the end of ourselves. How does God respond to being the last resort? Where in the text do we see His response? How is the gospel (i.e. God's gracious promise to save) seen in this section (v.7-14)?
5. In v.11-14 Isaiah describes the judgment God will bring on the Assyrians. In doing so, we again have the truth that God is a God of justice reinforced to us. What does this mean, and what are the implications of it for the believer and the unbeliever? How is God's justice a comfort to you?
6. Sometimes God brings justice upon His enemies in this life. In v.11 He speaks of the justice that will come upon Sennacherib, king of Assyria. What does v.11 mean and how would justice come upon him? Moreover, how would it come upon Assyria?

7. Isaiah says that hearing of God's justice will cause people both near and far to fear the Lord and ask, "Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?" What are they asking here? Moreover, the answer given in v.15 is, "He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking on evil." Knowing that we are not saved by works, but by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, why does he say that those who can "dwell with the consuming fire" (i.e. can dwell with God) are those who live a godly life? What is he teaching us here about Christianity, and specifically about faith and works in the Christian's life? Cf. Matthew 25:31-46.

8. How is renewal described in v.16-21? What is the difference between the way renewal happened in the lives of God's people under the Old (Mosaic) Covenant, and the way it happens under the New Covenant?

9. What is Isaiah describing in v.23 through the image of a crippled ship? What is your comfort in this? What is the final destination of this ship (v.24)? What is the basis upon which you can be sure that this crippled ship will make it safely to its final destination?

10. Pray!

**Reading of Law: 1 Timothy 6:11**

"But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness."

**Prayer of Confession:**

Our Father in Heaven, blessed be your most holy and glorious name. You are God full of majesty and splendor; a God who is high and lifted up far above all others. In hearing your perfect law we recognize that we are a sinful people who fall immeasurably short of your glory. You call us to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness, all of which are a reflection of your own perfect character, and yet we so often pursue the qualities which the world esteems instead. We pursue physical beauty rather than the inner beauty of

righteousness and godliness. We pride ourselves on being tough rather than on being gentle. And we devote much of our strength and energy into being successful in the world's eyes rather than in being loving. In our sinful hearts we have put great effort into impressing others, rather than putting all our effort into honoring you. Father, we confess this and acknowledge it as sin, and we ask for your forgiveness. In doing so, we ask that you would continue to sanctify us, transforming us into the image of our beautiful Savior by the renewing of our minds. For you are a gracious God. We ask this in order that you would be glorified. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### **Assurance of Forgiveness: Psalm 130:3-4**

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

#### **Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 28**

##### **Q.75. How is it signified and sealed to you in the Holy Supper that you partake of the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross and all His benefits?**

A. Thus: that Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat of this broken bread and to drink of this cup in remembrance of Him, and has joined therewith these promises: first, that His body was offered and broken on the cross for me and His blood shed for me, as certainly as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup communicated to me; and further, that with His crucified body and shed blood He Himself feeds and nourishes my soul to everlasting life, as certainly as I receive from the hand of the minister and taste with my mouth the bread and cup of the Lord, which are given me as certain tokens of the body and blood of Christ.

[1] [Matt. 26:26–28](#); [Mk. 14:22–24](#); [Lk. 22:19–20](#); [1 Cor. 10:16–17](#); [11:23–25](#); [12:13](#).

##### **Q. 76. What does it mean to eat the crucified body and drink the shed blood of Christ?**

A. It means not only to embrace with a believing heart all the sufferings and death of Christ, and thereby to obtain the forgiveness of sins and life eternal; but moreover, also, to be so united more and more to His sacred body by the Holy Spirit, who dwells both in Christ and in us,

that, although He is in heaven and we on earth, we are nevertheless flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone, and live and are governed forever by one Spirit, as members of the same body are governed by one soul.

[1] [Jn. 6:35, 40, 47-48, 50-54](#). [2] [Jn. 6:55-56](#). [3] [Acts 3:21](#); [1 Cor. 11:26](#). [4] [Eph. 3:16-19](#); [5:29-30, 32](#); [1 Cor. 6:15, 17, 19](#); [1 Jn. 4:13](#). [5] [Jn.14:23](#); [Jn. 6:56-58](#); [Jn. 15:1-6](#); [Eph. 4:15-16](#); [Jn. 6:63](#).

**Q.77. Where has Christ promised that He will thus feed and nourish believers with His body and blood as certainly as they eat of this broken bread and drink of this cup?**

A. In the institution of the Supper, which says: "The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." And this promise is also repeated by the Apostle Paul, where he says, "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, so we being many are one body, for we are all partakers of that one bread."

[1] [1 Cor. 11:23-26](#). [2] [1 Cor. 10:16-17](#).

**NT Reading: Ephesians 2:1-7**

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.