

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, May 10, 2026

1. Read Isaiah 40:12-31
2. In his books, *No Place for Truth* and *God in the Wasteland*, author David Wells argues that evangelical Christianity has lost its theological moorings by accommodating itself to modern culture as it has pushed serious doctrinal and theological thinking to the margins of church life by swapping theology for therapy and replacing a God-centered worldview with a self-centered one. The solution is to recover the weight and otherness of God. What does that mean? How is that done?
3. Like all of Isaiah, this passage does not come to us in a vacuum, but there is an historical context behind these words. What is that context, and how does this passage address that context?
4. The gist of our passage is that there is none like God, but He is the incomparable God (e.g. v.18, 25). Isaiah says that what makes Him incomparable is His sheer enormity, what the WLC refers to as His immensity (see WLC 7). How does He demonstrate this in our text?
5. Along with His sheer enormity, Isaiah also points to God's inexhaustible wisdom. Where does Isaiah speak of this? Why make this point here? What are the implications of this for you?
6. Lastly, Isaiah speaks of God's absolute sovereignty, over both the nations and its leaders. How does this help you in thinking about and reacting to the current events going on in the world?

7. In speaking about the fear of man in his book, *When People are Big and God is Small*, Ed Welch says, "All experiences of the fear of man share at least one common feature: people are big. They have grown to idolatrous proportions in our lives. They control us." How does seeing God as big and grand address this problem of the fear of man?

8. What does it mean to see God as big? What does it mean to wait on the Lord (v.31)? What is the connection between how we see God (as either big and grand, or small and domesticated), and our ability to wait on the Lord amidst hardship and trial?

9. What are some other areas of your life where seeing God as big and grand will have positive and practical implications for you? I.e prayer, parenting, financial concerns, etc...

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Ephesians 5:15-17

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed by your name. You are a great God who is full of grace and mercy, but we are a sinful people who are prone to foolishness. You have given us your pure and perfect Word which reveals your will to us and yet we confess that in our folly we neglect your Word and as a result we fail to understand what your will is and instead walk in our own flawed understanding. We likewise confess that we daily do not make the best use of our time. We do not live each moment for your glory as you created us to do, but we live for self and we use our brief time on earth which you so graciously give us for our own pleasure rather than for lifting up the name of Christ. It is to our shame that we waste so much of our time. Please forgive us, and please work in us in such a way that we would hunger for your Word, walk in your ways, and redeem the time you give us for your glory. We thank you for Jesus Christ our Savior as He lived a life of perfect wisdom, living every moment of His incarnate life for your glory and for our good. We thank you that by grace alone through faith in Him alone His righteousness becomes our righteousness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 35

Q.96. What does God require in the second commandment?

That we in no way make any image of God, nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded us in His Word.

[1] [Deut. 4:15–19](#); [Isa. 40:18](#), [25](#). [Rom. 1:22–24](#); [Acts 17:29](#). [2] [1 Sam. 15:23](#); [Deut. 12:30–32](#); [Matt. 15:9](#); *[Deut. 4:23–24](#); *[Jn. 4:24](#).

Q.97. May we not make any image at all?

God may not and cannot be imaged in any way; as for creatures, though they may indeed be imaged, yet God forbids the making or keeping of any likeness of them, either to worship them or to serve God by them.

[1] [Ex. 23:24–25](#); [34:13–14](#); [Deut. 7:5](#); [12:3](#); [16:22](#); [2 Kgs. 18:4](#); *[Jn. 1:18](#).

Q.98. But may not pictures be tolerated in churches as books for the people?

No, for we should not be wiser than God, who will not have His people taught by dumb idols, but by the lively preaching of His Word.

[1] [Jer. 10:8](#); [Hab. 2:18–19](#). [2] [2 Pet. 1:19](#); [2 Tim. 3:16–17](#); [Rom. 10:17](#).

NT Reading: Revelation 4:1-11

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" ⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."