

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, June 21, 2026

1. Read Isaiah 44 v1-23
2. As we have seen throughout Isaiah, idolatry is a major theme. Considering the historical context Isaiah is addressing in this section, why would idolatry be particularly tempting for Judah here?
3. The Lord begins chapter 43 by talking about the promise of the Holy Spirit. How and when would this promise find its initial fulfillment? Where is its ultimate fulfillment found?
4. In v.3 the Lord points ahead to the time when the Spirit would be poured out on the thirsty land and streams on dry ground. In doing so He is pointing to the future work of the Spirit under the New Covenant in birthing new life and true faith in those who do not know the Lord. Does this mean that the Spirit wasn't present and operating in this way under the Old Covenant? What would be your argument for saying it doesn't mean that? What is different about the Spirit's future work the Lord is pointing to under the New Covenant in v.3, from the work He was presently doing under the Old Covenant?
5. In v.6-23 the Lord is addressing the theme of idolatry, beginning by once again highlighting why He is unique from, and infinitely superior to, idols. What is an idol? What are some questions you would ask of yourself to help you identify potential idols in your own life?
6. The Lord's summary statement about idols is that they do not profit - i.e. they are worthless (v.9). To illustrate how worthless idols are, the Lord shows how idols are made, first by the ironworker in v.12, then by the carpenter in v.13 ff. What we learn from the ironsmith is that idols demand of us, take from us, and drain us. How do they do this? (Think about ancient idols like Molech, as well as modern day idols such as career, wealth, and achievement, or any other modern day idols).

7. What is the point the Lord is making by showing the carpenter and his idol making endeavors?

8. Throughout this text the Lord is wanting His people to know who He is and why He alone should be exalted as God. What do you learn about in this text that you should always remember about Him?

9. In v.21-22 the Lord is also concerned that His people remember certain things about themselves as well. In its immediate context this is speaking to God's covenant people Judah as they languished in exile in Babylon as the Lord is wanting them to know that He hasn't abandoned them, but they are still His people and He will remember them and redeem them, meaning He will set them free from this captivity. But what the Lord says here is also very much true of you and me as His New Covenant people, the Israel of God (Gal.6:16). According to these verses, what is most important for you to know and remember about yourself and who you are? Why are these things so important for you to always remember?

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: 1 John 5:21

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Prayer of Confession:

Our merciful Father in heaven, you are a God who is full of kindness and mercy. You love us with an everlasting love, and you do so in spite of the fact that we do the very things you forbid. We confess that we often neglect you, forget you, and disobey you. We tolerate ignorance of you and your Word in our own lives, being lazy and slothful in our pursuit of you. We fail to believe you and trust you in all things. We are prone to place our ultimate hope in other things, and we allow other things to compete for that place of supremacy in our hearts that belongs to you alone. Father, we confess that in these ways and more we erect idols in our lives. Please forgive us. Please help us to keep ourselves from idols. We thank you for our

Savior, that He has succeeded where we have failed and kept your Law perfectly. We thank you that through faith in Him His righteousness is imputed to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 41

Q.108. What does the seventh commandment teach us?

That all unchastity is accursed of God, and that we should therefore loathe it with our whole heart, and live chastely and modestly, whether in holy wedlock or single life.

[1] [Lev. 18:27–28](#). [2] [Jude 1:22–23](#). [3] [1 Thess. 4:3–5](#). [4] [Heb. 13:4](#); [1 Cor. 7:1–4](#).

Q.109. Does God forbid nothing more in this commandment than adultery and such gross sins?

Since both our body and soul are temples of the Holy Spirit, it is His will that we keep both pure and holy; therefore, He forbids all unchaste actions, gestures, words, thoughts, desires, and whatever may entice thereto.

[1] [Eph. 5:3–4](#); [1 Cor. 6:18–20](#). [2] [Matt. 5:27–30](#). [3] [Eph. 5:18–19](#); [1 Cor. 15:33](#).

NT Reading: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested¹ on each one of

them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians-- we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'