

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, August 2, 2026

1. Read Isaiah 48
2. Our passage is divided neatly in half, with v.1-11 looking to the past and v.12-22 looking to the future. In doing so, the key is found in the verb *to hear* (*shama* in Hebrew). What does *shama* mean and why is it so critical to the message of this chapter as we seek to both learn from the past and look to the future?
3. 1 Cor.10:1-11 tells us that Israel's experience in the OT took place as examples for us, meaning they took place so we could learn from the things they went through. In looking to Judah's past, there are four things we are to learn from it, the first of which is that external religion isn't enough. What does this mean, and where do we see this in the text? Also, where else do we see this point brought to the fore in Isaiah?
4. We also learn from Judah's past that God is faithful to His word, so that He does all that He says He will do. Where do we see this in the text? What are some of the things the Lord has said He will do that are particularly meaningful for you personally? Why is it that you can have absolute confidence that the Lord will do for you those things He said He will do?
5. The third lesson we learn from Judah is that God has revealed to us what is necessary for us, and it is incumbent upon us to grasp what He's revealed to us. How can you practically apply this particular lesson in your life? How is this different from paganism and other forms of spirituality?
6. Lastly, in v.9-11 we learn from Judah that God works in us for His own glory and the glory of His name. What particular event is this passage referring to?

7. Ray Ortlund said in commenting on these verses, “If you are in Christ, whatever God is doing in your life right now is not an experiment that He might abandon if He gets fed up with you. You need to know that God would have to stop being God before He’d quit on you.” What does he mean that “God would have to stop being God before He’d quit on you”?

8. As we look to the future in v.12-22, the main thing the Lord is calling Judah (and us) to do is to trust in Him. In doing so, he points (as he often does) to the Lord as the eternal, sovereign creator and author of history (v.12-16). In what way does seeing Him in this way inspire your trust in Him?

9. In v.17-22 Isaiah is calling us to trust in the Lord in a more personal way, as our shepherd who redeems us and the One who teaches us to profit and guides us in the way we should go. Do you believe God has your best interest in mind? How is it that seeing God in this way, as One who truly has your best in mind, inspires, and is even necessary, to your personal obedience to Him?

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Prayer of Confession:

“Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name. You are the one and only true and living God, the Father of lights in whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. We come before you this morning in awe of you and your most holy Word, confessing our sin to you. We are those who so often fail to be doers of the Word, but hearers only. We are those who hear your Word, but in hearing we deceive ourselves into thinking that having heard we have also done what we have heard. Father, please forgive us. Please also help us to be those who are eager hearers and doers of your Word. For your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We thank you for your Word, and we thank you for the grace and forgiveness your Word promises us in Jesus Christ. In His name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: John 10:7-11

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 47

Q.122. What is the first petition?

A. "Hallowed be Your name;" that is, grant us, first, rightly to know You, and to sanctify, magnify, and praise You in all Your works, in which Your power, goodness, justice, mercy, and truth shine forth; and further, that we so order our whole life, our thoughts, words, and deeds, that Your Name may not be blasphemed, but honored and praised on our account.

[1] [Jn. 17:3](#); [Matt. 16:17](#); [Jas. 1:5](#); [Ps. 119:105](#). [2] [Ps. 119:137](#); [Rom. 11:33–36](#). [3] [Ps. 71:8](#); [*Ps. 100:3–4](#); [*Ps. 92:1–2](#); [*Eph. 1:16–17](#); [*Ps. 71:16](#).

NT Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality ^bas some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ ¹to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.