

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, October 4, 2026

1. Read Isaiah ch.54
2. Isaiah 54 is all about God's gracious work in applying the work of His faithful servant to our lives. In doing so, He supplies us with three analogies showing us the glory of the rebuilt life we have as a result of His work. The first metaphor is of a distraught woman having her distress reversed and turned into joy. Within this metaphor he gives three different experiences, beginning with a barren woman giving birth to a multitude of children. What about barrenness makes this such a powerful metaphor? What is Isaiah saying through this metaphor?
3. Isaiah next talk about the widowed woman being comforted. Why was widowhood such a perilous experience in the ancient world? What does the Lord say to the widowed woman? How does He refer to Himself, and what is the significance of this?
4. Lastly, Isaiah speaks about the rejection a divorced woman felt, and how the Lord ministers to that rejection. In its historical context, what is Isaiah talking about here with regards to Judah? What is the broader point in light of the saving work of the Servant of the Lord?
5. What does the Lord mean by "My covenant of peace" in v.10? What is the covenant of peace? Why does He speak of it in connection with the Noahic judgment and covenant? What is the connection?
6. Isaiah next speaks about a ruined city that is remade. What is this remade city? Read Revelation 21:2, 9-10.

7. In describing the remade city, Isaiah describes it as being made of beautiful and precious stones, while John is given a vision of it being made of beautiful and precious stones, pearls, and gold. Why is this remade city revealed in this way? What is the Lord saying about this remade city?

8. According to v.15-17 your part as part of the remade city is completely secure. What in the text gives you complete assurance of this? Hint: pay particular attention to v.17. 2nd hint: What does this word *vindication* mean?

9. What practical application can you make from this text/sermon?

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Psalm 96:1-3

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! ² Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father in heaven, you are good and do good. How grateful we are that you are a gracious and merciful God, one who bids us to call you “Father.” You have given us so much to rejoice in and sing about, and yet we fail to do so. Father, your Word makes it clear that singing to you is an important part of the life of faith, as throughout Scripture we are repeatedly commanded to sing to the Lord. And yet, how temperamental we are in our singing, so that we typically sing to you only when we feel like singing and when we like the songs that are sung. And even then, our singing so often lacks the enthusiasm that you are worthy of, but it is something we do half-heartedly. Father, please forgive us. Please also work in us by your Spirit, that the implications of what you have done for us in Christ would grip us with far greater force and bring up within us the abundant joy that it is meant to give. We thank you that in spite of our half-heartedness you remain ever so constant and consistent in your love and commitment to us. Thank you for Jesus Christ and His gospel, and for the new life you have graciously given us in Him. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Ephesians 2:13-16

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 11. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

[Ps. 145:17](#); [Ps. 104:24](#); [Isa. 28:29](#); [Heb. 1:3](#); [Ps. 103:19](#); [Matt. 10:29-31](#).

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.

[Gal. 3:12](#); [Gen. 2:17](#).

Q. 13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

[Gen. 3:6-8, 13](#); [Ecc. 7:29](#).

NT Reading: Revelation 21:10-27

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed-- ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁵ And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. ¹⁷ Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁸ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. ¹⁹ The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ²⁰ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²¹ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²² And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. ²³ And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²⁴ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁵ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁶ and its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.