

## Discussion Questions for February 22-18, 2026

1. What two rulers are contrasted in Isaiah 13:2–4, and what is the outcome of each opposing rule?
2. Last week we introduced the Babylon principle. We discussed the first king of Babylon and Assyria, Nimrod, the rebel against God and his oppressive motives (Genesis 10:8–11). We discussed the tower of Babel, where man tried to make a name that would reach the heavens for himself (Genesis 11:4). We discussed how we could see these same motives in the proud and terrible in Isaiah 13:11. How can we see this Babylon principle at work in this king of Babylon in the following parts of the taunt song against him:
  - a. Rest & the King (14:4–8)
  - b. Sheol & the King (14:9–15)
  - c. Observers & the King (14:16–21)
3. Going through those parts again, what are the consequences that the king of Babylon faces for living according to the Babylon principle?
4. How do these consequences fit with what God accomplished historically with Assyria, as He promised throughout Isaiah (14:22–27)?
5. Isaiah has shown us where the rule of the king of Babylon leads. Later in the book, he introduces us to the Lord’s Servant whose service leads to a completely different outcome (Isaiah 52:13–53:12). Let’s look at this Servant and contrast Him with the king of Babylon.
  - a. What will be the response of kings to the Lord’s Servant (52:15) vs. the response to the King of Babylon?
  - b. How did the Lord’s Servant interact with others (53:4–7) vs. the interactions of the King of Babylon?
  - c. What will be the fruit of the work of the Lord’s Servant (53:10–11) vs. the fruit of the work of the King of Babylon?
  - d. What additional contrasts have you noticed? Why are they important?
6. How does the work of Satan, described in Hebrews 2:14–15, fit with what you have seen regarding the King of Babylon?
7. According to Hebrews 2:14–15, how does Jesus defeat Satan, and how does that tactic differ from the tactics of the King of Babylon?
8. Returning to Question 1, after everything we have seen, why does the rule of the Lord result in rest while the rule of the King of Babylon produces sorrow, fear, and bondage?
9. In what ways does Satan’s rule show up in our lives through Babylon-like patterns such as self-inflation, self-exaltation, control, or trust in worldly means or methods, and how does that rob us of our rest?
10. How can this taunt song help us this week as we seek to live under the rule of God and reject the ways of Satan?