

## Discussion Questions for March 1-7, 2026

1. History Note: Under Uzziah, Judah made gains against the Philistines (2 Chron. 26:6-7). It seems that Jotham maintained these gains, but that they were lost under Ahaz (2 Chron. 28:18). Hezekiah, however, made a dramatic comeback against them during his reign (2 Kings 18:8).  
In verses 28-30, the poetry pushes the reader to contrast the fate of two roots. Who might these contrasting roots be referring to and what are their opposite fates?
2. All the Burdens were introduced by Babylon, which we saw was established in pride apart from God and spread through oppression and death. How does the text imply that Philistia operated according to this same Babylon principle in verses 30-32?
3. What did Philistia think was a cause to rejoice (14:29) and how is that different from what God has for His people (14:32)?
4. Isaiah contrasts temporary relief which seems to remove danger with refuge that makes a person safe. In what ways do people today mistake relief from their negative circumstances as refuge from God's judgment like Philistia did? (if stuck, see 1 Thess. 5:3)
5. What refuge does God have for His people today and how is that better than relief from negative circumstances? (Rom. 8:1; Col. 3:3)
6. In 15:1 the Burden against Moab begins. Here we do not see relief as refuge. The Moabites try other tactics out. Where do they turn in their hardship (15:1-2) and why do you think they did not get their desired result?
7. In what ways can religious activity become a substitute for repentance – and how does it usually end? (Matt. 7:22-23)
8. When religious activity doesn't work, what will Moab's next attempt be (15:7-9) and why do you think they did not get their desired result?
9. Why do people often think that relocation will solve a problem that is caused by sin – and how does it usually end? (Heb. 4:12-13)
10. Philistia mistook relief for refuge. Moab tried religion and then geographical relocation. None of this ended well, even if it gave them temporary relief. This week, how can being aware of God's unshakeable promises and provision for real refuge (Heb. 6:17-18) influence our hearts and decisions as well as how we interact with others? Give examples.