

## Discussion Questions for March 22-28, 2026

1. There was a book written in the 90s called *When People Are Big and God Is Small*. What problems have you seen come into people's lives when people seem bigger than the Lord to them?
2. We see this problem clearly in Ahaz. In his day, Judah was surrounded by enemies: the Syro-Ephraimite alliance to the north and Assyria looming over them. During this time, Ahaz saw people as big and the Lord as small. He reached out to Assyria to help him against the Syro-Ephraimite alliance (2 Kings 16:7-8). What are the consequences of Ahaz seeking help from Assyria according to Isaiah 7:17-25?
3. Isaiah 17:12-18:7 is meant to adjust our vision of people in comparison to God. According to Isaiah 17:12, the nations were like loud, rushing waters in the sight of Judah. In what ways can people feel like the constant noise of a rushing river—loud, overwhelming, and hard to tune out?
4. According to Isaiah 17:13, these roaring rivers will be like chaff, dust, or tumbleweed at God's rebuke. How could this vision help the people of Judah as they fear the destruction of their nation?
5. In 17:14, the Lord tells Judah that this is the "portion" of the nations who are plundering them, but then He speaks about timing. What part of the timing might Judah find troubling, and why?
6. In 18:1-7, God addresses a nation that is far away: the kingdom of Cush (in the region of modern-day Sudan). They have sent messengers to Judah amid the Assyrian crisis, and Isaiah sends the messengers back with a message from God. What does God tell Cush to wait for in 18:3? What do you think God is telling them they will see and hear?
7. In 18:4-6, God tells them about His involvement in world affairs. He is not loud and tumultuous, but He is active and everywhere—like the quiet heat and still humidity of harvest season. He times His actions according to His goals – like a vinedresser times his pruning of unwanted suckers or branches. What does God's timing teach us about how He works?
8. In 18:7, when will Cush come to Zion again, and what will they bring? Why must they wait until then?
9. Judah had their enemies to fear. Who are some people that might cause fear in the church today? How can remembering the power of the Lord's rebuke help us view those people correctly?
10. Judah also faced the temptation to trust in people instead of the Lord. Who are some people today who might persuade the church to trust in them? How can remembering the Lord's power and timing help us evaluate those offers?
11. When the people around us seem big, loud, and constant, we can at times act in our fear and get ourselves in trouble. What are the benefits of waiting for God's timing in these circumstances? How can we practically do that this week?