

## Discussion Questions for March 29-April 4, 2026

1. In our passage today, we see that the Lord is going to cause the Nile River to fail (5–15). This will have devastating effects on the inhabitants of the land. What key piece of the economy could this be compared to in California specifically or the USA in general and why do you think that is a good comparison?
2. According to verses 1–4, the Lord visiting Egypt will lead to all sorts of instability in the land beyond economic instability. Isaiah says that the visit causes religious collapse and political infighting among the Egyptians. Why do you think the visit from the Lord causes religious collapse and political infighting in Egypt?
3. According to verses 3 and 11–14, part of the infighting will be due to the failure of Egypt's wisdom. Speculate a little: What different factions sprung up to address the Nile Crisis among the Egyptians in their wisdom?
4. All of this culminates in the Lord delivering Egypt into the hands of a "cruel master" and "fierce king" (4). We have seen earlier that the Babylon principle leads to "mighty ones" like Nimrod (Gen. 10:8), but this also reminds us of Egypt's own cruelty when Israel was under its yoke. Why does trust in and the love of things of this world lead to oppression?
5. We have seen that these burdens were meant to dissuade God's people from relying on the nations around them that all functioned under the same Babylon principle to deliver them from Assyria. Hearing about this future of Egypt, name some good reasons why Judah should reject an alliance with them and instead rely on the Lord?
6. However, the Lord also wants Judah to know that it will not always be this way. God has plans for their neighbors that are beyond anything an alliance could bring about. We start to see this in verse 16 as the text shifts to the language of "in that day." This reminds us of the day of the Lord from Isaiah 13:6, 9. What change does this day produce in the hearts of the Egyptians according to verse 16–17 (also 1 & 3)? How is this different from the heart of their Pharaoh who oppressed Israel in Exodus (Exodus 7:14)?
7. What does this change of heart lead them to do in verses 18–20?
8. How does the Lord respond in verses 20–22 and how does that remind you of His response to Israel in Exodus?
9. How does the worship of the Lord fundamentally change the geopolitical landscape of the near east in verses 23–25?
10. We need to be on guard against the Babylon principle – the world – in our lives. What responses in moments of crisis can show us that we are more aligned with the world than with the Lord (James 3:13–4:4)?
11. Thinking about what James says, how does infighting among Christians in particular show that worldliness has become part of our fellowship?
12. Having seen where wisdom from below leads, how does the true wisdom from the Lord fundamentally change our relationships in the church and our view of difficulties that we face today?