

Discussion Questions for April 19-April 25, 2026

1. Last week we saw that the people asked, "How shall we escape?" when they saw Assyria leading the Egyptian-Cushite alliance in chains. This week we will begin to see how people who cannot escape God's judgment or discipline respond to it – whether good or bad. In our study of Isaiah, what are some of the reasons you have seen that God is bringing judgment against Jerusalem and/or the nations?
2. Read verses 1-10. Babylon "falls" many times throughout its history. Assyria wiped the city off the map in 689 BC. Cyrus the Great won it in the biblically famous night when the prophet read the writing on the wall in 539 BC. The Greeks took the city in 331 BC, which led to its eventual and slow decline. When the watchman announces the fall in Isaiah 21:9, what does he say falls with the city? Why would that be important during Isaiah's time?
3. In Isaiah's day, the news that even Babylon will fall would have meant Assyria was completely dominant – which would have been a blow to anyone who was hoping in Babylon to escape God's rod, Assyria. The Babylon principle, as we have seen in chapters 13-14, is the same principle that underlies worldliness today. During hard times, which may be discipline from the Lord, how can we turn to worldly people to help us?
4. What are the consequences of turning to the world during hard times in our lives?
5. Read verses 11-12. What are the Edomites looking for from the watchman, and does the watchman give it to them?
6. During hard times, we might be tempted to just focus on wanting the hard time to stop. According to Hebrews 12:9-11, why might praying only for better circumstances be missing what God is doing in our lives?
7. Read verses 13-17. What are the Ishmaelites warned will happen to them within a year?
8. During hard times, we might be tempted to rely on our skills and resources to overcome the difficulties. This seems responsible, even resourceful. Do you think this is how God wants us to respond to hard times? Why or why not?
9. Read Colossians 3:5-11. When we see worldly responses in our heart and life – which sometimes come to light during hard times – what are believers commanded to do with them?
10. This week, how will you seek to die to worldliness and walk in your new life in Christ?