Sermon Discussion Questions

For small group leaders or for a whole small group to use

"Trusting the Lord and Savior of Nations" (Isaiah 13-20) | November 8, 2026
Drew Hunter

Sermon Overview

Main Idea
Isaiah calls us not to dread, disdain, or depend on nations in times of turmoil. Why? Because God is the Lord and Savior of nations, and He is our hope in tumultuous times amongst them.

Sermon Outline
1. God Rules the Nations, So Don't Dread Them (Isaiah 13-14)
2. God Saves the Nations, So Don't Disdain Them (Isaiah 15-19)
3. God Judges Nations, So Don't Depend on Them (Isaiah 20)

Quotation(s)

On reverse.

Discussion Questions

Read together these portions of the Scripture text: Isaiah 13:1-11; 19:18-25.

Initial Engagement
- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on?
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most, and why?

Deeper Reflection on the Meaning and Implications
1. Read aloud John Newton's quote (on reverse). Discuss the setting and recount the two political maxims from his reflections. How is Newton's perspective convicting or comforting to you?

2. Consider these three responses to political turmoil we see in Isaiah's poetic prophesy to Israel.
   a. Dread. Do you experience some measure of dread or fear of other nations, or even our own? Why did God want Israel to know how nations would be judged? What did He want them (and us) to remember? How does this challenge or encourage you?
   b. Disdain. Drew walked us through "one bright thread of hope" that weaves through God's sorrowful judgment of nations. Read together Isaiah 16:5; 17:7-8; 19:18-25. Summarize this hope in kingdom terms. How does this vision of God's ultimate plan for the nations alter your attitude toward them?
   c. Dependence. God used Isaiah to warn Israel about dependence upon Egypt to protect them from Assyria. In what ways are you tempted to depend upon nations, political parties, or leaders? How did Isaiah's exhortation challenge or encourage you?

3. How did our celebration of FIVE BAPTISMS (!) on Sunday further provide hope that God's ultimate plan for all nations is being fulfilled through Jesus? People are being baptized all over the world! How does this give you vision for your purpose and calling? For missions? For sharing the Gospel?

Final Response
- What is one thing you want to remember or do in light of this sermon or discussion?

It is a time of prayer. We see the beginning of trouble, but who can foresee the possible consequences?

I do not meddle with the disputes of party, nor concern myself with any political maxims, but such as are laid down in Scripture. There I read that righteousness exalts a nation, and that sin is the reproach, and if persisted in, the ruin of any people. Some people are startled at the enormous sum of our national debt; they who do spiritual arithmetic may well be startled if they sit down and compute the debt of national sin…

There is one political maxim which comforts me: "the Lord reigns." His hand guides the storm; and he knows them that are his—how to protect, support, and deliver them. He will take care of his own cause; yes, he will extend his kingdom, even by these formidable methods. Men have one thing in view; He has another, and his counsel shall stand.

--John Newton in 1775

God can use bad people to punish bad people without himself becoming bad.

--Ray Ortlund