

The Gospel According to Isaiah

From RUIN To REDEMPTION



Small Group Questions

Message: “The Trial of the False ‘gods’.”

Speaker: Pastor Dave Hentschel

Series: “From Ruin to Redemption.”

Date: 11/9/25

Text: Isa 41-46

1. **The Courtroom Scene:**

In Isaiah 41:1–4, God summons the nations to “set forth their case.” What does this courtroom imagery communicate about God’s relationship to the nations and to false gods?

2. **Predictive Power:**

In Isaiah 41:21–23, God challenges idols to “tell us what is to come.” Why is the ability to foretell the future such a key test of divinity?

3. **Idolatry and Control:**

What do people hope to gain from idols—whether ancient statues or modern substitutes (money, politics, reputation)? How do these things promise control, and how do they fail?

4. **God’s Sovereignty in History:**

Isaiah repeatedly points to Cyrus (44:28–45:1) as proof that Yahweh directs history. How does fulfilled prophecy strengthen our confidence in God’s sovereignty today?

5. **The Futility of Idols:**

Read Isaiah 44:9–20. What stands out to you in this satire of idol-making? What makes idolatry both irrational and yet deeply appealing?

6. **God’s Uniqueness:**

In Isaiah 45:5–7, God declares, “I am the Lord, and there is no other.” What aspects of God’s character or actions in these chapters distinguish Him from all rivals?

7. **Idols vs. Redeemer:**

Contrast Isaiah 46:1–4 (idols that must be carried) with God’s words, “I have made, and I will bear.” What difference does it make that our God carries us instead of us carrying Him?

8. **Heart-Level Idolatry:**

Even if we don’t bow to physical idols, what modern “idols of the heart” (Ezek. 14:3) compete for your trust or affection? How can Isaiah’s message expose and heal that?

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