Is. 26 Study Questions

People of God:

I suggest first trying to answer the question on your own before looking at the answer key. Also, read the text before tackling the question. Talk amongst yourselves and then if need be look at the answer key. God bless you on your work this day, and I wish I could be with you! My thoughts and prayers are with you on this day as you take advantage of another opportunity God has given you to study His Holy Word.

Read vv. 1-3.

1. Verse one begins with the words “we have a strong city; he sets up salvation.” Given that cities during the time of Isaiah rose and fell despite even the most advanced fortified walls, ramparts and armies, why could the faithful Israelite boast in having a “strong city?”

2. Note the close relation here between ‘city’ and ‘salvation.’ Jerusalem will fall to the Babylonians in 586 BC. Read Philippians 3: 20, Heb. 13: 14 and Revelation 21: 2. What kind of ‘city’ do you think Isaiah has in mind? Heavenly or earthly?

3. Here we find the words “righteous nation.” Given that every nation has percentage of unrighteous people (unbelievers), what type of nation could Isaiah be referring to? What is godly righteousness? Hint: think about the city in verse 1.

4. Define “perfect peace.” How is peace perfected for the believer?

Read vv4-6.

5. Our God is an everlasting rock. What specific reason does Isaiah give for seeing our Lord as rock?

Read v7.

6. In a world where there is so much confusion, chaos and disorder it hardly seems likely that there is a “level” path for the righteous person. Too often we question our decisions, what the future will bring, even our own existence. When suffering is at its peak, people will ask “Lord, why am I even here?” But the Word of God is clear. There is a “level path” for the righteous made so by God. In what way is the way of the righteous clear and level?

Read vv8-9.

7. The word “judgment” does not have to be seen in the negative. Judgments can go either way declaring one to be innocent or guilty. Another way of translating the Hebrew word for judgment is “righteous decree/legal decision.” God’s decrees are righteous and just whether they condemn or save. Luther sees “judgments” here as being synonymous with God’s Word, which accuses and condemns (law) while it also forgives and saves (gospel).
Based on how God’s Word/judgments work, how then do the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness?

Read vv10-11.

8. Note the word “wicked.” What do the wicked lack that prohibits them from seeing the majesty of God? What is required to truly learn the righteousness of God? Hint: it’s the same answer!

Read vv12-15.

9. Here again we see the word “nation.” Based on our reading of verse 1, what is the nation Isaiah is likely referring to? How, then does God increase the nation?

Read vv 16-18.

10. These verses portray the suffering and strivings of man with no results. “We have given birth to wind” conveys the idea of painful struggle for no gain; it’s like the woman in the pangs of child birth only to give birth to nothing (wind). This is supported by the cry “we have accomplished no deliverance in the earth.”

Israel had tried living apart from God’s Word and statutes and in the end it got them nowhere. Chasing after false idols and gods produced a sinful land destined for exile by foreign powers. What does this tell us about the power of man to bring salvation unto himself?

Read vv19-21.

11. The “dead shall live.” This refers to life in two ways. First, read John 3: 3-8 and Eph. 2: 1-2. What kind of “life” is being referred to in these passages? Second, read John 11: 25-26, Rom. 6: 4-5, and 1 Cor. 15: 50-57. What kind of life for the body do these passages emphasize? (Rom. 6: 4-5 applies to both).