

## July 14 Answers

- 1) In Ahaz's time of trouble, he "became yet more **unfaithful** to the Lord" (2 Chr 28:22). This teaches us that trials can draw us **closer** to God or drive us **farther** down the path of sin. The choice is up to us. Not content with the false gods he already worshipped, Ahaz imported idolatry from **Syria**. His reasoning? Syria had defeated him, so he thought worshipping Syria's gods might bring him the same victory. This ignored the fact that **Assyria** had just defeated Syria! Rather than trusting God, Ahaz trusted Assyria. The result? Judah became a vassal state to Assyria, and the **temple** was left in shambles (2 Chr 28:19–24). In the midst of Ahaz's wickedness, Isaiah continued to prophesy. He foretold the coming of a righteous king, **Jesus** the Messiah, whose reign would stand in marked contrast to Ahaz. Jesus would bring light to the people who walked in **darkness**, and those who believed in his name would become his "**children**" (cf. Isa 8:18; John 1:12; Heb 2:11–13). Isaiah even predicted that Jesus would minister in the region of **Galilee** (Isa 9:1). This was fulfilled when Jesus went and lived in **Capernaum** in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali (cf. Matt 4:12–17). Isaiah also looked ahead to a distant future: the **millennial** reign of Christ. In that day, "the earth shall be **full** of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isa 11:9b).