

July 18 Answers

- 1) More of Isaiah's oracles to the nations. These oracles foretold **judgment** against the nations which surrounded Judah, beginning with Babylon (Isa 13–14) and ending with Tyre (Isa 23). Isaiah spoke these oracles to the people of Judah because he wanted them to realize how **foolish** it would be to make alliances with the very nations God had doomed to judgment. Instead, Judah should rely on God and wait for Him to deliver them from the threat of Assyria. Governments, institutions, and organizations may fail, but God never will! The tone of the oracle against **Moab** is very different from that against Babylon, and this shows us that it's possible to **rejoice** at God's victory over evil without taking pleasure in the death of any **individual** or nation. In this oracle, we see **tears** in God's eyes as He executes judgment on Moab for its sin (Is 16:9–11). This is an important reminder that God has no pleasure in the death of the **wicked**, and if we truly **love** others, we will do all we can to turn them from the path of destruction. The oracle against **Egypt** is a fascinating revelation of God's plans for this great nation, both in the near future and in the millennial reign of Christ. Judah regularly put their **trust** in Egypt rather than God when faced with political and military threats, and Isaiah made it clear that Egypt was going to be judged right along with the other nations. However, in the millennium, Egypt "will tremble with fear before the **hand** that the Lord of hosts shakes over them" (Isa 19:16). In that day, the Egyptians will turn to God and ally themselves with Judah. There will be an altar to God in Egypt, and God will be their god! A highway will stretch between Egypt and **Assyria**, and the Egyptians will worship God along with the Assyrians and the Israelites! This teaches us that the gospel transcends national boundaries. We must go and make **disciples** of **all** nations, teaching them to love and serve God.