

July 19 Answers

- 1) The last of Isaiah's oracles to the nations. The oracle against Babylon (Isa 21:1–10) echoed Isaiah's earlier oracle, and it reminded Judah that although Babylon seemed like a strong **ally** against Assyria, its destruction was certain (Isa 21:9; cf. Rev 18:2). The oracle against Arabia revealed that within **one** year, the splendor of Kedar would be gone, and almost nothing would remain of her mighty bowmen. This teaches us that the strength and power of men cannot stand against God's will. We must place our **trust** in God alone! Hezekiah was evidently listening closely to Isaiah's oracles, and the realization that God was going to judge the surrounding nations seemed to **embolden** him. In 705 BC, he rebelled against **Assyria** and declared war on the **Philistines**, defeating them as far as **Gaza**. In preparation for an Assyrian reprisal, he stopped the **Gihon** spring and diverted the water into Jerusalem. As if to remind Judah that they were not exempt from judgment, Isaiah proclaimed an oracle against Jerusalem. He condemned the people for rejoicing in their military **strength** and defensive strategies rather than in God: "You made a **reservoir** between the walls for the waters of the ancient pool, but you did not look to the **One** who made it, or consider the **One** who created it long ago" (Isa 22:11 HCSB). The people could "see" the importance of strong **walls** and plenty of **water**, but they didn't "see" the importance of honoring and trusting the **God** who made them!