July 20 Answers

1) Isaiah 24–27 is known as "Isaiah's Apocalypse." This section of Isaiah describes the devastation and suffering that will take place during the Tribulation as well as the peace and blessing that will follow in Christ's millennial Kingdom. Isaiah graphically depicted the ruin that will befall the earth during the Tribulation. The language is similar to that of Noah's flood: "The Lord will empty the earth and make it desolate" (Isa 24:1a). Everyone will fall under God's judgment—the master and the slave, the people and the priest, the buyer and the seller. The earth will be "utterly broken," "split apart," and "violently shaken" (Isa 24:19). Then Jesus will return to earth, and He will "punish the host of heaven, in heaven, [demonic forces] and the kings of the earth, on the earth" (Isa 24:21–22; cf. Rev 20:2–3). In that day God will "swallow up <u>death</u> forever; and the LORD GOD will wipe away <u>tears</u> from all faces" (Isa 25:8; cf. Rev 21:4). In that day, the people of Judah will sing this song: "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock" (Isa 26:3–4). How should knowledge of Christ's future Kingdom affect us today? Isaiah offered a prayer that speaks to this question: "Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts" (Isa 26:8 NIV). The certainty of Christ's coming Kingdom should encourage us to live a righteous life. We must be walking in the Spirit, waiting on God, and spreading the good news of the gospel. If we do, we will be there to witness the day when God punishes Leviathan (Satan) with his "hard and great and strong sword" (Isa 27:1)!