

## July 21 Answers

- 1) Isaiah 28–33 is known as the “Book of **Woes**.” The historical context was the time of political turmoil which preceded Assyria’s invasion of Judah and the **siege** of Jerusalem in 701 BC. The revival led by Hezekiah in 715 had **cooled**, and by 705, the year of Hezekiah’s rebellion against Assyria, many in Judah had returned to their **sinful** ways. During this time of crisis, Isaiah pronounced a series of “woes” against the leaders and the people of Judah. A “woe” was a threatening cry of **lament**. It was an indictment of sin and an expression of sorrow at the certainty of God’s impending **judgment**. Isaiah warned Judah that they were trusting in their wealth and their foreign alliances (Egypt), but neither of these could help. Only God could save them from the coming wrath of the Assyrians. The leaders of Judah refused to listen and they **scoffed** at Isaiah’s message (Isa 28:14–15). God’s response to the scoffing was similar to his response to Ahaz when the king refused to ask for a sign—God foretold the coming of the **Messiah**. Jesus would give sight to the **blind** and hearing to the **deaf** (Isa 29:18). His death on the cross would confound the **wisdom** of the wise and the **discernment** of the discerning (Isa 29:14). Jesus is the ultimate **answer** to the scoffers of this world. Those who are wise will build on His firm foundation, and they will never be shaken (Isa 28:16). **Paul** later quoted Isaiah in **Romans** 10:9–11, and **Peter** did the same (1 Pet 2:4–6). They confirm that Isaiah was speaking of **Christ**.