

## July 26 Answers

- 1) The book of Isaiah makes a dramatic shift at chapter forty, and the following chapters, Isaiah 40–48, are known as the “Book of **Comfort**.” Rather than continuing to warn Judah of impending judgment, Isaiah offered them comfort, and his message turned from punishment for sin to **restoration** after exile. Judah’s coming exile was over **100** years away, yet Isaiah addressed the people of that day as though he was present with them. Isaiah told the exiles of Judah that God still loved them. Yes, God had punished them “**double**” for their sin, but God had not cast them off forever. Indeed, Isaiah heard a voice calling out, “In the wilderness **prepare** the way of the Lord” (Isa 40:3). It was the voice of **John** the **Baptist** urging the people to prepare their hearts to receive the **Messiah**! Your faithful **Servant** was coming, and He would save His people from their **sins**. Isaiah announced the **call** of the Messiah: “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my **chosen**, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations” (Isa 42:1). This is the first of Isaiah’s “Servant Songs” which speak of the earthly ministry of Jesus. He would open the eyes of the **blind** and release those who dwell in darkness. He would be a **light** to the nations and a **covenant** to the people. We all want our strength to be renewed. We all want to mount up with wings like an eagle, to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint (Isa 40:31). But are we willing to do what must come first? Are we willing to “wait for the LORD”?