

## July 27 Answers

- 1) Conclusion of Isaiah's "Book of Comfort" (Isa 40–48). One of the key themes in this section of Isaiah is the **supremacy** of God: "I am the LORD, your Holy One, the **Creator** of Israel, your King. I am the **first** and I am the **last**; besides me there is no god. Is there a God besides me? There is no **Rock**; I know not any" (Isa 43:15; 44:6, 8). Isaiah painted a compelling picture of the futility of **idolatry** (Isa 44:6–23). 'Just think,' Isaiah said, 'the man who cuts down a tree uses half to make a fire and the other half to make an **idol**' (Isa 44:19). What pathetic self-deception! God urged Judah, 'Remember who made you, Israel. I formed you, you are my servant! **Return** to me, for I have redeemed you!' (Isa 44:21–23). This teaches us that the proper response to the knowledge that God is our Creator is **worship**! Isaiah concluded by foretelling the coming of **Cyrus**, king of Persia, some **150** years before he came to power. Babylon would be destroyed and Judah would return from its exile. Cyrus would be God's faithful **servant**. He would rebuild both Jerusalem and the temple (Isa 44:28; 45:13). What should Judah learn from all this? "I am the LORD your God"! (Isa 48:17). If they would pay attention to God's words and obey His commands, their **peace** (*shalom*) would be like a river and their righteousness like the waves of the sea (Isa 48:18). So it is with us—Isaiah calls us to be faithful to our Redeemer. How blessed are those whose God is the LORD!