

July 28 Answers

- 1) In the “Book of Comfort,” Isaiah revealed that God would redeem Israel from their future **Babylonian** captivity by using his servant, **Cyrus** the Great. In chapters 49–55, Isaiah revealed that God would redeem Israel from a far greater captivity: the bondage of **sin**. God would accomplish this deliverance by using another Servant, the **Messiah**. This Servant would not only take care of Israel’s sin problem, but also that of the whole **world** (Isa 49:6; Acts 13:44–49). How would this be accomplished? Through the **suffering** and **death** of the Messiah! (Isa 53). He would have a humble beginning, and His appearance would not be stately or majestic. He would be despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He would remain obedient to God through persecution, and He would willingly allow Himself to be killed by His enemies. He would die among wicked men even though He had never done violence to anyone. Jesus offered his **back** to those who beat Him and His **cheeks** to those who plucked out His beard. He did not hide His face from **mocking** and **spitting**, but He set His face like **flint** (Isa 50:7). He did this because God helped Him, and the same **grace** that enabled Christ to endure to the end is available for **us**! God was pleased to crush Jesus for us, and when He gave His body as an offering for our sin, God was satisfied with His sacrifice. Yet Christ would not remain in the grave: “He will **see** his offspring and **prolong** his days...After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of **life** and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities” (Isa 53:10–11 NIV). Jesus Christ bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Praise the Lord! Glory to the Lamb of God!