

July 30 Answers

- 1) The stirring conclusion of Isaiah's prophecy to Judah. Isaiah began by describing the **glory** that would characterize millennial Jerusalem (Isa 60–62). God's **light** would shine on Israel, and the nations of the world would be drawn to that light. They would bring the Jews of the diaspora back to the land, and they would shower God's people with great **wealth**. God had called Israel to be a light to the nations, and in the Millennium, they would at last fulfill that great purpose. This should inspire each of us to be a **Jerusalem**-in-miniature: a shining light in a world of darkness and perversion. When we spread the gospel and bring people to Christ, we are **preparing** their hearts for the coming of God's glorious Kingdom! Before Israel's new day could dawn, God's Servant had to come and fulfill His ministry. Hundreds of years after Isaiah prophesied, Jesus stood in a synagogue in **Nazareth** and read Isaiah 61:1–2a. He omitted any reference to "the day of vengeance of our God," (second coming) and instead proclaimed "the year of the Lord's **favor**" (first coming). The Holy Spirit was upon Him and anointed Him to "bring good news to the poor...to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." When Jesus sat down and said, "Today this Scripture has been **fulfilled** in your hearing" (Luke 4:21), He was saying that the day of salvation had come! How wonderful to live in this time, a time when Christ is calling the nations of the world to be his disciples. We need to be working as hard as we can right now, for the night is coming when no man can work.