

July 31 Answers

- 1) The reign of Manasseh and Nahum's prophecy against the Assyrian city of Nineveh. Manasseh was crowned king at the age of twenty-two, and he quickly became the **worst** king Judah had ever seen. His wickedness was so great (greater than the **Amorites** who were before him) that God pronounced an irrevocable sentence of **doom** on Jerusalem and Judah. Not even the godly Josiah, Manasseh's grandson, could prevent the coming calamity. He could only delay the judgment (cf. 2 Kgs 24:3–4; Jer 15:4). This teaches us that there is a **limit** to God's patience with sin. Just as the Amorites filled up their "cup of iniquity" and then were destroyed, so our country is filling up its cup of iniquity, and someday God will say, "Enough!" Let's be among those who "build up the wall and **stand** in the breach" so that God's wrath may be delayed (Ezek 22:30). During Manasseh's bloody reign, Nahum of Elkosh prophesied against Nineveh. The repentance that had followed Jonah's preaching was in the distant past, and the city was now the capital of the mighty Assyrian empire. Judah was firmly in its iron grip, and Ashurbanipal forced Manasseh to aid his conquest of Egypt (cf. the sack of Thebes in Nah 3:8–10). It was no accident that God inspired Nahum to write of Nineveh's downfall when Assyria's power and domination were at their **height**. God had used Assyria to punish and discipline both Israel and Judah, and now the doom that Isaiah had foreseen was at hand (Isa 10:5–12). In only a few short decades, the city would be destroyed by the **Babylonians**: "There will the fire devour you; the sword will cut you off" (Nah 3:15). This teaches us that God holds the nations **accountable** for their actions, and although He may use them to accomplish His purposes, they will not go unpunished for their sin. Their power may appear invincible, but they cannot stand against the fury of God's wrath.