

August 27 Answers

- 1) More of what happened during the third and final siege of Jerusalem. While Jeremiah stayed in the guardhouse, God's word concerning **Egypt** came to Ezekiel. Pharaoh **Hophra** had interrupted Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem, and the people of Judah thought their political alliance with Egypt was going to save them. But Egypt was interfering with God's plan to judge Jerusalem through Babylon, and so they too came under His wrath. God promised to make Egypt a "desolation" for forty years, and to scatter the Egyptians among the nations. When the forty years were over, God would return the Egyptians to their land, but their kingdom would not have its former power, and Israel would never again put their trust in Egypt rather than God. Sure enough, Babylon defeated Egypt in 568 BC (about 20 years after Ezekiel's prophecy), and it never again became a superpower in the ancient world. Forty years after that, the Persians allowed the Egyptians to return home, thus fulfilling God's prophecy through Ezekiel. This shows us the **futility** of ignoring God's word and trusting in the might of man. It also teaches us that those who resist God's plans make themselves His **enemies**. We should be careful not to defy the authority of a leader that is carrying out God's divine will—even if that leader is wicked! Meanwhile, back in Jerusalem, the Babylonians had returned to the city after dealing with Egypt, and their siege ramps were reaching toward its walls. In despair, the people mourned the fate of Jerusalem—it was about to be destroyed forever. In the middle of this desperate situation, God told Jeremiah to buy a **field**! His purchase signified that one day God would **restore** His people to Jerusalem. Just as God had brought disaster on them, God would bring good on them. "Fields shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, 'It is a desolation, without man or beast'" (Jer 32:43). This reminds us that God is indeed, "the LORD, the God of all flesh" (Jer 32:27). Nothing is too **hard** for Him! When things look hopeless, we need to look up and see His mighty arm. Rather than giving in to despair, we should rejoice at the thought that one day, we will be a part of the glorious kingdom of Jesus Christ!