

August 28 Answers

- 1) The fall of Jerusalem in July 587 BC. Everything God predicted through the prophets was fulfilled. God said that there would be **famine**: the people would eat their bread with care (Ezek 4:16), and finally, they would eat their own **children** (Ezek 5:10). Just as God said, it happened (2 Kgs 25:3). Babies cried out for thirst, children begged for food, and women **boiled** and ate their own children (Lam 4:4, 10). God said that the temple would be destroyed and burned with **fire** (Isa 64:11; Jer 7:14). Just as God said, it happened (Jer 52:13). Nebuzaradan, the captain of the king's bodyguard, came to Jerusalem and burned the temple with fire (2 Kgs 25:9). God said that Zedekiah would not escape. He would see and talk with Nebuchadnezzar face-to-face (Jer 34:3). Just as God said, it happened (Jer 39:3–5). Zedekiah tried to escape by **night**, but he was captured on the plains of Jericho and brought before the king of Babylon. God said that Zedekiah would be brought to Babylon, yet he would not **see** it (Jer 32:5; Ezek 12:13). Just as God said, it happened (Jer 39:6–7). Nebuchadnezzar killed Zedekiah's sons "before his eyes," then had him **blinded** so it would be the last thing he ever saw (2 Kgs 25:7). If there's anything today's reading teaches us, it's that *what God says will come to pass*. If it seems slow, wait for it—"it will surely come; it will not delay" (Hab 2:3). What a tragic and terrible story! I can still hear the echo of the Chronicler's words: "The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy" (2 Chr 36:15–16). "No remedy"—what dreadful words! They warn us to return to God before it's too late, to repent with "all our heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning" (Joel 2:12–14).