

## September 4 Answers

- 1) Six months later, news of Jerusalem's destruction finally reached Ezekiel and the exiles. In response, Ezekiel proclaimed God's word concerning five groups of people. First, he spoke of the few Jews who remained in the "waste places" of Israel. Rather than repenting and turning to God, they said, "Abraham was only one man, yet he got possession of the land; but we are many; the land is surely given us to possess" (Ezek 33:24). God told them that He was going to wipe them all out, no matter where they were. This teaches us that we cannot claim God's promises while we're **disobeying** His commands. Second, Ezekiel spoke of the exiles who lived with him in Babylon. They listened to what he had to say, but they had no intention of obeying. God told them that they would know a prophet had been among them when everything he said came to pass. This teaches us to **respect** those who speak God's word lest we ignore their message to our own destruction. Third, Ezekiel spoke of the "shepherds" of your people, the leaders and rulers who had neglected the flock and used their positions to satisfy their own selfish desires. God told them that He would personally come and shepherd His people—the Messiah would feed them and be a prince among them. This teaches us that we will be held **accountable** for how we lead those under our authority. Fourth, Ezekiel spoke of Edom, the neighbor of Israel. Instead of mourning what had happened to their brother-nation, they laughed and jeered at the destruction of Jerusalem. God told them that He would pay them back by filling their land with their dead bodies. This teaches us not to take **delight** in the misfortune of others, especially those who have a right to expect our compassion and support. Fifth, Ezekiel spoke of the house of Israel, who said of themselves, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off" (Ezek 37:11). God told them that He was able to bring even dead bones back to life. One day God would cleanse them from their sin and restore them to their land. This teaches us that Christ's Kingdom will surely come to pass. We can **love** God and be a part of it, or we can **reject** God and be cast aside. The choice is up to us.