

September 5 Answers

- 1) The fall of Jerusalem is the context of Ezekiel's famous "Gog and **Magog**" prophecy (Ezek 38–39). The people of Judah had lost their **homes**, their city and their **temple**, and they had been **exiled** to the land of their conquerors. Why give them a vision of another invasion? Because in the future, the nations who gathered together to conquer them would be **destroyed**. Why? Because in that day, Israel would be living in **obedience** to God. This taught the people that their true **security** lay in their commitment and loyalty to God, and it teaches us the same lesson. When we **follow** God with our whole heart, we can rest securely in his love. God said, "Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, **none** of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall **die**" (Ezek 33:13). This is a sobering reminder that saving faith is not the **act** of a moment but the **attitude** of a lifetime. We must have a present, **living** faith!