September 13 Answers

1) Part 3 of the genealogical records of Israel. <u>Dan</u> and <u>Zebulun</u> were not included in the genealogical records of 1 Chronicles. The tribe of <u>Dan</u> refused to possess their inheritance, abandoned their land, and seized control of a peaceful city far to the north. They also created a rival <u>religion</u>, adopting Micah's god as their own (Judg 17–18). The tribe of <u>Zebulun</u> did not distinguish itself throughout Israel's history, and it received little mention after the time of the judges (cf. Isa 9:1). Tribes and nations who refuse to honor and serve God inevitably decline, first <u>morally</u>, then territorially, and finally, <u>physically</u> (2 Kgs 10:31–32). The graveyard of history is filled with nations and empires which rose to prominence on the world stage, only to be destroyed because of <u>pride</u> and moral <u>decay</u>. This teaches us the importance of loving and obeying God, lest we fall into the same <u>ruin</u> which has overtaken so many others. (How do Ezek 13:9 and Ps 69:28 increase our understanding of the significance of enrollment in the genealogies? What do you think about Ps 87:5–6?).