

## April 29 Answers

- 1) The three year famine in Israel, and Absalom's murder of his older brother Amnon. The famine occurred as **judgment** on the land for "Saul and his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to **death**" (2 Sam 21:1 NASB; cf. Num 35:33). The Gibeonites were servants of Israel by covenant agreement (Josh 9:16–20), but Saul in "his **zeal**" violated that covenant. This teaches us that it's never right to do **wrong**, even to get a chance to do **right**. The fact that David willingly gave seven of Saul's descendants to be executed as payment for this crime indicates that they had likely been **complicit** in this treacherous act (cf. Deut 24:16; 2 Sam 21:14). Amnon, David's firstborn son, was desperately "in **love**" with his half-sister Tamar (Absalom's full sister). With the help of his cousin **Jonadab**, he hatched a scheme to have her. This shows that if you can't wait, what you feel is *not* love—it's **lust**. Once Amnon violated her, he hated her and threw her out in disgrace (making it look as if **she** had made a shameful proposition to *him*). Absalom acted as though nothing had happened, but he was secretly seething with **hatred**. When the time was right, he murdered Amnon in revenge. The judgment prophesied by the prophet Nathan was finally coming to pass in David's house (2 Sam 12:10). David was "very angry" about what happened to Tamar, yet he did **nothing**. Solomon, who experienced these tragic events firsthand, later observed that when we refuse to discipline our children, we **hate** them (Prov 13:24) and set the stage for their ultimate **destruction** (Prov 19:18 NIV).