

## July 6 Answers

- 1) The story of Jonah begins with him rebelling against God's will, but it's not until the end of the book that we learn what motivated him to flee to Tarshish. It was because he knew that God is **merciful** (Jon 4:2). Jonah was afraid the Assyrians would repent and God would **forgive** them. Thus it was no accident that God chose Jonah to be his messenger. God knew he **hated** the Assyrians, and God deliberately called him in order to **expose** his sinful attitude. This teaches us that God's call on our lives will bring us face to face with the true **condition** of our hearts. If we find ourselves wanting to run away, it's a sure sign that our will is not **surrendered** to God. The question God asked Jonah comes down the ages to us: 'Do you share my **love** for a lost and dying world?' (Jon 4:11). What will our answer be? Do we care enough about our neighbor to reach out in love and share the **gospel**? The book of Amos begins with a series of **oracles** (prophetic statements of **judgment**) against eight nations. The first six were the **pagan** neighbors of Judah and Israel, and Amos' listeners were probably nodding their heads in **excitement** as they heard of God's coming judgment. But then Amos spoke out against Israel and Judah—what a shock that must have been! He condemned the **Jews** right along with the idolatrous Moabites and Edomites! Amos' point is just as true today. Sin is **sin**, no matter who commits it, and **everyone** will be held accountable for their actions (cf. Rom 2:6–11).