

## July 7 Answers

- 1) Amos' prophecy to the northern kingdom of Israel. Amos condemned Samaria's sinful women: "You **cows** of Bashan...who crush the needy" (Amos 4:1). These women selfishly urged their husbands to oppress the **poor** in order to support their lavish lifestyles. Amos condemned Israel's false worship: "Come to Bethel, and **transgress**; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression" (Amos 4:4). The people exceeded the requirements of the law (they tithed every three **days** instead of every three years; cf. Deut 14:28), but that only increased their sin because their hearts were not right with God. This teaches us that people will often substitute good **works** and religious **service** for genuine love and obedience. Amos condemned Israel's stubbornness: "I also withheld the rain from you...yet you did not return to me" (Amos 4:7-8). God sent disaster after disaster on the people, but they would not repent. This teaches us that God often uses **calamity** and misfortune to get the attention of sinners. How tragic when people ignore the very discipline that is designed to bring them to repentance! Amos warned the people that their rejection of God had sealed their fate. He even sang a **funeral** song for Israel and proclaimed a **woe** oracle against them. Yet as he pictured Israel's coming demise, Amos urged the people: "Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be **gracious** to the remnant of Joseph" (Amos 5:15). This teaches us that even in judgment, God is reaching out to sinners, longing for them to repent and turn to Him. How wonderful is love like this!