

July 8 Answers

- 1) The conclusion of Amos' prophecy to the northern kingdom of Israel. Amos recorded five **visions** which pictured the results of God's coming judgment. The first two were especially **devastating**, and Amos persuaded God to turn aside from these methods of judgment. This teaches us that God's judgments are perfect. They are carefully **selected** from a myriad of possibilities to achieve exactly what God desires. In the third vision of the **plumb** line, God said that Israel would be destroyed by the sword, and this judgment stood firm. In the middle of his visions, Amos got Israel's first response to God's word. Sadly, it was not repentance. Instead, Amaziah, the **priest** of Bethel, complained to Jeroboam II about Amos, and the king banished him from Israel: "Go [back] to Judah and prophesy there!" How tragic that Israel refused to listen to God's words! Amos warned Israel that one day God would send a famine on the land: "Not a famine of **food** or a thirst for **water**, but a famine of hearing the **words** of the LORD" (Amos 8:11 NIV). This teaches us how important it is to **welcome** God's words, even if His message has the sting of rebuke. Notice that God seldom speaks of judgment without affirming the future **restoration** of Israel. God promised that He would "raise up the fallen **booth** of David," and that the **nations** would one day be called by His name (Amos 9:11–12). James later quoted Amos as evidence that the **Gentiles** would also be a part of the people of God (Acts 15:13–21). That's us!