

## July 10 Answers

- 1) Hosea began his message by telling about the unfaithfulness of his wife Gomer, and he continued by recording God's **case** against Israel: "There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no **knowledge** of God in your land. You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere—one **murder** after another" (Hos 4:1b–2 NLT). How had this happened? God pointed His finger first at the **priests**. They had rejected God and forgotten His law, and because of this, they no longer taught the people God's ways. The result: "My people are destroyed for **lack** of knowledge" (Hos 4:6). This shows us the importance of faithfully **teaching** God's word to those under our leadership and authority. God pointed His finger next at the **people**. They had abandoned God and joined themselves to idols. They enjoyed the **sensuality** and prostitution that was part of worshiping other gods, and the **men** were just as guilty as the women (Hos 4:14). This teaches us that the desires of the flesh are dangerous, and of all the sins that ensnared Israel, **sex** was the most deadly. What lay in store for Israel? "A people without understanding will come to ruin!" (Hos 4:14). They had sown the wind, and they would "reap the **whirlwind**" (Hos 8:7). Some **twenty** years later, they would be "swallowed up" by **Assyria**, the nation whom they had "paid for love" (Hos 8:8–9). As God looked with anger and frustration at the wretched state of Israel, His heart was **broken**. God urged them to say, "Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the **third** day he will raise us up, that we may live before him" (Hos 6:1–2). What a wonderful display of God's mercy and grace! *God strikes us down for our own good*. He knows that if we're not disciplined for sin, we will continue down the path of destruction. If Israel had embraced God's desire for them to repent, how different their future would have been!