

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES

APRIL 1-7

**This Is Our  
Spiritual Heritage**

PAGE 3 • SONGS: 69, 28

APRIL 8-14

**Do You Appreciate  
Our Spiritual  
Heritage?**

PAGE 8 • SONGS: 22, 75

APRIL 15-21

**Stay in Jehovah's  
Valley of Protection**

PAGE 17 • SONGS: 133, 16

APRIL 22-28

**Let Nothing Hinder  
You From Taking  
Hold of Glory**

PAGE 25 • SONGS: 15, 61



# 133 *Seek God for Your Deliverance* (Zephaniah 2:3)

1. Nations align as one,  
Opposing Jehovah's Son.  
Their time of human rulership  
By God's decree now is done.  
Rulers have had their day;  
God's Kingdom is here to stay.  
Soon Christ will crush earthly enemies.  
No more will there be delay.

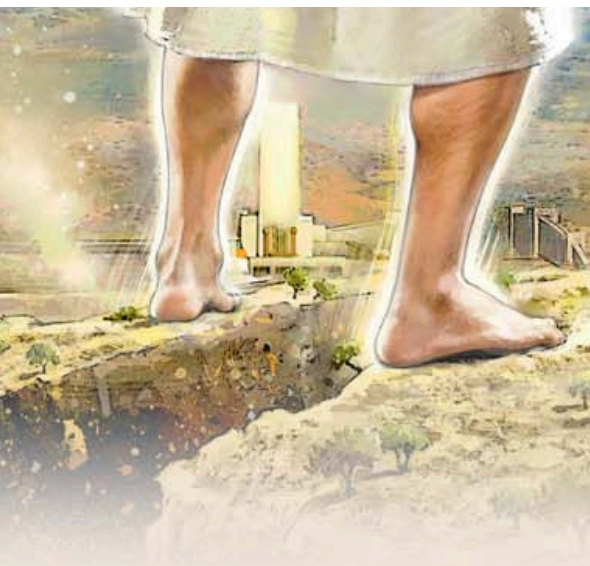
*(CHORUS)*

*Seek God for your deliverance,  
Yes, look to him with confidence.  
Seek his righteousness,  
Show your faithfulness,  
For his sov'reignty, take your stand.  
Then see our God deliver you  
By his mighty hand.*

2. People on earth now choose,  
Responding to this good news.  
We offer to all men the choice  
To hear or proudly refuse.  
Trials, although severe,  
Need not fill our hearts with fear.  
Jehovah cares for his loyal ones;  
Our cries for help he will hear.

*(Chorus)*

(See also 1 Sam. 2:9; Ps. 2:2, 3, 9; Prov. 2:8; Matt. 6:33.)



## STAY IN JEHOVAH'S VALLEY OF PROTECTION

*“Jehovah will . . . war against those nations as in the day of his warring, in the day of fight.”—ZECH. 14:3.*

---

### CAN YOU EXPLAIN?

---

What is symbolized by the splitting of “the mountain of the olive trees”?

---

What does the “very great valley” represent, and how can we stay there?

---

What are the “living waters,” and who will benefit from drinking them?

ON October 30, 1938, millions of people in the United States were listening to a popular radio program that featured theatrical plays. The performance that evening was an adaptation of the science fiction novel *The War of the Worlds*. Actors portraying news announcers described the landing of an invasion force from Mars that would cause widespread destruction on Earth. Although it had been announced that the radio program was a play, many listeners thought that the attack was real and became frightened. Some even took certain measures in an attempt to protect themselves from imaginary aliens.

<sup>2</sup> Today there is a real war looming on the horizon. However, people are failing to respond to its approach. This war is foretold, not in a science fiction novel, but in God’s inspired Word, the Bible. It is the war of Armageddon—God’s war against this wicked system of things. (Rev. 16:14-16) In this war, God’s servants on earth will not need to defend themselves against aliens from another planet. Still, they will be awestruck by astonishing events and by the fear-inspiring display of God’s power.

<sup>3</sup> A Bible prophecy recorded in Zechariah chapter 14 has a direct bearing on the war of Armageddon. Though recorded some 2,500 years ago, this prophecy touches our very lives. (Rom. 15:4) Much of what is stated there relates both to situations affecting God’s people since the Messianic Kingdom was established in heaven in 1914 and to

---

**1, 2.** What real war looms on the horizon, and what will God’s servants not need to do in this war?

**3.** What prophecy will we consider, and why is it of interest to us?



exciting events that will unfold in the very near future. The salient features of the prophecy include the formation of “a very great valley” and the going forth of “living waters.” (Zech. 14:4, 8) This valley plays a vital role in providing protection for Jehovah’s worshippers. And when we understand what the living waters can mean for us, not only will we see the need to partake of them but we will also *want* to drink them. It is to our benefit, then, to pay close attention to this prophecy.—2 Pet. 1:19, 20.

### ‘A DAY BELONGING TO JEHOVAH’ BEGINS

<sup>4</sup> The 14th chapter of Zechariah opens with a reference to ‘a day belonging to Jehovah.’ (**Read Zechariah 14: 1, 2.**) What is this day? It is “the Lord’s day,” which began when “the kingdom of the world” became “the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.” (Rev. 1: 10; 11:15) That day started in 1914 with the birth of the Messianic Kingdom in the heavens. Decades before 1914, Jehovah’s worshippers declared to the nations that the end of “the appointed times of the nations” would come in that year and that the world would enter into an unequaled period of trouble. (Luke 21:24) How did the nations respond? Instead of paying heed to that timely warning, political and religious leaders scorned and persecuted those zealous anointed evangelizers. In doing so, these world leaders mocked Almighty God himself, for anointed Kingdom ambassadors represent “heavenly Jerusalem”—the Messianic King-

4. (a) When did the ‘day belonging to Jehovah’ begin? (b) Decades before 1914, what were Jehovah’s worshippers declaring, and how did world leaders respond?

dom—of which they are a part.—Heb. 12: 22, 28.

<sup>5</sup> Zechariah foretold what action the nations would take, saying: “The city [Jerusalem] will actually be captured.” “The city” is symbolic of God’s Messianic Kingdom. It is represented on earth by its ‘citizens,’ the remnant of anointed Christians. (Phil. 3:20) During World War I, prominent members within the earthly part of Jehovah’s organization were “captured,” or arrested, and sent off to a prison in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A. ‘The houses were pilaged’ in that injustices and brutality were heaped upon these and other innocent integrity keepers. The attackers plundered the wealth of influence that the remnant exercised by banning their literature and restricting their activities as Kingdom proclaimers.

<sup>6</sup> Although God’s people were outnumbered, misrepresented, opposed, and persecuted at the hands of the attackers, true worship could not be crushed out of existence. There were “the remaining ones of the people,” that is, the anointed remnant who loyally refused to be “cut off from the city.”

<sup>7</sup> Was this prophecy completely fulfilled by the end of World War I? No. More attacks by the nations were to come against the anointed remnant and their loyal companions with an earthly hope. (Rev. 12:17) World War II is a proof of that. The integrity-keeping course of God’s faithful anointed Wit-

---

5, 6. (a) What foretold action did the nations take against “the city” and its ‘citizens’? (b) Who were “the remaining ones of the people”?

7. The course of Jehovah’s anointed Witnesses sets what example for all true worshippers today?

nesses spurs on God's servants today to endure whatever trials come their way, including opposition from unbelieving relatives, workmates, or schoolmates who ridicule them for their faith. (1 Pet. 1:6, 7) No matter where they live, true worshippers are more determined than ever to 'stand firm in one spirit,' not being 'frightened by their opponents.' (Phil. 1:27, 28) Where, though, will Jehovah's people find safety in a world that hates them?—John 15:17-19.

### JEHOVAH FORMS "A VERY GREAT VALLEY"

<sup>8</sup> Since Jerusalem—"the city"—is symbolic of heavenly Jerusalem, "the mountain of the olive trees, which is in front of Jerusalem," must also be taken symbolically. What does that mountain represent? How will it be "split at its middle" and become two mountains? Why does Jehovah refer to them as "my mountains"? (*Read Zechariah 14:3-5.*) In the Bible, mountains can represent kingdoms, or governments. Also, blessings and protection are associated with God's mountain. (Ps. 72:3; Isa. 25:6, 7) Thus, the mountain of the olive trees on which God stands to the east of earthly Jerusalem represents Jehovah's universal sovereignty, his supreme rulership.

<sup>9</sup> What is indicated by the division of the mountain of the olive trees? The mountain, which is to the east of Jerusalem, splits in the sense that Jehovah establishes another rulership, a subsidiary one. This secondary rulership is the Messianic Kingdom in the hands of Jesus Christ. That is why Jehovah speaks

**8.** (a) What can mountains symbolize in the Bible? (b) What does "the mountain of the olive trees" represent?

**9.** In what sense does "the Mount of Olives" split?

of the two mountains that result from the splitting of "the Mount of Olives" as being "my mountains." (Zech. 14:4, ftn.) Both of them are his.

<sup>10</sup> When the symbolic mountain splits, half to the north and half to the south, Jehovah's feet remain set upon both mountains. "A very great valley" comes into existence beneath Jehovah's feet. This symbolic valley represents divine protection, by which Jehovah's servants find safety under his universal sovereignty and his Son's Messianic Kingdom. Jehovah will make sure that pure worship will never be snuffed out. When did this division of the mountain of the olive trees take place? It occurred when the Messianic Kingdom was established at the end of the Gentile Times in 1914. When did the flight of true worshippers to the symbolic valley begin?

### THE FLIGHT TO THE VALLEY BEGINS!

<sup>11</sup> Jesus warned his followers: "You will be objects of hatred by all the nations on account of my name." (Matt. 24:9) During the last days of this system of things, since 1914, that hatred has become especially intense. In spite of the vicious attack launched against the anointed remnant by their enemies during World War I, those of this faithful group were not killed off. In 1919 they were liberated from the clutches of Babylon the Great—the world empire of false religion. (Rev. 11:11, 12)\* That is

---

\* See *Revelation—Its Grand Climax at Hand!* pages 169-170.

**10.** What does the "very great valley" between the two mountains represent?

**11, 12.** (a) When did the flight to the symbolic valley begin? (b) What proves that Jehovah's strong arm is with his people?

when the flight to the valley of Jehovah's mountains began.

<sup>12</sup> Since 1919 the valley of divine protection continues to protect true worshippers earth wide. Over the decades, in many parts of the world, there have been bans and restrictions on the field ministry and the Bible literature of Jehovah's Witnesses. Such restrictions still exist in certain lands. Try as the nations may, however, they will never succeed in stamping out true worship! Jehovah's powerful arm will prove to be with his people.—Deut. 11:2.

<sup>13</sup> If we stick to Jehovah and stand firm in the truth, he and his Son, Jesus Christ, will do their part, and God will not allow anyone or anything to 'snatch us out of His hand.' (John 10:28, 29) Jehovah is ready to extend whatever help is needed so that we may obey him as the Universal Sovereign and remain loyal subjects of the Messianic Kingdom. It is imperative that we remain in the valley of protection, for that valley will take on even greater meaning for true worshippers during the fast-approaching great tribulation.

#### **'THE DAY OF WARRING' ARRIVES**

<sup>14</sup> As the end of this system of things draws closer, Satan will intensify his attacks upon Jehovah's servants. Then will come "the day of [God's] warring" against his enemies. Jehovah will make sure that one of Satan's attacks will prove to be his last. On that day, the Sovereign of the universe will distinguish himself as a Warrior more glori-

---

<sup>13</sup>. How do we stay in Jehovah's protective valley, and why is it now more important than ever to do so?

<sup>14, 15</sup>. On "the day of [God's] warring" against his enemies, what will be the situation of those outside the valley?

ously than he has during any previous "day of fight."—Zech. 14:3.

<sup>15</sup> On the day of God's warring, what will be the situation of those outside the "great valley" of protection? They will have "no precious light" of divine favor shining upon them. In that coming day of fight, "the horse, the mule, the camel, and the male ass, and every sort of domestic animal"—symbols of the nations' military equipment—will be affected. Such equipment will be "congealed," put out of operation as if stiffened by cold. Jehovah will also use pestilence and "the scourge." Whether literal or not, the scourge will silence terrifying threats. On that day, "one's very eyes . . . and tongue will rot away" in that the attackers will be able to strike out only blindly and their defiant speech will be silenced. (Zech. 14:6, 7, 12, 15) No section of the earth will escape destruction. The forces lined up on Satan's side in the battle will be tremendous. (Rev. 19:19-21) "Those slain by Jehovah will certainly come to be in that day from one end of the earth clear to the other end."—Jer. 25:32, 33.

<sup>16</sup> Warfare always brings suffering, even to the eventual victors. Food may run short. Property may be lost. Standards of living may drop. Personal freedoms may be curtailed. If such hardships befall us, how will we react? Will we panic? Will we renounce our faith under pressure? Will we lose hope and sink into despondency? How vital it will be during the great tribulation to maintain our faith in Jehovah's saving power and to remain in Jehovah's valley of protection!—*Read Habakkuk 3:17, 18.*

---

<sup>16</sup>. In view of the approaching day of God's warring, what questions should we contemplate, and what will we need to do?



### “LIVING WATERS WILL GO FORTH”

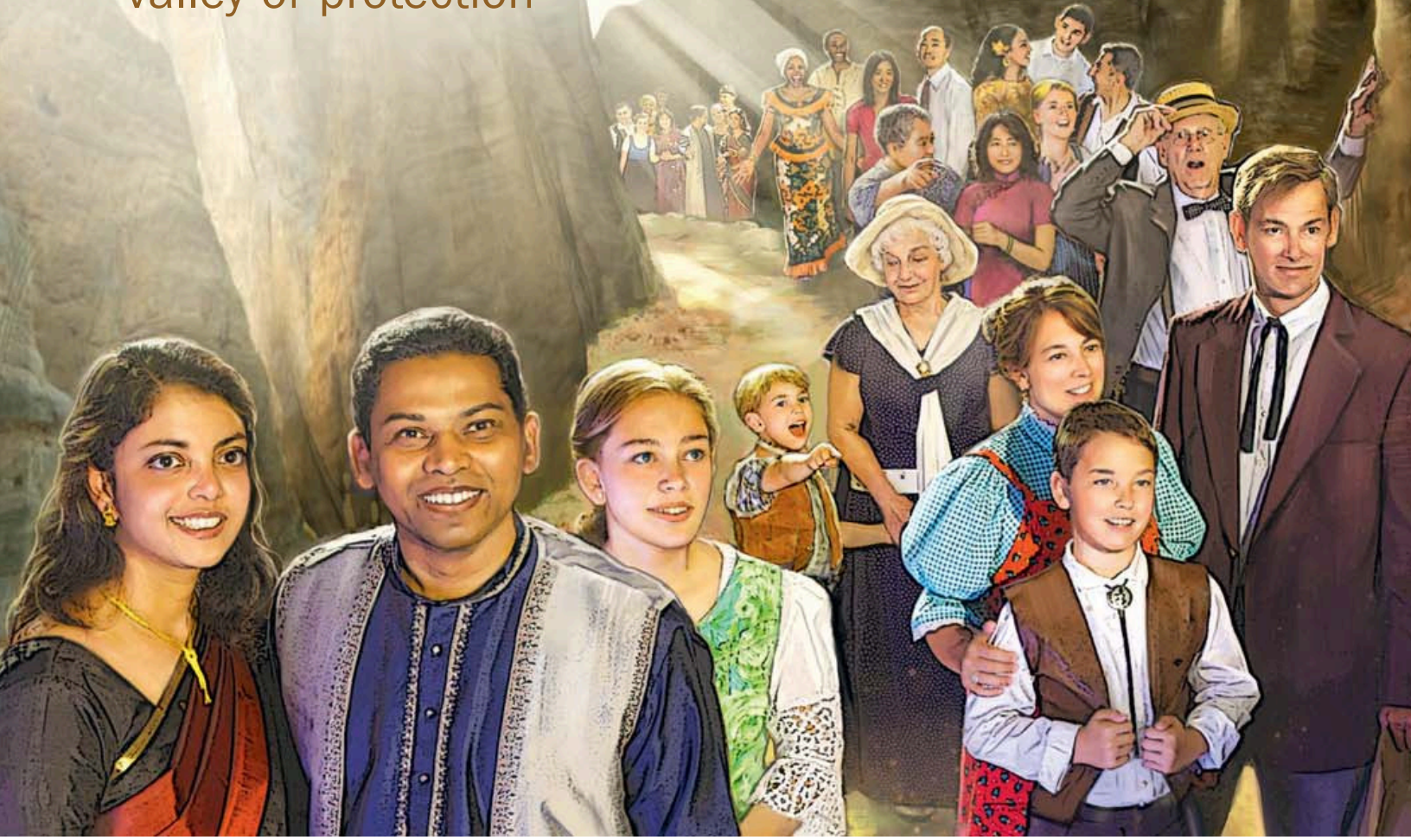
<sup>17</sup> Following Armageddon, “living waters” will flow continuously from the seat of the Messianic Kingdom. These “living waters” are Jehovah’s provisions for life. “The eastern sea” refers to the Dead Sea, and “the western sea” to the Mediterranean Sea. Both are used with reference to people. The Dead Sea would well represent those who are in the common grave of all mankind. Since the Mediterranean Sea teems with life, it would aptly depict

**17, 18.** (a) What are the “living waters”? (b) What do “the eastern sea” and “the western sea” represent? (c) As you look ahead to the future, what is your determination?

the “great crowd” of Armageddon survivors. (*Read Zechariah 14:8, 9; Rev. 7: 9-15*) Thus, both groups will benefit by being released from the condemnation of Adamic death as they keep quenching their thirst with the symbolic living waters, or “river of water of life.”—Rev. 22:1, 2.

<sup>18</sup> Under Jehovah’s protection, we will survive the end of this wicked system of things and enter into God’s righteous new world. Though we are objects of hatred by all the nations, let us be resolved to remain loyal subjects of God’s Kingdom, ever determined to stay in Jehovah’s valley of protection.

Be determined  
to stay in Jehovah’s  
valley of protection







# STAY IN JEHOVAH'S VALLEY OF PROTECTION

Zechariah 14:3

"Jehovah will . . . war against those nations as in the day of his warring, in the day of fight."

## PARAGRAPH 2

Revelation 16:14-16 "They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and perform signs, and they go forth to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty. 15 "Look! I am coming as a thief. Happy is the one that stays awake and keeps his outer garments, that he may not walk naked and people look upon his shamefulness." 16 And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Har-Ma-ged'on."

## PARAGRAPH 3

Romans 15:4 "For all the things that were written aforetime were written for our instruction, that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope."

Zechariah 14:4 "And his feet will actually stand in that day upon the mountain of the olive trees, which is in front of Jerusalem, on the east; and the mountain of the olive trees must be split at its middle, from the sunrising and to the west. There will be a very great valley; and half of the mountain will actually be moved to the north, and half of it to the south."

Zechariah 14:8 "And it must occur in that day [that] living waters will go forth from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. In summer and in winter it will occur."

2 Peter 1:19,20 "Consequently we have the prophetic word [made] more sure; and YOU are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and a daystar rises, in YOUR hearts. 20 For YOU know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation."

## PARAGRAPH 4

**[Read] Zechariah 14:1, 2** "Look! There is a day coming, belonging to Jehovah, and the spoil of you will certainly be apportioned out in the midst of you. 2 And I shall certainly gather all the nations against Jerusalem for the war; and the city will actually be captured and the houses be pillaged, and the women themselves will be raped. And half of the city must go forth into the exile; but as for the remaining ones of the people, they will not be cut off from the city."

Revelation 1:10 "By inspiration I came to be in the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a strong voice like that of a trumpet,"

Revelation 11:15 "And the seventh angel blew his trumpet. And loud voices occurred in heaven, saying: "The kingdom of the world did become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will rule as king forever and ever.""

Luke 21:24 "and they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations, until the appointed times of the nations are fulfilled."

Hebrews 12:22 "But YOU have approached a Mount Zion and a city of [the] living God, heavenly Jerusalem, and myriads of angels,"

Hebrews 12:28 "Wherefore, seeing that we are to receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us continue to have undeserved kindness, through which we may acceptably render God sacred service with godly fear and awe."

## PARAGRAPH 5

Philippians 3:20 "As for us, our citizenship exists in the heavens, from which place also we are eagerly waiting for a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"

## PARAGRAPH 7

Revelation 12:17 "And the dragon grew wrathful at the woman, and went off to wage war with the remaining ones of her seed, who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness to Jesus."

1 Peter 1:6, 7 "In this fact YOU are greatly rejoicing, though for a little while at present, if it must be, YOU have been grieved by various trials, 7 in order that the tested quality of YOUR faith, of much greater value than gold that perishes despite its being proved by fire, may be found a cause for praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:27, 28 "Only behave in a manner worthy of the good news about the Christ, in order that, whether I come and see YOU or be absent, I may hear about the things which concern YOU, that YOU are standing firm in one spirit, with one soul striving side by side for the faith of the good news, 28 and in no respect being frightened by YOUR opponents. This very thing is a proof of destruction for them, but of salvation for YOU; and this [indication] is from God,"

John 15:17-19 "These things I command YOU, that YOU love one another. 18 If the world hates YOU, YOU know that it has hated me before it hated YOU. 19 If YOU were part of the world, the world would be fond of what is its own. Now because YOU are no part of the world, but I have chosen YOU out of the world, on this account the world hates YOU."

## PARAGRAPH 8

**[Read] Zechariah 14:3-5** "And Jehovah will certainly go forth and war against those nations as in the day of his warring, in the day of fight. 4 And his feet will actually stand in that day upon the mountain of the olive trees, which is in front of Jerusalem, on the east; and the mountain of the olive trees must be split at its middle, from the sunrising and to the west. There will be a very great valley; and half of the mountain will actually be moved to the north, and half of it to the south. 5 And YOU people will certainly flee to the valley of my mountains; because the valley of [the] mountains will reach all the way to A'zel. And YOU will have to flee, just as YOU fled because of the [earth]quake in the days of Uz-zi'ah the king of Judah. And Jehovah my God will certainly come, all the holy ones being with him."

Psalms 72:3 "Let the mountains carry peace to the people, Also the hills, through righteousness."



### **PARAGRAPH 8 (cont.)**

Isaiah 25:6, 7 "And Jehovah of armies will certainly make for all the peoples, in this mountain, a banquet of well-oiled dishes, a banquet of [wine kept on] the dregs, of well-oiled dishes filled with marrow, of [wine kept on] the dregs, filtered. 7 And in this mountain he will certainly swallow up the face of the envelopment that is enveloping over all the peoples, and the woven work that is interwoven upon all the nations."

### **PARAGRAPH 9**

Zechariah 14:4 "And his feet will actually stand in that day upon the mountain of the olive trees," which is in front of Jerusalem, on the east; and the mountain of the olive trees must be split at its middle, from the sunrising and to the west. There will be a very great valley; and half of the mountain will actually be moved to the north, and half of it to the south."

[\*Or, "the Mount of Olives."]

### **PARAGRAPH 11**

Matthew 24:9 "Then people will deliver YOU up to tribulation and will kill YOU, and YOU will be objects of hatred by all the nations on account of my name."

Revelation 11:11,12 "And after the three and a half days spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet, and great fear fell upon those beholding them. 12 And they heard a loud voice out of heaven say to them: "Come on up here." And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld them."

### **PARAGRAPH 12**

Deuteronomy 11:2 "And YOU well know today (for [I do] not [address] YOUR sons who have not known and who have not seen the discipline of Jehovah YOUR God, his greatness, his strong hand and his outstretched arm,"

### **PARAGRAPH 13**

John 10:28,29 "And I give them everlasting life, and they will by no means ever be destroyed, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 What my Father has given me is something greater than all other things, and no one can snatch them out of the hand of the Father."

### **PARAGRAPH 14**

Zechariah 14:3 "And Jehovah will certainly go forth and war against those nations as in the day of his warring, in the day of fight."

### **PARAGRAPH 15**

Zechariah 14:6, 7 "And it must occur in that day [that] there will prove to be no precious light-things will be congealed. 7 And it must become one day that is known as belonging to Jehovah. It will not be day, neither will it be night; and it must occur [that] at evening time it will become light."

Zechariah 14:12 "And this is what will prove to be the scourge with which Jehovah will scourge all the peoples that will actually do military service against Jerusalem: There will be a rotting away of one's flesh, while one is standing upon one's feet; and one's very eyes will rot away in their sockets, and one's very tongue will rot away in one's mouth."

Zechariah 14:15 "And this is how the scourge of the horse, the mule, the camel, and the male ass, and every sort of domestic animal that happens to be in those camps, will prove to be, like this scourge."

Revelation 19:19-21 "And I saw the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage the war with the one seated on the horse and with his army. 20 And the wild beast was caught, and along with it the false prophet that performed in front of it the signs with which he misled those who received the mark of the wild beast and those who render worship to its image. While still alive, they both were hurled into the fiery lake that burns with sulphur. 21 But the rest were killed off with the long sword of the one seated on the horse, which [sword] proceeded out of his mouth. And all the birds were filled from the fleshy parts of them."

Jeremiah 25:32, 33 "This is what Jehovah of armies has said, 'Look! A calamity is going forth from nation to nation, and a great tempest itself will be roused up from the remotest parts of the earth. 33 And those slain by Jehovah will certainly come to be in that day from one end of the earth clear to the other end of the earth. They will not be bewailed, neither will they be gathered up or be buried. As manure on the surface of the ground they will become.'"

### **PARAGRAPH 16**

**[Read] Habakkuk 3:17,18 "Although [the] fig tree itself may not blossom, and there may be no yield on the vines; the work of [the] olive tree may actually turn out a failure, and the terraces themselves may actually produce no food; [the] flock may actually be severed from [the] pen, and there may be no herd in the enclosures; 18 Yet, as for me, I will exult in Jehovah himself; I will be joyful in the God of my salvation."**

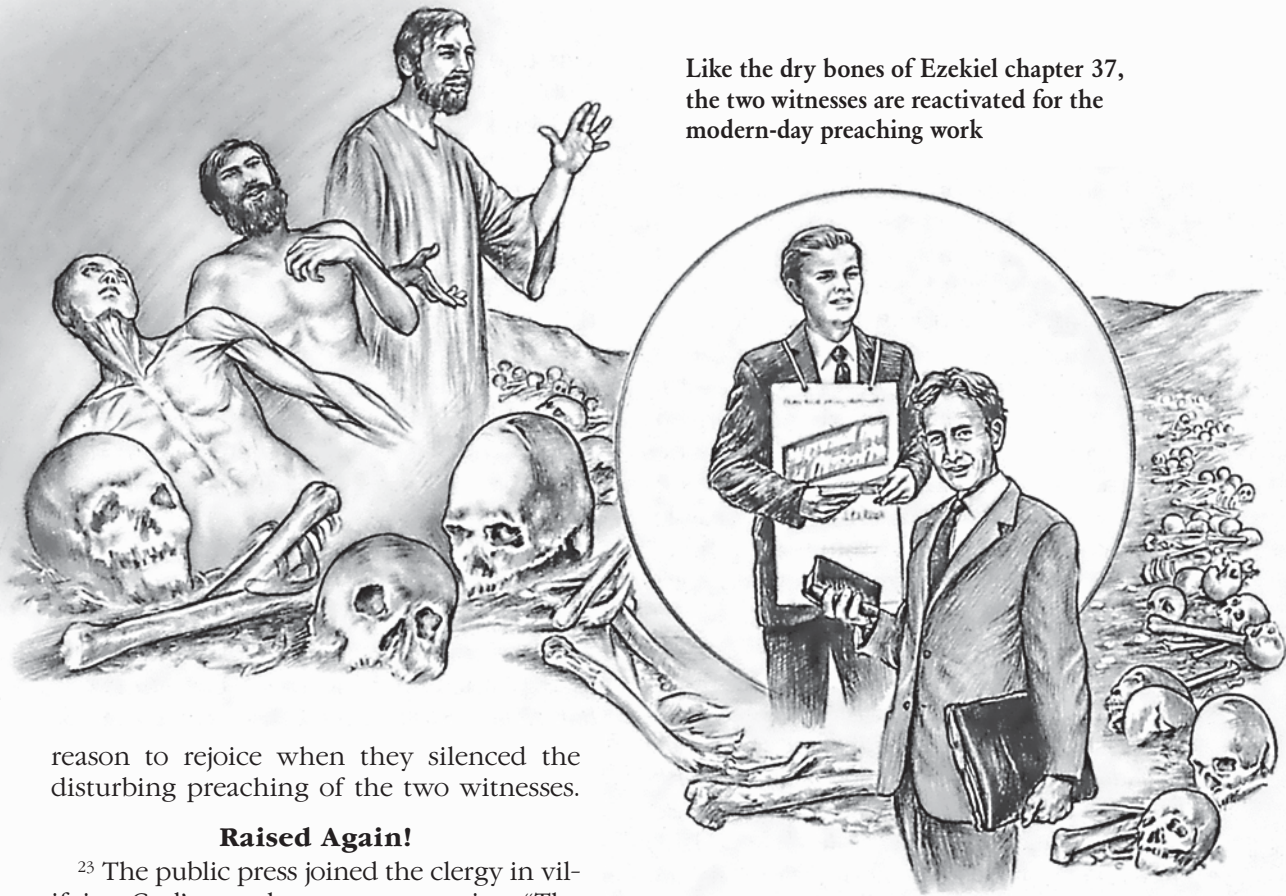
### **PARAGRAPH 17**

Zechariah 14:8, 9 "And it must occur in that day [that] living waters will go forth from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. In summer and in winter it will occur. 9 And Jehovah must become king over all the earth. In that day Jehovah will prove to be one, and his name one."

Revelation 7:9-15 "After these things I saw, and, look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands. 10 And they keep on crying with a loud voice, saying: "Salvation [we owe] to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell upon their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength [be] to our God forever and ever. Amen." 13 And in response one of the elders said to me: "These who are dressed in the white robes, who are they and where did they come from?" 14 So right away I said to him: "My lord, you are the one that knows." And he said to me: "These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 That is why they are before the throne of God; and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them."

Revelation 22:1,2 "And he showed me a river of water of life, clear as crystal, flowing out from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of its broad way. And on this side of the river and on that side [there were] trees of life producing twelve crops of fruit, yielding their fruits each month. And the leaves of the trees [were] for the curing of the nations."

Like the dry bones of Ezekiel chapter 37, the two witnesses are reactivated for the modern-day preaching work



reason to rejoice when they silenced the disturbing preaching of the two witnesses.

### Raised Again!

<sup>23</sup> The public press joined the clergy in vilifying God's people, one paper saying: "The finis of *The Finished Mystery* has been given." Nothing, though, could have been further from the truth! The two witnesses did not stay dead. We read: "**And after the three and a half days spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet, and great fear fell upon those beholding them. And they heard a loud voice out of heaven say to them: 'Come on up here.' And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld them.**" (Revelation 11:11, 12) Thus, they had an experience similar to that of the dry bones in the valley that Ezekiel visited in vision. Jehovah breathed upon those dry bones, and they came to

23. (a) What happens to the two witnesses after three and a half days, and what is the effect on their enemies? (b) When did Revelation 11:11, 12 and Ezekiel's prophecy of Jehovah's breathing upon a valley of dry bones have a modern-day fulfillment?

life, providing a picture of the rebirth of the nation of Israel after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. (Ezekiel 37:1-14) These two prophecies, in Ezekiel and in Revelation, had their striking modern-day fulfillment in 1919, when Jehovah restored his "deceased" witnesses to vibrant life.

<sup>24</sup> What a shock for those persecutors! The corpses of the two witnesses were suddenly alive and active again. It was a bitter pill for those clergymen to swallow, the more so since the Christian ministers whom they had schemed to put in prison were free again, later to be fully exonerated. The shock must have been even greater when, in September 1919, the Bible

24. When the two witnesses came to life, what was the effect on their religious persecutors?

Students held a convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, U.S.A. Here J. F. Rutherford, recently released from prison, stirred conventioners with his talk “Announcing the Kingdom,” based on Revelation 15:2 and Isaiah 52:7. Those of the John class began once again to “prophesy,” or preach publicly. They advanced from strength to strength, fearlessly exposing Christendom’s hypocrisy.

<sup>25</sup> Christendom tried again and again to repeat her triumph of 1918. She resorted to mob action, legal maneuvering, imprisonment, even executions—all to no avail! After 1919 the spiritual domain of the two witnesses was out of her reach. In that year Jehovah had said to them: “Come on up here,” and they had ascended to an elevated spiritual state where their enemies could see them but could not touch them. John describes the shocking effect their restoration had on the great city: “**And in that hour a great earthquake occurred, and a tenth of the city fell; and seven thousand persons were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became frightened and gave glory to the God of heaven.**” (Revelation 11:13) There were truly great convulsions in the realm of religion. The ground seemed to move under the leaders of the established churches as this body of revived Christians got to work. One tenth of their city, figuratively 7,000 persons, were so profoundly affected that they are spoken of as being killed.

<sup>26</sup> The expression “a tenth of the city” reminds us that Isaiah prophesied regarding ancient Jerusalem that a tenth would survive the destruction of the city as a holy seed. (Isaiah 6:13) Similarly, the number 7,000 reminds us that when Elijah felt that he alone remained faithful in Israel, Jeho-

vah told him that there were, in fact, still 7,000 who had not bent down to Baal. (1 Kings 19:14, 18) In the first century, the apostle Paul said that these 7,000 pictured the remnant of the Jews who had responded to the good news about the Christ. (Romans 11:1-5) These scriptures help us to understand that the “seven thousand” and the “tenth of the city” in Revelation 11:13 are those who respond to the restored two witnesses and abandon the sinful great city. They die, as it were, to Christendom. Their names are taken off her membership rolls. They no longer exist as far as she is concerned.\*

<sup>27</sup> But how did ‘the rest [of Christendom] give glory to the God of heaven’? Certainly not by abandoning their apostate religion and becoming servants of God. Rather, it is as explained in Vincent’s *Word Studies in the New Testament*, in discussing the expression “gave glory to the God of heaven.” There it is stated: “The phrase signifies not conversion, nor repentance, nor thanksgiving, but *recognition*, which is its usual sense in scripture. Compare Josh. vii. 19 (Sept.). John ix. 24; Acts xii. 23; Rom. iv. 20.” To her chagrin, Christendom had to acknowledge that the God of the Bible Students had performed a great act in restoring them to Christian activity.

<sup>28</sup> It may be that the clergy gave this acknowledgment only mentally, or to themselves. Certainly, none of them went on record as publicly acknowledging the God of the two witnesses. But Jehovah’s prophecy through John helps us to discern what was in their hearts and realize the humiliating shock that they experienced in 1919. From that year onward, as the “seven thou-

25. (a) When were the two witnesses told, “Come on up here,” and how did that take place? (b) What shocking effect did the restoration of the two witnesses have on the great city?

26. Who are represented by the “tenth of the city” and the “seven thousand” of Revelation 11:13? Explain.

\* Compare the use of the words “dead,” “died,” and “living” in such scriptures as Romans 6:2, 10, 11; 7:4, 6, 9; Galatians 2:19; Colossians 2:20; 3:3.

27, 28. (a) How did ‘the rest give glory to the God of heaven’? (b) What were Christendom’s clergy forced to acknowledge?



# 16 *Flee to God's Kingdom!* (Zephaniah 2:3)

1. Oh, seek Jehovah, you meek ones and lowly;  
Seek what is right, and seek meekness today.  
Thus it may be in the day of his anger  
That you may be hidden away.

*(CHORUS)*

*Flee to God's Kingdom, the hope of mankind;  
Firm for his rule take your stand.  
There you will find God's protection and blessing;  
Hasten to heed his command.*

2. Come, you who hunger for truth and for justice;  
Why longer sorrow and cry out in pain?  
Seek now God's way to escape the oppressor,  
Submitting yourself to Christ's reign.

*(Chorus)*

3. Look up, yes, lift up your heads with rejoicing;  
See all the proof that the Kingdom is here!  
Welcome the light that Jehovah is sending,  
And let him alone be your fear!

*(Chorus)*