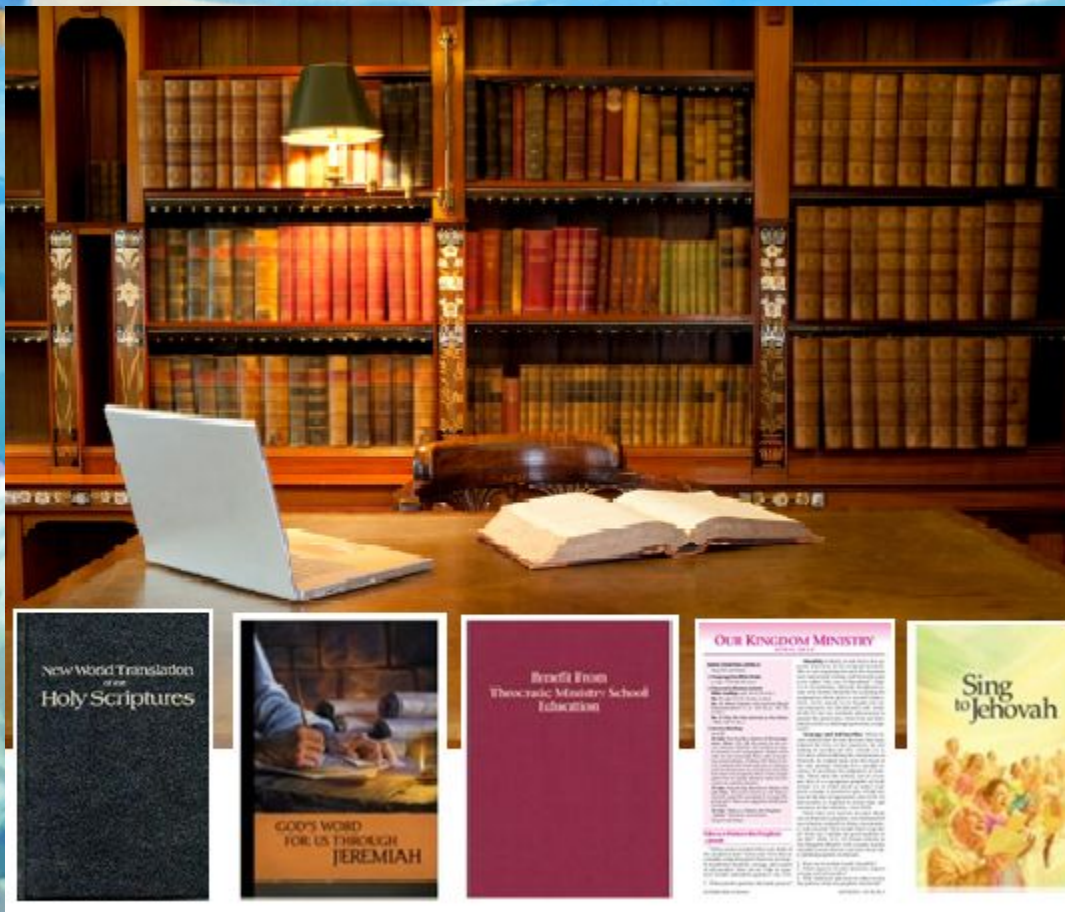


MID-WEEK MEETING FILE



April 22-26, 2013

85 *A Full Reward From Jehovah* (Matthew 19:29)

1. Jehovah is faithful and fully aware
Of all those who serve him whole-souled.
He knows there are times their devotion and zeal
Result in their loss as foretold.
If you have left houses or fam'ly or friends,
Be sure that our God knows the sum.
He makes it up now with our dear brotherhood
And life in the new world to come.

(CHORUS)

*May Jehovah, the God of comfort, see;
May he provide a full reward for you.
May you find refuge beneath his wings.
Jehovah is faithful; Jehovah is true.*

2. It may be by choice or by their lot in life;
There are some who single remain.
By seeking the Kingdom of God to the full,
In godly devotion they gain.
By making the room for their unwedded state,
At times they are lonely, we know.
As brothers and sisters to these faithful ones,
Support and approval we show.

(Chorus)

WEEK STARTING APRIL 22

Song 85 and Prayer

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 8 ¶¶8-13 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Luke 18-21 (10 min.)

No. 1: Luke 18:18-34 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Will People of All Races Ever Truly Be United as Brothers and Sisters?—*rs* p. 304 ¶¶5–p. 305 ¶¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: What Is Meekness, How Do We Seek It, and Why Is It Vital?—Zeph. 2:2, 3 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 120

10 min: “Listen and Learn.” Questions and answers.

10 min: “A Campaign That Gets Results.” Discussion. Give all in attendance an invitation, if available, and discuss its contents. Inform the congregation when their campaign will begin, and outline local arrangements for covering the territory. Have a brief demonstration.

10 min: “Conduct That Glorifies God.” Questions and answers. Also discuss applicable “2013 District Convention Reminders.”

Song 121 and Prayer

Listen and Learn

¹ Soon the 2013 district conventions will begin. Much work has gone into preparing a program that addresses the current needs of the worldwide field. Have you made arrangements to be present all three days of the convention? Large conventions can have many distractions, so extra effort may be needed to pay careful attention to the program. Since the sessions last longer than congregation meetings, concentration must be maintained longer. In addition, travel and other factors may cause a measure of tiredness. What will help us to remain alert so that we can listen and learn?—Deut. 31:12.

² **Before the Convention Begins:** Our official Web site, www.jw.org, posts the convention program, which includes the titles of all the talks and one or two key scriptures for each one. If we have access to the Internet, previewing this information will help us

1. Why may extra effort be required to listen and learn at the district convention?
2. How may we prepare our heart for the convention program?

2013 District Convention Reminders

■ **Program Times:** The doors to the building will open at 8:00 a.m. The introductory music will begin at 9:20 a.m. all three days. At that time, all of us should go to our seats so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The closing song and prayer will be introduced at 4:50 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 3:35 p.m. on Sunday.

■ **Parking:** At all convention sites where we control the parking, the spaces will be available to attendees at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking is usually limited, so carpooling should be done to the extent possible. Only those with a license plate or placard for the disabled will be allowed to park in the area reserved for such ones.

■ **Seat Saving:** Seats may be saved only for those living in your home or traveling in your

vehicle or for your current Bible students. Seating for the elderly and the infirm is limited, so it may not be possible for all of their family members to sit with them. Please leave these seats for the elderly and the infirm and those assisting them.—1 Cor. 13:5.

■ **Noon Meal:** Please bring a light lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed under a seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers and glass containers are not permitted in the convention facility.

■ **Donations:** We can show our appreciation for the convention arrangements by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at the convention. Any checks should be made payable to “Christian Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses.” Donations can also be made by means of a debit or credit card.

to prepare our heart for what will be presented. (Ezra 7:10) During your Family Worship evening, could you devote time to building anticipation for the upcoming program?

³ **During the Program:** If possible, care for restroom needs before the start of the session. Turn off your cell phone so that you will not be distracted by calls or texts or be tempted to text others during the program. If you must have your phone on, put it on a setting that will not distract others in the event that someone calls. If you use an electronic tablet during the program, do so in a way that is not distracting to others. Avoid eating or drinking during the program. (Eccl. 3:1) Keep your eyes focused on the speaker. When a scripture is read, follow along in your Bible. Take brief notes.

⁴ We also want our children to listen and learn. Proverbs 29:15 says: "A boy let on the loose will be causing his mother shame." Therefore, it is good for families to sit together so that parents can make sure that their children are paying attention to the program rather than talking, texting, or walking around. Even if they are too young to

3. What will help us to listen carefully?

4. How can parents help their children to listen and learn?

■ **Medication:** If you require prescription medication, please be sure to bring an adequate supply with you, since none will be available at the convention. Diabetic syringes and needles must be disposed of properly as hazardous waste and not in trash receptacles at the convention facility or hotel.

■ **Footwear:** Each year injuries occur that are related to footwear, especially high-heeled shoes. It is best to choose modest, well-fitting shoes that will allow you to walk safely on ramps, stairs, gratings, and so forth.

■ **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. To receive it, you will need to bring a small battery-operated FM receiver and earphones.

understand everything that is discussed, children can be trained to remain awake and sit quietly.

⁵ **After the Program Concludes Each Day:** Do not stay out late. Go to bed early enough to get sufficient rest. Reviewing what you heard will help you to remember it longer. Therefore, it would be beneficial to take a few minutes to discuss the program as a family each evening. If you go to a restaurant with friends, why not take your notes along and share a point or two that you especially enjoyed? When you return home after the convention, you might spend some time during your Family Worship evening discussing how you can apply the information as a family. You could also set aside time each week to review a portion of any new releases.

⁶ A banquet serves little purpose unless the food is eaten and digested. We can say the same regarding the spiritual banquet that will be served at the district convention. May we benefit fully by being in attendance for each session, by listening carefully, and by applying what we learn.

5. Why is it beneficial to review the program, and how may we do this?

6. Is merely being present at the convention sufficient? Explain.

■ **Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs:** Baby strollers and lawn chairs should not be brought to the convention site. However, child-safety seats are acceptable if they can be secured in a seat next to the parents.

■ **Fragrances:** Most conventions take place in enclosed areas with mechanical ventilation. Therefore, it would be loving on our part to limit the use of strong fragrances, colognes, and perfumes that may cause reactions in people with respiratory or related problems. —1 Cor. 10:24.

■ **Please Follow Up (S-43) Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* form should be used to provide information regarding any interest found through informal witnessing during the convention. Completed forms may be submitted

A Campaign That Gets Results

Three weeks before the start of their convention, congregations will once again participate in a campaign to invite interested ones from the territory to attend. There is good reason for this annual campaign. Those who accept the invitation and come to the convention are often impressed by the Scriptural talks, the well-organized departments manned entirely by volunteers, and the good conduct and unity we display. (Ps. 110:3; 133:1; Isa. 65:13, 14) Even so, does our campaign get results, especially in areas where interested ones must travel some distance to attend the convention?

After the 2011 district convention, a branch office received a letter from a woman who had found an invitation in her door. She usually hid when Jehovah's Witnesses knocked. She wrote: "I had a beautiful home, a wonderful husband, and I thought I had everything that would make me happy. Sadly, I was still not happy, and my life truly had no purpose. So I decided to drive 200 miles to attend the Saturday program." She enjoyed the convention so much that she phoned her husband to tell

him that she was going to stay overnight and attend on Sunday too. "I listened to all the talks, I met many Jehovah's Witnesses, and I decided that I never wanted this to end." After returning home, she began studying and after four months became an unbaptized publisher. "I am so glad that I found that invitation in my door because now my life truly has purpose!"

Some who receive an invitation *will* attend. Therefore, have a zealous share in this important campaign. Bring any leftover invitations with you to the convention city, and use them to witness informally.

How Will We Offer the Invitation?

In order to cover our territory, we should be brief. We might say something like this: "Hello. We are sharing in a global effort to distribute this invitation. Here is your copy. You will find more details on the invitation." Be enthusiastic. When sharing in the campaign on the weekends, we should also offer the magazines when appropriate.

to the Book Room or given to your congregation secretary on your return home.

■ **Restaurants:** Honor Jehovah's name by your fine conduct at restaurants. Dress in a way that befits a Christian minister. Leave a tip if this is customary.

■ **Hotels:**

- (1) Please do not reserve more rooms than you will actually use, and do not have more people stay in your room than what is allowed.
- (2) Do not cancel your reservation except for an emergency situation, and notify the hotel as soon as it occurs so that others needing accommodations can use the room. (Matt. 5:37) If you do have to cancel, be sure to get a cancellation number.

If you cancel a room less than 48 hours ahead of time, your deposit will not be refunded.

- (3) Please note that if you use a debit or credit card when registering at a hotel, it is standard practice for the hotel to place a "hold" on funds in your account to cover your total room cost, plus any possible damages or incidentals during your stay. You will not be able to use any of those funds until your account is settled within a few days after you depart.
- (4) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it, and return it immediately so that others may use it.
- (5) If it is the custom in your country, tip hotel workers when they carry your

Conduct That Glorifies God

¹ When attending district conventions, we are quite conspicuous. In many convention cities, local news outlets inform the community of our presence. The hotels and restaurants are often filled with delegates, and people living in the area notice the many visitors wearing convention badges. The following are some reminders that will help us to glorify God by our good conduct while in the convention city.—1 Pet. 2:12.

² **Modest Dress:** Our modest dress while attending the program often impresses onlookers. However, our style of dress at other times—when checking in at the hotel, when eating at area restaurants, when shopping, and so forth—may make a bigger impression on observers. Although we need not wear dress clothes on these other occasions, what we wear should be modest, dignified, and not overly casual. Observers should be able to see a difference between us and unbelievers. (Rom. 12:2) In addition, we should wear our convention badge, as this will advertise the convention, lead to witnessing opportu-

-
1. Why are Jehovah's Witnesses conspicuous when attending district conventions?
 2. How may we glorify God by our modest dress while in the convention city?

luggage and leave a tip for the housekeeper each day.

- (6) Cook only in rooms where cooking is permitted.
- (7) Do not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to consume while they are at the hotel.
- (8) At all times, display the fruitage of the spirit when dealing with the hotel staff. They are caring for a large number of guests and appreciate our kindness, patience, and reasonableness.
- (9) Parents should supervise their children at all times around the hotel, including the elevators, swimming pool, lobby area, exercise room, and so forth.

nities, and enable other delegates to identify us.

³ **Patience and Courtesy:** At a time when many in the world are self-centered and unthankful, how refreshing our patience and courteousness will be to onlookers, such as hotel and restaurant personnel! (2 Tim. 3:1-5) When saving seats or when getting in line to obtain convention releases, we should seek, not our own advantage, but that of the other person. (1 Cor. 10:23, 24) After attending his first convention, one interested man said, "I don't remember any of the talks that were given that day, but the conduct of the Witnesses made a lasting impression on me."

⁴ **Willing Volunteers:** The volunteer spirit is a mark of true Christians. (Ps. 110:3) Could you volunteer to assist at the convention? At one convention site, some 600 brothers and sisters volunteered to clean before the convention. The staff remarked: "This is the most amazing thing we have ever seen! It's hard to imagine that all of these people are volunteers." We eagerly look forward to the 2013 district conventions and the opportunity we will have not just to listen and learn from God but also to glorify him.

-
3. How may we display patience and courtesy?
 4. Why should we consider volunteering at the convention if our circumstances allow?

(10) The room rate shown on the *Recommended Lodging List* is the full price per day, excluding tax. If you are overcharged, refuse these charges and inform the Rooming Department at the convention as soon as possible.

(11) If a problem arises with your hotel room, inform the Rooming Department while at the convention so that they can assist you.

■ **Volunteer Service:** Any who wish to volunteer should report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent, guardian, or other adult approved by a parent or guardian.

en their situation. (Matt. 24:19) We now face a greater tribulation. This should add a dimension for Christian couples who are deciding whether to have children. Do you not agree that it seems harder and harder to deal with these critical times? And couples have admitted that it has been very challenging to raise children who will “keep living” through the end of the present system. While each couple must decide if they will have children, Jeremiah’s case is worth considering. But what of God’s command that he not even get married?

Jeremiah received what unusual command, and what should that move us to consider?

LEARN FROM JEREMIAH’S SINGLENESS

⁸ In telling Jeremiah not to marry, God did not establish a norm that all his servants were to follow. Marriage is good. Jehovah initiated human marriage to populate the earth and to be a source of abundant satisfaction and delight. (Prov. 5:18) Still, not all were married. There may have been some eunuchs associated with God’s people while Jeremiah was prophesying.* In addition, you can be sure that there were widows and widowers. So Jeremiah was not the only true worshipper who did not have a mate. Of course, he had a reason for not marrying, and so do some Christians today.

* Isaiah prophetically addressed literal eunuchs in his day, who would have a limited share in Israelite worship. He foretold that by obedience eunuchs would gain “something better than sons and daughters,” receiving “a name to time indefinite” in God’s house. —Isa. 56:4, 5.

8. Why can we say that marrying is not a necessity in order to please God?

⁹ Many Christians do get married, but not all. You know that Jesus did not, and he said that some disciples would have the gift to “make room for” singleness in their mind and heart. He urged those who could to do so. (*Read Matthew 19:11, 12.*) Therefore, it would be proper to commend, not tease, one who pursues singleness so as to do more in God’s service. Granted, some Christians are single, at least for a time, because of circumstances. For example, they may not have found a suitable *Christian* mate and commendably are determined to uphold God’s standard to marry “only in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 7:39) And, of course, some of God’s servants are widows or widowers, thus being single.* They should never forget that God (and Jesus) have long displayed concern for such single ones.—Jer. 22:3; *read 1 Corinthians 7:8, 9.*

¹⁰ Accordingly, as Jeremiah maintained his singleness, he could draw on God for support. How? Well, recall that Jeremiah took delight in Jehovah’s word. That would have been a source of strength and reassurance to Jeremiah over the decades as he focused on his God-ordained ministry. Furthermore, he carefully avoided the company of those who might ridicule him for being single. He was willing to ‘sit down all by himself’ rather than to be around those with such tendencies.—*Read Jeremiah 15:17.*

¹¹ Many single Christians—men and women, whether young or advanced in years—are following Jeremiah’s

* Others may be living alone because their mate, perhaps an unbeliever, separated from them or got a legal divorce.

9. What inspired counsel regarding marriage should we seriously consider?

10, 11. (a) What helped Jeremiah to make a success of singleness? (b) How do modern-day experiences bear out that those remaining unmarried can have a rewarding life?



good example. Experiences show what a great help it is to be immersed in God's service, to have a large share in meaningful spiritual activities. For example, a Witness serving with a Chinese-language congregation observes: "Pioneering gives my life direction. As a single sister, I lead a busy, active life, which

helps me to avoid loneliness. I feel satisfied at the end of each day because I can see that my ministry really helps people. This gives me great joy." A pioneer aged 38 says: "I think the secret to happiness is being able to enjoy the positive aspects of whatever situation you find yourself in." An unmarried Christian in southern Europe noted frankly: "My life may not have turned out exactly as I planned, but I am happy and will continue to be so."

¹² Could it be that Jeremiah noted that his life had not turned out as he had planned while growing up? But he might wisely have seen that such is also true of many who marry and have children. A pioneer in Spain shared this insight: "I know married people who are happy and others who are unhappy. This reality convinces me that my happiness does not depend on whether I get married in the future or not." Without question, Jeremiah's experience—just one of thousands—proves that a full, rewarding, happy life is possible for one who is single. We have further confirmation from the apostle Paul, who

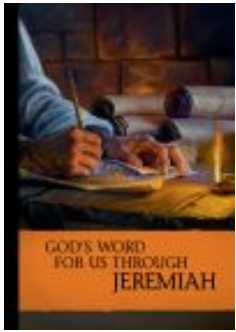
12, 13. (a) What is a realistic view of both singleness and marriage? (b) Paul's life and counsel underscore what about singleness?

“My moments alone are among some of the most precious. I can commune with Jehovah in prayer. I can enjoy meditation and personal study without distraction. . . . Singleness has contributed not a little to my joy.”—Babette

wrote: “I say to the unmarried persons and the widows, it is well for them that they remain even as I am.” (1 Cor. 7:8) Paul may have been a widower. In any case, he was unmarried when he did so much in the missionary service. (1 Cor. 9:5) Is it not reasonable to conclude that his single state was an advantage? For him it meant “constant attendance upon the Lord without distraction,” and thus he accomplished much good.—1 Cor. 7:35.

¹³ Paul was inspired to add something else: “Those who [marry] will have tribulation in their flesh.” God had Paul include this profound truth: “If anyone stands settled in his heart . . . to keep his own virginity, he will do well. Consequently he also that gives his virginity in marriage does well, but he that does not give it in marriage will do better.” (1 Cor. 7:28, 37, 38) Jeremiah never read those words, but his course over decades proves that singleness need not stand in the way of a fulfilling life in God’s service. In fact, it can contribute mightily to a very meaningful life centered on true worship. Though married, King Zedekiah did not heed Jeremiah’s advice and “keep living”; whereas the unmarried prophet followed a course that allowed him to do so.

What can you learn from Jeremiah’s example of maintaining singleness over many decades?



Paragraph 8

(Proverbs 5:18) Let your water source prove to be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth,

Paragraph 9

(Matthew 19:11, 12) He said to them: “Not all men make room for the saying, but only those who have the gift. ¹² For there are eunuchs that were born such from their mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs that were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs that have made themselves eunuchs on account of the kingdom of the heavens. Let him that can make room for it make room for it.”

(1 Corinthians 7:39) A wife is bound during all the time her husband is alive. But if her husband should fall asleep [in death], she is free to be married to whom she wants, only in [the] Lord.

(Jeremiah 22:3) This is what Jehovah has said: “RENDER justice and righteousness, and deliver the one that is being robbed out of the hand of the defrauder; and do not maltreat any alien resident, fatherless boy or widow. Do [them] no violence. And do not shed any innocent blood in this place.

(1 Corinthians 7:8, 9) Now I say to the unmarried persons and the widows, it is well for them that they remain even as I am. ⁹ But if they do not have self-control, let them marry, for it is better to marry than to be inflamed [with passion].

Paragraph 10

(Jeremiah 15:17) I have not sat down in the intimate group of those playing jokes and begun exulting. Because of your hand I have sat down all by myself, for it is with denunciation that you have filled me.

Paragraph 12

(1 Corinthians 7:8) Now I say to the unmarried persons and the widows, it is well for them that they remain even as I am.

(1 Corinthians 9:5) We have authority to lead about a sister as a wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Ce’phas, do we not?

(1 Corinthians 7:35) But this I am saying for YOUR personal advantage, not that I may cast a noose upon YOU, but to move YOU to that which is becoming and that which means constant attendance upon the Lord without distraction.

Paragraph 13

(1 Corinthians 7:28) But even if you did marry, you would commit no sin. And if a virgin [person] married, such one would commit no sin. However, those who do will have tribulation in their flesh. But I am sparing YOU.

(1 Corinthians 7:37, 38) But if anyone stands settled in his heart, having no necessity, but has authority over his own will and has made this decision in his own heart, to keep his own virginity, he will do well. ³⁸ Consequently he also that gives his virginity in marriage does well, but he that does not give it in marriage will do better.

loud voice. **16** And he fell upon his face at Jesus' feet,^a thanking him; furthermore, he was a Sa-mar'i-tan.^b **17** In reply Jesus said: "The ten were cleansed, were they not? Where, then, are the other nine? **18** Were none found that turned back to give glory to God but this man of another nation?" **19** And he said to him: "Rise and be on your way; your faith has made you well."^c

20 But on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming,^d he answered them and said: "The kingdom of God is not coming with striking observableness, **21** neither will people be saying, 'See here!' or, 'There!'^e For, look! the kingdom of God is in YOUR midst."^f

22 Then he said to the disciples: "Days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of man but you will not see it.^g **23** And people will say to you, 'See there!' or, 'See here!'^h Do not go out or chase after them.ⁱ **24** For even as the lightning,^j by its flashing, shines from one part under heaven to another part under heaven, so the Son of man^k will be. **25** First, however, he must undergo many sufferings and be rejected by this generation.^l **26** Moreover, just as it occurred in the days of Noah,^m so it will be also in the days of the Son of man:ⁿ **27** they were eating, they were drinking, men were marrying, women were being given in marriage, until that day when Noah entered into the ark, and the flood arrived and destroyed them all.^o **28** Likewise, just as it occurred in the days of Lot:^p they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building. **29** But on the day that Lot came out of Sod'om it rained fire and sulphur from heaven and destroyed them all.^q **30** The same way it will be

CHAP. 17

a Mt 8:2

b 2Ki 17:24

Joh 4:9

c Mt 9:22

Mr 5:34

Lu 7:50

d Mt 24:3

e Mt 24:23

Mr 13:21

f Mt 12:28

Mt 21:5

g Mt 9:15

Lu 5:35

Joh 8:56

h Mt 24:23

Mr 13:21

Lu 21:8

i 1Jo 4:1

j Mt 24:27

k Da 7:13

l Mr 8:31

Mr 9:31

Lu 9:22

m Ge 6:5

n Mt 24:37

o Ge 7:7

Mt 24:38

p Ge 19:15

q Ge 19:24

Second Col.

a Mt 24:30

Mr 13:26

1Co 1:7

Col 3:4

2Th 1:7

2Th 2:8

Re 1:7

b Ge 19:26

c Mt 10:39

Mt 16:25

Mr 8:35

Lu 9:24

Joh 12:25

d Mt 24:40

e Mt 24:41

f Job 39:30

g Mt 24:28

CHAP. 18

h Ps 55:16

Ro 12:12

Eph 6:18

Php 4:6

Col 4:2

1Th 5:17

i Lu 11:8

j Lu 11:7

k Jg 16:16

l 1Sa 24:12

Isa 40:27

Jer 20:12

m 2Pe 3:9

Re 6:10

on that day when the Son of man is to be revealed.^a

31 "On that day let the person that is on the housetop but whose movable things are in the house not come down to pick these up, and the person out in the field, let him likewise not return to the things behind. **32** REMEMBER the wife of Lot.^b **33** Whoever seeks to keep his soul safe for himself will lose it, but whoever loses it will preserve it alive.^c **34** I tell you, In that night two men will be in one bed; the one will be taken along, but the other will be abandoned.^d **35** There will be two women grinding at the same mill; the one will be taken along, but the other will be abandoned."^e **36** — **37** So in response they said to him: "Where, Lord?" He said to them: "Where the body is,^f there also the eagles will be gathered together."^g

18 Then he went on to tell them an illustration with regard to the need for them always to pray and not to give up,^h **2** saying: "In a certain city there was a certain judge that had no fear of God and had no respect for man. **3** But there was a widow in that city and she kept goingⁱ to him, saying, 'See that I get justice from my adversary at law.' **4** Well, for a while he was unwilling, but afterward he said to himself, 'Although I do not fear God or respect a man, **5** at any rate, because of this widow's continually making me trouble,^j I will see that she gets justice, so that she will not keep coming and pummeling^k me to a finish.'" **6** Then the Lord said: "HEAR what the judge, although unrighteous, said!^l **7** Certainly, then, shall not God cause justice^l to be done for his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night, even though he is long-suffering^m toward them? **8** I tell you, He will cause jus-

tice to be done to them speedily.^a Nevertheless, when the Son of man arrives, will he really find the faith on the earth?"

9 But he spoke this illustration also to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous^b and who considered the rest as nothing:^c 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood^d and began to pray^e these things to himself, 'O God, I thank you I am not as the rest of men, extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.' 12 I fast twice a week, I give the tenth of all things I acquire.'^g 13 But the tax collector standing at a distance was not willing even to raise his eyes heavenward, but kept beating his breast,^h saying, 'O God, be gracious to me a sinner.'ⁱ 14 I tell you, This man went down to his home proved more righteous^j than that man; because everyone that exalts himself will be humiliated, but he that humbles himself will be exalted."^k

15 Now people began to bring him also their infants for him to touch these; but on seeing it the disciples began to reprimand them.^l 16 However, Jesus called the infants to him, saying: "Let the young children come to me, and do not try to stop them. For the kingdom of God belongs to suchlike ones."^m 17 Truly I say to you, Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a young child will by no means get into it."ⁿ

18 And a certain ruler questioned him, saying: "Good Teacher, by doing what shall I inherit everlasting life?"^o 19 Jesus said to him: "Why do you call me good? Nobody is good, except one, God.^p 20 You know the commandments,^q 'Do not commit adultery,^r Do not murder,^s

CHAP. 18

- a Hab 2:3
- Heb 10:37
- b Pr 30:12
- Lu 10:29
- c Isa 65:5
- d Ps 135:2
- e Isa 1:15
- f Re 3:17
- g Mt 23:23
- h Jer 31:19
- Lu 23:48
- i Ps 51:3
- j 1Sa 16:7
- Isa 66:2
- Mt 21:31
- k Isa 2:11
- Mt 23:12
- Jas 4:6
- 1Pe 5:5
- l Mt 19:13
- Mr 10:13
- m 1Co 14:20
- 1Pe 2:2
- n Mt 18:3
- Mr 10:15
- o Mt 19:16
- Mr 10:17
- Lu 10:25
- p Mt 19:17
- Mr 10:18
- q Ro 13:9
- r Ex 20:14
- De 5:18
- s Ex 20:13
- De 5:17

Second Col.

- a Ex 20:15
- De 5:19
- b Ex 20:16
- De 5:20
- c Ex 20:12
- De 5:16
- Eph 6:2
- d Mt 19:20
- Mr 10:20
- e Mt 6:20
- Mt 19:21
- Mr 10:21
- Lu 12:33
- 1Ti 6:19
- f Mt 19:22
- Mr 10:22
- g Pr 11:28
- Mt 19:23
- 1Ti 6:9
- h Mt 19:24
- Mr 10:25
- i Ge 18:14
- Jer 32:17
- Zec 8:6
- Mr 14:36
- j Mt 19:27
- k De 33:9
- Mr 10:29
- l Mt 19:29
- Mr 10:30
- Re 2:10
- m Ps 16:10
- Ps 22
- Ps 34:20
- Ps 41:9
- Ps 69:21
- Isa 53
- Mic 5:1
- Zec 9:9
- Zec 11:12
- Zec 13:7
- n Mt 16:21
- Mr 10:32
- o Ps 22:7
- Mt 27:2
- Ac 3:13

Do not steal,^a Do not bear false witness,^b Honor your father and mother.'^c 21 Then he said: "All these I have kept from youth on."^d 22 After hearing that, Jesus said to him: "There is yet one thing lacking about you: Sell all the things you have and distribute to poor people, and you will have treasure in the heavens; and come be my follower."^e 23 When he heard this, he became deeply grieved, for he was very rich.^f

24 Jesus looked at him and said: "How difficult a thing it will be for those having money to make their way into the kingdom of God!^g 25 It is easier, in fact, for a camel to get through the eye of a sewing needle than for a rich man to get into the kingdom of God."^h 26 Those who heard this said: "Who possibly can be saved?" 27 He said: "The things impossible with men are possible with God."ⁱ 28 But Peter said: "Look! We have left our own things and followed you."^j 29 He said to them: "Truly I say to you, There is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God^k 30 who will not in any way get many times more in this period of time, and in the coming system of things everlasting life."^l

31 Then he took the twelve aside and said to them: "Look! We are going up to Jerusalem, and all the things written by means of the prophets^m as to the Son of man will be completed.ⁿ 32 For instance, he will be delivered up to men of the nations and will be made fun^o of and be treated insolently^p and spit^q upon; 33 and after scourging^r him they will kill^s him, but on the third day he will rise."^t

p Isa 53:5; q Isa 50:6; r Isa 53:5; s Isa 53:7; t Jon 1:17; Mt 20:19; Mr 10:34; Lu 9:22.

34 However, they did not get the meaning of any of these things; but this utterance was hidden from them, and they were not knowing the things said.^a

35 Now as he was getting near to Jer'i-cho a certain blind man was sitting beside the road begging.^b 36 Because he heard a crowd moving through he began to inquire what this might mean. 37 They reported to him: "Jesus the Naz-a-rene' is passing by!"^c

38 At that he cried out, saying: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"^d 39 And those going in advance began to tell him sternly to keep quiet, but that much more he kept shouting: "Son of David, have mercy on me."^e

40 Then Jesus stood still and commanded the man to be led to him.^f After he got near, Jesus asked him: 41 "What do you want me to do for you?"^g He said: "Lord, let me recover sight."^h

42 So Jesus said to him: "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well."ⁱ 43 And instantly he recovered sight,^j and he began to follow him, glorifying God.^k Also, all the people, at seeing it, gave praise to God.

19 And he entered Jer'i-cho^l and was going through. 2 Now here there was a man called by the name Zac-chae'-us; and he was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 Well, he was seeking to see^m who this Jesus was, but he could not for the crowd, because he was small in size. 4 So he ran ahead to an advance position and climbed a fig-mulberry tree in order to see him, because he was about to go through that way. 5 Now when Jesus got to the place, he looked up and said to him: "Zac-chae'-us, hurry and get down, for today I must stay in your house." 6 With that he hurried and got down and with rejoicing he received him as guest. 7 But when they saw it, they all fell

CHAP. 18

- a Mr 9:32
- Joh 10:6
- b Mt 20:29
- Mr 10:46
- c Mr 10:47
- d Mt 20:30
- Lu 17:13
- e Mt 20:31
- Mr 10:48
- f Mr 10:49
- g Mt 20:32
- h Mt 20:33
- Mr 10:51
- i Mt 20:34
- Lu 7:50
- Lu 17:19
- j Mr 10:52
- k Lu 5:26
- Ac 4:21
- Ga 1:24

CHAP. 19

- l Mt 20:29
- m Joh 6:24
- Joh 12:21

Second Col.

- a Mt 9:11
- Lu 5:30
- Lu 15:2
- b Ex 20:16
- Lu 3:14
- c Ex 22:1
- Le 6:5
- 2Sa 12:6
- d Mt 15:24
- Lu 13:16
- Ac 3:25
- e Eze 34:16
- Mt 9:13
- Mt 10:6
- Lu 15:4
- Ro 5:8
- 1Ti 1:15
- f Mt 24:33
- Lu 17:20
- Ac 1:6
- 2Th 2:2
- g Mt 25:14
- Mr 13:34
- Joh 18:36
- h Mt 25:15
- i Joh 1:11
- j Ps 2:2
- Mt 23:37
- k Mt 25:19
- l Mt 25:20
- m Mt 25:21
- Lu 16:10
- Re 2:26
- n Mt 25:22
- o Mt 25:23

to muttering,^a saying: "With a man that is a sinner he went in to lodge." 8 But Zac-chae'-us stood up and said to the Lord: "Look! The half of my belongings, Lord, I am giving to the poor, and whatever I extorted from anyone by false accusation^b I am restoring fourfold."^c 9 At this Jesus said to him: "This day salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham.^d 10 For the Son of man came to seek and to save what was lost."^e

11 While they were listening to these things he spoke in addition an illustration, because he was near Jerusalem and they were imagining that the kingdom of God was going to display itself instantly.^f 12 Therefore he said: "A certain man of noble birth traveled to a distant land to secure kingly power for himself and to return.^g 13 Calling ten slaves of his he gave them ten mi'nas and told them, 'Do business till I come.'^h 14 But his citizens hatedⁱ him and sent out a body of ambassadors after him, to say, 'We do not want this man to become king over us.'^j

15 "Eventually when he got back after having secured the kingly power, he commanded to be called to him these slaves to whom he had given the silver money, in order to ascertain what they had gained by business activity.^k 16 Then the first one presented himself, saying, 'Lord, your mi'na gained ten mi'nas.'^l 17 So he said to him, 'Well done, good slave! Because in a very small matter you have proved yourself faithful, hold authority over ten cities.'^m 18 Now the second came, saying, 'Your mi'na, Lord, made five mi'nas.'ⁿ 19 He said to this one also, 'You, too, be in charge of five cities.'^o 20 But a different one came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mi'na, that I kept laid away

in a cloth. **21** You see, I was in fear of you, because you are a harsh man; you take up what you did not deposit and you reap what you did not sow.^a **22** He said to him, 'Out of your own mouth^b I judge you, wicked slave. You knew, did you, that I am a harsh man, taking up what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow?'^c **23** Hence why is it you did not put my silver money in a bank? Then on my arrival I would have collected it with interest.^d

24 "With that he said to those standing by, 'Take the mi'na from him and give it to him that has the ten mi'nas.'^e **25** But they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten mi'nas!'— **26** I say to you, To everyone that has, more will be given; but from the one that does not have, even what he has will be taken away.^f **27** Moreover, these enemies of mine that did not want me to become king over them BRING here and slaughter them before me.'^g

28 So, after he had said these things, he began to go on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.^h **29** And when he got near to Beth'phage and Beth'a'ny at the mountain called Mount of Olives,ⁱ he sent forth two of the disciples,^j **30** saying: "Go into the village that is within sight of you, and in it after you pass in you will find a colt tied, on which none of mankind ever sat. Loose it and bring it.^k **31** But if anyone asks you, 'Why is it you are loosing it?' you must speak in this way, 'The Lord needs it.'^l **32** So those who were sent forth departed and found it just as he said to them.^m **33** But as they were loosing the colt the owners of it said to them: "Why are you loosing the colt?"ⁿ **34** They said: "The Lord needs it."^o **35** And they led it to Jesus, and they threw their outer garments upon the colt and set Jesus upon it.^p

CHAP. 19

- a Mt 25:24
- b 2Sa 1:16
Mt 12:37
- c Mt 25:26
- d De 23:20
Mt 25:27
- e Mt 25:28
- f Mt 13:12
Mt 25:29
Mr 4:25
Lu 8:18
- g Ge 3:15
Ps 2:9
Isa 60:12
1Co 15:25
2Th 1:9
Re 19:15
- h Mr 10:32
Lu 9:51
- i Joh 8:1
Ac 1:12
- j Mt 21:1
Mr 11:1
- k Mt 21:2
Mr 11:2
- l Ps 50:10
Mt 21:3
Mr 11:3
- m Mt 21:6
Mr 11:4
Lu 22:13
- n Mr 11:5
- o Mr 11:6
- p 2Ki 9:13
Mt 21:7
Mr 11:7
Joh 12:14

Second Col.

- a Zec 9:9
- b Mt 21:8
Mr 11:8
- c Mt 21:9
- d Isa 62:11
- e Ps 118:26
Mr 11:9
Lu 2:14
- f Mt 21:15
Joh 12:19
- g Hab 2:11
Mt 3:9
- h Ps 119:136
Jer 9:1
Lu 23:28
Joh 11:35
- i De 28:52
De 32:29
- j Isa 6:10
Mt 13:14
Mr 4:12
Ac 28:26
Ro 11:8
- k Isa 29:3
- l Jer 6:6
- m Lu 21:20
- n De 28:57
Da 9:26
- o Ps 137:9
Mic 3:12
Lu 23:28
- p Mt 24:2
Mr 13:2
Lu 21:6
- q Hos 9:7
Mic 7:4
Lu 1:68
1Pe 2:12
- r Mt 21:12
Mr 11:15
s Isa 56:7

36 As he moved^a along they kept spreading their outer garments on the road.^b **37** As soon as he got near the road down the Mount of Olives all the multitude of the disciples started to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice concerning all the powerful works they had seen,^c **38** saying: "Blessed is the One coming as the King in Jehovah's name!^d Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest places!"^e **39** However, some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to him: "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."^f **40** But in reply he said: "I tell you, If these remained silent, the stones^g would cry out."

41 And when he got nearby, he viewed the city and wept over it,^h **42** saying: "If you, even you, had discernedⁱ in this day the things having to do with peace—but now they have been hid from your eyes.^j **43** Because the days will come upon you when your enemies will build around you a fortification^k with pointed stakes^l and will encircle^m you and distressⁿ you from every side, **44** and they will dash you and your children within you to the ground,^o and they will not leave a stone upon a stone^p in you, because you did not discern the time of your being inspected."^q

45 And he entered into the temple and started to throw out those who were selling,^r **46** saying to them: "It is written, 'And my house will be a house of prayer,'^s but you made it a cave of robbers."^t

47 Furthermore, he went teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the principal ones of the people were seeking to destroy him;^u **48** and yet they did not find the effective thing for them

t Jer 7:11; Mt 21:13; Mr 11:17; Joh 2:16; u Mr 11:18; Joh 7:19; Joh 18:20.

to do, for the people one and all kept hanging onto him to hear him.^a

20 On one of the days while he was teaching the people in the temple and declaring the good news, the chief priests and the scribes with the older men came near,^b **2** and they spoke up, saying to him: "Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority."^c **3** In reply he said to them: "I will also ask you a question, and you tell me:^d **4** Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?"^e **5** Then among themselves they drew conclusions, saying: "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why is it you did not believe him?'"^f **6** But if we say, 'From men,' the people one and all will stone us,^g for they are persuaded that John^h was a prophet."ⁱ **7** So they replied that they did not know its source. **8** And Jesus said to them: "Neither am I telling you by what authority I do these things."^j

9 Then he started to tell the people this illustration: "A man planted a vineyard^k and let it out to cultivators, and he traveled abroad for considerable time.^l **10** But in due season he sent out a slave^m to the cultivators,ⁿ that they might give him some of the fruit of the vineyard.^o The cultivators, however, sent him away empty,^p after beating him up. **11** But he repeated and sent them a different slave. That one also they beat up and dishonored and sent away empty.^q **12** Yet again he sent a third;^r this one also they wounded and threw out. **13** At this the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my son the beloved.^s Likely they will respect this one.'^t **14** When the cultivators caught sight of him they went reason-

CHAP. 19

a Mr 12:37
Lu 21:38

CHAP. 20

b Mt 21:23

c Mr 11:28

Ac 4:7

Ac 7:27

d Mt 21:24

Mr 11:29

e Mr 11:30

f Mt 21:25

Mr 11:31

g Mt 14:5

h Mt 11:9

Lu 7:29

i Mt 21:26

Mr 11:32

j Mt 21:27

Mr 11:33

k Ps 80:8

Ca 8:11

Isa 5:1

Jer 2:21

l Mt 21:33

Mr 12:1

m 2Ki 17:13

2Ch 36:15

n Ac 7:52

o Mt 21:34

Mr 12:2

p 1Th 2:15

Heb 11:36

q Mt 21:36

Mr 12:4

r Ne 9:29

s Mt 17:5

Joh 3:16

Second Col.

a Mt 21:38

Mr 12:7

b Heb 13:12

c Ac 3:15

d Mt 21:40

e Mt 21:41

Mr 12:9

f Ps 118:22

1Pe 2:7

g Isa 28:16

Mt 21:42

Mr 12:10

h Isa 8:15

i Da 2:35

Da 2:44

j Ps 2:9

Isa 8:14

Mt 21:44

k Mt 21:45

Mr 12:12

l Lu 11:54

m Mt 22:15

Mr 12:13

n Le 19:15

Mt 22:16

Mr 12:14

o Mt 22:17

p Pr 26:24

Mt 22:18

Mr 12:15

q Mt 22:20

Mr 12:16

r Ro 13:7

Tit 3:1

1Pe 2:13

s Mt 22:21

Mr 12:17

Lu 23:2

t Mt 22:22

ing with one another, saying, 'This is the heir; let us kill him, that the inheritance may become ours.'^a **15** With that they threw him outside^b the vineyard and killed^c him. What, therefore, will the owner of the vineyard do to them?^d **16** He will come and destroy these cultivators and will give the vineyard to others."^e

On hearing this they said: "Never may that happen!" **17** But he looked upon them and said: "What, then, does this that is written mean, 'The stone which the builders rejected,^f this has become the chief cornerstone?'"^g **18** Everyone falling upon that stone will be shattered.^h As for anyone upon whom it falls,ⁱ it will pulverize him."^j

19 The scribes and the chief priests now sought to get their hands on him in that very hour, but they feared the people; for they perceived that he spoke this illustration with them in mind.^k **20** And, after observing him closely, they sent out men secretly hired to pretend that they were righteous, in order that they might catch^l him in speech, so as to turn him over to the government and to the authority of the governor.^m **21** And they questioned him, saying: "Teacher, we know you speak and teach correctly and show no partiality, but you teach the way of God in line with truth:ⁿ **22** Is it lawful for us to pay tax to Caesar or not?"^o **23** But he detected their cunning and said to them:^p **24** "Show me a de-nar'i-us. Whose image and inscription does it have?" They said: "Caesar's."^q **25** He said to them: "By all means, then, pay back Caesar's things to Caesar,^r but God's things to God."^s **26** Well, they were not able to catch him in this saying before the people, but, in amazement at his answer, they said nothing.^t

27 However, some of the Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came up^a and questioned him, 28 saying: "Teacher, Moses^b wrote us, 'If a man's brother dies having a wife, but this one remained childless, his brother^c should take the wife and raise up offspring from her for his brother.'^d 29 Accordingly there were seven brothers; and the first took a wife and died childless.^e 30 So the second, 31 and the third took her. Likewise even the seven: they did not leave children behind, but died off.^f 32 Lastly, the woman also died.^g 33 Consequently, in the resurrection, of which one of them does she become the wife? For the seven got her as wife."^h

34 Jesus said to them: "The children of this system of things marryⁱ and are given in marriage, 35 but those who have been counted worthy^j of gaining that system of things^k and the resurrection from the dead^l neither marry nor are given in marriage. 36 In fact, neither can they die^m anymore, for they are like the angels, and they are God's children by being children of the resurrection.ⁿ 37 But that the dead are raised up even Moses disclosed, in the account about the thornbush,^o when he calls Jehovah 'the God of Abraham and God of Isaac and God of Jacob.'^p 38 He is a God, not of the dead, but of the living, for they are all living to him."^q 39 In response some of the scribes said: "Teacher, you spoke well." 40 For no longer did they have the courage to ask him a single question.

41 In turn he said to them: "How is it they say that the Christ is David's son?^r 42 For David himself says in the book of Psalms, 'Jehovah said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand 43 until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet."^s 44 Da-

CHAP. 20

- a Mt 22:23
- Mr 12:18
- Ac 23:8
- b De 25:5
- c Ge 38:8
- d Mt 22:24
- Mr 12:19
- e Mt 22:25
- f Mr 12:21
- g Mt 22:27
- h Mt 22:28
- Mr 12:23
- i Ge 1:28
- Lu 17:27
- j Re 3:4
- k Eph 1:21
- Heb 1:2
- Heb 6:5
- 2Pe 3:13
- l Joh 5:29
- Ac 24:15
- m Re 21:4
- n Mt 22:30
- Mr 12:25
- Joh 5:29
- o Ex 3:2
- p Ex 3:6
- Ex 6:3
- q Mt 22:32
- r Mt 22:42
- Mr 12:35
- s Ps 110:1
- Ac 2:34

Second Col.

- a Mt 23:1
- Mr 12:38
- b Mt 23:6
- Mr 12:39
- c Isa 10:2
- 2Ti 3:6
- d Mr 12:40

CHAP. 21

- e Mr 12:41
- f Mr 12:42
- g Mr 12:43
- 2Co 8:12
- h Mt 22:37
- Mr 12:44
- i Mt 24:1
- Mr 13:1
- j 1Ki 9:7
- 1Ki 9:8
- Jer 7:14
- Mic 3:12
- Mt 24:2
- Mr 13:2
- Lu 19:44
- k Mt 24:3
- Mr 13:4
- l Eph 5:6
- 2Th 2:3
- 2Ti 3:13
- 1Jo 4:1
- Re 12:9
- m Mt 24:5
- Mr 13:6
- n Pr 3:25
- Mt 24:6
- Mr 13:7

vid, therefore, calls him 'Lord'; so how is he his son?"

45 Then, while all the people were listening he said to the disciples:^a 46 "Look out for the scribes who desire to walk around in robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and front seats in the synagogues and most prominent places at evening meals,^b 47 and who devour the houses of the widows^c and for a pretext make long prayers. These will receive a heavier judgment."^d

21 Now as he looked up he saw the rich dropping their gifts into the treasury chests.^e 2 Then he saw a certain needy widow drop two small coins of very little value there,^f 3 and he said: "I tell you truthfully, This widow, although poor, dropped in more than they all did.^g 4 For all these dropped in gifts out of their surplus, but this woman out of her want dropped in all the means of living she had."^h

5 Later, as certain ones were speaking concerning the temple, how it was adorned with fine stones and dedicated things,ⁱ 6 he said: "As for these things that you are beholding, the days will come in which not a stone upon a stone will be left here and not be thrown down."^j 7 Then they questioned him, saying: "Teacher, when will these things actually be, and what will be the sign when these things are destined to occur?"^k 8 He said: "Look out that you are not misled,^l for many will come on the basis of my name, saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The due time has approached.'^m Do not go after them. 9 Furthermore, when you hear of wars and disorders, do not be terrified.ⁿ For these things must occur first, but the end does not occur immediately."

10 Then he went on to say to them: "Nation will rise against

nation,^a and kingdom against kingdom;^b **11** and there will be great earthquakes, and in one place after another pestilences and food shortages;^c and there will be fearful sights and from heaven great signs.^d

12 "But before all these things people will lay their hands upon you and persecute^e you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, you being haled before kings and governors for the sake of my name.^f **13** It will turn out to you for a witness.^g **14** Therefore settle it in your hearts not to rehearse beforehand how to make your defense,^h **15** for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your opposers together will not be able to resist or dispute.ⁱ **16** Moreover, you will be delivered up even by parents^j and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death;^k **17** and you will be objects of hatred by all people because of my name.^l **18** And yet not a hair^m of your heads will by any means perish. **19** By endurance on your part you will acquire your souls.ⁿ

20 "Furthermore, when you see Jerusalem surrounded^o by encamped armies, then know that the desolating of her has drawn near.^p **21** Then let those in Ju-de'a begin fleeing to the mountains, and let those in the midst of her withdraw, and let those in the country places not enter into her;^q **22** because these are days for meting out justice, that all the things written may be fulfilled.^r **23** Woe to the pregnant women and the ones suckling a baby in those days!^s For there will be great necessity upon the land and wrath on this people; **24** and they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations;^t and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations, until the appointed times^u of the nations are fulfilled.

CHAP. 21

a Re 6:4
b Mt 24:7
Mr 13:8
c Ac 11:28
Re 6:8
d Re 6:12
e Mt 10:17
Mr 13:9
Joh 16:2
f Mt 24:9
Mr 13:9
Ac 25:23
Re 2:10
g Php 1:28
h Lu 12:11
i Mr 13:11
Ac 6:10
j 2Ti 3:3
k Mic 7:6
Mt 24:10
Mr 13:12
Ac 7:59
l Mt 10:22
Mr 13:13
m 1Sa 14:45
Mt 10:30
Lu 12:7
n 2Ch 15:7
Ro 5:3
Heb 10:36
2Pe 1:6
o Lu 19:43
p Da 9:26
Mt 23:38
Mt 24:15
q Mt 24:16
Mr 13:14
r De 32:35
De 32:43
Jer 5:29
Ho 9:7
s Mt 24:19
Mr 13:17
Lu 19:44
Lu 23:28
t De 28:64
Ps 79:1
Isa 63:18
Da 9:27
Zec 12:3
u Eze 21:26
Eze 21:27
Da 4:25

Second Col.

a Re 6:12
b Isa 57:20
Re 17:15
c Mt 24:29
Mr 13:24
d Zep 1:17
e Joe 2:10
Joe 2:30
f Isa 34:4
2Pe 3:10
g Da 7:13
h Mt 24:30
Mr 13:26
Re 1:7
i Mt 24:32
Mr 13:28
j Mt 24:33
k Mr 13:29
l Mt 24:34
Mr 13:30
m Mt 5:18
n Mt 24:35
Mr 13:31
Re 3:14
o Isa 5:11
p Mt 6:25
1Ti 6:8

25 "Also, there will be signs in sun^a and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish of nations, not knowing the way out because of the roaring of the sea^b and its agitation,^c **26** while men become faint out of fear^d and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth;^e for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.^f **27** And then they will see the Son of man^g coming in a cloud with power and great glory.^h **28** But as these things start to occur, raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up, because your deliverance is getting near.ⁱ

29 With that he spoke an illustration to them: "Note the fig tree and all the other trees:^j **30** When they are already in the bud, by observing it you know for yourselves that now the summer is near.^k **31** In this way you also, when you see these things occurring, know that the kingdom of God is near.^l **32** Truly I say to you, This generation will by no means pass away until all things occur.^m **33** Heaven and earth will pass away,ⁿ but my words will by no means pass away.^o

34 "But pay attention to yourselves that your hearts never become weighed down with overeating and heavy^p drinking and anxieties^q of life, and suddenly that day be instantly upon you^r **35** as a snare.^s For it will come in upon all those dwelling upon the face of all the earth.^t **36** Keep awake,^u then, all the time making supplication^v that you may succeed in escaping all these things that are destined to occur, and in standing before the Son of man."^w

37 So by day he would be teaching in the temple,^x but by night he would go out and lodge on the mountain called the

q Pr 11:4; Isa 5:13; Ro 13:13; r 1Th 5:3; s 1Th 5:2; 2Pe 3:10; t Mt 25:13; Mr 13:33; u Ro 12:12; Eph 6:18; 1Pe 4:7; v Mt 24:42; Mr 13:35; 1Co 16:13; 1Pe 5:8; Re 6:17; Re 16:15; w Lu 19:47.

Mount of Olives.^a **38** And all the people^b would come early in the day to him in the temple to hear him.

22 Now the festival of the un-fermented cakes, the so-called Passover,^c was getting near. **2** Also, the chief priests and the scribes were seeking the effective way for them to get rid of him,^d for they were in fear of the people.^e **3** But Satan entered into Judas, the one called Is-car'i-ot, who was numbered among the twelve;^f **4** and he went off and talked with the chief priests and temple captains about the effective way to betray him to them.^g **5** Well, they rejoiced and agreed to give him silver money.^h **6** So he consented, and he began to seek a good opportunity to betray him to them without a crowd around.ⁱ

7 The day of the unfermented cakes now arrived, on which the passover victim must be sacrificed;^j **8** and he dispatched Peter and John, saying: "Go and get the passover ready^k for us to eat." **9** They said to him: "Where do you want us to get it ready?" **10** He said to them: "Look! When you enter into the city a man carrying an earthenware vessel of water will meet you. Follow him into the house into which he enters.^m **11** And you must say to the landlord of the house, 'The Teacher says to you: "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the passover with my disciples?"'ⁿ **12** And that man will show you a large upper room furnished. Get it ready there."^o **13** So they departed and found it just as he had said to them, and they got the passover ready.^p

14 At length when the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him.^q **15** And he said to them: "I have greatly desired to eat this pass-

CHAP. 21

a Joh 8:1
b Mr 12:37
Lu 19:48

CHAP. 22

c Ex 12:3
Le 23:5
Joh 13:1
1Co 5:7
d Lu 9:22
e Mt 21:46
Mt 26:4
Mr 14:2
Lu 20:19
f Mt 26:14
Mr 14:10
Joh 6:70
Joh 13:2
Joh 13:27
Ac 1:17
g Joh 13:18
h Zec 11:12
Mt 26:15
1Ti 6:10
Jude 11
i Mt 26:16
Mr 14:11
j Ex 12:14
Ex 12:18
Le 23:6
De 16:2
Mt 26:17
Mr 14:12
k Ex 12:8
l 1Sa 10:3
m Mt 26:18
Mr 14:13
n Mr 14:14
o Mr 14:15
p Mt 26:19
Mr 14:16
Lu 19:32
q Mt 26:20
Mr 14:17

Second Col.

a Lu 13:29
Lu 14:15
b 1Co 10:16
1Co 11:25
c Re 19:9
d Ex 12:8
Ex 12:20
De 16:3
1Co 10:17
1Co 11:23
e Joh 6:51
1Co 10:16
f Heb 10:10
1Pe 2:24
g Mt 26:26
Mr 14:22
1Co 11:24
h Mr 14:23
1Co 10:16
i Jer 31:31
Jer 32:40
2Co 3:6
Heb 7:22
Heb 8:3
j Ex 24:8
Zec 9:11
Mt 26:28
1Co 11:25
Heb 9:18
k Ps 50:5
Mt 26:28
Mr 14:24
Heb 2:16
Heb 9:14
1Pe 1:19

over with YOU before I suffer; **16** for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it becomes fulfilled in the kingdom of God."^a **17** And, accepting a cup,^b he gave thanks and said: "Take this and pass it from one to the other among yourselves; **18** for I tell you, From now on I will not drink again from the product of the vine until the kingdom of God arrives."^c

19 Also, he took a loaf,^d gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: "This means my body^e which is to be given in YOUR behalf.^f Keep doing this in remembrance of me."^g **20** Also, the cup^h in the same way after they had the evening meal, he saying: "This cup means the new covenantⁱ by virtue of my blood,^j which is to be poured out in YOUR behalf.^k

21 "But, look! the hand of my betrayer^l is with me at the table.^m **22** Because the Son of man is going his way according to what is marked out;ⁿ all the same, woe to that man through whom he is betrayed!"^o **23** So they started to discuss among themselves the question of which of them would really be the one that was about to do this.^p

24 However, there also arose a heated dispute among them over which one of them seemed to be greatest.^q **25** But he said to them: "The kings of the nations lord it over them, and those having authority over them are called Benefactors.^r **26** YOU, though, are not to be that way.^s But let him that is the greatest among you become as the youngest,^t and the one acting as chief as the one ministering.^u **27** For which one is greater, the one reclining at the table or the one

l Ps 41:9; m Mt 26:21; Joh 13:21; n Isa 53; Da 9:26; Ac 4:28; 1Pe 1:11; o Mt 26:24; p Mt 26:22; Mr 14:19; Joh 13:22; q Mr 9:34; Lu 9:46; r Mt 20:25; Mr 10:42; s 1Pe 5:3; t Lu 9:48; u Mt 20:28; Mr 10:43; Lu 9:48.

TMS REVIEW:

9. What effect will the “signs in sun and moon and stars” have on humans? (Luke 21:25) [Apr. 22, w97 4/1 p. 15 pars. 8-9]

*** w97 4/1 p. 15 pars. 8-9 Deliverance Into a Righteous New World ***

⁸ At some point after the “great tribulation” begins, but before Jehovah executes his judgment upon the rest of this world, supernatural events will occur. Note the effect

they will have. “Then the sign of the Son of man [Christ] will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in lamentation, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Matthew 24:29, 30) “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, . . . while men become faint out of fear and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth.”—**Luke 21:25, 26.**

“Your Deliverance Is Getting Near”

⁹ At that particular time, the prophecy of **Luke 21:28** applies. Jesus said: “As these things start to occur, raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up, because your deliverance is getting near.” God’s enemies will be trembling with fear because they will know that the supernatural events taking place come from Jehovah. But Jehovah’s servants will rejoice because they will know that their deliverance is getting near.

*** w12 3/15 p. 10 par. 3 Help People to “Awake From Sleep” ***

³ People who sleep are usually inactive. In contrast, those who sleep *spiritually* may be very busy—but not with spiritual matters. They may be frantically occupied with the daily anxieties of life or seeking pleasure, prestige, or wealth. With all this activity, they show little concern for their spiritual needs. People who are spiritually awake, though, realize that we live “in the last days,” so they are as active as possible in doing God’s will.—2 Pet. 3:3, 4; **Luke 21:34-36.**

HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF AWAKE

- Keep busy in doing God’s will
- Avoid works belonging to the darkness
- Be aware of the danger of spiritual slumber
- Maintain a positive view of people in your territory
- Try new ways to preach to others
- Remember the importance of your ministry

¹¹ By our striving to be alert and observant like Jesus and Paul, we can discern how best to awaken interest in those we meet. For example, as you approach individuals, look for clues that indicate their culture, interests, or family situation. Perhaps you can notice what they are doing at the moment and make a polite comment about it as you initiate a conversation.

*** w12 4/15 p. 26 pars. 15-16 Jehovah Knows How to Deliver His People ***

When the Romans returned in 70 C.E., flight became impossible. (**Luke 19:43**) Any who had lingered were trapped! For the Christians who had fled to the mountains, heeding Jesus’ instructions meant saving their lives. They saw firsthand that Jehovah knows how to deliver his people. What lesson can we learn from this account?

¹⁶ As events unfold during the great tribulation, Christians will need to heed instructions from God’s Word and organization. For example, Jesus’ command to “begin fleeing to the mountains” has a modern-day application. Just what form our flight will take remains to be seen. However, we can be sure that Jehovah will make clear the meaning of those instructions when the time comes for us to follow them. Since our deliverance will depend on obedience, we do well to ask ourselves: ‘How do I respond to instructions that Jehovah provides for his people now? Am I quick to respond, or do I hesitate to obey?’—Jas. 3:17.



*** w12 5/15 p. 28 “Watch Out for the Leaven of the Pharisees” ***

1 The Pharisees prided themselves on being righteous, and they looked down on the common people.

This self-righteousness figures in one of Jesus’ parables. He said: “The Pharisee stood and began to pray these things to himself, ‘O God, I thank you I am not as the rest of men, extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give the tenth of all things I acquire.’ But the tax collector standing at a distance was not willing even to raise his eyes heavenward, but kept beating his breast, saying, ‘O God, be gracious to me a sinner.’” —**Luke 18:11-13.**

Jesus praised the tax collector’s humble attitude, saying: “I tell you, This man went down to his home proved more righteous than [the Pharisee]; because everyone that exalts himself will be humiliated, but he that humbles himself will be exalted.” (**Luke 18:14**) Although tax collectors had a reputation for dishonesty, Jesus sought to help those among them who listened to him. At least two tax collectors—Matthew and Zacchaeus—became his followers.

What if we were to think that we are better than others because of our God-given abilities or privileges or because of the failures and weaknesses of others? We should quickly dismiss such thoughts, for the Scriptures say: “Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, not quick to take offence. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other men’s sins, but delights in the truth.”—1 Cor. 13:4-6, *The New English Bible*.

We should have an attitude similar to that of the apostle Paul. After mentioning that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,” Paul added: “Of these I am foremost.”—1 Tim. 1:15.

Questions for meditation:

Do I recognize that I am a sinner and that my salvation depends on Jehovah’s undeserved kindness? Or do I view long years of faithful service, privileges in God’s organization, or natural abilities as a basis for feeling superior to others?

*** w12 6/1 p. 28 “Impossible!”—What Does It Mean? ***

Long before this observation was made by Professor Brobeck, Jesus of Nazareth, who has been described as the greatest man who ever lived, said: “The things impossible with men are possible with God.” (**Luke 18:27**) God’s holy spirit is the most powerful force in the universe. It cannot be measured in any technological way. Holy spirit can enable us to do things that are impossible in our own strength.

As humans, we often find ourselves in situations that we feel are impossible to deal with. For example, we may lose a loved one in death or our family life may become so stressful that we feel we cannot continue. Perhaps our way of life has taken us to the depths of despair and we feel there is no way out. We feel helpless and desperate. What can we do?

The Bible tells us that a person who has faith in the Almighty and prays for His holy spirit while doing everything possible to please Him can receive help to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Note Jesus’ reassuring words: “Truly I say to you that whoever tells this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but has faith that what he says is going to occur, he will have it so.” (Mark 11:23) There is no situation that is impossible to bear or cope with if we allow the power of God’s Word and his spirit to influence our life.

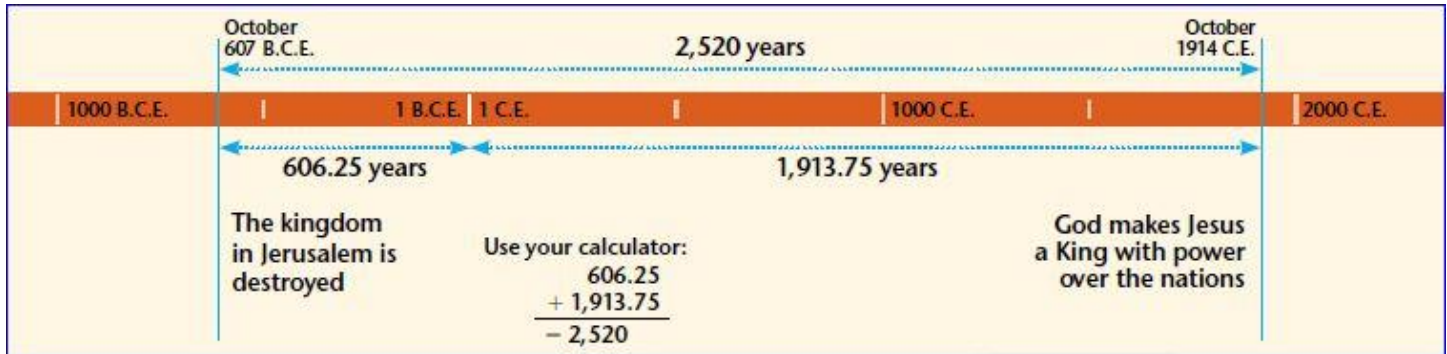
Consider, for example, a man who had been married for 38 years and lost his wife to cancer. He was shattered. He felt that his situation was impossible to live with. There were times when he wanted to die rather than continue without her. He said that he felt that he was going through a valley of deep shadow. Looking back, he believes that his tearful prayers and daily Bible reading, as well as his earnestly seeking the direction of God’s spirit, helped him to cope with what he had thought was impossible.



*** w12 8/1 p. 17 When Did Jesus Become King? ***

3. When did Jesus become King?

God enthroned Jesus as King in heaven in 1914, exactly 2,520 years after Jerusalem's destruction. Jesus' first act as King was to expel Satan and his demons from heaven. (Revelation 12:7-10) That event was invisible to human eyes, but it resulted in a visible crisis for mankind. (Revelation 12:12) Events since 1914 confirm that Jesus became King in that year.—Read Matthew 24:14; **Luke 21: 10, 11, 31.**



*** w12 8/15 p. 27 pars. 9-10 Stand Firm and Avoid Satan's Traps! ***

⁹ To counteract undue worry about material things, heed Jesus' admonition: "Never be anxious and say, 'What are we to eat?' or, 'What are we to drink?' or, 'What are we to put on?'" For all these are the things the nations are eagerly pursuing. For your heavenly Father knows you need all these things.—Matt. 6:31, 32; **Luke 21:34, 35.**

¹⁰ Rather than fall victim to the deceptive power of riches, strive to adopt the viewpoint of the Bible writer Agur, who stated: "Don't let me be too poor or too rich. Give me just what I need." (Prov. 30:8, *Contemporary English Version*) Clearly, Agur understood the protective value of money as well as the deceptive power of riches. Realize that the anxieties of this system and the deceptive power of riches can result in spiritual ruin. Undue worry about material things can consume your time, sap your energy, and leave you with little or no motivation to pursue Kingdom interests. Therefore, make it your resolve not to be caught in Satan's trap of materialism!—**Read Hebrews 13:5.**

*** w11 2/15 p. 29 pars. 4-5 Do You Hate Lawlessness? ***

⁴ Jesus occasionally drank wine, recognizing it as a gift from God. (Ps. 104:14, 15) However, he never abused this gift by indulging in heavy drinking. (Prov. 23:29-33) Jesus thus had freeness of speech when counseling against such a practice. (**Read Luke 21:34.**) Misuse of alcohol can lead to other serious sins. Thus, the apostle Paul wrote: "Do not be getting drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but keep getting filled with spirit." (Eph. 5:18) He also admonished the aged women in the congregation not to be "enslaved to a lot of wine."—Titus 2:3.

⁵ If you choose to drink alcoholic beverages, you would also do well to ask yourself: 'Do I share Jesus' attitude toward heavy drinking? If I need to counsel others on this matter, do I have freeness of speech? Do I drink to escape worries or to ease stress? How much alcohol do I consume each week? How do I react when someone implies that I might be drinking too much? Do I become defensive or even resentful?' Allowing ourselves to become enslaved to a lot of wine can affect our ability to reason things out properly and to make wise decisions. Followers of Christ strive to safeguard their thinking ability.—Prov. 3:21, 22.

*** w11 3/15 pp. 9-10 pars. 10-11 Receive God's Spirit, Not the World's ***



¹⁰ *What is my attitude toward material possessions? (Read **Luke 18:24-30.**)* The spirit of the world promotes “the desire of the eyes” by encouraging greed and materialism. (1 John 2:16) It has nurtured in many a determination to be rich. (1 Tim. 6:9, 10) That spirit would have us believe that a stockpile of material things will provide lasting security. (Prov. 18:11) However, if we allow a love for money to supplant our love for God, Satan will have gained a victory. We should ask ourselves, ‘Has my life become focused on a quest for material comforts and pleasures?’

¹¹ By contrast, God’s spirit-inspired Word encourages us to have a balanced view of money and to work hard to provide material necessities for ourselves and our family. (1 Tim. 5:8) God’s spirit helps those who receive it to reflect Jehovah’s generous personality. Such ones are known as givers, not takers. They value people more highly than things and gladly share what they have when they can afford to do so. (Prov. 3:27, 28) And they never allow the pursuit of money to take precedence over serving God.

*** w11 9/15 p. 22 pars. 7-8 “Run . . . That You May Attain It” ***

⁷ Focus on Jesus’ words: “Your heavenly Father knows you need all these things.” This implies that our heavenly Father, Jehovah, will do his part to take care of our needs. To be sure, “all these things” may be different from what we personally are inclined to like or want. Still, we are told not to be anxious about “the things the nations are eagerly pursuing.” Why? Jesus later advised his listeners: “Pay attention to yourselves that your hearts never become weighed down with overeating and heavy drinking and anxieties of life, and suddenly that day be instantly upon you as a snare.”—**Luke 21:34, 35.**

⁸ The finish line is just ahead. What a pity it would be if we allowed ourselves to be burdened down with unnecessary weights that could impede us when we are so close to the end! The apostle Paul’s counsel, therefore, is truly wise: “It is a means of great gain, this godly devotion along with self-sufficiency.” (1 Tim. 6:6) Our taking Paul’s words to heart will greatly enhance our prospects of attaining the prize.

*** w11 10/15 pp. 4-5 “Keep on the Watch”—Why So Important? ***

Reflect, for example, on what Jesus foretold about “pestilences and food shortages.” (Luke 21:11) First, he did not say that these would affect all areas simultaneously or to the same degree. Rather, he stated that these would occur “in one place after another.” So we cannot expect the same events everywhere at the same time. Second, shortly after mentioning food shortages, Jesus indicated that some of his followers would have to be alert not to overeat: “Pay attention to yourselves that your hearts never become weighed down with overeating.” (**Luke 21:34**) Thus, all Christians should not expect to experience every aspect of the sign. Rather, Jesus stated: “When you see these things occurring, know that the kingdom of God is near.” (**Luke 21:31**) Modern communication allows us to see all aspects of the sign, no matter what we personally experience in our locality.

*** w10 7/15 p. 7 par. 18 What Jehovah’s Day Will Reveal ***

¹⁸ We too must fully trust in Jehovah, for he alone will be our salvation when the present system undergoes the greatest tribulation of all human history. At some point after the beginning of the great tribulation but before Jehovah executes his judgment upon the rest of the world, people will “become faint out of fear and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth.” However, while God’s enemies tremble with fear, Jehovah’s loyal servants will feel no dread. On the contrary, they will rejoice because they know that their deliverance is near.—Read **Luke 21:25-28.**

created in perfection was a “son of God.”—Luke 3:38.

Acts 10:34, 35: “God is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.”

John 3:16: “God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order that *everyone* exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.” (Exercising genuine faith in him is necessary in order for any of us to attain to the kind of relationship with God that Adam lost. That privilege is open to people of all races.)

1 John 3:10: “The children of God and the children of the Devil are evident by this fact: Everyone who does not carry on righteousness does not originate with God, neither does he who does not love his brother.” (So God does not view all humans as his children. From a spiritual standpoint, those who deliberately practice what God condemns have the Devil as their father. See John 8:44. However, true Christians reflect godly qualities. From among these, God has selected a limited number to rule as kings with Christ in heaven. These are referred to by God as his “children” or his “sons.” For further details, see the main heading “Born Again.”)

Rom. 8:19-21: “The eager expectation of the creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God . . . The creation itself also will be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God.” (Relief for mankind will come when “the sons of God,” after receiving heavenly life, are ‘revealed’ as taking positive action on behalf of mankind under the direction of Christ. After faithful ones on earth [referred to as “the creation” in this scripture] have attained to human perfection and have demonstrated unshakable loyalty to Jehovah as Universal Sovereign, then they too will enjoy the fine relationship of children of God. People of all races will share in this.)

Will people of all races ever truly be united as brothers and sisters?

To those who would be his true disciples, Jesus said: “All you are brothers.” (Matt. 23:8) Later he added: “By this all will know that you

are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves.”—John 13:35.

Despite human imperfections, that sense of oneness was a reality among early Christians. The apostle Paul wrote: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one person in union with Christ Jesus.”—Gal. 3:28.

Christian brotherhood unmarred by racial distinctions is a reality among Jehovah’s Witnesses in the 20th century. Writer William Whalen said in *U.S. Catholic*: “I believe that one of the most attractive characteristics of [the organization of Jehovah’s Witnesses] has been its traditional policy of racial equality.” After making an extensive study of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Africa, Oxford University sociologist Bryan Wilson stated: “The Witnesses are perhaps more successful than any other group in the speed with which they eliminate tribal discrimination among their own recruits.” Reporting on an international gathering of Witnesses from 123 lands, *The New York Times Magazine* said: “The Witnesses impressed New Yorkers not only with their numbers, but with their diversity (they include people from all walks of life), their racial unself-consciousness (many Witnesses are Negroes) and their quiet, orderly behavior.”

Soon God’s Kingdom will destroy the present ungodly system of things, including all who do not genuinely love both Jehovah God and their fellowman. (Dan. 2:44; Luke 10:25-28) God’s Word promises that the survivors will be persons “out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues.” (Rev. 7:9) Drawn together by worship of the true God, by faith in Jesus Christ, and by love for one another, they will truly make up a united human family.

Ransom

Definition: A price paid to buy back or to bring about release from some obligation or undesirable circumstance. The most significant ransom price is that of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. By paying over the value of that

120 *Listen, Obey, and Be Blessed*

(Luke 11:28)

1. If we have listened to Christ, will we show it?
His teaching shines as it shows us the way.
It makes us happy to hear and to know it,
But we'll be blessed if we know and obey.

(CHORUS)

Listen, obey, and be blessed
When you hear God's will expressed.
If you'd be happy and enter his rest,
Listen, obey, and be blessed.

2. Our way of life, like a house, gives protection
When it is built on the rock, not on sand.
If we apply Jesus' loving direction,
We'll build a life which on bedrock will stand.

(Chorus)

3. Just as a tree rooted deep by the waters
Gives of its fruit when each season arrives,
If we obey as God's own sons and daughters,
We'll all be blessed and enjoy endless lives.
(Chorus)

(See also Deut. 28:2; Ps. 1:3; Prov. 10:22; Matt. 7:24-27.)

Encourage One Another

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. As we encourage one another
To serve Jehovah faithfully,
We find the bonds of love are strengthened;
Fine works bring peace and unity.
The love we find among God's people
Gives each the courage to endure.
Our congregation is a refuge,
A place where we can feel secure.
2. A word when spoken at the right time
Is, oh, how comforting to hear!
We hear these words of consolation
From friends so faithful and so dear.
How good it is to work together
With those whose hopes and goals we share!
We seek to strengthen one another
And help each one his burden bear.
3. As we with eyes of faith are seeing
The nearness of Jehovah's day,
We need our gathering together
To keep us walking in the way.
United with Jehovah's people,
We hope to serve eternally.
So we encourage one another
To hold to our integrity.