



MID-WEEK MEETING FILE

JUNE 10-14, 2013

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JUNE 2013

WEEK STARTING JUNE 10

Song 114 and Prayer

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 10 ¶14-19 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Acts 1-4 (10 min.)

No. 1: Acts 1:15-2:4 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Future Blessings Will Be Enjoyed as a Result of the Ransom?—*rs* p. 310 ¶1-4 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why Can the Thinking of Many People Be Likened to Poisonous Air?—Eph. 2:1, 2 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 85

10 min: The Importance of Good Visual Contact. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 124, paragraph 1, to page 125, paragraph 4. Have a brief demonstration showing a publisher who has poor eye contact while giving a witness. Then repeat the demonstration, this time with the publisher maintaining good eye contact.

10 min: What Did We Accomplish? Discussion by the secretary. Outline what was accomplished during the Memorial season, and commend the congregation for its activity. Invite audience to relate positive experiences enjoyed while distributing Memorial invitations or while serving as auxiliary pioneers.

10 min: "Are You Willing to Adapt?" Questions and answers.

Song 74 and Prayer

Are You Willing to Adapt?

¹ At 1 Corinthians 7:31, the Bible compares the world to a stage with ever-changing scenes and actors. Changes in the world require that we make adjustments from time to time in our preaching methods, our schedule, and our approach. Are you willing to adapt?

1. Changes in the world require that we make what adjustments?

² **Your Preaching Methods:** The Christian congregation has always been adaptable. When Jesus initially sent out his disciples, he told them not to procure a food pouch or money for their purses. (Matt. 10:9, 10) However, he later revised those instructions in anticipation of future hostility toward his disciples and the expansion of the preaching work into other territories. (Luke 22:36) Over the past century, Jehovah's organization has used different preaching methods—testimony cards, radio broadcasts, and sound cars, for example—according to what was needed at the time. Today, since people in many areas are seldom at home, increased emphasis has been placed on supplementing our house-to-house ministry with public and informal witnessing. We have also been encouraged to go from house to house during the early evening if people are at work during the day. As Jehovah's celestial chariot adjusts its course, are you keeping pace with it?—Ezek. 1:20, 21.

³ **Your Presentation:** What are the people in your area presently concerned about? The economy? Family? War? It is beneficial to be aware of the current problems and circumstances common in our territory so that we can prepare an appropriate presentation. (1 Cor. 9:20-23) When householders express themselves, rather than giving a token response and continuing with our prepared presentation, how much better it is to adapt and address their concerns.

⁴ Very soon this world's final "scene" will conclude, and the great tribulation will begin. "The time left is reduced." (1 Cor. 7:29) How important it is, then, to adapt and to do so without delay, so that we can accomplish the most in the limited time left!

2. Why must we be adaptable in order to keep pace with the organization?

3. How does being adaptable help us to be more effective in our territory?

4. Why should we be quick to adapt?

114 *God's Own Book—A Treasure* (Proverbs 2:1)

1. There is a book that by its many pages,
Brings peace and joy and hope to humankind.
Its wondrous thoughts
are charged with such great power;
It brings life to the “dead,” sight to the “blind.”
That precious book is God’s own Holy Bible.
Its words were penned
by men whom God inspired,
By men who truly loved their God Jehovah,
And by his holy spirit they were fired.
2. They wrote a record true of God’s creations,
How by his might this universe appeared.
They also told how man at first was sinless
But how his Paradise then disappeared.
They further told about a certain angel
Who challenged God and spurned his sov’reignty.
That challenge led to sin and man’s great sorrow,
But soon will come Jehovah’s victory.

3. Today we live in times of joy unbounded.
God's Kingdom now is here with Christ as Lord.
This is the day Jehovah grants salvation
To all who come to him in full accord.
Within his book are found these cheerful tidings;
A sacred banquet feast on which to feed.
It offers peace beyond all human thinking;
This Living Treasure beckons all to read.

(See also 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.)

to ask, "Where is Jehovah?" in the sense of prayerfully seeking to comprehend his will and to see evidence of its outworking.—Job 36:5-7, 26.

What assurance do you derive from Jeremiah's experiences in seeking Jehovah in prayer?

JEREMIAH FED HIS HEART WITH KNOWLEDGE

¹⁴ In connection with the question, "Where is Jehovah?" Jeremiah was well-aware of the need for 'knowledge of Jehovah.' (Jer. 9:24) He must have studied the history of God's people as he compiled the books now known as 1 and 2 Kings. He specifically mentioned "the book of the affairs of Solomon," "the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Israel," and "the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Judah." (1 Ki. 11:41; 14:19; 15:7) Accordingly, he came to understand how Jehovah had dealt with various situations. Jeremiah could see what pleased Jehovah and how He viewed people's decisions. He could also consult inspired writings available at the time, such as those by Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, and Solomon. No doubt, he was knowledgeable about the earlier prophets as well as his contemporaries. How did Jeremiah's personal study benefit him?

¹⁵ Jeremiah recorded the account about Jezebel, the wicked wife of King Ahab of Samaria. His account included Elijah's declaration that dogs would eat up Jezebel in the plot of the land of Jezreel. (1 Ki. 21:23) And in

14. How do we know that Jeremiah researched the history of God's people?

15. What benefit might Jeremiah have derived from his research into Elijah's prophecy?

harmony with what Jeremiah recorded, you know that some 14 years later, Jezebel was thrown out of a window, trampled upon by Jehu's horse, and eaten by dogs. (2 Ki. 9:31-37) Research into Elijah's prophecy and its fulfillment, even in its details, must have strengthened Jeremiah's faith in God's word. Indeed, behind his perseverance as a prophet was faith that had been built up by his study of Jehovah's past activities.

¹⁶ Let us take another example. What do you think enabled Jeremiah—despite being persecuted—to keep on warning such wicked kings as Jehoiakim and Zedekiah? A major reason was that Jehovah made Jeremiah “a fortified city and an iron pillar and copper walls” toward the kings of Judah. (Jer. 1:18, 19) But let us not overlook the fact that Jeremiah had done extensive research into the reigns of earlier kings of Judah and Israel. He had made a record of the fact that Manasseh had built “altars to all the army of the heavens in two courtyards of the house of Jehovah,” had sacrificed his own son in the fire, and had shed innocent blood in very great quantity. (2 Ki. 21:1-7, 16; *read Jeremiah 15:4.*) Yet, Jeremiah must have known that when Manasseh humbled himself and kept praying to Jehovah, “He let himself be entreated,” and Jehovah restored the king to his place. —*Read 2 Chronicles 33:12, 13.*

¹⁷ In his writings, Jeremiah did not mention Jehovah's mercy toward Manasseh. But Manasseh died only 15 years or so before Jeremiah embarked on his prophetic career. Hence, the prophet must have heard about what happened when the king repented of his past wickedness. Researching Manasseh's terrible

16, 17. Why do you think Jeremiah could persevere in warning the wicked kings of his day?

conduct and the outcome must have helped Jeremiah to see the value of urging kings, such as Zedekiah, to seek Jehovah's mercy and loving-kindness. Even a king notorious for idolatry and bloodshed could repent and be forgiven. If you had been in Jeremiah's situation, would the events involving Manasseh have encouraged you, giving you reason to persevere during the reigns of other bad kings?

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

¹⁸ During his career as a prophet, Jeremiah certainly learned from seeing how his contemporaries acted in given situations. One was the prophet Urijah, who prophesied against Jerusalem and Judah during the reign of Jehoiakim. However, out of fear of King Jehoiakim, Urijah fled to Egypt. Thereafter, the king sent men to bring him back from Egypt, and then he had Urijah killed. (Jer. 26:20-23) Do you think Jeremiah learned a lesson from the experience of Urijah? The fact that Jeremiah kept warning the Jews of their impending doom—even doing so in the temple area—proves that he must have learned a lesson. Jeremiah maintained his courage, and Jehovah did not abandon him. God must have moved Ahikam, Shaphan's son, to protect the life of courageous Jeremiah.—Jer. 26:24.

¹⁹ Jeremiah also learned from his own experience of being used by Jehovah to warn His people. In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim, Jehovah told Jeremiah to write down all the words that He had spoken from Josiah's day to that time. What was the reason for this divine

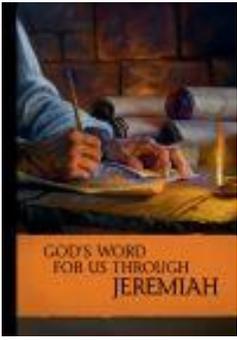
18. What could Jeremiah learn from Urijah's example, and why do you so answer?

19. Jeremiah could see what from Jehovah's persistence in sending prophets to His people?



direction? It was to encourage individuals to turn from doing bad and be forgiven. (*Read Jeremiah 36:1-3.*) Jeremiah, who got up early to give warning messages from God, even pleaded with the people to end their detestable practices. (Jer. 44:4) Is it not clear that Jeremiah must have realized from his own experience that God had sent the prophets out of compassion for His people? And would that not have engendered compassion in Jeremiah himself? (2 Chron. 36:15) You can understand, then, that when Jeremiah survived Jerusalem's destruction, he could say: "It is the acts of loving-kindness of Jehovah that we have not come to our finish, because his mercies will certainly not come to an end. They are new each morning."—Lam. 3:22, 23.

How must Jeremiah have been affected by researching God's past dealings and meditating on what he and others had experienced? What can we learn from this?



Paragraph 14

(Jeremiah 9:24) "But let the one bragging about himself brag about himself because of this very thing, the having of insight and the having of knowledge of me, that I am Jehovah, the One exercising loving-kindness, justice and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I do take delight," is the utterance of Jehovah.

(1 Kings 11:41) As for the rest of the affairs of Sol'o-mon and all that he did and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the affairs of Sol'o-mon?

(1 Kings 14:19) And the rest of the affairs of Jer-o-bo'am, how he warred and how he reigned, there they are written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Israel.

(1 Kings 15:7) As for the rest of the affairs of A-bi'jam and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Judah? There was warfare also that took place between A-bi'jam and Jer-o-bo'am.

Paragraph 15

(1 Kings 21:23) And also as regards Jez'e-bel Jehovah has spoken, saying, 'The very dogs will eat up Jez'e-bel in the plot of land of Jez're-el.

(2 Kings 9:31-37) And Je'hu himself came in by the gate. She now said: "Did it go all right with Zim'ri the killer of his lord?"³² At that he raised his face toward the window and said: "Who is with me? Who?" Immediately two or three court officials looked down at him.³³ So he said: "Let her drop!" Then they let her drop, and some of her blood went spattering upon the wall and upon the horses; and he now trampled upon her.³⁴ After that he came on in and ate and drank and then said: "YOU men, please, take care of this accursed one and bury her, for she is the daughter of a king."³⁵ When they went to bury her, they did not find anything of her but the skull and the feet and the palms of the hands.³⁶ When they returned and told him, he went on to say: "It is the word of Jehovah that he spoke by means of his servant E-li'jah the Tish'bite, saying, 'In the tract of land of Jez're-el the dogs will eat the flesh of Jez'e-bel.'³⁷ And the dead body of Jez'e-bel will certainly become as manure upon the face of the field in the tract of land of Jez're-el, that they may not say: "This is Jez'e-bel.'""

Paragraph 16

(Jeremiah 1:18, 19) But as for me, here I have made you today a fortified city and an iron pillar and copper walls against all the land, toward the kings of Judah, toward her princes, toward her priests and toward the people of the land.¹⁹ And they will be certain to fight against you, but they will not prevail against you, for 'I am with you,' is the utterance of Jehovah, 'to deliver you.'"

(2 Kings 21:1-7) Twelve years old was Ma-nas'seh when he began to reign, and for fifty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Heph'zi-bah.² And he proceeded to do what was bad in Jehovah's eyes, according to the detestable things of the nations that Jehovah had driven out from before the sons of Israel.³ So he built again the high places that Hez-e-ki'ah his father had destroyed, and set up altars to Ba'al and made a sacred pole, just as A'hab the king of Israel had done; and he began to bow down to all the army of the heavens and to serve them.⁴ And he built altars in the house of Jehovah, respecting which Jehovah had said: "In Jerusalem I shall put my name."⁵ And he went on to build altars to all the army of the heavens in two courtyards of the house of Jehovah.⁶ And he made his own son pass through the fire, and he practiced magic and looked for omens and made spirit mediums and professional foretellers of events. He did on a large scale what was bad in Jehovah's eyes, to offend him.⁷ Further, he put the carved image of the sacred pole that he had made in the house of which Jehovah had said to David and to Sol'o-mon his son: "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I shall put my name to time indefinite.

(2 Kings 21:16) And there was also innocent blood that Ma-nas'seh shed in very great quantity, until he had filled Jerusalem from end to end, besides his sin with which he caused Judah to sin by doing what was bad in the eyes of Jehovah.

Paragraph 16 (cont.)

(Jeremiah 15:4) And I will give them for a quaking to all the kingdoms of the earth on account of Ma·nas'seh the son of Hez·e·ki'ah, the king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem.

(2 Chronicles 33:12, 13) And as soon as it caused him distress, he softened the face of Jehovah his God and kept humbling himself greatly because of the God of his forefathers. ¹³ And he kept praying to Him, so that He let himself be entreated by him and He heard his request for favor and restored him to Jerusalem to his kingship; and Ma·nas'seh came to know that Jehovah is the [true] God.

Paragraph 18

(Jeremiah 26:20-23) "And there also happened to be a man prophesying in the name of Jehovah, U·ri'jah the son of She·mai'ah from Kir'i·ath-je'a·rim. And he kept prophesying against this city and against this land in accord with all the words of Jeremiah. ²¹ And King Je·hoi'a·kim and all his mighty men and all the princes got to hear his words, and the king began seeking to put him to death. When U·ri'jah got to hear [of it] he at once became afraid and ran away and came into Egypt. ²² But King Je·hoi'a·kim sent men to Egypt, El·na'than the son of Ach'bor and other men with him to Egypt. ²³ And they proceeded to bring U·ri'jah out from Egypt and to bring him to King Je·hoi'a·kim, who then struck him down with the sword and cast his dead body into the graveyard of the sons of the people."

(Jeremiah 26:24) Moreover, it was the hand of A·hi'kam the son of Sha'phan that proved to be with Jeremiah, in order not to give him into the hand of the people to have him put to death.

Paragraph 19

(Jeremiah 36:1-3) Now it came about in the fourth year of Je·hoi'a·kim the son of Jo·si'ah, the king of Judah, that this word occurred to Jeremiah from Jehovah, saying: ² "Take for yourself a roll of a book, and you must write in it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and against Judah and against all the nations, since the day that I spoke to you, since the days of Jo·si'ah, clear down to this day. ³ Perhaps those of the house of Judah will listen to all the calamity that I am thinking of doing to them, to the end that they may return, each one from his bad way, and that I may actually forgive their error and their sin."

(Jeremiah 44:4) And I kept sending to YOU all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending, saying: "Do not do, please, this detestable sort of thing that I have hated."

(2 Chronicles 36:15) And Jehovah the God of their forefathers kept sending against them by means of his messengers, sending again and again, because he felt compassion for his people and for his dwelling.

(Lamentations 3:22, 23) It is the acts of loving-kindness of Jehovah that we have not come to our finish, because his mercies will certainly not come to an end. ²³ They are new each morning. Your faithfulness is abundant.

³³ Then how fervently he prays to Jehovah that all these loved ones, and also 'those putting faith in him through their word,' may be one with his Father and himself, sanctified by the word of truth! Indeed, the entire purpose of Jesus' ministry is wonderfully expressed in the final words of his prayer to his Father: "I have made your name known to them and will make it known, in order that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in union with them."—17:20, 26.

³⁴ Though Jesus was leaving his disciples in the world, he was not going to leave them without a helper, "the spirit of the truth." Moreover, he gave them timely counsel on their relationship with the world, showing them how to overcome as "sons of light." (14:16, 17; 3:19-21; 12:36) "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples," said Jesus, "and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." In contrast, he said to the sons of darkness: "You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. . . . He did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him." Let us be determined, then, always to stand fast in the truth, yes, to "worship the Father

33. What purpose of his ministry does Jesus express in prayer?

34. What beneficial counsel did Jesus give on how to overcome the world?

with spirit and truth," and to draw strength from Jesus' words: "Take courage! I have conquered the world."—8:31, 32, 44; 4:23; 16:33.

³⁵ All of this has a relation, also, to God's Kingdom. Jesus testified when on trial: "My kingdom is no part of this world. If my kingdom were part of this world, my attendants would have fought that I should not be delivered up to the Jews. But, as it is, my kingdom is not from this source." Then, in answer to Pilate's question, he said: "You yourself are saying that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is on the side of the truth listens to my voice." (18:36, 37) Happy indeed are those who listen and who are "born again" to "enter into the kingdom of God" in union with the King. Happy are the "other sheep" who listen to the voice of this Shepherd-King and gain life. There is, indeed, cause for gratitude for the provision of John's Gospel, for it was written "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that, because of believing, you may have life by means of his name."—3:3, 5; 10:16; 20:31.

35. (a) What testimony does Jesus give concerning God's Kingdom? (b) Why does John's Gospel give cause for happiness and gratitude?

**Bible
Book
Number**

44

Acts

Writer: Luke

Place Written: Rome

Writing Completed: c. 61 C.E.

Time Covered: 33–c. 61 C.E.

IN THE 42nd book of the inspired Scriptures, Luke gives an account covering the life, activity, and ministry of Jesus and his followers up to the time of Jesus' ascension. The historical record of the 44th book of the Scriptures, Acts of Apostles, continues the history of early Christianity by describing the founding of the congregation as a result of the operation of the holy spirit. It also describes the expansion of the witness, first among the Jews and then to people of all the nations. The greater part of the material in the first 12 chapters covers the activities of Peter, and the remaining 16 chapters, the activities of Paul. Luke had an intimate associa-

1, 2. (a) What historical events and activities are described in Acts? (b) What time period does the book cover?

tion with Paul, accompanying him on many of his travels.

² The book is addressed to Theophilus. Since he is referred to as "most excellent," it is possible that he occupied some official position, or it may simply be an expression of high esteem. (Luke 1:3) The account provides an accurate historical record of the establishment and growth of the Christian congregation. It commences with Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his resurrection and then records important events of the period from 33 to about 61 C.E., covering approximately 28 years in all.

³ From ancient times the writer of the Gospel of Luke has been credited with the writing of Acts.

3. Who wrote the book of Acts, and when was the writing completed?

Both books are addressed to Theophilus. By repeating the closing events of his Gospel in the opening verses of Acts, Luke binds the two accounts together as the work of the same author. It appears that Luke completed Acts about 61 C.E., probably toward the close of a two-year stay in Rome while in the company of the apostle Paul. Since it records events down to that year, it could not have been completed earlier, and its leaving Paul's appeal to Caesar undecided indicates that it was completed by that year.

⁴ From the most ancient times, Acts has been accepted by Bible scholars as canonical. Parts of the book are to be found among some of the oldest extant papyrus manuscripts of the Greek Scriptures, notably the Michigan No. 1571 (P³⁸) of the third or fourth century C.E. and Chester Beatty No. 1 (P⁴⁵) of the third century. Both of these indicate that Acts was circulating with other books of the inspired Scriptures and hence was part of the catalog at an early date. Luke's writing in the book of Acts reflects the same remarkable accuracy as we have already noted marks his Gospel. Sir William M. Ramsay rates the writer of Acts "among the historians of the first rank," and he explains what this means by saying: "The first and the essential quality of the great historian is truth. What he says must be trustworthy."^{*}

⁵ Illustrating the accurate reporting that so characterizes Luke's writings, we quote Edwin Smith, commander of a flotilla of British warships in the Mediterranean during World War I, writing in the magazine *The Rudder*, March 1947: "The ancient vessels were not steered as those in modern times by a single rudder hinged to the stern post, but by two great oars or paddles, one on each side of the stern; hence the mention of them in the plural number by St. Luke. [Acts 27:40] . . . We have seen in our examination that every statement as to the movements of this ship, from the time when she left Fair Havens until she was beached at Malta, as set forth by St. Luke has been verified by external and independent evidence of the most exact and satisfying nature; and that his statements as to the time the ship remained at sea correspond with the distance covered; and finally that his description of the place arrived at is in conformity with the place as it is. All of which goes to show that Luke actually made the voyage as described, and has moreover shown himself to be a man whose observations and statements may be taken as reliable and trustworthy in the highest degree."[#]

^{*} *St. Paul the Traveller*, 1895, page 4.

[#] Quoted in *Awake!* of July 22, 1947, pages 22-3; see also *Awake!* of April 8, 1971, pages 27-8.

4. What proves that Acts is canonical and authentic?
5. Illustrate Luke's accurate reporting.

⁶ Archaeological findings also confirm the accuracy of Luke's account. For example, excavations at Ephesus have unearthed the temple of Artemis as well as the ancient theater where the Ephesians rioted against the apostle Paul. (Acts 19:27-41) Inscriptions have been discovered that confirm the correctness of Luke's use of the title "city rulers" as applying to the officials of Thessalonica. (17:6, 8) Two Maltese inscriptions show that Luke was also correct in referring to Publius as "the principal man" of Malta.—28:7.^{*}

⁷ Further, the various speeches made by Peter, Stephen, Cornelius, Tertullus, Paul, and others, as recorded by Luke, are all different in style and composition. Even the speeches of Paul, spoken before different audiences, changed in style to suit the occasion. This indicates that Luke recorded only what he himself heard or what other eyewitnesses reported to him. Luke was no fiction writer.

⁸ Very little is known of the personal life of Luke. Luke himself was not an apostle but was associated with those who were. (Luke 1:1-4) In three instances the apostle Paul mentions Luke by name. (Col. 4:10, 14; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philem. 24) For some years he was the constant companion of Paul, who called him "the beloved physician." There is a shifting back and forth in the account between "they" and "we," indicating that Luke was with Paul at Troas during Paul's second missionary tour, that he may have remained behind at Philippi until Paul returned some years later, and that he then rejoined Paul and accompanied him on his trip to Rome for trial.—Acts 16:8, 10; 17:1; 20:4-6; 28:16.

CONTENTS OF ACTS

⁹ **Events till Pentecost (1:1-26).** As Luke opens this second account, the resurrected Jesus tells his eager disciples that they will be baptized in holy spirit. Will the Kingdom be restored at this time? No. But they will receive power and become witnesses "to the most distant part of the earth." As Jesus is lifted up out of their sight, two men in white tell them: "This Jesus who was received up from you into the sky will come thus in the same manner."—1:8, 11.

^{*} *Insight on the Scriptures*, Vol. 1, pages 153-4, 734-5; Vol. 2, page 748.

6. What examples show how archaeological findings confirm the accuracy of Acts?
7. How do the speeches recorded show the record of Acts to be factual?
8. What do the Scriptures tell us of Luke and his association with Paul?
9. What things are the disciples told at the time of Jesus' ascension?



*** w08 5/15 p. 30-p. 31 Highlights From the Book of Acts *** Jehovah's Word Is Alive

THE Bible book of Acts provides a comprehensive history of the establishment of the Christian congregation and its subsequent expansion. Written by the physician Luke, it presents a dynamic account of Christian activity over a period of some 28 years—from 33 C.E. to 61 C.E.

The first part of Acts is primarily about the activity of the apostle Peter, and the latter part is about that of the apostle Paul. By using such pronouns as “we” and “us,” Luke indicates that he was present when certain events occurred. Paying attention to the message of the book of Acts will heighten our appreciation for the power of God’s written Word and his holy spirit. (Heb. 4:12) It will also move us to be self-sacrificing and will build up our faith in the Kingdom hope.

**PETER USES “THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM”
(Acts 1:1–11:18)**

After receiving the holy spirit, the apostles give a bold witness. Peter uses the first of “the keys of the kingdom of the heavens” to open the door of knowledge and opportunity for Jews and proselytes who “embraced his word” to enter the Kingdom. (Matt. 16:19; Acts 2:5, 41) A wave of persecution scatters disciples, but this results in expansion of the preaching work.

Scriptural Questions Answered: TMS REVIEW:

8. According to Acts 2:44-47 and Acts 4:34, 35, what spirit do Christians do well to imitate? [June 10, w08 5/15 p. 30 par. 5]

2:44-47; 4:34, 35—Why did believers sell their possessions and distribute the proceeds? Many who became believers had come from faraway places and were without enough provisions to extend their stay in Jerusalem. Nevertheless, they desired to

remain there longer in order to learn more about their new faith and to bear witness to others. To help such ones, some Christians sold their property, and the funds were distributed to the needy.

4:13—Were Peter and John illiterate or uneducated? No, they were not. They were called “unlettered and ordinary” because they did not attend rabbinic schools for religious training.

Lessons for Us:

1:8. The worldwide work of witnessing done by Jehovah’s worshippers cannot be accomplished without the help of the holy spirit.

4:36–5:11. Joseph of Cyprus was surnamed Barnabas, which means “Son of Comfort.” The apostles may have given him the name Barnabas because he was warmhearted, kind, and helpful to others. We should be like him and not like Ananias and Sapphira, who resorted to pretense, hypocrisy, and deviousness.



*** w12 2/1 p. 27 Why Does God Have an Organization? ***

3. In modern times, how did Jehovah's Witnesses begin?

The modern-day organization of Jehovah's Witnesses began in the 1870's. A small group of Bible students began rediscovering long-lost Bible truths. They knew that Jesus organized the Christian congregation to preach. So they undertook an international Kingdom-preaching campaign. In 1931 they adopted the name Jehovah's Witnesses.—Read **Acts 1:8; 2:1, 4; 5:42**.

*** w12 2/15 p. 22 par. 17 Preserve the Positive Spirit of the Congregation ***

¹⁷ By “devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles,” Jesus' early followers helped to develop a spirit of unity within the congregation. (**Acts 2:42**) They valued the Scriptural counsel and direction received from the older men. Because present-day elders cooperate with the faithful and discreet slave class, all in the congregation are encouraged and assisted to remain united. (1 Cor. 1:10) When we submit to the Bible-based instruction from Jehovah's organization and follow the direction of the elders, we give proof that we are “earnestly endeavoring to observe the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace.”—Eph. 4:3.

*** w12 4/1 p. 7 Jesus Christ—Our Questions Answered ***

QUESTION: Can we really believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead?

ANSWER: Yes. Jesus fully expected to be raised from the dead. (Matthew 16:21) It is important to note, however, that neither Jesus nor the Bible writers ever claimed that he would rise from the dead by natural means. Such a notion would be beyond belief. Rather, the Bible says: “God resurrected him by loosing the pangs of death.” (**Acts 2:24**) If we accept that there is a God and that he is the Creator of all things, then we have every reason to believe that he could raise his Son from the dead.—Hebrews 3:4.

Is there credible evidence that Jesus was resurrected? Consider the following.

- **Eyewitness testimony.** About 22 years after Jesus died, the apostle Paul wrote that there had been upwards of 500 eyewitnesses who saw the resurrected Jesus and that most of them were still alive when Paul was writing. (1 Corinthians 15:6) One or two witnesses might be easy to dismiss, but who could refute the testimony of 500 eyewitnesses?
- **Credible witnesses.** Jesus' early disciples—who were in a unique position to know what really happened—boldly proclaimed that Jesus was resurrected. (**Acts 2:29-32; 3:13-15**) In fact, they viewed belief in his resurrection as essential to the Christian faith. (1 Corinthians 15:12-19) Those disciples were willing to die rather than renounce their faith in Jesus. (Acts 7:51-60; 12:1, 2) Do you know anyone who would knowingly and willingly die for a lie?

*** w12 6/1 p. 15 Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Preach From House to House? ***

To whom should the Kingdom message be preached? Jesus indicated that it should be preached to all people everywhere. He told his disciples: “You will be witnesses of me . . . to the most distant part of the earth.” (**Acts 1:8**) He even foretold that before the end of this system arrives, “this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness.” (Matthew 24:14) Accordingly, first-century Christians strove to speak with all people, not just personal acquaintances or individuals without a religion. (Colossians 1:23; 1 Timothy 2:3, 4) Likewise, Jehovah's Witnesses today try to reach everyone.

***** w11 1/15 p. 22 par. 1 Empowered to Fight Temptation and Cope With Discouragement *****

JESUS knew that his disciples in their own strength were not capable of observing all that he had commanded. Considering the scope of their preaching commission, the strength of their opponents, and the frailty of the human flesh, it was clear that they needed superhuman power. Thus, just before his ascension to heaven, Jesus assured his disciples: “You will receive power when the holy spirit arrives upon you, and you will be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the most distant part of the earth.”—**Acts 1:8**.

³ Jesus promised his disciples that ‘they would receive *power* when the holy *spirit* arrived upon them.’ The terms “power” and “spirit” are distinct in their meaning. God’s spirit, his active force, describes energy that is projected and exerted on people or things to accomplish God’s will. Power, however, can be defined as the “ability to act or produce an effect.” It can lie dormant in someone or something until it is needed to produce a given result. Thus, holy spirit might be likened to the electric current that energizes a rechargeable battery, whereas power is more like the latent energy that is then stored in the battery. The power that Jehovah grants to his servants by means of holy spirit gives each one of us the ability to fulfill our Christian dedication and, when necessary, to resist negative forces that are exerted upon us.

***** w11 1/15 p. 28 par. 9 Empowered to Overcome Any Trial *****

⁹ Holy spirit likewise empowered Jesus’ apostles to obey God rather than those whom many esteemed as teachers of true religion. (**Acts 4:21, 31**; 5:29, 32) Most people prefer to go along with the crowd, so to speak, to avoid confrontation or conflict. True Christians, though, often have to take a stand for what they know to be right. Even so, thanks to the strength imparted by God’s active force, they do not fear to be different. (2 Tim. 1:7)

***** w11 6/1 p. 12 Do All Faithful Christians Go to Heaven? *****

▪ Many have read Jesus’ comforting words: “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.” (John 3:16) Did Jesus mean that all faithful worshippers of his Father, Jehovah God, would go to heaven to enjoy everlasting life in true happiness?

Note Jesus’ thought-provoking statement: “No man has ascended into heaven but he that descended from heaven, the Son of man.” (John 3:13) This implies that faithful worshippers in the past, such as Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, had not gone to heaven. (**Acts 2:34**) Where, then, did they all go? In brief: The faithful of old are in the grave, sleeping in death, unconscious, awaiting resurrection.—Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6; Acts 24:15.

***** km 3/12 p. 2 par. 5 Witness in Business Territory With Confidence *****

⁵ Jesus and Paul preached to people at their places of business with confidence, and so can you. (Matt. 4:18-21; 9:9; Acts 17:17) Ask Jehovah to help you to have a calm heart and to be bold. (**Acts 4:29**) Business territory has few not-at-homes, so why not give this productive form of witnessing a try?

***** km 4/12 p. 5 par. 7 Our District Conventions—Powerful Testimony to the Truth *****

⁷ At the seasonal festivals, the Israelites enjoyed upbuilding association with fellow worshippers from other parts of the nation and the world, and this promoted unity. (**Acts 2:1, 5**) During district conventions our unique Christian brotherhood is on full display. This pleasant aspect of our spiritual paradise often impresses observers. (Ps. 133:1) Rather than leaving the facility during lunch to purchase food, how much better it is to bring a light lunch with us and take advantage of the opportunities to meet and converse with brothers and sisters sitting nearby!

***** km 5/10 p. 2 par. 2 Christian Ministers Need to Pray *****

² **For Ourselves:** We should pray on each occasion that we preach. (Eph. 6:18) What are some things for which to pray? We could pray for a positive attitude about our territory and for boldness. (Acts 4:29) We could ask Jehovah to direct us to righthearted individuals with whom we may study the Bible. If the householder asks us a question, we can say a brief silent prayer asking Jehovah to help us make a proper reply. (Neh. 2:4) We may also ask for wisdom to keep the ministry our priority. (Jas. 1:5) In addition, Jehovah is pleased when we include expressions of thankfulness for the privilege of being his ministers.—Col. 3:15.

***** km 4/07 p. 1 pars. 2-3 “Speak the Word of God Fearlessly” *****

² **Do Not Hold Back:** Would you hold back from defending a close friend or a relative who was being falsely accused? Jehovah, our closest Friend, has been grossly misrepresented throughout the centuries. We have the unique privilege of giving a witness in behalf of our great God! (Isa. 43:10-12) Deep love for Jehovah can help us deal with feelings of self-consciousness or fear and can move us to speak up, not holding back from boldly bearing witness to the truth.—Acts 4:26, 29, 31.

³ Remember that our message is *good news*. It will bring lasting benefits to those who heed it. Focusing on the value of the preaching work instead of on ourselves or on our opposers will help us to preach with boldness.

***** bt chap. 2 p. 17 pars. 14-15 “You Will Be Witnesses of Me” *****

(Acts 1:11) Did the angels mean that Jesus would return in the same body, as some religionists teach? No, they did not. How do we know?

¹⁵ The angels said that Jesus would return, not in the same form, but “in the same manner.” In what manner did he depart? He was out of sight when the angels spoke. Only those few men, the apostles, perceived that Jesus had left the vicinity of the earth and was on his way to his Father in heaven. The manner of Christ’s return was to be similar. So it has been. Today, only those with spiritual discernment realize that Jesus is present in kingly power. (Luke 17:20) We need to discern the evidence of his presence and convey it to others so that they too may see the urgency of our times.

***** bt chap. 2 p. 18 par. 18 “You Will Be Witnesses of Me” *****

¹⁸ Note, too, why these disciples gathered: “With one accord all these were persisting in prayer.” (Acts 1:14) Gathering together has always been essential to Christian worship. We gather to encourage one another, to receive instruction and counsel and, above all, to join in worship of our heavenly Father, Jehovah. Our prayers and songs of praise at such times are very pleasing to him and vital for us. May we never forsake these sacred and upbuilding gatherings!—Heb. 10:24, 25.

***** bt chap. 3 p. 26 pars. 13-14 “Filled With Holy Spirit” *****

Peter’s positive approach likely played a role in his reaching the hearts of many, so that they were moved to repent.—Acts 2:37.

¹⁴ We can imitate Peter’s manner of appealing to hearts. When witnessing to others, we need not take issue with every unscriptural view that the householder may express. Rather, we would do well to build on points on which we can agree. If we establish common ground with our listener, we can then tactfully reason from God’s Word. Often, when Bible truths are presented in such a positive fashion, righthearted ones are more likely to respond favorably.

***** bt chap. 4 pp. 34-35 par. 17 “Men Unlettered and Ordinary” *****

¹⁷ In order to do God’s will, the disciples prayed to Jehovah: “Grant your slaves to keep speaking your word with all boldness.” What was Jehovah’s immediate response? “The place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were one and all filled with the holy spirit and were speaking the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:29-31) Nothing can stop God’s will from being accomplished. (Isa. 55:11) No matter how great the odds, no matter how powerful the opponent, if we raise our voice to God in prayer, we can be sure that He will grant us the strength to keep on speaking His word with boldness.

was now the third time^a that Jesus appeared to the disciples after his being raised up from the dead.

15 When, now, they had breakfasted, Jesus said to Simon Peter: "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"^b He said to him: "Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you."^c He said to him: "Feed my lambs."^d

16 Again he said to him, a second time: "Simon son of John, do you love^e me?" He said to him: "Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you." He said to him: "Shepherd my little sheep."^f

17 He said to him the third time: "Simon son of John, do you have affection for me?" Peter became grieved that he said to him the third time: "Do you have affection for me?" So he said to him: "Lord, you know all things;^g you are aware that I have affection for you." Jesus said to him: "Feed my little sheep."^h **18** Most truly I say to you, When you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk about where you wanted. But when you grow old you will stretch out your hands and another man will girdⁱ you and bear you where you do not wish."^j **19** This he said to signify by what sort of death^k he

CHAP. 21

- a Joh 20:19
- Joh 20:26
- b Joh 21:12
- c Mt 26:33
- Joh 17:26
- d Lu 22:32
- Ac 20:28
- 1Pe 5:2
- e Joh 14:21
- f Ps 95:7
- Mt 10:6
- Ac 1:15
- Ac 2:14
- Heb 13:20
- 1Pe 2:25
- g Mr 2:8
- Joh 2:24
- Joh 2:25
- Joh 16:30
- h Joh 10:3
- Joh 10:16
- i Ac 21:11
- j Ac 12:3
- k 2Pe 1:14

Second Col.

- a Php 1:20
- b Mt 19:28
- Joh 12:26
- Re 14:4
- c Joh 13:23
- Joh 20:2
- d Mt 16:27
- Mt 25:31
- 1Co 4:5
- Re 1:10
- Re 22:20
- e Re 1:1
- Re 1:9
- f Joh 13:23
- Joh 19:26
- Joh 20:2
- Joh 21:7
- g Joh 19:35
- 3Jo 12
- h Joh 20:30

would glorify God.^a So, when he had said this, he said to him: "Continue following me."^b

20 Upon turning about Peter saw the disciple whom Jesus used to love^c following, the one who at the evening meal had also leaned back upon his breast and said: "Lord, who is the one betraying you?" **21** Accordingly, when he caught sight of him, Peter said to Jesus: "Lord, what will this man do?" **22** Jesus said to him: "If it is my will for him to remain until I come,^d of what concern is that to you? You continue following me." **23** In consequence, this saying went out among the brothers, that that disciple would not die. However, Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but: "If it is my will for him to remain^e until I come, of what concern is that to you?"

24 This is the disciple^f that bears witness about these things and that wrote these things, and we know that the witness he gives is true.^g

25 There are, in fact, many other things also which Jesus did, which, if ever they were written in full detail, I suppose, the world itself could not contain the scrolls written.^h

ACTS OF APOSTLES

1 The first account, O Theoph'ius,^a I composed about all the things Jesus started both to do and to teach,^b **2** until the day that he was taken up,^c after he had given commandment through holy spirit to the apostles whom he chose.^d **3** To these also by many positive proofs he showed himself alive after he had suffered,^e being seen

CHAP. 1

- a Lu 1:3
- b Lu 3:23
- c Eph 4:10
- 1Ti 3:16
- 1Pe 3:22
- d Mt 28:20
- Lu 6:13
- Joh 15:16
- e Mt 28:9
- Joh 20:19
- 1Co 15:6

Second Col.

- a Lu 24:27

by them throughout forty days and telling the things about the kingdom of God.^a **4** And while he was meeting with them he gave them the orders: "Do not withdraw from Jerusalem,^b but keep waiting for what the Father has promised,^c about which you heard from me; **5** because

- b Lu 24:49; c Joh 14:16; Ac 2:33.

John, indeed, baptized with water, but you will be baptized in holy spirit^a not many days after this.”

6 When, now, they had assembled, they went asking him: “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom^b to Israel at this time?”

7 He said to them: “It does not belong to you to get knowledge of the times or seasons^c which the Father has placed in his own jurisdiction;^d **8** but you will receive power^e when the holy spirit arrives upon you, and you will be witnesses^f of me both in Jerusalem^g and in all Ju-de'a and Samar'i-a^h and to the most distant part of the earth.”ⁱ **9** And after he had said these things, while they were looking on, he was lifted up^j and a cloud caught him up from their vision.^k **10** And as they were gazing into the sky while he was on his way,^l also, look! two men in white^m garments stood alongside them, **11** and they said: “Men of Gal'ilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who was received up from you into the sky will come thus in the same mannerⁿ as you have beheld him going into the sky.”

12 Then they returned^o to Jerusalem from a mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, being a sabbath day's journey away.^p **13** So, when they had entered, they went up into the upper chamber,^q where they were staying, Peter as well as John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bar-thol'o-mew and Matthew, James the son of Al-phae'us and Simon the zealous one, and Judas the son of James.^r **14** With one accord all these were persisting in prayer,^s together with some women^t and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers.^u

15 Now during these days Pe-

CHAP. 1

- a Joe 2:28
- Mt 3:11
- Mr 1:8
- b Isa 1:26
- Da 7:27
- Mic 4:8
- Lu 19:11
- Lu 24:21
- c Da 2:21
- Da 7:25
- Lu 21:24
- d De 29:29
- Mt 24:36
- e Ac 4:33
- f Isa 43:10
- Lu 24:48
- Joh 15:27
- g Ac 5:28
- h Ac 8:14
- i Col 1:23
- j Joh 6:62
- k Lu 24:51
- l 1Pe 3:22
- m Mt 28:3
- Lu 24:4
- n Da 7:13
- Mt 26:64
- Re 1:7
- o Lu 24:52
- p Ex 16:29
- Joh 11:18
- q Ac 9:37
- r Mt 10:2
- Mr 3:16
- s Col 4:2
- 1Th 5:17
- t Lu 23:49
- u Mt 13:55
- Joh 7:5
- Ga 1:19

Second Col.

- a Joh 13:18
- b Mr 12:36
- c Ps 41:9
- Ps 55:12
- Lu 22:47
- d Joh 18:3
- e Lu 6:16
- Joh 6:71
- f Mt 10:4
- g Mt 27:5
- h Zec 11:12
- Mt 26:15
- 2Pe 2:15
- i Ps 55:23
- j Ps 69:25
- k Ps 109:8
- 1Ti 3:1
- l Joh 15:27
- m Mt 3:13
- Ac 10:37
- n Lu 24:51
- o Mt 28:6
- Mr 16:6
- Ac 1:9
- p 1Sa 16:7
- 1Ch 28:9
- Jer 11:20
- Ac 15:8
- q Joh 6:70
- r Pr 16:33
- s Mt 28:16

ter rose up in the midst of the brothers and said (the crowd of persons was all together about one hundred and twenty): **16** “Men, brothers, it was necessary for the scripture to be fulfilled,^a which the holy spirit^b spoke beforehand by David's mouth about Judas,^c who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus,^d **17** because he had been numbered among us^e and he obtained a share in this ministry.^f **18** (This very man, therefore, purchased^g a field with the wages for unrighteousness,^h and pitching head foremostⁱ he noisily burst in his midst and all his intestines were poured out. **19** It also became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that that field was called in their language *A-ke'l'da-ma*, that is, Field of Blood.) **20** For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his lodging place become desolate, and let there be no dweller in it,’^j and, ‘His office of oversight let someone else take.’^k **21** It is therefore necessary that of the men that assembled with us during all the time in which the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,^l **22** starting with his baptism by John^m and until the day he was received up from us,ⁿ one of these men should become a witness with us of his resurrection.”^o

23 So they put up two, Joseph called Bar'sab-bas, who was surnamed Justus, and Mat-thi'as. **24** And they prayed and said: “You, O Jehovah, who know the hearts of all,^p designate which one of these two men you have chosen, **25** to take the place of this ministry and apostleship,^q from which Judas deviated to go to his own place.” **26** So they cast lots^r over them, and the lot fell upon Mat-thi'as; and he was reckoned along with the eleven^s apostles.

2 Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost^a was in progress they were all together at the same place, **2** and suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting.^b **3** And tongues as if of fire^c became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them, **4** and they all became filled with holy spirit^d and started to speak with different tongues,^e just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance.

5 As it was, there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews,^f reverent men,^g from every nation of those under heaven. **6** So, when this sound occurred, the multitude came together and were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. **7** Indeed, they were astonished and began to wonder and say: "See here, all these who are speaking are Gal-i-le'-ans,^h are they not? **8** And yet how is it we are hearing, each one of us, his own language in which we were born? **9** Par'thi-ans and Medesⁱ and E'lam-ites,^j and the inhabitants of Mes-o-pota-mi-a, and Ju-de'a^k and Cap-pa-do'ci-a,^l Pon'tus^m and the district of Asia,ⁿ **10** and Phryg'i-a^o and Pam-phy'l'i-a,^p Egypt and the parts of Lib'y-a, which is toward Cy-re'ne, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,^q **11** Cre'tans^r and Arabians,^s we hear them speaking in our tongues about the magnificent things of God." **12** Yes, they were all astonished and were in perplexity, saying one to another: "What does this thing purport to be?" **13** However, different ones mocked at them and began to say: "They are full of sweet wine."^t

14 But Peter stood up with the eleven^u and raised his voice

CHAP. 2

- a Le 23:16
- De 16:9
- b Ac 4:31
- c Mr 1:8
- d Joh 14:26
- Ac 6:3
- 1Pe 1:12
- e Ac 10:46
- 1Co 12:10
- f Ex 23:17
- g Ac 22:12
- h Mr 14:70
- Ac 1:11
- i 2Ki 17:6
- j Da 8:2
- k Mt 24:16
- Mr 1:5
- l 1Pe 1:1
- m Ac 18:2
- n Ac 13:1
- 1Pe 1:1
- o Ac 16:6
- Ac 18:23
- p Ac 13:13
- Ac 15:38
- q Ex 12:48
- Isa 56:6
- r Tit 1:12
- s 2Ch 17:11
- t Isa 1:14
- u Mt 28:16

Second Col.

- a Ac 7:2
- Ac 22:1
- b Ac 26:25
- 1Th 5:7
- c Isa 44:3
- Eze 36:27
- Zec 12:10
- d Joe 2:28
- e Nu 11:29
- Joe 2:29
- Ac 21:4
- 1Co 12:10
- f Joe 2:30
- g Mt 24:29
- h Joe 2:31
- Mr 13:24
- i Joe 2:32
- Ro 10:13
- j Mt 2:23
- k Lu 24:19
- Joh 5:36
- l Joh 14:10
- Heb 2:4
- m Lu 24:44
- Joh 19:11
- Ac 4:28
- 1Pe 1:20
- n Lu 23:33
- Ac 5:30
- Ac 7:52
- o Ps 16:10
- Ac 3:15
- Ro 4:24
- 1Co 6:14
- Col 2:12
- Heb 13:20
- p Ps 9:13
- q Joh 10:18
- r Ps 16:8

and made this utterance to them: "Men of Ju-de'a and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem,^a let this be known to you and give ear to my sayings. **15** These people are, in fact, not drunk,^b as you suppose, for it is the third hour of the day. **16** On the contrary, this is what was said through the prophet Joel, **17** "And in the last days," God says, "I shall pour out some of my spirit^c upon every sort of flesh, and YOUR sons and YOUR daughters will prophesy and YOUR young men will see visions and YOUR old men will dream dreams;^d **18** and even upon my men slaves and upon my women slaves I will pour out some of my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.^e **19** And I will give portents in heaven above and signs on earth below, blood and fire and smoke mist;^f **20** the sun^g will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and illustrious day of Jehovah arrives.^h **21** And everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved."ⁱ

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus the Naz-a-rene,^j a man publicly shown by God to you through powerful works^k and portents and signs that God did through him in YOUR midst,^l just as you yourselves know, **23** this man, as one delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God,^m you fastened to a stake by the hand of lawless men and did away with.ⁿ **24** But God resurrected^o him by loosing the pangs of death,^p because it was not possible for him to continue to be held fast by it.^q **25** For David says respecting him, 'I had Jehovah constantly before my eyes; because he is at my right hand that I may never be shaken.'^r **26** On this account my heart became cheerful and my tongue rejoiced greatly. Moreover, even my flesh will

reside in hope;^a **27** because you will not leave my soul in Ha'des, neither will you allow your loyal one to see corruption.^b **28** You have made life's ways known to me, you will fill me with good cheer with your face.^c

29 "Men, brothers, it is allowable to speak with freedom of speech to you concerning the family head David, that he both deceased^d and was buried and his tomb is among us to this day. **30** Therefore, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one from the fruitage of his loins upon his throne,^e **31** he saw beforehand and spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he forsaken in Ha'des nor did his flesh see corruption.^f **32** This Jesus God resurrected, of which fact we are all witnesses.^g **33** Therefore because he was exalted to the right hand of God^h and received the promised holy spirit from the Father,ⁱ he has poured out this which you see and hear. **34** Actually David did not ascend to the heavens,^j but he himself says, 'Jehovah said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand,^k **35** until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet."^l **36** Therefore let all the house of Israel know for a certainty that God made him both Lord^m and Christ, this Jesus whom you impaled."ⁿ

37 Now when they heard this they were stabbed to the heart,^o and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: "Men, brothers, what shall we do?"^p **38** Peter said to them: "Repent,^q and let each one of you be baptized^r in the name^s of Jesus Christ for forgiveness^t of YOUR sins, and you will receive the free gift^u of the holy spirit. **39** For the promise^v is to you and to your children and to all those afar off,^w just as many as Jehovah our

CHAP. 2

- a Ps 16:9
- b Ps 16:10
Ac 13:35
- c Ps 16:11
- d 1Ki 2:10
Ac 13:36
- e 2Sa 7:12
Ps 89:4
Ps 132:11
- f Ps 16:10
Ac 13:35
Ac 13:37
- g Lu 24:48
Ac 1:8
Ac 3:15
- h Ro 8:34
Php 2:9
1Pe 3:22
- i Joh 14:26
Ac 1:4
- j Joh 3:13
- k Ps 110:1
1 Ge 3:15
Lu 20:43
1Co 15:25
Heb 10:13
- m Mt 28:18
Joh 3:35
Ac 5:31
- n Joh 19:6
Ac 4:10
- o 2Sa 24:10
Ps 73:21
- p Lu 3:10
Ac 16:30
- q Lu 24:47
Ac 17:30
Ac 26:20
- r Mt 28:19
- s Php 2:9
Re 19:16
t Isa 44:22
Mt 26:28
Eph 1:7
- u Ac 8:20
- v Joe 2:28
- w Isa 57:19
Eph 2:17

Second Col.

- a Joe 2:32
- b De 32:5
Ps 78:8
Ga 1:4
Php 2:15
- c Ac 8:12
Ac 18:8
- d Isa 60:22
Ac 4:4
Ac 5:14
- e Php 1:5
- f Ac 2:46
- g Ac 1:14
- h Ac 5:12
Ac 19:17
- i Ac 4:32
- j Mt 19:21
- k Isa 58:7
Ac 4:34
- l Lu 24:53
- m Ec 9:7
- n Ro 14:18
- o Ps 115:14
1Co 3:7
- p Ac 5:14
Ac 11:21
Ac 11:24

CHAP. 3

- q Ac 10:30

God may call to him."^a **40** And with many other words he bore thorough witness and kept exhorting them, saying: "Get saved from this crooked generation."^b **41** Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized,^c and on that day about three thousand souls were added.^d **42** And they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to sharing with one another,^e to taking of meals^f and to prayers.^g

43 Indeed, fear began to fall upon every soul, and many portents and signs began to occur through the apostles.^h **44** All those who became believers were together in having all things in common,ⁱ **45** and they went selling their possessions^j and properties and distributing the proceeds to all, just as anyone would have the need.^k **46** And day after day they were in constant attendance at the temple with one accord,^l and they took their meals in private homes and partook of food with great rejoicing^m and sincerity of heart, **47** praising God and finding favor with all the people.ⁿ At the same time Jehovah continued to join^o to them daily those being saved.^p

3 Now Peter and John were going up into the temple for the hour of prayer, the ninth hour,^q **2** and a certain man that was lame from his mother's womb^r was being carried, and they would daily put him near the temple door that was called Beautiful,^s in order to ask gifts of mercy from those entering into the temple.^t **3** When he caught sight of Peter and John about to go into the temple he began requesting to get gifts of mercy.^u **4** But Peter, together with John, gazed^v at him

r Joh 9:1; Ac 14:8; s Ac 3:10; t Joh 9:8; u Lu 11:41; v Ac 14:9.

and said: "Take a look at us." **5** So he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to get something from them. **6** However, Peter said: "Silver and gold I do not possess, but what I do have is what I give you:^a In the name of Jesus Christ the Naz·a·rene',^b walk!"^c **7** With that he took hold of him by the right hand^d and raised him up. Instantly the soles of his feet and his ankle-bones were made firm;^e **8** and, leaping up,^f he stood up and began walking, and he entered with them into the temple,^g walking and leaping and praising God. **9** And all the people^h got sight of him walking and praising God. **10** Moreover, they began to recognize him, that this was the man that used to sit for gifts of mercy at the Beautifulⁱ Gate of the temple, and they became filled with astonishment and ecstasy^j at what had happened to him.

11 Well, as the man was holding onto Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at what was called Sol'o-mon's colonnade,^k surprised out of their wits. **12** When Peter saw this, he said to the people: "Men of Israel, why are YOU wondering over this, or why are YOU gazing at us as though by personal power or godly devotion we have made him walk?^l **13** The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob,^m the God of our forefathers, has glorifiedⁿ his Servant,^o Jesus, whom YOU, for YOUR part, delivered up^p and disowned before Pilate's face, when he had decided to release him.^q **14** Yes, you disowned that holy and righteous one,^r and you asked for a man, a murderer,^s to be freely granted to you, **15** whereas you killed the Chief Agent of life.^t But God raised him up from the dead, of which fact we are witnesses.^u **16** Consequently his name, by our faith in his name,

CHAP. 3

- a 2Co 6:10
- b Mt 2:23
Ac 4:10
- c Ac 3:16
- d Mt 9:25
Lu 6:6
- e Mt 8:15
Joh 5:8
Ac 9:34
Ac 14:10
- f Isa 35:6
- g Joh 5:14
- h Ac 4:21
- i Joh 9:8
Ac 3:2
- j Mr 5:42
- k Joh 10:23
Ac 5:12
- l 2Co 3:5
- m Ex 3:6
Mt 22:32
- n Joh 7:39
Php 2:9
- o Isa 52:13
Isa 53:11
- p Ac 2:23
Ac 5:30
- q Mt 27:21
Lu 23:14
- r 1Jo 2:1
- s Mt 27:20
Lu 23:18
- t Ac 5:31
Heb 2:10
- u Lu 24:48
Ac 1:8
Ac 2:32

Second Col.

- a Lu 23:34
Joh 16:3
1Ti 1:13
- b 1Co 2:8
- c Ps 22:16
Ps 118:22
Isa 50:6
Isa 53:8
Da 9:26
Lu 22:15
- d Ac 2:38
- e Eze 33:11
Eph 4:22
1Pe 4:3
- f Eze 33:16
1Jo 1:7
- g Isa 28:12
- h Ps 110:1
- i Mt 17:11
- j Isa 1:26
- k De 18:15
De 34:10
- l De 18:18
Ac 7:37
- m De 18:19
- n Lu 24:27
Ac 10:43
- o Ro 9:4
- p Ge 22:18
Ga 3:8
- q Ac 13:46
Ro 1:16

CHAP. 4

- r Lu 22:4
- s Ac 23:8

has made this man strong whom YOU behold and know, and the faith that is through him has given the man this complete soundness in the sight of all of you. **17** And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance,^a just as YOUR rulers^b also did. **18** But in this way God has fulfilled the things he announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer.^c

19 "Repent,^d therefore, and turn around^e so as to get YOUR sins blotted out,^f that seasons of refreshing^g may come from the person of Jehovah **20** and that he may send forth the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, **21** whom heaven, indeed, must hold within itself^h until the times of restorationⁱ of all things of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets^j of old time. **22** In fact, Moses said, 'Jehovah God will raise up for you from among YOUR brothers a prophet like me.^k You must listen to him according to all the things he speaks to you.^l **23** Indeed, any soul that does not listen to that Prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people.'^m **24** And all the prophets, in fact, from Samuel on and those in succession, just as many as have spoken, have also plainly declared these days.ⁿ **25** You are the sons^o of the prophets and of the covenant which God covenanted with YOUR forefathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.'^p **26** To you first^q God, after raising up his Servant, sent him forth to bless you by turning each one away from YOUR wicked deeds."

4 Now while the two were speaking to the people, the chief priests and the captain of the temple^r and the Sadducees^s

came upon them, **2** being annoyed because they were teaching the people and were plainly declaring the resurrection from the dead in the case of Jesus;^a **3** and they laid their hands upon them and put them in custody till the next day,^b for it was already evening. **4** However, many of those who had listened to the speech believed,^c and the number of the men became about five thousand.^d

5 The next day there took place in Jerusalem the gathering together of their rulers and older men and scribes^e **6** (also An'nas^f the chief priest and Ca'ia-phas^g and John and Alexander and as many as were of the chief priest's kinsfolk), **7** and they stood them in their midst and began to inquire: "By what power or in whose name did you do this?"^h **8** Then Peter, filled with holy spirit,ⁱ said to them:

"Rulers of the people and older men, **9** if we are this day being examined, on the basis of a good deed to an ailing man,^j as to by whom this man has been made well, **10** let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Naz-a-rene',^k whom you impaled^l but whom God raised up from the dead,^m by this one does this man stand here sound in front of you. **11** This is 'the stone that was treated by you builders as of no account that has become the head of the corner.'ⁿ **12** Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is not another name^o under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved."^p

13 Now when they beheld the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were men unlettered and ordinary,^q they got to wondering. And they began to recognize about them that they used

CHAP. 4

- a Ac 4:33
Ac 17:18
- b Lu 21:12
- c 1Ti 3:16
- d Ac 2:41
Ac 6:7
- e Mr 13:9
- f Lu 3:2
Joh 18:13
- g Mt 26:57
Lu 3:2
Joh 11:49
- h Mt 21:23
Mr 11:28
Lu 20:2
- i Ac 7:55
- j Ac 3:7
- k Mt 2:23
Ac 3:6
- l Ac 2:36
- m Ac 2:24
Ac 5:30
- n Ps 118:22
Isa 28:16
Mt 21:42
1Pe 2:7
- o Mt 1:21
Ac 10:43
Php 2:9
- p Joh 1:12
Joh 14:6
1Ti 2:5
- q Mt 11:25
1Co 1:27

Second Col.

- a Joh 7:15
- b Ac 3:11
- c Lu 21:15
- d Joh 11:47
- e Ac 3:9
- f Ac 5:40
- g Ac 5:29
2Pe 1:16
- h Lu 22:2
Ac 5:26
- i Ac 12:12
- j Ps 55:16
- k Re 6:10
- l Ex 20:11
Ne 9:6
Ps 146:6
Re 10:6
- m 2Sa 23:2

to be with Jesus;^a **14** and as they were looking at the man that had been cured standing with them,^b they had nothing to say in rebuttal.^c **15** So they commanded them to go outside the San'he-drin hall, and they began consulting with one another, **16** saying: "What shall we do with these men?^d Because, for a fact, a noteworthy sign has occurred through them, one manifest to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem;^e and we cannot deny it. **17** Nevertheless, in order that it may not be spread abroad further among the people, let us tell them with threats not to speak anymore upon the basis of this name to any man at all."^f

18 With that they called them and charged them, nowhere to make any utterance or to teach upon the basis of the name of Jesus. **19** But in reply Peter and John said to them: "Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves. **20** But as for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard."^g **21** So, when they had further threatened them, they released them, since they did not find any ground on which to punish them and on account of the people,^h because they were all glorifying God over what had occurred; **22** for the man upon whom this sign of healing had occurred was more than forty years old.

23 After being released they went to their own peopleⁱ and reported what things the chief priests and the older men had said to them. **24** Upon hearing this they with one accord raised their voices to God^j and said:

"Sovereign^k Lord, you are the One who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things in them,^l **25** and who through holy spirit said by the mouth of our forefather David,^m

your servant, 'Why did nations become tumultuous and peoples meditate upon empty things?'^a **26** The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers massed together as one against Jehovah and against his anointed one.'^b **27** Even so, both Herod and Pontius Pilate^c with men of nations and with peoples of Israel were in actuality gathered together in this city against your holy^d servant Jesus, whom you anointed,^e **28** in order to do what things your hand and counsel had foreordained to occur.^f **29** And now, Jehovah, give attention to their threats,^g and grant your slaves to keep speaking your word with all boldness,^h **30** while you stretch out your hand for healing and while signs and portentsⁱ occur through the name^j of your holy servant^k Jesus."

31 And when they had made supplication, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken,^l and they were one and all filled with the holy spirit^m and were speaking the word of God with boldness.ⁿ

32 Moreover, the multitude of those who had believed had one heart and soul,^o and not even one would say that any of the things he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common.^p **33** Also, with great power the apostles continued giving forth the witness concerning the resurrection of the Lord Jesus;^q and undeserved kindness in large measure was upon them all. **34** In fact, there was not one in need among them;^r for all those who were possessors of fields or houses would sell them and bring the values of the things sold **35** and they would deposit them at the feet of the apostles.^s In turn distribution^t would be made to each one, just as he would have the need. **36** So Joseph, who was surnamed Bar-

CHAP. 4

- a Ps 2:1
- b Ps 2:2
- c Lu 23:12
- d Ac 3:13
Heb 7:26
- e Ps 45:7
Ac 10:38
- f Isa 53:10
Lu 24:44
Ac 2:23
1Pe 1:20
- g Isa 37:17
- h Isa 58:1
Ac 19:8
- i Ac 2:43
Ac 5:12
- j Ac 3:16
- k Ac 3:26
- l Ac 2:2
- m Ac 2:4
- n 1Th 2:2
- o Joh 17:21
Php 1:27
- p Ac 2:44
- q Ac 1:22
Ac 4:2
- r De 15:4
Ac 2:45
1Jo 3:17
- s Ac 5:2
- t Ac 6:1

Second Col.

- a Ac 11:22
Ac 12:25
- b Pr 3:9
Lu 12:33

CHAP. 5

- c Ac 4:35
- d Lu 22:3
- e Ps 101:7
Ps 119:118
Eph 4:25
Col 3:9
Re 21:8
- f Nu 30:2
Ec 5:4
Ac 5:9
- g De 23:23
- h 1Sa 2:25
- i 1Pe 4:17
- j Ac 2:43
Ac 5:11
- k Joh 19:40
- l Ex 17:2
Ps 95:9
Mt 4:7
Lu 4:12
1Co 10:9
- m Ac 5:5

na-bas^a by the apostles, which means, when translated, Son of Comfort, a Levite, a native of Cyprus, **37** possessing a piece of land, sold it and brought the money and deposited it at the feet of the apostles.^b

5 However, a certain man, An-a-ni'as by name, together with Sap-phi'ra his wife, sold a possession **2** and secretly held back some of the price, his wife also knowing about it, and he brought just a part and deposited it at the feet of the apostles.^c **3** But Peter said: "An-a-ni'as, why has Satan^d emboldened you to play false^e to the holy spirit^f and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field? **4** As long as it remained with you did it not remain yours, and after it was sold did it not continue in your control? Why was it that you purposed such a deed as this in your heart? You have played false,^g not to men, but to God."^h **5** On hearing these words An-a-ni'as fell down and expired.ⁱ And great fear^j came over all those hearing of it. **6** But the younger men rose, wrapped him in cloths,^k and carried him out and buried him.

7 Now after an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** Peter said to her: "Tell me, did you two sell the field for so much?" She said: "Yes, for so much." **9** So Peter said to her: "Why was it agreed upon between you two to make a test^l of the spirit of Jehovah? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." **10** Instantly she fell down at his feet and expired.^m When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her alongside her husband. **11** Consequently great fear came over the whole

What future blessings will be enjoyed as a result of the ransom?

Rev. 5:9, 10: “They sing a new song, saying: ‘You [the Lamb, Jesus Christ] are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slaughtered and with your blood you bought persons for God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth.’” (The ransom was a vital factor in opening the way to heavenly life for those who are to rule with Christ. Soon all the rulers in earth’s new government will be on their heavenly thrones.)

Rev. 7:9, 10: “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 [Jesus Christ, who died as if a sacrificial lamb], dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands. 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.’” (Faith in Christ’s sacrifice is a key factor in the survival of this great crowd through the great tribulation.)

Rev. 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* 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.” (Thus, application of the value of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, is an important part of the provision made by God to cure mankind of all the effects of sin and to enable them to enjoy eternal life.)

Rom. 8:21: “The creation itself [mankind] also will be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God.”

What is required of us in order to benefit lastingly from Jesus’ perfect sacrifice?

John 3:36: “He that exercises faith in the Son has everlasting life; he that disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.”

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)

What do you need to do?

Look at those to whom you are speaking, allowing your eyes to meet for a few seconds if that is acceptable locally. See individuals, not merely a group.

OUR eyes communicate attitudes and emotions. They may indicate surprise or fear. They may convey compassion or love. At times, they may betray doubt or give evidence of grief. Concerning his countrymen, who had suffered much, an elderly man said: “We speak with our eyes.”

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

In many cultures, eye contact is viewed as an indication of interest in the person being addressed. It is also viewed as evidence that you speak with conviction.

Others may draw conclusions about us and about what we say on the basis of where we focus our eyes. In many cultures, people tend to trust an individual who maintains friendly eye contact with them. Conversely, they may doubt the sincerity or competence of a person who looks at his feet or at some object rather than at the one to whom he is talking. Some other cultures view any intensive eye contact as rude, aggressive, or challenging. This is especially the case when speaking with members of the opposite sex or to a chief or other titled person. And in some areas, if a younger person were to make direct eye contact when speaking to an older person, this would be viewed as disrespectful.

However, where it is not offensive, looking an individual in the eye when making an important statement can add emphasis to what is said. It may be viewed as evidence of conviction on the part of the speaker. Notice how Jesus responded when his disciples expressed great surprise and said: “Who really can be saved?” The Bible reports: “*Looking them in the face*, Jesus said to them: ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” (Matt. 19:25, 26) The Scriptures also show that the apostle Paul keenly observed the reactions of those in his audience. On one occasion a man lame from birth was present when Paul spoke. Acts 14:9, 10 states: “This man was listening to Paul speak, who, *on looking at him intently and seeing he had faith to be made well*, said with a loud voice: ‘Stand up erect on your feet.’”

Suggestions for the Field Ministry. When you share in the field ministry, be friendly and warm as you approach people. Where appropriate, use thought-provoking questions to start a conversation on something that may be of mutual interest. As you do this, endeavor to establish eye contact—or at least to look the person in the face in a respectful and kindly way. A warm smile on the face of one whose eyes convey inner joy is very appealing. Such an expression may tell the individual much about what sort of person you are and help him to feel more relaxed as you converse.

Observing the expression in the person's eyes, where appropriate, may give you indications as to how to deal with a situation. If the person is angry or if he is really not interested, you may be able to see it. If he does not understand you, you may realize that. If he is getting impatient, you will usually be able to tell. If he is keenly interested, this too will be evident. The expression in his eyes may alert you to the need to adjust your pace, to make added effort to involve him in the conversation, to terminate the discussion or, possibly, to follow through with a demonstration of how to study the Bible.

Whether you are engaging in public witnessing or conducting a home Bible study, endeavor to maintain respectful eye contact with the one with whom you are speaking. Do not stare at him, however, as that can be embarrassing. (2 Ki. 8:11) But in a natural, friendly manner, frequently look the other person in the face. In many lands, this conveys a feeling of sincere interest. Of course, when you are reading from the Bible or some other publication, your eyes will be focused on the printed page. But to emphasize a point, you may want to look directly at the person, though doing so briefly. If you look up at intervals, this will also enable you to observe his reaction to what is being read.

If shyness makes visual contact difficult for you at first, do not give up. With practice, appropriate visual contact will become natural, and it may add to your effectiveness in communicating with others.

When Giving a Discourse. The Bible tells us that before Jesus began his Sermon on the Mount, “he lifted up his eyes upon his disciples.” (Luke 6:20) Learn from his example. If you are going to speak

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

Be natural and friendly, genuinely interested in those to whom you speak.

When reading, hold the reading material in your hand and keep your chin up so that you need to move only your eyes, not your head.

The Joy of Jehovah

(Nehemiah 8:10)

1. Signs of the times are heralding the Kingdom.
Good news we tell for all to hear.
Lift up your heads, and look to your salvation;
Time for deliverance is near!

(CHORUS)

The joy of Jehovah is our stronghold.

Sing loud, and raise a joyful cry.

Rejoice in the hope, and show a grateful heart,

All give praise and laud our God on high.

The joy of Jehovah is our stronghold.

His name all men must come to know.

With constant devotion to our God and King,

Godly joy in service we will show.

2. Look to our God, you lovers of Jehovah.

No need to fear, for he is strong.

Stand up and shout with voices loud as thunder;

Sing to our God a joyous song!

(Chorus)