

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 16

Song 116 and Prayer

□ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jl Lessons 20-22 (30 min.)

□ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Revelation 1-6 (10 min.)

No. 1: Revelation 3:14–4:8 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: **The True Religion Is Not Formalistic But Is a Way of Life**—*rs* p. 329 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: **In What Ways Did Jesus “Set the Pattern” for His Disciples?**—John 13:15 (5 min.)

□ **Service Meeting:**

Song 44

10 min: What Did We Accomplish? Discussion by the service overseer. Inform the congregation how much of the territory was covered during the campaign for *Kingdom News* No. 38. Invite audience to comment on how they benefited from sharing in the campaign and to relate any outstanding experiences.

10 min: Let Youths Praise Jehovah. (Ps. 148:12, 13) Interview two or three exemplary youths. What challenges to their faith do they face at school? How have their parents and others helped them meet these challenges? What has given them the courage to speak up about their Christian beliefs? Invite them to relate experiences.

10 min: “Study of *Draw Close to Jehovah Begins the Week of January 6.*” Questions and answers.

Song 75 and Prayer

Study of *Draw Close to Jehovah Begins the Week of January 6*

¹ Jehovah wants us to draw close to him. (Jas. 4:8) To help us do that, beginning the week of January 6, we will study *Draw Close*

1. Beginning the week of January 6, what opportunities will we have to draw closer to Jehovah?

to *Jehovah* at the Congregation Bible Study. Regarding the purpose of the book, the opening page states: “Pondering the way Jehovah manifests each of his qualities, seeing how Jesus Christ perfectly reflected them, and understanding how we too may cultivate them will draw us closer to God.” Congregations previously considered this book during 2004 and 2005. However, for many of the approximately two million publishers who have come into the truth since then, this will be the first time that Jehovah’s endearing qualities have been discussed in detail. For those who studied the book before, the review will help them to deepen their appreciation for Jehovah’s attributes.—Ps. 119:14.

² **How It Will Be Studied:** The conductor will begin with a brief introduction, perhaps one or two sentences. The material does not stipulate which scriptures should be read, so during the study the conductor will select key scriptures to read. One or two questions may be asked at the end of each lesson as a review. If the material includes the box “Questions for Meditation,” this will be used as the review. As time permits, the conductor can have some of the cited verses in the box read and then ask auxiliary questions to draw out comments from the audience.

³ **Benefit Fully:** Prepare in advance even if you previously studied this book. Have a share in commenting, as this will bring praise to Jehovah, help you to remember the information, and benefit others in attendance. (Ps. 35:18; Heb. 10:24, 25) As you meditate on Jehovah’s matchless qualities, you will draw closer to him. (Ps. 77:11-13) In turn, you will be more determined to obey his commandments and more motivated to tell others about him.—Ps. 150:1-6.

2. How will *Draw Close to Jehovah* be studied?
3. As the book is being considered, what should we do and why?

1. The prophets of old sought to learn of the Christ,
The hope of all groaning creation.
God's spirit revealed that Messiah would come,
Providing the means of salvation.
The time has arrived, the Messiah now reigns,
The proof of his presence is clear.
How great is the favor of learning such things;
Into these even angels would peer!

(CHORUS)

*Our path now becomes ever brighter;
We walk in the full light of day.
Behold what our God is revealing;
He guides us each step of the way.*

2. Our Lord has appointed a trustworthy slave,
Through whom He gives food in due season.
The light of the truth has grown brighter with time,
Appealing to heart and to reason.
Our path ever clearer, our steps ever firm,
We walk in the brightness of day.
All thanks to Jehovah, the Source of all truth,
We most gratefully walk in his way.

(Chorus)

How Does the Governing Body Function Today?

In the first century, a small group, “the apostles and older men in Jerusalem,” served as a governing body to make important decisions on behalf of the entire anointed Christian congregation. (Acts 15:2) When they made a unanimous decision, it was a result of discussing what the Scriptures say and yielding to the influence of God’s spirit. (Acts 15:25) That pattern is followed today.

It is being used by God to do his will. The anointed brothers who serve on the Governing Body have an intense interest in God’s Word and much experience in handling practical and spiritual matters. They meet each week to consider the needs of the worldwide brotherhood. As in the first century, Bible-based instructions are provided either through letters or by means of traveling overseers and others. This promotes unity in thought and action among God’s people. (Acts 16:4, 5) The Governing Body oversees the preparation of spiritual food, gives impetus to the Kingdom-preaching work, and supervises the appointment of brothers to positions of responsibility.

It is responsive to the direction of God’s spirit. The Governing Body looks to the Universal Sovereign, Jehovah, and to the Head of the congregation, Jesus, for guidance. (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23) Its members do not regard themselves as the leaders of God’s people. They, along with all anointed Christians, “keep following the Lamb [Jesus] no matter where he goes.” (Revelation 14:4) The Governing Body appreciates our prayers in its behalf.

- Who were on the governing body in the first century?
- How does the Governing Body today seek God’s direction?



First-century governing body



Reading the governing body’s letter

FIND OUT MORE

Read Acts 15:1-35, and see how the first-century governing body discussed and resolved a dispute with the help of the Scriptures and holy spirit.





Art Department,
U.S.A.



Germany



Kenya



Colombia

What Is Bethel?

Bethel, a Hebrew name, means “House of God.” (Genesis 28:17, 19) It is a fitting designation for the complexes that Jehovah’s Witnesses have established around the world from which the preaching work is directed and supported. The Governing Body serves at the world headquarters in New York State, U.S.A., and from there it supervises the activity of the branch offices in scores of countries. As a group, those who serve at these facilities are known as the Bethel family. Like a family, they live and work together, enjoy meals together, and study the Bible together in unity.—Psalm 133:1.

A unique place where family members give of themselves.

At every Bethel facility, there are Christian men and women who are devoted to doing God’s will and serving Kingdom interests full-time. (Matthew 6:33) Not one of them receives a wage or salary, but all are furnished with room and board and an allowance to assist with personal expenses. Everyone at Bethel has an assignment, whether in an office, a kitchen, or a dining room. Some serve in a printery or a bindery, or do housekeeping, laundry, maintenance, or other things.

A busy place that supports Kingdom preaching. The main objective of every Bethel is to make Bible truth available to as many people as possible. This brochure is one example of that. It was written under the oversight of the Governing Body, transmitted electronically to hundreds of translation teams around the world, printed on high-speed presses at several Bethel printeries, and shipped out to over 100,000 congregations. Every step of the way, Bethel families provide essential support to the most urgent of all tasks—preaching the good news.—Mark 13:10.

- Who serve at Bethel, and what provisions are made for them?
- What urgent work is supported by the activity at each Bethel?

What Is Done at a Branch Office?

Bethel family members serve in a variety of departments, caring for the preaching activity in one or several countries. They may serve on translation teams, print magazines, bind books, warehouse literature, do audio/video production, or care for other matters for the region.

A Branch Committee oversees the activity. The Governing Body entrusts the operation of each branch office to a Branch Committee made up of three or more well-qualified elders. The committee keeps the Governing Body informed of the progress of the activity in each land under that committee's jurisdiction and of any problems that may arise. Such reports help the Governing Body to decide what subjects should be considered in future publications and at meetings and assemblies. Representatives of the Governing Body called **zone overseers** are sent out regularly to visit the branches and provide guidance for the Branch Committees in handling their assignments. (Proverbs 11:14) A special program including a talk by the zone overseer is arranged for the encouragement of those living in the branch territory.

Support is given to the local congregations. Responsible brothers at the branch office approve the formation of new congregations and process the appointments of elders and ministerial servants. Brothers also direct the activity of the pioneers, missionaries, and traveling overseers who serve in the branch territory. They organize assemblies and conventions, coordinate the construction of new Kingdom Halls, and see that literature is shipped to the congregations to supply their needs. Everything done at a branch contributes to the orderly accomplishment of the preaching work.—1 Corinthians 14:33, 40.

- How do Branch Committees assist the Governing Body?
- What responsibilities are cared for at a branch office?



Solomon Islands



Canada



South Africa

FIND OUT MORE

Visitors are welcome to take a guided tour of any of our branch offices, Monday through Friday. We invite you to do that. When you visit, dress as if you were attending a meeting. You will be benefited spiritually by seeing the place called Bethel.



A REVELATION

TO JOHN

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- 1 A revelation from God, through Jesus (1-3)
Greetings to the seven congregations (4-8)
 "I am the Alpha and the Omega" (8)
John in the Lord's day by inspiration (9-11)
Vision of the glorified Jesus (12-20)
- 2 Messages to Ephesus (1-7), to Smyrna (8-11), to Pergamum (12-17), to Thyatira (18-29)
- 3 Messages to Sardis (1-6), to Philadelphia (7-13), to Laodicea (14-22)
- 4 Vision of Jehovah's heavenly presence (1-11)
 Jehovah seated on his throne (2)
 The 24 elders on thrones (4)
 The four living creatures (6)
- 5 A scroll with seven seals (1-5)
The Lamb takes the scroll (6-8)
The Lamb is worthy to open the seals (9-14)
- 6 The Lamb opens the first six seals (1-17)
 Conqueror on the white horse (1, 2)
 Rider of fiery-colored horse to take away peace (3, 4)
 Rider of black horse to bring famine (5, 6)
 Rider of pale horse is named Death (7, 8)
 Slaughtered ones under the altar (9-11)
 A great earthquake (12-17)
- 7 Four angels holding back destructive winds (1-3)
The 144,000 sealed (4-8)
A great crowd in white robes (9-17)
- 8 The seventh seal opened (1-6)
Sounding the first four trumpets (7-12)
Three woes announced (13)
- 9 The fifth trumpet (1-11)
One woe past, two more coming (12)
The sixth trumpet (13-21)
- 10 A strong angel with a little scroll (1-7)
 "No delay any longer" (6)
 Sacred secret to be finished (7)
 John eats the little scroll (8-11)
- 11 The two witnesses (1-13)
 Prophecy 1,260 days in sackcloth (3)
 Killed and left unburied (7-10)
 Brought to life after three and a half days (11, 12)
 Second woe past, third coming (14)
 The seventh trumpet (15-19)
 Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ (15)
 Those ruining the earth will be brought to ruin (18)
- 12 The woman, the male child, and the dragon (1-6)
 Michael battles the dragon (7-12)
 Dragon hurled to the earth (9)
 Devil knows he has a short time (12)
 Dragon persecutes the woman (13-17)
- 13 Seven-headed wild beast from the sea (1-10)
 Two-horned beast from the earth (11-13)
 Image of the seven-headed beast (14, 15)
 Mark and number of the wild beast (16-18)
- 14 The Lamb and the 144,000 (1-5)
Messages from three angels (6-12)
 Angel in midheaven with good news (6, 7)
 Happy are those who die in union with Christ (13)
 Two harvests of the earth (14-20)
- 15 Seven angels with seven plagues (1-8)
 The song of Moses and of the Lamb (3, 4)
- 16 Seven bowls of God's anger (1-21)
 Poured out on the earth (2), the sea (3), the rivers and springs (4-7), the sun (8, 9), the throne of the wild beast (10, 11), the Euphrates (12-16), and the air (17-21)
 God's war at Armageddon (14, 16)

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| <p>17 Judgment on "Babylon the Great" (1-18)
 The great prostitute sits on a scarlet-colored beast (1-3)
 The beast 'was, is not, but is to ascend out of the abyss' (8)
 Ten horns to fight the Lamb (12-14)
 Ten horns to hate the prostitute (16, 17)</p> <p>18 Fall of "Babylon the Great" (1-8)
 "Get out of her, my people" (4)
 Mourning over Babylon's fall (9-19)
 Rejoicing in heaven over Babylon's fall (20)
 Babylon to be hurled into the sea like a stone (21-24)</p> <p>19 Praise Jah for his judgments (1-10)
 Marriage of the Lamb (7-9)</p> | <p>Rider on a white horse (11-16)
 Great evening meal of God (17, 18)
 Wild beast defeated (19-21)</p> <p>20 Satan bound for 1,000 years (1-3)
 Millennial rulers with Christ (4-6)
 Satan released, then destroyed (7-10)
 The dead judged before the white throne (11-15)</p> <p>21 A new heaven and a new earth (1-8)
 No more death (4)
 All things made new (5)
 New Jerusalem described (9-27)</p> <p>22 River of water of life (1-5)
 Conclusion (6-21)
 'Come! Take life's water free' (17)
 "Come, Lord Jesus" (20)</p> |
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1 A revelation* by Jesus Christ, which God gave him,^a to show his slaves^b the things that must shortly take place. And he sent his angel and presented it in signs through him to his slave John,^c **2** who bore witness to the word God gave and to the witness Jesus Christ gave, yes, to all the things he saw. **3** Happy is the one who reads aloud and those who hear the words of this prophecy and who observe the things written in it,^d for the appointed time is near.

4 John to the seven congregations^e that are in the province of Asia:

May you have undeserved kindness and peace from "the One who is and who was and who is coming,"^f and from the seven spirits^g that are before his throne, **5** and from Jesus Christ, "the Faithful Witness,"^h "the firstborn from the dead,"ⁱ and "the Ruler of the kings of the earth."^j

To him who loves us^k and who set us free from our sins

1:1 *Or "A disclosure; An uncovering."

CHAP. 1

- a Da 2:28
- b Am 3:7
- Re 7:3, 4
- c Mt 10:2
- Mr 1:19
- Joh 21:20
- d Ps 1:2
- Lu 11:28
- Joh 13:17
- Jas 1:22
- e Re 1:11
- f Re 1:8
- Re 4:8
- Re 11:17
- g Re 4:5
- h Re 3:14
- i Col 1:18
- j Ps 89:27
- 1Ti 6:15
- Re 19:16
- k Joh 15:9

Second Col.

- a Heb 9:14
- 1Pe 1:18, 19
- 1Jo 1:7
- b Ex 19:6
- Lu 22:28-30
- c 1Pe 2:5
- Re 5:9, 10
- Re 20:6
- d Mt 26:64
- Mr 13:26
- e Mt 24:30
- f Isa 48:12
- Re 21:6
- Re 22:13
- g Ex 6:3
- h Mt 24:9
- i Lu 12:32
- j Mt 10:22
- 2Ti 2:12
- k Ro 8:17

by means of his own blood^a—**6** and he made us to be a kingdom,^b priests^c to his God and Father—yes, to him be the glory and the might forever. Amen.

7 Look! He is coming with the clouds,^d and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him.^e Yes, Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega,"^f says Jehovah^g God, "the One who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty."^g

9 I John, your brother and a sharer with you in the tribulation^h and kingdomⁱ and endurance^j in association with Jesus,^k was on the island called Patmos for speaking about God and bearing witness concerning Jesus. **10** By inspiration I came to be in the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a strong voice like that of a trumpet, **11** saying: "What you see, write in a scroll and send it to the seven congregations:

1:8 *Or "the A and the Z." Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. ^gSee App. A5.

in Eph'e-sus,^a in Smyr'na,^b in Per'-ga-mum,^c in Thy-a-ti'ra,^d in Sar'-dis,^e in Philadelphia,^f and in La-o-di-ce'a."^g

12 I turned to see who was speaking with me, and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,^h **13** and in the midst of the lampstands someone like a son of man,ⁱ clothed in a garment that reached down to the feet and wearing a golden sash around his chest. **14** Moreover, his head and his hair were white as white wool, as snow, and his eyes were like a fiery flame,^j **15** and his feet were like fine copper^k when glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. **16** And he had in his right hand seven stars,^l and out of his mouth a sharp, long, two-edged sword^m was protruding, and his countenance* was like the sun when it shines at its brightest.ⁿ **17** When I saw him, I fell as dead at his feet.

And he laid his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First^o and the Last,^p **18** and the living one,^q and I became dead,^r but look! I am living forever and ever,^s and I have the keys of death and of the Grave.*^t **19** So write down the things you saw, and the things that are, and the things that will take place after these. **20** As for the sacred secret of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars mean the angels of the seven congregations, and the seven lampstands mean the seven congregations."^u

2 "To the angel^v of the congregation in Eph'e-sus^w write: These are the things that he says who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks

1:16 *Or "face." 1:18 *Or "Hades," that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary.

CHAP. 1

a Eph 1:1
 Re 2:1
 b Re 2:8
 c Re 2:12
 d Re 2:18
 e Re 3:1
 f Re 3:7
 g Re 3:14
 h Re 1:20
 i Da 7:13
 j Re 19:12
 k Re 2:18
 l Re 1:20
 m Isa 49:2
 n Mt 17:1, 2
 o Ac 26:23
 Col 1:18
 Re 1:5
 p Re 2:8
 q 1Co 15:45
 r 1Pe 3:18
 s Ro 6:9
 t 1Ti 6:16
 u Mt 16:18
 Joh 6:54
 Joh 11:25
 v Mt 5:16
 Php 2:15

CHAP. 2

v Re 1:20
 w Ac 19:1
 Eph 1:1

Second Col.

a Re 1:12, 13
 b Ac 20:29, 30
 2Co 11:13
 1Jo 4:1
 c 1Pe 4:14
 d Ga 6:9
 e Re 3:19
 f Re 1:20
 g Re 2:16
 h 1Co 11:19
 Re 2:15
 i Mt 11:15
 Re 2:17, 29
 j 1Jo 5:4
 k Ro 2:6, 7
 Re 2:10
 l Re 1:13, 17
 m Ro 14:9
 n 2Co 6:4, 10
 1Ti 6:18, 19
 Jas 2:5
 o Re 3:9
 p Mt 10:28
 q Ro 2:6, 7
 2Ti 4:7, 8
 Jas 1:12
 Re 20:4
 r Re 13:9
 s 1Jo 5:5
 t Re 20:6
 Re 20:14
 Re 21:8

among the seven golden lampstands:^a **2** 'I know your deeds, and your labor and endurance, and that you cannot tolerate bad men, and that you put to the test those who say they are apostles,^b but they are not, and you found them to be liars. **3** You are also showing endurance, and you have persevered for the sake of my name^c and have not grown weary.^d **4** Nevertheless, I hold this against you, that you have left the love you had at first.

5 "Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent^e and do the deeds you did at first. If you do not, I will come to you, and I will remove your lampstand^f from its place, unless you repent.^g **6** Still, you do have this in your favor: that you have the deeds of the sect of Nic-o-la'-us,^h which I also hate. **7** Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations:ⁱ To the one who conquers^j I will grant to eat of the tree of life,^k which is in the paradise of God.'

8 "And to the angel of the congregation in Smyr'na write: These are the things that he says, 'the First and the Last,'^l who became dead and came to life again:^m **9** 'I know your tribulation and poverty—but you are richⁿ—and the blasphemy by those who call themselves Jews and really are not, but they are a synagogue of Satan.^o **10** Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer.^p Look! The Devil will keep on throwing some of you into prison so that you may be fully put to the test, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Prove yourself faithful even to death, and I will give you the crown of life.^q **11** Let the one who has an ear hear^r what the spirit says to the congregations: The one who conquers^s will by no means be harmed by the second death.'^t

12 "To the angel of the congregation in Per'ga-mum write: These are the things that he says who has the sharp, long, two-edged sword:^a 13 'I know where you are dwelling, that is, where the throne of Satan is; and yet you keep holding fast to my name,^b and you did not deny your faith in me^c even in the days of An'ti-pas, my faithful witness,^d who was killed^e by your side, where Satan is dwelling.

14 "Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, that you have there those adhering to the teaching of Ba'laam,^f who taught Ba'lak^g to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality."^h 15 In the same way, you also have those adhering to the teaching of the sect of Nic-o-la'us.ⁱ 16 So repent. If you do not, I am coming to you quickly, and I will war against them with the long sword of my mouth.^j

17 "Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations:^k To the one who conquers^l I will give some of the hidden manna,^m and I will give him a white pebble, and written on the pebble is a new name that no one knows except the one receiving it.ⁿ

18 "To the angel of the congregation in Thy-a-ti'ra^o write: These are the things that the Son of God says, the one who has eyes like a fiery flame^p and whose feet are like fine copper:^p 19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and ministry and endurance, and that your deeds of late are more than those you did at first.

20 "Nevertheless, I do hold this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jez'e-bel,^q who calls herself a prophetess, and

2:14, 20 *See Glossary.

CHAP. 2

a Re 1:13, 16

Re 19:15

b Mr 13:9

Re 2:3

c Lu 12:8

1Jo 2:23

d Ac 1:8

e Mt 24:9

f Nu 31:16

2Pe 2:15

Jude 11

g Nu 22:4

h Nu 25:1, 2

Ac 15:28, 29

Eph 5:5

i 2Pe 2:1

Re 2:6

j Re 1:13, 16

k Re 2:7

l 1Jo 5:5

Re 3:12

m Ex 16:15, 31

Ps 78:24

Heb 9:4

n Ac 16:14

o Re 19:12

p Re 1:13-15

q 1Ki 16:31

2Ki 9:22

Second Col.

a 1Co 5:11

Ga 5:19

Eph 5:5

b Re 22:12

c Joh 8:44

d Re 3:11

e Ps 28:9

Mt 19:28

Lu 22:28-30

Re 3:21

Re 20:4

f Re 12:5

Re 19:15

g Re 22:16

CHAP. 3

h Re 1:4

Re 4:5

i Re 1:13, 16

j Jas 2:26

k Lu 21:34

Eph 5:15

1Th 5:6

she teaches and misleads my slaves to commit sexual immorality^a and to eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to repent, but she is not willing to repent of her sexual immorality.* 22 Look! I am about to throw her into a sickbed, and those committing adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with deadly plague, so that all the congregations will know that I am the one who searches the innermost thoughts* and hearts, and I will give to you individually according to your deeds.^b

24 "However, I say to the rest of you who are in Thy-a-ti'ra, all those who do not follow this teaching, those who did not get to know the so-called "deep things of Satan":^c I am not putting on you any other burden. 25 Just the same, hold fast to what you have until I come.^d 26 And to the one who conquers and observes my deeds down to the end, I will give authority over the nations,^e 27 and he will shepherd the people with an iron rod^f so that they will be broken to pieces like clay vessels, just as I have received from my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star.^g 29 Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations.^h

3 "To the angel of the congregation in Sar'dis write: These are the things that he says who has the seven spirits of God^h and the seven stars:ⁱ 'I know your deeds, that you have the name* that you are alive, but you are dead.^j 2 Become watchful,^k and strengthen the things remaining that were ready to die, for I have not found your works ful-

2:21 *Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary.

2:23 *Or "the deepest emotions." Lit., "kidneys." 3:1 *Or "reputation."

ly performed* before my God. **3** Therefore, continue mindful of* how you have received and how you heard, and go on keeping it, and repent.^a Certainly unless you wake up, I will come as a thief,^b and you will not know at all at what hour I will come upon you.^c

4 “Nevertheless, you do have a few individuals* in Sar’dis who did not defile their garments,^d and they will walk with me in white ones,^e because they are worthy. **5** The one who conquers^f will thus be dressed in white garments,^g and I will by no means blot out* his name from the book of life,^h but I will acknowledge his name before my Father and before his angels.ⁱ **6** Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations.’

7 “To the angel of the congregation in Philadelphia write: These are the things he says who is holy,^j who is true,^k who has the key of David,^l who opens so that no one will shut and shuts so that no one opens: **8** ‘I know your deeds—look! I have set before you an opened door,^m which no one can shut. And I know that you have a little power, and you kept my word and did not prove false to my name. **9** Look! I will make those from the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews yet are not,ⁿ but are lying—look! I will make them come and bow* before your feet and make them know that I have loved you. **10** Because you kept the word about my endurance,^o I will also keep you from the hour of test,^p which is to come upon the entire inhabited earth, to put to the test those

3:2 *Or “complete.” 3:3 *Or “remember.” 3:4 *Lit., “a few names.” 3:5 *Or “erase.” 3:9 *Or “do obeisance.” 3:10 *Or possibly, “followed the example of my endurance.”

CHAP. 3

- a 2Co 7:11
b Re 16:15
c Mt 24:42
Lu 12:37, 39
d Jas 1:27
e Re 6:11
f 1Jo 5:4
g Re 4:4
Re 19:8
h Php 4:3
i Lu 12:8
j Joh 6:69
Heb 7:26
k Re 3:14
Re 19:11
l Isa 22:22
Lu 1:32
m 1Co 16:9
2Co 2:12
n Ro 2:28
Re 2:9
o Lu 8:15
Lu 21:19
2Ti 2:12
Heb 10:36
Heb 12:3
p 2Th 3:3

Second Col.

- a Re 2:16
b Jas 1:12
Re 2:10
c Re 22:3, 4
d Heb 12:22
Re 21:2
e Re 14:1
Re 19:12
f Col 4:16
g 2Co 1:20
h Joh 1:14
Re 19:11
i Joh 18:37
1Ti 6:13
Re 1:5
j Pr 8:22
Col 1:15
k 2Co 9:2
l Pr 25:13
m Ho 12:8
n Re 16:15
o Ps 19:8
p 1Ti 6:17-19
q Pr 3:12
r Re 2:5
Re 3:3
s 1Jo 5:4
Re 12:11
t Mt 19:28
Lu 22:28-30
Re 2:26
u Heb 10:12

dwelling on the earth. **11** I am coming quickly.^a Keep holding fast to what you have, so that no one may take your crown.^b

12 “The one who conquers—I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will by no means go out from it anymore, and I will write upon him the name of my God^c and the name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem^d that descends out of heaven from my God, and my own new name.^e **13** Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations.’

14 “To the angel of the congregation in La-o-di-ce’a^f write: These are the things that the Amen^g says, the faithful and true^h witness,ⁱ the beginning of the creation by God:^j **15** ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or else hot. **16** So because you are lukewarm and neither hot^k nor cold,^l I am going to vomit you out of my mouth. **17** Because you say, “I am rich^m and have acquired riches and do not need anything at all,” but you do not know that you are miserable and pitiful and poor and blind and naked, **18** I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may become dressed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be exposed,ⁿ and eyesalve to rub in your eyes^o so that you may see.^p

19 “All those for whom I have affection, I reprove and discipline.^q So be zealous and repent.^r **20** Look! I am standing at the door and knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his house and take the evening meal with him and he with me. **21** To the one who conquers^s I will grant to sit down with me on my throne,^t just as I conquered and sat down^u

with my Father on his throne. **22** Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations.”

4 After this I saw, and look! an opened door in heaven, and the first voice that I heard speaking with me was like a trumpet, saying: “Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place.” **2** After this I immediately came to be in the power of the spirit, and look! a throne was in its position in heaven, and someone was seated on the throne.^a **3** And the One seated had the appearance of a jasper stone^b and a sardius stone,^{*} and all around the throne was a rainbow like an emerald in appearance.^c

4 All around the throne were 24 thrones, and on these thrones I saw seated 24 elders^d dressed in white garments, and on their heads golden crowns. **5** From the throne were coming lightning^e and voices and thunders;^f and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, and these mean the seven spirits of God.^g **6** Before the throne was something resembling a glassy sea,^h like crystal.

In the midst of the throne^{*} and around the throne were four living creaturesⁱ that were full of eyes in front and behind. **7** The first living creature was like a lion,^j and the second living creature was like a young bull,^k and the third living creature^l had a face like a man’s, and the fourth living creature^m was like a flying eagle.ⁿ **8** As for the four living creatures, each one of them had six wings; they were full of eyes all around and underneath.^o And continuously, day and night, they say: “Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah”^p

4:3 *Or “a precious red-colored stone.”
4:6 *Or “In the middle with the throne.”
4:8, 11 *See App. A5.

CHAP. 4

- a 1Ki 22:19
- Isa 6:1
- Eze 1:26, 27
- Da 7:9
- Ac 7:55
- b Re 21:10, 11
- c 1Jo 1:5
- d Re 4:10
- Re 5:8
- Re 11:16
- Re 19:4
- e Eze 1:13
- f Ex 19:16
- g Re 1:4
- Re 5:6
- h Ex 30:18
- 1Ki 7:23
- i Eze 1:5-10
- j Pr 28:1
- Isa 31:4
- k Job 39:9-11
- Re 6:3
- l Re 6:5
- m Re 6:7
- n Job 39:27, 29
- Eze 1:10
- o Eze 10:9, 12
- p Isa 6:2, 3

Second Col.

- a Re 1:4
- b Ps 90:2
- Da 12:7
- c Re 5:8
- d Mt 5:16
- Re 14:7
- e Re 19:10
- f Re 5:13
- Re 7:12
- Re 11:17
- Re 12:10
- g Re 10:6

CHAP. 5

- h Re 4:2, 3
- i Ge 49:9, 10
- Heb 7:14
- j Isa 11:1, 10
- Ro 15:12
- k 2Sa 7:8, 12
- Re 22:16
- l Joh 16:33
- m Eph 1:22
- n Isa 53:7
- Joh 1:29
- 1Pe 1:19
- o Joh 19:30
- Re 5:12
- p Re 1:4
- q Ps 47:8
- Isa 6:1

God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming.”^a

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanksgiving to the One seated on the throne, the One who lives forever and ever,^b **10** the 24 elders^c fall down before the One seated on the throne and worship the One who lives forever and ever, and they cast their crowns before the throne, saying: **11** “You are worthy, Jehovah* our God, to receive the glory^d and the honor^e and the power,^f because you created all things,^g and because of your will they came into existence and were created.”

5 And I saw in the right hand of the One seated on the throne^h a scroll written on both sides,^{*} sealed tight with seven seals. **2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice: “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” **3** But no one in heaven or on earth or underneath the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. **4** I gave way to a great deal of weeping because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. **5** But one of the elders said to me: “Stop weeping. Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah,ⁱ the root of David,^k has conquered^l so as to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

6 And I saw standing in the midst* of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders^m a lambⁿ that seemed to have been slaughtered,^o having seven horns and seven eyes, and the eyes mean the seven spirits of God^p that have been sent out into the whole earth. **7** At once he came forward and took it out of the right hand of the One seated on the throne.^q **8** When he took the

5:1 *Lit., “inside and on the back.” 5:6 *Or “at the center.”

scroll, the four living creatures and the 24 elders^a fell down before the Lamb, and each one had a harp and golden bowls that were full of incense. (The incense means the prayers of the holy ones.)^b **9** And they sing a new song,^c saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, for you were slaughtered and with your blood you bought people for God^d out of every tribe and tongue* and people and nation,^e **10** and you made them to be a kingdom^f and priests to our God,^g and they are to rule as kings^h over the earth."

11 And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders, and the number of them was myriads of myriads* and thousands of thousands,ⁱ **12** and they were saying with a loud voice: "The Lamb who was slaughtered^j is worthy to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing."^k

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and underneath the earth^l and on the sea, and all the things in them, saying: "To the One sitting on the throne^m and to the Lambⁿ be the blessing and the honor^o and the glory and the might forever and ever."^p **14** The four living creatures were saying: "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshipped.

6 And I saw when the Lamb^q opened one of the seven seals,^r and I heard one of the four living creatures^s say with a voice like thunder: "Come!" **2** And I saw, and look! a white horse,^t and the one seated on it had a bow; and a crown was given him,^u and he went out conquering and to complete his conquest.^v

5:9 *Or "language." 5:11 *Or "tens of thousands times tens of thousands."

CHAP. 5

- a Re 5:14
Re 19:4
b Ps 141:2
Re 8:4
c Ps 33:3
Ps 144:9
Isa 42:10
Re 14:3
d Mt 26:27, 28
1Co 6:20
Heb 9:12
1Pe 1:18, 19
e Re 14:4
f Lu 12:32
Lu 22:28-30
g Ex 19:6
1Pe 2:9
Re 1:5, 6
h Mt 19:28
Re 20:4, 6
Re 22:5
i Da 7:9, 10
j Isa 53:7
Re 5:6
k Mt 28:18
l Php 2:9, 10
m Re 4:2, 3
n Joh 1:29
Re 7:17
o Joh 5:23
1Ti 6:16
p 1Pe 4:11

CHAP. 6

- q Re 5:6
r Re 5:5
s Re 4:7
t Re 19:11
u Re 14:14
v Ps 45:4
Ps 110:1, 2
Re 12:7
Re 17:14

Second Col.

- a Re 4:7
b Mt 24:7
Lu 21:10
c Re 5:5
d Re 4:7
e Mt 20:2
f Mr 13:8
g Re 4:7
h Lu 21:11
i Jer 15:2, 3
Eze 14:21
j Le 4:7
Re 8:3
k Le 17:11
l Mt 24:9, 14
Joh 18:37
Re 17:6
Re 20:4
m 1Jo 5:20
n De 32:43
Lu 18:7
Re 19:1, 2

3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature^a say: "Come!" **4** Another came out, a fiery-colored horse, and it was granted to the one seated on it to take peace away from the earth so that they should slaughter one another, and he was given a great sword.^b

5 When he opened the third seal,^c I heard the third living creature^d say: "Come!" And I saw, and look! a black horse, and the one seated on it had a pair of scales in his hand. **6** I heard what sounded like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures say: "A quart* of wheat for a de-nar'i-us^e and three quarts of barley for a de-nar'i-us; and do not harm the olive oil and the wine."^f

7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature^g say: "Come!" **8** And I saw, and look! a pale horse, and the one seated on it had the name Death. And the Grave* was closely following him. And authority was given them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with a long sword and with food shortage^h and with deadly plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.ⁱ

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar^j the souls^{**} of those slaughtered because of the word of God and because of the witness they had given.^l **10** They shouted with a loud voice, saying: "Until when, Sovereign Lord, holy and true,^m are you refraining from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"ⁿ **11** And a white robe was given to

6:6 *See App. B14. ^aA Roman silver coin that equaled a day's wage. See App. B14. 6:8 *Or "Hades," that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary. 6:9 *Evidently referring to their lifeblood poured out at the altar. See Glossary.

each of them,^a and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the number was filled of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were about to be killed as they had been.^b

12 And I saw when he opened the sixth seal, and a great earthquake occurred; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair,^c and the entire moon became as blood,^c **13** and the stars of heaven fell to the earth as when a fig tree shaken by a high wind drops its unripe figs. **14** And the heaven departed as a scroll that is being rolled up,^d and every mountain and every island was removed from its place.^e **15** Then the kings of the earth, the high officials, the military commanders, the rich, the strong, every slave, and every free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.^f **16** And they keep saying to the mountains and to the rocks: "Fall over us^g and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne^h and from the wrath of the Lamb,ⁱ **17** because the great day of their wrath has come,^j and who is able to stand?"^k

7 After this I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding tight the four winds of the earth, so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. **2** And I saw another angel ascending from the sunrise,^{*} having a seal of the living God; and he called with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, **3** saying: "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until after we have sealed^l the slaves of our God in their foreheads."^m

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, 144,000,ⁿ

6:12 *Probably goat hair. 7:2 *Or "east."

CHAP. 6

a Re 3:5

b Mt 24:9
Ac 9:1
2Co 1:8c Joe 2:31
Mt 24:29

d Isa 34:4

e Re 16:20

f Isa 2:10, 19

g Ho 10:8
Lu 23:30

h Re 4:2, 3

i Re 5:6

j Zep 1:14, 18
Ro 2:5

k Joe 2:11

CHAP. 7

l 2Co 1:22
Eph 1:13
Eph 4:30

m Re 9:4

n Re 14:1, 3

Second Col.

a Ro 2:29
Ro 9:6
Ga 6:16
Re 21:12

b Ge 41:51

c Isa 2:2
Re 15:4

d Re 7:14

e Le 23:40
Joh 12:13

f Re 4:2, 3

g Ac 4:12
Re 5:6h Re 4:4
Re 11:16

i Re 4:11

j Re 7:9

sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel:^a

5 Out of the tribe of Judah 12,000 sealed;

out of the tribe of Reu'ben 12,000;

out of the tribe of Gad 12,000;

6 out of the tribe of Ash'er 12,000;

out of the tribe of Naph'ta-li 12,000;

out of the tribe of Ma-nas'seh^b 12,000;

7 out of the tribe of Sim'e-on 12,000;

out of the tribe of Le'vi 12,000;

out of the tribe of Is'sa-char 12,000;

8 out of the tribe of Zeb'u-lun 12,000;

out of the tribe of Joseph 12,000;

out of the tribe of Benjamin 12,000 sealed.

9 After this I saw, and look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues,^{*c} standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes;^d and there were palm branches in their hands.^e **10** And they keep shouting with a loud voice, saying: "Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne,^f and to the Lamb."^g

11 All the angels were standing around the throne and the elders^h and the four living creatures, and they fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, **12** saying: "Amen! Let the praise and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever.ⁱ Amen."

13 In response one of the elders said to me: "These who are dressed in the white robes,^j who

7:9 *Or "languages."

render sacred service.” (Matt. 4:10) Has your religion taught you that ‘it is Jehovah you must worship’? Have you come to know the Person identified by that name—his purposes, his activities, his qualities—so that you feel you can confidently draw close to him?

(3) Is true faith in Jesus Christ being demonstrated? This involves appreciation of the value of the sacrifice of Jesus’ human life and of his position today as heavenly King. (John 3:36; Ps. 2:6-8) Such appreciation is shown by obeying Jesus—sharing personally and zealously in the work that he assigned to his followers. True religion has such faith that is accompanied by works.—Jas. 2:26.

(4) Is it largely ritualistic, a formality, or is it a way of life? God strongly disapproves of religion that is merely a formalism. (Isa. 1:15-17) True religion upholds the Bible’s standard of morality and clean speech instead of weakly going along with popular trends. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Eph. 5:3-5) Its members reflect the fruits of God’s spirit in their lives. (Gal. 5:22, 23) So, those who adhere to true worship can be identified because they sincerely endeavor to apply Bible standards in their lives not only at their places of meeting but in their family life, at their secular work, in school, and in recreation.

(5) Do its members truly love one another? Jesus said: “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves.” (John 13:35) Such love reaches across racial, social, and national boundaries, drawing people together in genuine brotherhood. So strong is this love that it sets them apart as being truly different. When the nations go to war, who have enough love for their Christian brothers in other lands that they refuse to take up arms and kill them? That is what early Christians did.

(6) Is it truly separate from the world? Jesus said that his true followers would be “no part of the world.” (John 15:19) To worship God in a manner that he approves requires that we keep ourselves “without spot from the world.” (Jas. 1:27) Can that be said of those whose clergy and other members are involved in politics, or whose lives are largely built around materialistic and fleshly desires?—1 John 2:15-17.

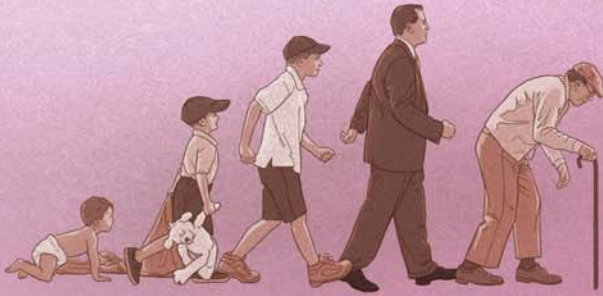
44 *Sharing Joyfully in the Harvest* (Matthew 13:1-23)

1. We live in the time of the harvest,
 A priv'lege beyond all compare.
 God's glorious angels are reapers;
 In this work we too have a share.
Christ Jesus has set the example
 By taking the lead in the field.
 So great is the honor bestowed on us
 To joyfully share in his yield.
2. True love for our God and our neighbor
 Now moves us to speed up our pace.
 Both harvest and preaching are urgent,
 For shortly the end we will face.
The joy we receive is surpassing;
 As God's fellow workers, we share.
 So may we endure in his Kingdom work
 And know that his blessing is there.

TO THINK ABOUT

Why do we grow old and die?

The Bible answers that question at
GENESIS 3:17-19 and ROMANS 5:12.



Can the dead really live again?

TO LEARN MORE WITHOUT COST

Read lesson 6 of this brochure.

Please send me this brochure.

.....
(Indicate which language.)



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Would you say . . .

- yes?
- no?
- maybe?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

“There is going to be a resurrection.”

—Acts 24:15, *New World Translation*.



WHAT THAT CAN MEAN FOR YOU

- Comfort when loved ones die.
—2 Corinthians 1:3, 4.
- Freedom from a morbid fear of death.—Hebrews 2:15.
- A real hope of being reunited with your dead loved ones.—John 5:28, 29.

CAN WE REALLY BELIEVE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS?

Yes, for at least three reasons:

- **God is the Creator of life.**
The Bible calls Jehovah God “the source of life.” (Psalm 36:9; Acts 17:24, 25) The One who gave life to all living creatures is certainly capable of restoring life to someone who has died.
- **God has resurrected humans in the past.** The Bible reports eight instances of humans—young, old, male, and female—who were brought back to life on earth. Some had been dead for a short while, but one had been in a tomb for four days!—John 11:39-44.
- **God is eager to do it again.** Jehovah hates death; he views it as an enemy. (1 Corinthians 15:26) He has “a yearning” to conquer that enemy, to undo death by means of the resurrection. He longs to bring back those who are in his memory and to see them live on earth again.
—Job 14:14, 15.

If you do not have a Bible, you can read it online at www.jw.org/en
(Go to PUBLICATIONS > BIBLE)

Our Reasons for Joy (Matthew 5:12)

1. Our reasons for joy are abundant,
Like riches increasing in worth.
Desirable things of all nations
Are joining us in all the earth.
The joy in our heart is well-founded,
With roots reaching deep in God's Word.
We daily partake of its teachings;
Faith follows the things we have heard.
Our causes for joy are deep-seated,
Like embers that burn in our hearts.
Though troubles and trials beset us,
Endurance Jehovah imparts.

(CHORUS)

*Jehovah our God is our joy,
The work of his hands our delight.
How deep are his thoughts, how great are his works,
Abounding in goodness and might!*

2. We gladly behold his productions,
The heavens, the sea, and the land.
We gaze at the book of creation,
Applauding the work of his hand.
Triumphantly we now bear witness,
Proclaiming the Kingdom of God.
The news of its birth and its blessings,
We joyously spread all abroad.
Eternal rejoicing approaches,
Like daylight that follows the night.
The promised new earth and new heavens
Will bring everlasting delight.

(Chorus)