

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 23

Song 127 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

jl Lessons 23-25 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Revelation 7-14 (10 min.)

No. 1: Revelation 9:1-21 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: **Ways in Which True Christians Can Show Genuine Hospitality**—Heb. 13:2 (5 min.)

No. 3: **Members of the Right Religion Love One Another and Keep Separate From the World**—*rs* p. 329 ¶3-4 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 124

10 min: **The Offer for January and February.** Discussion. Consider features of the literature being offered, and have two presentations demonstrated.

20 min: **“Helping Those Who Are Not Yet Ready for the *Bible Teach* Book.”** Questions and answers. Demonstrate one of the suggestions from page 6.

Song 46 and Prayer

Helping Those Who Are Not Yet Ready for the *Bible Teach* Book

¹ In order for someone to become a worshipper of Jehovah, he must learn what the Bible teaches. However, some belong to a non-Christian religion and do not consider the Bible to be God’s Word. Others do not believe in God at all and lack respect for the Bible. Which tools have proved to be helpful for those who are not initially inclined to accept the *Bible Teach* book? The suggestions below are based on the comments of publishers from some 20 different countries.

² **Those Who Do Not Believe in God:** If someone says that he does not believe in God, it is beneficial to find out why. Is it because he believes in evolution? Has he lost

1. Will the *Bible Teach* book appeal to everyone initially? Explain.
2. If someone tells us that he does not believe in God, what should we try to find out, and why?

faith in God because of the injustice in the world or the hypocrisy in religion? Is he from a land that suppressed belief in God? Perhaps he does not adamantly deny God’s existence, but he has never felt the need to believe in Him. Many publishers find that asking, “Have you always felt that way?” prompts the person to explain. Listen and do not interrupt. When we understand *why* the person does not believe in God, we will know *how* to reply and which publication to offer.—Prov. 18:13.

³ When replying, take care to avoid making the person feel that you are attacking his viewpoint. This suggestion came from the United States: “It is very important to respect the personal freedom of individuals to decide what they believe. Rather than seeking to win arguments, it is best to pose questions that make people think and reach their own conclusions.” After hearing the householder express himself, one traveling overseer often prefaces his reply by asking, “Have you ever considered this as a possibility?”

⁴ The concept of God is foreign to many who are Buddhist. Some publishers in Britain like to use the brochure *Lasting Peace and Happiness—How to Find Them* when witnessing to such ones. After considering the introduction, they discuss the section “Is There Really a Most High Creator?” and then the section “A Guidebook for the Blessing of All Mankind.” Afterward, they may be able to introduce the *Bible Teach* book and tell the householder, “Even if you do not believe in God, studying the Bible is beneficial because it contains much practical guidance.” A pioneer in the United States who is serving in the Chinese field said: “Many in our territory enjoy reading. So they often read the entire publication before we return. But they may not understand the concept of a Bible study. So I like to offer the *Good News* brochure on the initial call because it is written in a way that encourages discussion.” A circuit overseer

3. How can we demonstrate respect for the person and his beliefs?
4. How may we help those who are Buddhist?

127 *A Place Bearing Your Name* (1 Chronicles 29:16)

1. How great is the honor, Jehovah,
 To build you a place for your name!
We offer it now with rejoicing
 To add to your glory and fame.
Whatever the things we may give you,
 They rightly were yours from the start.
Our labor, our skill, our possessions,
 We joyfully give from the heart.

(CHORUS)

*May we present this place to you,
 And here may your name be known.
We dedicate this place to you;
 Please accept it as your own.*

2. And now may we honor you, Father,
 By filling this place with your praise.
May glory ascend with the increase
 Of those who are learning your ways.
Committing this place to your worship,
 We give it our generous care.
And long may it stand as a witness,
 Supporting the message we bear.

(Chorus)



Writing Department, U.S.A.



South Korea



Armenia



Burundi



Sri Lanka

How Is Our Literature Written and Translated?

In order to do our best to declare the “good news” to “every nation and tribe and tongue and people,” we produce literature in more than 600 languages. (Revelation 14:6) How do we accomplish this challenging task? We do it with the help of an international writing staff and some 3,000 translators—all Jehovah’s Witnesses.

The original text is prepared in English. The Governing Body oversees the activity of the Writing Department at our world headquarters. This department coordinates the assignments of the writers who serve at headquarters and at certain branch offices. Having a diversified writing staff allows us to address multicultural subjects that give our publications an international appeal.

The text is forwarded to the translators. After the written material has been edited and approved, it is sent electronically to teams of translators around the earth, who translate, check, and proofread the text. They endeavor to select the “correct words of truth” that will capture the full meaning of the English in their target language.—Ecclesiastes 12:10.

Computers speed up the process. A computer cannot replace human writers and translators. However, their tasks can be sped up by using computerized dictionaries, language tools, and research materials. Jehovah’s Witnesses designed a Multilanguage Electronic Publishing System (MEPS) by which text can be entered in hundreds of languages, merged with accompanying artwork, and composed for printing.

Why do we put forth all this effort, even for languages that are spoken by only a few thousand people? Because it is Jehovah’s will that “all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.”—1 Timothy 2:3, 4.

- How is the writing done for our publications?
- Why do we translate our literature into so many languages?

How Is Our Worldwide Work Financed?

Our organization publishes and distributes hundreds of millions of Bibles and other publications every year without charge. We build and maintain Kingdom Halls and branch offices. We support thousands of Bethelites and missionaries, and we provide relief aid in times of disaster. So you may wonder, ‘How is all of this financed?’

We do not tithe, charge dues, or take up collections.

Although the costs of supporting our evangelizing work are high, we do not solicit money. Over a century ago, the second issue of the *Watchtower* magazine stated that we believe we have Jehovah as our backer and that we “will never beg nor petition men for support”—and we never have!—Matthew 10:8.

Our activities are supported by voluntary donations.

Many people appreciate our Bible educational work and donate toward it. The Witnesses themselves happily contribute their time, energy, funds, and other resources to the doing of God’s will in all the earth. (1 Chronicles 29:9) At the Kingdom Hall, there are contribution boxes where those who wish to make donations may do so. For the most part, the moneys received come from those of modest means, much like the poor widow Jesus spoke so well of who put two small coins into the temple treasury chest. (Luke 21:1-4) Thus anyone can regularly “set something aside” to give “just as he has resolved in his heart.”—1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7.

We are convinced that Jehovah will continue to move the hearts of those who want to ‘honor him with their valuable things’ in support of the Kingdom work, so that his will may be accomplished.—Proverbs 3:9.

- What makes our organization different from other religions?
- How are the voluntary contributions used?

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Donations for **Local Congregation Expenses** are used to care for expenses incurred by the congregation and to return money that the branch office gave it to assist in building or renovating the Kingdom Hall.

Donations for the **Worldwide Work** are sent to the branch office to care for its expenses, and any surplus is used to care for needs in other lands.



Nepal



Togo



Britain



Bolivia

Kingdom Halls—Why and How Are They Built?

As the name Kingdom Hall implies, the central Bible teaching discussed there focuses on God’s Kingdom—the theme of Jesus’ ministry.—Luke 8:1.

They are centers of true worship in the community.

From that location, the preaching of the good news of the Kingdom is carried out. (Matthew 24:14) Kingdom Halls vary in size and design, but all are modest structures, many accommodating more than one congregation. In recent years, we have built tens of thousands of new Kingdom Halls (an average of five each day) in order to keep up with the increase in our congregations. How is this possible?—Matthew 19:26.

They are built with donations made to a central fund.

In every Kingdom Hall, there is another contribution box for *Kingdom Hall Construction Worldwide*. These donations are sent to the branch office so that money can be made available interest-free to congregations needing to build or remodel a Kingdom Hall.

They are built by unpaid volunteers from all walks of life.

In many lands, *Kingdom Hall Construction Groups* have been organized. Teams of construction servants and volunteers move from one congregation to the next within a country, even in remote areas, to take the lead on each project and to train local Witnesses. In other lands, *Regional Building Committees* have been appointed to supervise the building and renovating of Kingdom Halls within an assigned region. Elders who are experienced in construction guide the congregations through all stages of a project, and skilled tradesmen volunteer their labor. At every building site, members of the local congregation make up the bulk of the volunteer labor force. Jehovah’s spirit and the whole-souled efforts of his people are making all of this possible.—Psalm 127:1; Colossians 3:23.

Nigeria,
before and after

Tahiti

- Why are our places of worship called Kingdom Halls?
- How is it possible to build Kingdom Halls all around the world?

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 1:8
- c 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 5:6
- h 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."

are they and where did they come from?" **14** So right away I said to him: "My lord, you are the one who knows." And he said to me: "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation,^a and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.^b **15** That is why they are before the throne of God, and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne^c will spread his tent over them.^d **16** They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat down on them nor any scorching heat,^e **17** because the Lamb,^f who is in the midst* of the throne, will shepherd them^g and will guide them to springs^h of waters of life.^h And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes."ⁱ

8 When he^j opened the seventh seal,^k there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. **2** And I saw the seven angels^j who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

3 Another angel, holding a golden incense vessel,^{*} arrived and stood at the altar,^m and a large quantity of incenseⁿ was given him to offer it with the prayers of all the holy ones on the golden altar^o that was before the throne. **4** The smoke of the incense from the hand of the angel ascended with the prayers^p of the holy ones before God. **5** But right away the angel took the incense vessel, and he filled it with some of the fire of the altar and hurled it to the earth. And there were thunders and voices and flashes of lightning^q and an earthquake. **6** And the seven angels with the seven trumpets^r prepared to blow them.

7:17 *Or "at the center." 7:17; 8:10 ^rOr "fountains." 8:3 *Or "burner."

CHAP. 7

- a Mt 24:21
Mr 13:19
b Joh 1:29
Heb 9:14
1Jo 1:7
Re 1:5
c Re 4:2
d Ps 15:1
Re 21:3
e Ps 121:6
Isa 49:10
f Re 5:6
g Joh 10:11
h Re 22:1
i Isa 25:8
Re 21:4

CHAP. 8

- j Re 6:1
k Re 5:1
l Re 15:1
m Ex 30:1, 3
n Re 5:8
o Re 9:13
p Ps 141:2
Lu 1:10
q Ex 19:16
Re 4:5
r Re 8:7, 8
Re 8:10, 12
Re 9:1, 13
Re 11:15

Second Col.

- a Re 16:2
b Ex 9:23-25
Ps 97:3, 5
c Isa 17:12, 13
Isa 57:20
d Ex 7:20
e Re 16:1, 3
f Re 16:1, 4
g Am 5:7
h Re 16:1, 8
i Ex 10:22
j Re 9:12
Re 11:14
k Re 8:2

CHAP. 9

- l Re 8:2
m Lu 8:30, 31
Re 9:11
Re 20:1-3

7 The first one blew his trumpet. And there was hail and fire mingled with blood, and it was hurled to the earth;^a and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green vegetation was burned up.^b

8 The second angel blew his trumpet. And something like a great mountain burning with fire was hurled into the sea.^c And a third of the sea became blood;^d **9** and a third of the living creatures* in the sea died,^e and a third of the ships were wrecked.

10 The third angel blew his trumpet. And a great star burning like a lamp fell from heaven, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs^f of waters.^f **11** The name of the star is Wormwood. And a third of the waters turned into wormwood, and many of the people died from the waters, because these had been made bitter.^g

12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet. And a third of the sun was struck^h and a third of the moon and a third of the stars, in order that a third of them might be darkenedⁱ and the day might not have light for a third of it, and the night likewise.

13 And I saw, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven say with a loud voice: "Woe, woe, woe^j to those dwelling on the earth because of the rest of the trumpet blasts of the three angels who are about to blow their trumpets!"^k

9 The fifth angel blew his trumpet.^l And I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to the earth, and the key to the shaft* of the abyss^m was given to him. **2** He opened the shaft* of the abyss, and smoke ascended out of the shaft* like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun was

8:9 *Or "creatures that have souls." 9:1, 2 *Or "pit."

darkened,^a also the air, by the smoke of the shaft.* **3** And locusts came out of the smoke onto the earth,^b and authority was given to them, the same authority that the scorpions of the earth have. **4** They were told not to harm the vegetation of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.^c

5 And it was granted the locusts, not to kill them, but to torment them five months, and their torment was like torment by a scorpion^d when it strikes a person. **6** In those days people will seek death but will by no means find it, and they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

7 And in appearance the locusts resembled horses prepared for battle;^e on their heads were what seemed to be crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces, **8** but they had hair like women's hair. And their teeth were like those of lions,^f **9** and they had breastplates like iron breastplates. And the sound of their wings was like the sound of horse-drawn chariots rushing into battle.^g **10** Also, they have tails with stingers like scorpions, and in their tails is their authority to hurt the people for five months.^h **11** They have over them a king, the angel of the abyss.ⁱ In Hebrew his name is A-bad'don,* but in Greek he has the name A-pol'lyon.[#]

12 The one woe is past. Look! Two more woes^j are coming after these things.

13 The sixth angel^k blew his trumpet.^l And I heard one voice from the horns of the golden altar^m that is before God **14** say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet: "Untie the four angels

9:2 *Or "pit." 9:11 *Meaning "Destruction." #Meaning "Destroyer."

CHAP. 9

a Joe 2:2,10

b Ex 10:12

c Re 7:2, 3

d Re 9:10

e Joe 2:4, 5

f Joe 1:6

g Joe 2:4, 5

h Re 9:5

i Re 9:1
Re 20:1-3

j Re 8:13

k Re 8:6

l Re 11:15

m Re 8:3

Second Col.

a Re 16:1,12
Re 17:1,15

b Pr 28:1

c Ps 115:4-7

CHAP. 10

d Mt 17:1, 2

who are bound at the great river Eu-phra'tes."^a **15** And the four angels who have been prepared for the hour and day and month and year were untied to kill a third of the people.

16 The number of the armies of cavalry was two myriads of myriads;* I heard the number of them. **17** And this is how I saw the horses in the vision and those seated on them: They had fire-red and hyacinth-blue and sulfur-yellow breastplates, and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions,^b and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. **18** A third of the people were killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the sulfur that came out of their mouths. **19** For the authority of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with these they inflict harm.

20 But the rest of the people who were not killed by these plagues did not repent of the works of their hands; they did not stop worshipping the demons and the idols of gold and silver and copper and stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.^c **21** And they did not repent of their murders nor of their spiritistic practices nor of their sexual immorality* nor of their thefts.

10 And I saw another strong angel descending from heaven, arrayed* with a cloud, and a rainbow was on his head, and his face was like the sun,^d and his legs^e were like pillars of fire, **2** and he had in his hand a little scroll that had been unrolled. And he set his right foot on the sea, but his left one on the

9:16 *Or "20,000 times 10,000," that is, 200,000,000. 9:21 *Greek, *pornei'a*. See Glossary. 10:1 *Or "wrapped." #Lit., "feet."

earth, **3** and he cried out with a loud voice just as when a lion roars.^a And when he cried out, the voices of the seven thunders^b spoke.

4 Now when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, but I heard a voice out of heaven^c say: "Seal up the things the seven thunders spoke, and do not write them down." **5** The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the earth raised his right hand to heaven, **6** and he swore by the One who lives forever and ever,^d who created the heaven and the things in it and the earth and the things in it and the sea and the things in it:^e "There will be no delay any longer. **7** But in the days when the seventh angel^f is about to blow his trumpet,^g the sacred secret^h that God declared as good news to his own slaves the prophetsⁱ is indeed brought to a finish."

8 And I heard the voice out of heaven^j speaking again with me and saying: "Go, take the opened scroll that is in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the earth."^k **9** I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me: "Take it and eat it up,^l and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet like honey." **10** I took the little scroll out of the hand of the angel and ate it,^m and in my mouth it was sweet like honey,ⁿ but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. **11** And they said to me: "You must prophesy again about peoples and nations and tongues* and many kings."

11 And a reed like a rod*^o was given to me as he said: "Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of God and the altar and those worshipping in it. **2** But as for the courtyard that

10:11; 11:9 *Or "languages." 11:1 *Or "a measuring rod."

CHAP. 10

a Re 5:5

b Ex 19:16
Re 4:5
Re 11:19

c Re 10:8

d Ps 90:2
Re 4:9

e Ex 20:11
Ne 9:6
Ps 146:6

f Re 8:6

g Re 11:15

h Mr 4:11

i Am 3:7

j Re 10:4

k Re 10:1, 2

l Eze 2:8

m Jer 15:16

n Ps 119:103
Eze 3:1-3

CHAP. 11

o Eze 40:3

Second Col.

a Re 21:2

b Re 13:5

c Zec 4:3, 11

d Zec 4:12
Mt 5:14

e Zec 4:14

f Lu 4:25

g 1Ki 17:1
Jas 5:17

h Ex 7:19

i Re 12:17
Re 13:7

j Re 11:11

k Eze 37:5, 10

is outside the temple sanctuary, leave it out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city^a underfoot for 42 months.^b **3** I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth." **4** These are symbolized by the two olive trees^c and the two lampstands^d and are standing before the Lord of the earth.^e

5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and consumes their enemies. If anyone should want to harm them, this is how he must be killed. **6** These have the authority to shut up the sky^f so that no rain may fall^g during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood^h and to strike the earth with every sort of plague as often as they wish.

7 When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them.ⁱ **8** And their corpses will be on the main street of the great city that is in a spiritual sense called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was also executed on the stake. **9** And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues* and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days,^j and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb. **10** And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and celebrate, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth.

11 After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them,^k and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. **12** And they heard a loud voice

11:6 *Or "heaven."

from heaven say to them: "Come up here." And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies saw them.* **13** In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and 7,000 persons were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became frightened and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe^a is past. Look! The third woe is coming quickly.

15 The seventh angel blew his trumpet.^b And there were loud voices in heaven, saying: "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord^c and of his Christ,^d and he will rule as king forever and ever."^e

16 And the 24 elders^f who were seated before God on their thrones fell upon their faces and worshipped God, **17** saying: "We thank you, Jehovah* God, the Almighty, the one who is^g and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun ruling as king.^h **18** But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time came for the dead to be judged and to reward your slaves the prophetsⁱ and the holy ones and those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those ruining* the earth."^k

19 And the temple sanctuary of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen in his temple sanctuary.^l And there were flashes of lightning and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail.

12 Then a great sign was seen in heaven: A woman^m was arrayed* with the sun, and the moon was beneath her feet, and

11:12 *Or "were looking on." 11:17 *See App. A5. 11:18 *Or "to destroy those who are destroying." 12:1 *Or "clothed."

CHAP. 11

- a Re 9:12
- b Re 8:6
- c 1Ch 29:11
- Ps 22:28
- Da 4:17, 34
- Re 12:10
- d Ps 2:6
- Da 7:13, 14
- Lu 1:32, 33
- Lu 22:28, 29
- 2Pe 1:11
- e Ps 145:13
- Da 2:44
- f Re 4:10
- g Re 1:4
- Re 16:5
- h Ps 99:1
- Zec 14:9
- Re 19:6
- i Heb 11:6
- j Am 3:7
- Heb 1:1
- Jas 5:10
- k Ge 6:11
- l 1KI 8:1, 6
- Heb 8:1, 2
- Heb 9:11

CHAP. 12

- m Ge 3:15

Second Col.

- a Re 12:9
- Re 20:2
- b Job 38:7
- c Ge 6:2
- Jude 6
- d Ge 3:15
- e Re 11:15
- f Ps 2:9
- Ps 110:2
- Re 19:15
- g Re 12:14
- h Da 10:13
- Da 12:1
- Jude 9
- i Re 12:3
- Re 20:2
- j Ge 3:1
- 2Co 11:3
- Re 12:14
- k Mt 4:1
- Joh 8:44
- Heb 2:14
- Jas 4:7
- 1Pe 5:8
- l 1Ch 21:1
- Job 1:6
- Zec 3:2
- Mt 4:10
- Joh 13:27
- Re 16:20
- 2Th 2:9
- m 2Co 4:4
- 2Co 11:14
- Eph 2:2
- 1Jo 5:19
- n Lu 10:18
- Re 12:13
- o Ro 13:11
- Heb 9:28
- 1Pe 1:5
- p Re 11:15, 17
- q Job 1:9
- Zec 3:1
- r 1Jo 2:14

on her head was a crown of 12 stars, **2** and she was pregnant. And she was crying out in her pains and in her agony to give birth.

3 Another sign was seen in heaven. Look! A great fiery-colored dragon,^a with seven heads and ten horns and on its heads seven diadems;* **4** and its tail drags a third of the stars^b of heaven, and it hurled them down to the earth.^c And the dragon kept standing before the woman^d who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth, it might devour her child.

5 And she gave birth to a son,^e a male, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod.^f And her child was snatched* away to God and to his throne. **6** And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God and where they would feed her for 1,260 days.^g

7 And war broke out in heaven: Mi'cha-el^h and his angels battled with the dragon, and the dragon and its angels battled **8** but they did not prevail,* nor was a place found for them any longer in heaven. **9** So down the great dragonⁱ was hurled, the original serpent,^j the one called Devil^k and Satan,^l who is misleading the entire inhabited earth;^m he was hurled down to the earth,ⁿ and his angels were hurled down with him. **10** I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have come to pass the salvation^o and the power and the Kingdom of our God^p and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of his brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God!^q **11** And they conquered him^r be-

12:3 *Or "royal headbands." 12:5 *Or "caught." 12:7 *Meaning, "Who is Like God?" 12:8 *Or possibly, "but it [that is, the dragon] was defeated."

cause of the blood of the Lamb^a and because of the word of their witnessing,^b and they did not love their souls^c even in the face of death. **12** On this account be glad, you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea,^d because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing that he has a short period of time.”^e

13 Now when the dragon saw that it had been hurled down to the earth,^f it persecuted the woman^g who gave birth to the male child. **14** But the two wings of the great eagle^h were given to the woman, so that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is to be fed for a time and times and half a timeⁱ away from the face of the serpent.^j

15 And the serpent spewed out water like a river from its mouth after the woman, to cause her to be drowned by the river. **16** But the earth came to the woman's help, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon spewed out from its mouth. **17** So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went off to wage war with the remaining ones of her offspring,^{*k} who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness concerning Jesus.^l

13 And it* stood still on the sand of the sea.

And I saw a wild beast^m ascending out of the sea,ⁿ with ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns ten diadems,[#] but on its heads blasphemous names. **2** Now the wild beast that I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were like those of a bear, and

12:11 *Or “lives.” See Glossary. 12:14 *That is, three and a half times. 12:17 *Lit., “seed.” 13:1 *That is, the dragon. #Or “royal headbands.”

CHAP. 12

- a 1Pe 1:18, 19
b Ac 1:8
2Ti 1:8
Re 1:9
c Mt 16:25
Lu 14:26
Ac 20:24
d Isa 57:20
Isa 60:2
Re 17:15
e Mt 24:34
Ro 16:20
2Ti 3:1
2Pe 3:3
f Lu 10:18
g Ge 3:15
Re 12:1
h Ex 19:4
Isa 40:31
i Re 12:6
j Ge 3:1
2Co 11:3
k Ge 3:15
l Mt 24:9
Ac 1:8
Re 1:9
Re 6:9

CHAP. 13

- m Re 11:7
Re 13:18
n Isa 57:20
Re 21:1

Second Col.

- a Re 12:9
b Lu 4:6
c Re 13:14
d Re 11:2, 3
e Da 7:25
f Re 12:12
g Re 12:17
h Re 3:5
Re 21:27
i Isa 53:7
Mt 27:50
Re 5:6, 12
j Mt 11:15
k Mt 26:52
l Mt 24:13
Heb 10:36
Heb 12:3
m Re 2:10
n Da 7:18
1Co 6:2
Re 20:6
o Re 16:13
Re 20:2
p Re 13:1

its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon^a gave to the beast its power and its throne and great authority.^b

3 I saw that one of its heads seemed to have been fatally wounded, but its mortal wound had been healed,^c and all the earth followed the wild beast with admiration. **4** And they worshipped the dragon because it gave the authority to the wild beast, and they worshipped the wild beast with the words: “Who is like the wild beast, and who can do battle with it?” **5** It was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and it was given authority to act for 42 months.^d **6** And it opened its mouth in blasphemies^e against God to blaspheme his name and his dwelling place, even those residing in heaven.^f **7** It was permitted to wage war with the holy ones and conquer them,^g and it was given authority over every tribe and people and tongue* and nation. **8** And all those who dwell on the earth will worship it. From the founding of the world, not one of their names has been written in the scroll of life^h of the Lamb who was slaughtered.ⁱ

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.^j **10** If anyone is meant for captivity, he will go into captivity, if anyone will kill with the sword,^{*} he must be killed with the sword.^k This is where it calls for endurance^l and faith^m on the part of the holy ones.ⁿ

11 Then I saw another wild beast ascending out of the earth, and it had two horns like a lamb, but it began speaking like a dragon.^o **12** It exercises all the authority of the first wild beast^p in its sight. And it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first wild beast, whose mortal

13:7 *Or “language.” 13:10 *Or possibly, “if anyone is to be killed with the sword.”

wound was healed.^a **13** And it performs great signs, even making fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the sight of mankind.

14 It misleads those who dwell on the earth, because of the signs that it was permitted to perform in the sight of the wild beast, while it tells those who dwell on the earth to make an image^b to the wild beast that had the sword-stroke and yet revived.^c **15** And it was permitted to give breath* to the image of the wild beast, so that the image of the wild beast should both speak and cause to be killed all those who refuse to worship the image of the wild beast.

16 It puts under compulsion all people—the small and the great, the rich and the poor, the free and the slaves—that these should be marked on their right hand or on their forehead,^d **17** and that nobody can buy or sell except a person having the mark, the name^e of the wild beast or the number of its name.^f **18** This is where it calls for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the number of the wild beast, for it is a man's number,* and its number is 666.^g

14 Then I saw, and look! the Lamb^h standing on Mount Zion,ⁱ and with him 144,000^j who have his name and the name of his Father^k written on their foreheads. **2** I heard a sound coming out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the sound that I heard was like singers who accompany themselves by playing on their harps. **3** And they are singing what seems to be a new song^l before the throne and before the four living creatures^m and the

13:15 *Or "spirit." 13:18 *Or "a human number."

CHAP. 13

- a Re 13:3
- b Re 19:20
- c Re 20:4
- d Re 13:3
- e Re 14:9, 10
- f Re 16:2
- g Re 19:20
- h Re 14:11
- i Re 15:2
- j Da 3:1

CHAP. 14

- h Joh 1:29
- Re 5:6
- Re 22:3
- i Ps 2:6
- Heb 12:22
- 1Pe 2:6
- j Re 7:4
- k Re 3:12
- l Ps 33:3
- Ps 98:1
- Ps 149:1
- Re 5:9
- m Re 4:6

Second Col.

- a Re 4:4
- Re 19:4
- b Re 7:4
- c 2Co 11:2
- Jas 1:27
- Jas 4:4
- d 1Pe 2:21
- e 1Co 6:20
- 1Co 7:23
- Re 5:9
- f Jas 1:18
- g Eph 5:25-27
- Jude 24
- h Mt 24:14
- Mr 13:10
- Ac 1:8
- i 2Pe 2:9
- j Ex 20:11
- Ps 146:6
- k Re 17:18
- l Isa 21:9
- Re 18:21
- m Jer 51:7, 8
- Re 17:1, 2
- Re 18:2, 3
- n Re 13:1
- o Re 13:15, 16
- p Ps 75:8
- Re 11:18
- Re 16:19
- q Re 21:8
- r Mt 25:46
- 2Th 1:9
- Re 19:3

elders,^a and no one was able to master that song except the 144,000,^b who have been bought from the earth. **4** These are the ones who did not defile themselves with women; in fact, they are virgins.^c These are the ones who keep following the Lamb no matter where he goes.^d These were bought^e from among mankind as firstfruits^f to God and to the Lamb, **5** and no deceit was found in their mouths; they are without blemish.^g

6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven,^h and he had everlasting good news to declare to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation and tribe and tongueⁱ and people.^h **7** He was saying in a loud voice: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of judgment by him has arrived,ⁱ so worship the One who made the heaven and the earth and the sea^j and the springs* of water."

8 Another, a second angel, followed, saying: "She has fallen! Babylon the Great^k has fallen,^l she who made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion* of her sexual immorality!"^m

9 Another angel, a third, followed them, saying in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the wild beastⁿ and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,^o **10** he will also drink of the wine of the anger of God that is poured out undiluted into the cup of His wrath,^p and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur^q in the sight of the holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb. **11** And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever,^r and day and night they have no rest, those who worship the wild beast and its image and whoever

14:6 *Or "in midair; overhead." #Or "language." 14:7 *Or "fountains." 14:8 *Or "anger." #Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary.

receives the mark of its name.^a
12 Here is where it calls for endurance on the part of the holy ones,^b those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith^c of Jesus.”

13 And I heard a voice out of heaven say, “Write: Happy are the dead who die in union with the Lord^d from this time onward. Yes, says the spirit, let them rest from their labors, for the things they did go right* with them.”

14 Then I saw, and look! a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was someone like a son of man,^e with a golden crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

15 Another angel emerged from the temple sanctuary, calling with a loud voice to the one seated on the cloud: “Put your sickle in and reap, because the hour has come to reap, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”^f

16 And the one seated on the cloud thrust his sickle into the earth, and the earth was reaped.

17 And still another angel emerged from the temple sanctuary that is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle.

18 And still another angel emerged from the altar, and he had authority over the fire. And he called out with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying: “Put your sharp sickle in and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes have become ripe.”^g **19** The angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and he hurled it into the great winepress of God’s anger.^h **20** The winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress as high up as the bridles of the horses for a distance of 1,600 stadia.*

14:13 *Or “along.” **14:20** *About 296 km (184 mi). A stadium equaled 185 m (606.95 ft). See App. B14.

CHAP. 14

- a Re 13:16-18
- Re 16:2
- Re 20:4
- b Re 13:10
- c Heb 10:38
- d 1Co 15:51, 52
- 1Th 4:16, 17
- e Da 7:13
- f Mt 13:30
- g Joe 3:13
- h Re 19:11, 15

Second Col.

CHAP. 15

- a Re 16:1
- b Re 16:17
- c 1Ki 7:23
- Re 4:6
- d Re 2:7
- e Re 13:15
- f Re 13:18
- g Ex 15:1
- De 31:30
- h Joh 1:29
- i Ex 15:11
- Ps 111:2
- Ps 139:14
- j Ex 6:3
- k De 32:4
- Ps 145:17
- l Jer 10:10
- 1Ti 1:17
- m Jer 10:6, 7
- n Ps 86:9
- Mal 1:11
- o Ac 7:44
- Heb 8:1, 2
- Heb 9:11
- p Re 11:19
- q Re 15:1
- r Ps 75:8
- Jer 25:15
- Re 14:9, 10
- s Ex 40:34, 35
- 1Ki 8:10, 11
- Isa 6:4
- Eze 44:4
- t Re 15:1

CHAP. 16

- u Re 16:17
- v Ps 69:24
- Zep 3:8

15 And I saw in heaven another sign, great and wonderful, seven angels^a with seven plagues. These are the last ones, because by means of them the anger of God is brought to a finish.^b

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass^c mingled with fire, and those who are victorious^d over the wild beast and its image^e and the number of its name^f were standing by the sea of glass, holding harps of God. **3** They were singing the song of Moses^g the slave of God and the song of the Lamb,^h saying:

“Great and wonderful are your works,ⁱ Jehovah* God, the Almighty.^j Righteous and true are your ways,^k King of eternity.^l **4** Who will not really fear you, Jehovah,* and glorify your name, for you alone are loyal?^m For all the nations will come and worship before you,ⁿ because your righteous decrees have been revealed.”

5 After this I saw, and the sanctuary of the tent of the witness^o was opened in heaven,^p **6** and the seven angels with the seven plagues^q emerged from the sanctuary, clothed with clean, bright linen and with golden sashes wrapped around their chests. **7** One of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls that were full of the anger of God,^r who lives forever and ever. **8** And the sanctuary became filled with smoke because of the glory of God^s and because of his power, and no one was able to enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues^t of the seven angels were finished.

16 And I heard a loud voice out of the sanctuary^u say to the seven angels: “Go and pour out the seven bowls of the anger of God on the earth.”^v

15:3, 4 *See App. A5.

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.

124 Receive Them With Hospitality **(Acts 17:7)**

1. Jehovah shows sincere hospitality.

He cares for all without partiality.

He gives both rain and sun,

withholding these from none;

He fills our hearts with food and good cheer.

Whenever we show favor to lowly ones,

We imitate our God as beloved sons.

Our Father will repay the goodness we display,

Our kindness that is truly sincere.

2. We never know the good that may come about

When we see those in need and we help them out.

Though strangers they may be, in hospitality,

We lend a hand to care for their needs.

Like Lydia of old, we say: 'Be my guest.'

When they come to our home,

they find peace and rest.

Our Father is aware of all those ev'rywhere,

Who imitate his merciful deeds.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 23

Song 127 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

jl Lessons 23-25 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Revelation 7-14 (10 min.)

No. 1: Revelation 9:1-21 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: **Ways in Which True Christians Can Show Genuine Hospitality**—Heb. 13:2 (5 min.)

No. 3: **Members of the Right Religion Love One Another and Keep Separate From the World**—*rs* p. 329 ¶3-4 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 124

10 min: **The Offer for January and February.** Discussion. Consider features of the literature being offered, and have two presentations demonstrated.

20 min: **“Helping Those Who Are Not Yet Ready for the Bible Teach Book.”** Questions and answers. Demonstrate one of the suggestions from page 6.

Song 46 and Prayer

Helping Those Who Are Not Yet Ready for the Bible Teach Book

¹ In order for someone to become a worshipper of Jehovah, he must learn what the Bible teaches. However, some belong to a non-Christian religion and do not consider the Bible to be God’s Word. Others do not believe in God at all and lack respect for the Bible. Which tools have proved to be helpful for those who are not initially inclined to accept the *Bible Teach* book? The suggestions below are based on the comments of publishers from some 20 different countries.

² **Those Who Do Not Believe in God:** If someone says that he does not believe in God, it is beneficial to find out why. Is it because he believes in evolution? Has he lost

1. Will the *Bible Teach* book appeal to everyone initially? Explain.
2. If someone tells us that he does not believe in God, what should we try to find out, and why?

faith in God because of the injustice in the world or the hypocrisy in religion? Is he from a land that suppressed belief in God? Perhaps he does not adamantly deny God’s existence, but he has never felt the need to believe in Him. Many publishers find that asking, “Have you always felt that way?” prompts the person to explain. Listen and do not interrupt. When we understand *why* the person does not believe in God, we will know *how* to reply and which publication to offer.—Prov. 18:13.

³ When replying, take care to avoid making the person feel that you are attacking his viewpoint. This suggestion came from the United States: “It is very important to respect the personal freedom of individuals to decide what they believe. Rather than seeking to win arguments, it is best to pose questions that make people think and reach their own conclusions.” After hearing the householder express himself, one traveling overseer often prefaces his reply by asking, “Have you ever considered this as a possibility?”

⁴ The concept of God is foreign to many who are Buddhist. Some publishers in Britain like to use the brochure *Lasting Peace and Happiness—How to Find Them* when witnessing to such ones. After considering the introduction, they discuss the section “Is There Really a Most High Creator?” and then the section “A Guidebook for the Blessing of All Mankind.” Afterward, they may be able to introduce the *Bible Teach* book and tell the householder, “Even if you do not believe in God, studying the Bible is beneficial because it contains much practical guidance.” A pioneer in the United States who is serving in the Chinese field said: “Many in our territory enjoy reading. So they often read the entire publication before we return. But they may not understand the concept of a Bible study. So I like to offer the *Good News* brochure on the initial call because it is written in a way that encourages discussion.” A circuit overseer

3. How can we demonstrate respect for the person and his beliefs?
4. How may we help those who are Buddhist?

servicing in a Chinese-language circuit in the United States reports that it is possible to introduce the *Bible Teach* book on the initial call. However, it may be better to start the study in chapter 2, which gives an introduction to the Bible, rather than in chapter 1, which discusses God.

⁵ It takes time for someone to build faith in God, so patience is vital. Our initial conversations may not move a person to agree that a Creator exists. But perhaps in time he will acknowledge that it *might* be possible, or he may say that he understands why someone could come to that conclusion.

⁶ **Those Who Lack Interest or Confidence in the Bible:** Often, however, a person who acknowledges that God may exist is not interested in what the Bible teaches because he does not believe that it is God's Word. Perhaps he lives in a non-Christian land and associates the Bible with Christendom. Or he may live in a so-called Christian land that is very secular, and he may not think that the Bible will be useful to him. How can we help such ones to develop interest in the Bible and eventually accept a study in the *Bible Teach* book?

⁷ The branch office in Greece wrote: "The best way to help people who lack interest in the Bible is simply to open the Bible and

5. Why is patience important?

6. Why may some people lack interest in the Bible?

7. What is often a good way to stimulate interest in the Bible?

If the householder says he does not believe in God, try this:

- Ask, "Have you always felt that way?" to find out why.
- If he is a Buddhist, use the brochure *Lasting Peace and Happiness—How to Find Them*, pages 9-12.
- If he believes in evolution, these references may be helpful:

The *Awake!* series "Was It Designed?"

The video *The Wonders of Creation Reveal God's Glory*

The brochures *A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It*, section 4; *Was Life Created?*; and *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*

- If he has lost faith in God because of injustice and suffering, these references may be helpful:

The book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?*, chapter 10

The brochures *Does God Really Care About Us?*, part 6, and *What Is the Purpose of Life?*, section 6

- Switch to the *Bible Teach* book as soon as the householder is open to the idea that God may exist. It may be good to begin with chapter 2 or another subject appropriate for him.

Experiences

■ **Australia:** John, an educated man, went to church as a child but became a "staunch atheist." A pioneer left him the brochure *Was Life Created?* and then on a subsequent visit left the *Origin of Life* brochure. The pioneer continued cultivating his interest by bringing him the latest magazines and featuring any articles on creation or Bible prophecy. When he thought John was ready, he offered him the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* After reading it, John began describing himself as a "mild agnostic."

The pioneer then introduced the *Bible Teach* book, showing John paragraph 8 on page 20 and paragraphs 13-16 on pages 23-24. The scriptures cited in the material impressed John so much that he said, "Maybe I need to give the Bible another chance."

■ **Mexico:** One man told a publisher that he did not believe that the Bible was inspired by God. The publisher offered to show him proof of the Bible's inspiration. After some discussions, the man's heart began to be affected by what he was learning from the Bible. He was especially moved when he learned about god-

Try this if the householder does not believe in the Bible:

- Consider chapters 17 and 18 of the book *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*
- For Hindus, use the brochure *Why Should We Worship God in Love and Truth?*
- For Jews, use the brochure *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?*, pages 3-11.
- Discuss the benefits of following Bible principles. Publications that you can use to show someone the practical value of the Bible are:

The *Awake!* series “Help for the Family”
The video *The Bible—Its Power in Your Life*
The brochures *Good News From God!*, lessons 9 and 11; *A Book for All People*, pages 22-26; and *A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It*, section 2

For Buddhists, use the brochure *The Pathway to Peace and Happiness*, pages 3-7.

For Muslims, use the brochure *Real Faith—Your Key to a Happy Life*, section 3.

If you are preaching in an area where there is prejudice against the Bible, it may be best not to identify the source of the wise sayings you are sharing until you have made several visits.

- Explain how Bible prophecies have come true. Publications you can use are:

The video *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy*

The brochure *A Book for All People*, pages 27-29

- Switch to the *Bible Teach* book as soon as the person asks what the Bible teaches on various topics.

show them what it contains. Many publishers have noticed that the influence of the Bible’s message on a person’s heart is more powerful than anything they personally might say. (Heb. 4:12) Seeing God’s name in the Bible has helped many to develop a desire to peer into the Bible.” The branch office in India wrote: “The truth about life and death really attracts many Hindus—so does the Bible’s promise of a world without caste discrimination.” Alluding to problems of local concern often gives publishers an opportunity to show what the Bible says God’s Kingdom will do to rectify matters.

⁸ If someone has a negative view of the Bible because of Christendom, let him know that Christendom has misrepresented the Bible and its teachings. The branch office in India wrote: “At times, we need to help individuals see that churches are not the custodians of the Bible.” They reported that Hindus are often impressed by section 4 of the brochure *What Is the Purpose of Life? How Can You Find It?*, which explains how the churches have tried to adulterate and

8. What could we say to those who have a negative view of the Bible because of Christendom?

ly standards. He told the publisher: “At first when you and I would read the Bible together, it seemed like advice from any other book and it didn’t affect me. But now when we read from it, particularly its counsel about morality, my heart hurts.”

■ **United States:** While engaging in special metropolitan witnessing, a couple met a woman from Taiwan who believed in God but felt that the Bible was for Westerners. She came to their literature display because she felt lost even though she had a privileged life. She was hoping that the Bible would help her find pur-

pose in life. The couple started a study with her using the *Bible Teach* book along with the brochure *Lasting Peace and Happiness—How to Find Them*. Instead of studying chapter 2 in the book, they discussed the section in the brochure entitled “A Guidebook for the Blessing of All Mankind.” After considering the first six paragraphs in that section, the woman expressed amazement that the Bible is so unique in comparison to other religious writings. After considering Bible prophecies that have been fulfilled, she said, “There is no other book that I can think of that is as accurate as the Bible!”

If the householder says: “I don’t believe in God,” you might say:

- “May I briefly explain what has convinced me to believe in a Creator?” Then share points from the *Reasoning* book, pages 84–86, or make arrangements to bring the person a publication that you enjoyed reading.
- “But if there were a God, how would you like him to be?” Most householders reply that they would be drawn to a God of love, justice, and mercy, one who is impartial. Show him from the Bible that God has such qualities. (It may even be possible to use chapter 1 of the *Bible Teach* book, starting with paragraph 6.)

If the householder says: “I don’t believe in the Bible,” you might say:

- “There are many who feel that way. Some are of the impression that the Bible is not scientific or that Bible standards are imprac-

tical. Tell me, have you ever read the Bible before? [Allow for response. Then show the introduction on page 3 of the brochure *A Book for All People*, and offer the brochure.] Many have discredited the Bible because religion has misrepresented its teachings. Next time, I would like to discuss an example from pages 4 and 5.”

- “Many people share your view. May I show you something that impresses me about the Bible? [Read Job 26:7 or Isaiah 40:22, which show that the Bible is scientifically accurate.] The Bible also contains wise sayings to help families. Next time, I would like to show you an example.”
- “Thank you for telling me that. If God did write a book for mankind, what do you think it would contain?” Then show the person something from the Bible that agrees with his comment.

destroy God’s Word. A pioneer in Brazil tells people: “Why not find out more about the Bible’s contents? Many people are doing this with an open mind, with no obligation to any religious affiliation. You may be surprised by what you learn.”

⁹ Jehovah looks at each person’s heart. (1 Sam. 16:7; Prov. 21:2) He is drawing those with the right heart condition to true worship. (John 6:44) Many such ones were nev-

9. Why should we not give up if someone is not initially interested in what the Bible teaches?

er taught about God or had little exposure to the Bible. Our ministry gives them a chance to “be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.” (1 Tim. 2:4) Therefore, if some are not initially interested in what the Bible teaches, do not give up! Use one of the tools available in your language to stimulate their interest. Eventually, you may be able to transfer the discussion to our primary tool for conducting Bible studies, the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

■ **Japan:** Although a householder told a publisher that he did not believe in God, the publisher continued making brief calls on him, sharing the articles in *Awake!* entitled “Was It Designed?” Gradually, the man changed his viewpoint and began admitting that there may be a Creator. Now he believes that there is a God, and the publisher is studying with him out of the brochure *Good News From God!*

■ **Canada:** A sister placed the latest magazines with a woman who was leaving her house and walking to her car. When the sister returned later, the woman adamantly told her

that she was not interested and did not believe in God. The sister decided not to give up but to bring her the brochure *A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It*. When the sister found the woman at home, she told her that although she knew that the woman did not believe in God, she had been thinking of her because the sister knew that she was a single parent. She showed the woman paragraph 6 on page 4 of the brochure, which discusses where to find good advice. Then she encouraged her to read the suggestions in lesson 2 regarding raising children. The woman was very happy to take the brochure.

Jehovah Is Our King!

(Psalm 97:1)

1. Rejoice, give glory to Jehovah,
For the heavens have told forth his righteousness.
Let us sing to our God joyful songs to his praise
And concern ourselves with his great acts.

(CHORUS)

*Let the heavens rejoice, Let the earth joyful be,
For Jehovah has become our King!
Let the heavens rejoice, Let the earth joyful be,
For Jehovah has become our King!*

2. His glory tell among the nations;
Of his great saving acts tell from day to day.
For Jehovah is King; He deserves all the praise.
We bow down before his mighty throne.

(Chorus)

3. His righteous rule is now established.
On his throne, he has placed his anointed Son.
Let the gods of this world
suffer shame and bow down,
For the praise belongs to God alone.

(Chorus)