

## WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 30

Song 126 and Prayer

### ❑ Congregation Bible Study:

*jl* Lessons 26-28 (30 min.)

### ❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

**Bible reading:** Revelation 15-22 (10 min.)

**Theocratic Ministry School Review**  
(20 min.)

### ❑ Service Meeting:

Song 43

**10 min: "Help Them Be 'Stabilized in the Faith.'" Talk.** Afterward, briefly demonstrate how to use the magazines to start a study on the first Saturday in January. Encourage all to have a share.

**10 min: Help Your Child to Become a Publisher.** Talk based on page 82, paragraphs 1-2, of the *Organized* book. Interview an exemplary parent with a child who is an unbaptized publisher. How did he help his child to progress and qualify to become a publisher?

**10 min: We Are Never Alone. (2 Ki. 6:16)** Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook*, page 48, paragraphs 1-3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 119 and Prayer

## Help Them Be "Stabilized in the Faith"

It is exciting to see how Jehovah is blessing the ingathering, with over a quarter of a million people being baptized each year. (Deut. 28:2) Once a publisher helps a student to baptism, the tendency may be for the publisher to discontinue the study and focus on helping others. The student may also be inclined to stop the study in order to devote more time to the ministry. However, it is important for Bible students to have a good foundation in the truth. They need to be "rooted" in Christ and "stabilized in the faith." (Col. 2:6, 7; 2 Tim. 3:12) Therefore, after a student gets baptized, he should continue his Bible study until he has completed both the *Bible Teach* and the "God's Love" books.—See the April 2011 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 2.

## Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 30, 2013. The date when each point is scheduled for discussion is included so that research can be done when preparing for the school each week.

1. What will help us to exhibit mildness when dealing with secular authorities? (Titus 3:2) [Nov. 4, *w03* 4/1 p. 25 pars. 18-19]
2. What can we learn from Paul's words to Philemon as recorded at Philemon 4, 5, and 7? [Nov. 4, *w08* 10/15 p. 31 pars. 1, 2; *w92* 4/15 p. 25 par. 2]
3. How do we enter into God's rest? (Heb. 4:9-11) [Nov. 11, *w11* 7/15 p. 28 pars. 16, 17]
4. What can we learn from Samuel and the faithful judges and prophets who effected "righteousness"? (Heb. 11:32, 33) [Nov. 18, *w11* 1/1 p. 25 pars. 5, 6]
5. Why did James write that "the wisdom from above is first of all chaste, then peaceable"? (Jas. 3:17) [Nov. 25, *w11* 8/15 pp. 30-31 par. 15]
6. Who were "the dead" to whom "the good news was declared"? (1 Pet. 4:6) [Dec. 2, *w08* 11/15 p. 21 par. 8]
7. According to 1 John 2:7, 8, what commandment is John speaking of as being "old" as well as "new"? [Dec. 9, *w08* 12/15 p. 27 par. 6]
8. To whom do the titles "the Alpha and the Omega" and "the First and the Last" refer? (Rev. 1:8, 17) [Dec. 16, *w09* 1/15 p. 30 par. 6]
9. In what two ways are anointed Christians "sealed"? (Rev. 7:3) [Dec. 23, *w07* 1/1 p. 31 par. 2]
10. Why can we be absolutely certain that foretold blessings under Kingdom rule will become a reality, and how should we be affected by this knowledge? (Rev. 21:5, 6) [Dec. 30, *re* p. 304 par. 9]

# *Our Labor of Love*

(Psalm 127:1)

1. Jehovah, this is the day;

Now from our hearts, we want to pray.  
How you have honored us, favored us,  
More than words can say!

Upon our labor of love,

We've seen your blessing from above.  
And now a building stands, by our hands,  
As the proof thereof.

*(CHORUS)*

*Jehovah God, it was a priv'lege*

*For us to build this place for you.*

*May we continue in your service throughout our days*

*And bring you praise in all we do.*

2. What happy faces we see,

And what good friends we've come to be!  
And how we'll cherish these memories  
For eternity!

We saw your spirit, O Lord,

In how we worked with one accord.  
And how we've added fame to your name;

What a grand reward!

*(Chorus)*

## How Can We Help Maintain Our Kingdom Hall?

Every Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses bears God’s holy name. Therefore, we feel that sharing in keeping the building clean, presentable, and in good repair is a privilege and an important part of our sacred worship. All can participate.



Estonia

**Volunteer after a meeting to do some cleaning.** After each meeting, brothers and sisters happily do a light cleaning to tidy up the Kingdom Hall. Once a week, a more thorough cleaning is done. An elder or a ministerial servant coordinates the work, usually following a checklist of things to do. Depending on the need, individuals volunteer to sweep, mop, or vacuum the floor, do dusting, straighten the chairs, clean and disinfect the bathrooms, wash windows and mirrors, dispose of trash, or do exterior cleaning and care for the yard. At least once a year, a day is set aside to do a major cleaning. By including our children in some duties, we teach them to respect our place of worship.—Ecclesiastes 5:1.



Zimbabwe

**Lend a hand in making any needed repairs.** Every year, a detailed inspection is made of the Kingdom Hall, inside and out. Based on this inspection, regular maintenance work is done to keep the hall in good repair, helping to avoid unnecessary expenses. (2 Chronicles 24:13; 34:10) A clean and well-maintained Kingdom Hall is a worthy place in which to worship our God. By having a share in this work, we show how close Jehovah and our place of worship are to our heart. (Psalm 122:1) This also creates a favorable impression in the community.—2 Corinthians 6:3.



Mongolia

- Why should we not neglect our place of worship?
- What arrangements are made to keep the Kingdom Hall clean?



Puerto Rico



Israel

Czech  
Republic

Benin

Cayman  
Islands

## How Can the Kingdom Hall Library Benefit Us?

Would you like to do some research to increase your knowledge of the Bible? Are you curious about a particular scripture or a person, place, or thing mentioned in the Bible? Or have you wondered whether God's Word can help you with a personal concern that you have? Then visit the Kingdom Hall library.

**It provides helpful research tools.** Likely, you do not possess all the Bible-based publications of Jehovah's Witnesses that are available in your language. But the library at the Kingdom Hall contains most of the recent publications. It may also have a variety of Bible translations, a good dictionary, and other helpful reference works. You are free to use the library before and after meetings. If a computer is installed, it may have *Watchtower Library* on it. This is an electronic program that contains a large collection of our publications and an easy-to-use search feature with which you can look up a subject, a word, or a scripture.

**It is useful for students in the Theocratic Ministry School.** If you are enrolled in the school, you may be able to make good use of the Kingdom Hall library when preparing your assignments. The school overseer is in charge of the library. He is responsible for making sure that the latest publications are there and that they are well-arranged. He or your Bible teacher can show you how to find the information that you need. However, no books should be taken out of the Kingdom Hall. And, of course, we want to handle the books carefully and not make any marks in them.

The Bible explains that to find "the very knowledge of God," we must be willing to search for it "as for hid treasures." (Proverbs 2:1-5) The Kingdom Hall library can help you to start your search.

- What research tools are available in the Kingdom Hall library?
- Who can help you to make the best use of the library?

### FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to start building a personal library, see what is available at the literature counter. Your Bible teacher can recommend to you which publications you might want to obtain first.





## What Can Be Found on Our Web Site?

Jesus Christ told his followers: “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your fine works and give glory to your Father who is in the heavens.” (Matthew 5:16) To that end, we are making good use of modern technology, including the Internet. Our Web site, **www.jw.org**, is the official online source of information about the beliefs and activities of Jehovah’s Witnesses. What does it feature?

### The Bible’s answers to commonly asked questions.

You can find the answers to some of the most important questions that people have ever asked. Six of these are answered in the tract *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* which is available online in about 400 languages. You can also find the *New World Translation* in scores of languages and a number of Bible study aids, including the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* and the current issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Many of these publications can be read or listened to online or downloaded in audio, PDF, or EPUB formats. You can even print out a few pages to share with an interested person in his own language! Video publications are available in dozens of sign languages. You can download dramatic Bible readings, Bible dramas, and beautiful music to enjoy at your leisure.

**Factual information about Jehovah’s Witnesses.** Also posted are the latest news and video clips about our worldwide work, events affecting Jehovah’s Witnesses, and our humanitarian relief efforts. You can find notices of upcoming conventions and contact information for our branch offices.

By these means, we are shining the light of truth into the remotest parts of the earth. People from every continent, including Antarctica, are benefiting. We pray that “the word of Jehovah may keep moving speedily” into all the earth, to God’s glory.—2 Thessalonians 3:1.

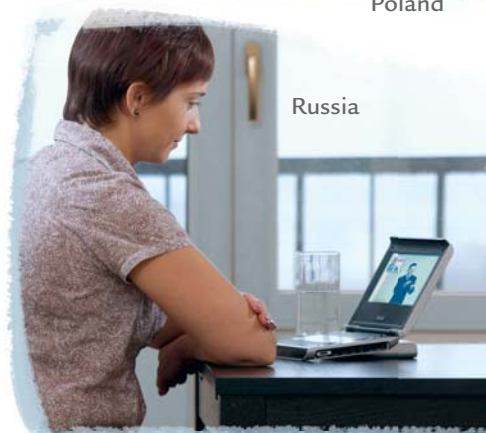
- How is **www.jw.org** helping more people to learn Bible truth?
- What would you like to explore on our Web site?



France



Poland



Russia

### A NOTE OF CAUTION:

Some Internet sites have been set up by opposers to spread false information about our organization. Their intent is to draw people away from serving Jehovah. We should avoid those sites.  
—Psalm 1:1; 26:4; Romans 16:17.

receives the mark of its name.<sup>a</sup>

**12** Here is where it calls for endurance on the part of the holy ones,<sup>b</sup> those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith<sup>c</sup> of Jesus.”

**13** And I heard a voice out of heaven say, “Write: Happy are the dead who die in union with the Lord<sup>d</sup> 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,<sup>e</sup> 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.”<sup>f</sup>

**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.”<sup>g</sup> **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.<sup>h</sup> **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<sup>a</sup> with seven plagues. These are the last ones, because by means of them the anger of God is brought to a finish.<sup>b</sup>

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

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

**5** After this I saw, and the sanctuary of the tent of the witness<sup>o</sup> was opened in heaven,<sup>p</sup> **6** and the seven angels with the seven plagues<sup>q</sup> 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,<sup>r</sup> who lives forever and ever. **8** And the sanctuary became filled with smoke because of the glory of God<sup>s</sup> and because of his power, and no one was able to enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues<sup>t</sup> of the seven angels were finished.

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

**15:3, 4** \*See App. A5.

2 The first one went off and poured out his bowl on the earth.<sup>a</sup> And a hurtful and malignant ulcer<sup>b</sup> afflicted the people who had the mark of the wild beast<sup>c</sup> and who were worshipping its image.<sup>d</sup>

3 The second one poured out his bowl into the sea.<sup>e</sup> And it became blood<sup>f</sup> like that of a dead man, and every living creature\* died, yes, the things in the sea.<sup>g</sup>

4 The third one poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs\* of water.<sup>h</sup> And they became blood.<sup>i</sup> 5 I heard the angel over the waters say: "You, the One who is and who was,<sup>j</sup> the loyal One,<sup>k</sup> are righteous, for you have issued these judgments,<sup>l</sup> 6 because they poured out the blood of holy ones and of prophets,<sup>m</sup> and you have given them blood to drink;<sup>n</sup> they deserve it."<sup>o</sup> 7 And I heard the altar say: "Yes, Jehovah\* God, the Almighty,<sup>p</sup> true and righteous are your judgments."<sup>q</sup>

8 The fourth one poured out his bowl on the sun,<sup>r</sup> and to the sun it was granted to scorch the people with fire. 9 And the people were scorched by the great heat, but they blasphemed the name of God, who has the authority over these plagues, and they did not repent and give glory to him.

10 The fifth one poured out his bowl on the throne of the wild beast. And its kingdom became darkened,<sup>s</sup> and they began to gnaw their tongues because of their pain, 11 but they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their ulcers, and they did not repent of their works.

12 The sixth one poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates,<sup>t</sup> and its water was dried

16:3 \*Or "soul." 16:4 \*Or "fountains." 16:7 \*See App. A5. #Or "judicial decisions."

## CHAP. 16

- a Re 8:7  
b Ex 9:10  
c Re 13:16, 18  
d Re 13:15  
Re 19:20  
e Re 8:8  
f Ex 7:20  
g Isa 57:20  
h Re 8:10  
i Ex 7:20  
Ps 78:44  
j Re 1:4  
k Ps 145:17  
Re 15:4  
l De 32:4  
Ps 119:137  
m Ps 79:3  
n Isa 49:26  
o Re 18:20  
p Ex 6:3  
q Ps 19:9  
Ps 119:137  
Re 19:1, 2  
r Re 8:12  
s Ex 10:21  
Isa 8:22  
t Re 9:13, 14

## Second Col.

- a Jer 50:38  
b Isa 44:27, 28  
c Re 12:3  
d Re 13:11, 13  
e Re 19:19  
f Isa 13:6  
Jer 25:33  
Eze 30:3  
Joe 1:15  
Joe 2:1, 11  
Zep 1:15  
2Pe 3:11, 12  
g 1Th 5:2  
2Pe 3:10  
h Lu 21:36  
i Re 3:18  
j 2Ch 35:22  
Zec 12:11  
Re 19:19  
k Re 16:1  
l Eze 38:19  
Da 12:1  
Heb 12:26  
m Re 17:18  
n Re 18:2  
o Jer 25:15  
Re 15:7  
p Re 6:14  
q Job 38:22, 23

up<sup>a</sup> to prepare the way for the kings<sup>b</sup> from the rising of the sun.\*

13 And I saw three unclean inspired expressions\* that looked like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon<sup>c</sup> and out of the mouth of the wild beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and they perform signs,<sup>d</sup> and they go out to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war<sup>e</sup> of the great day of God the Almighty.<sup>f</sup>

15 "Look! I am coming as a thief.<sup>g</sup> Happy is the one who stays awake<sup>h</sup> and keeps his outer garments, so that he may not walk naked and people look upon his shamefulness."<sup>i</sup>

16 And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Armageddon.\*<sup>j</sup>

17 The seventh one poured out his bowl on the air. At this a loud voice came out of the sanctuary<sup>k</sup> from the throne, saying: "It has come to pass!" 18 And there were flashes of lightning and voices and thunders, and there was a great earthquake unlike any that had occurred since men came to be on the earth,<sup>l</sup> so extensive and so great was the earthquake. 19 The great city<sup>m</sup> split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell; and Babylon the Great<sup>n</sup> was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.<sup>o</sup>

20 Also, every island fled, and mountains were not found.<sup>p</sup>

21 Then great hailstones, each about the weight of a talent,<sup>q</sup> fell from heaven on the people,<sup>q</sup> and the people blasphemed God be-

16:12 \*Or "from the east." 16:13 \*Lit., "unclean spirits." 16:16 \*Greek, *Har Ma-ge-don*, from a Hebrew term meaning "Mountain of Megiddo." 16:21 \*A Greek talent equaled 20.4 kg (654 oz t). See App. B14.

cause of the plague of hail,<sup>a</sup> for the plague was unusually great.

**17** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls<sup>b</sup> came and said to me: "Come, I will show you the judgment on the great prostitute who sits on many waters,<sup>c</sup> **2** with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality,<sup>\*d</sup> and earth's inhabitants were made drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality."<sup>e</sup>

**3** And he carried me away in the power of the spirit into a wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet-colored wild beast that was full of blasphemous names and that had seven heads and ten horns. **4** The woman was clothed in purple<sup>f</sup> and scarlet, and she was adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,<sup>g</sup> and she had in her hand a golden cup that was full of disgusting things and the unclean things of her sexual immorality.<sup>h</sup> **5** On her forehead was written a name, a mystery: "Babylon the Great, the mother of the prostitutes<sup>h</sup> and of the disgusting things of the earth."<sup>i</sup> **6** And I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the holy ones and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.<sup>j</sup>

Well, on seeing her I was greatly amazed. **7** So the angel said to me: "Why is it that you were amazed? I will tell you the mystery of the woman<sup>k</sup> and of the wild beast that is carrying her and that has the seven heads and the ten horns:<sup>l</sup> **8** The wild beast that you saw was, but is not, and yet is about to ascend out of the abyss,<sup>m</sup> and it is to go off into destruction. And the inhabitants of the earth—those whose names have not been written in the scroll of life<sup>n</sup> from the found-

17:2 \*See Glossary. 17:2, 4 <sup>a</sup>Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary.

CHAP. 16

a Ex 9:24

CHAP. 17

b Re 16:1

c Jer 51:13

Re 17:15

Re 19:2

d Jas 4:4

Re 18:9

e Jer 51:7

Re 14:8

Re 18:3

f Lu 16:19

g Re 18:11, 12

Re 18:19

h Re 19:2

i Re 18:5

j Re 6:9

Re 18:24

Re 19:2

k Re 17:5

l Re 17:3

m Re 20:1

n Ex 32:32

Ps 69:28

Php 4:3

Second Col.

a Re 17:7

b Re 17:8

c Joh 1:29

Re 5:6

d Mt 28:18

Ac 2:36

ITi 6:15

e Re 19:11, 15

f Ro 16:20

g Isa 57:20

Jer 51:13

h Re 17:12

i Re 17:8

j Re 17:7

k Le 21:9

Re 18:8

l Jos 11:19, 20

Pr 21:1

m Re 17:12

n Re 17:5

ing of the world—will be amazed when they see how the wild beast was, but is not, and yet will be present.

**9** "This calls for a mind<sup>\*</sup> that has wisdom: The seven heads<sup>a</sup> mean seven mountains, where the woman sits on top. **10** And there are seven kings: Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet arrived; but when he does arrive, he must remain a short while. **11** And the wild beast that was but is not,<sup>b</sup> it is also an eighth king, but it springs from the seven, and it goes off into destruction.

**12** "The ten horns that you saw mean ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they do receive authority as kings for one hour with the wild beast. **13** These have one thought, so they give their power and authority to the wild beast. **14** These will battle with the Lamb,<sup>c</sup> but because he is Lord of lords and King of kings,<sup>d</sup> the Lamb will conquer them.<sup>e</sup> Also, those with him who are called and chosen and faithful will do so."<sup>f</sup>

**15** He said to me: "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is sitting, mean peoples and crowds and nations and tongues.<sup>\*g</sup> **16** And the ten horns<sup>h</sup> that you saw and the wild beast,<sup>i</sup> these will hate the prostitute<sup>j</sup> and will make her devastated and naked, and they will eat up her flesh and completely burn her with fire.<sup>k</sup> **17** For God put it into their hearts to carry out his thought,<sup>l</sup> yes, to carry out their one thought by giving their kingdom to the wild beast,<sup>m</sup> until the words of God will have been accomplished. **18** And the woman<sup>n</sup> whom you saw means the great city that has a kingdom over the kings of the earth."

17:9 \*Or "for intelligence." 17:15 \*Or "languages."



**18** After this I saw another angel descending from heaven with great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his glory. **2** And he cried out with a strong voice, saying: "She has fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen,<sup>a</sup> and she has become a dwelling place of demons and a place where every unclean spirit\* and every unclean and hated bird lurks!<sup>b</sup> **3** For because of the wine of the passion\* of her sexual immorality,<sup>c</sup> all the nations have fallen victim,<sup>c</sup> and the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her,<sup>d</sup> and the merchants<sup>a</sup> of the earth became rich owing to the power of her shameless luxury."

**4** And I heard another voice out of heaven say: "Get out of her, my people,<sup>e</sup> if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues.<sup>f</sup> **5** For her sins have massed together clear up to heaven,<sup>g</sup> and God has called her acts of injustice\* to mind.<sup>h</sup> **6** Repay her in the way she treated others,<sup>i</sup> yes, pay her back double for the things she has done;<sup>j</sup> in the cup<sup>k</sup> she has mixed, mix a double portion for her.<sup>l</sup> **7** To the extent that she glorified herself and lived in shameless luxury, to that extent give her torment and mourning. For she keeps saying in her heart: 'I sit as queen, and I am not a widow, and I will never see mourning.'<sup>m</sup> **8** That is why in one day her plagues will come, death and mourning and famine, and she will be completely burned with fire,<sup>n</sup> because Jehovah\* God, who judged her, is strong.<sup>o</sup>

**9** "And the kings of the earth who committed sexual immorali-

**18:2** \*Or possibly, "breath; exhalation; inspired statement." **18:3** \*Or "anger." <sup>a</sup>Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary. <sup>b</sup>Or "traveling merchants." **18:5** \*Or "her crimes." **18:8** \*See App. A5.

CHAP. 18

a Isa 21:9  
Jer 51:8  
Re 14:8

b Isa 13:21  
Jer 50:39

c Jer 51:7

d Re 17:1, 2

e Isa 48:20  
Isa 52:11  
Jer 50:8

f Jer 51:6, 45  
2Co 6:17

g Jer 51:9

h Re 16:19

i Jer 50:29  
2Th 1:6

j Ps 137:8  
Jer 50:15

k Ps 75:8

l Re 16:19

m Isa 47:7-9

n Le 21:9

o Jer 50:34

Second Col.

a Da 4:30

b Re 17:4

ty\* with her and lived with her in shameless luxury will weep and beat themselves in grief over her when they see the smoke from her burning. **10** They will stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and say: 'Too bad, too bad, you great city,<sup>a</sup> Babylon you strong city, because in one hour your judgment has arrived!'

**11** "Also, the merchants of the earth are weeping and mourning over her, because there is no one to buy their full cargo anymore, **12** a full cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, and scarlet cloth; and everything made from scented wood; and every sort of object made from ivory, and from precious wood, copper, iron, and marble; **13** also cinnamon, Indian spice, incense, perfumed oil, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, carriages, slaves, and human lives.\* **14** Yes, the fine fruit that you\* desired has left you, and all the delicacies and the splendid things have vanished from you, never to be found again.

**15** "The merchants who sold these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and will weep and mourn, **16** saying: 'Too bad, too bad, the great city, clothed with fine linen, purple, and scarlet and richly adorned with gold ornaments, precious stones, and pearls,<sup>b</sup> **17** because in one hour such great riches have been devastated!'

"And every ship captain and every seafaring person and sailors and all those who make a living by the sea stood at a distance **18** and cried out as they looked at the smoke from her burning

**18:9** \*See Glossary. **18:13** \*Or "souls." **18:14** \*Or "your soul."

and said: 'What city is like the great city?' **19** They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and mourning, and said: 'Too bad, too bad, the great city, in which all those who had ships at sea became rich from her wealth, because in one hour she has been devastated!'<sup>a</sup>

**20** "Be glad over her, O heaven,<sup>b</sup> also you holy ones<sup>c</sup> and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced his judgment on her in your behalf!"<sup>d</sup>

**21** And a strong angel lifted up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into the sea, saying: "Thus with a swift pitch will Babylon the great city be hurled down, and she will never be found again."<sup>e</sup> **22** And the sound of singers who accompany themselves on the harp, of musicians, of flutists, and of trumpeters will never be heard in you again. And no craftsman who practices any trade will ever be found in you again, and no sound of a millstone will ever be heard in you again. **23** No light of a lamp will ever shine in you again, and no voice of a bridegroom and of a bride will ever be heard in you again; for your merchants were the top-ranking men of the earth, and by your spiritistic practices<sup>f</sup> all the nations were misled. **24** Yes, in her was found the blood of prophets and of holy ones<sup>g</sup> and of all those who have been slaughtered on the earth."<sup>h</sup>

**19** After this I heard what seemed to be a loud voice of a great crowd in heaven. They said: "Praise Jah!"<sup>i</sup> The salvation and the glory and the power belong to our God, **2** because his judgments are true and righteous.<sup>j</sup> For he has executed judgment on the great prostitute who

19:1, 3, 4, 6 \*Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah.

## CHAP. 18

- a Isa 47:11  
b Jer 51:48  
c Re 14:12  
d De 32:43  
Ro 12:19  
Re 6:9, 10  
Re 19:1, 2  
e Jer 51:63, 64  
f Isa 47:9  
Ga 5:19, 20  
g Re 6:9, 10  
Re 16:5, 6  
h Ge 9:6  
Jer 51:49

## CHAP. 19

- i Ps 150:6  
j De 32:4  
Ps 19:9  
Re 15:3

## Second Col.

- a De 32:43  
2Ki 9:7  
Ps 79:10  
Re 18:20, 24  
b Ps 117:1  
c Isa 34:10  
d Re 4:4  
e Re 4:6  
f Ps 106:48  
g Ps 134:1  
Ps 135:1  
h Ps 115:13  
i Ps 113:1  
j Ex 6:3  
k Ps 97:1  
Isa 52:7  
Re 11:15  
l Isa 61:10  
Eph 5:25-27  
Re 14:4  
m Mt 22:2  
Mt 25:10  
n Ac 10:25, 26  
Re 22:8, 9  
o Mt 28:19, 20  
Ac 1:8  
p Mt 4:10  
Joh 4:23  
q Lu 24:27  
Ac 10:43  
1Pe 1:10, 11  
r Re 6:2

corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality,\* and he has avenged the blood of his slaves that is on her hands."<sup>a</sup> **3** And right away for the second time they said: "Praise Jah!"<sup>b</sup> And the smoke from her goes on ascending forever and ever."<sup>c</sup>

**4** And the 24 elders<sup>d</sup> and the four living creatures<sup>e</sup> fell down and worshipped God who sits on the throne and said: "Amen! Praise Jah!"<sup>f</sup>

**5** Also, a voice came from the throne and said: "Be praising our God, all you his slaves,<sup>g</sup> who fear him, the small ones and the great."<sup>h</sup>

**6** And I heard what sounded like a voice of a great crowd and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of heavy thunders. They said: "Praise Jah,<sup>i</sup> because Jehovah<sup>h</sup> our God, the Almighty,<sup>j</sup> has begun to rule as king!"<sup>k</sup> **7** Let us rejoice and be overjoyed and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has arrived and his wife has prepared herself. **8** Yes, it has been granted to her to be clothed with bright, clean, fine linen—for the fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the holy ones."<sup>l</sup>

**9** And he tells me, "Write: Happy are those invited to the evening meal of the Lamb's marriage."<sup>m</sup> Also, he tells me: "These are the true sayings of God."<sup>n</sup> **10** At that I fell down before his feet to worship him. But he tells me: "Be careful! Do not do that!"<sup>n</sup> I am only a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who have the work of witnessing concerning Jesus.<sup>o</sup> Worship God!<sup>p</sup> For the witness concerning Jesus is what inspires prophecy."<sup>q</sup>

**11** I saw heaven opened, and look! a white horse.<sup>r</sup> And the

19:2 \*Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary.  
#Lit., "from her hand." 19:6 #See App. A5.

one seated on it is called Faithful<sup>a</sup> and True,<sup>b</sup> and he judges and carries on war in righteousness.<sup>c</sup> **12** His eyes are a fiery flame,<sup>d</sup> and on his head are many diadems.\* He has a name written that no one knows but he himself, **13** and he is clothed with an outer garment stained\* with blood, and he is called by the name The Word<sup>e</sup> of God. **14** Also, the armies in heaven were following him on white horses, and they were clothed in white, clean, fine linen. **15** And out of his mouth protrudes a sharp, long sword<sup>f</sup> with which to strike the nations, and he will shepherd them with a rod of iron.<sup>g</sup> Moreover, he treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty,<sup>h</sup> **16** On his outer garment, yes, on his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.<sup>i</sup>

**17** I saw also an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice and said to all the birds that fly in midheaven:\* "Come here, be gathered together to the great evening meal of God,<sup>j</sup> **18** so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of military commanders and the flesh of strong men<sup>k</sup> and the flesh of horses and of those seated on them,<sup>l</sup> and the flesh of all, of freemen as well as of slaves and of small ones and great."

**19** And I saw the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the one seated on the horse and against his army.<sup>m</sup> **20** And the wild beast was caught, and along with it the false prophet<sup>n</sup> that performed in front of it the signs with which he misled those who received the mark of the wild beast<sup>o</sup> and those who worship its image.<sup>p</sup> While

19:12 \*Or "royal headbands." 19:13 \*Or possibly, "sprinkled." 19:17 \*Or "in midair; overhead."

## CHAP. 19

- a Re 1:5  
b Joh 1:14  
Re 3:14  
c Isa 11:4, 5  
Heb 1:8, 9  
d Re 1:13, 14  
e Joh 1:1  
f 2Th 2:8  
Re 1:13, 16  
g Ps 2:9  
Re 2:26, 27  
h Joe 3:13  
Re 14:19, 20  
i Mt 28:18  
Php 2:9-11  
1Ti 6:15  
Re 17:14  
j Eze 39:4, 17  
k Eze 39:18  
l Eze 39:20  
m Re 16:14, 16  
n Re 16:13  
o Re 13:16, 17  
p Re 13:15

## Second Col.

- a Mt 10:28  
2Pe 2:6  
Jude 7  
Re 20:14  
b Re 2:16  
Re 6:2  
c Eze 39:4

## CHAP. 20

- d Re 9:1  
e Re 12:3  
f Ge 3:1  
g Joh 8:44  
h Zec 3:1  
Re 12:9  
i Re 9:11  
j Re 20:7  
k Re 13:15-17  
l Mt 19:28  
Lu 22:28-30  
2Ti 2:12  
Re 1:6  
m Ac 24:15  
n 1Co 15:23, 52  
Php 3:10, 11  
1Th 4:16  
o Re 14:13  
p Re 2:11  
Re 20:14  
q 1Co 15:54  
r 1Pe 2:9  
s Re 1:6  
Re 5:9, 10

still alive, they both were hurled into the fiery lake that burns with sulfur.<sup>a</sup> **21** But the rest were killed off with the long sword that proceeded out of the mouth of the one seated on the horse.<sup>b</sup> And all the birds were filled with their flesh.<sup>c</sup>

**20** And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the key of the abyss<sup>d</sup> and a great chain in his hand. **2** He seized the dragon,<sup>e</sup> the original serpent,<sup>f</sup> who is the Devil<sup>g</sup> and Satan,<sup>h</sup> and bound him for 1,000 years. **3** And he hurled him into the abyss<sup>i</sup> and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not mislead the nations anymore until the 1,000 years were ended. After this he must be released for a little while.<sup>j</sup>

**4** And I saw thrones, and those who sat on them were given authority to judge. Yes, I saw the souls\* of those executed<sup>k</sup> for the witness they gave about Jesus and for speaking about God, and those who had not worshipped the wild beast or its image and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand.<sup>k</sup> And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ<sup>l</sup> for 1,000 years. **5** (The rest of the dead<sup>m</sup> did not come to life until the 1,000 years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.<sup>n</sup> **6** Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection;<sup>o</sup> over these the second death<sup>p</sup> has no authority,<sup>q</sup> but they will be priests<sup>r</sup> of God and of the Christ, and they will rule as kings with him for the 1,000 years.<sup>s</sup>

**7** Now as soon as the 1,000 years have ended, Satan will be released from his prison, **8** and he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Ma'gog, to gather

20:4 \*See Glossary and Re 6:9 fn. <sup>a</sup>Lit., "executed with the ax."

them together for the war. The number of these is as the sand of the sea. **9** And they advanced over the whole earth and encircled the camp of the holy ones and the beloved city. But fire came down out of heaven and consumed them.<sup>a</sup> **10** And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where both the wild beast<sup>b</sup> and the false prophet already were;<sup>c</sup> and they will be tormented\* day and night forever and ever.

**11** And I saw a great white throne and the One seated on it.<sup>d</sup> From before him the earth and the heaven fled away,<sup>e</sup> and no place was found for them. **12** And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. But another scroll was opened; it is the scroll of life.<sup>f</sup> The dead were judged out of those things written in the scrolls according to their deeds.<sup>g</sup> **13** And the sea gave up the dead in it, and death and the Grave\* gave up the dead in them, and they were judged individually according to their deeds.<sup>h</sup> **14** And death and the Grave\* were hurled into the lake of fire.<sup>i</sup> This means the second death,<sup>j</sup> the lake of fire.<sup>k</sup> **15** Furthermore, whoever was not found written in the book of life<sup>l</sup> was hurled into the lake of fire.<sup>m</sup>

**21** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth;<sup>n</sup> for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away,<sup>o</sup> and the sea<sup>p</sup> is no more. **2** I also saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God<sup>q</sup> and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.<sup>r</sup> **3** With that I heard a loud voice

**20:10** \*Or "restrained; imprisoned."  
**20:13, 14** \*Or "Hades," that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary.

## CHAP. 20

- a 2Kj 1:10
- b Re 13:1
- c Re 19:20
- d Re 4:2, 3
- e 2Pe 3:7
- f Ex 32:33
- Ps 69:28
- Da 12:1
- g Joh 5:28, 29
- h Ac 10:42
- i Isa 25:8
- 1Co 15:26
- j Re 2:11
- Re 20:6
- k Mt 5:22
- Mt 18:9
- Re 21:8
- l Re 17:8
- m Pr 10:7

## CHAP. 21

- n Isa 65:17
- Isa 66:22
- 2Pe 3:13
- o 2Pe 3:10
- Re 20:11
- p Isa 57:20
- q Re 3:12
- r Re 19:7

## Second Col.

- a Eze 37:27
- b Re 7:17
- c Isa 25:8
- 1Co 15:26
- d Isa 35:10
- Isa 65:19
- e Re 4:2, 3
- f 2Pe 3:13
- g Re 1:8
- Re 22:13
- h Ps 36:9
- Isa 55:1
- Re 7:17
- Re 22:1
- i 1Jo 5:10
- j 1Jo 3:15
- k Eph 5:5
- l Joh 8:44
- m Re 19:20
- n Pr 10:7
- Heb 10:26, 27
- Re 2:11
- Re 20:6
- o Re 15:1
- p Re 19:7
- q Heb 12:22
- Re 3:12
- Re 21:2
- r Isa 60:1, 2
- s Ex 24:9, 10

from the throne say: "Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them.<sup>a</sup> **4** And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes,<sup>b</sup> and death will be no more,<sup>c</sup> neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore.<sup>d</sup> The former things have passed away."

**5** And the One seated on the throne<sup>e</sup> said: "Look! I am making all things new."<sup>f</sup> Also he says: "Write, for these words are faithful\* and true." **6** And he said to me: "They have come to pass! I am the Alpha and the Omega,\* the beginning and the end.<sup>g</sup> To anyone thirsting I will give from the spring<sup>h</sup> of the water of life free.<sup>ah</sup> **7** Anyone conquering will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be my son. **8** But as for the cowards and those without faith<sup>i</sup> and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers<sup>j</sup> and the sexually immoral<sup>kl</sup> and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars,<sup>l</sup> their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur.<sup>m</sup> This means the second death."<sup>n</sup>

**9** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls that were full of the seven last plagues<sup>o</sup> came and said to me: "Come, and I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."<sup>p</sup> **10** So he carried me away in the power of the spirit to a great and lofty mountain, and he showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God<sup>q</sup> **11** and having the glory of God.<sup>r</sup> Its radiance was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone shining crystal clear.<sup>s</sup> **12** It had a great

**21:5** \*Or "trustworthy." **21:6** \*Or "the A and the Z." Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. <sup>h</sup>Or "fountain." <sup>a</sup>Or "without cost." **21:8** \*See Glossary, "Sexual immorality."

and lofty wall and had 12 gates with 12 angels at the gates, and on the gates were inscribed the names of the 12 tribes of the sons of Israel. **13** On the east were three gates, and on the north three gates, and on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.<sup>a</sup> **14** The wall of the city also had 12 foundation stones, and on them were the 12 names of the 12 apostles<sup>b</sup> of the Lamb.

**15** Now the one who was speaking with me was holding a golden reed as a measure in order to measure the city and its gates and its wall.<sup>c</sup> **16** And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as its width. And he measured the city with the reed, 12,000 stadia;\* its length and width and height are equal. **17** He also measured its wall, 144 cubits\* according to a man's measure, at the same time an angel's measure. **18** Now the wall was made of jasper,<sup>d</sup> and the city was pure gold like clear glass. **19** The foundations of the city wall were adorned with every sort of precious stone: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chal-ce'do-ny, the fourth emerald, **20** the fifth sar-don'yx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrys'o-lite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrys'o-prase, the eleventh hyacinth, the twelfth amethyst. **21** Also, the 12 gates were 12 pearls; each one of the gates was made of one pearl. And the main street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

**22** I did not see a temple in it, for Jehovah\* God the Almighty<sup>e</sup> is its temple, also the Lamb is. **23** And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to shine

**21:16** \*About 2,220 km (1,379 mi). A stadium equaled 185 m (606.95 ft). See App. B14. **21:17** \*About 64 m (210 ft). See App. B14. **21:22; 22:5, 6** \*See App. A5.

CHAP. 21

a Re 22:14

b Mt 10:2-4  
Lu 6:13-16  
Ac 1:13

c Eze 40:3, 5

d Re 4:3  
Re 21:10, 11

e Ex 6:3

Second Col.

a Isa 60:19, 20  
Re 22:5

b Joh 1:9  
Ac 26:13, 15  
Heb 1:3

c Isa 60:3

d Isa 60:11, 20

e Isa 60:5

f Ps 5:6  
Isa 52:1  
1Co 6:9, 10  
Ga 5:19-21  
Re 21:8

g Da 12:1  
Php 4:3  
Re 13:8

CHAP. 22

h Eze 47:1

i Joh 1:29

j Eze 47:12

k Re 3:21

l Mt 5:8

m Re 14:1

n Re 21:25

o Isa 60:19, 20  
1Jo 1:5

p Da 7:18  
Re 3:21

q Tit 1:2

r 2Ti 3:16

s Re 16:15  
Re 22:20

t Joh 13:17  
Re 1:3

on it, for the glory of God illuminated it,<sup>a</sup> and its lamp was the Lamb.<sup>b</sup> **24** And the nations will walk by means of its light,<sup>c</sup> and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. **25** Its gates will not be closed at all by day, for night will not exist there.<sup>d</sup>

**26** And they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.<sup>e</sup> **27** But anything defiled and anyone who does what is disgusting and deceitful will in no way enter into it;<sup>f</sup> only those written in the Lamb's scroll of life will enter.<sup>g</sup>

**22** And he showed me a river of water of life,<sup>h</sup> clear as crystal, flowing out from the throne of God and of the Lamb<sup>i</sup> down the middle of its main street. On both sides of the river were trees of life producing 12 crops of fruit, yielding their fruit each month. And the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations.<sup>j</sup>

**3** And there will no longer be any curse. But the throne of God and of the Lamb<sup>k</sup> will be in the city, and his slaves will offer him sacred service; **4** and they will see his face,<sup>l</sup> and his name will be on their foreheads.<sup>m</sup> **5** Also, night will be no more,<sup>n</sup> and they have no need of lamplight or sunlight, for Jehovah\* God will shed light upon them,<sup>o</sup> and they will rule as kings forever and ever.<sup>p</sup>

**6** He said to me: "These words are faithful<sup>q</sup> and true;<sup>q</sup> yes, Jehovah,\* the God who inspired the prophets,<sup>r</sup> has sent his angel to show his slaves the things that must shortly take place. **7** Look! I am coming quickly.<sup>s</sup> Happy is anyone observing the words of the prophecy of this scroll."<sup>t</sup>

**8** Well I, John, was the one hearing and seeing these things.

**22:6** <sup>r</sup>Or "trustworthy."



When I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing me these things. **9** But he tells me: "Be careful! Do not do that! I am only a fellow slave of you and of your brothers the prophets and of those observing the words of this scroll. Worship God."<sup>a</sup>

**10** He also tells me: "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, for the appointed time is near. **11** Let the one who is unrighteous continue in unrighteousness, and let the filthy one continue in his filth; but let the righteous one continue in righteousness, and let the holy one continue in holiness.

**12** "Look! I am coming quickly, and the reward I give is with me, to repay each one according to his work.<sup>b</sup> **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega,<sup>\*c</sup> the first and the last, the beginning and the end. **14** Happy are those who wash their robes,<sup>d</sup> so that they may have authority to go to the trees of life<sup>e</sup> and that they may gain entrance into the city through its gates.<sup>f</sup> **15** Outside are the dogs<sup>\*</sup> and those who practice spiritism and those who

**22:13** \*Or "the A and the Z." Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. **22:15** \*That is, those whose practices are disgusting in God's eyes.

## CHAP. 22

- a Mt 4:10  
Ac 10:25, 26  
Re 19:10  
b Ps 62:12  
Isa 40:10  
Ro 2:6  
c Isa 44:6  
Isa 48:12  
Re 1:8  
Re 21:6  
d 1Jo 1:7  
e Re 2:7  
f Re 21:10, 12

## Second Col.

- a Ga 5:19-21  
Eph 5:5  
Re 21:8  
b Isa 11:1, 10  
Isa 53:2  
Jer 23:5  
Jer 33:15  
Re 5:5  
c Nu 24:17  
Re 2:28  
d Re 21:9  
e Joh 4:14  
f Isa 55:1  
Joh 7:37  
Re 7:17  
Re 21:6  
g De 4:2  
De 12:32  
Ga 1:8  
1Jo 4:3  
2Jo 9  
h Re 15:1  
i Re 2:7  
j Re 21:2  
k Re 3:11  
Re 22:7

are sexually immoral<sup>\*</sup> and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices lying.<sup>a</sup>

**16** "I, Jesus, sent my angel to bear witness to you about these things for the congregations. I am the root and the offspring of David<sup>b</sup> and the bright morning star."<sup>c</sup>

**17** And the spirit and the bride<sup>d</sup> keep on saying, "Come!" and let anyone hearing say, "Come!" and let anyone thirsting come;<sup>e</sup> let anyone who wishes take life's water free.<sup>f</sup>

**18** "I am bearing witness to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone makes an addition to these things,<sup>g</sup> God will add to him the plagues that are written in this scroll;<sup>h</sup> **19** and if anyone takes anything away from the words of the scroll of this prophecy, God will take his portion away from the trees of life<sup>i</sup> and out of the holy city,<sup>j</sup> things that are written about in this scroll.

**20** "The one who bears witness of these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.'<sup>k</sup>

"Amen! Come, Lord Jesus."

**21** May the undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus be with the holy ones.

**22:15** \*See Glossary, "Sexual immorality."

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## Theocratic Ministry School Review

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The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 30, 2013.

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### 1. What will help us to exhibit mildness when dealing with secular authorities? (Titus 3:2)

[w03 4/1 p. 25 pars. 18-19] <sup>18</sup> One area where many find it difficult to exhibit mildness is in dealing with secular authorities. Admittedly, the way some in authority act betrays harshness and a lack of fellow feeling. (Ecclesiastes 4:1; 8:9) However, our love for Jehovah will help us recognize his supreme authority and give governmental authorities the relative subjection that they are due. (Romans 13:1, 4; 1 Timothy 2:1, 2) Even when those in high station seek to limit the public expression of our worship of Jehovah, we gladly look for ways that are still open to offer our sacrifice of praise.—Hebrews 13:15.

<sup>19</sup> Under no circumstances do we resort to belligerence. We strive to be reasonable while never compromising righteous principles. In this way, our brothers succeed in pursuing their ministry in 234 lands around the world. We heed Paul’s counsel to “be in subjection and be obedient to governments and authorities as rulers, to be ready for every good work, to speak injuriously of no one, not to be belligerent, to be reasonable, exhibiting all mildness toward all men.”—Titus 3:1, 2.

### 2. What can we learn from Paul’s words to Philemon as recorded at Philemon 4, 5, and 7?

[w08 10/15 p. 31 pars. 1, 2] Philemon is commended for being an example in “love and faith.” His being a source of refreshment to fellow Christians has given Paul “much joy and comfort.”—Philem. 4, 5, 7.

Setting an example for all overseers, Paul handles the sensitive matter about Onesimus by giving, not an order, but exhortation “on the basis of love.” He tells Philemon: “Trusting in your compliance, I am writing you, knowing you will even do more than the things I say.”—Philem. 8, 9, 21.

[w92 4/15 p. 25 par. 2] Paul’s letter further reminds elders of the value of commendation and tact. He begins by acknowledging that ‘the tender affections of the holy ones were refreshed through’ Philemon. (Verse 7) This sincere commendation no doubt put Philemon in a more receptive frame of mind. Similarly today, counsel or advice can often be cushioned with sincere, warm commendation. And such counsel should be, not blunt or tactless, but generously “seasoned with salt” so as to be more palatable to the listener.—Colossians 4:6.

### 3. How do we enter into God’s rest? (Heb. 4:9-11)

[w11 7/15 p. 28 pars. 16, 17] <sup>16</sup> Few Christians today would insist on observing some aspect of the Mosaic Law in order to obtain salvation. Paul’s inspired words to the Ephesians are perfectly clear: “By this undeserved kindness, indeed, you have been saved through faith; and this not owing to you, it is God’s gift. No, it is not owing to works, in order

that no man should have ground for boasting.” (Eph. 2:8, 9) What, then, does it mean for Christians to enter into God’s rest? Jehovah set aside the seventh day—his rest day—in order to bring his purpose respecting the earth to a glorious fulfillment. *We can enter into Jehovah’s rest—or join him in his rest—by obediently working in harmony with his advancing purpose as it is revealed to us through his organization.*

<sup>17</sup> On the other hand, if we minimized the Bible-based counsel that we receive through the faithful and discreet slave class, choosing to follow an independent course, we would be placing ourselves at odds with God’s unfolding purpose. This could endanger our peaceful relationship with Jehovah. In the next article, we will consider a few common situations that can affect God’s people and discuss how the decisions we make, whether to obey or to take an independent course, can determine if we have truly entered into God’s rest.

#### **4. What can we learn from Samuel and the faithful judges and prophets who effected “righteousness”? (Heb. 11:32, 33)**

[w11 1/1 p. 25 pars. 5, 6] Many centuries later, the apostle Paul listed Samuel among the faithful judges and prophets who “effected righteousness.” (Hebrews 11:32, 33) Samuel did indeed help to bring about what was good and right in God’s eyes. He remained effective because he waited patiently on Jehovah, faithfully keeping at his work in spite of disappointments. He also showed an appreciative spirit. After the victory at Mizpah, Samuel had a monument erected to commemorate the way that Jehovah had helped his people.—1 Samuel 7:12.

Do you want to ‘effect righteousness’ yourself? If so, you do well to learn from Samuel’s patience and his humble, appreciative spirit. Who of us does not need those qualities? It was good for Samuel to acquire and display such traits when relatively young, for he faced deeper disappointments in his later years.

#### **5. Why did James write that “the wisdom from above is first of all chaste (pure *RNWT*), then peaceable”? (Jas. 3:17)**

[w11 8/15 pp. 30-31 par. 15] <sup>15</sup> As Christians, we are exhorted to pursue peace. However, the Bible also states: “The wisdom from above is *first of all* chaste, then peaceable.” (Jas. 3:17) Being peaceable is secondary to chasteness, that is, upholding God’s clean moral standards and meeting his righteous requirements. If a Christian becomes aware of a serious sin on the part of a fellow believer, he should encourage that one to confess the sin to the elders. (1 Cor. 6:9, 10; Jas. 5:14-16) If the wrongdoer does not do so, the Christian who has come to know about the sin should report it. Failure to do this in a mistaken effort to maintain peace with the sinner makes one a party to the wrongdoing.—Lev. 5:1; **read Proverbs 29:24.**

#### **6. Who were “the dead” to whom “the good news was declared”? (1 Pet. 4:6)**

[w08 11/15 p. 21 par. 8] Who were “the dead” to whom “the good news was declared”? These were ones who were ‘dead in their trespasses and sins,’ or who were spiritually dead, before they heard the good news. (Eph. 2:1) After putting faith in the good news, though, they began to “live” spiritually.

**7. According to 1 John 2:7, 8, what commandment is John speaking of as being “old” as well as “new”?**

[w08 12/15 p. 27 par. 6] What commandment is John speaking of as “old” as well as “new”? John is speaking about the commandment regarding self-sacrificing brotherly love. (John 13:34) He refers to it as “old” because Jesus gave it over 60 years before John penned his first inspired letter. Thus, the believers have had it “from the beginning” of their lives as Christians. The commandment is also “new” in that it goes beyond ‘loving one’s fellow as oneself’ and calls for self-sacrificing love.—Lev. 19:18; John 15:12, 13.

**8. To whom do the titles “the Alpha and the Omega” and “the First and the Last” refer? (Rev. 1:8, 17)**

[w09 1/15 p. 30 par. 6] To whom do the titles “the Alpha and the Omega” and “the First and the Last” refer? The title “the Alpha and the Omega” applies to Jehovah, stressing that there was no almighty God before him and that there will be none after him. He is “the beginning and the end.” (Rev. 21:6; 22:13) Although Jehovah is referred to as “the first and the last” at Revelation 22:13, in that there is none before or after him, the context in the first chapter of Revelation shows that the title “the First and the Last” there applies to Jesus Christ. He was the first human to be resurrected to immortal spirit life and the last one to be so resurrected by Jehovah personally.—Col. 1:18.

**9. In what two ways are anointed Christians “sealed”? (Rev. 7:3)**

[w07 1/1 p. 31 par. 2] However, there are two phases in the sealing of anointed ones. The initial sealing differs from the final sealing (1) in purpose and (2) in time. The sealing in an initial sense serves to select a new member who is added to the number of anointed Christians. The sealing in a final sense serves to confirm that this chosen and sealed individual has fully demonstrated his loyalty. Only then, at the final sealing, will the seal be permanently placed ‘in the forehead’ of the anointed one, identifying him conclusively as a tried and faithful ‘slave of our God.’ The sealing mentioned in Revelation chapter 7 refers to this final phase of the sealing.—Revelation 7:3.

**10. Why can we be absolutely certain that foretold blessings under Kingdom rule will become a reality, and how should we be affected by this knowledge? (Rev. 21:5, 6)**

[re p. 304 par. 9]<sup>9</sup> It is as though Jehovah himself were signing for faithful mankind a guarantee, or title deed, to these future blessings. Who would dare question such a Guarantor? Why, so certain are these promises of Jehovah that he speaks as though they were already fulfilled: “They have come to pass!” Is not Jehovah “the Alpha and the Omega . . . , the One who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty”? (Revelation 1:8) Indeed he is! He himself declares: “I am the first and I am the last, and besides me there is no God.” (Isaiah 44:6) As such, he can inspire prophecies and fulfill them in every detail. How faith strengthening! So he promises: “Look! I am making all things new”! Rather than questioning whether these marvels will really happen, surely we should be wondering: ‘What do I personally have to do to inherit such blessings?’

# 43 *Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty* (1 Corinthians 16:13)

1. Stay awake, stand firm, grow mighty,  
Be determined to endure.  
Carry on as men of courage,  
For the victory is sure.  
We obey Christ Jesus' clear command,  
Under him we firmly take our stand.

*(CHORUS)*

*Stay awake, stand firm, and grow mighty!  
Carry on right to the end!*

2. Stay awake, and keep your senses,  
Always ready to obey.  
Stay alert to Christ's direction  
Through his faithful slave today.  
Heed the counsel of the older men,  
Who protect his sheep and truth defend.

*(Chorus)*

3. Stay awake, remain united  
As the good news we defend.  
Though our enemies will fight it,  
We will preach until the end.  
Join the shout of praise throughout the land.  
Look! Jehovah's day is soon at hand!

*(Chorus)*



## **HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE**

Young children may also qualify as publishers of the good news. Jesus received young children to himself and blessed them. (Matt. 19:13-15; 21:15, 16) Although primarily parents are responsible for their own children, others in the congregation may wish to help young ones who are motivated from the heart to share in the Kingdom-preaching work. If you are a parent, your fine example in the field ministry will do much to encourage your children to be zealous in their service to God. When a child is exemplary in his conduct and is moved from the heart to make a personal expression of his faith by speaking to others about the good news, what further help can be given?

It would be appropriate for the parent to approach one of the elders on the Congregation Service Committee to discuss whether the child is qualified to become a publisher. The presiding overseer will arrange to have two elders (one being a member of the Congregation Service Committee) meet with the child and his parent(s). If the child has a basic knowledge of Bible truth and gives evidence of wanting to share in Kingdom service, this would indicate good progress has been made. After considering these and other factors similar to those that apply to adults, the two elders can determine whether the child may be recognized as an unbaptized publisher.—Luke 6: 45; Rom. 10:10.

## **DEDICATION AND BAPTISM**

If you have taken in accurate knowledge and have shown love for God by conforming your life to divine requirements and by sharing in the field ministry, you need to solidify your personal relationship with Jehovah. How? By making a dedication to him in

## A Lone Preacher in a Remote Town

While living in a town far away from his home in **Kenya**, David began to study the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses. Before long, though, he had to return to his home village of Lokichar, in a remote area of northwestern Kenya. The nearest congregation was about 100 miles away in the town of Lodwar. For four years David had little contact with the Witnesses, yet he preached to his neighbors and relatives, sharing with them the things he had learned during the brief time he had studied the Bible. Some responded positively, and soon he was conducting several Bible studies. In 2007 he contacted the brothers in Lodwar and resumed his study, making the trip twice a month by motorbike, taxi, and minibus.

As his knowledge grew, so did David's zeal for the ministry. Still unbaptized, he built a temporary mud-walled "Kingdom Hall" with a thatched roof near his home, where he conducted meetings with the interested ones. However, not all in the village were happy with his preaching activity, and for two years he was subjected to verbal and physical abuse. Once, some villagers beat him senseless, accusing him of introducing "Devil worship" to the village. However, after David sought the assistance of the district administration officer, the violence stopped, and David continued preaching. "The truth is my life," said David. "No amount of opposition can stop me."

In 2009, David was baptized, and he now serves as a ministerial servant and a regular pioneer. He and his 15-year-old son are the only publishers in the area, but in April 2012, some 60 villagers attended

the Memorial of Christ's death, held in the temporary hall near David's home.

### **“Prove From the Scriptures That She Is Wrong”**

Janet, a regular pioneer sister in **Ghana**, was reading the *Bible Teach* book during a long bus trip. A preacher got on the bus, preached a sermon, and then invited the passengers to contribute money for his ministry. Janet said to him: “You say that Jesus is the same as God. Who, then, spoke to Jesus at his baptism?”

The preacher said, “It is a mystery.”

Janet opened to chapter 4 of the *Bible Teach* book, selected some scriptures, and invited a few of the passengers to read the verses. She explained the difference between Jesus and the Almighty God, Jehovah.

“You are a witch,” said the preacher.

At that, the passengers rallied to her defense, saying, “You should prove from the Scriptures that she is wrong rather than calling her a witch.” In anger, the preacher got off the bus at the next stop. A young woman sitting beside Janet said to her: “I thought Jehovah was the name of the church building of the Witnesses. I did not know that it was God's name until your discussion with that preacher.”

A conversation followed, and Janet took the woman's phone number and promised to contact her. When the woman got home, she related the incident to her grandmother. The grandmother too was surprised to learn that God's name is Jehovah. Janet later arranged for some Witnesses to continue discussions with the woman and her grandmother. Both are now attending meetings.

*Come! Be Refreshed*

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. We live in a world that is wayward and lost;  
The way of our God is not known.  
We need sure direction to safeguard our steps;  
We cannot succeed on our own.  
Our meetings refresh us and brighten our hope;  
They help us build faith in our God.  
They move us with words that incite to fine deeds,  
They give us the strength to go on.  
We'll never forsake what Jehovah commands;  
His will is what we want to do.  
Our meetings instruct us in ways that are right;  
Our love for the truth they renew.
2. Jehovah is keenly aware of our needs;  
His counsel by us should be heard.  
To buy out the time for occasions to meet  
Shows wisdom and trust in his Word.  
By wholesome instruction from God-fearing men,  
We learn how our faith can be shown.  
With loving support from our fam'ly of faith,  
We know that we're never alone.  
So as we look forward to much better times,  
We'll meet with the ones whom we love.  
And here at these meetings we'll learn how to live  
With wisdom that comes from above.