

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 6

Song 18 and Prayer

□ Congregation Bible Study:

c/ chap. 14 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 1-3 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 2:16-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Relief From Satan's Wicked Influence Is Near—rs p. 365 ¶4—p. 366 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Does the Bible Teach That Sexual Relations Are Sinful?—rs p. 367 ¶1—p. 368 ¶2 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 24

10 min: Offer the Magazines During October. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.

Song 83 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ The special public talk for the 2015 Memorial season will be given during the week of April 6. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 6.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "How Godly Wisdom Benefits Us."

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in October

"We are making brief visits on our neighbors to talk about good government. Do you think that any government has the ability to eliminate difficult problems, such as violence and injustice?" Allow for response. Remind the householder that in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught his followers to pray for such a government, God's Kingdom, to come. Show the back of the October 1 *Watchtower*, and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® October 1 ANNOUNCING JERUSALEM'S KINGDOM

"We are having brief conversations with our neighbors about these words of a familiar prayer that Jesus taught his followers. [Read Matthew 6:9, 10.] Have you ever heard a good explanation of what God's Kingdom is and why Jesus emphasized it so much in his teaching? [Allow for response.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about God's Kingdom as well as some of the marvelous benefits it will bring to the earth."

Awake!® October

"We are visiting briefly to help people find the answer to this question. [Show the cover of the magazine.] Do you think that a person must be wealthy in order to be truly successful? [Allow for response.] The Bible presents a balanced view of material possessions. [Read Luke 12:15.] According to the Bible, true success is within the grasp of anyone. This magazine explains."

Field Service Highlights

It is impressive to note the following positive trend in the number of regular pioneers during the first seven months of the 2014 service year. There were increases of 6.4 percent in the Bahamas, 7.9 percent in Bermuda, 23.8 percent in the Cayman Islands, 2.6 percent in Jamaica, 5.6 percent in Puerto Rico, 3.8 percent in the Turks & Caicos Islands, 13.8 percent in the British Virgin Islands, 4.3 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 4.6 percent in the United States. A grand total of 163,100 reported as regular pioneers in March. Are you able to join them?—Ps. 96:2.



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God's Loyal Love

(Isaiah 55:1-3)

1. Loyal love! God is love.

This truth cheers us from above.
Love caused God to send his Son,
Who for us the ransom won,
That we might gain righteousness,
Life eternal, happiness.

(CHORUS)

*Hey there, all you thirsty ones,
Come and drink life's water free.
Yes, come drink, you thirsty ones;
God's loving-kindness see.*

2. Loyal love! God is love.

All his works give proof thereof.
Love for us he's further shown,
Giving Christ the kingly throne
To fulfill his cov'nant sworn.
See! His Kingdom has been born.

(Chorus)

3. Loyal love! God is love.

May his love move us to love.
Loyally we'll help the meek,
As God's righteous way they seek.
May we preach with godly fear,
Comfort spread for all to hear.

(Chorus)

(See also Ps. 33:5; 57:10; Eph. 1:7.)

Jehovah Provides “a Ransom in Exchange for Many”

“ALL creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together.” (Romans 8:22) With those words the apostle Paul describes the pitiful state in which we find ourselves. From a human standpoint, there seems to be no way out of suffering, sin, and death. But Jehovah does not have human limitations. (Numbers 23:19) The God of justice has provided us with a way out of our distress. It is called the ransom.

² The ransom is Jehovah’s greatest gift to mankind. It makes possible our deliverance from sin and death. (Ephesians 1:7) It is the foundation of the hope of everlasting life, whether in heaven or on a paradise earth. (Luke 23:43; John 3:16; 1 Peter 1:4) But just what is the ransom? How does it teach us about Jehovah’s superlative justice?

How the Need for a Ransom Arose

³ The ransom became necessary because of the sin of Adam. By disobeying God, Adam bequeathed to his offspring a legacy of sickness, sorrow, pain, and death. (Genesis 2:17; Romans 8:20) God could not yield to sentiment and simply commute the death sentence. To do so would be to ignore his own law: “The wages sin pays is death.” (Romans 6:23) And were Jehovah to invalidate his own standards of justice, then universal chaos and lawlessness would reign!

1, 2. How does the Bible describe the state of mankind, and what is the only way out?

3. (a) Why did the ransom become necessary? (b) Why could God not simply commute the death sentence on Adam’s offspring?

⁴ As we saw in Chapter 12, the rebellion in Eden raised even greater issues. Satan cast a dark shadow across God's good name. In effect, he accused Jehovah of being a liar and a cruel dictator who deprived his creatures of freedom. (Genesis 3:1-5) By seemingly thwarting God's purpose to fill the earth with righteous humans, Satan also labeled God a failure. (Genesis 1:28; Isaiah 55:10, 11) Had Jehovah left these challenges unanswered, many of his intelligent creatures might well have lost a measure of confidence in his rulership.

⁵ Satan also slandered Jehovah's loyal servants, charging that they served Him only out of selfish motives and that if placed under pressure, none would remain faithful to God. (Job 1:9-11) These issues were of far greater importance than the human predicament. Jehovah rightly felt obliged to answer Satan's slanderous charges. But how could God settle these issues and also save mankind?

Ransom—An Equivalent

⁶ Jehovah's solution was both supremely merciful and profoundly just—one that no human could ever have devised. Yet, it was elegantly simple. It is variously referred to as a purchase, a reconciliation, a redemption, a propitiation, and an atonement. (Psalm 49:8; Daniel 9:24; Galatians 3:13; Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 2:17) But the expression that perhaps best describes matters is the one used by Jesus himself. He said: "The Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom [Greek, *ly'tron*] in exchange for many."—Matthew 20:28.

4, 5. (a) How did Satan slander God, and why was Jehovah obliged to answer those challenges? (b) What charge did Satan make regarding Jehovah's loyal servants?

6. What are some of the expressions used in the Bible to describe God's means of saving mankind?



⁷ What is a ransom? The Greek word used here comes from a verb meaning "to let loose, to release." This term was used to describe money paid in exchange for the release of prisoners of war. Basically, then, a ransom can be defined as something paid to buy something back. In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word for "ransom" (*ko'pher*) comes from a verb meaning "to cover." For example, God told Noah that he must "cover" (a form of the same word) the ark with tar. (Genesis 6:14) This helps us appreciate that to ransom also means to *cover* sins.—Psalm 65:3.

⁸ Significantly, the *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* observes that this word (*ko'pher*) "always denotes an equivalent," or a correspondency. Thus, the cover of the ark of the covenant had a shape corresponding to the ark itself. Likewise, in order to ransom, or cover, sin, a price must be paid that fully corresponds to, or fully covers, the damage caused by the sin. God's Law to Israel thus stated: "Soul will be for soul, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."—Deuteronomy 19:21.

⁹ Men of faith from Abel onward offered animal sacrifices to God. In so doing, they demonstrated their awareness of sin and of the need for redemption, and they showed their faith in God's promised liberation through his "seed." (Genesis 3:15; 4:1-4; Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 11:4) Jehovah looked upon such sacrifices with favor and granted these worshipers a good standing. Nevertheless, animal offerings were, at best, a mere token. Animals could not really cover man's sin, for they are inferior to humans. (Psalm

7, 8. (a) What does the term "ransom" mean in the Scriptures?
(b) In what way does a ransom involve equivalency?

9. Why did men of faith offer up animal sacrifices, and how did Jehovah view such sacrifices?

"A corresponding ransom for all"

8:4-8) Hence, the Bible says: “It is not possible for the blood of bulls and of goats to take sins away.” (Hebrews 10:1-4) Such sacrifices were only pictorial, or symbolic, of the true ransom sacrifice that was to come.

“A Corresponding Ransom”

¹⁰ “In Adam all are dying,” said the apostle Paul. (1 Corinthians 15:22) The ransom thus had to involve the death of the exact equal of Adam—a perfect human. (Romans 5:14) No other kind of creature could balance the scales of justice. Only a perfect human, someone not under the Adamic death sentence, could offer “a corresponding ransom”—one corresponding perfectly to Adam. (1 Timothy 2:6) It would not be necessary for untold millions of individual humans to be sacrificed so as to correspond to each descendant of Adam. The apostle Paul explained: “Through *one man* [Adam] sin entered into the world and death through sin.” (Romans 5:12) And “since death is through a man,” God provided for the redemption of mankind “through a man.” (1 Corinthians 15:21) How?

¹¹ Jehovah arranged to have a perfect man voluntarily sacrifice his life. According to Romans 6:23, “the wages sin pays is death.” In sacrificing his life, the ransomer would “taste death for every man.” In other words, he would pay the wage for Adam’s sin. (Hebrews 2:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24) This would have profound legal consequences. By nullifying the death sentence upon Adam’s

10. (a) To whom did the ransomer have to correspond, and why?
 (b) Why was only one human sacrifice necessary?

11. (a) How would the ransomer “taste death for every man”?
 (b) Why could Adam and Eve not have benefited from the ransom?
 (See footnote.)

takes place for the people of Israel, the women's inheritance will also be added to the inheritance of the tribe to which they then belong, so that their inheritance would be withdrawn from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers."

5 Then Moses commanded the Israelites at the order of Jehovah: "What the tribe of the sons of Joseph is saying is correct. **6** This is the word that Jehovah has commanded for the daughters of Ze-lo'phe-had: 'They may marry whomever they wish. However, they should marry someone from a family of the tribe of their father. **7** No inheritance of the Israelites should circulate from tribe to tribe, for the Israelites should hold on to the inheritance of the tribe of their forefathers. **8** And every daughter who possesses an inheritance among the tribes of Israel should become a

Second Col.

CHAP. 36

a 1Ch 23:22

b Nu 36:6

c Nu 27:1

d Nu 26:3
Nu 33:50
Nu 35:1

wife of a descendant of her father's tribe,^a so that the Israelites may keep possession of the inheritance of their forefathers. **9** No inheritance should circulate from one tribe to another tribe, for the tribes of Israel should hold on to their own inheritance."

10 The daughters of Ze-lo'phe-had did just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.^b **11** So Mah'lah, Tir'zah, Hog'lah, Mil'cah, and Noah, the daughters of Ze-lo'phe-had,^c married the sons of their father's brothers. **12** They became wives of men from the families of Ma-nas'eh the son of Joseph so that their inheritance would remain in the tribe of their father's family.

13 These are the commandments and the judicial decisions that Jehovah gave to the Israelites through Moses on the desert plains of Mo'ab by the Jordan at Jer'i-cho.^d

DEUTERONOMY

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1 These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel in the region of the Jordan in the wilderness, on the desert plains in front of Suph, between Pa'ran, To'phel, La'ban, Ha-ze'roth, and Di'za-hab. **2** It is 11 days from Ho'reb to Ka'desh-bar'ne-a^a by way of Mount Se'ir. **3** In the 40th year,^b in the 11th month, on the first of the month, Moses spoke to the Israelites* according to all that Jehovah had instructed him to tell them. **4** This was after he defeated Si'hon^c the king of the Am'or-ites, who was dwelling in Hesh'bon, and Og^d the king of Ba'shan, who was dwelling in Ash'ta-roth, in Ed're-i.^e **5** In the region of the Jordan in the land of Mo'ab, Moses undertook to explain this Law,^f saying:

6 "Jehovah our God told us in Ho'reb, 'You have stayed long enough in this mountainous region.'^g **7** Turn and set out for the mountainous region of the Am'or-ites^h and toward all their neighbors in the Ar'a-bah,ⁱ the mountainous region, the She-phe'lah, the Neg'eb, and the sea-coast,^j the land of the Ca'naan-

1:3 *Lit., "sons of Israel."

CHAP. 1

- a De 9:23
b Nu 32:13
Nu 33:38
c Nu 21:23, 24
Jos 12:1, 2
d Nu 21:33-35
e Jos 13:8, 12
f De 4:8
De 17:18
Ne 8:7
g Ex 19:1
Nu 10:11, 12
h Ge 15:16
i Jos 12:2, 3
j Jos 9:1, 2

Second Col.

- a Jos 13:1, 5
1KI 9:19
b Ge 15:18
c Ge 26:3
d Ge 28:13
e Ge 12:7
Ge 13:14, 15
Ge 17:1, 7
f Ex 18:17, 18
g Ge 15:1, 5
Ex 32:13
Nu 26:51
De 10:22
h 1KI 3:8
i Ge 12:1-3
Ge 22:15, 17
Ge 26:3, 4
Ex 23:25
j Ex 18:17, 18
Nu 11:1
Nu 20:3
k Ex 18:21

ites, and Leb'a-non,^{*a} up to the great river, the river Eu-phra'tes.^b **8** See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land about which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac,^c and Jacob,^d to give it to them and their offspring* after them.^e

9 "And I told you at that time, 'I am not able to carry you by myself.'^f **10** Jehovah your God has multiplied you, and here you are today as numerous as the stars of the heavens.^g **11** May Jehovah, the God of your forefathers, multiply you^h a thousand times as many as you are, and may he bless you just as he has promised you.ⁱ **12** How can I bear by myself the burden of you and the load of you and your quarreling?^j **13** Select wise, discreet, and experienced men of your tribes, and I will appoint them as heads over you.^k **14** You answered me, 'What you have told us to do is good.'^l **15** So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and appointed them as heads over you, chiefs of thou-

1:7 *Evidently, the Lebanon mountain range. 1:8 *Lit., "seed."

sands, chiefs of hundreds, chiefs of fifties, chiefs of tens, and of officers of your tribes.^a

16 "At that time I instructed your judges, 'When you hear a case between your brothers, you are to judge with righteousness^b between a man and his brother or a foreign resident.^c **17** You must not be partial in judgment.^d You should hear the small one the same as the great one.^e You must not become intimidated by men,^f for the judgment belongs to God;^g and if a case is too difficult for you, you should present it to me, and I will hear it.'^h **18** At that time I instructed you regarding all the things that you should do.

19 "Then we departed from Ho'reb and marched through all that great and fearsome wildernessⁱ that you saw on the way to the mountainous region of the Am'or-ites,^j just as Jehovah our God had commanded us, and we eventually came to Ka'desh-bar'ne-a.^k **20** I then said to you, 'You have come to the mountainous region of the Am'or-ites, which Jehovah our God is giving to us. **21** See, Jehovah your God has given the land over to you. Go up, take possession of it, just as Jehovah, the God of your forefathers, has told you.^l Do not be afraid or terrified.'

22 "However, all of you approached me and said, 'Let us send men ahead of us to search out the land for us and bring word back to us as to what route we should take and what kind of cities we will encounter.'^m **23** The suggestion seemed good to me, so I selected 12 of your men, one for each tribe.ⁿ **24** They left and went up into the mountainous region^o and reached the Valley* of Esh'col and spied it out. **25** They took

CHAP. 1

- a Ex 18:25
b Ex 23:8
De 16:18
Joh 7:24
c Ex 22:21
Le 19:34
Le 24:22
d Le 19:15
Ro 2:11
e Ex 23:3
f Pr 29:25
g 2Ch 19:6
h Ex 18:25, 26
i Nu 10:12
De 8:14, 15
Jer 2:6
j Nu 13:29
k Nu 13:26
l Ex 23:27
De 1:8
m Nu 13:1, 2
n Nu 13:3
o Nu 13:17

Second Col.

- a Nu 13:23-27
b Nu 14:1-4
c Nu 32:9
Jos 14:7, 8
d Nu 13:28, 33
e Nu 13:22
Jos 11:21
f Nu 14:9
g Ex 14:14
Jos 10:42
h Nu 14:22
i Ps 78:22
Ps 106:24
Heb 3:16, 19
Jude 5
j Ex 13:21
Ex 40:36
Nu 10:33, 34
Ps 78:14
k Nu 14:28, 35
Nu 32:10-12
De 2:14
Ps 95:11
Heb 3:11
l Nu 14:29, 35
1Co 10:1, 5
Heb 3:17

some of the fruitage of the land and carried it back to us, and they brought word back to us, 'The land that Jehovah our God is giving us is good.'^a **26** But you refused to go up, and you rebelled against the order of Jehovah your God.^b **27** You kept grumbling in your tents and were saying, 'It was because Jehovah hated us that he brought us out of the land of Egypt to hand us over to the Am'or-ites to annihilate us. **28** What kind of place are we going to? Our brothers made us lose heart^{*c} by saying, "They are a people greater and taller than we are, and their cities are great and fortified to the heavens,^{#d} and we saw the sons of the An'a-kim^e there.'"

29 "So I said to you, 'Do not be struck with terror or be afraid because of them.^f **30** Jehovah your God will go before you and will fight for you,^g just as he did in Egypt before your very eyes.^h **31** And you saw in the wilderness how Jehovah your God carried you just as a man carries his son, everywhere you went until you came to this place.' **32** But despite all of this, you did not put faith in Jehovah your God,ⁱ **33** who was going ahead of you on the way, to spy out a place for you to camp. He appeared by fire at night and by a cloud in the daytime to show you the way you should walk.^j

34 "All the while Jehovah heard what you were saying, and he became indignant and solemnly swore,^k **35** 'Not one of these men of this evil generation will see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers,^l **36** except Ca'leb the son of Je-phun'neh. He will see it,

1:28 *Lit., "caused our heart to melt."
That is, with towering walls.

and I will give the land on which he walked to him and to his sons, because he has followed Jehovah wholeheartedly.^a **37** (Jehovah even became angry with me because of you, and he said, "You too will not go in there.^b **38** Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you,^c is the one who will enter into the land.^d Make him strong,^e for he will cause Israel to inherit it.") **39** Moreover, your children whom you said would become plunder^f and your sons who today do not know good or bad, these will enter, and I will give it to them to possess.^g **40** But as for you, turn back and depart for the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea.^h

41 "At this you said to me, 'We have sinned against Jehovah. We will now go up and fight, just as Jehovah our God has commanded us!' So each of you put on his weapons of war, and you thought it would be an easy thing to go up the mountain.ⁱ **42** But Jehovah said to me, 'Tell them: "You must not go up and fight, for I will not be with you.^j If you do, you will be defeated by your enemies."^k **43** So I spoke to you, but you did not listen. Instead, you rebelled against Jehovah's order and presumptuously tried to go up the mountain. **44** Then the Am'or-ites who were dwelling in that mountain came out to meet you and chased you away like bees do, and they scattered you in Se'ir as far as Hor'mah. **45** So you returned and began to weep before Jehovah, but Jehovah did not listen to you or pay attention to you. **46** That is why you kept dwelling in Ka'desh for as long as you did.

1:36 *Lit., "fully; completely." 1:38 *Or possibly, "God has made him strong."

CHAP. 1

- a Nu 14:24
Jos 14:9
b Nu 20:12
Nu 27:13, 14
De 3:26
Ps 106:32
c Ex 33:11
Nu 11:28
d Nu 14:38
e Nu 27:18
De 31:7
Jos 1:6, 9
f Nu 14:3
g Nu 14:30, 31
h Nu 14:25
i Nu 14:39-45
j Le 26:14, 17

Second Col.

CHAP. 2

- a Nu 14:25
b Nu 20:14
De 23:7
c Ge 27:39, 40
Ge 36:8, 9
d Ex 15:15
Ex 23:27
e De 32:8
Jos 24:4
Ac 17:26
f Nu 20:18, 19
g De 29:5
Ne 9:21
Ps 23:1
Ps 34:9, 10
h Nu 20:20, 21
i 2Ch 8:17
j Nu 21:13
Jg 11:17, 18
2Ch 20:10
k Ge 19:36, 37
l Ge 14:5
m De 3:11
1Ch 20:6

2 "Then we turned and departed for the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea, just as Jehovah had told me,^a and we traveled for many days around Mount Se'ir. **2** Finally Jehovah said to me, **3** 'You have gone around this mountain long enough. Now turn north. **4** And give this command to the people: "You will pass by the border of your brothers, the descendants of E'sau,^b who are dwelling in Se'ir,^c and they will be afraid of you,^d and you must be very careful. **5** Do not engage in hostilities with* them, for I will not give you any of their land, not even the space of a footprint, because I have given Mount Se'ir to E'sau as his possession.^e **6** You should give them money for the food you will eat, and you should pay for the water you will drink.^f **7** For Jehovah your God has blessed you in all that you have done. He is fully aware of your walking through this great wilderness. These 40 years Jehovah your God has been with you, and you have lacked nothing."^g **8** So we passed by our brothers, the descendants of E'sau,^h who are dwelling in Se'ir, keeping away from the way of the Ar'a-bah, from E'lath and from E'zi-on-ge'ber.ⁱ

"Next we turned and traveled by the way of the wilderness of Mo'ab.^j **9** Jehovah then said to me, 'Do not engage in hostilities or in war with Mo'ab, for I will not give you any of his land as a possession because I have given Ar as a possession to the descendants of Lot.^k **10** (The E'mim^l formerly lived there, a people great and numerous and tall like the An'a-kim. **11** The Reph'a-im^m were also considered like the An'a-

2:5 *Or "Do not provoke."

kim,^a and the Mo'ab-ites used to call them E'mim. **12** Previously, the Hor'ites^b were living in Se'ir, but the descendants of E'sau dispossessed and annihilated them and settled in their place,^c just as Israel will do to the land that is their possession, which Jehovah will certainly give to them.) **13** Now go and cross over the Valley* of Ze'red.^d So we crossed over the Valley* of Ze'red.^d **14** The time it took us to walk from Ka'desh-bar'ne-a until we crossed the Valley* of Ze'red was 38 years, until the entire generation of the men of war had perished from the camp, just as Jehovah had sworn to them.^e **15** Jehovah's hand was against them to eliminate them from the camp until they had perished.^f

16 "As soon as all the men of war had died off from among the people,^g **17** Jehovah spoke to me again, saying, **18** "Today you are to pass by the territory of Mo'ab, that is, Ar. **19** When you come near to the Am'mon-ites, do not harass or provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the Am'monites as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as their possession.^h **20** This too used to be considered the land of the Reph'a-im.ⁱ (The Reph'a-im formerly lived there, and the Am'mon-ites used to call them Zam-zum'mim. **21** They were a great and numerous and tall people like the An'a-kim;^j but Jehovah annihilated them before the Am'monites, and these drove them out and settled in their place. **22** That is what he did for the descendants of E'sau, who now dwell in Se'ir,^k when he annihilated the Hor'ites^l from before them, so that they could dispossess them and dwell in their place to this

2:13, 14 *Or "Wadi."

CHAP. 2

a Nu 13:22, 33

b Ge 14:6
Ge 36:20

c Ge 27:39, 40

d Nu 21:12

e Nu 14:33
Nu 32:11
De 1:35
Ps 95:11
Heb 3:18
Jude 5

f 1Co 10:1, 5

g Nu 26:63, 64

h Ge 19:36, 38
De 2:9
Jg 11:15
2Ch 20:10
Ac 17:26

i Ge 15:18-20
De 3:11

j Nu 13:33
De 9:1, 2

k Ge 36:8

l Ge 14:6
De 2:12

Second Col.

a Ge 10:19

b Ge 10:13, 14

c Nu 21:13

d Nu 21:23

e Ex 15:14
Ex 23:27
De 11:25
Jos 2:9, 10

f Jos 13:15, 18
Jos 21:8, 37

g De 20:10

h Nu 21:21, 22

i Ro 9:18

j Nu 21:25

k Nu 32:33
Ps 135:10-12

very day. **23** As for the Av'vim, they had dwelled in settlements as far as Gaz'a^a until the Caph'to-rim,^b who came out from Caph'tor,^c annihilated them and settled in their place.)

24 "Get up, and make your way across the Ar'non Valley.*^c See, I have given into your hand Si'hon^d the Am'or-ite, king of Hesh'bon. So begin taking possession of his land, and engage him in war. **25** This day I will start to put the dread and the fear of you upon all the people under the heavens who hear the report about you. They will be disturbed and will tremble* because of you.^e

26 "Then I sent messengers from the wilderness of Ked'e-moth^f to King Si'hon of Hesh'bon, with these peaceful words,^g **27** 'Let me pass through your land. I will remain on the road and not turn to the right or to the left.^h **28** I will eat only the food and drink only the water that you will sell to me. Just allow me to pass through on foot **29** —that is what the descendants of E'sau dwelling in Se'ir and the Mo'ab-ites dwelling in Ar did for me—until I pass over the Jordan into the land that Jehovah our God is giving to us.' **30** But King Si'hon of Hesh'bon did not let us pass through, because Jehovah your God allowed his spirit to become obstinateⁱ and his heart to become hard, in order to give him into your hand as is now the case.^j

31 "Then Jehovah said to me, 'See, I have already begun to give Si'hon and his land over to you. Start to take possession of his land.'^k **32** When Si'hon came out along with all his people to meet us in battle

2:23 *That is, Crete. 2:24 *Or "Wadi Arnon." 2:25 *Or "have pains like those of childbirth."

at Ja'haz,^a **33** Jehovah our God handed him over to us, so that we defeated him, his sons, and all his people. **34** We captured all his cities at that time and devoted every city to destruction, including men, women, and children. We left no survivor.^b **35** We plundered only the livestock for ourselves along with the spoils from the cities that we had captured. **36** From A-ro'er,^c which is on the rim of the Ar'non Valley* (including the city that is in the valley), as far as Gil'e-ad, no town was beyond our reach. Jehovah our God handed them all over to us.^d **37** However, you did not approach the land of the Am'mon-ites,^e the whole bank of the Valley* of Jab'bok^f and the cities of the mountainous region, or any other place forbidden by Jehovah our God.

3 "Then we turned and went up by way of Ba'shan. And Og, the king of Ba'shan, came out with all his people to meet us in battle at Ed're-i.^g **2** So Jehovah said to me, 'Do not be afraid of him, for I will give him and all his people and his land into your hand, and you will do to him just as you did to Si'hon the king of the Am'or-ites, who lived in Hesh'bon.' **3** So Jehovah our God also gave King Og of Ba'shan and all his people into our hand, and we kept striking him down until none of his people survived. **4** We then captured all his cities. There was no town that we did not take from them—60 cities, all the region of Ar'gob, the kingdom of Og in Ba'shan.^h **5** All these cities were fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, along with a great number of rural towns. **6** However, we devoted them to de-

struction,^a just as we had done to King Si'hon of Hesh'bon, in devoting every city to destruction, including men, women, and children.^b **7** And we took all the livestock and the spoil of the cities for ourselves.

8 "At that time we seized the land of the two Am'or-ite kings^c who were in the region of the Jordan, from the Ar'non Valley* as far as Mount Her'mon^d **9** (the mountain that the Si-do'nians used to call Sir'i-on and the Am'or-ites used to call Se'nir), **10** all the cities of the tableland,* all Gil'e-ad, and all Ba'shan as far as Sal'e-cah and Ed're-i,^e the cities of the kingdom that belonged to Og in Ba'shan. **11** For King Og of Ba'shan was the last remaining one of the Reph'a-im. His bier* was made of iron,^f and it is still in Rab'bah of the Am'mon-ites. It is nine cubits^g long and four cubits wide, by the standard cubit. **12** At that time we took possession of this land: from A-ro'er,^f which is by the Ar'non Valley,* and half of the mountainous region of Gil'e-ad, and I have given its cities to the Reu'ben-ites and the Gad'ites.^g **13** And the rest of Gil'e-ad and all Ba'shan of the kingdom of Og I have given to the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh.^h All the region of Ar'gob, which belongs to Ba'shan, was known as the land of the Reph'a-im.

14 "Ja'irⁱ the son of Ma-nas'seh took all the region of Ar'gob/ as far as the boundary of the Gesh'ur-ites and the Ma-ac'a-thites^k and named those villages of Bashan after himself, Hav'voth-ja'ir,^l to this day. **15** And I have given Gil'e-ad to Ma'chir.^m **16** And to the

3:10 *Or "plateau." **3:11** *Or "sarcophagus; coffin." ⁿOr possibly, "black balsalt." ^oA cubit equaled 44.5 cm (17.5 in.). See App. B14. **3:14** *Meaning "Tent Villages of Jair."

CHAP. 2

a Nu 21:23, 24
Jg 11:20

b De 20:16, 17

c De 3:12
De 4:47, 48
Jos 13:8, 9

d Ps 44:3

e De 3:16
Jg 11:15

f Nu 21:23, 24

CHAP. 3

g Nu 21:33-35

h Nu 32:33
De 29:7, 8
Jos 13:29, 30

Second Col.

a Le 27:29

b Le 18:25

c Nu 32:33

d Jos 12:1, 2

e Nu 21:33

f Nu 32:34

g Nu 32:33

h Nu 32:39
Jos 13:29-31
1Ch 5:23

i 1Ch 2:22

j De 3:4

k Jos 13:13

l Nu 32:40, 41

m Nu 32:39
Jos 17:1

Reu'ben-ites and the Gad'ites,^a I have given from Gil'e-ad to the Ar'non Valley,* with the middle of the valley as a boundary, and as far as Jab'bok, the valley that is the boundary of the Am'mon-ites, **17** and the Ar'a-bah and the Jordan and the border, from Chin'ne-reth to the Sea of the Ar'a-bah, the Salt Sea,* at the base of the slopes of Pis'gah toward the east.^b

18 "I then gave you this command: 'Jehovah your God has given you this land to take possession of it. All your valiant men will take up arms and cross over before your brothers, the Israelites.^c **19** Only your wives, your children, and your livestock (I well know that you have a great deal of livestock) will continue dwelling in the cities that I have given you, **20** until Jehovah gives your brothers rest, as he does for you, and they also have taken possession of the land that Jehovah your God will give them across the Jordan. Then you will come back, each one to his possession that I have given you.'^d

21 "At that time I gave this command to Joshua:^e 'You have seen with your own eyes what Jehovah your God has done to these two kings. Jehovah will do the same thing to all the kingdoms into which you will cross over.^f **22** You must not be afraid of them, for Jehovah your God is the one fighting for you.'^g

23 "At that time I pleaded with Jehovah, saying, **24** 'O Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you have begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty arm,^h for what god in the heavens or on the earth performs such mighty deeds as

CHAP. 3

- a Nu 32:33
Jos 22:9
b Nu 34:11, 12
c Nu 32:20-22
d Jos 1:14, 15
Jos 22:4, 8
e Nu 11:28
Nu 14:30
Nu 27:18
f Jos 10:25
g Ex 14:14
Ex 15:3
De 1:30
De 20:4
Jos 10:42
h Ex 15:16
De 11:2

Second Col.

- a Ex 15:11
2Sa 7:22
1KI 8:23
Ps 86:8
Jer 10:6, 7
b Ex 3:8
De 1:7
De 11:11, 12
c Nu 20:12
Nu 27:13, 14
De 4:21
Ps 106:32
d Nu 27:12
e De 34:1, 4
f Nu 27:18-20
De 1:38
De 31:7
g Jos 1:1, 2
h De 4:45, 46
De 34:5, 6

CHAP. 4

- i Le 18:5
j De 12:32
Pr 30:5, 6
Re 22:18, 19
k Nu 25:5, 9
Ps 106:28
Ho 9:10
1Co 10:7, 8
l Le 26:46
Nu 30:16
Nu 36:13
De 6:1
m 1KI 2:3
n Ps 111:10
o Ps 119:98,
100

you?^a **25** Please let me pass over and see the good land that is across the Jordan, this good mountainous region and Leb'anon.^b **26** But Jehovah was still furious with me because of you,^c and he would not listen to me. Rather, Jehovah said to me, 'Enough from you! Never speak to me again about this matter. **27** Go up to the top of Pis'gah,^d and look to the west and north and south and east and view the land with your eyes, for you will not cross over this Jordan.^e **28** Commission Joshua^f and encourage him and strengthen him, because he is the one who will cross over^g before this people and he is the one who will cause them to inherit the land that you will see.'^h **29** All this happened while we were dwelling in the valley in front of Beth-pe'or.^h

4 "Now, O Israel, listen to the regulations and the judicial decisions that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may liveⁱ and go in and take possession of the land that Jehovah, the God of your forefathers, is giving you. **2** You must not add to the word that I am commanding you, neither must you take away from it,^j so as to keep the commandments of Jehovah your God that I am commanding you.

3 "Your own eyes have seen what Jehovah did in the case of the Ba'al of Pe'or; Jehovah your God annihilated from your midst every man who walked after the Ba'al of Pe'or.^k **4** But you who are holding fast to Jehovah your God are all alive today. **5** See, I have taught you regulations and judicial decisions,^l just as Jehovah my God has commanded me, so that you may observe them in the land you will take possession of. **6** You must carefully follow them,^m because this will show wisdomⁿ and understanding^o on your part before

3:16 *Or "Wadi Arnon." 3:17 *That is, the Dead Sea.

practices of people who adhere to this system of things.—2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Cor. 10:20.

When endeavoring to tempt Jesus Christ, the Devil “brought him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in an instant of time; and the Devil said to him: ‘I will give you all this authority and the glory of them, because it has been delivered to me, and to whomever I wish I give it. You, therefore, if you do an act of worship before me, it will all be yours.’” (Luke 4:5-7) Revelation 13:1, 2 reveals that Satan gives ‘power, throne and great authority’ to the global political system of rulership. Daniel 10:13, 20 discloses that Satan has had demonic princes over principal kingdoms of the earth. Ephesians 6:12 refers to these as constituting ‘governments, authorities, world rulers of this darkness, wicked spirit forces in heavenly places.’

No wonder that 1 John 5:19 says: “The whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one.” But his power is only for a limited period of time and is only by the toleration of Jehovah, who is God Almighty.

How long will Satan be allowed to mislead mankind?

For evidence that we now live in the last days of Satan’s wicked system of things, see pages 95-98, under “Dates,” and the main heading “Last Days.”

The provision for relief from Satan’s wicked influence is symbolically described in this way: “I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. And he hurled him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After these things he must be let loose for a little while.” (Rev. 20:1-3) Then what? “The Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur.” (Rev. 20:10) What does that mean? Revelation 21:8 answers: “This means the second death.” He will be gone forever!

Does the ‘abyssing’ of Satan mean that he will be confined to a desolate earth with no one for him to tempt for 1,000 years?

Some persons refer to *Revelation 20:3* (quoted on page 365) to support this idea. They say that the “abyss,” or “bottomless pit” (*KJ*), represents the earth in a state of desolation. Does it? *Revelation 12:7-9, 12 (KJ)* shows that at some time before his abyssing Satan is “cast out” of heaven down to the earth, where he brings increased woe upon mankind. So, when *Revelation 20:3 (KJ)* says that Satan is “cast . . . into the bottomless pit,” he surely is not simply left where he already is—invisible but confined to the vicinity of the earth. He is removed far from there, “that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled.” Notice that *Revelation 20:3* says that, at the end of the thousand years, it is Satan, not the nations, that are loosed from the abyss. When Satan is loosed, people who formerly made up those nations will already be on hand.

Isaiah 24:1-6 and *Jeremiah 4:23-29 (KJ)* are sometimes referred to in support of this belief. These say: “Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste . . . The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word.” “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void . . . I beheld, and, lo, there was no man . . . For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate . . . Every city shall be forsaken, and not a man dwell therein.” What do these prophecies mean? They had their first fulfillment upon Jerusalem and the land of Judah. In execution of divine judgment, Jehovah permitted the Babylonians to overrun the land. Eventually it was all left desolate and waste. (See *Jeremiah 36:29*.) But God did not then depopulate the entire globe, nor will he do so now. (See pages 112-115, under “Earth,” also the main heading “Heaven.”) However, he will completely desolate both the modern counterpart of unfaithful Jerusalem, Christendom, which reproaches the name of God by its unholy conduct, and all the rest of Satan’s visible organization.

Instead of being a desolate waste, during Christ’s Thousand Year Reign, and while Satan is in the abyss, all the earth will become a paradise. (See “Paradise.”)

Sex

Definition: The characteristics of earthly creatures that serve as a means of reproduction by two interacting parents. The differences between the male and female sexes have far-reaching effects in human life. Since God himself is the Source of life and since humans are meant to reflect his qualities, the ability to transmit life by sexual relations is to be treated with great respect.

Does the Bible teach that sexual relations are sinful?

Gen. 1:28: “God blessed them [Adam and Eve] and God said to them: ‘Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth.’” (Fulfilling this divine command would require that they have sexual relations, would it not? Doing so would not be sinful but would be in harmony with God’s purpose for the populating of the earth. Some persons have thought that the ‘forbidden fruit’ in Eden was perhaps a symbolic reference to a divine restriction or even a prohibition of sexual relations on the part of Adam and Eve. But that conflicts with God’s command quoted above. It also conflicts with the fact that, although Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit in Eden, the first mention of their having sexual intercourse was after they had been expelled from there.—Gen. 2:17; 3:17, 23; 4:1.)

Gen. 9:1: “God went on to bless Noah and his sons and to say to them: ‘Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth.’” (This further blessing, together with a restatement of the divine command to procreate, was given after the global Flood in Noah’s day. God’s viewpoint toward lawful sexual relations had not changed.)

1 Cor. 7:2-5: “Because of prevalence of fornication, let each man have his own wife and each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife her due; but let the wife also do likewise to her husband. . . . Do not be depriving each other of it, except by mutual consent for an appointed time, . . . that Satan may not keep tempting

you for your lack of self-regulation.” (What is wrong is thus shown to be fornication, not proper sexual relations between husband and wife.)

Are sexual relations before marriage wrong?

1 Thess. 4:3-8: “This is what God wills . . . that you abstain from fornication; that each one of you should know how to get possession of his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in covetous sexual appetite such as also those nations have which do not know God; that no one go to the point of harming and encroach upon the rights of his brother in this matter, because Jehovah is one who exacts punishment for all these things, just as we told you beforehand and also gave you a thorough witness. For God called us, not with allowance for uncleanness, but in connection with sanctification. So, then, the man that shows disregard is disregarding, not man, but God, who puts his holy spirit in you.” (The Greek word *por-nei'a*, translated “fornication,” refers to sexual intercourse between unmarried persons, also to extramarital relations on the part of married persons.)

Eph. 5:5: “No fornicator or unclean person or greedy person—which means being an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of the Christ and of God.” (This does not mean that anyone who *in the past* was a fornicator cannot enjoy the blessings of God’s Kingdom, but he must cease that way of life in order to have God’s approval. See 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.)

Does the Bible approve of living together as husband and wife without legal marriage?

See pages 248-250, under the heading “Marriage.”

What does the Bible say about homosexuality?

Rom. 1:24-27: “God, in keeping with the desires of their hearts, gave them up to uncleanness, that their bodies might be dishonored among them . . . God gave them up to disgraceful sexual appetites, for both their females changed the natural use of themselves into one contrary to nature; and likewise even the males left the natural use of

24 *Keep Your Eyes on the Prize!*

(2 Corinthians 4:18)

1. When eyes of blind ones see again
 And ears of deaf ones hear again,
When deserts blossom as the rose
 And from parched ground fresh water flows,
When lame ones leap just like the hart,
 When loved ones never have to part,
Such blessed times you'll realize,
 If you keep your eyes on the prize.
2. When tongues of mute ones speak again,
 When old ones will be young again,
When earth will yield her rich increase
 And all good things will never cease,
When songs of children fill the air,
 When joy and peace are ev'rywhere,
Then, too, you'll see the dead arise,
 If you keep your eyes on the prize.
3. When wolves and lambs will feed as one,
 When bears and calves bask in the sun,
A mere young boy will lead them all,
 And they will heed his childish call.
When tears belong to yesterday,
 When fears and pain have passed away,
You'll see how God these things supplies,
 If you keep your eyes on the prize.

(See also Isa. 11:6-9; 35:5-7; John 11:24.)

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 6

Song 18 and Prayer

□ Congregation Bible Study:

c/ chap. 14 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 1-3 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 2:16-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Relief From Satan's Wicked Influence Is Near—rs p. 365 ¶4—p. 366 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Does the Bible Teach That Sexual Relations Are Sinful?—rs p. 367 ¶1—p. 368 ¶2 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 24

10 min: Offer the Magazines During October. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.

Song 83 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ The special public talk for the 2015 Memorial season will be given during the week of April 6. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 6.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "How Godly Wisdom Benefits Us."

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in October

"We are making brief visits on our neighbors to talk about good government. Do you think that any government has the ability to eliminate difficult problems, such as violence and injustice?" Allow for response. Remind the householder that in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught his followers to pray for such a government, God's Kingdom, to come. Show the back of the October 1 *Watchtower*, and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® October 1 ANNOUNCING JERUSALEM'S KINGDOM

"We are having brief conversations with our neighbors about these words of a familiar prayer that Jesus taught his followers. [Read Matthew 6:9, 10.] Have you ever heard a good explanation of what God's Kingdom is and why Jesus emphasized it so much in his teaching? [Allow for response.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about God's Kingdom as well as some of the marvelous benefits it will bring to the earth."

Awake!® October

"We are visiting briefly to help people find the answer to this question. [Show the cover of the magazine.] Do you think that a person must be wealthy in order to be truly successful? [Allow for response.] The Bible presents a balanced view of material possessions. [Read Luke 12:15.] According to the Bible, true success is within the grasp of anyone. This magazine explains."

Field Service Highlights

It is impressive to note the following positive trend in the number of regular pioneers during the first seven months of the 2014 service year. There were increases of 6.4 percent in the Bahamas, 7.9 percent in Bermuda, 23.8 percent in the Cayman Islands, 2.6 percent in Jamaica, 5.6 percent in Puerto Rico, 3.8 percent in the Turks & Caicos Islands, 13.8 percent in the British Virgin Islands, 4.3 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 4.6 percent in the United States. A grand total of 163,100 reported as regular pioneers in March. Are you able to join them?—Ps. 96:2.



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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2014

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 8

Song 133 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

cl chap. 12 ¶¶16-21, box on p. 127 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Numbers 22-25 (10 min.)

No. 1: Numbers 22:36–23:10 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Satan Is Not Just the Evil Within People
—*rs* p. 362 ¶¶3–p. 363 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adam—In What Way Was Adam Made in the Likeness of God?—*it-1* pp. 44-45 ¶¶6 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 94

15 min: Display Good Manners When Preaching. (2 Cor. 6:3) Discussion based on the following questions: (1) Why is it important that we display good manners while preaching? (2) How may we show good manners when (a) our group arrives in the territory? (b) we are walking from house to house in residential territory or driving from house to house in rural territory? (c) we are standing at a door? (d) our companion is giving a witness? (e) the householder is speaking? (f) the householder is busy or the weather is inclement? (g) the householder is rude?

15 min: “Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit.” Discussion. Include a soliloquy of a publisher preparing for the ministry and formulating a follow-up question to ask if the householder accepts the magazines.

Song 68 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit

Why Important: When we find someone who shows interest, we want to return when he will be home so that we can water the seed of truth that we planted. (1 Cor. 3:6) This often requires that before we leave, we lay the groundwork for the return visit by finding out when we may come back. In addition, it is good to leave a question that we will dis-

cuss the next time we visit. This will build the householder’s anticipation for the visit, and if the question is answered in the publication we left with him, he will be more likely to read it. Laying the groundwork for the next conversation also makes it easier to call back because the subject for the discussion has already been chosen, and the householder will know what to expect. When we see him again, we can explain that we returned to answer the question that we raised on the last visit and then proceed.

How to Do It:

- When preparing your house-to-house presentation, also prepare a follow-up question to be answered on the next visit. It could be based on a topic that is discussed in the literature you are offering that day, or it could be a question that is answered in one of our study publications, which you can introduce when you return.
- When concluding your conversation with a person who shows interest, let him know of your desire to talk to him again and then share the follow-up question you prepared. In some territories people are very busy and tend to be reluctant to make an appointment for you to visit them again. In those circumstances, you might say: “Is this usually a good time to find you at home? [Allow for response.] Next week, I’d like to stop by briefly and answer this question . . . If you are too busy when I come, you can just let me know.”
- If you tell the householder that you will return at a specific time, keep your appointment. (Matt. 5:37) At the conclusion of the return visit, lay the groundwork for the next one.

Try This During the Month:

- When preparing your presentation, also prepare a follow-up question to answer next time. Share it with other publishers with whom you are working.

We Need Self-Control

(Romans 7:14-25)

1. We love Jehovah with heart, mind, and soul;
But since we are sinful, we need self-control.
Minding the flesh brings trouble and strife.
Minding the spirit means peace and life.
2. Satan's temptations confront us each day,
And sin's law within us can lead us astray.
Power of truth is greater than sin.
Thanks to Jehovah, our minds can win.
3. Each word and action reflects on God's name,
So we must endeavor to keep free from blame.
In all we do, we make this our goal:
Always maintaining our self-control.