

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 24

Song 50 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 16 ¶10-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 28-31 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 30:15–31:8 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Animals Are Souls—rs p. 376 ¶5–p. 377 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adornment—Christian Counsel on Personal Adornment—it-1 p. 51 ¶8–p. 52 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 47

10 min: “Use Our Web Site in the Ministry —“Bible Questions Answered.”” Discussion. Relate some of the questions that are answered in this section of our Web site. (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.) Briefly demonstrate one of the suggestions from the article. Invite the audience to suggest other ways to use this feature in the ministry.

10 min: “I Cannot Find Him at Home Again!” Discussion. Consider why it is important to persevere when it is difficult to find a person at home again.—Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 4:14, 15; 1 Cor. 3:6.

10 min: “A New Research Tool.” Talk. Review the instructions on “How to Start Your Search,” located in the introduction of the *Research Guide*. Highlight the various features of this new tool. Include a brief soliloquy of a publisher using the *Research Guide*.

Song 69 and Prayer

Use Our Web Site in the Ministry —“Bible Questions Answered”

The “Bible Teachings” section of jw.org has a feature called “Bible Questions Answered.” If we are familiar with these frequently asked questions, we can direct inquiring householders to our Web site for Scriptural answers. These questions can also be used to start conversations in the ministry. We could pick a question that is of interest to people in our territory, ask the householder for his opinion, and then tell him what the Bible says, using the reasoning from jw.org. Afterward,

we can explain or show him where we found our information. Another option is to let him read the answer directly from the Web site. The wife of a traveling overseer has had good success by saying: “Many people wonder, ‘Is God to blame for our suffering?’ Would you like to know the answer in just 51 seconds?” She then plays the audio version of the answer that she has downloaded to her mobile device. She concludes by introducing chapter 11 of the *Bible Teach* book.

“I Cannot Find Him at Home Again!”

Have you ever said that about someone who showed interest? Even though you have repeatedly tried to visit the person, you are unable to water the seed of truth you planted. (1 Cor. 3:6) At times, experienced publishers write a letter to someone they have not been able to find at home, or they leave a note in the person’s door. Some publishers anticipate the challenge of finding the person at home again and request his phone number, perhaps by asking, “Do you text?” A return visit may be counted when we visit the person or witness to him by means of a letter, an e-mail, a text, a note left in his door, or a telephone call. Even if he is seldom at home, it is possible for us to further his interest.

A New Research Tool

Millions of publishers earth wide have made good use of the *Watch Tower Publications Index* to do research. However, because it is very detailed, it is available in only a limited number of languages. Therefore, the *Research Guide for Jehovah’s Witnesses* has been prepared in some 170 languages. The publications referenced in the *Research Guide* are primarily from the year 2000 onward. The *Research Guide* has not been printed in languages that already have the *Index* but is included in electronic format in *Watchtower Library* and *Watchtower—ONLINE LIBRARY*. The *Research Guide* will help you search for answers to Bible questions, find information regarding personal concerns, and prepare for congregation meetings and family worship.

50 *The Divine Pattern of Love* (1 John 4:19)

1. Jehovah our God has wisely provided

For us all,

One and all,

A pattern of love, that we may be guided,

Lest we should fall,

Lest we should fall.

Come follow God's way, so warm and inviting;

The way that is right, to fine works inciting;

The roadway to peace, God's people uniting.

God's way is love.

Yes, God's way is love.

2. When we walk God's way, our love for our brother

Will be true,

Warm and true;

Will make us alert to help one another

In all we do,

In all we do;

Will help us forgive each small imperfection,

Will help us to have true tender affection,

Will help us to be our Father's reflection,

Showing our love,

Our brotherly love.

3. Our love for our God impels us to serve him
All our days,
All our days.
We gladly obey with heartfelt devotion,
Singing his praise,
Singing his praise.
So may we proclaim his name to each hearer;
May they come to see the truth ever clearer.
May his service grow still dearer and dearer,
For that is love.
Yes, that is true love.

(See also Rom. 12:10; Eph. 4:3; 2 Pet. 1:7.)

¹⁰ How does our preaching the good news reflect godly justice? First of all, it is only right that we do what we can to help others gain salvation. Consider again the illustration of being rescued from a sinking ship. Safe in a lifeboat, you would surely want to help others who are still in the water. Similarly, we have an obligation toward those who are still struggling in the “waters” of this wicked world. True, many reject our message. But as long as Jehovah continues to be patient, we have the responsibility to give them the opportunity to “attain to repentance” and thus come in line for salvation.—2 Peter 3:9.

¹¹ By preaching the good news to all whom we meet, we display justice in another important way: We show impartiality. Recall that “God is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.” (Acts 10:34, 35) If we are to imitate His justice, we must not prejudice people. Instead, we should share the good news with others regardless of their race, social status, or financial standing. We thus give all who will listen an opportunity to hear and respond to the good news.—Romans 10:11-13.

How We Treat Others

¹² We can also exercise justice by treating others the way Jehovah treats us. It is all too easy to sit in judgment of others, criticizing their faults and questioning their motives. But who of us would want Jehovah to scrutinize our motives and shortcomings in a merciless manner? That is not how Jehovah deals with us. The psalmist observed: “If

10, 11. How does our having a share in preaching the good news reflect godly justice?

12, 13. (a) Why should we not be quick to sit in judgment of others? (b) What is the meaning of Jesus’ counsel to “stop judging” and “stop condemning”? (See also footnote.)

errors were what you watch, O Jah, O Jehovah, who could stand?" (Psalm 130:3) Are we not grateful that our just and merciful God chooses not to dwell on our failings? (Psalm 103:8-10) How, then, should we treat others?

¹³ If we appreciate the merciful nature of God's justice, we will not be quick to judge others in matters that really do not concern us or that are of lesser importance. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warned: "Stop judging that you may not be judged." (Matthew 7:1) According to Luke's account, Jesus added: "Stop condemning, and you will by no means be condemned."* (Luke 6:37) Jesus showed his awareness that imperfect humans have a tendency to be judgmental. Any of his listeners who were in the habit of harshly judging others were to stop it.

¹⁴ Why must we "stop judging" others? For one thing, our authority is limited. The disciple James reminds us: "One there is that is lawgiver and judge"—Jehovah. So James pointedly asks: "Who are you to be judging your neighbor?" (James 4:12; Romans 14:1-4) In addition, our sinful nature can so easily render our judgments unfair. Many attitudes and motives—including prejudice, injured pride, jealousy, and self-righteousness—can distort the way we see fellow humans. We have further limitations, and reflecting on these should restrain us from being quick to find fault with others. We cannot read hearts; nor can we know all the personal circumstances of others. Who, then, are we to impute wrong motives to fellow believers or to criticize their efforts in God's service?

* Some translations say "do not judge" and "do not condemn." Such renderings imply "do not start judging" and "do not start condemning." However, the Bible writers here use negative commands in the present (continuous) tense. So the actions described were currently going on but had to cease.

14. For what reasons must we "stop judging" others?



We display godly justice when we impartially share the good news with others

How much better it is to imitate Jehovah by looking for the good in our brothers and sisters rather than focusing on their failings!

¹⁵ What about our family members? Sadly, in today's world some of the harshest judgments are handed down in what should be a haven of peace—the home. It is not uncommon to hear about abusive husbands, wives, or parents who “sentence” their family members to a constant barrage of verbal or physical abuse. But vicious words, bitter sarcasm, and abusive treatment have no place among God's worshipers. (Ephesians 4:29, 31; 5:33; 6:4) Jesus' counsel to “stop judging” and “stop condemning” does not cease to apply when we are at home. Recall

15. What words and treatment have no place among God's worshipers, and why?

that exercising justice involves treating others the way Jehovah treats us. And our God is never harsh or cruel in dealing with us. Rather, he “is very tender in affection” toward those who love him. (James 5:11) What a marvelous example for us to imitate!

Elders Serving “for Justice Itself”

¹⁶ All of us have a responsibility to exercise justice, but elders in the Christian congregation especially have a responsibility in this regard. Notice the prophetic description of “princes,” or elders, recorded by Isaiah: “Look! A king will reign for righteousness itself; and as respects princes, they will rule as princes for justice itself.” (Isaiah 32:1) Yes, Jehovah expects elders to serve in the interests of justice. How can they do this?

¹⁷ These spiritually qualified men are well aware that justice, or righteousness, requires that the congregation be kept clean. At times, elders are obliged to judge cases of serious wrongdoing. When doing so, they remember that divine justice seeks to extend mercy if at all possible. They thus try to lead the sinner to repentance. But what if the sinner fails to manifest genuine repentance despite such efforts to help him? In perfect justice, Jehovah’s Word directs that a firm step be taken: “Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.” That means expelling him from the congregation. (1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 2 John 9-11) It saddens the elders to have to take such action, but they recognize that it is necessary in order to protect the moral and spiritual cleanness of the congregation. Even then, they hope that someday the sinner will come to his senses and return to the congregation.—Luke 15:17, 18.

16, 17. (a) What does Jehovah expect of elders? (b) What has to be done when a sinner fails to manifest genuine repentance, and why?

on the stones all the words of this Law.”^a

9 Then Moses and the Levitical priests spoke to all Israel, saying: “Keep silent and listen, O Israel. This day you have become the people of Jehovah your God.^b **10** You must listen to the voice of Jehovah your God and carry out his commandments^c and his regulations, which I am commanding you today.”

11 On that day Moses commanded the people, saying: **12** “The following tribes will stand on Mount Ger’i-zim^d to bless the people when you have crossed the Jordan: Sim’e-on, Le’vi, Judah, Is’sa-char, Joseph, and Benjamin. **13** And the following will stand on Mount E’bal^e to pronounce the curse: Reu-ben, Gad, Ash’er, Zeb’u-lun, Dan, and Naph’ta-li. **14** And the Levites will answer every man of Israel with a loud voice:^f

15 “Cursed is the man who makes a carved image^g or a metal statue,^h a thing detestable to Jehovah,ⁱ the workmanship of the hands of a craftsman,^h and who has hidden it.’ (And all the people will respond, saying, ‘Amen!’^a)

16 “Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.^j (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

17 “Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor’s boundary marker.^k (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

18 “Cursed is the one who causes a blind person to lose his way on the road.^l (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

19 “Cursed is the one who perverts the judgment^m of a foreign resident, a fatherless

27:15 *Or “molten statue.” #Or “a wood-and-metal worker.” ^Or “So be it!”

CHAP. 27

a Ex 24:12

b Ex 19:5
De 26:18c 1Ki 2:3
Mt 19:17
1Jo 5:3

d De 11:29

e Jos 8:33

f De 33:10

g Ex 20:4
De 4:15, 16
Isa 44:9h Ex 34:17
Le 19:4i De 7:25
De 29:17j Ex 20:12
De 21:18-21
Pr 20:20
Pr 30:17
Mt 15:4k De 19:14
Pr 23:10

l Le 19:14

m De 16:20
Pr 17:23
Mic 3:11

Second Col.

a Ex 22:21, 22
De 10:17, 18
Mal 3:5
Jas 1:27b Le 18:8
1Co 5:1c Ex 22:19
Le 18:23
Le 20:15d Le 18:9
Le 20:17e Le 18:17
Le 20:14f Ex 20:13
Ex 21:12
Nu 35:31

g Mt 27:3, 4

h De 28:15
Ga 3:10

CHAP. 28

i De 26:18, 19

j Le 26:3, 4
Pr 10:22
Isa 1:19

k De 11:14

l Le 26:9
Ps 127:3
Ps 128:3

child,^{*} or a widow.’^a (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

20 “Cursed is the one who lies down with his father’s wife, for he has dishonored his father.’^b (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

21 “Cursed is the one who lies down with any animal.’^c (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

22 “Cursed is the one who lies down with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.’^d (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

23 “Cursed is the one who lies down with his mother-in-law.’^e (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

24 “Cursed is the one who ambushes and kills his neighbor.’^f (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

25 “Cursed is the one who accepts a bribe to kill^{*} an innocent person.’^g (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

26 “Cursed is the one who will not uphold the words of this Law by carrying them out.’^h (And all the people will say, ‘Amen!’)

28 “And if you will without fail listen to the voice of Jehovah your God by being careful to do all his commandments that I am commanding you today, Jehovah your God will certainly put you high above all other nations of the earth.ⁱ **2** All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you,^j because you keep listening to the voice of Jehovah your God:

3 “Blessed you will be in the city, and blessed you will be in the field.^k

4 “Blessed will be your children^{*l} and the fruit of your

27:19 *Or “an orphan.” 27:20 *Lit., “uncovered the skirt of his father.” 27:25 *Or “strike down.” #Or “a soul of innocent blood.” 28:4 *Lit., “the fruit of your womb.”

ground and the offspring of your livestock, your young cattle and sheep.^a

5 "Blessed will be your basket^b and your kneading bowl.^c

6 "Blessed you will be when you come in, and blessed you will be when you go out.

7 "Jehovah will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you.^d They will attack you from one direction, but they will flee from you in seven different directions.^e

8 Jehovah will decree for you a blessing on your storehouses^f and every undertaking of yours, and he will certainly bless you in the land that Jehovah your God is giving you. 9 Jehovah will establish you as a holy people to himself,^g just as he swore to you,^h because you continue to keep the commandments of Jehovah your God and walk in his ways. 10 All the peoples of the earth will have to see that Jehovah's name has been called upon you,ⁱ and they will be afraid of you.^j

11 "Jehovah will make you overflow with many children and much livestock and fruitful ground^k in the land that Jehovah swore to your forefathers to give you.^l 12 Jehovah will open up to you his good storehouse, the heavens, to give your land rain in its season^m and to bless all that you do. You will lend to many nations, while you yourself will not need to borrow.ⁿ 13 Jehovah will make you the head, and not the tail; and you will be on top,^o and not on the bottom, if you keep obeying the commandments of Jehovah your God that I am commanding you today to observe and to do. 14 You must not deviate from all the words that I am commanding you today, to the right or to the left,^p to walk after other gods to serve them.^q

CHAP. 28

a De 7:13
b De 26:2
c Ex 23:25
d De 32:30
Jos 10:11
e De 7:23
2Ch 14:13
f Le 26:10
Pr 3:9,10
Mal 3:10
g De 7:6
h Ex 19:6
i Isa 43:10
Da 9:19
Ac 15:17
j Nu 22:3
De 11:25
Jos 5:1
k De 30:9
Ps 65:9
l Ge 15:18
m Le 26:4
De 11:14
n De 15:6
o 1Ki 4:21
p De 5:32
Jos 1:7
Isa 30:21
q Le 19:4

Second Col.

a Le 26:16, 17
Da 9:11
b 1Ki 17:1
c De 26:2
d Le 26:26
e La 2:11, 19
La 4:10
f Le 26:20, 22
g Jos 23:16
h Le 26:25
Jer 24:10
i Le 26:16
j Le 26:33
k Am 4:9
l Le 26:19
De 11:17
1Ki 17:1
m Le 26:14, 17
1Sa 4:10
n Jer 29:18
Lu 21:24

15 "But if you will not listen to the voice of Jehovah your God by taking care to do all his commandments and his statutes that I am commanding you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.^a

16 "Cursed you will be in the city, and cursed you will be in the field.^b

17 "Cursed will be your basket^c and your kneading bowl.^d

18 "Cursed will be your children^e and the fruit of your ground and your young cattle and sheep.^f

19 "Cursed you will be when you come in, and cursed you will be when you go out.

20 "Jehovah will send upon you the curse, confusion and punishment in every undertaking of yours until you have been annihilated and have quickly perished, because of your bad practices and your forsaking me.^g 21 Jehovah will cause the disease to cling to you until he has exterminated you from the land you are going to take possession of.^h 22 Jehovah will strike you with tuberculosis, burning fever,ⁱ inflammation, feverish heat, the sword,^j scorching blight, and mildew;^k and they will pursue you until you have perished. 23 The skies over your head will be copper, and the earth beneath you, iron.^l 24 Jehovah will make the rain of your land powder and dust that will come down on you from the heavens until you have been annihilated. 25 Jehovah will cause you to be defeated before your enemies.^m You will attack them from one direction, but you will flee from them in seven different directions; and you will become an object of horror to all the earth's kingdoms.ⁿ 26 And your carcasses will become food for every bird

28:18 *Lit., "the fruit of your womb."

of the sky and animal of the ground, with no one to frighten them away.^a

27 "Jehovah will strike you with the boils of Egypt, piles, eczema, and skin lesions, from which you cannot be healed. **28** Jehovah will strike you with madness and blindness^b and confusion.* **29** You will grope about at midday, just as a blind man gropes about in darkness,^c and you will not succeed in anything you do; and you will be constantly defrauded and robbed, with no one to save you.^d **30** You will become engaged to a woman, but another man will rape her. You will build a house, but you will not live in it.^e You will plant a vineyard, but you will not begin to use it.^f **31** Your bull will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat any of it. Your donkey will be stolen right in front of you, but it will not return to you. Your sheep will be given to your enemies, but you will have no savior. **32** Your sons and your daughters will be given to another people^g while you look on, and you will always long for them, but your hands will be powerless. **33** The fruitage of your ground and all that you produce will be eaten by a people whom you have not known,^h and you will always be defrauded and crushed. **34** You will be driven mad by what your eyes see.

35 "Jehovah will strike you with painful and incurable boils on your knees and legs, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head. **36** Jehovah will drive you and the king whom you set up over yourself to a nation that you and your forefathers have not known,ⁱ and there you will serve other gods, gods of wood and of stone.^j **37** And you

28:28 *Or "bewilderment of heart."

CHAP. 28

a Jer 7:33

b Ex 4:11

c Isa 59:10

d Jg 3:14

Jg 6:1-5

Ne 9:27

e Isa 5:9

La 5:2

f Am 5:11

Mic 6:15

g 2Ch 29:9

h Ne 9:37

Isa 1:7

i 2Ki 17:6

2Ki 25:7

2Ch 33:11

2Ch 36:5, 6

j Jer 16:13

Second Col.

a 1Ki 9:8

2Ch 7:20

Jer 24:9

Jer 25:9

b Isa 5:10

Hag 1:6

c Zep 1:13

d 2Ki 24:14

Jer 52:15, 30

e Pr 22:7

f Ezr 9:7

g De 28:15

De 29:27

h 2Ki 17:20

Jer 24:10

i De 11:26-28

j 1Co 10:11

k De 12:7

Ne 9:35

l 2Ch 12:8, 9

Jer 5:19

m Jer 44:27

will become an object of horror and of scorn,* and a cause for ridicule among all the peoples to whom Jehovah drives you.^a

38 "You will take much seed out into the field, but you will gather little,^b because the locust will devour it. **39** Vineyards you will plant and cultivate, but you will drink no wine and gather nothing,^c because the worm will consume it. **40** You will have olive trees in all your territory, but you will rub no oil on yourself, because your olives will drop off. **41** Sons and daughters you will bear, but they will not remain yours, because they will go off into captivity.^d **42** Swarms of insects* will overwhelm all your trees and the fruitage of your ground. **43** The foreign resident who is in your midst will keep ascending higher and higher over you, while you yourself will keep descending lower and lower. **44** He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him.^e He will become the head, while you yourself will become the tail.^f

45 "All these curses^g will certainly come upon you and pursue you and overtake you until you have been annihilated,^h because you did not listen to the voice of Jehovah your God by keeping his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you.ⁱ **46** And they will continue on you and your offspring as a permanent sign and portent,^j **47** because you did not serve Jehovah your God with rejoicing and joy of heart when you had such an abundance of everything.^k **48** Jehovah will send your enemies against you, and you will serve them^l while you are hungry^m and thirsty and poorly clothed and lacking everything. He will put

28:37 *Lit., "a proverb." 28:42 *Or "Whirring insects."

an iron yoke on your neck until he has annihilated you.

49 "Jehovah will raise up against you a distant nation,^a from the end of the earth; it will pounce like an eagle,^b a nation whose language you will not understand,^c **50** a nation fierce in appearance that will show no regard to the old or favor to the young.^d **51** They will eat the offspring of your livestock and the fruitage of your ground until you have been annihilated. They will not leave any grain, new wine or oil, young cattle or sheep for you until they have destroyed you.^e **52** They will besiege you, shutting you up inside all your cities* throughout your land until your high and fortified walls that you are trusting in fall down. Yes, they will certainly besiege you within all your cities throughout your land that Jehovah your God has given you.^f **53** Then you will have to eat your own children,* the flesh of your sons and your daughters^g whom Jehovah your God has given you, because of the severity of the siege and the distress your enemy inflicts on you.

54 "Even the most delicate and sensitive man among you will have no pity on his brother or his cherished wife or his sons who remain, **55** and he will not share with them any of the flesh of his sons that he will eat, because he has nothing else on account of the severity of the siege and the distress your enemy inflicts on your cities.^h **56** And the delicate and sensitive woman among you who would not even think of putting the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicateⁱ will show no pity to her cherished husband or her son or her daughter, **57** even toward the afterbirth that comes

28:52 *Lit., "gates." 28:53 *Lit., "the fruit of your womb."

CHAP. 28

a Jer 6:22
Hab 1:6

b Jer 4:13
Ho 8:1

c Jer 5:15

d 2Ch 36:17
Isa 47:6
Lu 19:44

e Le 26:26
Jer 15:13

f 2Ki 17:5
2Ki 25:1
Lu 19:43

g 2Ki 6:28
La 4:10
Eze 5:10

h Jer 52:6

i La 4:5

Second Col.

a Ex 24:7
De 31:26

b De 10:17
Ps 99:3

c Ex 3:15
Ex 6:3
Ex 20:2
Ps 83:18
Ps 113:3
Isa 42:8

d Le 26:21
Da 9:12

e De 10:22

f De 4:27

g Le 26:33
Ne 1:8
Lu 21:24

h De 4:27, 28

i Am 9:4

j Eze 12:19

k Le 26:16, 36

from between her legs and toward the sons she bears, for she will secretly eat them because of the severity of the siege and the distress your enemy inflicts on your cities.

58 "If you will not carefully observe all the words of this Law that are written in this book^a and you do not fear this glorious and awe-inspiring name,^b that of Jehovah^c your God, **59** Jehovah will inflict very severe plagues on you and your offspring, great and enduring plagues,^d and grievous and enduring sicknesses. **60** He will bring back upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you used to fear, and they will certainly cling to you. **61** Moreover, Jehovah will even bring upon you every sickness or plague not written in the book of this Law until you have been annihilated. **62** Although you have become as numerous as the stars of the heavens,^e very few of your number will be left,^f because you did not listen to the voice of Jehovah your God.

63 "And just as Jehovah once delighted to make you prosper and to multiply you, so Jehovah will delight to destroy you and to annihilate you; and you will be torn from the land you are about to possess.

64 "Jehovah will scatter you among all the nations, from the one end of the earth to the other end of the earth,^g and there you will have to serve gods of wood and of stone, which you and your forefathers have not known.^h **65** You will have no peace among those nationsⁱ nor a place of rest for the sole of your foot. Rather, Jehovah will give you there an anxious heart^j and failing eyes and a feeling of despair.^{*k} **66** Your life will be in great peril, and you will feel dread night and day; and you

28:65 *Or "and despair of soul."

will be uncertain of your survival. **67** In the morning you will say, 'If only it were evening!' and in the evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!' because of the dread you will feel in your heart and because of what your eyes will see. **68** And Jehovah will certainly bring you back to Egypt by ship, by the way that I told you, 'You will never see it again,' and there you will have to sell yourselves to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer."

29 These are the words of the covenant that Jehovah commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Mo'ab, in addition to the covenant that he made with them at Ho'reb.^a

2 Moses then called together all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that Jehovah did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Phar'ao and all his servants and all his land.^b **3** The great judgments* that your eyes saw, those great signs and miracles.^c **4** But Jehovah has not given you a heart to understand and eyes to see and ears to hear, down to this day.^d **5** 'While I kept guiding you for 40 years in the wilderness,^e your garments did not wear out on you and your sandals did not wear out on your feet.^f **6** You did not eat bread, and you did not drink wine or anything alcoholic, so that you would know that I am Jehovah your God.'^g **7** You eventually came to this place, and Si'hon the king of Hesh'-bon^g and Og the king of Ba'shan^h came out to meet us in battle, but we defeated them.ⁱ **8** After that we took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reu'-ben-ites, the Gad'ites, and the half tribe of the Ma-nas'sites.^j

29:3 *Or "trials."

CHAP. 29

- a Ex 24:8
- b Ex 19:4
Jos 24:5
- c De 4:34
Ne 9:10
- d Ro 11:8
- e De 1:3
De 8:2
- f De 8:4
Ne 9:21
Mt 6:31
- g Nu 21:26
- h Nu 21:33
- i Ps 135:10, 11
- j Nu 32:33
De 3:12, 13

Second Col.

- a De 4:6
De 8:18
Jos 1:7, 8
1Ki 2:3
Ps 103:17, 18
Lu 11:28
- b Ne 8:2
- c Ex 12:38
- d De 1:3
De 29:1
- e Ex 19:5
De 7:6
De 28:9
- f Ex 6:7
Ex 29:45
- g Ge 17:1, 7
Ge 22:16, 17
- h Ge 26:3
- i Ge 28:13
- j De 2:4
- k Nu 25:1, 2

- l De 11:16
Heb 3:12

- m Heb 12:15

9 Therefore, observe the words of this covenant and obey them, so that everything you do will turn out well.^a

10 "All of you are stationed today before Jehovah your God, the heads of your tribes, your elders, your officers, every man of Israel, **11** your children, your wives,^b and your foreign resident^c who is in the midst of your camp, from the one gathering your wood to the one drawing your water. **12** You are here in order to enter into the covenant of Jehovah your God and his oath, which Jehovah your God is making with you today^d **13** in order that he may establish you today as his people^e and that he may be your God,^f just as he has promised you and just as he swore to your forefathers, Abraham,^g Isaac,^h and Jacob.ⁱ

14 "Now it is not with you alone that I am making this covenant and this oath, **15** but it is with those standing here with us today before Jehovah our God and with those who are not here with us today. **16** (For you well know how we lived in the land of Egypt and how we passed through the midst of various nations on our journey.^j **17** And you used to see their detestable things and their disgusting idols^{*k} of wood and stone, silver and gold, that were among them.) **18** Beware that there may not be a man or a woman, a family or a tribe among you today whose heart turns away from Jehovah our God to go serve the gods of those nations,^l that there may not be a root among you producing poisonous fruit and wormwood.^m

19 "But if someone hears the words of this oath and boasts in his heart, saying, 'I will have

29:17 *The Hebrew term may be related to a word for "dung" and is used as an expression of contempt.

peace, though I insist on walking in the ways of my own heart,⁷ to the ruin of everything* in his path, **20** Jehovah will not be willing to forgive him.^a Instead, Jehovah's great anger will blaze against that man, and the entire curse written in this book will certainly come upon him,^b and Jehovah will indeed wipe out his name from under the heavens. **21** Jehovah will then single him out from all the tribes of Israel for calamity in accord with the entire curse of the covenant that is written in this book of the Law.

22 "When the future generation of your sons and the foreigner from a distant land see the plagues of the land, the maladies that Jehovah has brought upon it— **23** sulfur and salt and burning, so that its whole land will not be sown or sprout, nor will any vegetation spring up in it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Go-mor'rah,^c Ad'mah and Ze-boi'im,^d which Jehovah overthrew in his anger and in his wrath— **24** they and all the nations will say, 'Why did Jehovah do this to this land?'^e What caused this great, burning anger?' **25** Then they will say, 'It was because they abandoned the covenant of Jehovah,^f the God of their forefathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.^g **26** But they went and served other gods and bowed down to them, gods that they had not known and that he had not permitted them to worship.'^h **27** Then Jehovah's burning anger came against that land by bringing upon it the entire curse written in this book.ⁱ **28** Therefore, Jehovah uprooted them from their soil in his anger^j and

29:19 *Lit., "the well-watered one along with the dry one." **29:26** *Lit., "not apportioned to them."

CHAP. 29

- a Jos 24:19
b De 27:26
De 28:15
c Ge 19:24
Jude 7
d Ge 10:19
Ge 14:2
e 1Ki 9:8, 9
2Ch 7:21, 22
Jer 22:8, 9
f 1Ki 19:10
g Jer 31:32
h Jg 2:12
i Le 26:16
De 27:26
j De 28:45, 63
1Ki 14:15
2Ki 17:18
Lu 21:24

Second Col.

- a Ezr 9:7
Da 9:7
b Ro 11:33
c Ps 78:5
Ec 12:13

CHAP. 30

- d De 11:26-28
De 28:2, 15
e 1Ki 8:47
Ne 1:9
Eze 18:28
Joe 2:13
f 2Ki 17:6
2Ch 36:20
g Isa 55:7
1Jo 1:9
h De 4:29
i Jer 29:14
j La 3:22
k Ezr 1:2, 3
Ps 147:2
Jer 32:37
Eze 34:13
l De 28:64
Zep 3:20
m Ne 1:9
n Jer 32:37, 39
o De 6:5

- p Ge 12:2, 3
Jer 25:12
La 3:64
Ro 12:19

fury and great indignation and deported them to another land, where they are today.^a

29 "The things concealed belong to Jehovah our God,^b but the things revealed belong to us and to our descendants forever, so that we may carry out all the words of this Law.^c

30 "When all these words come upon you, the blessing and the curse that I have put before you,^d and you call them to mind^e in all the nations where Jehovah your God has dispersed you,^f **2** and you return to Jehovah your God^g and listen to his voice according to all that I am commanding you today, you and your sons, with all your heart and all your soul,^h

3 Jehovah your God will then bring back your captivesⁱ and show you mercy^j and regather you from all the peoples where Jehovah your God has scattered you.^k **4** Even if your people are dispersed to the extremity of the heavens, from there Jehovah your God will gather you and bring you back.^l **5** Jehovah your God will bring you into the land your fathers took possession of, and you will possess it; and he will make you prosper and will multiply you more than your fathers.^m **6** Jehovah your God will cleanseⁿ your heart and the heart of your offspring,ⁿ so that you will love Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul* and you may live.^o **7** Then Jehovah your God will bring all these curses upon your enemies, who hated and persecuted you.^p

8 "You will then return and listen to the voice of Jehovah and observe all his commandments that I am commanding you today. **9** Jehovah your God

30:1 *Lit., "and you bring them back to your heart." **30:2, 6** *See Glossary. **30:6** #Lit., "circumcise."

will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hands,^a multiplying your children and your livestock, and the produce of your ground, for Jehovah will again delight to make you prosper, just as he delighted in your forefathers.^b **10** For then you will listen to the voice of Jehovah your God and keep his commandments and statutes written in this book of the Law, and you will return to Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul.*^c

11 "Now this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it beyond your reach.*^d **12** It is not in the heavens, so that you have to say, 'Who will ascend to the heavens and get it for us, so that we may hear it and observe it?'^e **13** Nor is it on the other side of the sea, so that you have to say, 'Who will cross over to the other side of the sea and get it for us, so that we may hear it and observe it?' **14** For the word is very near you, in your own mouth and in your own heart,^f so that you may do it.^g

15 "See, I do put before you today life and good, and death and bad.^h **16** If you listen to the commandments of Jehovah your God that I am commanding you today, by loving Jehovah your God,ⁱ by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his judicial decisions, then you will live^j and multiply, and Jehovah your God will bless you in the land you are going to possess.^k

17 "But if your heart turns away^l and you do not listen and you are enticed and bow down to other gods and serve them,^m **18** I tell you today that you will certainly perish.ⁿ You will not

30:10 *See Glossary. 30:11 *Lit., "nor is it far away."

CHAP. 30

- a Isa 65:21, 22
Mal 3:10
b Jer 32:37, 41
c Ne 1:9
Ac 3:19
d Isa 45:19
e Ro 10:6
f Ro 10:8
g Mt 7:21
Jas 1:25
h De 11:26
i De 6:5
j Le 18:5
k Le 25:18
De 30:5
l De 29:18
Heb 3:12
m De 4:19
n De 8:19
Jos 23:15
1Sa 12:25

Second Col.

- a De 11:26
De 27:26
De 28:2, 15
b De 32:47
c Jos 24:15
d De 10:12
e De 4:4
f Ge 12:7
Ge 15:18

CHAP. 31

- g Ex 7:7
De 34:7
Ac 7:23
h Nu 20:12
De 3:27
i De 9:3
j Nu 27:18
De 3:28
Jos 1:2
k Nu 21:23, 24
l Nu 21:33, 35
m Ex 23:23
n Nu 33:52
De 7:2, 24
De 20:16
o Jos 1:6
Ps 27:14
Ps 118:6
p Nu 14:9
De 7:18
q De 4:31
Jos 1:5
Heb 13:5
r Jos 10:25

live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

19 I take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you today that I have put life and death before you, the blessing and the curse;^a and you must choose life so that you may live,^b you and your descendants,^c **20** by loving Jehovah your God,^d by listening to his voice, and by sticking to him,^e for he is your life and by him you will endure a long time in the land that Jehovah swore to give to your forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."^f

31 Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel, **2** saying to them: "I am 120 years old today.^g I can no longer lead you,^h for Jehovah has said to me, 'You will not cross this Jordan.'^h **3** Jehovah your God is the one crossing before you, and he himself will annihilate these nations before you, and you will drive them away.ⁱ Joshua is the one who will lead you across,^j just as Jehovah has spoken. **4** Jehovah will do to them just as he did to Si'hon^k and to Og,^l the kings of the Amorites, and to their land when he annihilated them.^m **5** Jehovah will defeat them for you, and you are to do to them according to the whole commandment that I have given you.ⁿ **6** Be courageous and strong.^o Do not be afraid or struck with terror before them,^p for Jehovah your God is the one marching with you. He will neither desert you nor abandon you."^q

7 Moses then called Joshua and said to him before the eyes of all Israel: "Be courageous and strong,^r for you are the one who will bring this people into the land that Jehovah swore to their forefathers to give to them, and

31:2 *Lit., "go out and come in."

you will give it to them as an inheritance.^a **8** Jehovah is the one marching before you, and he will continue with you.^b He will neither desert you nor abandon you. Do not be afraid or be terrified.”^c

9 Then Moses wrote this Law^d and gave it to the priests, the Levites, who carry the ark of Jehovah’s covenant, and to all the elders of Israel. **10** Moses commanded them, saying: “At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of the release,^e during the Festival of Booths,^f **11** when all Israel appears before the presence of Jehovah^g your God in the place that he chooses, you should read this Law for all Israel to hear it.^h **12** Gather the people together,ⁱ the men, the women, the children,^{*} and your foreign resident who is within your cities,[†] in order that they may listen and learn about and fear Jehovah your God and take care to carry out all the words of this Law. **13** Then their sons who have not known this Law will listen/^j and learn to fear Jehovah your God all the days that you live in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”^k

14 Jehovah then said to Moses: “Look! The time has drawn near for you to die.^l Call Joshua, and present yourselves* at the tent of meeting, so that I may commission him.”^m So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves at the tent of meeting. **15** Then Jehovah appeared at the tent in the pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood by the entrance of the tent.ⁿ

16 Jehovah now said to Moses: “Look! You are about to

CHAP. 31

a De 1:38
b Ex 33:14
c Jos 1:9
d Ex 34:27
e De 15:1
f Le 23:34
g De 16:16
h Ne 8:7
i De 4:10
Heb 10:25
j De 6:6, 7
Eph 6:4
k De 30:16
l Nu 27:13
m De 3:28
n Ex 33:9
Ex 40:38

Second Col.

a Jg 2:17
Ps 106:37-39
b 1Ki 11:33
c Jg 2:12, 20
d De 29:20
e 1Ch 28:9
2Ch 15:2
2Ch 24:20
f De 32:20
Ps 104:29
Eze 39:23
g Ne 9:27
h Jg 6:13
i Isa 59:2
j De 31:30
De 32:44
k De 4:9
De 11:19
l De 31:21
m Ge 15:18
n Ex 3:8
Nu 13:26, 27
o Ne 9:25
p Ex 24:7
De 8:12-14
De 29:1
Ne 9:26
q De 28:59
r Ex 16:4
s Nu 27:18
De 31:14

die,^{*} and this people will begin to commit spiritual prostitution with the foreign gods that are around them in the land to which they are going.^a They will forsake me^b and break my covenant that I have made with them.^c **17** At that time my anger will blaze against them,^d and I will forsake them^e and hide my face from them^f until they are devoured. Then after many calamities and distresses have come upon them,^g they will say, ‘Is it not because our God is not in our midst that these calamities have come upon us?’^h **18** But I will keep my face hidden in that day because of all the wickedness that they have done in turning to other gods.ⁱ

19 “Now write down this song for yourselves/^j and teach it to the Israelites.^k Have them learn it* in order that this song may serve as my witness against the people of Israel.^l **20** When I bring them to the land that I have sworn about to their forefathers^m—one flowing with milk and honeyⁿ—and they eat their fill and prosper,^o they will turn to other gods and serve them and treat me with disrespect and break my covenant.^p **21** When many calamities and distresses come upon them,^q this song will serve as a witness to them (for their descendants should not forget it), for I already know the inclination that they have developed^r even before I bring them into the land about which I have sworn.”

22 So Moses wrote down this song in that day and taught it to the Israelites.

23 He^{*} then commissioned Joshua^s the son of Nun and said:

31:16 *Lit., “lie down with your fathers.”
31:19 *Lit., “Place it in their mouths.”
31:20 *Lit., “grow fat.” **31:23** *Evidently God.

31:10 *Or “Temporary Shelters.” **31:12** *Lit., “little ones.” [†]Lit., “gates.”
31:14 *Or “take your places.”

"Be courageous and strong,^a for you are the one who will bring the Israelites into the land about which I have sworn to them,^b and I will continue with you."

24 As soon as Moses had completed writing the words of this Law in a book in their entirety,^c **25** Moses commanded the Levites who carry the ark of Jehovah's covenant, saying: **26** "Take this book of the Law^d and place it at the side of the ark^e of the covenant of Jehovah your God, and it will serve as a witness there against you. **27** For I myself well know your rebelliousness^f and your stubbornness.^g **28** If you have been so rebellious against Jehovah while I am still alive with you, then how much more so will you be after my death! **29** Gather together to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, and let me speak these words in their hearing, and let me take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against them.^h **30** For I well know that after my death you will surely act wickedlyⁱ and turn aside from the way about which I have commanded you. And calamity will certainly befall you^j at the close of the days, because you will do what is bad in the eyes of Jehovah and you will offend him by the works of your hands."

30 Then in the hearing of the entire congregation of Israel, Moses recited the words of this song from beginning to end:^k

32 "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak,
And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
2 My instruction will fall as the rain;
My words will trickle as the dew,
As gentle rains upon grass

CHAP. 31

- a Jos 1:6,9
b De 1:38
De 3:28
c Ex 34:27
d De 17:18
2Ch 34:14
e 1Ki 8:9
f De 9:24
Ne 9:26
g Ex 32:9
Ps 78:8
h De 30:19
i Jg 2:19
j De 28:15
k De 32:44

Second Col.

CHAP. 32

- a Joh 17:26
b 1Ch 29:11
Ps 145:3
c 2Sa 22:31
Ps 18:2
Ps 19:7
Jas 1:17
d Ps 33:5
e De 7:9
1Pe 4:19
f De 25:16
g Ge 18:25
h De 31:27
Jg 2:19
Ps 14:1
i Isa 1:4
j Ps 78:8
Lu 9:41
k Isa 1:2
l Jer 4:22
m Ex 4:22
De 32:18
Isa 63:16
n Ex 13:14
Ps 44:1
o Ge 10:5
Ps 115:16
p Ge 11:9
q De 2:5, 19
Ac 17:26
r Ge 15:18
Ex 23:31
s Ex 19:5
De 7:6
t Ps 78:71
u De 8:14, 15
v Jer 2:6
w Ne 9:19, 20

And as copious showers upon vegetation.

- 3** For I will declare the name of Jehovah.^a
Tell about the greatness of our God!^b
4 The Rock, perfect is his activity,^c
For all his ways are justice.^d
A God of faithfulness^e who is never unjust;^f
Righteous and upright is he.^g
5 They are the ones who have acted corruptly.^h
They are not his children, the defect is their own.ⁱ
They are a crooked and twisted generation!^j
6 Is this the way that you should treat Jehovah,^k
O foolish and unwise people?^l
Is he not your Father who caused your existence,^m
The One who made you and firmly established you?
7 Remember the days of old;
Consider the years of past generations.
Ask your father, and he can tell you;ⁿ
Your elders, and they will inform you.
8 When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,^o
When he divided the sons of Adam^p from one another,^p
He fixed the boundary of the peoples^q
With regard for the number of the sons of Israel.^r
9 For Jehovah's people are his portion;^s
Jacob is his inheritance.^t
10 He found him in a wilderness land^u
And in an empty, howling desert.^v
He protectively encircled him, took care of him,^w

31:27 *Lit., "stiff neck."

32:8 *Or possibly, "the human race."

1 Cor. 15:45: “It is even so written: ‘The first man Adam became a living soul.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.” (So the Christian Greek Scriptures agree with the Hebrew Scriptures as to what the soul is.) (The Greek word here translated “soul” is the accusative case of *psy·khe'*. *KJ, AS, Dy, JB, NAB,* and *Kx* also read “soul.” *RS, NE,* and *TEV* say “being.”)

1 Pet. 3:20: “In Noah’s days . . . a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water.” (The Greek word here translated “souls” is *psy·khai'*, the plural form of *psy·khe'*. *KJ, AS, Dy,* and *Kx* also read “souls.” *JB* and *TEV* say “people”; *RS, NE,* and *NAB* use “persons.”)

Gen. 9:5: “Besides that, your blood of your souls [or, “lives”; Hebrew, from *ne'phesh*] shall I ask back.” (Here the soul is said to have blood.)

Josh. 11:11: “They went striking every soul [Hebrew, *ne'phesh*] that was in it with the edge of the sword.” (The soul is here shown to be something that can be touched by the sword, so these souls could not have been spirits.)

Where does the Bible say that animals are souls?

Gen. 1:20, 21, 24, 25: “God went on to say: ‘Let the waters swarm forth a swarm of living souls* . . .’ And God proceeded to create the great sea monsters and every living soul that moves about, which the waters swarmed forth according to their kinds, and every winged flying creature according to its kind. . . . And God went on to say: ‘Let the earth put forth living souls according to their kinds . . .’ And God proceeded to make the wild beast of the earth according to its kind and the domestic animal according to its kind and every moving animal of the ground according to its kind.” (*In Hebrew the word here is *ne'phesh*. *Ro* reads “soul.” Some translations use the rendering “creature[s].”)

Lev. 24:17, 18: “In case a man strikes any soul [Hebrew, *ne'phesh*] of mankind fatally, he should be put to death without fail. And the fatal striker of the soul [Hebrew, *ne'phesh*] of a domestic animal should make compensation for it, soul for soul.” (Notice that the same Hebrew word for soul is applied to both mankind and animals.)

Rev. 16:3: “It became blood as of a dead man, and every living

soul* died, yes, the things in the sea.” (Thus the Christian Greek Scriptures also show animals to be souls.) (*In Greek the word here is *psy-khe'*. *KJ, AS, and Dy* render it “soul.” Some translators use the term “creature” or “thing.”)

Do other scholars who are not Jehovah’s Witnesses acknowledge that this is what the Bible says the soul is?

“There is no dichotomy [division] of body and soul in the O[ld] T[estament]. The Israelite saw things concretely, in their totality, and thus he considered men as persons and not as composites. The term *nepeš* [*ne'phesh*], though translated by our word soul, never means soul as distinct from the body or the individual person. . . . The term [*psy-khe'*] is the N[ew] T[estament] word corresponding with *nepeš*. It can mean the principle of life, life itself, or the living being.”—*New Catholic Encyclopedia* (1967), Vol. XIII, pp. 449, 450.

“The Hebrew term for ‘soul’ (*nefesh*, that which breathes) was used by Moses . . . , signifying an ‘animated being’ and applicable equally to nonhuman beings. . . . New Testament usage of *psychē* (‘soul’) was comparable to *nefesh*.”—*The New Encyclopædia Britannica* (1976), Macropædia, Vol. 15, p. 152.

“The belief that the soul continues its existence after the dissolution of the body is a matter of philosophical or theological speculation rather than of simple faith, and is accordingly nowhere expressly taught in Holy Scripture.”—*The Jewish Encyclopedia* (1910), Vol. VI, p. 564.

Can the human soul die?

Ezek. 18:4: “Look! All the souls—to me they belong. As the soul of the father so likewise the soul of the son—to me they belong. The soul* that is sinning—it itself will die.” (*Hebrew reads “the *ne'phesh*.” *KJ, AS, RS, NE, and Dy* render it “the soul.” Some translations say “the man” or “the person.”)

Matt. 10:28: “Do not become fearful of those who kill the body

levirate marriage doubtless eliminated to a great extent a basic reason for adoption of children: the continuance of the parental name.—De 25:5, 6.

A Christian Significance. In the Christian Greek Scriptures adoption is mentioned several times by the apostle Paul with regard to the new status of those called and chosen by God. Such ones, born as descendants of the imperfect Adam, were in slavery to sin and did not possess inherent sonship of God. Through purchase by means of Christ Jesus, they receive the adoption as sons and also become heirs with Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. (Ga 4:1-7; Ro 8:14-17) They do not come by such sonship naturally but by God's choice and according to his will. (Eph 1:5) While acknowledged as God's children, or sons, from the time of God's begetting them by his spirit (1Jo 3:1; Joh 1:12, 13), their full realization of this privilege as spirit sons of God is dependent on their ultimate faithfulness. (Ro 8:17; Re 21:7) Thus, Paul speaks of them as "earnestly waiting for adoption as sons, the release from our bodies by ransom."—Ro 8:23.

Such adopted state brings benefits of freedom from "a spirit of slavery causing fear," replacing it with the confidence of sons; of hope-of a heavenly inheritance assured by the witness of God's spirit. At the same time these spiritual sons are reminded by their adoption that such position is by God's undeserved kindness and selection rather than by their inherent right.—Ro 8:15, 16; Ga 4:5-7.

At Romans 9:4 Paul speaks of the fleshly Israelites as those "to whom belong the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law," and this evidently refers to the unique position granted Israel while they were God's covenant people. Thus, God, on occasion, spoke of Israel as "my son." (Ex 4:22, 23; De 14:1, 2; Isa 43:6; Jer 31:9; Ho 1:10; 11:1; compare Joh 8:41.) Actual sonship, however, awaited the ransom provision made through Christ Jesus and was dependent on acceptance of that divine arrangement and faith in it.—Joh 1:12, 13; Ga 4:4, 5; 2Co 6:16-18.

ADORAIM (Ad-o-ra'im). One of the cities of Judah rebuilt and fortified by King Rehoboam in the tenth century B.C.E. (2Ch 11:9) It is identified with the modern village of Dura, located on a hillside about 8 km (5 mi) W of Hebron.

ADORAM. See ADONIRAM.

ADORNMENT. That which is put on to decorate, beautify, embellish, add luster to, and make the person himself, or that which he represents, pleasing or attractive. It may be for a good or for

a deceptive purpose. The Hebrew word for "adornment" is *hadharah'*, evidently from the root *hadhar'*, meaning "honor." (1Ch 16:29; La 5:12) At 1 Peter 3:3 "adornment" translates the Greek word *kosmos*, elsewhere rendered "world." The related verb *kosme'o* is translated "adorn."—Tit 2:10.

The Scriptures do not condemn physical adornment if it is properly done, and they highly recommend spiritual adornment. Jehovah himself is described as clothed in light and surrounded by beauty. (Ps 104:1, 2; Eze 1:1, 4-28; Re 4:2, 3) He has richly ornamented his creation with color, variety, and majestic magnificence.—Lu 12:27, 28; Ps 139:14; 1Co 15:41.

In Bible times the bridegroom and the bride adorned themselves for the marriage feast. In preparation the bride decked herself with the finest clothing and the best of the ornamental things that she possessed to present herself before the bridegroom. (Ps 45:13, 14; Isa 61:10) Jehovah speaks to Jerusalem, figuratively describing her as a girl whom he decked with fine, costly clothing and jewelry but who used her beauty and adornment unfaithfully as a prostitute. (Eze 16:10-19) Jehovah's prophet Hosea condemned Israel for adorning herself for the wrong purpose of attracting passionate lovers and engaging in false worship. (Ho 2:13) Through his prophets Jehovah foretold a restoration of Israel when she would come out of Babylonian exile and again adorn herself to express her joy and exultation.—Isa 52:1; Jer 31:4.

The temple in Jerusalem and Solomon's governmental buildings were beautifully adorned, to the delight of the queen of Sheba. (1Ki chaps 6, 7, 10) The temple rebuilt by Herod was a magnificent edifice adorned with fine stones and dedicated things. But Jesus showed that these material adornments would be of no avail when God's judgment came upon Jerusalem for her unfaithfulness.—Lu 21:5, 6.

The Proverbs show that if a great number of people choose to live under and delight in the rule of a king, this is one measure of his success. It is an adornment to him, recommending and adding luster to him as a ruler. (Pr 14:28) Jehovah is such a ruler by his Messianic Kingdom.—Ps 22:27-31; Php 2:10, 11.

Christian Counsel on Personal Adornment. Jesus and his apostles counseled constantly against putting trust in physical things and putting on a false show by means of material adornment. The apostle Paul said that Christian women should "adorn themselves in well-arranged dress, with modesty and soundness of mind, not with

styles of hair braiding and gold or pearls or very expensive garb." (1Ti 2:9) During the days of the apostles it was a custom among women in that world of Greek culture to go in for elaborate coiffures and other adornment. How appropriate, therefore, is Peter's counsel to women in the Christian congregation not to put emphasis on 'the external braiding of the hair and the putting on of gold ornaments or the wearing of outer garments' but to let their adornment be, as with the faithful women of old, "the secret person of the heart in the incorruptible apparel of the quiet and mild spirit"—1Pe 3:3-5.

The apostle Paul points out that the Christian can, by fine works of incorruptibleness in his teaching, seriousness, wholesome speech, and right conduct in all his ways of life, adorn the teachings of God, making them attractive to others. (Tit 2:10) In this spiritual way, the Christian congregation, the bride of Christ, eventually appears in her full beauty to her husband Jesus Christ. She is similarly described at Revelation 21:2 as "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Her spiritual beauty is a direct contrast to the adornment of Babylon the Great, spoken of as adorned with material things, the wage of her prostitution.—Re 18:16; see COSMETICS; DRESS; JEWELS AND PRECIOUS STONES; ORNAMENTS.

ADRAMMELECH (A-dram'me-lech).

1. A son of King Sennacherib of Assyria. Adrammelech and his brother Sharezer killed their father while he was bowing down at the house of his god Nisroch at Nineveh. They then escaped to the land of Ararat, apparently in the location of ancient Armenia in the mountainous region to the W of what is now known as the Caspian Sea. (2Ki 19:35-37; Isa 37:36-38) An inscription of Esar-haddon, another son of Sennacherib, relates that as his father's successor he engaged and defeated the armies of his father's murderers at Hanigalbat in that region.

2. A god worshiped by the Sepharvites, one of the subjugated peoples the king of Assyria brought into the territory of Samaria after his taking the Israelites of the ten-tribe kingdom into exile. It was to Adrammelech and Anammelech that the Sepharvites sacrificed their sons in the fire.—2Ki 17:22-24, 31, 33.

ADRAMYTTIUM (Ad-ra-myt'ti-um). A seaport city on the Aegean Sea, located in Mysia at the NW corner of Asia Minor, N of Pergamum. In modern Turkey the inland town of Edremit (E of the harbor) preserves the earlier name.

Adramyttium was part of the province of Asia under Roman rule and was evidently at one time a maritime commercial center of some importance, since it lay on the Roman road that passed through Pergamum and Ephesus to the S and Assos, Troas, and the Hellespont to the W and N. It is likely that Paul passed through Adramyttium on his third missionary tour. The only direct Bible reference to the place, however, is at Acts 27:2. At Caesarea, Paul, as a prisoner in the custody of the Roman officer Julius, boarded a ship from Adramyttium that was sailing to points along the coast of Asia Minor. Paul's party left the ship at Myra in Lycia, transferring to a grain boat from Alexandria that was sailing for Italy.—Ac 27:3-6.

ADRIA (A'dria). At Acts 27:27 reference is made to "the sea of Adria," in which Paul spent 14 turbulent days before being shipwrecked on the island of Malta. Strabo says this name is derived from the city of Atria, located at the mouth of the Po River on what is now called the Gulf of Venice. (*Geography*, 5, I, 8) The present Italian city of Adria lies somewhat back from the coast. It appears that the name Adria came to apply to the waters in that vicinity and was progressively extended to include all the present Adriatic Sea, the Ionian Sea, and those waters of the Mediterranean E of Sicily (and Malta) and W of Crete. So the name covered some waters that today are considered as outside the Adriatic Sea; but in Paul's day the island of Malta could properly be said to be bounded by "the sea of Adria."

ADRIEL (A'driel). The son of Barzillai, from the city of Abel-meholah.

Adriel was given Saul's oldest daughter Merab as wife, though she had previously been promised to David. (1Sa 18:17-19) All of Adriel's five sons were later surrendered for execution to help atone for Saul's attempted annihilation of the Gibeonites. (2Sa 21:8, 9) In this account Michal rather than Merab is spoken of as the mother of Adriel's five sons. Since Michal died childless (2Sa 6:23) and is nowhere spoken of as having been the wife of Adriel, some translators view the appearance of Michal's name as a scribal error. Nearly all Hebrew manuscripts, however, use Michal's name, and the traditional explanation is that Merab, Michal's older sister, died early after having borne five sons to Adriel and that Michal thereafter undertook the bringing up of her sister's five boys, thus resulting in their being spoken of as her sons. Isaac Leeser's translation reads at 2 Samuel 21:8: "And the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she had brought up for Adriel."

Declare the Good News

(Revelation 14:6, 7)

1. The fullness of the Kingdom truth
was long concealed.

The truth about the promised Seed is now revealed.
Jehovah in his mercy and his love of right

Considered man's condition in his sinful plight.

He formed his purpose that his Son
should rule the earth;

In God's due time the Kingdom rule would be
brought to birth.

And that he might arrange to bring his Son a bride,
A little flock of chosen ones is glorified.

2. The good news that we now declare
was long foreknown.

Jehovah wills that in this time it shall be shown.
Along with us, his angels take delight to share,

To aid us as the Kingdom truth we now declare.

We have the duty and the honor in these days

To sanctify his name and give him his rightful
praise.

We're honored as his Witnesses that name to bear
With everlasting good news that we now declare.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 24

Song 50 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 16 ¶10-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 28-31 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 30:15–31:8 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Animals Are Souls—rs p. 376 ¶5–p. 377 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adornment—Christian Counsel on Personal Adornment—it-1 p. 51 ¶8–p. 52 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 47

10 min: “Use Our Web Site in the Ministry —“Bible Questions Answered.” Discussion. Relate some of the questions that are answered in this section of our Web site. (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.) Briefly demonstrate one of the suggestions from the article. Invite the audience to suggest other ways to use this feature in the ministry.

10 min: “I Cannot Find Him at Home Again!” Discussion. Consider why it is important to persevere when it is difficult to find a person at home again.—Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 4:14, 15; 1 Cor. 3:6.

10 min: “A New Research Tool.” Talk. Review the instructions on “How to Start Your Search,” located in the introduction of the *Research Guide*. Highlight the various features of this new tool. Include a brief soliloquy of a publisher using the *Research Guide*.

Song 69 and Prayer

Use Our Web Site in the Ministry —“Bible Questions Answered”

The “Bible Teachings” section of jw.org has a feature called “Bible Questions Answered.” If we are familiar with these frequently asked questions, we can direct inquiring householders to our Web site for Scriptural answers. These questions can also be used to start conversations in the ministry. We could pick a question that is of interest to people in our territory, ask the householder for his opinion, and then tell him what the Bible says, using the reasoning from jw.org. Afterward,

we can explain or show him where we found our information. Another option is to let him read the answer directly from the Web site. The wife of a traveling overseer has had good success by saying: “Many people wonder, ‘Is God to blame for our suffering?’ Would you like to know the answer in just 51 seconds?” She then plays the audio version of the answer that she has downloaded to her mobile device. She concludes by introducing chapter 11 of the *Bible Teach* book.

“I Cannot Find Him at Home Again!”

Have you ever said that about someone who showed interest? Even though you have repeatedly tried to visit the person, you are unable to water the seed of truth you planted. (1 Cor. 3:6) At times, experienced publishers write a letter to someone they have not been able to find at home, or they leave a note in the person’s door. Some publishers anticipate the challenge of finding the person at home again and request his phone number, perhaps by asking, “Do you text?” A return visit may be counted when we visit the person or witness to him by means of a letter, an e-mail, a text, a note left in his door, or a telephone call. Even if he is seldom at home, it is possible for us to further his interest.

A New Research Tool

Millions of publishers earth wide have made good use of the *Watch Tower Publications Index* to do research. However, because it is very detailed, it is available in only a limited number of languages. Therefore, the *Research Guide for Jehovah’s Witnesses* has been prepared in some 170 languages. The publications referenced in the *Research Guide* are primarily from the year 2000 onward. The *Research Guide* has not been printed in languages that already have the *Index* but is included in electronic format in *Watchtower Library* and *Watchtower—ONLINE LIBRARY*. The *Research Guide* will help you search for answers to Bible questions, find information regarding personal concerns, and prepare for congregation meetings and family worship.

Make Me Know Your Ways

(Psalm 25:4)

1. We're gathered together Jehovah, our God,
Accepting your warm invitation.
Your Word is a lamp that lights up our roadway,
The source of divine education.

(CHORUS)

*Teach me your ways, and make me understand;
Incline my ear to hear your wise command.
Cause me to walk in ways of truth and right,
And make your law my principal delight.*

2. Unreachably high is your wisdom, O God;
Your judgments we find reassuring.
Your Word is a source of unending wonder;
Your sayings of truth are enduring.

(Chorus)