

- Song 63 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Praying for Others Pleases Jehovah”:** (10 min.)  
Job 42:7, 8—Jehovah expected Job to pray for Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar (w13 6/15 21 ¶17; w98 5/1 30 ¶3-6)  
Job 42:10—Jehovah restored Job’s health after he prayed for them (w98 5/1 31 ¶3)  
Job 42:10-17—Jehovah greatly blessed Job for his faith and endurance (w94 11/15 20 ¶19-20)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Job 38:4-7—Who are “the morning stars,” and what do we know about them? (bh 97 ¶3)

Job 42:3-5—What can we do to see God as Job did? (w15 10/15 8 ¶16-17)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Job 41:1-26

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.)  
Discussion. Play each sample presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. Briefly refer to “Ways to Use *JW Library*” when discussing the use of a mobile device. Remind the audience to report each month the number of times they showed a video in the ministry. Encourage publishers to build their own presentation.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 60
- **“Are You Using *JW Library*?”:** (15 min.) Begin with a five-minute discussion of the article. Then play and briefly discuss the video *Start Using “JW Library.”* Afterward, do the same with the videos *Download and Manage Publications* and *Customize the Reading Experience*. Encourage all who can to install the *JW Library* app and download publications to their mobile device before the part “Ways to Use *JW Library*” is discussed during the week of May 16.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *ia* chap. 14 ¶14-22, review on p. 124
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 77 and Prayer

**Are You Using *JW Library*?**

*JW Library* is a free app (software application) that will allow you to download the Bible and other publications, videos, and audio programs to your phone, tablet, or computer.



**HOW TO GET IT:** Go online, and install *JW Library* from an app store. The app is available for various devices. While online, open the app and choose the items you wish to download to your device. If you cannot get online at home, perhaps you can do so at the Kingdom Hall, a public library, or a nearby coffee shop. Once publications are downloaded to your device, you do not need to connect to the Internet to access them. Because new features are regularly added to *JW Library*, you should go online from time to time and install app updates when they are available.

**WHY GET IT?** *JW Library* makes it very convenient to do personal study and follow along during congregation meetings. It is also useful for the ministry, especially when witnessing informally.

# Ever Loyal

(Psalm 18:25)

Bb7sus4 Bb7 Eb Fm11 Bb7/F Eb/G Ab Eb/Bb Gm Gm7 Ab

Ev - er loy - al to Je - ho - vah, Loy - al love we wish to show.  
 Ev - er loy - al to our broth - ers, Stick - ing close in times of need.  
 Ev - er loy - al to their guid - ance When our broth - ers take the lead.

C7sus4 C7 Fm Gm11 C7/G Fm/Ab Bb/C C7 Fm Ab/Eb Dm11

As a peo - ple, ded - i - cat - ed, His com - mands we want to know.  
 Ev - er car - ing, al - ways trust - ing, Ev - er kind in word and deed.  
 When they give us clear di - rec - tion, May our mind and heart give heed.

G7 Cm Ab Eb/G G7 Cm Eb/F F9 Bb

His ad - vice will nev - er fail us, And his coun - sel we o - bey.  
 We show hon - or to our broth - ers, And re - spect them from the heart.  
 Then the bless - ing from Je - ho - vah Will be ours to make us strong.

Bb/Ab Eb/G Fm7 Bb Bb/Ab Eb/G Cm9 Cm Fm7 Bb7sus4 Bb7 Eb

He is loy - al; we can trust him. From his side we'll nev - er stray.  
 Let the Bi - ble draw us clos - er; From their side we'll nev - er part.  
 When we're loy - al, ev - er faith - ful, To Je - ho - vah we'll be - long.

**38** Then Jehovah answered Job out of the windstorm:<sup>a</sup>

- 2** "Who is this who is obscuring my counsel And speaking without knowledge?<sup>b</sup>
- 3** Brace yourself, please, like a man; I will question you, and you inform me.
- 4** Where were you when I founded the earth?<sup>c</sup> Tell me, if you think you understand.
- 5** Who set its measurements, in case you know, Or who stretched a measuring line across it?
- 6** Into what were its pedestals sunk, Or who laid its cornerstone,<sup>d</sup>
- 7** When the morning stars<sup>e</sup> joyfully cried out together, And all the sons of God<sup>\*f</sup> began shouting in applause?
- 8** And who barricaded the sea behind doors<sup>g</sup> When it burst out from the womb,
- 9** When I clothed it with clouds And wrapped\* it in thick gloom,
- 10** When I established my limit for it And put its bars and doors in place,<sup>h</sup>
- 11** And I said, "You may come this far, and no farther; Here is where your proud waves will stop"<sup>i</sup>?
- 12** Have you ever\* commanded the morning Or made the dawn know its place,<sup>j</sup>
- 13** To take hold of the ends of the earth And to shake the wicked out of it?<sup>k</sup>

CHAP. 38

a Ex 19:16, 19  
1Ki 19:11

b Job 42:3

c Ge 1:1  
Ne 9:6  
Ps 136:6  
Pr 8:29  
Heb 1:10

d Ps 104:5

e Re 22:16

f Ge 6:2  
1Ki 22:19  
Job 1:6  
Job 2:1  
Ps 89:6

g Ps 33:7  
Pr 8:29

h Ge 1:9  
Jer 5:22

i Pr 8:29

j Ge 1:5  
Ps 74:16

k Job 24:15  
1Th 5:7

Second Col.

a Ge 1:2  
Ps 77:19

b Ps 9:13  
Mt 16:18

c Job 10:21, 22

d Ps 74:17  
Ps 89:11

e Isa 45:7

f Job 37:6

g Jos 10:11  
Isa 30:30

h Ex 9:24  
Eze 13:13

i Ps 135:7

j Job 28:26

**14** It is transformed like clay under a seal, And its features stand out like those of a garment.

**15** But the light of the wicked is held back from them, And their uplifted arm is broken.

**16** Have you gone down to the sources of the sea Or explored the deep waters?<sup>a</sup>

**17** Have the gates of death<sup>b</sup> been revealed to you, Or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?<sup>\*c</sup>

**18** Have you understood the vast expanse of the earth?<sup>d</sup> Tell me, if you know all of this.

**19** In which direction does the light reside?<sup>e</sup> And where is the place of darkness,

**20** That you should take it to its territory And understand the paths to its home?

**21** Do you know this because you were already born And the number of your years\* is great?

**22** Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,<sup>f</sup> Or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,<sup>g</sup>

**23** Which I have reserved for the time of distress, For the day of battle and war?<sup>h</sup>

**24** From what direction is light\* dispersed, And from where does the east wind blow on the earth?<sup>i</sup>

**25** Who has cut a channel for the flood And made a path for the thunderous storm cloud,<sup>j</sup>

38:7 \*A Hebrew idiom that refers to angelic sons of God. 38:9 \*Or "swaddled." 38:12 \*Lit., "in your days."

38:17 \*Or "death's shadow." 38:21 \*Lit., "days." 38:24 \*Or possibly, "lightning."

- 26** To make it rain where  
no man lives,  
On the wilderness where  
there are no humans,<sup>a</sup>
- 27** To satisfy devastated  
wastelands  
And cause the grass to  
sprout?<sup>b</sup>
- 28** Does the rain have a father,<sup>c</sup>  
Or who fathered the  
dewdrops?<sup>d</sup>
- 29** From whose womb did the  
ice emerge,  
And who gave birth to the  
frost of heaven<sup>e</sup>
- 30** When the waters are covered  
as if with stone,  
And the surface of the deep  
waters is frozen solid?<sup>f</sup>
- 31** Can you tie the ropes of the  
Ki'mah constellation\*  
Or untie the cords of the  
Ke'sil constellation?<sup>g</sup>
- 32** Can you lead out a constella-  
tion\* in its season  
Or guide the Ash constella-  
tion<sup>h</sup> along with its sons?
- 33** Do you know the laws  
governing the heavens,<sup>h</sup>  
Or can you impose their\*  
authority on the earth?
- 34** Can you raise your voice  
to the clouds  
To cause a flood of water  
to cover you?<sup>i</sup>
- 35** Can you send out lightning  
bolts?  
Will they come and say  
to you, 'Here we are!'
- 36** Who put wisdom within the  
clouds\*<sup>j</sup>  
Or gave understanding to the  
sky phenomenon?<sup>kk</sup>

**38:31** \*Possibly the Pleiades stars in the Taurus constellation. <sup>h</sup> Possibly the Orion constellation. **38:32** \*Lit., "Maz-zaroth." At 2Ki 23:5, the related term in plural form refers to the constellations of the zodiac. <sup>h</sup> Possibly the Great Bear constellation (Ursa Major). **38:33** \*Or possibly, "His." **38:36** \*Or possibly, "within man." <sup>h</sup> Or possibly, "to the mind."

## CHAP. 38

a Ps 104:13  
Ps 107:35

b Ps 147:7, 8

c 1Sa 12:18  
Isa 30:23  
Jer 5:24

d Ge 27:28

e Ps 147:16

f Job 37:10

g Am 5:8

h Pr 3:19  
Jer 31:35  
Jer 33:25

i Zec 10:1

j Jer 10:12

k Ps 136:5  
Pr 3:20

## Second Col.

a Jer 10:13

b Ps 104:21  
Ps 145:15, 16  
Na 2:12

c Ps 147:9  
Mt 6:26  
Lu 12:24

## CHAP. 39

d Ps 104:18

e Ps 29:9

f Job 24:5  
Ps 104:10, 11

- 37** Who is wise enough to count  
the clouds,  
Or who can tip over the  
water jars of heaven<sup>a</sup>

- 38** When the dust pours into  
a mass  
And the clods of earth stick  
together?

- 39** Can you hunt prey for a lion  
Or satisfy the appetites  
of young lions<sup>b</sup>

- 40** When they crouch in their  
lair  
Or lie in ambush in their  
dens?

- 41** Who prepares food for the  
raven<sup>c</sup>  
When its young cry to God  
for help

And wander about because  
there is nothing to eat?

- 39** "Do you know the  
time when the mountain  
goats give birth?<sup>d</sup>

Have you watched the deer  
give birth to their young?<sup>e</sup>

- 2** Do you count the months  
that they must complete?  
Do you know the time when  
they give birth?

- 3** They crouch down when they  
give birth to their young,  
And their labor pains end.

- 4** Their young become strong  
and grow up in the open  
field;

They go out and do not  
return to them.

- 5** Who set the wild donkey\*  
free,<sup>f</sup>

And who untied the ropes  
of the wild donkey?

- 6** I have made the desert plain  
its home

And the salt land its  
dwelling.

- 7** It scorns the tumult of the  
city;

It does not hear the shouts  
of the driver.

**39:5** \*Or "onager."

- 8** It roams the hills, seeking pasture,  
Looking for every green plant.
- 9** Is the wild bull willing to serve you?<sup>a</sup>  
Will it spend the night in your stable?<sup>\*</sup>
- 10** Will you hold a wild bull to the furrow with a rope,  
Or will it follow you to plow<sup>\*</sup> the valley?
- 11** Will you trust in its great strength  
And let it do your heavy work?
- 12** Will you rely on it to bring back your harvest,<sup>\*</sup>  
And will it gather it to your threshing floor?
- 13** The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully,  
But can her pinions and plumage compare with the stork's?<sup>b</sup>
- 14** For she leaves her eggs on the ground,  
And she keeps them warm in the dust.
- 15** She forgets that some foot may crush them  
Or that a wild animal may trample them.
- 16** She treats her sons harshly,  
as if they were not hers;<sup>c</sup>  
She has no fear that her labor may be in vain.
- 17** For God has deprived her of<sup>\*</sup> wisdom  
And given her no share in understanding.
- 18** But when she rises up and flaps her wings,  
She laughs at the horse and at its rider.
- 19** Are you the one who gives the horse its strength?<sup>d</sup>  
Do you clothe its neck with a rustling mane?

39:9 \*Or "manger." 39:10 \*Or "harrow." 39:12 \*Lit., "seed." 39:17 \*Lit., "made her forget."

## CHAP. 39

a De 33:17

b Ps 104:17  
Zec 5:9

c La 4:3

d Ps 147:10  
Isa 31:1

## Second Col.

a Jer 8:16

b Jg 5:22  
Ps 32:9c Pr 21:31  
Jer 46:9  
Jer 47:3  
Hab 1:8d Isa 5:28  
Jer 8:6

e Jer 46:4

f Pr 23:5  
Isa 40:31g Jer 49:16  
Ob 4h Job 9:26  
Jer 49:22

i Mt 24:28

## CHAP. 40

j Job 33:12, 13  
Isa 45:9k Job 13:3  
Job 23:3-5  
Job 31:35

- 20** Can you cause it to leap like a locust?  
Its majestic snorting is terrifying.<sup>a</sup>
- 21** It paws the ground in the valley and exults mightily;<sup>b</sup>  
It charges into the battle.<sup>\*c</sup>
- 22** It laughs at fear and is afraid of nothing.<sup>d</sup>  
It does not turn back because of the sword.
- 23** The quiver rattles against it,  
The spear and the javelin flash.
- 24** Trembling with excitement,  
it surges forward,<sup>\*</sup>  
It cannot stand still at<sup>#</sup> the sound of the horn.
- 25** When the horn blows, it says, 'Aha!'  
It smells the battle from afar  
And hears the shouting of commanders and the battle cry.<sup>e</sup>
- 26** Is it by your understanding that the falcon soars,  
Spreading its wings to the south?
- 27** Or is it at your order that an eagle flies upward<sup>f</sup>  
And builds its nest high up,<sup>g</sup>
- 28** Spending the night on a cliff,  
 Dwelling in its stronghold on a rocky crag?<sup>\*</sup>
- 29** From there it searches for food;<sup>h</sup>  
Its eyes look far into the distance.
- 30** Its young sip up blood;  
And wherever the slain are,  
there it is.<sup>i</sup>
- 40** Jehovah continued to answer Job:
- 2** "Should a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?<sup>j</sup>  
Let the one who wants to reprove God answer."<sup>k</sup>

39:21 \*Lit., "It goes out to meet armor." 39:24 \*Lit., "swallows the ground (earth)." #Or possibly, "It does not believe." 39:28 \*Lit., "on the tooth of a crag."

3 Job said in answer to Jehovah:

- 4 "Look! I am unworthy.<sup>a</sup>  
What can I reply to you?  
I put my hand over my mouth.<sup>b</sup>
- 5 I spoke once, but I will not answer again;  
Twice, but I will say no more."
- 6 Then Jehovah answered Job out of the windstorm:<sup>c</sup>
- 7 "Brace yourself, please, like a man;  
I will question you, and you inform me.<sup>d</sup>
- 8 Will you call into question\* my justice?  
Will you condemn me so that you may be right?<sup>e</sup>
- 9 Do you have an arm as powerful as the true God's,<sup>f</sup>  
Or can your voice thunder like his?<sup>g</sup>
- 10 Adorn yourself, please, with glory and majesty;  
Clothe yourself with dignity and splendor.
- 11 Release the fury of your anger;  
Look at everyone who is haughty, and bring him low.
- 12 Look at everyone who is haughty, and humble him,  
And tread down the wicked where they stand.
- 13 Hide them all in the dust;  
Bind them\* in the hidden place,
- 14 Then even I would acknowledge to you\*  
That your right hand can save you.
- 15 Here, now, is Be-he'moth,\*  
which I made as I made you.

40:8 \*Or "invalidate." 40:13 \*Lit., "their faces." 40:14 \*Or "commend you." 40:15 \*Possibly the hippopotamus.

CHAP. 40

a Job 42:5, 6

b Ps 39:9  
Pr 30:32

c Job 38:1

d Job 38:3  
Job 42:4

e Ps 51:4  
Ro 3:4

f Ex 15:6  
Ps 89:13  
Isa 40:26  
1Co 10:22

g Job 37:4  
Ps 29:3

Second Col.

a Jos 3:15

CHAP. 41

b Ps 104:25, 26

It eats grass like a bull.

- 16 Look at the strength in its hips  
And the power in the muscles of its belly!
- 17 It stiffens its tail like a cedar;  
The sinews of its thighs are woven together.
- 18 Its bones are tubes of copper;  
Its limbs are like wrought-iron rods.
- 19 It ranks first\* among the works of God;  
Only its Maker can approach it with his sword.
- 20 For the mountains produce food for it,  
Where all the wild animals play.
- 21 It lies down under the lotus trees,  
In the shelter of the reeds of the marsh.
- 22 The lotus trees cast their shadow on it,  
And the poplars of the valley\* surround it.
- 23 If the river is turbulent, it does not panic.  
It is confident, although the Jordan\* rushes against its mouth.
- 24 Can anyone capture it while it is watching,  
Or pierce its nose with a hook?\*
- 41 "Can you catch Le-vi'a-than\*<sup>b</sup> with a fishhook  
Or hold down its tongue with a rope?  
2 Can you put a rope\* through its nostrils  
Or pierce its jaws with a hook?#  
3 Will it make many pleas to you,
- 40:19 \*Lit., "It is the beginning."  
40:22 \*Or "wadi." 40:24 \*Lit., "snare." 41:1 \*Possibly the crocodile.  
41:2 \*Lit., "a rush." #Lit., "thorn."

- Or will it speak gently to you?
- 4** Will it make a covenant with you,  
So that you may make it your slave for life?
- 5** Will you play with it as with a bird  
Or tie it on a leash for your little girls?
- 6** Will traders barter for it?  
Will they divide it up among merchants?
- 7** Will you fill its hide with harpoons<sup>a</sup>  
Or its head with fishing spears?
- 8** Lay your hand on it;  
You will remember the battle and never do it again!
- 9** Any hope of subduing it is futile.  
The mere sight of it would overwhelm you.\*
- 10** No one dares to stir it up.  
So who is it who can stand up to me?<sup>b</sup>
- 11** Who has given me anything first that I should repay him?<sup>c</sup>  
Whatever is under the heavens is mine.<sup>d</sup>
- 12** I will not be silent about its limbs,  
About its mightiness and its well-formed body.
- 13** Who has removed its outer covering?  
Who will enter its open jaws?
- 14** Who can pry open the doors of its mouth?<sup>a</sup>  
Its teeth all around are fearsome.
- 15** Its back has rows of scales\*  
Tightly sealed together.
- 16** Each one fits so closely to the other

41:9 \*Or "hurl you down." 41:14 \*Lit., "face." 41:15 \*Or possibly, "Its pride is its rows of scales."

CHAP. 41

a Job 41:26

b 2Ch 20:6  
Da 4:35  
Ac 11:17  
Ro 9:19

c Ro 11:35

d De 10:14  
Ps 24:1  
Ps 50:12  
1Co 10:26

Second Col.

a Job 41:7

b Isa 41:15

- That no air can come between them.
- 17** They are stuck to one another;  
They cling together and cannot be separated.
- 18** Its snorting flashes out light,  
And its eyes are like the rays of dawn.
- 19** Flashes of lightning go out of its mouth;  
Fiery sparks escape.
- 20** Smoke pours out of its nostrils,  
Like a furnace fueled with rushes.
- 21** Its breath sets coals ablaze,  
And a flame shoots from its mouth.
- 22** There is great strength in its neck,  
And dismay runs before it.
- 23** The folds of its flesh are tightly joined together;  
They are firm, as though cast upon it and immovable.
- 24** Its heart is hard as stone,  
Yes, hard as a lower millstone.
- 25** When it rises up, even the mighty are frightened;  
Its thrashing causes bewilderment.
- 26** No sword that reaches it will prevail;  
Nor will spear, dart, or arrowhead.<sup>a</sup>
- 27** It regards iron as straw,  
Copper as rotten wood.
- 28** An arrow does not make it flee;  
Slingstones turn into stubble against it.
- 29** It regards a club as stubble,  
And it laughs at the rattling of a javelin.
- 30** Underneath, it is like sharp fragments of pottery;  
It spreads itself in the mud like a threshing sledge.<sup>b</sup>
- 31** It makes the deep boil just like a pot;

It stirs up the sea like an ointment pot.

**32** It leaves a glistening wake in its path.

One would think that the deep had white hair.

**33** There is nothing like it on the earth,  
A creature made to have no fear.

**34** It glares at everything that is haughty.  
It is king over all the majestic wild beasts.”

**42** Then Job said in reply to Jehovah:

**2** “Now I know that you are able to do all things  
And that nothing you have in mind to do is impossible for you.<sup>a</sup>

**3** You said, ‘Who is this who is obscuring my counsel without knowledge?’<sup>b</sup>  
Therefore I spoke, but without understanding  
About things too wonderful for me, which I do not know.<sup>c</sup>

**4** You said, ‘Please listen, and I will speak.  
I will question you, and you inform me.’<sup>d</sup>

**5** My ears have heard about you,  
But now I do see you with my eyes.

**6** That is why I take back what I said,<sup>\*e</sup>  
And I repent in dust and ashes.”<sup>f</sup>

**7** After Jehovah had spoken these words to Job, Jehovah said to El’i-phaz the Te’man-ite: “My anger burns against you and your two companions,<sup>g</sup> for you have not spoken the truth about me<sup>h</sup> as my servant Job has. **8** Now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job, and offer up a burnt

**42:6** \*Or “make a retraction.”

CHAP. 42

a Ge 18:14  
Ps 135:6  
Isa 43:13  
Isa 55:10, 11  
Jer 32:17  
Mr 10:27  
Lu 18:27

b Job 38:2

c Ps 40:5  
Ps 139:6

d Job 38:3  
Job 40:7

e Job 40:4

f Ezr 9:6  
Ps 51:17

g Job 2:11

h Job 11:6  
Job 15:14, 15  
Job 22:2, 3

Second Col.

a Ge 20:17  
Jas 5:15

b Mt 6:14

c Job 2:6, 7  
Jas 5:11

d Ge 32:10  
1Sa 2:7  
2Ch 25:9  
Pr 22:4  
Isa 61:7

e Job 19:13

f Pr 3:33  
Pr 10:22  
Heb 11:6  
Jas 5:11

g Job 1:3

h Job 1:1, 2

sacrifice for yourselves. And my servant Job will pray for you.<sup>a</sup> I will surely accept his request\* not to deal with you according to your foolishness, for you have not spoken the truth about me as my servant Job has.”

**9** So El’i-phaz the Te’man-ite, Bil’dad the Shu’hite, and Zo’phar the Na’a-ma-thite went and did what Jehovah had told them to do. And Jehovah accepted Job’s prayer.

**10** After Job had prayed for his companions,<sup>b</sup> Jehovah removed Job’s tribulation<sup>c</sup> and restored his prosperity.\* Jehovah gave him double what he had before.<sup>d</sup> **11** All his brothers and sisters and all his former friends<sup>e</sup> came to him and ate a meal with him in his house. They sympathized with him and comforted him over all the calamity that Jehovah had allowed to come upon him. Each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring.

**12** So Jehovah blessed the last part of Job’s life more than the beginning,<sup>f</sup> and Job came to have 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 pairs of cattle, and 1,000 female donkeys.<sup>g</sup> **13** He also came to have seven more sons and three more daughters.<sup>h</sup> **14** He named the first daughter Je-mi’mah, the second Ke-zi’ah, and the third Ker’en-hap’puch. **15** No women in all the land were as beautiful as Job’s daughters, and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers.

**16** After this Job lived for 140 years, and he saw his children and his grandchildren—four generations. **17** Finally Job died, after a long and satisfying life.\*

**42:8** \*Lit., “Surely I will lift up his face.”

**42:10** \*Lit., “Jehovah turned back the captivity of Job.” **42:17** \*Lit., “old and full of days.”



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- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Job 38:4-7—Who are “the morning stars,” and what do we know about them? (bh 97 ¶3)

Job 42:3-5—What can we do to see God as Job did? (w15 10/15 8 ¶16-17)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Job 41:1-26

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

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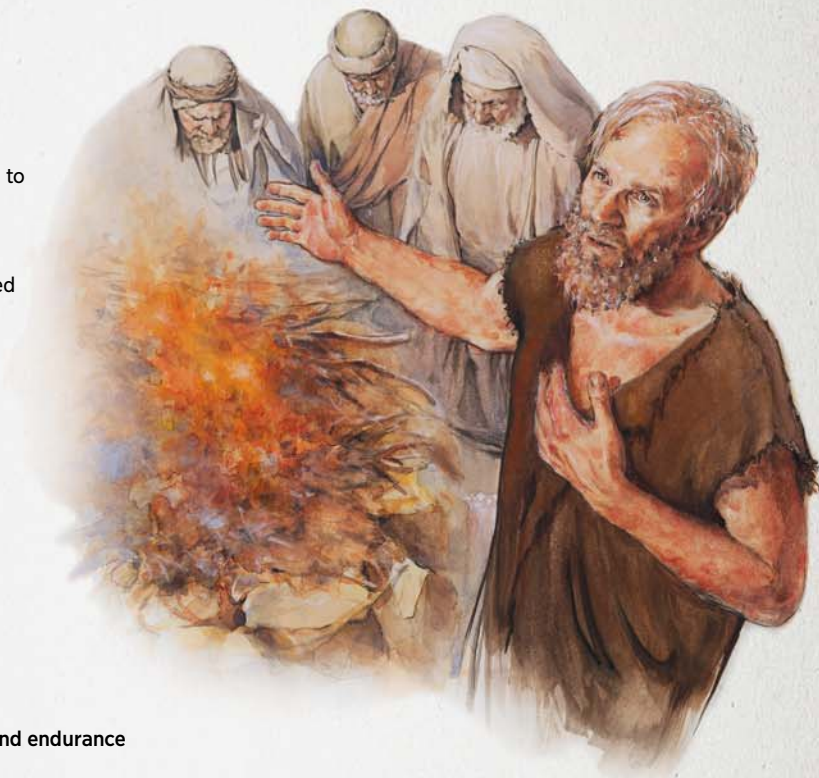
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## JOB 38-42 | Praying for Others Pleases Jehovah

### 42:7-10

Jehovah expected Job to pray for Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar

- Jehovah told Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar to go to Job and offer up a burnt sacrifice
- Job was expected to pray in their behalf
- After Job prayed for them, he was blessed



### 42:10-17

Jehovah greatly blessed Job for his faith and endurance



- Jehovah removed Job's tribulation, restoring him to good health



- Job received true comfort from friends and relatives for all that he had suffered



- Jehovah restored Job's prosperity, giving him twice the amount that he had lost



- Job and his wife came to have ten more children



- Job lived for another 140 years and enjoyed seeing four generations of his family line

(w13 6/15 21 ¶17)

<sup>17</sup> Of course, it is not always easy to forgive. Even some anointed Christians in the first century apparently found it challenging to settle their differences. (Phil. 4:2) If we have been hurt by a fellow believer, what can help us? Consider Job. He was deeply hurt when his “friends”—Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar—hurled baseless accusations at him. (Job 10:1; 19:2) In the end, Jehovah reproved those false accusers. God directed them to go to Job and present an offering for their sins. (Job 42:7-9) But Jehovah also required that *Job* do something. What was it? Jehovah directed Job to pray in behalf of his former accusers. Job did as Jehovah asked, and Jehovah blessed him for his forgiving spirit. (**Read Job 42:10, 12, 16, 17.**) The lesson for us? A sincere prayer in behalf of someone who has offended us may help us to let go of resentment.

(w98 5/1 30 ¶3-6)

### Exoneration and Restoration

First, Jehovah reproved Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. Addressing Eliphaz, evidently the eldest, he said: “My anger has grown hot against you and your two companions, for you men have not spoken concerning me what is truthful as has my servant Job. And now take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job, and you men must offer up a burnt sacrifice in your own behalf; and Job my servant will himself pray for you.” (Job 42:7, 8) Think of what this implied!

Jehovah required a considerable sacrifice from Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, perhaps to impress upon them the gravity of their sin. Indeed, either wittingly or unwittingly, they had blasphemed God by saying that he ‘has no faith in his servants’ and that it did not really matter to him whether Job was faithful or not. Eliphaz even said that in God’s eyes Job was of no more value than a moth! (Job 4:18, 19; 22:2, 3) No wonder Jehovah said: “You men have not spoken concerning me what is truthful”!

But that is not all. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar also sinned against Job personally by telling him that his problems were of his own making. Their baseless accusations and utter lack of empathy left Job embittered and depressed, causing him to cry out: “How long will you men keep irritating my soul and keep crushing me with words?” (Job 10:1; 19:2) Imagine the expressions of shame on the faces of these three men as they now had to present Job with an offering for *their* sins!

But Job was not to gloat over their humiliation. Indeed, Jehovah required that he pray in behalf of his accusers. Job did just as he was instructed, and for this he was blessed. First, Jehovah cured his dreaded disease. Then, Job’s brothers, sisters, and former associates came to comfort him, “and they proceeded each one to give him a piece of money and each one a gold ring.” Moreover, Job “came to have fourteen thousand sheep and six thousand camels and a thousand spans of cattle and a thousand she-asses.” And Job’s wife was evidently reconciled with him. In time, Job was blessed with seven sons and three daughters, and he lived to see four generations of his offspring.—Job 42:10-17.

(w98 5/1 31 ¶3)

Before Job was restored to a healthy state, Jehovah required that he pray in behalf of those who transgressed against him. What a fine example for us! Jehovah requires that we forgive those who sin against us before our own sins can be forgiven. (Matthew 6:12; Ephesians 4:32) If we are not willing to forgive others when there is sound basis for doing so, can we rightly expect Jehovah to be merciful to us?—Matthew 18:21-35.

(w94 11/15 20 ¶19-20)

### Promised Rewards Give Us Hope

<sup>19</sup> As soon as Job quit worrying about his sufferings and was revived in God's service, Jehovah changed matters for him. After Job prayed for the trio, God 'turned back his captive condition' and gave him 'all that had been his in double amount.' Jehovah showed His superiority over the Devil by turning back Satan's disease-infecting hand and miraculously healing Job. God also pushed back the demon hordes and held them at bay by again putting a hedge about Job with His angelic encampment.—Job 42:10; Psalm 34:7.

<sup>20</sup> Job's brothers, sisters, and former acquaintances kept coming to eat with him, sympathize with him, and comfort him over the calamity Jehovah had allowed to come upon him. Each of them gave Job money and a gold ring. Jehovah blessed the end of Job more than his beginning, so that he came to have 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 spans of cattle, and 1,000 she-asses. Job also came to have seven sons and three daughters, the same number he previously had. His daughters—Jemimah, Keziah, and Keren-happuch—were the prettiest women in the land, and Job gave them an inheritance among their brothers. (Job 42:11-15) Moreover, Job lived another 140 years and saw four generations of his offspring. The account concludes: "Gradually Job died, old and satisfied with days." (Job 42:16, 17) The extension of his life was the miraculous work of Jehovah God.

(bh 97 ¶3)

<sup>3</sup> God's Word, the Bible, tells us that when the earth was founded, "all the sons of God began shouting in applause." (Job 38:4-7) Angels thus existed long before humans were created, even before the creation of the earth. This Bible passage also shows that angels have feelings, for it says that they "*joyfully* cried out together." Note that "*all* the sons of God" rejoiced *together*. At that time, all the angels were part of a united family serving Jehovah God.

(w15 10/15 8 ¶16-17)

<sup>16</sup> Job got so distracted by his own concerns that he neglected to see things from God's viewpoint. (Job 42:3-6) Like Job, we too may need to put forth greater effort to see God. How can we do that? In the light of the Scriptures, we need to meditate on what is happening around us. As we become aware of how Jehovah supports us, he will become more real to us. Then, like Job, we can say: "My ears have heard about you, but now I do see you with my eyes."

<sup>17</sup> How might we see Jehovah's hand? Here are some examples: Perhaps you feel that the way you received the truth was clearly at God's direction. Have you ever attended Christian meetings, heard a part, and said: "That was just what I needed"? Or you may have experienced an answer to a prayer. Maybe you decided to expand your ministry and were amazed at how Jehovah helped to work things out for you. Or have you ever experienced leaving a job for spiritual reasons and then seen the truth of God's promise: "I will never abandon you"? (Heb. 13:5) By being spiritually alert, we can discern how Jehovah has helped us in many ways.

- Song 63 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Presentations



#### THE WATCHTOWER

**Question:** Does it seem possible to you that these words will ever be fulfilled?

**Scripture:** Re 21:3, 4

**Offer:** This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses how God will fulfill that promise and what it can mean for you.

#### THE WATCHTOWER (back page)

**Question:** Please notice this question. [Highlight the first question and possible answers appearing in the article on page 16.] What do you think?

**Scripture:** Ps 83:18

**Offer:** This article discusses further what the Bible says about God's name.



#### BIBLE TEACH

**Question:** Some people think that God controls the world. But did you know that the Bible doesn't really teach that?

**Scripture:** 1Jo 5:19

**Offer:** This book presents a clear explanation of what the Bible really teaches on this topic and many others.

#### BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

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**Question:**

**Scripture:**

**Offer:**

## Ways to Use JW Library

### FOR STUDY:



- Read the Bible and the daily text
- Read the *Yearbook*, magazines, and other publications. Use the bookmark feature



- Prepare for congregation meetings, and highlight the answers
- Watch videos



### AT MEETINGS:



- Look up scriptures referred to by the speaker. Use the history feature to return to a scripture
- Instead of bringing multiple printed publications to the meeting, use your device to follow the various parts and to sing the songs. *JW Library* has the new songs that are not yet in the printed songbook



### IN THE MINISTRY:



- Show an interested person something from *JW Library*, and then help him download the app and publications to his own device
- Use the search feature to locate a Bible verse. If a phrase does not appear in the revised *New World Translation*, switch to the *Reference Bible* and search again



- Show a video. If the householder has children, you can play one of the *Become Jehovah's Friend* videos. Or you can show the video *Why Study the Bible?* to stimulate interest in a Bible study. If someone speaks another language, show a video in his language



- Show someone a scripture in another language, using a translation that you previously downloaded. Go to the scripture, tap the verse number, and then tap the parallel rendering icon



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# He Will Make You Strong

(1 Peter 5:10)

A7sus4 A7 D A/C# D G/B A/C# D

There was a rea - son why God brought the truth to you And  
 God gave his own be - lov - ed Son in your be - half; On

G/B A/C# D G A A7sus4 A7 D A/C# Bm Bm/A

called you from the dark - ness to the light. With-in your heart, he saw the  
 this ac - count, He wants you to suc - ceed. If He did not with - hold the

G Em/C# F#7sus4 F#7 Bm D/A G

yearn - ing you then had To search for him and prac - tice what is right. You  
 gift of His dear Son, Then nev - er doubt He'll give the strength you need. He

G D/F# Em Em/D Em/C# F#7 Bm7 E7

prom - ised him in prayer to do his will; He helped you then, and he will help you  
 won't for - get the faith and love you've shown; He will not fail to care for all His

# He Will Make You Strong

**Chorus**

still. own. With Je - sus' blood He bought you, to God you now be-long. So

*Chords: Em7, G/A, A7, D, Em11, D/F#, G, D/F#*

he will make you firm, and he will make you strong. He'll

*Chords: Em/C#, F#7, Bm, D/E, E7, G/A, A7*

guide you and pro-tect you, as he has all a - long. Yes, he will make you firm,

*Chords: D, A/C#, Bm7, D/A, A/G, G, D2/F#, G2/B, Gm/Bb, D/A*

and he will make you strong.

*Chords: A7sus4, A7, D*

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had turned back from their bad way; and so the true God felt regret over the calamity that he had spoken of causing to them; and he did not cause it.”—Jonah 3:10.

<sup>11</sup> Does this mean that Jehovah decided that his own judgment about Nineveh had been in error? No. The Bible explains that Jehovah’s justice is perfect. (**Read Deuteronomy 32:4.**) Jehovah’s righteous anger against Nineveh simply abated. He observed the change in those people and saw that the punishment he had intended to bring on them would no longer be fitting. This was an occasion to show divine mercy.

<sup>12</sup> Jehovah is nothing like the rigid, cold, even harsh God so often portrayed by religious leaders. On the contrary, he is reasonable, adaptable, and merciful. When he determines to bring punishment on the wicked, he first uses his representatives on earth to issue warnings, for he is eager to see the wicked do what the Ninevites did—repent and change their ways. (Ezek. 33:11) Jehovah told his prophet Jeremiah: “At any moment that I may speak against a nation and against a kingdom to uproot it and to pull it down and to destroy it, and that nation actually turns back from its badness against which I spoke, I will also feel regret over the calamity that I had thought to execute upon it.” —Jer. 18:7, 8.

<sup>13</sup> Was Jonah’s prophecy a false one? No; it fulfilled its purpose as a warning. That warning was based on the Ninevites’ bad ways, which subsequently changed. Should the Ninevites resume their wicked ways, God would bring the same judgment against them. That is exactly what happened later on.—Zeph. 2:13-15.

<sup>14</sup> How did Jonah react when destruction did not come at the time he expected it to? We read: “To Jonah, though, it was highly displeasing, and he got to be hot with anger.” (Jonah 4:1) Jonah even uttered a prayer that sounds like a rebuke of the Almighty! Jonah suggested that he should have stayed home, on his own ground. He claimed that he knew all along that Jehovah would not bring calamity on Nineveh, even using that as an excuse for his running away to Tarshish in the first place. Then he asked to die, saying that death would be better than life. —**Read Jonah 4:2, 3.**

**12, 13.** (a) How does Jehovah show that he is reasonable, adaptable, and merciful? (b) Why was Jonah’s prophecy not a false one?

**14.** How did Jonah react to Jehovah’s mercy on Nineveh?

<sup>15</sup> What was troubling Jonah? We cannot know all that went through his mind, but we do know that Jonah had proclaimed doom to Nineveh before all those people. They had believed him. And now, no doom was coming. Did he fear being ridiculed or being labeled a false prophet? Whatever the case, he did not rejoice over the people’s repentance or over Jehovah’s mercy. Instead, it seems, he was on a downward spiral into a mire of bitterness, self-pity, and wounded pride. Evidently, though, Jonah’s merciful God still saw good in this distressed prophet. Instead of punishing Jonah for his disrespect, Jehovah simply asked him one gentle, probing question: “Have you rightly become hot with anger?” (Jonah 4:4) Did Jonah even answer? The Bible record is silent.

<sup>16</sup> It is easy to judge Jonah for his conduct, but we do well to remember that it is not unusual for imperfect humans to disagree with God. Some may believe that Jehovah should have prevented a tragedy or that he should have executed swift judgment against the wicked or even that he should have brought an end to this whole world system of things before now. Jonah’s example serves to remind us that when we disagree with Jehovah God, it is always our own point of view that needs an adjustment—never His.

### How Jehovah Taught Jonah a Lesson

<sup>17</sup> The despondent prophet left Nineveh and headed, not home, but eastward, where some mountains overlooked the region. He built a little shelter and settled in to wait—and to watch Nineveh. Perhaps he still clung to the hope of witnessing her destruction. How would Jehovah teach this hardheaded man to be merciful?

<sup>18</sup> Overnight, Jehovah caused a bottle-gourd plant to sprout up. Jonah woke to see this luxuriant growth, with its broad leaves providing far more shade than his flimsy shelter ever could. His spirits lifted. “Jonah began to rejoice greatly” over the plant, perhaps viewing its miraculous appearance as a sign of God’s blessing and approval. However, Jehovah wanted to do more for Jo-

**15.** (a) What may have led Jonah into a downward spiral? (b) How did Jehovah deal with his distressed prophet?

**16.** In what ways might some find themselves disagreeing with God, and what lesson can we learn from Jonah’s example?

**17, 18.** (a) What did Jonah do after leaving Nineveh? (b) How did Jehovah’s miracles involving a bottle-gourd plant affect Jonah?

HE LEARNED A LESSON IN MERCY

nah than simply deliver him from the heat and from his own petulant anger. He wanted to reach Jonah's heart. So God performed additional miracles. He sent a worm to attack and kill the plant. Then he sent "a parching east wind" until Jonah began "swooning away" because of the heat. The man's spirits plummeted, and again he asked God that he might die.—Jonah 4:6-8.

<sup>19</sup> Once more Jehovah asked Jonah if he was rightly angry, this time over the death of the bottle-gourd plant. Instead of repenting, Jonah justified himself, saying: "I have rightly become hot with anger, to the point of death." The stage was now set for Jehovah to drive the lesson home.—Jonah 4:9.

<sup>20</sup> God reasoned with Jonah, saying that the prophet was feeling sorry over the death of a mere plant that had sprung up overnight, one that Jonah neither planted nor caused to grow. Then God concluded: "For my part, ought I not to feel sorry for Nineveh the great city, in which there exist more than one

**19, 20.** How did Jehovah reason with Jonah about the bottle-gourd plant?

**God used the bottle-gourd plant to teach Jonah a lesson in mercy**



hundred and twenty thousand men who do not at all know the difference between their right hand and their left, besides many domestic animals?”—Jonah 4:10, 11.\*

<sup>21</sup> Do you see the depth of Jehovah’s object lesson? Jonah had never done a thing to take care of that plant. Jehovah, on the other hand, was the Source of life for those Ninevites and had sustained them, as he does all creatures on earth. How could Jonah place more value on a single plant than he did on the lives of 120,000 humans, in addition to all their livestock? Was it not because Jonah had allowed his thinking to become selfish? After all, he felt sorry for the plant only because it had benefited him personally. Did not his anger over Nineveh spring from motives that were likewise selfish—a prideful desire to save face, to be proved right? Jonah’s story may help us to take an honest look at ourselves. Who of us is immune to such selfish tendencies? How grateful we should be that Jehovah patiently teaches us to be more selfless, more compassionate, more merciful—as he is!

<sup>22</sup> The question is, Did Jonah take the lesson to heart? The book bearing his name ends with Jehovah’s question hanging there—in effect, still echoing. Some critics might complain that Jonah never answers. In truth, though, his answer is there. It is the book itself. You see, evidence indicates that Jonah wrote the book bearing his name. Just imagine that prophet, once again

safe in his homeland, writing this account. We can almost picture an older, wiser, humbler man ruefully shaking his head as he describes his own mistakes, his rebellion, and his stubborn refusal to show mercy. Clearly, Jonah did learn a vital lesson from Jehovah’s wise instruction. He learned to be merciful. Will we? —*Read Matthew 5:7.*

\* God’s saying that those people did not know right from left suggested their childlike ignorance of divine standards.

**TO THINK ABOUT . . .**

- How did Jonah show faith and courage as he preached in Nineveh?
- What can we learn from the Ninevites’ repentance?
- What can we learn from Jonah’s attitude toward the repentance of the Ninevites?
- In what ways would you like to imitate the faith of Jonah when you receive corrective counsel?

**21.** (a) What object lesson did Jehovah teach Jonah? (b) How may the account about Jonah help us to take an honest look at ourselves?

**22.** (a) How was Jonah evidently affected by Jehovah’s wise instruction about mercy? (b) What lesson do we all need to learn?

# Be Forgiving

(Psalm 86:5)

B $\flat$  F/A Gm Dm/F E $\flat$

Lov - ing - ly Je - ho - vah Made pro - vi - sion through his Son  
 We re - ceive such mer - cy When we act like God a - bove  
 Mer - cy is a vir - tue That we all should cul - ti - vate.

B $\flat$ /D Cm11 B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$  F7sus4

For our sins to be for - giv - en And for death to be un - done.  
 And for - give each oth - er free - ly, Show - ing em - pa - thy and love.  
 It will keep us from re - sent - ment, From the bit - ter - ness of hate.

F7 B $\flat$  Cm7 B $\flat$ /D F/E $\flat$  E $\flat$  Cm Dm7 Cm/E $\flat$  Cm7 F

If we tru - ly are re - pen - tant, His for - give - ness we can claim  
 Put - ting up with one an - oth - er, Put - ting hurt - ful - ness a - way;  
 When we im - i - tate Je - ho - vah, Who is un - sur - passed in love,

D7sus4 D7 Gm9 Gm Ebm/G $\flat$  B $\flat$ /F F7sus4 F7 B $\flat$

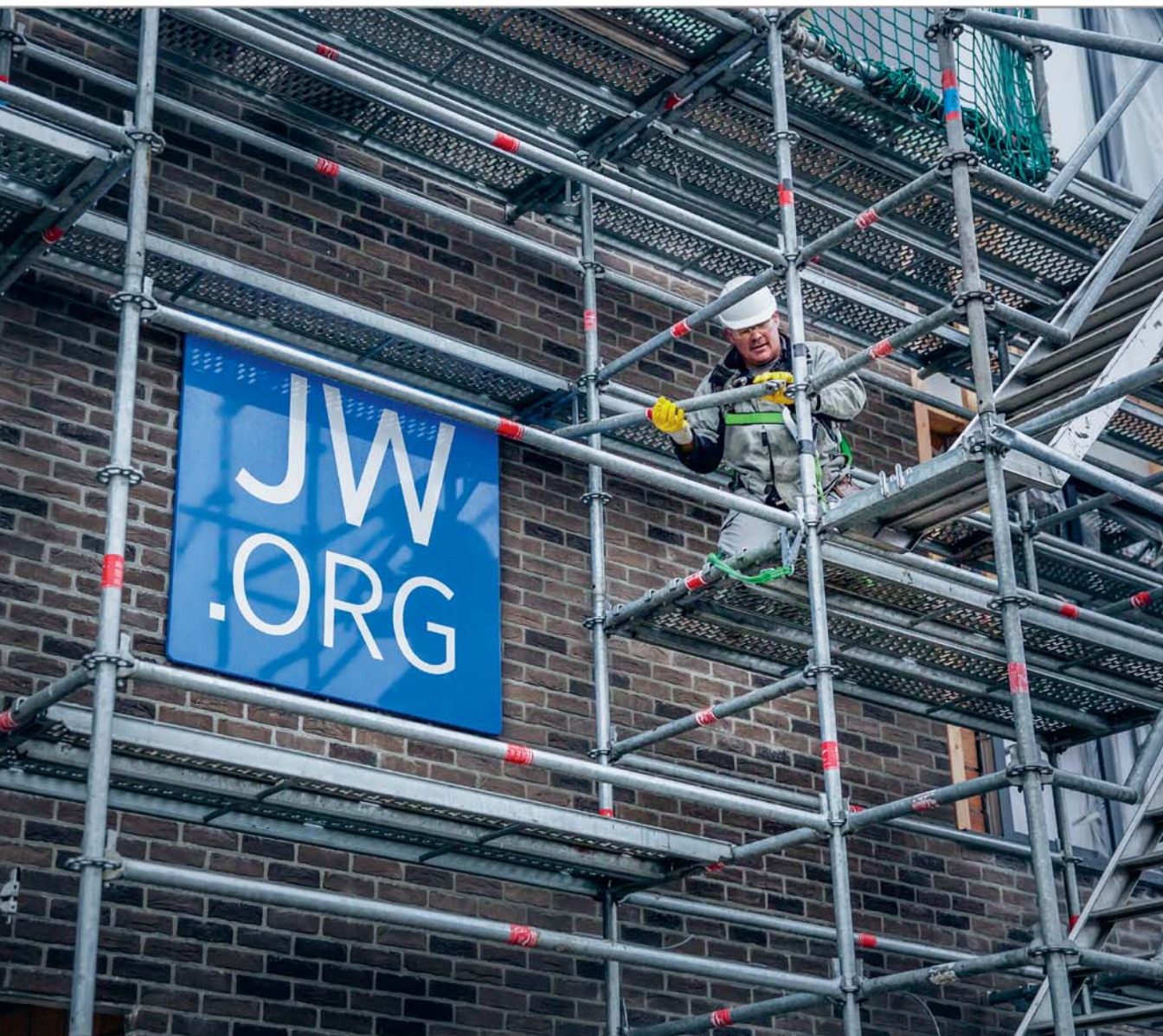
On the ba - sis of Christ's ran - som, Ask - ing par - don in his name.  
 Show - ing hon - or to our broth - er, Show - ing love's sur - pass - ing way.  
 We will tru - ly be for - giv - ing; We will be like God a - bove.



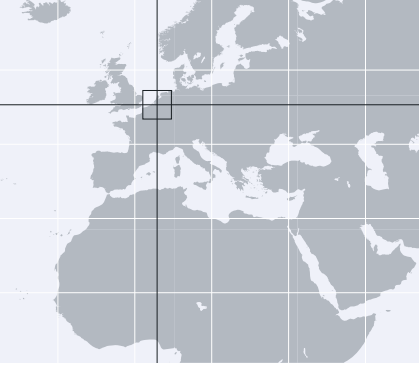
MARCH 2016

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
MAY 2-29, 2016



COVER IMAGE:  
**BELGIUM**

The Wijnegem Kingdom Hall is located on one of the busiest roads in Antwerp. An eye-catching JW.ORG sign has been on the site since early in construction

POPULATION  
**11,132,269**

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(2014)  
**44,635**

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**—How Can You Prepare for Baptism?**

As servants of Jehovah, we are very happy that each year about a quarter of a million individuals get baptized. Many who take that important step are young people—some not yet in their teens. What helped them to discern that they were ready to take sides with Jehovah? What did they do to prepare for their baptism? These two study articles will answer those questions.

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

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## Listen, Obey, and Be Blessed

(Luke 11:28)

A13sus4 A7 D Bm Gma7 Em/G A7 A#°

If we have lis - tened to Christ, will we show it? His teach - ing  
Our way of life, like a house, gives pro - tec - tion When it is  
Just as a tree root - ed deep by the wa - ters Gives of its

Bm D/A G B7b9b13

shines as it shows us the way. It makes us  
built on the rock, not on sand. If we ap -  
fruit when each sea - son ar - rives, If we o -

Em Em/D Em/C# F#7 E2/G# F#7/A#

hap - py to hear and to know it, But we'll be  
ply Je - sus' lov - ing di - rec - tion, We'll build a  
bey as God's own sons and daugh - ters, We'll all be

Bm7 E7 Em11 G/A A7

blessed if we know and o - bey.  
life which on bed - rock will stand.  
blessed and en - joy end - less lives.

## Listen, Obey, and Be Blessed

Chorus

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The chords are indicated above the vocal line.

**System 1:** Chorus. Chords: D, Em7, A7/E, F#m7, Bm7. Lyrics: Lis - ten, o - bey, and be blessed.

**System 2:** Chorus. Chords: Em7, D/F#, G, G/A, A7. Lyrics: When you hear God's will ex - pressed.

**System 3:** Chorus. Chords: D, Em7, A7/E, D2/F#, D13sus4, D7, G. Lyrics: If you'd be hap - py and en - ter his rest,

**System 4:** Chorus. Chords: D/A, G/A, A7, D. Lyrics: Lis - ten, o - bey, and be blessed.



## Young Ones Are You Ready to Get Baptized?

*“Who of you wanting to build a tower does not first sit down and calculate the expense to see if he has enough to complete it?”—LUKE 14:28.*

The following two articles are addressed to young people who are considering baptism

“I HAVE known you since you were born,” said a Christian elder to 12-year-old Christopher, “and I’m happy to hear that you want to get baptized. I would like to ask you, ‘Why do you want to take that step?’” The elder’s question was valid. Of course, it gives all of us much joy to see that every year thousands of young people around the world get baptized. (Eccl. 12:1) At the same time, Christian parents and elders in the congregation want to make sure that such young ones make a decision that is not only voluntary but also well-founded.

<sup>2</sup> God’s Word indicates that the steps of dedication and

1, 2. (a) What gives God’s people joy today? (b) How can Christian parents and elders help young ones to understand the meaning of baptism?

SONGS: 120, 64

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

What is maturity, and how did Daniel display that quality?

How can you tell if the decision to get baptized comes from your heart?

What is dedication, and how is it related to baptism?



A mature young person does not act like a friend of God at the Kingdom Hall but a friend of the world at school  
(See paragraph 8)

baptism are the start of a life during which Christians will experience blessings from Jehovah but also opposition from Satan. (Prov. 10:22; 1 Pet. 5:8) Therefore, Christian parents take time to teach their children what is involved in being a disciple of Christ. In the case of young ones who have no Christian parents, the elders in the congregation will lovingly help them to count the cost of discipleship. **(Read Luke 14:27-30.)** Just as it takes planning to complete a building project successfully, so it requires preparation to serve Jehovah faithfully “to the end.” (Matt. 24:13) But what can young ones themselves do to become determined to serve Jehovah for the rest of their life? Let us see.

<sup>3</sup> Are you a young person who is considering baptism? If so, you are to be commended! It is a great privilege to get

3. (a) What do the words of Jesus and Peter teach us about the importance of baptism? (Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Pet. 3:21) (b) What questions will we consider, and why?

baptized as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Moreover, baptism is a requirement for Christians, and it is a vital step toward gaining salvation. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Pet. 3:21) Because it is your heartfelt desire to keep the promise you will make to Jehovah, you want to be prepared for this important step. You do well, therefore, to consider three questions that may help you to see if you are ready for baptism. The questions are as follows: (1) Am I mature enough to make the decision? (2) Do I have a personal desire to do so? (3) Do I understand what it means to be dedicated to Jehovah? Let us examine those questions.

#### WHEN YOU ARE MATURE ENOUGH

<sup>4</sup> The Bible does not suggest that baptism is a step to be taken only by those who are older or who have reached at least an age at which certain legal rights

4, 5. (a) Why is baptism not for older people only? (b) What does it mean for a Christian to be mature?

may be granted. We read at Proverbs 20:11: “Even a child is known by his actions, whether his behavior is pure and right.” One who is somewhat younger can realize what it means to do what is right and to be dedicated to his Creator. Thus, baptism is an important and appropriate step for a young person who has manifested considerable maturity and has made a dedication to Jehovah.—Prov. 20:7.

<sup>5</sup> What does it mean to be mature? Maturity involves more than physical growth. The Bible says that mature people “have their powers of discernment trained to distinguish both right and wrong.” (Heb. 5:14) Thus, mature people know what is right in Jehovah’s eyes and *are resolved in their heart to stick to it*. As a result, they are not easily swayed to do what is wrong; nor do they always have to be prodded to do what is right. Really, it is only reasonable to expect that a young person who gets baptized will uphold God’s standards even when parents or other adults are not present.—Compare Philippians 2:12.

<sup>6</sup> Can young people really demonstrate such maturity? Well, consider the Bible example of Daniel. He may have been in his early teens when he was forcibly taken from his parents into exile in Babylon. Suddenly, Daniel found himself living among a people who had a completely different concept of right and wrong. In addition, there was another challenge to Daniel’s situation: He was treated as someone special in Babylon. In fact, Daniel was one of a number of young people carefully chosen to stand

before the king! (Dan. 1:3-5, 13) Daniel seemingly had opportunities in Babylon that he might never have had in Israel.

<sup>7</sup> How did young Daniel react to all of this? Was he seduced by the glitter and glamour of Babylon? Did he allow his new surroundings to change his identity or sabotage his faith? Not at all! The Bible says that while in Babylon, Daniel “*resolved in his heart that he would not defile himself*” with anything associated with false worship. (Dan. 1:8) Daniel showed remarkable maturity!

<sup>8</sup> What can you learn from Daniel’s example? For one thing, a mature young person is stable in his convictions. He is not like a chameleon, which changes colors to fit its surroundings. He does not act like a friend of God at the Kingdom Hall but a friend of the world at school. Rather than getting tossed about, he remains unmovable even during tests of faith.—**Read Ephesians 4:14, 15.**

<sup>9</sup> Of course, no one is perfect; young people as well as adults make mistakes from time to time. (Eccl. 7:20) Still, as you are considering baptism, it would be wise to analyze to what extent you are resolved in your heart to stick to Jehovah’s standards. How could you measure the strength of your resolve? Ask yourself, ‘What is my track record of adhering to God’s standards?’ Give thought to the way you have reacted to recent tests of faith. Have you demonstrated that you have the discernment needed to distinguish right from wrong? What if, like Daniel, you are treated as special by

8. What can you learn from Daniel’s example?  
9, 10. (a) How might a young person benefit from thinking about how he or she has reacted to recent tests of faith? (b) What does baptism mean?

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6, 7. (a) Describe the challenges Daniel had when he was in Babylon. (b) How did Daniel prove to be mature?

someone in Satan’s world? Are you able to “keep perceiving what the will of Jehovah is” even when God’s will conflicts with what you are tempted to do?—Eph. 5:17.

<sup>10</sup> Why do we raise these frank questions? They are meant to help you put baptism in the right perspective. As mentioned earlier, baptism symbolizes that you made a solemn promise to Jehovah himself. You promise that you will love him and serve him forever with your whole heart. (Mark 12:30) Everyone who gets baptized should be determined to follow through on his promise. —**Read Ecclesiastes 5:4, 5.**

#### IS IT YOUR PERSONAL DESIRE?

<sup>11</sup> The Bible says that Jehovah’s people, including young ones, “will offer themselves willingly” for his service. (Ps. 110:3) So a person who is contemplating baptism needs to be sure that this is his or her *personal* desire. That might call for self-scrutiny on your part. Why? Because your circumstance as a youth may be somewhat special. For example, you may have been raised in the truth.

<sup>12</sup> Over the years, you have likely seen many people get baptized—including some of your peers and perhaps even your siblings. If that is indeed your situation, what should you be careful about? Be alert that you do not come to view baptism as little more than a coming-of-age custom that all young people follow sooner or later. What can you do to make sure that you will keep the right view of Jehovah’s arrangement of baptism?

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11, 12. (a) A person who is thinking about getting baptized needs to be sure of what? (b) What will help you to keep the right view of Jehovah’s arrangement of baptism?

Take time often to stop and think about the reasons *why* getting baptized is so important. In fact, you can find several good reasons in this article and in the next.

<sup>13</sup> There are ways in which you will be able to discern whether your decision to get baptized comes from your heart. For example, your heartfelt desire to serve Jehovah will be reflected in your prayers. How often you pray and how specific your prayers are may well reveal how close your relationship with Jehovah is. (Ps. 25:4) An important way that Jehovah answers our prayers is by directing our attention to his Word. Thus, our effort to study the Bible is yet another indication that we really want to draw closer to Jehovah and serve him from the heart. (Josh. 1:8) So ask yourself: ‘How specific are my prayers? How regular is my personal study of the Bible?’ And if your Christian family has a Family Worship evening, ask yourself: ‘Do I willingly share in that family arrangement?’ Your answers to these questions will help you to see whether your decision to get baptized is your personal desire.

#### THE MEANING OF DEDICATION

<sup>14</sup> Some might be confused about the difference between dedication and baptism. For example, some young people say that they have made a dedication to Jehovah but are not ready to get baptized. Does that make sense? Making a dedication means telling Jehovah that you will serve him forever. At baptism, a

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13. How can you tell whether the decision to get baptized comes from your heart?

14. Describe the difference between dedication and baptism.



person shows others that he is dedicated. Therefore, baptism is a public expression of a private dedication that you have already made in prayer to Jehovah. Before you get baptized, you need to be sure that you understand what dedication means.

<sup>15</sup> Simply stated, when you dedicate your life to Jehovah, you give up ownership of yourself. You promise Jehovah that you will put the doing of his will ahead of everything else in your life. **(Read Matthew 16:24.)** Any promise should be taken seriously, but how much more so a promise made to Jehovah God! (Matt. 5:33) How, though, can you demonstrate that you have really disowned yourself and that you now belong to Jehovah?—Rom. 14:8.

<sup>16</sup> To illustrate, imagine that a friend gives you a car as a gift. He hands you the title and says: “The car is yours.” But suppose your friend adds: “I will keep the keys. And I will be the one who drives the car, not you.” How would you feel about this “gift”? How would you feel about the giver?

<sup>17</sup> Now think about what Jehovah rightfully expects of a person who makes a dedication to him, a person who tells him: “I am giving you my life. I *belong* to you.” What if that person were to start living a double life, perhaps secretly dating an unbeliever? What if he were to accept employment that crippled his whole-souled service in the ministry or attendance at Christian meetings? Would that not be like keeping the keys to the car? A person who dedicates

himself to Jehovah is, in effect, saying: “My life belongs to *you* more than to me. If there is ever a conflict between what you want and what I am inclined to want, what you want will win—every time.” That would reflect the thinking of Jesus, who while on earth stated: “I have come down from heaven to do, not my own will, but the will of him who sent me.” —John 6:38.

<sup>18</sup> Clearly, baptism is a sobering step that neither you nor anyone else should take lightly. At the same time, it is a great privilege to be dedicated and baptized. Young ones who love Jehovah and who understand what dedication means do not hold back from getting baptized; nor do they at any time regret their decision. “I love Jehovah, and I couldn’t be happier doing anything but serving him,” says a baptized teenager named Rose. “I have never been more sure about anything in my life than my decision to get baptized.”

<sup>19</sup> And what about Christopher, mentioned at the outset of this article? Did his decision to get baptized at age 12 prove to be well-founded? Christopher looks back on his dedication and baptism with fond appreciation. He began serving as a regular pioneer at age 17 and was appointed as a ministerial servant at 18. Today he is serving at Bethel. He says: “Baptism was the right decision. My life is filled with satisfying work for Jehovah and his organization.” If you are considering baptism, how can you prepare for it? The following article will address that question.

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15. What does dedication mean?

16, 17. (a) Illustrate what it means to disown yourself. (b) What is a person who makes a dedication really saying?

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18, 19. (a) How do the expressions of Rose and Christopher illustrate that being baptized is a privilege that leads to blessings? (b) How do you feel about the privilege of baptism?

*Make the Truth Your Own*

(Proverbs 3:1, 2)

*E<sub>b</sub>* *B<sub>b</sub>9*

The way of the truth is the best way of  
 The ef - forts you make and the time you are  
 Com - pared with our God, we are all lit - tle

*A<sub>b</sub>/E<sub>b</sub>* *E<sub>b</sub>* *G<sub>m</sub>/D* *C<sub>m</sub>* *F7*

liv - ing, But no one can live your life  
 spend - ing In ser - vice to God and his  
 chil - dren And need his di - rec - tion and

*B<sub>b</sub>13sus4* *B<sub>b</sub>9* *E<sub>b</sub>*

for you. So heed the ad - vice that Je -  
 King - dom Will yield rich re - sults and a  
 coun - sel. So walk ev - 'ry day with our

*B<sub>b</sub>9* *A<sub>b</sub>/E<sub>b</sub>* *E<sub>b</sub>* *G<sub>m</sub>/D* *C<sub>m</sub>* *B<sub>b</sub>/C*

ho - vah is giv - ing; Be - lieve what he  
 life that's un - end - ing, A life full of  
 Fa - ther in heav - en; Re - ceive his rich

# Make the Truth Your Own

F7 Ab/Bb Bb7 Chorus Eb Ebma7/G Eb6/G

tells you is true.  
good things to come.  
bless - ing in full. Make the truth your

Ab C7 Bb2/D C7/E Fm Abma7/Eb Ab/Eb Bb/D Fm7/C

own. Make it live, yes, make it real.

Bb7 Ebma7 Eb Eb2/G Bb/Ab Ab

And then feel the joy Je - ho - vah

Abm/F Eb/Bb Ab/Bb Bb7 Ab/Bb Eb

gives you When you make the truth your own.