

- Song 2 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Give Thanks to Jehovah”:** (10 min.)  
Ps 106:1-3—Jehovah deserves our thanks (*w15 1/15 8 ¶1; w02 6/1 18 ¶19*)  
Ps 106:7-14, 19-25, 35-39—The Israelites lost appreciation and became unfaithful (*w15 1/15 8-9 ¶2-3; w01 6/15 13 ¶1-3*)  
Ps 106:4, 5, 48—We have many reasons to thank Jehovah (*w11 10/15 5 ¶7; w03 12/1 15-16 ¶3-6*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Ps 109:8—Did God predestine Judas to betray Jesus in order to fulfill prophecy? (*w00 12/15 24 ¶20; it-1 857-858*)

Ps 109:31—In what way does Jehovah “stand at the right hand of the poor”? (*w06 9/1 14 ¶8*)

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) Ps 106:1-22

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) // 6—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) // 7—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh 178-179 ¶14-16*—Help the student to see how he can apply the material.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 94
- **Jehovah Will Care for Our Needs (Ps 107:9):** (15 min.) Discussion. Start by playing the video *Jehovah Will Care for Our Needs*. (Go to [tv.jw.org](http://tv.jw.org), and look under VIDEO ON DEMAND > FAMILY.) Ask the audience to comment on the practical lessons learned.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *ia* chap. 22 ¶14-24, review on p. 194
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 149 and Prayer

PSALMS 106-109 | “Give Thanks to Jehovah”

**106:7, 13, 14**

**Why did the Israelites quickly forget Jehovah’s saving acts?**

- They shifted their focus from Jehovah to their immediate comforts and fleshly concerns

**106:1-5**

**How can you cultivate a grateful heart and maintain it?**

- Focus on the many reasons you have to be thankful
- Meditate on the hope for the future
- Thank Jehovah in prayer for specific blessings



## 2

# *We Thank You, Jehovah*

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

1. We thank you, Jehovah, each day and each night,  
That you shed upon us your precious light.  
We thank you that we have the priv'lege of prayer,  
That we can approach you with ev'ry care.
2. We thank you, Jehovah, for your loving Son,  
Who conquered the world; By his faith he won.  
We thank you for guidance in doing your will,  
For thus you do help us our vows fulfill.
3. We thank you, our God, for the honor to preach  
About your great name and the truth to teach.  
We thank you that soon all earth's woes will be past,  
While your Kingdom blessings forever last.

- 21 He made him master of his household,  
Ruler over all his property,<sup>a</sup>
- 22 To have authority over\* his princes as he pleased<sup>#</sup>  
And to teach his elders wisdom.<sup>b</sup>
- 23 Then Israel came into Egypt,<sup>c</sup>  
And Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.
- 24 God made his people very fruitful;<sup>d</sup>  
He made them mightier than their adversaries,<sup>e</sup>
- 25 Whose hearts he let change to hate his people,  
To plot against his servants.<sup>f</sup>
- 26 He sent his servant Moses,<sup>g</sup>  
And Aaron,<sup>h</sup> whom he had chosen.
- 27 They performed his signs among them,  
His miracles in the land of Ham.<sup>i</sup>
- 28 He sent darkness and the land became dark;<sup>j</sup>  
They did not rebel against his words.
- 29 He changed their waters into blood  
And killed their fish.<sup>k</sup>
- 30 Their land swarmed with frogs,<sup>l</sup>  
Even in the royal chambers.
- 31 He ordered the gadflies to invade  
And gnats in all their territories.<sup>m</sup>
- 32 He turned their rain to hail  
And sent lightning\* on their land.<sup>n</sup>
- 33 He struck their vines and their fig trees  
And shattered the trees of their territory.
- 34 He said that the locusts should invade,  
Young locusts without number.<sup>o</sup>

105:22 \*Lit., "To bind." <sup>#</sup>Or "agreeably to his soul." 105:32 \*Or "flames of fire."

## CHAP. 105

- a Ge 41:39-41  
Ge 41:48  
Ge 45:8
- b Ge 41:33, 38
- c Ge 46:4, 6
- d Ex 1:7  
Ac 7:17
- e Ex 1:8, 9
- f Ex 1:10  
Ac 7:18, 19
- g Ex 3:10  
Ex 4:12  
Ex 6:11
- h Ex 4:14  
Ex 7:1
- i Ne 9:10  
Ps 78:43-51
- j Ex 10:22, 23
- k Ex 7:20, 21
- l Ex 8:6
- m Ex 8:17, 24
- n Ex 9:23-26
- o Ex 10:13-15

## Second Col.

- a Ex 12:29
- b Ge 15:13, 14  
Ex 3:22  
Ex 12:35, 36
- c Ex 12:33
- d Ex 14:19, 20
- e Ex 13:21
- f Ps 78:27
- g Ex 16:12-15  
Ps 78:24
- h Ex 17:6  
1Co 10:1, 4
- i Ps 78:15, 16
- j Ge 12:7  
Ge 15:13, 14  
Ex 2:24  
De 9:5
- k Nu 33:3
- l Jos 11:23  
Jos 21:43  
Ne 9:22  
Ps 78:55  
Ac 13:19
- m De 6:10, 11  
Jos 5:11, 12
- n De 4:40

## CHAP. 106

- o Lu 18:19
- p 1Ch 16:34  
Ezr 3:11  
Ps 103:17  
Ps 107:1

- 35 They devoured all the vegetation in the land,  
And they devoured the produce of the ground.
- 36 Then he struck down every firstborn in their land,<sup>a</sup>  
The beginning of their procreative power.
- 37 He brought his people out with silver and gold;<sup>b</sup>  
And no one among his tribes stumbled.
- 38 Egypt rejoiced when they left,  
For the dread of Israel\* had fallen on them.<sup>c</sup>
- 39 He spread a cloud to screen them off<sup>d</sup>  
And fire to give light by night.<sup>e</sup>
- 40 They asked, and he brought quail;<sup>f</sup>  
He kept satisfying them with bread from heaven.<sup>g</sup>
- 41 He opened a rock, and waters flowed out;<sup>h</sup>  
These flowed through the desert like a river.<sup>i</sup>
- 42 For he remembered the holy promise he had made to Abraham his servant.<sup>j</sup>
- 43 So he brought out his people with exultation,<sup>k</sup>  
His chosen ones with a joyful cry.
- 44 He gave them the lands of nations;<sup>l</sup>  
They inherited what other peoples had worked hard to produce,<sup>m</sup>
- 45 So that they would keep his decrees<sup>n</sup>  
And observe his laws.  
Praise Jah!<sup>#</sup>
- 106** Praise Jah!<sup>#</sup>  
Give thanks to Jehovah,  
for he is good;<sup>o</sup>  
His loyal love endures forever.<sup>p</sup>

105:38 \*Lit., "them." 105:45; 106:1 \*Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah.

- 2** Who can fully declare  
Jehovah's mighty acts  
Or proclaim all his praise-  
worthy deeds?<sup>a</sup>
- 3** Happy are those who act  
with justice,  
Who always do what is right.<sup>b</sup>
- 4** Remember me, O Jehovah,  
when you show favor\*  
toward your people.<sup>c</sup>  
Take care of me with your  
acts of salvation,
- 5** So that I may enjoy the good-  
ness you show your chosen  
ones,<sup>d</sup>  
That I may rejoice along with  
your nation,  
That I may proudly praise\*  
you along with your inheri-  
tance.
- 6** We have sinned just as our  
forefathers did;<sup>e</sup>  
We have done wrong; we  
have acted wickedly.<sup>f</sup>
- 7** Our forefathers in Egypt did  
not appreciate\* your won-  
derful works.  
They did not remember your  
abundant loyal love,  
But they rebelled at the sea,  
by the Red Sea.<sup>g</sup>
- 8** But he saved them for the  
sake of his name,<sup>h</sup>  
To make his mightiness  
known.<sup>i</sup>
- 9** He rebuked the Red Sea,  
and it dried up;  
He led them through its  
depths as through a  
desert;<sup>\*j</sup>
- 10** He saved them from the hand  
of their foe<sup>k</sup>  
And reclaimed them from  
the hand of the enemy.<sup>l</sup>
- 11** The waters covered their  
adversaries;  
Not one of them survived.<sup>\*m</sup>

106:4 \*Or "goodwill." 106:5 \*Or "may boast about." 106:7 \*Or "grasp the meaning of." 106:9 \*Or "wilderness." 106:11 \*Or "was left."

## CHAP. 106

- a Ps 40:5  
b Ps 15:1, 2  
Isa 64:5  
c Ne 5:19  
Ps 51:18  
Ps 119:132  
d Ex 19:5  
e Ne 9:16  
Ps 78:8  
f Ezr 9:6  
Da 9:5  
g Ex 14:11, 12  
h Ps 143:11  
Eze 20:14  
i Ex 9:16  
Ro 9:17  
j Ex 14:21, 22  
k Ex 14:30  
l Isa 49:26  
m Ex 14:13, 28

## Second Col.

- a Ex 14:31  
b Ex 15:1  
c Ex 15:24  
Ex 16:2, 3  
Ex 17:7  
d Nu 11:4  
De 9:22  
1Co 10:6  
e Ex 17:2  
Ps 78:18  
1Co 10:9  
Heb 3:8, 9  
f Nu 11:31, 33  
Ps 78:29-31  
g Nu 16:3  
h Le 21:8  
Nu 16:5-7  
i Nu 16:27, 32  
j Nu 16:35  
k Ex 32:4  
De 9:12  
l Ex 20:4  
m De 32:18

n De 4:34

o Ps 78:51

p Ex 14:25

- 12** Then they had faith in his  
promise;<sup>a</sup>  
They began to sing his  
praise.<sup>b</sup>
- 13** But they quickly forgot what  
he did;<sup>c</sup>  
They did not wait for his  
counsel.
- 14** They gave way to their self-  
ish desires in the wilder-  
ness;<sup>d</sup>  
They tested God in the  
desert.<sup>e</sup>
- 15** He gave them what they  
requested,  
But then struck them with  
disease that made them\*  
waste away.<sup>f</sup>
- 16** In the camp they grew  
jealous of Moses  
And of Aaron,<sup>g</sup> the holy one  
of Jehovah.<sup>h</sup>
- 17** The earth then opened up  
and swallowed Da'than  
And covered those assem-  
bled with A-bi'ram.<sup>i</sup>
- 18** A fire blazed among their  
group;  
A flame consumed the  
wicked.<sup>j</sup>
- 19** They made a calf in Ho'reb  
And bowed down to a statue  
of metal;<sup>\*k</sup>
- 20** They exchanged my glory  
For the representation of  
a grass-eating bull.<sup>l</sup>
- 21** They forgot God<sup>m</sup> their  
Savior,  
Who did great things in  
Egypt.<sup>n</sup>
- 22** Wonderful works in the land  
of Ham,<sup>o</sup>  
Awe-inspiring deeds at the  
Red Sea.<sup>p</sup>
- 23** He was about to order their  
annihilation,  
But Moses his chosen one  
interceded with him\*

106:15 \*Or "their soul." 106:19 \*Or "molten statue." 106:23 \*Lit., "stood in the breach before him."

- To avert his destructive anger.<sup>a</sup>
- 24 Then they despised the desirable land;<sup>b</sup>  
They had no faith in his promise.<sup>c</sup>
- 25 They kept grumbling in their tents;<sup>d</sup>  
They did not listen to the voice of Jehovah.<sup>e</sup>
- 26 So he raised his hand in an oath concerning them  
That he would make them fall in the wilderness;<sup>f</sup>
- 27 He would make their descendants fall among the nations,  
And he would scatter them throughout the lands.<sup>g</sup>
- 28 Then they joined in worship of\* Ba'al of Pe'or,<sup>h</sup>  
And they ate sacrifices offered to the dead.<sup>i</sup>
- 29 They provoked Him by their actions,<sup>i</sup>  
And a scourge broke out among them.<sup>j</sup>
- 30 But when Phin'e-has stood up and intervened,  
The scourge was halted.<sup>k</sup>
- 31 And it was counted to him as righteousness  
Through all generations forever.<sup>l</sup>
- 32 They provoked Him at the waters of Mer'i-bah,\*  
And it went badly for Moses because of them.<sup>m</sup>
- 33 They embittered his spirit,  
And he spoke rashly with his lips.<sup>n</sup>
- 34 They did not annihilate the peoples,<sup>o</sup>  
As Jehovah had commanded them.<sup>p</sup>
- 35 But they mingled with the nations<sup>q</sup>  
And adopted\* their ways.<sup>r</sup>

106:28 \*Or "attached themselves to."  
 \*That is, sacrifices offered either to dead people or to lifeless gods.  
 106:32 \*Meaning "Quarreling." 106:35  
 \*Or "learned."

## CHAP. 106

- a Ex 32:10, 11  
 De 9:14, 19  
 b Nu 13:32  
 De 8:7-9  
 c Nu 14:11  
 d Nu 14:2  
 De 1:27  
 e Nu 14:22, 23  
 f Nu 14:28, 29  
 Heb 3:11  
 g Le 26:33  
 De 4:27  
 h Nu 25:3  
 Ho 9:10  
 i Nu 25:6  
 De 32:16  
 j Nu 25:9  
 1Co 10:8  
 k Nu 25:7, 8  
 l Nu 25:11-13  
 m Nu 20:2, 12  
 Nu 27:13, 14  
 n Nu 20:10  
 o Jos 16:10  
 Jos 17:12  
 Jg 1:21  
 p Nu 33:52  
 De 7:1, 2  
 q Jos 15:63  
 Jg 1:33  
 r Isa 2:6

## Second Col.

- a Jg 2:11, 12  
 2Ki 17:12  
 b Ex 23:32, 33  
 c De 12:31  
 2Ki 16:1, 3  
 2Ki 17:17, 18  
 Jer 7:30, 31  
 1Co 10:20  
 d 2Ki 21:16  
 e Eze 16:20  
 f Jer 3:9  
 g De 32:30  
 Jg 3:8  
 h Jg 10:6-8  
 i Jg 10:11, 12  
 1Sa 12:11  
 j Jg 4:1  
 k Jg 6:1-5  
 l Jg 2:18  
 m Jg 3:9  
 n Ex 34:6  
 De 32:36  
 Isa 63:7  
 La 3:32  
 Joe 2:13

- 36 They kept serving their idols,<sup>a</sup>  
And these became a snare to them.<sup>b</sup>
- 37 They would sacrifice their sons  
And their daughters to demons.<sup>c</sup>
- 38 They kept spilling innocent blood,<sup>d</sup>  
The blood of their own sons and daughters  
Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Ca'naan;<sup>e</sup>  
And the land was polluted with bloodshed.
- 39 They became unclean by their works;  
They committed spiritual prostitution by their deeds.<sup>f</sup>
- 40 So the anger of Jehovah blazed against his people,  
And he grew to detest his inheritance.
- 41 He repeatedly handed them over to the nations,<sup>g</sup>  
So that those who hated them might rule over them.<sup>h</sup>
- 42 Their enemies oppressed them,  
And they were subject to their power.<sup>\*</sup>
- 43 Many times he rescued them,<sup>i</sup>  
But they would rebel and disobey,<sup>j</sup>  
And they would be brought low for their error.<sup>k</sup>
- 44 But he would see their distress<sup>l</sup>  
And hear their cry for help.<sup>m</sup>
- 45 For their sake he would remember his covenant,  
And he would feel pity,<sup>\*</sup>  
moved by his great<sup>n</sup> loyal love.<sup>n</sup>
- 46 He would cause them to be pitied

106:42 \*Lit., "hand." 106:45 \*Or "feel regret." \*Or "abundant."

By all who held them  
captive.<sup>a</sup>

- 47 Save us, O Jehovah our  
God,<sup>b</sup>  
And gather us from the  
nations<sup>c</sup>  
So that we may give thanks  
to your holy name  
And exult in praising you.<sup>\*d</sup>

106:47 \*Or "exult in your praise."

CHAP. 106

a Ezr 9:9

b Ps 79:9

c Jer 32:37

d 1Ch 16:35

Second Col.

a 1Ch 29:10

Ps 41:13

Lu 1:68

- 48 May Jehovah, the God of  
Israel, be praised  
Throughout all eternity.<sup>\*a</sup>  
And let all the people say,  
"Amen!"<sup>#</sup>  
Praise Jah!<sup>Δ</sup>

106:48 \*Or "From eternity to eternity."  
#Or "So be it!" ΔOr "Hallelujah!" "Jah"  
is a shortened form of the name Jeho-  
vah.

## BOOK FIVE (Psalms 107-150)

- 107 Give thanks to Jehovah,  
for he is good;<sup>a</sup>  
His loyal love endures for-  
ever.<sup>b</sup>
- 2 Let those reclaimed\* by  
Jehovah say this,  
Those whom he reclaimed  
from the hand<sup>#</sup> of the  
adversary,<sup>c</sup>
- 3 Whom he gathered together  
from the lands,<sup>d</sup>  
From the east and from the  
west,<sup>\*</sup>  
From the north and from the  
south.<sup>e</sup>
- 4 They wandered about in the  
wilderness, in the desert;  
They did not find a way to a  
city where they could live.
- 5 They were hungry and  
thirsty;  
They were\* faint from  
exhaustion.
- 6 They kept crying out to  
Jehovah in their distress;<sup>f</sup>  
He rescued them from their  
plight.<sup>g</sup>
- 7 He had them walk in the  
right way<sup>h</sup>  
To come to a city where they  
could live.<sup>i</sup>
- 8 Let people give thanks to  
Jehovah<sup>j</sup> for his loyal love

107:2 \*Or "repurchased." #Or "power."  
107:3 \*Or "From sunrise and from sun-  
set." 107:5 \*Or "Their soul was."

CHAP. 107

a Lu 18:19

b 1Ch 16:34  
Ps 103:17

c Isa 35:10  
Jer 15:21  
Mic 4:10

d Ps 106:47  
Jer 29:14

e Isa 43:5, 6  
Jer 31:8

f Ho 5:14, 15

g Isa 41:17

h Isa 30:21

i Ne 11:3

j 1Ch 16:8

Second Col.

a Ps 40:5

b Ps 34:10  
Isa 55:2  
Lu 1:53

c Ps 106:43  
La 3:42

d Le 26:21

e Ps 68:6  
Ps 146:7  
Isa 49:8, 9  
Isa 61:1

f La 3:22

And for his wonderful works  
in behalf of the sons of  
men.<sup>a</sup>

- 9 For he has satisfied the  
thirsty\*  
And filled the hungry<sup>#</sup> with  
good things.<sup>b</sup>
- 10 Some were living in deepest  
darkness,  
Prisoners in affliction and  
in irons.
- 11 For they had rebelled against  
the word of God;  
They disrespected the coun-  
sel of the Most High.<sup>c</sup>
- 12 So he humbled their hearts  
through hardship;<sup>d</sup>  
They stumbled, and there  
was no one to help them.
- 13 They called to Jehovah for  
help in their distress;  
He saved them from their  
plight.
- 14 He brought them out of  
deepest darkness,  
And he tore off their  
shackles.<sup>e</sup>
- 15 Let people give thanks to  
Jehovah for his loyal love<sup>f</sup>  
And for his wonderful works  
in behalf of the sons of  
men.
- 16 For he has broken down the  
doors of copper

107:9 \*Or "the parched soul." #Or "the  
hungry soul."

- And cut through the bars of iron.<sup>a</sup>
- 17 They were foolish and suffered affliction<sup>b</sup> On account of their transgressions and their errors.<sup>c</sup>
- 18 They lost their appetite for\* all food; They drew near the gates of death.
- 19 They would call to Jehovah for help in their distress; He would save them from their plight.
- 20 He would send his word and heal them<sup>d</sup> And rescue them from the pits they were trapped in.
- 21 Let people give thanks to Jehovah for his loyal love And for his wonderful works in behalf of the sons of men.
- 22 Let them offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving<sup>e</sup> And declare his works with a joyful cry.
- 23 Those who travel on the sea in ships, Who ply their trade over the vast waters,<sup>f</sup>
- 24 They have seen the works of Jehovah And his wonderful works in the deep;<sup>g</sup>
- 25 How by his word a wind-storm arises,<sup>h</sup> Lifting up the waves of the sea.
- 26 They rise up to the sky; They plunge down to the depths. Their courage\* melts away because of the impending calamity.
- 27 They reel and stagger like a drunken man, And all their skill proves useless.<sup>i</sup>
- 28 Then they cry out to Jehovah in their distress,<sup>a</sup> And he rescues them from their plight.
- 29 He calms the windstorm; The waves of the sea grow quiet.<sup>b</sup>
- 30 They rejoice when these grow still, And he leads them to their desired harbor.
- 31 Let people give thanks to Jehovah for his loyal love And for his wonderful works in behalf of the sons of men.<sup>c</sup>
- 32 Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people,<sup>d</sup> And let them praise him in the council\* of the elders.
- 33 He turns rivers into a desert And springs of water into parched ground,<sup>e</sup>
- 34 Fruitful land into salty wasteland,<sup>f</sup> Because of the wickedness of those dwelling in it.
- 35 He turns the desert into reedy pools of water, And dry land into springs of water.<sup>g</sup>
- 36 He causes the hungry to dwell there,<sup>h</sup> So that they may establish a city where they can live.<sup>i</sup>
- 37 They sow fields and plant vineyards<sup>j</sup> That yield fruitful crops.<sup>k</sup>
- 38 He blesses them and they increase greatly; He does not let their cattle diminish.<sup>l</sup>
- 39 But again they become few and are humiliated Because of oppression, calamity, and grief.
- 40 He pours out contempt upon nobles

## CHAP. 107

a Isa 45:1, 2

b Jer 2:19

c La 3:39

d Ps 147:3

e Le 7:12  
Ps 50:14f 2Ch 9:21  
Eze 27:9g Ge 1:21  
Ps 104:25h Ps 135:7  
Jer 10:13  
Jon 1:4

i Jon 1:4, 13

## Second Col.

a Jon 1:14

b Ps 65:7  
Ps 89:9  
Jon 1:15

c Ps 105:5

d Ps 111:1

e 1Ki 17:1, 7  
Isa 42:15  
Am 4:7f Ge 13:10  
De 29:22, 23g 2Ki 3:17  
Isa 35:7  
Isa 41:18h Ps 146:7  
Lu 1:53

i Ps 107:7

j Isa 65:21

k Ac 14:17

l De 7:13, 14

107:18 \*Or "Their soul detested."

107:26 \*Or "soul."

107:32 \*Lit., "seat."

And makes them wander in trackless wastelands.<sup>a</sup>

- 41** But he protects\* the poor from oppression<sup>b</sup> And makes their families as numerous as a flock.
- 42** The upright see this and rejoice;<sup>c</sup> But all the unrighteous shut their mouths.<sup>d</sup>
- 43** Whoever is wise will observe these things<sup>e</sup> And will carefully consider Jehovah's acts of loyal love.<sup>f</sup>

A song. A melody of David.

## 108 My heart is steadfast, O God.

I will sing and make music with my whole being.\*<sup>g</sup>

- 2** Do awake, O stringed instrument; you too, O harp.<sup>h</sup> I will awaken the dawn.
- 3** I will praise you among the peoples, O Jehovah, And I will sing praises\* to you among the nations.
- 4** For your loyal love is great, as high as the heavens,<sup>i</sup> And your faithfulness, up to the skies.
- 5** Be exalted above the heavens, O God; May your glory be over all the earth.<sup>j</sup>
- 6** So that your loved ones may be rescued, Save us with your right hand and answer me.<sup>k</sup>
- 7** God has spoken in his holiness:\* "I will exult, I will give out She'chem<sup>l</sup> as an inheritance, And I will measure off the Valley<sup>m</sup> of Suc'coth."

107:41 \*Or "puts on high," that is, out of reach. 108:1 \*Lit., "even my glory." 108:3 \*Or "make music." 108:7 \*Or possibly, "in his holy place." <sup>n</sup>Or "Low Plain."

### CHAP. 107

- a Job 12:21, 24  
b 1Sa 2:8  
c Ex 58:10  
d Ex 11:7  
Ps 63:11  
e Ps 64:9  
Ho 14:9  
f Ps 77:12  
Ps 143:5  
Jer 9:24

### CHAP. 108

- g Ps 57:7-11  
Ps 104:33  
h Ps 81:2  
i Ps 36:5  
Ps 103:11  
j Ps 8:1  
Ps 57:5, 11  
k Ps 20:6  
Ps 60:5  
l Jos 17:7  
m Ge 33:17  
Ps 60:6-8

### Second Col.

- a Jos 13:8, 11  
b De 33:17  
c Ge 49:10  
d 2Sa 8:2  
e Nu 24:18  
2Sa 8:14  
f 2Sa 8:1  
g Ps 60:9-12  
h De 23:14  
i Ps 18:6  
j Ps 118:8  
Ps 146:3, 4  
k 1Sa 2:4  
2Sa 22:40  
Isa 40:29-31  
l Ps 44:5

### CHAP. 109

- m Ps 33:1  
n 2Sa 15:2, 3  
Ps 31:18  
o 2Sa 15:12  
2Sa 16:5-7  
Ps 69:4  
p 2Sa 13:39  
q Ps 35:11, 12  
Ps 38:19, 20  
r Ps 55:12-14

**8** Gil'e-ad<sup>a</sup> belongs to me, as does Ma-nas'seh, And E'phra-im is the helmet\* for my head;<sup>b</sup> Judah is my commander's staff.<sup>c</sup>

**9** Mo'ab is my washbasin.<sup>d</sup> Over E'dom I will throw my sandal.<sup>e</sup> Over Phi-lis'ti-a I will shout in triumph.<sup>f</sup>

**10** Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me as far as E'dom?<sup>g</sup>

**11** Is it not you, O God, who have rejected us, Our God, who no longer goes out with our armies?<sup>h</sup>

**12** Help us in our distress,<sup>i</sup> For salvation by humans is worthless.<sup>j</sup>

**13** By God we will gain power,<sup>k</sup> And he will trample on our adversaries.<sup>l</sup>

To the director. Of David. A melody.

## 109 O God whom I praise,<sup>m</sup> do not remain silent.

- 2** For the wicked and the deceitful open their mouths against me. They speak about me with lying tongues;<sup>n</sup>
- 3** They surround me with hateful words, And they attack me without cause.<sup>o</sup>
- 4** They resist me in response to my love;<sup>p</sup> But I continue to pray.
- 5** They repay me with bad for good<sup>q</sup> And hatred for my love.<sup>r</sup>
- 6** Appoint a wicked man over him; May a resister\* stand at his right hand.
- 7** When he is judged, may he be found guilty;\*

108:8 \*Lit., "stronghold." 109:6 \*Or "an accuser." 109:7 \*Or "wicked."



- May even his prayer be counted as a sin.<sup>a</sup>
- 8** Let his days be few;<sup>b</sup>  
His office of oversight let someone else take.<sup>c</sup>
- 9** Let his children\* become fatherless,  
And his wife, a widow.
- 10** May his children\* become wandering beggars,  
Foraging for food from their ruined homes.
- 11** May his creditor seize\* all that he has,  
And may strangers plunder his possessions.
- 12** May no one extend kindness\* to him,  
And may no one show favor to his fatherless children.
- 13** Let his descendants\* be cut off;<sup>d</sup>  
May their name be erased within a generation.
- 14** Let the error of his forefathers be remembered by Jehovah,<sup>e</sup>  
And may the sin of his mother not be erased.
- 15** May Jehovah always be mindful of what they have done;  
And may he cut off the memory of them from the earth.<sup>f</sup>
- 16** For he did not remember to show kindness,<sup>g</sup>  
But he kept pursuing the oppressed,<sup>h</sup> poor, and brokenhearted man  
To put him to death.<sup>i</sup>
- 17** He loved to pronounce a curse, so that is what came upon him;  
He had no desire to bless, so he received no blessing.
- 18** He was clothed with curses as his garment.

109:9, 10 \*Lit., "sons." 109:11 \*Or "May usurers lay out traps for." 109:12, 16 \*Or "loyal love." 109:13 \*Or "posterity."

## CHAP. 109

a Isa 1:15  
Mic 3:4

b Ps 55:23  
Mt 27:5

c Ac 1:16-20

d Ps 37:28

e 2Sa 3:28, 29  
2Sa 21:1

f Ps 34:16

g Jas 2:13

h Ps 10:2

i 2Sa 16:11  
2Sa 17:1, 2  
Ps 37:32

## Second Col.

a Ps 109:29

b 2Sa 17:23

c Ps 25:11  
Ps 31:3

d Ps 36:7  
Ps 69:16  
Ps 86:5

e Ps 40:17

f Ps 102:4

g Ps 31:11

h Ps 22:7  
Mt 27:39

- And they were poured into his body like water,  
Into his bones like oil.
- 19** May his curses be like the clothing in which he wraps himself<sup>a</sup>  
And like a belt he always wears.
- 20** This is the payment from Jehovah for the one who resists me<sup>b</sup>  
And for those who speak evil things against me.\*
- 21** But you, Jehovah the Sovereign Lord,  
Act in my behalf for the sake of your name.<sup>c</sup>  
Rescue me, because your loyal love is good.<sup>d</sup>
- 22** For I am helpless and poor,<sup>e</sup>  
And my heart has been pierced within me.<sup>f</sup>
- 23** I am passing away like a fading shadow;  
I have been shaken off like a locust.
- 24** My knees give way from fasting;  
My body is thin, and I am wasting away.\*
- 25** I have become the object of their taunts.<sup>g</sup>  
When they see me, they shake their heads.<sup>h</sup>
- 26** Help me, O Jehovah my God;  
Save me by your loyal love.
- 27** May they know that this is by your hand;  
That you, O Jehovah, have done it.
- 28** Let them pronounce a curse, but may you give a blessing.  
When they rise up against me, may they be put to shame,  
But let your servant rejoice.
- 29** Let those who resist me be clothed with humiliation;

109:20 \*Or "my soul." 109:24 \*Lit., "My flesh has grown lean, without fatness (oil)."

May they be wrapped in their shame as in a robe.\*<sup>a</sup>

- 30** My mouth will fervently praise Jehovah;  
I will praise him in front of many people.<sup>b</sup>
- 31** For he will stand at the right hand of the poor  
To save him from those who condemn him.\*

Of David. A melody.

## 110 Jehovah declared to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand<sup>c</sup>  
Until I place your enemies at a stool for your feet.”<sup>d</sup>

- 2** Jehovah will extend the scepter of your power out of Zion, saying:  
“Go subduing in the midst of your enemies.”<sup>e</sup>

- 3** Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day of your military force.\*  
In splendid holiness, from the womb of the dawn,  
You have your company of young men just like dew-drops.

- 4** Jehovah has sworn an oath, and he will not change his mind:\*

“You are a priest forever<sup>f</sup>  
In the manner of Mel-chiz’ e-dek!”<sup>g</sup>

- 5** Jehovah will be at your right hand;<sup>h</sup>  
He will crush kings on the day of his anger.<sup>i</sup>

- 6** He will execute judgment against\* the nations;<sup>j</sup>  
He will fill the land with dead bodies.<sup>k</sup>  
He will crush the leader<sup>#</sup> of a vast land.<sup>Δ</sup>

**109:29** \*Or “sleeveless coat.” **109:31** \*Or “his soul.” **110:3** \*Or “on the day your army mobilizes.” **110:4** \*Or “he will feel no regret.” **110:6** \*Or “among.” <sup>#</sup>Lit., “head.” <sup>Δ</sup>Or “of the entire earth.”

### CHAP. 109

- a Ps 35:26  
b Ps 22:22

### CHAP. 110

- c Ro 8:34  
Eph 1:20  
Heb 8:1  
Heb 12:2
- d Mt 22:43, 44  
Mr 12:36  
Lu 20:42, 43  
Ac 2:34, 35  
1Co 15:25  
Heb 1:3, 13  
Heb 10:12, 13
- e Ps 2:8, 9  
Ps 45:4, 5  
Mt 28:18  
Re 6:2  
Re 12:5  
Re 19:11, 15
- f Heb 7:21, 28
- g Ge 14:18  
Heb 5:5, 6  
Heb 6:19, 20  
Heb 7:3, 11
- h Ps 16:8
- i Ps 2:2  
Ro 2:5  
Re 11:18  
Re 19:19
- j Ps 79:6
- k Jer 25:31-33

### Second Col.

### CHAP. 111

- a Ps 68:4  
Ps 113:1  
Re 19:1
- b Ps 9:1
- c Ps 98:1  
Ps 139:14  
Re 15:3
- d Ps 77:12  
Ps 143:5
- e Ps 103:17
- f De 31:19  
Jos 4:5-7
- g Ex 34:6  
Jas 5:11
- h Ps 37:25  
Mt 6:33
- i Ps 89:34  
Ps 105:8
- j Ps 44:2  
Ps 105:44
- k De 32:4

- 7** He\* will drink from the stream along the road.  
Therefore, he will hold his head high.

## 111 Praise Jah!\*

⚡ [Aleph]

I will praise Jehovah with all my heart<sup>b</sup>

⚡ [Beth]

In the assembled group of upright ones and in the congregation.

⚡ [Gimel]

- 2** The works of Jehovah are great;<sup>c</sup>

⚡ [Daleth]

They are studied by all those finding pleasure in them.<sup>d</sup>

⚡ [He]

- 3** His activity is glorious and splendid,

⚡ [Waw]

And his righteousness endures forever.<sup>e</sup>

⚡ [Zayin]

- 4** He causes his wonderful works to be remembered.<sup>f</sup>

⚡ [Heth]

Jehovah is compassionate\* and merciful.<sup>g</sup>

⚡ [Teth]

- 5** Food he gives to those fearing him.<sup>h</sup>

⚡ [Yod]

He remembers his covenant forever.<sup>i</sup>

⚡ [Kaph]

- 6** He has revealed to his people his powerful works

⚡ [Lamed]

By giving them the inheritance of the nations.<sup>j</sup>

⚡ [Mem]

- 7** The works of his hands are truth and justice;<sup>k</sup>

**110:7** \*Referring to “my Lord” in vs. 1. **111:1** \*Or “Hallelujah!” “Jah” is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. **111:4** \*Or “gracious.”

- Song 2 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Give Thanks to Jehovah”:** (10 min.)  
Ps 106:1-3—Jehovah deserves our thanks (*w15 1/15 8 ¶1; w02 6/1 18 ¶19*)  
Ps 106:7-14, 19-25, 35-39—The Israelites lost appreciation and became unfaithful (*w15 1/15 8-9 ¶2-3; w01 6/15 13 ¶1-3*)  
Ps 106:4, 5, 48—We have many reasons to thank Jehovah (*w11 10/15 5 ¶7; w03 12/1 15-16 ¶3-6*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Ps 109:8—Did God predestine Judas to betray Jesus in order to fulfill prophecy? (*w00 12/15 24 ¶20; it-1 857-858*)

Ps 109:31—In what way does Jehovah “stand at the right hand of the poor”? (*w06 9/1 14 ¶8*)

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) Ps 106:1-22

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) // 6—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) // 7—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh 178-179 ¶14-16*—Help the student to see how he can apply the material.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 94
- **Jehovah Will Care for Our Needs (Ps 107:9):** (15 min.) Discussion. Start by playing the video *Jehovah Will Care for Our Needs*. (Go to [tv.jw.org](http://tv.jw.org), and look under VIDEO ON DEMAND > FAMILY.) Ask the audience to comment on the practical lessons learned.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *ia* chap. 22 ¶14-24, review on p. 194
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 149 and Prayer

PSALMS 106-109 | “Give Thanks to Jehovah”

**106:7, 13, 14**

**Why did the Israelites quickly forget Jehovah’s saving acts?**

- They shifted their focus from Jehovah to their immediate comforts and fleshly concerns

**106:1-5**

**How can you cultivate a grateful heart and maintain it?**

- Focus on the many reasons you have to be thankful
- Meditate on the hope for the future
- Thank Jehovah in prayer for specific blessings



## August 22-28

### Treasures From God's Word

**Psalm 106:1-3**—Jehovah deserves our thanks

Reference: w15 1/15 8 **paragraph 1**.

Jehovah, the Giver of “every good gift and every perfect present,” is indeed worthy of our thanks. (**James 1:17**) As our loving Shepherd, he tenderly cares for all our physical and spiritual needs. (**Psalm 23:1-3**) He has proved to be “our refuge and strength” —especially in times of distress! (**Psalm 46:1**) Surely we have many reasons to agree wholeheartedly with the psalmist who wrote: “Give thanks to Jehovah, for he is good; his loyal love endures forever.” —**Psalm 106:1**.

Reference: w02 6/1 18 **paragraph 19**.

In these perilous and uncertain days, taking delight in Jehovah's righteousness is a source of security and protection. To the question: “O Jehovah, who will be a guest in your tent? Who will reside in your holy mountain?” King David answered: “He who is walking faultlessly and practicing righteousness.” (**Psalm 15:1, 2**) By pursuing God's righteousness and finding delight in it, we can maintain a good relationship with him and continue to enjoy his favor and blessing. Thus, ours is a life of contentment, self-respect, and peace of mind. “He that is pursuing

righteousness and loving-kindness will find life, righteousness and glory,” says God’s Word. (Proverbs 21:21) Furthermore, trying our best to do what is just and right in all our endeavors means happy personal relationships and an improved quality of life—morally and spiritually. The psalmist declared: “Happy are those observing justice, doing righteousness all the time.”—Psalm 106:3.

**Psalm 106:7-14, 19-25, 35-39**—The Israelites lost appreciation and became unfaithful

Reference: w15 1/15 8-9 **paragraphs 2-3.**

2 Why is it important for us to consider this matter of giving thanks? As foretold, people in these last days have become increasingly unthankful. (**2 Timothy 3:2**) Many take their blessings for granted. Influenced by the commercial world and its advertising, millions of people strive to obtain more instead of being content with what they have. We too can be affected by this unappreciative spirit. Like the ancient Israelites, we could become ungrateful and lose appreciation for our precious relationship with Jehovah and for the blessings that we have received from him.—**Psalm 106:7, 11-13.**

3 Then, too, consider what can happen when we undergo difficult trials. At such times, we could easily become overwhelmed and lose sight of our blessings. (**Psalm 116:3**)

Therefore, how can we cultivate a grateful heart and maintain it? And what will help us to remain positive even when we are undergoing severe trials? Let us see.

Reference: *w01 6/15 13 paragraphs 1-3.*

1 “Unforgettable” would be a good word to describe the miracles performed by Jehovah in ancient Egypt. Each one of the Ten Plagues was undeniably awesome. Those blows were followed by the amazing deliverance of the people of Israel through the parted waters of the Red Sea.

(Deuteronomy 34:10-12) If you had been an eyewitness of those events, hopefully you would never have forgotten the One responsible for them. Yet, the psalmist sang: “They [the Israelites] forgot God their Savior, the Doer of great things in Egypt, wonderful works in the land of Ham, fear-inspiring things at the Red Sea.” — **Psalm 106:21, 22.**

2 After crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites “began to fear Jehovah and to put faith in Jehovah.” (Exodus 14:31) The men of Israel joined Moses in a victory song to Jehovah, and Miriam and other women responded by playing tambourines and dancing. (**Exodus 15:1, 20**) Yes, God’s people were impressed with Jehovah’s mighty acts. But their appreciation for the One who performed those acts was short-lived. Soon afterward many of them behaved as though they had suffered a major memory loss. They became murmurers and complainers against Jehovah. Some

engaged in idolatry and sexual immorality.—Numbers 14:27; 25:1-9.

### **What Could Make Us Forget?**

3 Israel's lack of appreciation is indeed perplexing. Still, the same thing could happen to us. True, we have not witnessed such divine miracles. In our relationship with God, however, there surely have been occasions that were unforgettable. Some of us may remember when we accepted the truth from the Bible. Other joyful times may include our prayer of dedication to Jehovah and our water baptism as true Christians. Many of us have experienced Jehovah's helping hand at other points in our life. (Psalm 118:15) Above all, through the sacrificial death of God's own Son, Jesus Christ, we have received the hope of salvation. (John 3:16) Nevertheless, because of our imperfect nature, when faced with wrong desires and the anxieties of life, we may too easily forget the good things that Jehovah has done for us.

**Psalm 106:4, 5, 48**—We have many reasons to thank Jehovah

Reference: *w11* 10/15 5 **paragraph 7**.

The situation of fellow Christians, however, is different, and so is their spirit. The apostle Paul wrote: "Always be rejoicing." (**1 Thessalonians 5:16**) There are many reasons for us to be joyful and to rejoice together. We worship the



Most High God, Jehovah; we understand the Bible's message of truth; we have the hope of salvation and eternal life; and we can also help others to attain the same blessings.—**Psalm 106:4, 5; Jeremiah 15:16; Romans 12:12.**

Reference: w03 12/1 15-16 **paragraphs 3-6.**

### **Reasons for Being Thankful**

3 It is to Jehovah God, our Creator and Life-Giver, that we owe our gratitude, especially as we consider some of the bounteous gifts he has showered upon us. (James 1:17) Daily, we thank Jehovah that we are alive. (Psalm 36:9) Around us, we observe abundant evidence of Jehovah's handiwork, such as the sun, moon, and stars. Our planet's rich storehouse of life-sustaining minerals, the atmosphere's finely balanced mixture of vital gases, and the intricate cycles in nature all testify to the debt we owe our loving heavenly Father. "Many things you yourself have done, O Jehovah my God," sang King David, "even your wonderful works and your thoughts toward us; there is none to be compared to you. Were I inclined to tell and speak of them, they have become more numerous than I can recount."—Psalm 40:5.

4 Though far removed from a physical paradise, Jehovah's servants today relish living in a spiritual paradise. In our Kingdom Halls and at our conventions and assemblies, we experience the fruitage of God's spirit at work in our fellow



believers. Indeed, when preaching to people who have little or no religious background, some Witnesses refer to what Paul described in his letter to the Galatians. They first draw attention to “the works of the flesh” and ask their listeners what they have observed. (Galatians 5:19-23) Most readily agree that these characterize human society today. When shown the description of the fruitage of God’s spirit and upon being invited to the local Kingdom Hall to see evidence of this for themselves, many quickly acknowledge: “God is really among you.” (1 Corinthians 14:25) And this is not limited to the local Kingdom Hall. Travel where you may, when you meet any of the more than six million Witnesses of Jehovah, you find the same happy, joyous spirit. Truly, this upbuilding association is reason for giving thanks to Jehovah, the one who supplies his spirit to make it possible.—**Zephaniah 3:9; Ephesians 3:20, 21.**

5 The greatest gift, the most perfect present that Jehovah has bestowed, is that of his Son, Jesus, by means of whom the ransom sacrifice was provided. “If this is how God loved us,” wrote the apostle John, “then we are ourselves under obligation to love one another.” (1 John 4:11) Yes, we show ourselves thankful for the ransom not only by expressing love and gratitude to Jehovah but also by living our lives in a way that manifests love for others.—Matthew 22:37-39.

6 We can learn more about showing gratitude by considering the way Jehovah dealt with Israel of old. By

means of the Law, which he gave to the nation through Moses, Jehovah taught the people many lessons. Through “the framework of the knowledge and of the truth in the Law,” we can learn much that will help us follow Paul’s counsel: “Show yourselves thankful.”—Romans 2:20; Colossians 3:15.

### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**Psalm 109:8**—Did God predestine Judas to betray Jesus in order to fulfill prophecy?

Reference: *w00* 12/15 24 **paragraph 20**.

You should not be distracted or discouraged by the fact that not all stand complete and with firm conviction. Some may fail, be deflected, or simply give up. That happened among those closest to Jesus, his apostles. But when Judas turned traitor, did the other apostles slow down or quit? No, indeed! Peter applied Psalm 109:8 to show that another would take Judas’ place. A replacement was selected, and God’s loyal ones actively got on with their preaching assignment. (Acts 1:15-26) They were determined to stand complete with firm conviction.

Reference: *it-1* 857-858.

**Only page 857 paragraph 4-page 858 paragraph 2 inserted.**

**Did God predestine Judas to betray Jesus in order**

## to fulfill prophecy?

The traitorous course of Judas Iscariot fulfilled divine prophecy and demonstrated Jehovah's foreknowledge as well as that of his Son. (**Psalm 41:9; 55:12, 13; 109:8; Acts 1:16-20**) Yet it cannot be said that God foreordained or predestinated Judas himself to such a course. The prophecies foretold that some intimate acquaintance of Jesus would be his betrayer, but they did not specify which of those sharing such acquaintance it would be. Again, Bible principles rule against God's having foreordained Judas' actions. The divine standard stated by the apostle is: "Never lay your hands hastily upon any man; neither be a sharer in the sins of others; preserve yourself chaste." (**1 Timothy 5:22; compare 3:6.**) Evidencing his concern that the selection of his 12 apostles be wisely and properly made, Jesus spent the night in prayer to his Father before making known his decision. (**Luke 6:12-16**) If Judas were already divinely foreordained to be a traitor, this would result in inconsistency in God's direction and guidance and, according to the rule, would make him a sharer in the sins that one committed.

Thus, it seems evident that at the time of his being selected as an apostle, Judas' heart presented no definite evidence of a treasonous attitude. He allowed a 'poisonous root to spring up' and defile him, resulting in his deviation and in his accepting, not God's direction, but the Devil's leading in

a course of thievery and treachery. (**Hebrews 12:14, 15; John 13:2; Acts 1:24, 25; James 1:14, 15;** see JUDAS **Number 4.**) By the time such deviation reached a certain point, Jesus himself could read Judas' heart and foretell his betrayal.— **John 13:10, 11.**

True, in the account at John 6:64, on the occasion of some disciples stumbling over certain teachings of Jesus, we read that “from the beginning [“from the outset,” *JB*] Jesus knew who were the ones not believing and who was the one that would betray him.” While the word “beginning” (Gr., *arkhe*) is used at 2 Peter 3:4 to refer to the start of creation, it can also refer to other times. (**Luke 1:2; John 15:27**) For example, when the apostle Peter spoke of the holy spirit falling on Gentiles “just as it did also upon us in the beginning,” he obviously was not referring to the beginning of his discipleship or apostleship but to an important point in his ministry, the day of Pentecost, 33 C.E., “the beginning” of the outpouring of the holy spirit for a certain purpose. (**Acts 11:15; 2:1-4**) It is therefore interesting to note this comment on John 6:64 in Lange's *Commentary on the Holy Scriptures* (**page 227**): “Beginning . . . means not, metaphysically from the beginning of all things, . . . nor from the beginning of His [Jesus'] acquaintance with each one, . . . nor from the beginning of His collecting of the disciples around Him, or the beginning of His Messianic ministry, . . . but from the first secret germs of unbelief [that produced

the stumbling of some disciples]. So also He knew His betrayer from the beginning.” —Translated and edited by P. Schaff, 1976; compare **1 John 3:8, 11, 12**.

**Psalm 109:31**—In what way does Jehovah “stand at the right hand of the poor”?

Reference: *w06 9/1 14* **paragraph 8**.

The sword-wielding right hand of a soldier normally lacks the protection of the shield, which was held on the left.

Metaphorically, Jehovah is “at the right hand” of his servants, to fight for them. Thus he gives them protection and help—a fine reason for us to “laud [him] very much”!

- Song 2 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

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PSALMS 106-109 | “Give Thanks to Jehovah”

**106:7, 13, 14**

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- Meditate on the hope for the future
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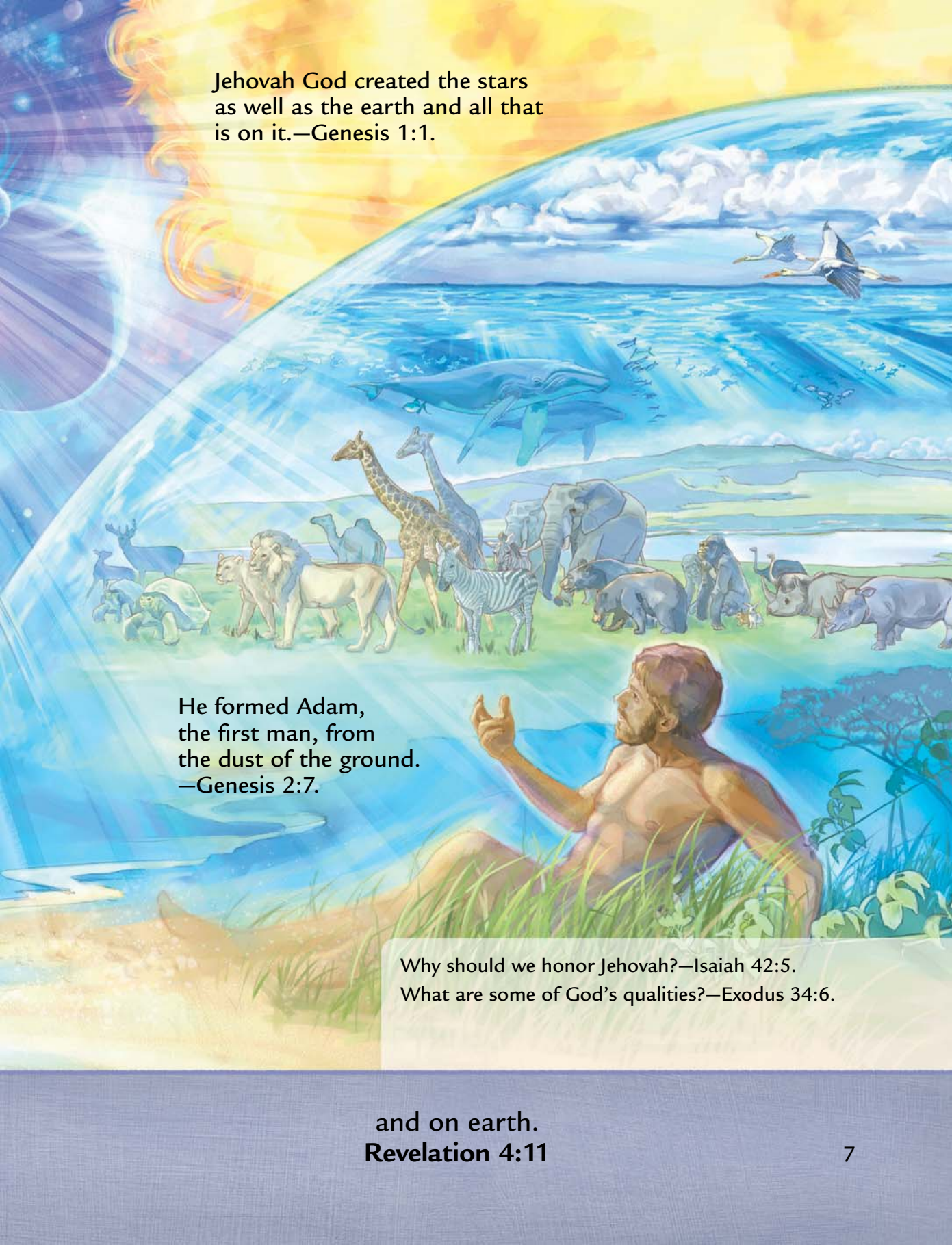
# Who Is the True God?

There is only one true God, and his name is Jehovah. (Psalm 83:18) He is a Spirit; we cannot see him. He loves us and wants us to love him in return. He also wants us to love other people. (Matthew 22:35-40) He is the Supreme One, the Creator of all things.

The first of God's creations was a mighty spirit person who later came to be known as Jesus Christ. Jehovah also created the angels.

Jehovah created everything in heaven . . .





Jehovah God created the stars  
as well as the earth and all that  
is on it.—Genesis 1:1.

He formed Adam,  
the first man, from  
the dust of the ground.  
—Genesis 2:7.

Why should we honor Jehovah?—Isaiah 42:5.  
What are some of God's qualities?—Exodus 34:6.

and on earth.  
**Revelation 4:11**



## Who Is the True God?

There is only one true God, and his name is Jehovah. (Psalm 83:18) He is a Spirit; we cannot see him. He loves us and wants us to love him in return. He also wants us to love other people. (Matthew 22:35-40) He is the Supreme One, the Creator of all things.

The first of God's creations was a mighty spirit person who later came to be known as Jesus Christ. Jehovah also created the angels.

Jehovah God created the stars as well as the earth and all that is on it.—Genesis 1:1.

He formed Adam, the first man, from the dust of the ground.—Genesis 2:7.

Why should we honor Jehovah?—Isaiah 42:5.  
What are some of God's qualities?—Exodus 34:6.

Jehovah created everything in heaven . . .

and on earth.  
**Revelation 4:11**



# 94 *Content With God's Good Gifts* (James 1:17)

1. All perfect presents, each good gift,  
The things we're fondest of,  
The truly worthy things in life,  
Come down from God above.  
With him there is no wavering,  
No change, however slight.  
Jehovah is our Grand Provider,  
The Source of life and light.
2. We have no cause for anxious care  
Concerning daily needs;  
We know the loving care by him  
Who birds of heaven feeds.  
We give no place to worthless things,  
No years to hurtful strife.  
But satisfied with God's provisions,  
We lead a simple life.
3. The lofty things in human eyes,  
To God are merely vain.  
Let's use the days we're granted now  
For things of lasting gain.  
The riches that we store with God  
Are safe, though we may die.  
We prize the gift of true contentment  
And keep a simple eye.

(See also Jer. 45:5; Matt. 6:25-34; 1 Tim. 6:8; Heb. 13:5.)

- Song 2 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Give Thanks to Jehovah”:** (10 min.)  
Ps 106:1-3—Jehovah deserves our thanks (*w15 1/15 8 ¶1; w02 6/1 18 ¶19*)  
Ps 106:7-14, 19-25, 35-39—The Israelites lost appreciation and became unfaithful (*w15 1/15 8-9 ¶2-3; w01 6/15 13 ¶1-3*)  
Ps 106:4, 5, 48—We have many reasons to thank Jehovah (*w11 10/15 5 ¶7; w03 12/1 15-16 ¶3-6*)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Ps 109:8—Did God predestine Judas to betray Jesus in order to fulfill prophecy? (*w00 12/15 24 ¶20; it-1 857-858*)

Ps 109:31—In what way does Jehovah “stand at the right hand of the poor”? (*w06 9/1 14 ¶8*)

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) Ps 106:1-22

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) // 6—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) // 7—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh 178-179 ¶14-16*—Help the student to see how he can apply the material.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 94
- **Jehovah Will Care for Our Needs (Ps 107:9):** (15 min.) Discussion. Start by playing the video *Jehovah Will Care for Our Needs*. (Go to [tv.jw.org](http://tv.jw.org), and look under VIDEO ON DEMAND > FAMILY.) Ask the audience to comment on the practical lessons learned.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *ia* chap. 22 ¶14-24, review on p. 194
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 149 and Prayer

PSALMS 106-109 | “Give Thanks to Jehovah”

**106:7, 13, 14**

**Why did the Israelites quickly forget Jehovah’s saving acts?**

- They shifted their focus from Jehovah to their immediate comforts and fleshly concerns

**106:1-5**

**How can you cultivate a grateful heart and maintain it?**

- Focus on the many reasons you have to be thankful
- Meditate on the hope for the future
- Thank Jehovah in prayer for specific blessings



swered the question, repeating some of the popular misconceptions surrounding Jesus' identity. But Jesus wanted to know more. Were his closest followers making the same mistakes? "You, though, who do you say I am?" he asked.—Luke 9:18-20.

<sup>13</sup> Again, Peter was quick to respond. He put into clear, bold words the conclusion that had formed in the hearts of many there. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," he said. We can imagine Jesus giving Peter a smile of approval as He commended him warmly. Jesus reminded Peter that it was Jehovah God—not any man—who had made this vital truth so plain to those with genuine faith. Peter had been enabled to discern one of the greatest truths Jehovah had yet revealed—the identity of the long-promised Messiah, or Christ!—*Read Matthew 16:16, 17.*

<sup>14</sup> This Christ was the one called in ancient prophecy a stone that the builders would reject. (Ps. 118:22; Luke 20:17) With such prophecies in mind, Jesus revealed that Jehovah would establish a congregation on the very stone, or rock-mass, that Peter had

**14. Jesus bestowed on Peter what important privileges?**

just identified. Then he bestowed on Peter some very important privileges in that congregation. He did not give Peter primacy over the other apostles, as some have assumed, but he gave him responsibilities. He gave Peter “the keys of the kingdom.” (Matt. 16: 19) It would be Peter’s privilege to open the hope of entering God’s Kingdom to three different fields of mankind—first to the Jews, then to the Samaritans, and finally to the Gentiles, or non-Jews.

<sup>15</sup> However, Jesus later stated that those given much would have more to answer for, and the truth of those words is borne out in Peter’s case. (Luke 12: 48) Jesus continued to reveal vital truths about the Messiah, including the certainty of his own impending suffering and death at Jerusalem. Peter was disturbed to hear such things. He took Jesus aside and rebuked him, saying: “Be kind to yourself, Lord; you will not have this destiny at all.”—Matt. 16:21, 22.

<sup>16</sup> Peter surely meant well, so Jesus’ reply must have come as a surprise. He turned his back on Pe-

**15. What led Peter to rebuke Jesus, and in what words?**

**16. How did Jesus correct Peter, and what practical counsel may all of us find in Jesus’ words?**

ter, looked at the rest of the disciples—who had likely been thinking something similar—and said: “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, because you think, not God’s thoughts, but those of men.” (Matt. 16:23; Mark 8:32, 33) Jesus’ words contain practical counsel for us all. It is only too easy to allow human thinking to take priority over godly thinking. If we do so, even when we mean to help, we may inadvertently become proponents of Satan’s purpose rather than God’s. How, though, did Peter respond?

<sup>17</sup> Peter must have realized that Jesus was not calling him Satan the Devil in any literal sense. After all, Jesus did not speak to Peter as he had to Satan. To Satan, Jesus had said: “Go away”; to Peter, he said: “Get behind me.” (Matt. 4:10) Jesus did not cast off this apostle in whom he saw a great deal of good, but he simply corrected Peter’s wrong thinking in this matter. It is not hard to see that Peter needed to stop getting in front of his Master as a stumbling block and needed to get back behind him as a supportive follower.

**17. What did Jesus mean by telling Peter to “get behind” him?**

<sup>18</sup> Did Peter argue, get angry, or sulk? No; he humbly accepted correction. He thus demonstrated loyalty again. All those who follow Christ will need correction at times. Only if we humbly accept discipline and learn from it can we continue to grow closer to Jesus Christ and his Father, Jehovah God.—***Read Proverbs 4:13.***

### **Loyalty Rewarded**

<sup>19</sup> Jesus soon made another startling statement: “Truly I say to you that there are some of those standing here that will not taste death at all until first they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.” (Matt. 16:28) No doubt those words filled Peter with curiosity. What could Jesus possibly mean? Perhaps Peter wondered if the strong correction he had just received meant that no such special privileges would be coming his way.

<sup>20</sup> About a week later, however, Jesus took James, John, and Peter up into “a lofty mountain”—perhaps

**18. How did Peter demonstrate loyalty, and how can we imitate him?**

**19. Jesus made what startling statement, and what may Peter have wondered?**

**20, 21. (a) Describe the vision that Peter witnessed. (b) How did the conversation among the figures in the vision help to correct Peter?**





**Peter proved loyal even when he had to be corrected**

taste death at all until first they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.” (Matt. 16:28) No doubt those words filled Peter with curiosity. What could Jesus possibly mean? Perhaps Peter wondered if the strong correction he had just received meant that no such special privileges would be coming his way.

<sup>20</sup> About a week later, however, Jesus took James, John, and Peter up into “a lofty mountain”—perhaps Mount Hermon, which was not many miles distant. It was likely nighttime, since the three men were combating sleepiness. But as Jesus prayed, something happened that drove away any drowsiness.—Matt. 17:1; Luke 9:28, 29, 32.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus began to change before their eyes. His face started to shine, to glow, until it became as brilliant as the sun. His

**20, 21.** (a) Describe the vision that Peter witnessed. (b) How did the conversation among the figures in the vision help to correct Peter?



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<sup>21</sup> Jesus began to change before their eyes. His face started to shine, to glow, until it became as brilliant as the sun. His clothes too were glistening white. Then two figures appeared with Jesus, one representing Moses and the other, Elijah. They conversed with him about “his departure that he was destined to fulfill at Jerusalem”—evidently his death and resurrection. How clear it was that Peter had been wrong to deny that Jesus had such a painful experience ahead of him!—Luke 9:30, 31.

<sup>22</sup> Peter felt compelled to participate somehow in this extraordinary vision—and perhaps to prolong it. It looked as if Moses and Elijah were parting from Jesus. So Peter spoke up: “Instructor, it is fine for us to be here, so let us erect three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” Of course,

**22, 23. (a) How did Peter show an enthusiastic and warm spirit? (b) Peter, James, and John received what other reward that night?**

these visionary representations of two of Jehovah’s long-dead servants did not need tents. Peter really did not know what he was saying. Are you not drawn to the man, though, for his enthusiastic and warm spirit?—Luke 9:33.

<sup>23</sup> Peter, James, and John received another reward that night. A cloud formed and loomed over them on the mountain. From it came a voice—the voice of Jehovah God! He said: “This is my Son, the one that has been chosen. Listen to him.” Then the vision was over, and they were alone with Jesus on the mountain.—Luke 9:34-36.

<sup>24</sup> What a gift that transfiguration vision was for Peter—and for us! Decades later he wrote of the privilege he had that night of actually seeing a preview of Jesus as a glorious heavenly King and of being one of the “eyewitnesses of his magnificence.” That vision confirmed many prophecies of God’s Word and strengthened Peter’s faith for the trials he had yet to face. (*Read 2 Peter 1:16-19.*) It can do the same for us if, like Peter, we remain loyal to the Mas-

**24. (a) How did the transfiguration vision benefit Peter? (b) How may we today benefit from the transfiguration vision?**

ter whom Jehovah has appointed over us, learning from him, accepting his discipline and correction, and humbly following him day by day.

### **TO THINK ABOUT . . .**

- How did Peter's faith move him to be loyal when many abandoned Jesus?
- How did Peter's faith and loyalty help him to accept correction?
- How did the transfiguration vision strengthen Peter's faith?
- In what further ways would you like to imitate Peter's faith?



Along with James and John, Peter was rewarded with a thrilling vision

# 149 Grateful for the Ransom

(Luke 22:20)

1. Today, Jehovah God,  
we stand before your throne,  
For you showed the greatest love  
that could ever be shown.  
You gave the gift of your dear Son,  
that we might live.  
No greater sacrifice than this  
could you ever give.

*(CHORUS)*

*He gave his life to set us free.  
His precious blood provides the key.  
With all our hearts,  
we'll go on thanking you eternally.*

2. It was a willing sacrifice  
that Jesus made.  
Out of love, his perfect life  
was the price that he paid.  
We had no hope until he came  
to save mankind.  
But now our hope is finding life,  
leaving death behind.

*(Chorus)*



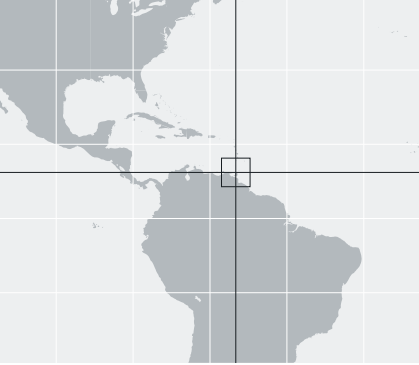
JUNE 2016

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
AUGUST 1-28, 2016



COVER IMAGE:  
**TRINIDAD**

There are many fishing villages along the coasts of Trinidad and Tobago. Jehovah's Witnesses often take the opportunity to speak with fishermen they meet

PUBLISHERS  
**9,679**

BIBLE STUDIES  
**11,331**

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE  
(2015)  
**24,103**

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### 11 WEEK OF AUGUST 8-14 Do You Let the Great Potter Mold You?

Pottery is a craft in which the artisan works very closely with his material. In these two articles, we will see how Jehovah fulfills his role as "our Potter" and what we must do in order to be like soft clay in his hands.

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### 18 WEEK OF AUGUST 15-21 "Jehovah Our God Is One Jehovah"

In what ways is Jehovah our God "one Jehovah"? How does that affect our relationship with him and with fellow worshippers? In today's diversified and multicultural world, we must understand what Jehovah requires of us so that we can have him as "our God."

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Vol. 137, No. 9 ENGLISH

# **121**            *Encourage One Another* (Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. As we encourage one another  
    To serve Jehovah faithfully,  
We find the bonds of love are strengthened;  
    Fine works bring peace and unity.  
    The love we find among God's people  
    Gives each the courage to endure.  
Our congregation is a refuge,  
    A place where we can feel secure.
  
2. A word when spoken at the right time  
    Is, oh, how comforting to hear!  
We hear these words of consolation  
    From friends so faithful and so dear.  
    How good it is to work together  
    With those whose hopes and goals we share!  
We seek to strengthen one another  
    And help each one his burden bear.
  
3. As we with eyes of faith are seeing  
    The nearness of Jehovah's day,  
We need our gathering together  
    To keep us walking in the way.  
    United with Jehovah's people,  
    We hope to serve eternally.  
So we encourage one another  
    To hold to our integrity.

(See also Luke 22:32; Acts 14:21, 22; Gal. 6:2; 1 Thess. 5:14.)



# Do Not Let the Faults of Others Stumble You

*“Continue . . . forgiving one another freely.”*  
—COL. 3:13.

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SONGS: 121, 75

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

Why is God’s organization special?

How does the Bible show that we are all imperfect?

What can we do about our own faults and those of others?

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JEHOVAH’S faithful servants on earth, his Witnesses, make up an organization that is indeed exceptional. True, it is composed of humans who are imperfect and who have their faults. Still, God’s holy spirit has been moving his global congregation to grow and prosper. Consider a few of the wonderful things that Jehovah has been doing with his willing, although imperfect, people.

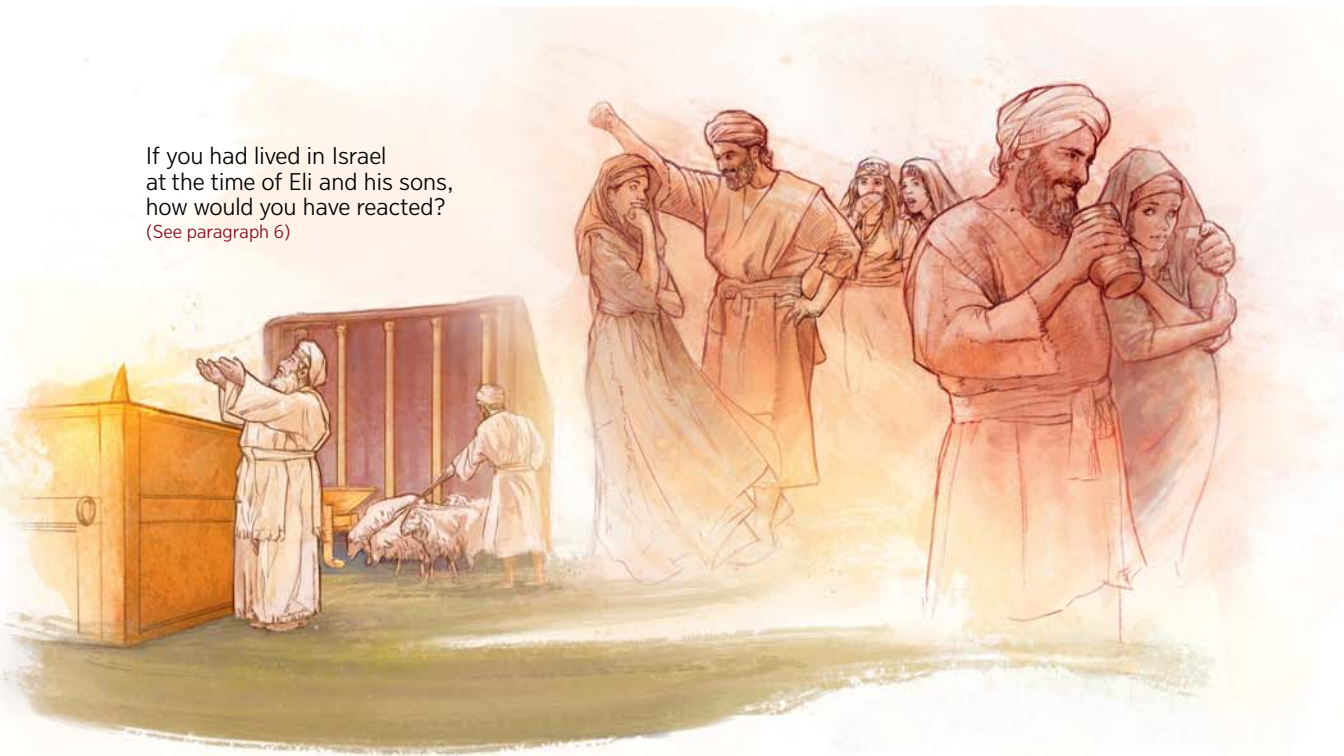
1, 2. How did the Bible foretell the increase of Jehovah’s people?



## Do Not Let the Faults of Others Stumble You

*“Continue . . . forgiving one another freely.”—COL. 3:13.*

If you had lived in Israel at the time of Eli and his sons, how would you have reacted? (See paragraph 6)



2 When the last days of the present system began back in 1914, God’s servants on earth were relatively few in number. But Jehovah blessed their preaching work. During the following decades, millions of new ones learned Bible truths and became Jehovah’s Witnesses. Jehovah actually pointed forward to this outstanding growth, saying: “The little one will become a thousand and the small one a mighty nation. I myself, Jehovah, will speed it up in its own time.” (Isa. 60: 22) That prophetic statement has certainly come true in these last days. Thus, the number of God’s people on earth is now greater than the entire population of many nations.

3 During this time, Jehovah has also helped his people to cultivate to a greater degree his dominant quality—love. (1 John 4:8) Jesus, who imitated God’s love, said to his followers: “I am

**3. How have God’s servants shown love?**

giving you a new commandment, that you love one another . . . By this all will know that you are my disciples—if you have love among yourselves.” (John 13:34, 35) This proved especially important in recent history when the nations engaged in deadly wars on a shocking scale. For instance, some 55 million people were killed in World War II alone. However, Jehovah’s Witnesses did not participate in that global slaughter. (Read Micah 4:1, 3.) This has helped them to remain “clean from the blood of all men.”—Acts 20:26.

4 The progress of God’s people is taking place in a very hostile world, which the Bible says is controlled by Satan, “the god of this system of things.” (2 Cor. 4:4) He manipulates the political elements of this world, as he does the world’s mass media. But he cannot stop the preaching of

4. Why is the increase of Jehovah’s people noteworthy?

the good news. However, knowing that he has only a short time left, Satan tries to turn people away from true worship, and he uses various means to do so.—Rev. 12:12.

## A TEST OF LOYALTY

5 The Christian congregation emphasizes the importance of having love for God and for fellow humans. Jesus indicated that this would be the case. Responding to a question about the greatest commandment, he said: “‘You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. The second, like it, is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matt. 22:35-39) Nevertheless, the Bible makes clear that as a result of Adam’s sin, we are all born imperfect. (Read Romans 5:12,

5. Why may others at times hurt our feelings? (See opening picture of the standard edition.)



**19.)** So at times some in the congregation may hurt us by what they say or do. This can test our love for Jehovah and for his people. What will we do on such occasions? Even faithful servants of God in the past said or did things that hurt others, and we can learn from what the Bible reveals about this.

**6** For example, High Priest Eli had two sons who did not uphold Jehovah's laws. We read: "The sons of Eli were wicked men; they had no regard for Jehovah." (1 Sam. 2:12) Though their father played a key role in promoting true worship, his two sons committed very serious sins. Eli knew about this and should have disciplined them, but he was lax in that regard. As a result, God adversely judged the household of Eli. (1 Sam. 3:10-14) In time, his descendants would not be allowed to serve as high priests. Had you

**6.** In what sense did Eli fail to discipline his sons?

lived in Eli's day, how would you have reacted to Eli's toleration of the sins committed by his sons? Would you have let it stumble you to the point that you would no longer serve God?

7 David was loved by Jehovah, who found him to be a man "agreeable to his heart." (1 Sam. 13:13, 14; Acts 13:22) But David later committed adultery with Bath-sheba, and she became pregnant. That occurred while her husband, Uriah, was away serving in the army. When he came home temporarily, David tried to get him to have sexual relations with Bath-sheba so that it might appear that Uriah was the child's father. Uriah would not do what the king suggested, so David arranged to have him killed in battle. David paid dearly for his crime—calamities came upon him and his household. (2 Sam. 12:9-12) Yet, God

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7. How did David sin seriously, and what did God do about it?

showed mercy to this man who overall walked before Jehovah “with integrity of heart.” (1 Ki. 9:4) If you had lived among God’s people back then, how would you have reacted? Would David’s wrong conduct have stumbled you?

8 Another Bible example is that of the apostle Peter. Jesus had selected him as one of the apostles; still, Peter at times said or did things that he later regretted. For example, at a critical moment, the apostles abandoned Jesus. Peter had earlier stated that even if the others did that, he would not. (Mark 14:27-31, 50) Nevertheless, when Jesus was being taken into custody, *all* the apostles—including Peter—abandoned him. Peter repeatedly denied even knowing Jesus. (Mark 14:53, 54, 66-72) However, Peter showed remorse, and Jehovah continued to use

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8. (a) How did the apostle Peter fail to keep his word?  
(b) After Peter’s mistake, why did Jehovah continue to use Peter?

him. Had you been a disciple then, would Peter's actions have affected your loyalty to Jehovah?

9 The above are but a few examples of individuals who did things that hurt others. Many other cases in past centuries and in recent times could be cited in which some who served Jehovah committed bad acts and hurt others. The point is, how will you respond? Will you let their mistakes stumble you, so that you abandon Jehovah and his people, including those in the local congregation? Or will you recognize that Jehovah may allow time for repentance on the part of wrongdoers and that he will ultimately correct the wrongs and act in a just way? On the other hand, sometimes those who have been guilty of serious sins reject Jehovah's mercy and are unrepentant. In such situations, will you have confidence that Jehovah will in time judge such

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9. Why do you trust that God is always just?

wrongdoers, perhaps removing them from the congregation?

## MAINTAIN LOYALTY

**10** The Bible provides us with accounts of servants of God who remained loyal to Jehovah and his people despite the serious faults of others around them. For example, after spending a night in prayer to his Father, Jesus selected the 12 apostles. Judas Iscariot was one of those. When Judas later betrayed him, Christ did not let that defection mar his own relationship with his Father, Jehovah; nor did Jesus allow Peter's denial to do that. (Luke 6:12-16; 22:2-6, 31, 32) Jesus knew that those actions were not the fault of Jehovah or his people in general. Jesus continued his wonderful work despite the disappointment that some of his followers caused him. Jehovah rewarded

**10.** What did Jesus understand about the faults of Judas Iscariot and Peter?



him by resurrecting him from the dead, thus opening the way for Jesus to become King of the heavenly Kingdom.—Matt. 28:7, 18-20.

11 Jesus' confidence in Jehovah and his people was well-founded and still is. Indeed, when we consider the things that Jehovah is accomplishing through his servants in these last days, it is simply amazing. No other people are preaching the truth globally, for others do not have Jehovah guiding them as does his united congregation today. Isaiah 65:14 describes the spiritual condition prevailing among God's people: "Look! My servants will shout joyfully because of the good condition of the heart."

12 Jehovah's servants rejoice at the good things they can do because they are being guided by Jehovah. In contrast, the world under Satan's

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11. The Bible foretold what about Jehovah's servants in this time?

12. How should we view the faults of others?

influence mourns, as it were, as conditions worsen. It would certainly be unwise and misguided to blame Jehovah or his congregation for the faults of relatively few of God's servants. We need to maintain our loyalty to Jehovah and his arrangements and to learn how to view or react to the faults of others.

## HANDLING FAULTS

13 How, then, can we handle occasions when one of God's servants says or does something that hurts our feelings? A fine Bible principle is this: "Do not be quick to take offense, for the taking of offense lodges in the bosom of fools." (Eccl. 7:9) We must consider that all of us are some 6,000 years removed from the human perfection that existed in Eden. Imperfect people are prone to make mistakes. Therefore, it would not be

13, 14. (a) Why should we be patient with one another?  
(b) What promise do we want to remember?

good to expect too much of fellow believers and to let their faults rob us of the joy that comes from being part of God's people in these last days. An even greater mistake would be to allow the faults of others to stumble us and cause us to leave Jehovah's organization. Were that to happen, we would lose not only the privilege of doing God's will but also the hope of life in God's new world.

14 To maintain our deep joy and firm hope, we want to keep clearly in mind the comforting promise of Jehovah: "Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be called to mind, nor will they come up into the heart." (Isa. 65:17; 2 Pet. 3:13) Do not let the faults of others prevent you from obtaining such blessings.

15 However, since we are not yet in the new

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15. What did Jesus say we should do when others make mistakes?

world, we should consider God's thoughts on how to handle matters when others say or do things that hurt our feelings. For example, one principle to remember is what Jesus said: "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; whereas if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Recall, too, that when Peter asked whether we should forgive "up to seven times," Jesus replied: "I say to you, not up to seven times, but up to 77 times." Clearly, Jesus meant that we should always be willing to forgive; this should be our first and predominant leaning.—Matt. 6:14, 15; 18:21, 22.

16 A good example of how to handle faults was set by Joseph, the first of Jacob's two sons by Rachel. Joseph's ten half brothers were jealous of him because he was favored by their fa-

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16. What good example did Joseph set?

ther. Then they sold Joseph into slavery. After many years, the good work that Joseph had done in Egypt resulted in his becoming second to the ruler of that country. When a famine struck the region, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food but did not recognize him. Joseph could have used his authority to exact vengeance for the very bad way that his brothers had treated him. Instead, he tested his brothers to find out if they had changed their disposition. When he saw that his brothers had truly changed, Joseph identified himself to them. He later said: "Do not be afraid. I will keep supplying you and your little children with food." The Bible account adds: "Thus he comforted them and spoke reassuringly to them."—Gen. 50:21.

17 It is also wise to remember that since we all have faults, we may be offending others. If

17. What do you want to do when others make mistakes?

we discern that we have done so, the Bible's direction is to go to the one whom we have offended and try to reconcile matters. (Read Matthew 5:23, 24.) We appreciate it when others do not hold our faults against us, so we should act the same way toward them. Colossians 3:13 urges us: "Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely even if anyone has a cause for complaint against another. Just as Jehovah freely forgave you, you must also do the same." Christian love "does not keep account of the injury," observes 1 Corinthians 13:5. If we practice forgiving others, Jehovah will forgive us. Yes, when it comes to handling the faults of others, the Christian course is to imitate our merciful Father's dealings with us when we make mistakes.—Read Psalm 103:12-14.

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*Our Reasons for Joy*

(Matthew 5:12)

1. Our reasons for joy are abundant,  
     Like riches increasing in worth.  
 Desirable things of all nations  
     Are joining us in all the earth.  
 The joy in our heart is well-founded,  
     With roots reaching deep in God's Word.  
 We daily partake of its teachings;  
     Faith follows the things we have heard.  
 Our causes for joy are deep-seated,  
     Like embers that burn in our hearts.  
 Though troubles and trials beset us,  
     Endurance Jehovah imparts.

*(CHORUS)*

*Jehovah our God is our joy,  
 The work of his hands our delight.  
 How deep are his thoughts, how great are his works,  
 Abounding in goodness and might!*

2. We gladly behold his productions,  
     The heavens, the sea, and the land.  
 We gaze at the book of creation,  
     Applauding the work of his hand.  
 Triumphantly we now bear witness,  
     Proclaiming the Kingdom of God.  
 The news of its birth and its blessings,  
     We joyously spread all abroad.  
 Eternal rejoicing approaches,  
     Like daylight that follows the night.  
 The promised new earth and new heavens  
     Will bring everlasting delight.

*(Chorus)*