

- Song 59 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“We Are Wonderfully Made”:** (10 min.)
Ps 139:14—Contemplating Jehovah’s works strengthens our appreciation for him (w07 6/15 21 ¶1-4)
Ps 139:15, 16—Our genes and cells highlight Jehovah’s power and wisdom (w07 6/15 22-23 ¶7-11)
Ps 139:17, 18—Humans are unique in the way they use language and thought (w07 6/15 23 ¶12-13; w06 9/1 16 ¶8)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 136:15—What insight into the Exodus account does this verse provide? (it-1 783 ¶5)

Ps 141:5—What did King David acknowledge? (w15 4/15 31 ¶1)

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 139:1-24

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) wp16.5 16
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) wp16.5 16—Invite the person to the meeting.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) fg lesson 8 ¶8—Help the student to apply the material.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 57
- **“Avoid These Pitfalls When Conducting a Bible Study”:** (15 min.) After discussing the article, play and then discuss the two-part video that shows the incorrect and correct way to teach, using the *Bible Teach* book page 29, paragraph 7. Publishers should follow along in their own book. Remind those who receive student assignments that avoiding these pitfalls will often allow them to take less than the allotted time.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr A Letter From the Governing Body and chap. 1 ¶1-10
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 30 and Prayer

PSALMS 135-141 | We Are Wonderfully Made



David meditated on the evidence of God’s good qualities reflected in His creation. He confidently used his life to serve Jehovah.

When David thought deeply about creation, he was moved to praise Jehovah:

139:14

- “I praise you because in an awe-inspiring way I am wonderfully made”

139:15

- “My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was woven in the depths of the earth”

139:16

- “Your eyes even saw me as an embryo; all its parts were written in your book”

59 *To God We Are Dedicated!*

(Matthew 16:24)

1. To Christ, by our God, Jehovah, we have been drawn
 To be his disciples from now on.
From Jehovah's lofty throne,
 Light of truth has brightly shone.
In our hearts, our faith has grown;
 Ourselves we agree to disown.

(CHORUS)

*To God we are dedicated; This is our choice.
In him and in Jesus we now rejoice.*

2. In prayer we have come before Jehovah to say
 We'll serve him forever and obey.
It's a joy beyond compare,
 One that we most gladly share,
As Jehovah's name we bear,
 And news of his Kingdom declare.

(Chorus)

- 2 It is like fine oil poured on the head^a
That runs down the beard,
Aaron's beard,^b
And runs down onto the collar of his garments.
- 3 It is like the dew of Her'mon^c
That descends on the mountains of Zion.^d
That is where Jehovah decreed his blessing
—Life everlasting.

A Song of the Ascents.

- 134** Praise Jehovah,
All you servants of Jehovah,^e
You who stand in the house of Jehovah during the nights.^f
- 2 Raise your hands^g in holiness*
And praise Jehovah.
- 3 May Jehovah, the Maker of heaven and earth,
Bless you from Zion.

- 135** Praise Jah!^{*}
Praise the name of Jehovah;
Offer praise, you servants of Jehovah,^h
- 2 You who are standing in the house of Jehovah,
In the courtyards of the house of our God.ⁱ
- 3 Praise Jah, for Jehovah is good.^j
Sing praises* to his name, for it is pleasant.
- 4 For Jah has chosen Jacob for himself,
Israel for his special property.^k
- 5 For I well know that Jehovah is great;
Our Lord is greater than all other gods.^l

134:2 *Or possibly, "in the sanctuary."
135:1 *Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. 135:3 *Or "Make music." 135:4 *Or "treasured possession."

CHAP. 133

a Pr 27:9
b Ex 29:4, 7
c De 3:8, 9
1Ch 5:23
d Ps 125:2

CHAP. 134

e Re 19:5
f 1Ch 9:33
1Ch 23:27, 30
Lu 2:37
Re 7:15
g Ps 28:2
Ps 141:2

CHAP. 135

h Ps 113:1
Re 19:5
i Ps 96:8
Ps 116:19
j Ps 119:68
Mt 19:17
k Ex 19:5
De 7:6
l De 10:17
Ps 97:9

Second Col.

a Ps 115:3
Isa 46:10
b Ex 14:21
Nu 11:31
Jer 10:13
Jer 51:16
Jon 1:4
c Ex 12:12, 29
d Ex 7:20
Ex 8:6, 17
Ex 9:6, 10
Ex 9:23
Ex 10:12, 21
e Ps 136:15
f Ps 44:2
g Jos 12:7, 8
h Nu 21:23, 24
i Nu 21:33-35
j Jos 11:23
k Ex 3:15
Ps 102:12
l Ex 14:31
m De 32:36
n Ps 115:4-8
Isa 46:6
Ac 17:29
1Co 10:19
o Hab 2:19
p Jer 10:14

- 6 Jehovah does everything he pleases to do^a
In heaven and on earth, in the seas and all the depths.
- 7 He causes clouds* to ascend from the ends of the earth;
He makes lightning for[#] the rain;
He brings the wind out of his storehouses.^b
- 8 He struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
Both man and beast.^c
- 9 He sent signs and miracles among you, O Egypt,^d
Against Phar'aoh and all his servants.^e
- 10 He struck down many nations^f
And killed mighty kings^g
- 11 —Si'hon the king of the Am'or-ites,^h
Og the king of Ba'shan,ⁱ
And all the kingdoms of Ca'naan.
- 12 He gave their land as an inheritance,
An inheritance to Israel his people.^j
- 13 O Jehovah, your name endures forever.
O Jehovah, your fame* endures for all generations.^k
- 14 For Jehovah will defend* his people,^l
And he will feel compassion[#] for his servants.^m
- 15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
The work of human hands.ⁿ
- 16 A mouth they have, but they cannot speak;^o
Eyes, but they cannot see;
17 Ears they have, but they cannot hear.
There is no breath in their mouth.^p

135:7 *Or "vapors." [#]Or possibly, "makes sluices for." 135:13 *Or "name." Lit., "memorial." 135:14 *Or "plead the cause of." [#]Or "feel regret."

- 18** The people who make them
will become just like
them,^a
As will all those who trust
in them.^b
- 19** O house of Israel, praise
Jehovah.
O house of Aaron, praise
Jehovah.
- 20** O house of Le'vi, praise
Jehovah.^c
You who fear Jehovah,
praise Jehovah.
- 21** May Jehovah be praised from
Zion,^d
The One residing in
Jerusalem.^e
Praise Jah!^f
- 136** Give thanks to Jehovah,
for he is good;^g
His loyal love endures for-
ever.^h
- 2** Give thanks to the God of
gods,ⁱ
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 3** Give thanks to the Lord of
lords,
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 4** He alone does great won-
ders,^j
For his loyal love endures
forever.^k
- 5** He skillfully made* the heav-
ens,^l
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 6** He spread out the earth over
the waters,^m
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 7** He made the great lights,ⁿ
For his loyal love endures
forever,
- 8** The sun to rule over the day,^o
For his loyal love endures
forever,
- 9** The moon and the stars to
rule over the night,^p

CHAP. 135

a Isa 44:9

b Ps 97:7

c De 10:8

d Ps 48:1
Ps 132:13

e Jer 3:17

f Re 19:6

CHAP. 136

g Lu 18:19

h 2Ch 7:3
2Ch 20:21
Ps 106:1
Ps 107:1i Ps 97:9
Da 2:47j Ex 15:11
Re 15:3

k Ps 103:17

l Job 38:36
Pr 3:19, 20m Ge 1:9
Ps 24:1, 2

n Ge 1:14

o Ge 1:16
Jer 31:35

p Ps 8:3

Second Col.

a Ex 12:29

b Ex 12:51

c Ex 13:14

d Ex 14:21

e Ex 14:29

f Ex 14:27, 28

g Ex 13:18
Ex 15:22

h Jos 12:7, 8

i Nu 21:21-24

j Nu 21:33-35

k Nu 32:33

For his loyal love endures
forever.

- 10** He struck down Egypt's first-
born,^a
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 11** He brought Israel out from
their midst,^b
For his loyal love endures
forever,
- 12** With a mighty hand^c and an
outstretched arm,
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 13** He split the Red Sea in two,^{*d}
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 14** He caused Israel to pass
through the middle of it,^e
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 15** He shook off Phar'aoh and
his army into the Red Sea,^f
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 16** He led his people through
the wilderness,^g
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 17** He struck down great kings,^h
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 18** He killed mighty kings,
For his loyal love endures
forever,
- 19** Si'hon' the king of the
Am'or-ites,
For his loyal love endures
forever,
- 20** And Og' the king of Ba'shan,
For his loyal love endures
forever.
- 21** He gave their land as an
inheritance,^k
For his loyal love endures
forever,
- 22** An inheritance to Israel his
servant,
For his loyal love endures
forever.

136:5 *Or "made with understanding."

136:13 *Lit., "into pieces."

- 23 He remembered us when we were low,^a
For his loyal love endures forever.^b
- 24 He kept rescuing us from our adversaries,^c
For his loyal love endures forever.
- 25 He gives food to every living thing,^{*d}
For his loyal love endures forever.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of the heavens,
For his loyal love endures forever.

137 By the rivers of Babylon,^e there we sat.
We wept when we remembered Zion.^f

- 2 Upon the poplar trees in her* midst,
We hung our harps.^g
- 3 For there our captors asked us for a song,^h
Those mocking us wanted amusement:
“Sing for us one of the songs of Zion.”
- 4 How can we sing the song of Jehovah
On foreign soil?
- 5 If I should forget you,
O Jerusalem,
Let my right hand be forgetful.^{*i}
- 6 Let my tongue stick to my palate
If I do not remember you,
If I do not place Jerusalem above
My greatest reasons for rejoicing.^j
- 7 Remember, O Jehovah,
What the E'dom-ites said on the day Jerusalem fell:
“Tear it down! Tear it down to its foundations!”^k

136:25 *Lit., “all flesh.” 137:2 *Referring to Babylon. 137:5 *Or possibly, “wither.”

CHAP. 136

a De 32:36

b Ne 9:32

c Jg 3:9

Jg 6:9

d Ps 145:15

Ps 147:9

CHAP. 137

e Jer 51:13

Eze 3:15

Da 10:4

f Da 9:2, 3

g Isa 24:8

h Ps 123:4

i Ne 2:3

Ps 84:2

Ps 102:13, 14

Isa 62:1

Jer 51:50

j Ps 122:1

k Jer 49:7

La 4:22

Eze 25:12

Ob 10-13

Second Col.

a Isa 47:1

Jer 25:12

Jer 50:2

b Jer 50:29

Re 18:6

c Isa 13:1, 16

CHAP. 138

d Ps 9:1

e 1Sa 3:3

1Ch 16:1

Ps 28:2

f Joh 17:6

g Ps 18:6

h Ps 29:11

Isa 12:2

Isa 41:10

i Ps 102:15

Isa 60:3

j 1Ki 8:10, 11

k 1Sa 2:8

Ps 113:6-8

Isa 57:15

l Jas 4:6

1Pe 5:5

m Ps 71:20

- 8 O daughter of Babylon, who is soon to be devastated,^a
Happy will be the one who rewards you
With the treatment you inflicted on us.^b
- 9 Happy will be the one who seizes your children
And dashes them against the rocks.^c

Of David.

138 I will praise you with all my heart.^d

- In the face of other gods,
I will sing praises.*
- 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple,^{*e}
And I will praise your name^f
Because of your loyal love and your faithfulness.
For you have magnified your saying and your name above everything else.[#]
- 3 On the day I called, you answered me;^g
You made me bold* and strong.^h
- 4 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Jehovah,ⁱ
For they will have heard the promises you have spoken.
- 5 They will sing about the ways of Jehovah,
For the glory of Jehovah is great.^j
- 6 Though Jehovah is high, he takes note of the humble,^k
But the haughty he knows only from a distance.^l
- 7 Even when I walk in the midst of danger, you will preserve me alive.^m
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my enemies;
Your right hand will save me.

138:1 *Or possibly, “In defiance of other gods, I will make music to you.” 138:2 *Or “sanctuary.” #Or possibly, “you have magnified your saying above all your name.” 138:3 *Or “bold in my soul.”

- 8** Jehovah will accomplish all things in my behalf.
O Jehovah, your loyal love endures forever;^a
Do not forsake the works of your hands.^b
- For the director. Of David. A melody.
- 139** O Jehovah, you have searched through me, and you know me.^c
- 2** You know when I sit down and when I rise up.^d
You discern my thoughts from afar.^e
- 3** You observe* me when I travel and when I lie down;
You are familiar with all my ways.^f
- 4** There is not a word on my tongue,
But look! O Jehovah, you already know it well.^g
- 5** Behind and before me, you surround me;
And you lay your hand upon me.
- 6** Such knowledge is beyond my comprehension.*
It is too high for me to reach.^h
- 7** Where can I escape from your spirit,
And where can I run away from your face?ⁱ
- 8** If I were to ascend to heaven, you would be there,
And if I were to make my bed in the Grave,* look! you would be there.^j
- 9** If I would fly away with the wings of the dawn
To reside by the most remote sea,
- 10** Even there your hand would lead me

139:3 *Lit., "measure." **139:6** *Or "is too amazing for me." [#]Or "too much for me to fathom." **139:8** *Or "Sheol," that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary.

CHAP. 138

a Ps 103:17

b Job 14:15

Ps 71:18

CHAP. 139

c 1Sa 16:6, 7

1Ch 28:9

Ps 17:3

Ps 139:23

Jer 20:12

d Ge 16:13

e Ps 94:11

f Ge 28:15

2Sa 8:14

Job 31:4

Ps 121:8

Pr 5:21

g Heb 4:12

h Job 26:14

Job 42:3

Ps 40:5

Ro 11:33

i Jon 1:3

j Job 26:6

Pr 15:11

Second Col.

a Ps 63:8

Ps 73:23

Isa 41:13

b Da 2:22

c Heb 4:13

d Ps 22:9

Ps 71:6

Jer 1:5

e Ge 1:26

f Ps 19:1

Ps 104:24

Ps 111:2

Re 15:3

g Job 10:10, 11

h Isa 55:9

i Ro 11:33

j Ps 40:5

k Ps 63:6

l Ps 5:6

And your right hand would take hold of me.^a

- 11** If I say: "Surely darkness will conceal me!"

Then the night around me would become light.

- 12** Even the darkness would not be too dark for you,

But night would be as bright as the day;^b

Darkness is the same as light to you.^c

- 13** For you produced my kidneys;

You kept me screened off* in my mother's womb.^d

- 14** I praise you because in an awe-inspiring way I am wonderfully made.^e

Your works are wonderful,^f I know* this very well.

- 15** My bones were not hidden from you

When I was made in secret,
When I was woven in the depths of the earth.^g

- 16** Your eyes even saw me as an embryo;

All its parts were written in your book

Regarding the days when they were formed,

Before any of them existed.

- 17** So to me, how precious your thoughts are!^h

O God, how vast is the sum of them!ⁱ

- 18** If I try to count them, they outnumber the grains of sand.^j

When I awake, I am still with you.^{*k}

- 19** O God, if only you would slay the wicked!

Then the violent* men would depart from me,

139:13 *Or possibly, "wove me together." **139:14** *Or "My soul knows." **139:18** *Or possibly, "I would still be counting them." **139:19** *Or "blood-guilty."

- 20 Those who say things against you with evil intent;* They are your adversaries who take up your name in a worthless way.^a
- 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O Jehovah,^b And loathe those who revolt against you?^c
- 22 I have nothing but hatred for them;^d They have become real enemies to me.
- 23 Search through me, O God, and know my heart.^e Examine me, and know my anxious* thoughts.^f
- 24 See whether there is in me any harmful way,^g And lead me^h in the way of eternity.

For the director. A melody of David.

- 140** Rescue me, O Jehovah, from evil men; Protect me from violent men,ⁱ
- 2 Those who scheme evil in their hearts^j And stir up conflict all day long.
- 3 They sharpen their tongue like that of a serpent;^k Venom of vipers is behind their lips.^l (*Selah*)
- 4 Protect me, O Jehovah, from the hands of the wicked;^m Safeguard me from violent men, Those who scheme to trip me.
- 5 The haughty ones hide a trap for me; With ropes they spread out a net beside the path.ⁿ They set snares for me.^o (*Selah*)
- 6 I say to Jehovah: "You are my God.

139:20 *Or "according to their idea."
139:23 *Or "disquieting."

CHAP. 139

- a Ex 20:7
b 2Ch 19:2
2Co 6:14
c Ps 119:158
d Ps 101:3
e Jer 20:12
f Ps 94:19
g Ps 17:3
h Ps 5:8
Ps 143:8
Ps 143:10

CHAP. 140

- i Ps 18:48
Ps 59:1
j Ps 64:2, 6
k Ps 52:1, 2
Ps 58:3, 4
l Ro 3:13
Jas 3:8
m Ps 17:8
Ps 36:11
Ps 71:4
n Ps 10:9
o Jer 18:22

Second Col.

- a Ps 28:2
Ps 55:1
b 1Sa 17:37
c 2Sa 15:31
Ps 27:12
d Ps 7:16
Pr 12:13
e Ps 11:5, 6
f Ps 55:23
g Ps 12:3
h Ps 10:17, 18
Ps 22:24
i Ps 23:6

CHAP. 141

- j Ps 31:17
k Ps 40:13
Ps 70:5
l Ps 39:12
m Ex 30:34-36
n Lu 1:9, 10
Re 5:8
Re 8:3, 4
o Ex 29:41
p Pr 13:3
Pr 21:23
Jas 1:26

Listen, O Jehovah, to my pleas for help."^a

- 7 O Jehovah the Sovereign Lord, my strong Savior, You shield my head in the day of battle.^b
- 8 Do not grant, O Jehovah, the desires of the wicked. Do not let their plots succeed, so that they are not exalted. (*Selah*)^c
- 9 May the heads of those surrounding me Be covered with the evil spoken by their lips.^d
- 10 May burning coals rain down on them.^e May they be hurled into the fire, Into deep pits,^{*f} never to rise again.
- 11 May the slanderer find no place on the earth.^{*g} May evil pursue men of violence and strike them down.
- 12 I know that Jehovah will defend the lowly And give justice to the poor.^h
- 13 Surely the righteous will give thanks to your name; The upright will dwell before your face.^{*i}

A melody of David.

- 141** O Jehovah, I call on you,^j Come quickly to help me.^k Do pay attention when I call to you.^l
- 2 May my prayer be as incense^m prepared before you,ⁿ My uplifted hands like the evening grain offering.^o
- 3 Station a guard for my mouth, O Jehovah, Do set a watch over the door of my lips.^p

140:10 *Or "Into watery pits." 140:11 *Or "in the land." 140:13 *Or "in your presence."

PSALMS 141:4-143:3

- 4 Do not let my heart incline to anything bad,^a
To share in vile deeds with evil men;
May I never feast on their delicacies.
- 5 Should the righteous one strike me, it would be an act of loyal love;^b
Should he reprove me, it would be like oil on my head,^c
Which my head would never refuse.^d
My prayer will continue even during their calamities.
- 6 Though their judges are thrown down from the cliff,
The people will pay attention to my words, for they are pleasant.
- 7 Just as when someone plows and breaks up the soil,
So our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the Grave.*
- 8 But my eyes look to you, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah.^e
In you I have taken refuge.
Do not take away my life.*
- 9 Protect me from the jaws of the trap they have laid for me,
From the snares of evildoers.
- 10 The wicked will fall into their own nets all together^f
While I pass by safely.
Mas'kil.* Of David when he was in the cave.^g A prayer.
- 142** With my voice I call to Jehovah for help;^h
With my voice I plead with Jehovah for favor.
- 2 Before him I pour out my concern;
Before him I tell about my distressⁱ

141:7 *Or "Sheol," that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary. 141:8 *Or "pour out my soul." 142:Sup *See Glossary.

CHAP. 141

- a 1Ki 8:58
Ps 119:36
- b 2Sa 12:7, 9
Pr 17:10
Ga 6:1
- c Pr 6:23
Jas 5:14
- d Pr 9:8
Pr 19:25
Pr 25:12
- e 2Ch 20:12
Ps 25:15
- f Es 7:10
Ps 7:14, 15
Ps 9:15
Ps 57:6

CHAP. 142

- g 1Sa 22:1
1Sa 24:3
Heb 11:32, 38
- h Ps 28:2
Ps 141:1
- i Ps 18:6
Jon 2:7
Mt 26:38, 39
Mr 15:34
Heb 5:7

Second Col.

- a Ps 139:3
- b Ps 31:11
Ps 69:20
- c 1Sa 23:11
- d Pr 18:10
- e 1Sa 20:33
1Sa 23:26
1Sa 25:29

CHAP. 143

- f Ps 65:2
- g Job 9:2
Ps 130:3
Ec 7:20
Ro 3:20
Ga 2:16
1Jo 1:10

- 3 When my spirit* fails within me.
Then you watch my roadway.^a
In the path where I walk,
They hide a trap for me.
- 4 Look at my right hand and see
That no one cares about* me.^b
There is nowhere I can flee;^c
No one is concerned about me.^d
- 5 I call to you, O Jehovah, for help.
I say: "You are my refuge,^d
All I have* in the land of the living."^e
- 6 Pay attention to my cry for help,
For I have been brought very low.
Rescue me from my persecutors,^e
For they are stronger than I am.
- 7 Bring me^f out of the dungeon
To praise your name.
May the righteous gather around me
Because you deal kindly with me.

A melody of David.

143 O Jehovah, hear my prayer;^f

- Listen to my plea for help.
In your faithfulness and in your righteousness,
answer me.
- 2 Do not enter into judgment with your servant,
For no one living can be righteous before you.^g
- 3 For the enemy pursues me;^h
He has crushed my life into the ground.

142:3 *Or "strength." 142:4 *Lit., "recognizes." 142:4, 7; 143:3 #Or "my soul." 142:5 *Lit., "My share."

- Song 59 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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Ps 139:15, 16—Our genes and cells highlight Jehovah’s power and wisdom (w07 6/15 22-23 ¶7-11)
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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 136:15—What insight into the Exodus account does this verse provide? (it-1 783 ¶5)

Ps 141:5—What did King David acknowledge? (w15 4/15 31 ¶1)

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 139:1-24

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- “I praise you because in an awe-inspiring way I am wonderfully made”

139:15

- “My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was woven in the depths of the earth”

139:16

- “Your eyes even saw me as an embryo; all its parts were written in your book”

September 19-25

Treasures From God's Word

Psalm 139:14—Contemplating Jehovah's works strengthens our appreciation for him

Reference: w07 6/15 21 paragraphs 1-4.

1 The natural world is filled with wonderful creations. How did they come to be? Some believe that the answer can be found without referring to an intelligent Creator. Others hold that arbitrarily ruling out a Creator limits our ability to understand nature. They believe that earth's creatures are far too complex, too varied and, you might say, too wonderful to have originated by chance. To many people, some scientists included, the evidence shows that the universe had a wise, powerful, and benevolent Maker.

2 King David of ancient Israel was one who was convinced that a Maker deserves praise for His wonderful creations. Although David lived long before today's scientific era, he perceived that he was surrounded by marvelous examples of God's creative work. David needed only to consider his own makeup to be profoundly awed by God's creative ability. "I shall laud you because in a fear-inspiring way I am wonderfully made," he wrote. "Your works are wonderful, as my soul is

very well aware.” — Psalm 139:14.

3 David gained this strong conviction by thinking seriously. Today, school curriculums and the media are replete with faith-destroying theories about man’s origin. For us to have faith like that of David, we too must think seriously. We cannot afford to let others think for us, especially on such fundamental issues as the existence and role of a Creator.

4 Moreover, contemplating Jehovah’s works strengthens our appreciation for him and gives us confidence in his promises for the future. That, in turn, can motivate us to get to know Jehovah even better and to serve him. Let us therefore consider how modern science has confirmed David’s conclusion that we are “wonderfully made.”

Psalm 139:15, 16—Our genes and cells highlight Jehovah’s power and wisdom

Reference: *w07* 6/15 22-23 **paragraphs 7-11**.

7 “My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was woven in the lowest parts of the earth.” (Psalm 139:15) The original cell divided, and the new cells continued to divide. Soon the cells began to differentiate, or specialize, to become nerve cells, muscle cells, skin cells, and so forth. Cells of the same type grouped together to

form tissues and then organs. For instance, during the third week from conception, you began to develop a skeletal system. By the time you were just seven weeks old and only about an inch [2.5 centimeters] long, early forms of all 206 of your adult bones were in place, although they had not yet ossified, or turned into hard bone.

8 This amazing developmental process took place within your mother's womb, hidden from human sight as if buried deep in the earth. Indeed, much about how we develop remains unknown to man. What, for example, activated specific genes in your cells to set in motion the process of differentiation? Science may eventually find out, but as David next observed, our Maker—Jehovah—has fully understood it all along.

9 “Your eyes saw even the embryo of me, and in your book all its parts were down in writing, as regards the days when they were formed and there was not yet one among them.” (Psalm 139:16) Your first cell contained the complete plan for your entire body. This plan guided your development during your nine months in the womb before birth and then through more than two decades of growth to adulthood. During this time, your body passed through many stages, all directed by the

information programmed into that original cell.

10 David had no knowledge of cells and genes, being without even a microscope. But he correctly discerned that the development of his own body attested to advance planning. David may have had some knowledge of how embryos develop, so he could reason that each step must take place according to a preexisting design and timetable. In poetic language, he described this design as being “down in writing” in God’s “book.”

11 Today, it is known that characteristics you inherited from your parents and forebears—such as your height, facial features, eye and hair color, and thousands of other traits—were determined by your genes. Each of your cells contains tens of thousands of genes, and each gene is part of a long chain made of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). Building instructions for your body are “written” in the chemical structure of your personal DNA. Every time your cells divide—to make new cells or to replace old cells—your DNA passes those instructions on, thereby keeping you alive and maintaining your basic appearance. What an outstanding example of the power and wisdom of our heavenly Maker!

Psalm 139:17, 18—Humans are unique in the

way they use language and thought

Reference: w07 6/15 23 paragraphs 12-13.

12 “So, to me how precious your thoughts are! O God, how much does the grand sum of them amount to! Were I to try to count them, they are more than even the grains of sand.” (Psalm 139:17, 18a) Animals too are wonderfully made, and some possess certain senses and abilities that exceed those of humans. But God gave humans mental faculties that far surpass those of any animal. “As similar as we humans are in many ways to other species, we are unique among the earth’s life forms in our ability to use language and thought,” notes one science textbook. “We are also unique in our profound curiosity about ourselves: How are we put together physically? How were we formed?” These are questions that David likewise pondered.

13 Most important, in contrast with animals, we are unique in our ability to contemplate God’s thoughts. This special gift is one of the ways that we are made “in God’s image.” (Genesis 1:27) David made good use of this gift. He meditated on the evidence of God’s existence and the good qualities reflected in the earth around him. David also had the early books of the Holy Scriptures, which contain revelations by God about himself and his works.

These inspired writings helped David to understand God's thoughts, personality, and purpose.

Meditating on the Scriptures, on creation, and on God's dealings with him moved David to praise his Maker.

Reference: *w06* 9/1 16 **paragraph 8**.

Has knowledge of Jehovah become pleasurable to us? (Proverbs 2:10) If so, we have found an inexhaustible fountain of delight. Jehovah's thoughts "are more than even the grains of sand." There will always be more to learn about him.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Psalm 136:15—What insight into the Exodus account does this verse provide?

Reference: *it-1* 783 **paragraph 5**.

So by a spectacular display of power Jehovah exalted his name and delivered Israel. Safe on the E shore of the Red Sea, Moses led the sons of Israel in a song, while his sister Miriam, the prophetess, took a tambourine in her hand and led all the women with tambourines and in dances, responding in song to the men. (**Exodus 15:1, 20, 21**) A complete separation of Israel from their foes had been effected. When they went out from Egypt they

were not allowed to suffer harm from man or beast; no dog even snarled at the Israelites or moved its tongue against them. (**Exodus 11:7**) While the Exodus narrative does not mention that Pharaoh personally went into the sea with his military forces and was destroyed, Psalm 136:15 does state that Jehovah “shook off Pharaoh and his military force into the Red Sea.”

Psalm 141:5—What did King David acknowledge?

Reference: *w15* 4/15 31 **paragraph 1**.

Love and firmness are needed to produce the desired result. “Should the righteous one strike me, it would be an act of loyal love,” said the psalmist David, and “should he reprove me, it would be like oil on my head.” (**Psalms 141:5**) To illustrate: Imagine a hiker who succumbs to exhaustion on a cold winter day. He begins to suffer from hypothermia, and he feels drowsy. If he falls asleep in the snow, he will die. While waiting for a rescue party, his companion occasionally slaps him in the face to keep him awake. The slap may sting, but it could well save his life. Similarly, David recognized that a righteous person might need to give him painful correction for his own good.

- Song 59 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“We Are Wonderfully Made”:** (10 min.)
Ps 139:14—Contemplating Jehovah’s works strengthens our appreciation for him (w07 6/15 21 ¶1-4)
Ps 139:15, 16—Our genes and cells highlight Jehovah’s power and wisdom (w07 6/15 22-23 ¶7-11)
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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 139:1-24

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- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) wp16.5 16
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) wp16.5 16—Invite the person to the meeting.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) fg lesson 8 ¶8—Help the student to apply the material.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 57
- **“Avoid These Pitfalls When Conducting a Bible Study”:** (15 min.) After discussing the article, play and then discuss the two-part video that shows the incorrect and correct way to teach, using the *Bible Teach* book page 29, paragraph 7. Publishers should follow along in their own book. Remind those who receive student assignments that avoiding these pitfalls will often allow them to take less than the allotted time.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr A Letter From the Governing Body and chap. 1 ¶1-10
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PSALMS 135-141 | We Are Wonderfully Made



David meditated on the evidence of God’s good qualities reflected in His creation. He confidently used his life to serve Jehovah.

When David thought deeply about creation, he was moved to praise Jehovah:

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- “I praise you because in an awe-inspiring way I am wonderfully made”

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What is the Kingdom of God?

SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE that it represents the reign of God in a person's heart; others think that it is the product of human efforts to bring world peace and brotherhood. What do you think?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

"The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. . . . It will crush and put an end to all these [human] kingdoms." (Daniel 2:44) God's Kingdom is a real government.

WHAT ELSE WE LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

- The Kingdom of God rules from heaven.—Matthew 10:7; Luke 10:9.
- God uses the Kingdom to accomplish his will in heaven and on earth.—Matthew 6:10.

When will God's Kingdom come?

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

- No one knows
- Soon
- Never

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

"This good news of the Kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14) Once the good news has been fully preached, the Kingdom will come to bring the present wicked system to an end.

WHAT ELSE WE LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

- No one on earth knows exactly when God's Kingdom will come.—Matthew 24:36.
- Bible prophecy shows that the Kingdom will come soon.—Matthew 24:3, 7, 12.



Please send me a copy of *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

For more information, see chapter 8 of this book, published by Jehovah's Witnesses

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Human rulers have failed to eliminate war, crime, injustice, or disease. 📖 *Read Jeremiah 10:23; Romans 9:17.*

In contrast to human rulership, God's rule benefits those who accept it. (Isaiah 48:17, 18) Soon, Jehovah will bring all human government to an end. Only people who choose to be ruled by God will inhabit the earth.—Isaiah 11:9.

📖 *Read Daniel 2:44.*

4. What does God's patience allow us to do?

Satan claimed that no one would serve Jehovah out of unselfish love. Would you like to disprove that lie? You can! God's patience allows all of us to show whether we favor rule by God or rule by man. We indicate our choice by the way we live. 📖 *Read Job 1:8-12; Proverbs 27:11.*

5. How can we choose God as our Ruler?

We can choose God as our Ruler by seeking out and practicing true worship based on God's Word, the Bible. (John 4:23) We can reject Satan as our ruler by keeping out of politics and war, as Jesus did.

📖 *Read John 17:14.*

Satan uses his power to promote immoral, harmful practices. When we reject such practices, some friends and relatives may ridicule or oppose us. (1 Peter 4:3, 4) So we face a choice. Will we associate with people who love God? Will we obey his wise and loving laws? If we do, we prove that Satan lied when he claimed that under pressure no one would do as God says. 📖 *Read 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; 15:33.*

Our choices reveal whether we want God as our Ruler

God's love for mankind guarantees that evil and suffering will end. Those who demonstrate that they believe this will enjoy life on earth forever. 📖 *Read John 3:16.*



57 *The Meditation of My Heart* (Psalm 19:14)

1. The meditation of my heart,
 The thoughts I ponder through the day—
 May they be pleasing to you, Lord,
 And keep me steadfast in your way.
When worries weigh upon my mind
 And make me restless in the night,
Then may I meditate on you
 And things I know to be upright.
2. Whatever things are chaste and true,
 Whatever virtue there may be,
Whatever things well-spoken of—
 May thoughts of these bring peace to me.
How precious are your thoughts, O God!
 Beyond all counting is their sum.
So may I ponder your own words,
 Absorbed in them may I become.

- Song 59 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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Avoid These Pitfalls When Conducting a Bible Study

DON'T

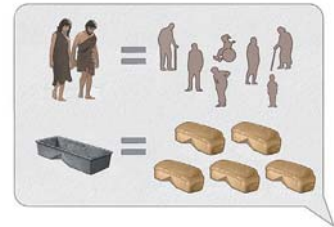


Talking Too Much: Do not feel that you must explain everything. Jesus used questions to help people think and arrive at the right conclusion. (Mt 17:24-27) Questions make the study lively and help you to determine what your student understands and believes. (be 253 ¶3-4) When asking a question, be patient and wait for the answer. If the student gives the wrong answer, instead of telling him the right answer, lead him to the correct conclusion by using additional questions. (be 238 ¶1-2) Talk at a pace that allows the student to grasp new ideas. —be 230 ¶4.

DO



Making It Complicated: Avoid the temptation to relate all that you know on the subject. (Joh 16:12) Focus on the main point of the paragraph. (be 226 ¶4-5) Details, even interesting ones, can obscure the main points. (be 235 ¶3) Once the main point is understood by the student, move on to the next paragraph.



Just Covering Material: Our objective is to reach the heart, not cover material. (Lu 24:32) Utilize the power of God's Word by focusing on the key scriptures in the lesson. (2Co 10:4; Heb 4:12; be 144 ¶1-3) Use simple illustrations. (be 245 ¶2-4) Consider the student's personal challenges and beliefs, and tailor the lesson to him. Ask questions like these: "How do you feel about what you are learning here?" "What does this teach us about Jehovah?" "What benefit do you see in applying such counsel?"—be 238 ¶3-5; 259 ¶1.



A LETTER FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Dear Fellow Kingdom Publisher:

PICTURE yourself as a member of the Brooklyn Bethel family on Friday morning, October 2, 1914. You are seated at your usual place at the breakfast table, awaiting the arrival of Brother C. T. Russell. Suddenly the door to the dining room opens and Brother Russell appears. He pauses for a moment, as is his custom, and greets the Bethel family with a cheery “Good morning, all.” But then, instead of immediately taking his place at the head of the table, he claps his hands and makes a thrilling announcement: “The Gentile Times have ended; their kings have had their day!” You can hardly contain your joy—you have been looking forward to this moment for a long time! Along with the rest of the Bethel family, you greet this exciting news with sustained, enthusiastic applause.

Many decades have passed since Brother Russell made that electrifying statement. What has the Kingdom accomplished since then? A great deal! Through

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the Kingdom arrangement, Jehovah has been progressively refining and training his people—from just a few thousand in 1914 to more than seven-and-a-half million today. How many ways have you personally benefited from such training?

Today we often hear our brothers say, “Jehovah’s celestial chariot is on the move!” and that is true. However, the fact is that since 1914, the celestial chariot, depicting the invisible part of Jehovah’s organization, has been moving at an extremely brisk pace, as a careful reading of this publication will demonstrate. With a view to getting the good news preached worldwide, Kingdom publishers have used a variety of innovative methods, including newspapers, information marches, picture presentations, testimony cards, phonographs, radio, and even the Internet.

With Jehovah’s blessing on the work, we are now able to publish our attractive Bible literature in more than 670 languages and to offer it to everyone without charge. Self-sacrificing volunteers assist in the construction of Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and branch facilities, both in prosperous lands and

in lands with limited resources. And when disaster strikes, loving brothers and sisters rush to the aid of those in the affected areas, proving that they truly are “born for times of distress.”—Prov. 17:17.

At times, the clergy and other opposers frame “trouble in the name of the law,” but it is faith-strengthening to see how, time and again, their misguided efforts have turned out to be “for the advancement of the good news.”—Ps. 94:20; Phil. 1:12.

It is an honor for us to be associated with you, our fellow “domestics.” Please know that we love all of you very much. It is our prayer that the contents of this publication will help you to appreciate your spiritual heritage as never before.—Matt. 24:45.

With every good wish, we are

Your brothers,

Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses

1 “Let Your Kingdom Come”

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

Examine what Jesus taught about God’s Kingdom

IF Jehovah God himself directed you to do something, how would you respond? No matter what he asked, would you not be eager to heed his direction? Surely you would!

² Sometime after the Passover of 32 C.E., three of Jesus’ apostles—Peter, James, and John—had just such an experience. **(Read Matthew 17:1-5.)** Gathered with their Master on “a lofty mountain,” they saw in vision a preview of Jesus as a glorious heavenly King. The vision seemed so real that Peter tried to take part in it. While Peter was speaking, a cloud formed over them. Then Peter and his associates plainly heard what only a handful of humans have ever been privileged to hear—Jehovah’s own voice. After affirming that Jesus was his Son, Jehovah said pointedly: “Listen to him.” The apostles heeded that

1, 2. What words did Jehovah himself speak in the hearing of three of Jesus’ apostles, and how did they respond?



Jesus spoke more about God's Kingdom than he did regarding any other subject

divine direction. They listened to what Jesus taught, and they urged others to do the same.—Acts 3:19-23; 4:18-20.

³ Those words—“Listen to him”—were recorded in the Bible for our benefit. (Rom. 15:4) Why? Because Jesus is Jehovah’s spokesman and every time Jesus opened his mouth to teach, he shared what his Father wanted us to know. (John 1:1, 14) Since Jesus spoke more about God’s Kingdom, the heavenly Messianic government made up of Christ Jesus and his 144,000 corulers, than he did about any other subject, we do well to examine this vital subject carefully. (Rev. 5:9, 10; 14:1-3; 20:6) First, though, let us examine why Jesus said so much about God’s Kingdom.

“Out of the Abundance of the Heart . . .”

⁴ The Kingdom is close to Jesus’ heart. Why can we say that? Because words are a window into the heart—that is, our words reveal what is truly important to us. Jesus himself said: “Out of the abundance

3. Why does Jehovah want us to listen to his Son, and what subject do we thus do well to examine?

4. How did Jesus indicate that the Kingdom is close to his heart?

of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matt. 12:34) At every opportunity, Jesus opened his mouth to speak about the Kingdom. There are over 100 references to the Kingdom in the four Gospels, most of them in statements made by Jesus. He made the Kingdom the theme of his preaching, saying: “I must also declare the good news of the Kingdom of God to other cities, because for this I was sent.” (Luke 4:43) Even after his resurrection, Jesus continued to speak about the Kingdom to his disciples. (Acts 1:3) Surely Jesus’ heart overflowed with appreciation for the Kingdom, impelling him to speak about it.

⁵ The Kingdom is close to Jehovah’s heart as well. How do we know that? Remember, Jehovah sent his only-begotten Son into the world; Jehovah is the source of everything that his Son said and taught. (John 7:16; 12:49, 50) Jehovah is also the source of everything that is recorded in the four Gospel accounts of Jesus’ life and ministry. Consider for a moment what that means.

⁶ Imagine that you are putting together a family
5-7. (a) How do we know that the Kingdom is close to Jehovah’s heart? Illustrate. (b) How can we show that the Kingdom is close to our heart?

photo album. You have many photographs to choose from, but the album can hold only so many. What do you do? You choose which ones to include. In a sense, the Gospels are like a photo album that gives us a clear picture of Jesus. Jehovah did not inspire the Gospel writers to record everything that Jesus said and did while on earth. (John 20:30; 21:25) Instead, Jehovah's spirit guided them in recording the words and deeds that help us to understand the purpose of Jesus' ministry and what is most important to Jehovah. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:21) Since the Gospels are filled with Jesus' teachings about God's Kingdom, we may safely conclude that the Kingdom is close to Jehovah's heart. Just think—Jehovah wants us to know what his Kingdom is all about!

⁷ Each of us does well to ask, 'Is God's Kingdom close to my heart?' If it is, we will be eager to listen to what Jesus said and taught about that Kingdom—its importance and how and when it will come.

“Let Your Kingdom Come”—How?

⁸ Consider the model prayer. With eloquent simplicity, Jesus summed up the importance of the

8. How did Jesus sum up the importance of the Kingdom?

Kingdom, showing what it will accomplish. That prayer consists of seven petitions. The first three concern Jehovah's purposes—the sanctification of his name, the coming of his Kingdom, and the carrying out of his will on earth as in heaven. **(Read Matthew 6:9, 10.)** Those three petitions are closely related. The Messianic Kingdom is the instrument through which Jehovah will sanctify his name and carry out his will.

⁹ How will God's Kingdom come? When we pray, "Let your Kingdom come," we are asking that the Kingdom take decisive action. When the Kingdom comes, it will exert its full power toward the earth. It will remove the present wicked system of things, including all man-made governments, and bring in a righteous new world. (Dan. 2:44; 2 Pet. 3:13) Then, under Kingdom rule, the entire earth will become a paradise. (Luke 23:43) Those in God's memory will be brought back to life and reunited with their loved ones. (John 5:28, 29) Obedient humans will reach perfection and enjoy endless life. (Rev. 21:3-5) At 9, 10. **(a) How will God's Kingdom come? (b) What Bible promise do you long to see fulfilled?**

last, earth will be in perfect harmony with heaven, reflecting the will of Jehovah God! Do you not long to see those Bible promises come true? Remember that every time you pray for God’s Kingdom to come, you are praying for those precious promises to be fulfilled.

¹⁰ It is clear that God’s Kingdom has not yet “come” to fulfill the model prayer. After all, man-made governments are still ruling and the righteous new world is not yet here. But there is good news. God’s Kingdom has been established, as we will discuss in the next chapter. Let us now examine what Jesus said as to when the Kingdom would be established and when it would come.

When Would God’s Kingdom Be Established?

¹¹ Jesus indicated that the Kingdom would not be established in the first century C.E., despite the expectations of some of his disciples. (Acts 1:6) Consider what he said in two different parables given less than two years apart.

11. What did Jesus indicate about the establishment of God’s Kingdom?

30 *Jehovah Begins His Rule* (Revelation 11:15)

1. This is a glorious day. God's rule is now under way.
He's laid in Zion his Chief Cornerstone.
Let all now lift up the voice.
Sing to our God, and rejoice.
Christ, Lord and Savior,
has been placed upon His throne.

(CHORUS)

*What will you bring, Jehovah's Kingdom?
Triumph of truth and righteousness.
And bring what else, Jehovah's Kingdom?
Eternal life and happiness.
Praise the Universal Sov'reign
For his love and faithfulness.*

2. Christ now in power is here, And Armageddon is near.
Satan's old system will soon pass away.
Now is the season to preach. Many there are yet to reach;
Time for the meek to take their stand for Him today.

(Chorus)

3. God's reigning Ruler we prize.
Wondrous he is in our eyes.
He comes in God's name; we bow to our King.
Enter the grand temple gate; God's favor now supplicate.
Soon dawns that day when he rules over ev'rything.

(Chorus)

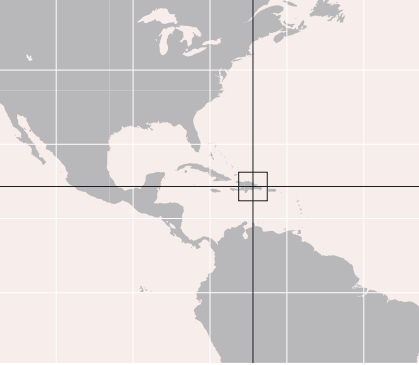
JULY 2016

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
AUGUST 29–SEPTEMBER 25, 2016



COVER IMAGE:
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On the beach at Las Terrenas, a special pioneer uses the Bible to share the good news with a man who has harvested coconuts

PUBLISHERS
37,536

BIBLE STUDIES
69,892

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2015)
120,103

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3 THEY OFFERED THEMSELVES WILLINGLY —In Ghana

7 WEEK OF **AUGUST 29–SEPTEMBER 4** **Seek the Kingdom, Not Things**

Jesus taught us to ‘seek first the Kingdom,’ not material things. How can we avoid the snare of materialism and simplify our life so that we can pursue more important spiritual interests? Consider Jesus’ encouraging words in the portion of his Sermon on the Mount found at Matthew 6:25-34.

13 WEEK OF **SEPTEMBER 5-11** **Why Must We “Keep on the Watch”?**

As Christians, we must take seriously Jesus’ admonition to “keep on the watch” in these last days. (Matt. 24:42) To do that, we need to guard against negative influences that could cause us not to be alert and vigilant with respect to Jesus’ coming. This article explains how we can avoid being distracted from our watchfulness.

18 “Do Not Be Afraid. I Will Help You”

21 WEEK OF **SEPTEMBER 12-18** **Grateful Recipients of God’s Undeserved Kindness**

26 WEEK OF **SEPTEMBER 19-25** **Spread the Good News of Undeserved Kindness**

These two articles examine many of the ways that we benefit from Jehovah’s undeserved kindness. They also explain why our deep gratitude for these expressions of love should move us to make known to others how they too can benefit from Jehovah’s undeserved kindness.

31 QUESTIONS FROM READERS

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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 11 July 2016 is published monthly with an additional issue published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2016 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

July 2016
Vol. 137, No. 11 ENGLISH

101 Making Known the Kingdom Truth **(Acts 20:20, 21)**

- 1. There was a time we did not know
The way a Christian ought to go.
Then Jehovah sent the light,
His Kingdom truth so clear and bright.
Our Father's will we then could see
To serve the grand Theocracy,
To declare Jehovah's fame,
And help to glorify his holy name.
We witness now to all we meet,
From door to door and on the street.
We take the time to help them see;
We teach the truth that sets men free.
And as we strive in ev'ry land
Jehovah's worship to expand,
May we serve our God as one
Until Jehovah says the work is done.**

(See also Josh. 9:9; Isa. 24:15; John 8:12, 32.)

Spread the Good News of Undeserved Kindness

“Bear thorough witness to the good news of the undeserved kindness of God.”—ACTS 20:24.

SONGS: 101, 84

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What should Jehovah’s undeserved kindness motivate us to do?

How does the “good news of the Kingdom” highlight God’s undeserved kindness?

How will Jehovah show his undeserved kindness in the new world?

THE apostle Paul could honestly say: “[God’s] undeserved kindness to me was not in vain.” (Read 1 Corinthians 15:9, 10.) Paul was very much aware that he had neither earned nor deserved God’s great mercy, having been a former persecutor of Christians.

1, 2. How did the apostle Paul show that he was grateful for God’s undeserved kindness?

2 Toward the end of his life, Paul wrote to his fellow worker Timothy: “I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who imparted power to me, because he considered me faithful by assigning me to a ministry.” (1 Tim. 1:12-14) What was that ministry? Paul told the elders of the congregation in Ephesus what it included, stating: “I do not consider my own life of any importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, *to bear thorough witness to the good news of the undeserved kindness of God.*”—Acts 20:24.

3 What “good news” did Paul preach that highlighted Jehovah’s undeserved kindness? He told the Ephesian Christians: “You have heard about the stewardship of God’s undeserved kindness that was given to me for your sakes.” (Eph.

3. What special ministry was Paul given? (See opening picture of the standard edition.)

3:1, 2) Paul had been commissioned to spread the good news to non-Jews so that they too could be included among those called to be associated with Christ in the Messianic Kingdom government. (Read Ephesians 3:5-8.) In his zeal to perform his ministry, Paul set an excellent example for modern-day Christians and demonstrated that God's undeserved kindness had not been shown to him "in vain."

DOES GOD'S UNDESERVED KINDNESS MOTIVATE YOU?

4 In this time of the end, Jehovah's people have been commissioned to preach "this good news of the Kingdom . . . in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations." (Matt. 24: 14) The message we spread is also "the good news of the undeserved kindness of God" because

4, 5. Why can we say that the "good news of the Kingdom" is the same as the good news of "the undeserved kindness of God"?

all the blessings we hope to receive under Kingdom rule come to us through Jehovah's kindness expressed by means of Christ. (Eph. 1:3) Do we individually imitate Paul in showing gratitude for Jehovah's undeserved kindness by zealously sharing in the ministry?—Read Romans 1:14-16.

5 In the preceding article, we learned how we as sinners are benefiting from Jehovah's undeserved kindness in many ways. We therefore owe it to all people to do our utmost to make known to them how Jehovah is expressing his love and how they can benefit from it personally. What are some aspects of God's undeserved kindness that we should help others to appreciate?

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF THE RANSOM SACRIFICE

6 In this permissive world, sin has all but lost
6, 7. When we explain the ransom to people, how are we spreading the good news of God's undeserved kindness?

its stigma, so that many are unaware of the need for redemption. At the same time, more and more people can see that a permissive lifestyle does not bring true happiness. Until they talk with Jehovah's Witnesses, many do not understand what sin is, how it affects us, and what we need to do to be delivered from slavery to sin. Honesthearted ones are relieved to learn that Jehovah, out of his great love and undeserved kindness, sent his Son to earth to ransom us from sin and its consequence, death.—1 John 4:9, 10.

7 Speaking of Jehovah's beloved Son, Paul wrote: "By means of him [Jesus] we have the release by ransom through the blood of that one, yes, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his [Jehovah's] undeserved kindness." (Eph. 1:7) The ransom sacrifice of Christ is the greatest proof of God's love for us and illustrates the richness of His undeserved kind-

ness. What a relief it is to learn that if we exercise faith in the shed blood of Jesus, our sins will be forgiven and our conscience will be cleansed! (Heb. 9:14) Good news indeed to share with others!

HELP PEOPLE BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

8 We have the responsibility to make known to our fellow humans that they can come into a friendly relationship with their Creator. Before humans exercise faith in Jesus' sacrifice, God considers them to be his enemies. The apostle John wrote: "The one who exercises faith in the Son has everlasting life; the one who disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him." (John 3:36) Happily, Christ's sacrifice makes reconciliation with God possible. Paul declared: "You who were once alienated

8. Why do sinful humans need to be reconciled to God?

and enemies because your minds were on the works that were wicked, he has now reconciled by means of that one's fleshly body through his death."—Col. 1:21, 22.

9 Christ has given his anointed brothers on earth what Paul calls "the ministry of the reconciliation." In explaining this, Paul wrote to first-century anointed Christians: "All things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of the reconciliation, namely, that God was by means of Christ reconciling a world to himself, not counting their offenses against them, and he entrusted to us the message of the reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors substituting for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through

9, 10. (a) What responsibility did Christ give to his anointed brothers? (b) How do the "other sheep" help their anointed brothers?

us. As substitutes for Christ, we beg: ‘Become reconciled to God.’”—2 Cor. 5:18-20.

10 The “other sheep” count it a privilege to help their anointed brothers in this ministry. (John 10:16) Serving as Christ’s envoys, as it were, they are having the biggest share in teaching people spiritual truth and helping them to develop a personal relationship with Jehovah. This is an important part of the work of bearing thorough witness to the good news of the undeserved kindness of God.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS THAT GOD HEARS PRAYERS

11 Many people pray because it makes them feel good, but they do not really believe that God hears their prayers. They need to know that Jehovah is the “Hearer of prayer.” The

11, 12. Why is it good news for people to learn that they can pray to Jehovah?

psalmist David wrote: “O Hearer of prayer, to you people of all sorts will come. My errors have overwhelmed me, but you cover over our transgressions.”—Ps. 65:2, 3.

12 Jesus told his disciples: “If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:14) Obviously, “anything” means anything that is in harmony with Jehovah’s will. John assures us: “This is the confidence that we have toward him, that no matter what we ask according to his will, he hears us.” (1 John 5:14) How good it is to teach others that far from being a mere psychological crutch, prayer is a wonderful means of approaching Jehovah’s “throne of undeserved kindness”! (Heb. 4:16) By teaching them to pray in the right way, to the right Person, and for the right things, we can help them draw close to Jehovah and find comfort during times of distress.—Ps. 4:1; 145:18.

UNDESERVED KINDNESS IN THE NEW SYSTEM OF THINGS

13 Jehovah's undeserved kindness will reach beyond the end of the present wicked system of things. Referring to the extraordinary privilege that God has granted to the 144,000, who are called to reign with Christ in his heavenly Kingdom, Paul wrote: "God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, made us alive together with the Christ, even when we were dead in trespasses—by undeserved kindness you have been saved. Moreover, he raised us up together and seated us together in the heavenly places in union with Christ Jesus, so that in the coming systems of things he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his

13, 14. (a) What marvelous privileges will the anointed have in the future? (b) What wonderful work will the anointed do for mankind?

undeserved kindness in his graciousness toward us in union with Christ Jesus.”—Eph. 2:4-7.

14 It is difficult to imagine the wonders that Jehovah has in store for anointed Christians when they are seated on thrones to rule with Christ in heaven. (Luke 22:28-30; Phil. 3:20, 21; 1 John 3:2) Toward them in particular, Jehovah will “demonstrate the surpassing riches of his undeserved kindness.” They will make up “the New Jerusalem,” the bride of Christ. (Rev. 3:12; 17:14; 21:2, 9, 10) They will share with Jesus in “the healing of the nations,” directing obedient humans to the means to become free from the burden of sin and death and raising them to perfection.—Read Revelation 22:1, 2, 17.

15 At Ephesians 2:7, we read that God’s demonstration of undeserved kindness would occur

15, 16. How will Jehovah show his undeserved kindness toward the “other sheep” in the future?

“in the coming systems of things.” Doubtless, Jehovah’s new system of things on earth will witness “the surpassing riches of his undeserved kindness.” (Luke 18:29, 30) One of the greatest earthly demonstrations of Jehovah’s marvelous kindness will be the resurrection of humans from “the Grave.” (Job 14:13-15; John 5:28, 29) Faithful men and women of old who died before Christ’s sacrificial death, as well as all those “other sheep” who die faithful during the last days, will be brought back to life to continue serving Jehovah.

16 Millions of humans who died without knowing God will also be resurrected. They will be given an opportunity to submit to Jehovah’s sovereignty. John wrote: “I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. But another scroll was opened; it is the scroll of life. The dead were

judged out of those things written in the scrolls according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead in it, and death and the Grave gave up the dead in them, and they were judged individually according to their deeds.” (Rev. 20:12, 13) Of course, those resurrected will be required to learn how to apply the godly principles that are found in the Bible. In addition, they will have to follow new beneficial instructions that will be revealed in “the scrolls” outlining Jehovah’s requirements for living in the new system of things. The revealing of the contents of these scrolls will be another demonstration of Jehovah’s undeserved kindness.

KEEP SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

17 More than ever, our mission as the end nears is to preach the good news of the King-
17. What should we keep in mind when sharing in our witnessing work?

dom! (Mark 13:10) Undeniably, the good news highlights Jehovah's undeserved kindness. We should keep this in mind when we share in our witnessing work. Our objective when we preach is to honor Jehovah. We can do this by showing people that all the promises of new world blessings are expressions of Jehovah's wonderful kindness.

18 As we witness to others, we can explain that under Christ's Kingdom rule, mankind will benefit from the full application of the ransom sacrifice and will gradually be brought to perfection. The Bible says: "The creation itself will also be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Rom. 8:21) This will be possible only through Jehovah's extraordinary kindness.

18, 19. How do we glorify Jehovah's undeserved kindness?

19 We have the privilege of sharing with all who will listen the thrilling promise that is found at Revelation 21:4, 5: “[God] will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.” And Jehovah, the one seated on the throne, says: “Look! I am making all things new.” He also says: “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” When we zealously preach this good news to others, we truly glorify Jehovah’s undeserved kindness!

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1. Oh, what love God's Son for us showed
When he left his Father's abode
That with men he might live,
God's truth he could give;
This truth from his lips ever flowed.
Greatly he did comfort mankind,
Healed those who were sick, lame, and blind.
To his royal commission he proved true
And lovingly said: "I want to."

2. Oh, what help Jehovah God gave
When he sent the faithful wise slave,
With whom we serve with joy,
Our powers employ,
That meek ones we might help to save.
Those in need can easily tell
When we love them ever so well.
So if widows and orphans should ask you,
Then readily say: "I want to."