

- Song 134 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Jehovah Is Great and Most Worthy of Praise”:** (10 min.)
Ps 145:1-9—Jehovah’s greatness is without limits (w04 1/15 10 ¶3-4; 11 ¶7-8; 14 ¶20-21; 15 ¶12)
Ps 145:10-13—Jehovah’s loyal ones give him praise (w04 1/15 16 ¶3-6)
Ps 145:14-16—Jehovah supports and sustains his loyal ones (w04 1/15 17-18 ¶10-14)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 143:8—How does this verse help us to live each day to God’s glory? (w10 1/15 21 ¶1-2)

Ps 150:6—What obligation does the last verse in the book of Psalms emphasize? (it-2 448)

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 145:1-21

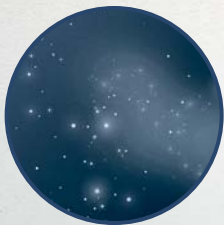
APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) 1Pe 5:7—Teach the Truth.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Ps 37:9-11—Teach the Truth.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) fg lesson 9 ¶3—Help the student to apply the material.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 99
- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Encouraging Interested Ones to Attend Meetings”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Distribute a copy of the congregation meeting invitation, and briefly consider page 2. Show the video demonstration of a publisher inviting someone on his magazine route to the meeting. Conclude by discussing the box “October Offer: Congregation Meeting Invitation.”
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 1 ¶11-20, charts on pp. 10, 12
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 145 and Prayer
Reminder: Play the music through once before singing the new song.

PSALMS 142-150 | “Jehovah Is Great and Most Worthy of Praise”



145:1-5

In observing that Jehovah’s greatness is without limits, David was motivated to praise Him forever



145:14

David was convinced of Jehovah’s desire and ability to care for all of His servants



145:10-12

Like David, Jehovah’s loyal servants are moved to make His mighty acts a regular part of their conversations

134 *See Yourself When All Is New* (Revelation 21:1-5)

1. Just see yourself, just see me too;
Just see us all in a world that is new.
Think how you'll feel, how it will be,
To live in peace, to be truly free.
No evil one will then prevail;
Rule by our God cannot ever fail.
The time will have come for a new earthly start,
The song of our praises
will pour out from our heart:

(CHORUS)

*"Jehovah our God, how well you have done!
All things are new by the rule of your Son.
The fullness of our heart overflows in our song;
All glory and honor and praise to you belong."*

2. Now see yourself, and see me too;
And look ahead to a world that is new.
No sight we see, no sound we hear
Will cause alarm or give rise to fear.
All has come true, just as he said;
Now over mankind, his tent is spread.
He now shall awaken those sleeping in death;
Their voices will join us with
ev'ry grateful breath:

(Chorus)

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."

He has caused me to dwell
in darkness like those long
dead.

- 4 My spirit* is failing;^a
My heart is numb within me.^b
- 5 I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all your
activity;^c
I eagerly ponder over* the
work of your hands.
- 6 I spread out my hands to you;
I am* like a parched land that
thirsts for you.^d (*Selah*)
- 7 Do answer me quickly,
O Jehovah;^e
My strength* has come to an
end.^f
Do not hide your face
from me,^g
Or I will be like those going
down into the pit.^h
- 8 Let me hear your loyal love
in the morning,
For I trust in you.
Make known to me the way
I should walk,ⁱ
For to you I turn.*
- 9 Rescue me from my enemies,
O Jehovah.
I seek your protection.^j
- 10 Teach me to do your will,^k
For you are my God.
Your spirit is good;
May it lead me on level
ground.*
- 11 For the sake of your name,
O Jehovah, preserve me
alive.
In your righteousness, res-
cue me* from distress.^l
- 12 In your loyal love, put an end
to[#] my enemies;^m
Destroy all those harassing
me,ⁿ
For I am your servant.^o

143:4 *Or "strength." 143:5 *Or
"study." 143:6 *Or "My soul is."
143:7 *Lit., "spirit." #Or "grave."
143:8 *Or "For I lift up my soul to
you." 143:10 *Or "in the land of up-
rightness." 143:11, 12 *Or "my soul."
143:12 #Lit., "silence."

CHAP. 143

- a Ps 142:3
b Ps 102:4
c Ps 77:5, 6
Ps 77:11, 12
Ps 111:2, 3
d Ps 63:1
e Ps 40:13
Ps 70:5
f Ps 142:3
g Ps 27:9
h Ps 28:1
i Ps 5:8
Pr 3:6
j Ps 59:1
Ps 61:3, 4
Ps 91:1
k Ps 25:4
l Ps 31:1
m 1Sa 25:29
1Sa 26:9, 10
n 1Sa 24:12
o Ps 89:20

Second Col.

CHAP. 144

- a De 32:4
b 2Sa 22:35
Ps 18:2, 34
c 2Sa 22:2, 3
d Ps 18:47
e Ps 8:4
Heb 2:6
f Ps 39:5
g 1Ch 29:15
Job 14:1, 2
h Ps 18:9
i Ex 19:18
j Job 36:32
k 2Sa 22:15
l 2Sa 22:17, 18
Ps 18:16, 17
Ps 54:3
m Ps 33:3
Ps 40:3
Ps 96:1
Isa 42:10
Re 5:9
Re 14:3

Of David.

- 144** May Jehovah, my
Rock,^a be praised,
Who trains my hands for bat-
tle,
My fingers for warfare.^b
- 2 He is my loyal love and my
stronghold,
My secure refuge* and my
rescuer,
My shield and the One in
whom I have taken shelter,^c
The One subduing peoples
under me.^d
- 3 O Jehovah, what is man that
you should notice him,
The son of mortal man that
you should pay attention to
him?^e
- 4 Man resembles a mere
breath;^f
His days are like a passing
shadow.^g
- 5 O Jehovah, lower* your
heavens and descend;^h
Touch the mountains and
make them smoke.ⁱ
- 6 Make lightning flash and
scatter the enemy;^j
Shoot your arrows
and throw them into confu-
sion.^k
- 7 Stretch out your hands from
above;
Rescue me and save me from
the surging waters,
From the hand* of the for-
eigners.^l
- 8 Whose mouths speak lies
And who raise their right
hand to swear to what is
false.*
- 9 O God, I will sing to you
a new song.^m
I will sing praises* to you,
accompanied by a ten-
stringed instrument,

144:2 *Or "secure height." 144:5 *Or
"bend." 144:7 *Or "grip." 144:8 *Lit.,
"And their right hand is a right hand of
falsehood." 144:9 *Or "make music."

- 10** To the One who gives victory* to kings,^a
The One rescuing his servant David from the deadly sword.^b
- 11** Rescue me and save me from the hand of the foreigners,
Whose mouths speak lies
And who raise their right hand to swear to what is false.
- 12** Then our sons will be like young plants that grow up quickly,
Our daughters like corner pillars carved for a palace.
- 13** Our storehouses will overflow with every kind of produce;
Our flocks in our fields will multiply by the thousands,
by the tens of thousands.
- 14** Our cattle, heavy with young, will suffer no mishap* or miscarriage;
There will be no cry of distress in our public squares.
- 15** Happy is the people for whom it is this way!
Happy is the people whose God is Jehovah!^c

A praise of David.

✠ [Aleph]

145 I will exalt you, O my God the King,^d

I will praise your name forever and ever.^e

☩ [Beth]

- 2** All day long I will praise you;^f
I will praise your name forever and ever.^g

‡ [Gimel]

- 3** Jehovah is great and most worthy of praise;^h
His greatness is unsearchable.*ⁱ

⌈ [Daleth]

- 4** Generation after generation will praise your works;

CHAP. 144

a 2Sa 5:19
Ps 18:50

b 1Sa 17:45, 46
2Sa 21:15, 17

c Ps 33:12
Ps 37:9
Ps 37:37
Ps 146:5

CHAP. 145

d Isa 33:22
Re 11:17

e 1Ch 29:10

f Ps 119:164

g Ps 146:2

h Ps 150:2
Ro 1:20
Re 15:3

i Job 26:14
Ps 139:6
Ro 11:33

Second Col.

a Ex 12:26, 27

b Ps 8:1

c 1Ki 8:66
Ps 13:6
Ps 31:19
Isa 63:7
Jer 31:12

d Ps 51:14
Re 15:3

e 2Ch 30:9
Eph 2:4

f Ex 34:6
Ne 9:17

g Ps 25:8
Na 1:7
Mt 5:44, 45
Ac 14:17
Jas 1:17

h Ps 19:1

i Ps 30:4
Heb 13:15

j Lu 10:8, 9

k De 3:24
1Ch 29:11
Re 15:3

l Ps 98:1

m Ps 103:19

n Ps 146:10
1Ti 1:17

They will tell about your mighty acts.^a

⌈ [He]

- 5** Of the glorious splendor of your majesty they will speak^b

And on your wonderful works I will meditate.

⌈ [Waw]

- 6** They will speak about your awe-inspiring deeds,^c
And I will declare your greatness.

⌈ [Zayin]

- 7** They will bubble over as they recall your abundant goodness,^c

And they will shout joyfully because of your righteousness.^d

⌈ [Heth]

- 8** Jehovah is compassionate* and merciful,^e
Slow to anger and great in loyal love.^f

⌈ [Teth]

- 9** Jehovah is good to all,^g
And his mercy is evident in all his works.

⌈ [Yod]

- 10** All your works will glorify you, O Jehovah,^h
And your loyal ones will praise you.ⁱ

☩ [Kaph]

- 11** They will proclaim the glory of your kingship^j
And speak about your mightiness,^k

⌈ [Lamed]

- 12** To make known to men your mighty acts^l
And the glorious splendor of your kingship.^m

⌈ [Mem]

- 13** Your kingship is an eternal kingship,
And your dominion endures throughout all generations.ⁿ

144:10 *Or "salvation." 144:14 *Or "rupture." 145:3 *Or "beyond understanding."

145:6 *Or "power." 145:8 *Or "gracious."

◊ [Samekh]

- 14 Jehovah supports all who are falling^a
And raises up all who are bowed down.^b
† [Ayin]
- 15 All eyes look hopefully to you;
You give them their food in its season.^c
‡ [Pe]
- 16 You open your hand
And satisfy the desire of every living thing.^d
‡ [Tsade]
- 17 Jehovah is righteous in all his ways^e
And loyal in all that he does.^f
‡ [Qoph]
- 18 Jehovah is near to all those calling on him,^g
To all who call on him in truth.^{*h}
‡ [Resh]
- 19 He satisfies the desire of those who fear him;ⁱ
He hears their cry for help, and he rescues them.^j
‡ [Shin]
- 20 Jehovah guards all those who love him,^k
But all the wicked he will annihilate.^l
‡ [Taw]
- 21 My mouth will declare the praise of Jehovah;^m
Let every living thing^{*} praise his holy name forever and ever.ⁿ
- 146** Praise Jah!^{*o}
Let my whole being[#] praise Jehovah.^p
- 2 I will praise Jehovah all my life.
I will sing praises[#] to my God as long as I live.

145:18 *Or "in sincerity." 145:21 *Lit., "all flesh." 146:1, 10; 147:1 *Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. 146:1 #Or "my soul." 146:2; 147:1 #Or "make music."

CHAP. 145

a Ps 37:23, 24
Ps 94:18
b Ps 146:8
c Ge 1:30
Ps 136:25
d Ps 104:27, 28
Ps 107:9
Ps 132:14, 15
e Ge 18:25
De 32:4
f Ps 18:25
Re 15:3, 4
g Ps 34:18
Jas 4:8
h Ps 17:1
i Ps 34:9
j Ps 37:39, 40
Ps 50:15
k Ps 31:23
Ps 97:10
l Pr 2:22
m Ps 34:1
Ps 51:15
n Ps 117:1
Ps 150:6

CHAP. 146

o Re 19:6
p Ps 103:1

Second Col.

a Ps 62:9
Ps 118:8, 9
Isa 2:22
Jer 17:5
b Ge 3:19
Ps 104:29
Ec 3:20
Ec 12:7
c Ec 9:5, 10
Isa 38:18
d Ps 46:7
e Ps 71:5
Jer 17:7
f Ac 4:24
Re 14:7
g De 7:9
h Ps 107:9
Ps 145:16
i Ps 107:14
Ps 142:7
j Isa 29:18
Isa 35:5
k Ps 145:14
2Co 7:6
l De 10:18
Ps 68:5
m Ps 145:20
n Ex 15:18
Da 6:26
Re 11:15

CHAP. 147

o Ps 135:3
p Ps 102:16

- 3 Do not put your trust in princes^{*}
Nor in a son of man, who cannot bring salvation.^a
- 4 His spirit^{*} goes out, he returns to the ground;^b
On that very day his thoughts perish.^c
- 5 Happy is the one who has the God of Jacob as his helper,^d
Whose hope is in Jehovah his God.^e
- 6 The Maker of heaven and earth,
Of the sea, and of all that is in them,^f
The One who always remains faithful,^g
- 7 The One securing justice for those defrauded,
The One giving bread to the hungry,^h
Jehovah is releasing the prisoners.^{*i}
- 8 Jehovah is opening the eyes of the blind;^j
Jehovah is raising up those bowed down;^k
Jehovah loves the righteous.
- 9 Jehovah is protecting the foreign residents;
He sustains the fatherless child and the widow,^l
But he thwarts the plans of the wicked.^{*m}
- 10 Jehovah will be King forever,ⁿ
Your God, O Zion, for generation after generation.
Praise Jah!^{*}
- 147** Praise Jah!^{*}
It is good to sing praises[#] to our God;
How pleasant and fitting it is to praise him!^o
- 2 Jehovah is building Jerusalem;^p

146:3 *Or "nobles." 146:4 *Or "breath." 146:7 *Lit., "bound ones." 146:9 *Or "makes the way of the wicked crooked."

- He gathers together the dispersed ones of Israel.^a
- 3** He heals the brokenhearted; He binds up their wounds.
- 4** He counts the number of the stars; He calls all of them by name.^b
- 5** Our Lord is great and is mighty in power;^c His understanding is beyond measure.^d
- 6** Jehovah raises up the meek,^e But he hurls the wicked to the ground.
- 7** Sing to Jehovah with thanksgiving; Sing praises to our God, accompanied by the harp,
- 8** The One who covers the heavens with clouds, The One providing rain for the earth,^f The One making grass sprout^g on the mountains.
- 9** To the animals he gives food,^h To the young ravens that call out for it.ⁱ
- 10** He does not delight in the power of the horse;^j Nor is he impressed by the strong legs of a man.^k
- 11** Jehovah finds pleasure in those who fear him,^l In those waiting for his loyal love.^m
- 12** Glorify Jehovah, O Jerusalem. Praise your God, O Zion.
- 13** He makes the bars of your city gates strong; He blesses your sons within you.
- 14** He brings peace to your territory;ⁿ He satisfies you with the finest* wheat.^o
- 15** He sends his command to the earth; His word runs swiftly.

147:14 *Lit., "the fat of."

CHAP. 147

- a De 30:1-3
Eze 36:24
- b Isa 40:26
- c Na 1:3
- d Isa 40:28
Ro 11:33
- e Ps 37:11
- f 1Ki 18:45
Jer 14:22
Mt 5:45
- g Job 38:25-27
Isa 30:23
- h Ps 136:25
- i Job 38:41
Lu 12:24
- j Isa 31:1
Ho 1:7
- k 1Sa 16:7
- l Mal 3:16
- m Ps 33:18
- n Le 26:6
Isa 60:17
- o De 8:7, 8
Ps 132:14, 15

Second Col.

- a Job 37:6
- b Job 38:29
- c Jos 10:11
- d Job 37:10
- e Ps 148:8
- f De 4:5
- g Ex 19:5
Ex 31:16, 17
De 4:8
1Ch 17:21
Ro 3:1, 2
- h Re 19:6

CHAP. 148

- i Ps 89:5
- j Ps 103:20
Lu 2:13
- k Jer 32:18
Jude 14
- l Ps 19:1
- m Ps 33:6
- n Ps 89:37
- o Ps 119:91
Jer 31:35, 36
Jer 33:25

- 16** He sends the snow like wool;^a He scatters the frost just like ashes.^b
- 17** He hurls down his hailstones* like morsels of bread.^c Who can withstand his cold?^d
- 18** He sends out his word, and they melt. He makes his wind blow,^e and the waters flow.
- 19** He declares his word to Jacob, His regulations and judgments to Israel.^f
- 20** He has not done so with any other nation;^g They know nothing about his judgments. Praise Jah!^{*h}

148 Praise Jah!* Praise Jehovah from the heavens;ⁱ

- Praise him in the heights.
- 2** Praise him, all his angels.^j Praise him, all his army.^k
- 3** Praise him, sun and moon. Praise him, all shining stars.^l
- 4** Praise him, O highest heavens* And waters above the heavens.
- 5** Let them praise the name of Jehovah, For he commanded, and they were created.^m
- 6** He keeps them established forever and ever;ⁿ He has issued a decree that will not pass away.^o
- 7** Praise Jehovah from the earth, You great sea creatures and all deep waters,
- 8** You lightning and hail, snow and thick clouds,

147:17 *Or "ice." 147:20; 148:1 *Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. 148:4 *Lit., "heavens of the heavens."

You storm wind, carrying out his word,^a

9 You mountains and all you hills,^b

You fruit trees and all you cedars,^c

10 You wild animals^d and all you domestic animals,

You creeping things and winged birds,

11 You kings of the earth and all you nations,

You princes and all you judges of the earth,^e

12 You young men and young women,^{*}

Old men and young together.[#]

13 Let them praise the name of Jehovah,

For his name alone is unreachably high.^f

His majesty is above earth and heaven.^g

14 He will exalt the strength^{*} of his people,

For the praise of all his loyal ones,

Of the sons of Israel, the people close to him.

Praise Jah![#]

149 Praise Jah![#]

Sing to Jehovah a new song;^h

Praise him in the congregation of the loyal ones.ⁱ

2 Let Israel rejoice in its Grand Maker;^j

Let the sons of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his name with dancing^k

And sing praises^{*} to him, accompanied by the tambourine and the harp.^l

148:12 *Lit., "virgins." #Or "Old and young together." 148:14 *Lit., "the horn." 148:14; 149:1, 9; 150:1, 6 #Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. 149:3 *Or "make music."

CHAP. 148

a Ex 9:23

Ps 107:25

Isa 30:30

b Ps 98:8

c 1Ch 16:33

Isa 44:23

d Isa 43:20

e Ps 2:10, 11

f Ps 8:1

Isa 12:4

g 1Ki 8:27

1Ch 29:11

CHAP. 149

h Ps 33:3

Ps 96:1

Isa 42:10

Re 5:9

i Ps 22:22

j Ps 100:3

Isa 54:5

k Jg 11:34

l Ex 15:20

Ps 150:4

Second Col.

a Ps 84:11

b Ps 132:16

Isa 61:10

c Ps 63:6

d De 7:1

CHAP. 150

e Re 19:6

f Ps 116:19

g Ps 19:1

h Ps 107:15

Re 15:3

i De 3:24

Ps 145:3

j Ps 81:3

k 1Ch 15:28

l Ex 15:20

m Ps 92:1, 3

Ps 144:9

n 1Sa 10:5

o 2Sa 6:5

1Ch 15:19

1Ch 16:5

p Re 5:13

4 For Jehovah takes pleasure in his people.^a

He adorns the meek with salvation.^b

5 Let the loyal ones exult in glory;

Let them shout for joy upon their beds.^c

6 Let the songs praising God be in their throat,

And a two-edged sword be in their hand,

7 To execute vengeance on the nations

And punishment on the peoples,

8 To bind their kings with shackles

And their nobles with iron fetters,

9 To execute the judgment written against them.^d

This honor belongs to all his loyal ones.

Praise Jah![#]

150 Praise Jah!^{#e}
Praise God in his holy place.^f

Praise him in the expanse of^{*} his strength.^g

2 Praise him for his mighty works,^h

Praise him for his exceeding greatness.ⁱ

3 Praise him with the sounding of the horn.^j

Praise him with the stringed instrument and the harp.^k

4 Praise him with the tambourine^l and the circle dance.

Praise him with strings^m and the flute.^{*n}

5 Praise him with ringing cymbals.

Praise him with crashing cymbals.^o

6 Every breathing thing—let it praise Jah.

Praise Jah!^{#p}

150:1 *Or "the sky that bears witness to." 150:4 *Or "pipe."

- Song 134 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

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Ps 145:1-9—Jehovah’s greatness is without limits (w04 1/15 10 ¶3-4; 11 ¶7-8; 14 ¶20-21; 15 ¶12)
Ps 145:10-13—Jehovah’s loyal ones give him praise (w04 1/15 16 ¶3-6)
Ps 145:14-16—Jehovah supports and sustains his loyal ones (w04 1/15 17-18 ¶10-14)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 143:8—How does this verse help us to live each day to God’s glory? (w10 1/15 21 ¶1-2)

Ps 150:6—What obligation does the last verse in the book of Psalms emphasize? (it-2 448)

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 145:1-21

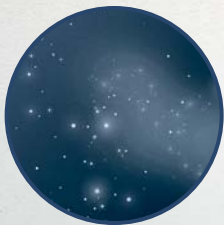
APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) 1Pe 5:7—Teach the Truth.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Ps 37:9-11—Teach the Truth.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) fg lesson 9 ¶3—Help the student to apply the material.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 99
- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Encouraging Interested Ones to Attend Meetings”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Distribute a copy of the congregation meeting invitation, and briefly consider page 2. Show the video demonstration of a publisher inviting someone on his magazine route to the meeting. Conclude by discussing the box “October Offer: Congregation Meeting Invitation.”
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 1 ¶11-20, charts on pp. 10, 12
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 145 and Prayer
Reminder: Play the music through once before singing the new song.

PSALMS 142-150 | “Jehovah Is Great and Most Worthy of Praise”



145:1-5

In observing that Jehovah’s greatness is without limits, David was motivated to praise Him forever



145:14

David was convinced of Jehovah’s desire and ability to care for all of His servants



145:10-12

Like David, Jehovah’s loyal servants are moved to make His mighty acts a regular part of their conversations

September 26–October 2
Treasures From God's Word

Psalm 145:1-9—Jehovah's greatness is without limits

Reference: *w04* 1/15 10 **paragraphs 3-4.**

3 Although David was God's appointed king, he viewed Jehovah as the true King of Israel. Said David: "Yours is the kingdom, O Jehovah, the One also lifting yourself up as head over all." (1 Chronicles 29:11) And how David appreciated God as Ruler! "I will exalt you, O my God the King," he sang, "and I will bless your name to time indefinite, even forever. All day long I will bless you, and I will praise your name to time indefinite, even forever." (**Psalm 145:1, 2**) It was David's desire to praise Jehovah God throughout the day and for all eternity.

4 Psalm 145 is a powerful answer to Satan's claim that God is a selfish ruler who withholds freedom from his creatures. (Genesis 3:1-5) This psalm also exposes Satan's lie that those who obey God do so only for what they can get out of it, not because they love God. (**Job 1:9-11; 2:4, 5**) Like David, true Christians today are supplying an answer to the Devil's false charges. They treasure their hope of everlasting life under Kingdom rule because they desire to praise Jehovah throughout eternity. Already, millions have started to do so by exercising faith in Jesus' ransom sacrifice and by serving

Jehovah obediently out of love as his dedicated, baptized worshipers.—Romans 5:8; 1 John 5:3.

Reference: *w04* 1/15 11 paragraphs 7-8.

7 Psalm 145:3 gives a major reason for praising Jehovah. David sings: “Jehovah is great and very much to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.” Jehovah’s greatness is without limits. It cannot be fully searched out, comprehended, or measured by humans. But we will certainly benefit from now considering examples of Jehovah’s unsearchable greatness.

8 Try to recall an occasion when you were away from bright city lights and looked up into a cloudless night sky. Were you not amazed at the multitude of stars visible against the blackness of space? Were you not moved to praise Jehovah for his greatness in creating all those celestial bodies? What you saw, however, was but a tiny fraction of the number of stars in the galaxy of which the earth is a part. In addition, there are estimated to be more than a hundred billion galaxies, only three of which can be seen without the aid of a telescope. Indeed, the countless stars and galaxies that make up the immense universe are a testimony to Jehovah’s creative power and unsearchable greatness.—Isaiah 40:26.

Reference: *w04 1/15 14 paragraphs 20-21*.

20 As we have noted, the first six verses of Psalm 145 give us sound reasons to praise Jehovah for things associated with his unsearchable greatness. Verses 7 to 9 magnify God's greatness by referring to his moral qualities. David sings: "With the mention of the abundance of your goodness they will bubble over, and because of your righteousness they will cry out joyfully. Jehovah is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and great in loving-kindness. Jehovah is good to all, and his mercies are over all his works."

21 Here David first highlights Jehovah's goodness and righteousness—qualities called into question by Satan the Devil. What effect do these qualities have on all who love God and submit to his rulership? Why, Jehovah's goodness and his righteous way of ruling bring such joy to his worshipers that they cannot stop bubbling forth his praise. Moreover, Jehovah's goodness extends "to all." Hopefully, this will help many more to repent and become worshipers of the true God before it is too late.— Acts 14:15-17.

Reference: *w04 1/15 15 paragraph 2*.

Jehovah shows love for his true worshipers in a precious, lasting way. Such love is denoted by a Hebrew word

translated “loving-kindness,” or “loyal love.” King David of ancient Israel deeply appreciated God’s loving-kindness. Because of his personal experience and his meditation on God’s dealings with others, David could confidently sing: “Jehovah is . . . great in loving-kindness [or, “loyal love”].” — Psalm 145:8.

Psalm 145:10-13—Jehovah’s loyal ones give him praise

Reference: *w04* 1/15 16 **paragraphs 3-6**.

3 Regarding Jehovah God, the prophet Samuel’s mother, Hannah, said: “The feet of his loyal ones he guards.”

(1 Samuel 2:9) Who are such “loyal ones”? King David supplies the answer. After extolling Jehovah’s marvelous qualities, he states: “Your loyal ones will bless you.”

(Psalm 145:10) You may wonder how humans can bless God. They do so primarily by praising him or by speaking well of him.

4 Jehovah’s loyal ones can be identified as those who use their mouths to speak well of him. In social settings and at Christian meetings, what is a common theme of their discussions? Why, it is Jehovah’s Kingdom! God’s loyal servants share the sentiments of David, who sang: “About the glory of your [Jehovah’s] kingship they will talk, and about your mightiness they will speak.” —Psalm 145:11.

5 Does Jehovah take note when his loyal ones praise him? Yes, he pays attention to what they say. In a prophecy relating to true worship in our day, Malachi wrote: “At that time those in fear of Jehovah spoke with one another, each one with his companion, and Jehovah kept paying attention and listening. And a book of remembrance began to be written up before him for those in fear of Jehovah and for those thinking upon his name.” (Malachi 3:16) It pleases Jehovah very much when his loyal ones speak well of him, and he remembers them.

6 Jehovah’s loyal servants can also be identified by their courage and initiative in speaking to people who are not worshipers of the true God. Indeed, God’s loyal ones “make known to the sons of men his mighty acts and the glory of the splendor of his kingship.” (Psalm 145:12) Do you seek and take full advantage of opportunities to speak to strangers about Jehovah’s kingship? Unlike human governments, which will soon pass away, his kingship is eternal. (1 Timothy 1:17) It is urgent that people learn about Jehovah’s everlasting kingship and take their stand as its supporters. “Your kingship is a kingship for all times indefinite,” sang David, “and your dominion is throughout all successive generations.” — Psalm 145:13.

Psalm 145:14-16—Jehovah supports and sustains his loyal ones

Reference: w04 1/15 17-18 paragraphs 10-14.

10 Of course, some human rulers are sincerely concerned about the welfare of their subjects. But even the most noble among them do not know their subjects intimately. Indeed, we may ask: Is there any ruler who cares for *all* his subjects so much that he quickly comes to the aid of each one in times of trouble? Yes, there is. David wrote: “Jehovah is giving support to all who are falling, and is raising up all who are bowed down.” — Psalm 145:14.

11 Many trials and calamities befall Jehovah God’s loyal ones because of their own imperfection and because they live in a world that is lying in the power of Satan, “the wicked one.” (1 John 5:19; Psalm 34:19) Christians experience persecution. Some suffer from chronic illness or because of bereavement. At times, the mistakes of Jehovah’s loyal ones may cause them to ‘bow down’ in discouragement. Whatever trial befalls them, however, Jehovah is always ready to give comfort and spiritual strength to each one of them. The King Jesus Christ has the same loving interest in his loyal subjects.—Psalm 72:12-14.

Satisfying Food in Season

12 Out of his great loving-kindness, Jehovah provides for

all the needs of his servants. This includes satisfying them with nourishing food. King David wrote: “To you [Jehovah] the eyes of all look hopefully, and you are giving them their food in its season. You are opening your hand and satisfying the desire of every living thing.” (Psalm 145:15, 16) Even in times of calamity, Jehovah can maneuver matters so that his loyal ones get “bread for the day.” — Luke 11:3; 12:29, 30.

13 David mentioned that “every living thing” gets satisfied. That includes the animals. If it were not for earth’s abundant vegetation of the land and plants of the sea, aquatic creatures, birds, and land animals would have no oxygen to breathe or food to eat. (Psalm 104:14) However, Jehovah sees to it that all their needs are satisfied.

14 Unlike animals, humans have a spiritual need. (Matthew 5:3) How wonderfully Jehovah satisfies the spiritual needs of his loyal ones! Before his death, Jesus promised that “the faithful and discreet slave” would provide Jesus’ followers with spiritual “food at the proper time.” (Matthew 24:45) The remnant of the 144,000 anointed ones make up that slave class today. Through them, Jehovah has indeed provided spiritual food in abundance.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Psalm 143:8—How does this verse help us to live each day to God’s glory?

Reference: *w10 1/15 21 paragraphs 1-2.*

“In the morning cause me to hear your loving-kindness,” prayed the psalmist David to Jehovah. “Make known to me the way in which I should walk.” (**Psalm 143:8**) When you wake up and thank Jehovah for a new day of life, do you, like David, entreat Jehovah to guide you in making decisions and taking the best course of action? No doubt you do.

As dedicated servants of Jehovah, “whether [we] are eating or drinking or doing anything else,” we strive to “do all things for God’s glory.” (**1 Corinthians 10:31**) We realize that the way we live our daily life will either honor or dishonor Jehovah. We also remember that God’s Word states that Satan is accusing Christ’s brothers—and, in fact, all of God’s servants on earth—“day and night.” (**Revelation 12:10**) Therefore, we are determined to give a reply to Satan’s false accusations and to make Jehovah’s heart rejoice by rendering sacred service to our heavenly Father “day and night.” — **Revelation 7:15; Proverbs 27:11.**

Psalm 150:6—What obligation does the last verse in the book of Psalms emphasize?

Reference: *it-2* 448.

Mouth

An organ designed by God to receive and prepare food for the stomach, also, in humans, for speaking. All speech should result in praise to Him. (**Psalm 34:1; 51:15; 71:8; 145:21**) The psalmist declared that everything that has breath will praise Jehovah; therefore humans must use their mouths to do this if they desire to live. The apostle Paul explains that belief in God and his Son, even believing with the heart, is not enough. It has to be accompanied by public declaration in order to bring salvation.—**Psalm 150:6; Romans 10:10.**

In harmony with his purpose and his right and power as Creator, Jehovah can put the proper words into the mouth of his servant. In the case of his prophets, he did so miraculously, by inspiration. (**Exodus 4:11, 12, 15; Jeremiah 1:9**) In one instance he caused even a dumb animal, an ass, to speak. (**Numbers 22:28, 30; 2 Peter 2:15, 16**) Today God's servants can have his words in their mouths, not by inspiration, but from his inspired written Word, which equips them completely for every good work. (**2 Timothy 3:16,17**) They no longer have to wait for Christ to come to provide the good news, nor do they need to go to some other source for what they

preach. They have it right before them, ready for them to speak, as they are told: “The word is near you, in your own mouth and in your own heart.” — **Romans 10:6-9**; **Deuteronomy 30:11-14**.

Can Bring Life or Death. It follows that the proper use of the mouth is vital, and so Jehovah declares it to be. His Word says: “The mouth of the righteous one is a source of life.” (**Proverbs 10:11**) The mouth, therefore, has to be guarded most carefully (**Psalms 141:3**; **Proverbs 13:3**; **21:23**), for stupid misuse of it can bring its owner to ruin. (**Proverbs 10:14**; **18:7**) God holds a person accountable for what he brings forth from his mouth. (**Matthew 12:36, 37**) A person may speak hastily, making a rash vow. (**Ecclesiastes 5:4-6**) He may flatter another, to that person’s overthrow and his own condemnation. (**Proverbs 26:28**) It is especially important to guard one’s mouth when before the wicked, because a slight deviation from what God’s wisdom directs his servant to say can bring reproach on God’s name and may cause that one’s death. (**Psalms 39:1**) Jesus gave a fine example of submissiveness to God’s will without complaint or any reviling of his wicked opposers. — **Isaiah 53:7**; **Acts 8:32**; **1 Peter 2:23**.

The Christian must exercise constant vigilance, for he is imperfect; therefore he needs to watch his heart. Jesus

said that it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a man, but what comes forth from the mouth, for “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

(**Matthew 12:34; 15:11**) Thus one must be careful not to let anything come forth from the mouth without thought, without considering the consequences. This requires that the person use his mind to apply the good things learned from God’s Word.—**Proverbs 13:3; 21:23.**

- Song 134 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Jehovah Is Great and Most Worthy of Praise”:** (10 min.)
Ps 145:1-9—Jehovah’s greatness is without limits (w04 1/15 10 ¶3-4; 11 ¶7-8; 14 ¶20-21; 15 ¶12)
Ps 145:10-13—Jehovah’s loyal ones give him praise (w04 1/15 16 ¶3-6)
Ps 145:14-16—Jehovah supports and sustains his loyal ones (w04 1/15 17-18 ¶10-14)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 143:8—How does this verse help us to live each day to God’s glory? (w10 1/15 21 ¶1-2)

Ps 150:6—What obligation does the last verse in the book of Psalms emphasize? (it-2 448)

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 145:1-21

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) 1Pe 5:7—Teach the Truth.
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- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) fg lesson 9 ¶3—Help the student to apply the material.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 99
- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Encouraging Interested Ones to Attend Meetings”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Distribute a copy of the congregation meeting invitation, and briefly consider page 2. Show the video demonstration of a publisher inviting someone on his magazine route to the meeting. Conclude by discussing the box “October Offer: Congregation Meeting Invitation.”
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9

How Can Your Family Be Happy?



1. Why is marriage vital to family happiness?


The good news comes from Jehovah, the happy God, who wants families to be happy. (1 Timothy 1:11) He originated marriage. Legal marriage is vital to family happiness because it provides a secure environment in which to raise children.

How does God view marriage? He wants it to be a permanent union between a man and a woman. Christians should respect local laws concerning the registration of marriage. (Luke 2:1, 4, 5) Jehovah wants husbands and wives to be loyal to each other. (Hebrews 13:4) He hates divorce. (Malachi 2:16) But he does allow Christians to divorce and remarry if their spouse commits adultery.

 *Read Matthew 19:3-6, 9.*

2. How should a husband and a wife treat each other?

Jehovah created men and women to fill complementary roles in marriage. (Genesis 2:18) As family head, a husband should take the lead in providing materially for his family and in teaching them about God. He should be self-sacrificing in his love for his wife. Husbands and wives should love and respect each other. Since all husbands and wives are imperfect, learning to forgive is a key to happiness in marriage.

 *Read Ephesians 4:31, 32; 5:22-25, 33; 1 Peter 3:7.*

3. Should you abandon an unhappy marriage?

If you experience difficulties in your marriage, both of you should work at treating each other with love. (1 Corin-

Praising Earth's New King (Revelation 7:9)

1. A multitude is gathering
from ev'ry tribe and nation,
Collected by the Christ and his
anointed congregation.
God's Kingdom has been brought to birth;
His will shall soon be done on earth.
This hope is a gift of priceless worth,
giving joy and consolation.

(CHORUS)

*Praise our God, Jehovah;
Praise his Son, Christ Jesus,
Who through the ransom have set us free.
Now we have the hope to live on the earth
And serve God eternally.*

2. We hail the Christ, our reigning King,
with sounds of jubilation.
This Prince of Peace shall do God's will
and bring about salvation.
We see the joys that lie ahead:
An earth released from fear and dread,
The grand resurrection of the dead.
What a time for exultation!

(Chorus)

- Song 134 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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IMPROVING OUR SKILLS IN THE MINISTRY

Encouraging Interested Ones to Attend Meetings



WHY IMPORTANT: Meetings provide regular occasions to “sing to Jehovah” and to “praise him.” (Ps 149:1) At the meetings, we are taught to do God’s will. (Ps 143:10) Interested ones and Bible students usually make greater progress once they begin attending meetings.

HOW TO DO IT:

- Extend an invitation as soon as possible. You need not wait until a Bible study has been established.—Re 22:17
- Explain to the interested person what he can expect and what will be discussed at the next meeting. The following can be of help in this regard: the congregation meeting invitation, the video *What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?*, and lessons 5 and 7 of the *Jehovah’s Will* brochure
- Offer help. Does the interested one need a ride or assistance with choosing appropriate clothing? Sit next to him at the meeting, and share your publications. Introduce him to others

**OCTOBER OFFER:
CONGREGATION MEETING INVITATION**

Some who attend our meetings for the first time have drawn the conclusion: “God is really among you.” (1Co 14:25) During the month of October, we will make a concerted effort to invite people to the weekend meeting. We will offer the congregation meeting invitation and, if the householder allows, play the video *What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?* A sample presentation will be viewed and discussed next week.

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?

12 The parable of the wheat and the weeds. (Read Matthew 13:24-30.) After relating this parable, perhaps in the spring of 31 C.E., Jesus explained it to his disciples. (Matt. 13:36-43) Here is the gist of the parable and its meaning: Following the death of the apostles, the Devil would sow weeds (imitation Christians) in among wheat (“sons of the Kingdom,” or anointed Christians). Both the wheat and the weeds would be allowed to grow together during a growing season that would continue until the harvest, which is “a conclusion of a system of things.” After the beginning of the harvest season, the weeds would be collected. Then, the wheat would be gathered. The parable thus indicates that the Kingdom would be established, not in the first century C.E., but only after the growing season ended. As matters worked out, the growing season ended and the harvest season began in 1914.

13 The parable of the minas. (Read Luke 19:11-13.) Jesus gave this parable in 33 C.E. on his way to Jeru-

12. How does the parable of the wheat and the weeds indicate that the Kingdom was not established in the first century C.E.?

13. How did Jesus illustrate that he would not be installed as Messianic King immediately after his return to heaven?

salem for the last time. Some of his listeners thought that he would set up his Kingdom as soon as they arrived in Jerusalem. To correct that notion and to show that the establishment of the Kingdom was yet a long way off, Jesus compared himself to “a man of noble birth” who had to travel “to a distant land to secure kingly power.”*^[1] In Jesus’ case, the “distant land” was heaven, where he would receive power as King from his Father. But Jesus knew that he would not be installed as Messianic King immediately after his return to heaven. Instead, he would sit at God’s right hand and wait until the appointed time. As it turned out, that wait lasted for many centuries.—Ps. 110:1, 2; Matt. 22:43, 44; Heb. 10:12, 13.

When Will God’s Kingdom Come?

¹⁴ A few days before Jesus was put to death, four of his apostles asked him: “What will be the sign of

*[1] Jesus’ parable may well have reminded his listeners of Archelaus, a son of Herod the Great. Before Herod died, he designated Archelaus as heir to rulership over Judea and other areas. However, before he could begin ruling, Archelaus first had to make the long journey to Rome in order to secure the approval of Augustus Caesar.

14. (a) How did Jesus answer the question that four of his apostles asked him? (b) What does the fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy tell us about his presence and the Kingdom?

your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?” (Matt. 24:3; Mark 13:4) Jesus answered by relating the extensive prophecy that is recorded in Matthew chapters 24 and 25. Jesus detailed various global events that would serve as a sign identifying a time period called his “presence.” The *start* of his presence would coincide with the *establishment* of the Kingdom; and the *culmination* of his presence, with the *coming* of the Kingdom. We have ample proof that Jesus’ prophecy has been undergoing fulfillment since 1914.*^[2] Hence, that year marked the start of his presence and the establishment of the Kingdom.

¹⁵ When, though, will God’s Kingdom finally come? Jesus did not reveal exactly when that would happen. (Matt. 24:36) But he did say something that should assure us that it is very near indeed. Jesus indicated that the Kingdom would come after “this generation” witnessed the fulfillment of the prophetic sign. **(Read Matthew 24:32-34.)** To whom does the

*^[2] For more information, see chapter 9 of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

15, 16. To whom do the words “this generation” refer?

expression “this generation” refer? Let us take a closer look at Jesus’ words.

¹⁶ **“This generation.”** Did Jesus have in mind unbelievers? No. Consider his audience. Jesus related this prophecy to a few apostles who had “approached him privately.” (Matt. 24:3) The apostles would soon be anointed with holy spirit. Note also the context. Before he spoke about “this generation,” Jesus said: “Now learn this illustration from the fig tree: Just as soon as its young branch grows tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near. Likewise also you, when you see all these things, know that he is near at the doors.” Jesus’ anointed followers—not unbelievers—would see the things he foretold and would discern their significance, namely, that Jesus “is near at the doors.” Therefore, when Jesus spoke of “this generation,” he had in mind his *anointed followers*.

¹⁷ **“Will by no means pass away until all these things happen.”** How will those words prove true? To answer that, we need to know two things: the meaning both of “generation” and of “all these things.” The term

17. What is the meaning of the expressions “generation” and “all these things”?

“generation” often refers to people of varying ages whose lives overlap during a particular period of time. A generation is not overly long, and it comes to an end. (Ex. 1:6) The expression “all these things” includes all the foretold events during Jesus’ presence, from its beginning in 1914 until its culmination at the “great tribulation.”—Matt. 24:21.

¹⁸ How, then, may we understand Jesus’ words about “this generation”? The generation consists of two overlapping groups of anointed ones—the first is made up of anointed ones who saw the beginning of the fulfillment of the sign in 1914 and the second, anointed ones who for a time were contemporaries of the first group. At least some of those in the second group will live to see the beginning of the coming tribulation. The two groups form one generation because their lives as anointed Christians overlapped for a time.*^[3]

*^[3] Anyone who was anointed after the death of the last of the anointed ones in the first group—that is, after those who witnessed the “beginning of pangs of distress” in 1914—would not be part of “this generation.”—Matt. 24:8.

18, 19. How may we understand Jesus’ words about “this generation,” and what may we conclude?

¹⁹ What may we conclude? Well, we know that the sign of Jesus' presence in Kingdom power is clearly evident around the globe. We also see that the anointed ones who are still alive and part of "this generation" are getting on in years; yet, they will not all die off before the great tribulation begins. Therefore, we can conclude that very soon indeed God's Kingdom will come and exercise its rule over the earth! How thrilling it will be to witness the fulfillment of the prayer that Jesus taught us: "Let your Kingdom come"!

²⁰ Let us never forget the words that Jehovah himself spoke from heaven regarding his Son: "Listen to him." As true Christians, we are eager to heed that divine direction. We are keenly interested in everything that Jesus said and taught about God's Kingdom. What that Kingdom has already accomplished and will do in the future is the vital field of study that will be discussed in this publication. The next chapter will examine the exciting developments that surrounded the birth of God's Kingdom in heaven.

20. What vital field of study will be discussed in this publication, and what will be examined in the next chapter?

Preparing to Preach (Jeremiah 1:17)

1. Morning comes.

Soon we will be

On our way to preach good news.

But it's dark outside,

And the rain starts to fall.

It would be easy to stay inside,
sleepy-eyed.

(CHORUS)

Positive thoughts and preparation,

Praying that we'll succeed;

This can provide the inspiration,

We'll surely need.

We're not alone; the angels guide us.

Jesus commands them all.

And with a loyal friend beside us,

We'll never fall.

2. Soon we'll see

Joy come our way

If these things we keep in mind.

And Jehovah sees

Ev'ry effort we make,

And he remembers the love we show;

this we know.

(Chorus)

AUGUST 2016

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
SEPTEMBER 26–OCTOBER 23, 2016



COVER IMAGE:
HUNGARY

What a pleasure it is to give a witness in the morning hours along the Danube River! These happy publishers are sharing the Kingdom message with an appreciative listener at Vigadó Square in Budapest, Hungary

PUBLISHERS
22,582

PIONEERS
1,980

BIBLE STUDIES
12,163

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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 12 August 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.

August 2016
Vol. 137, No. 12 ENGLISH

36 “What God Has Yoked Together”

(Matthew 19:5, 6)

1. With dignity and joy,
A threefold cord is bound.
With God and men to witness,
These sacred vows resound.
He vowed before Jehovah
To love her from the heart.

(CHORUS)

*“What God has yoked together
Let no man put apart.”*

2. They both have searched God’s Word
To learn to do his will,
And now they seek his blessing,
Their promise to fulfill.
She vowed before Jehovah
To love him from the heart.

(Chorus)

Marriage —Its Origin and Purpose

“Jehovah God said: ‘It is not good for the man to continue to be alone. I am going to make a helper for him.’”—GEN. 2:18.

SONGS: 36, 11

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?

Why can it be said that marriage is a gift from God?

How would you describe the history of marriage from the time of Adam to Jesus’ day?

What can help a Christian to decide whether to get married?

MARRIAGE is very much a part of life. A review of its origin and purpose can help us to have a proper view of this relationship and enjoy its intended blessings more fully. After God created the first man, Adam, the animals were brought to him

1, 2. (a) How did marriage begin? (b) What could the first man and woman have realized about marriage? (See opening picture of the standard edition.)

so that he could name them. But “for man there was no helper as a complement of him.” God therefore caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, took a rib from him, built it into a woman, and brought her to the man. (Read Genesis 2:20-24.) Thus, marriage is of divine origin.

2 Jesus confirmed that it was Jehovah who stated: “A man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.” (Matt. 19:4, 5) God’s use of a rib from Adam in creating the first woman could have impressed on the first human couple the closeness of their union. There was no arrangement for divorce or for having more than one mate at the same time.

HOW MARRIAGE SERVES JEHOVAH’S PURPOSE

3 Adam was delighted with his lovely wife, whom he later named Eve. Being “a complement”

3. What was an important purpose of marriage?

of him, she would be “a helper for him” as they daily brought happiness to each other by fulfilling their roles as husband and wife. (Gen. 2:18) An important purpose of marriage was to populate the earth. (Gen. 1:28) Though they loved their parents, sons and daughters would leave them to get married and form new households. Humans would fill the earth to a comfortable degree and would extend their home until the entire globe was a paradise.

4 The first marriage was struck with calamity because both Adam and Eve chose to misuse their free will by disobeying Jehovah. “The original serpent,” Satan the Devil, deceived Eve by leading her to believe that eating fruit from “the tree of the knowledge of good and bad” imparted special knowledge that would enable her to decide what was good and what was bad. She did not show

4. What happened to the first marriage?

respect for her husband's headship by asking him about the matter. And instead of obeying God, Adam accepted the fruit Eve held out to him. —Rev. 12:9; Gen. 2:9, 16, 17; 3:1-6.

5 When brought to account by God, Adam blamed his wife, saying: "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate." Eve blamed the serpent for deceiving her. (Gen. 3:12, 13) **Lame excuses but no justification!** Because the first human pair had disobeyed Jehovah, they stood before him as condemned rebels. What a warning for us! For success in marriage, each mate must accept personal responsibility and obey Jehovah.

6 Despite what Satan did in Eden, Jehovah held out hope for mankind in the first Bible prophecy. **(Read Genesis 3:15.)** The original rebellious spir-

5. What can we learn from Adam's and Eve's responses to Jehovah?

6. How would you explain Genesis 3:15?

it creature would be crushed by the “offspring” of “the woman.” Jehovah thus gave humans a glimpse of the special relationship that exists between him and the vast throngs of righteous spirit creatures serving him in heaven. The Scriptures later revealed that from his wifelike organization, God would send one who would “crush” the Devil and provide the means for obedient mankind to enjoy the prospect that the first human pair lost—that of living forever on the earth in keeping with Jehovah’s original purpose.—John 3:16.

7 The rebellion of Adam and Eve had an impact on their marriage and on all marriages thereafter. For example, Eve and her female descendants would experience much pain during pregnancy and childbirth. Women would have a longing for their husbands, but men would dominate their wives,

7. (a) What has happened to marriage since the rebellion of Adam and Eve? (b) What does the Bible require of husbands and wives?

even abusively, as we see in many marriages today. (Gen. 3:16) The Bible requires that husbands exercise headship in a loving way. In turn, wives are to submit to the headship of their husbands. (Eph. 5:33) Because of cooperation between God-fearing mates, situations that cause friction are kept to a minimum or eliminated entirely.

MARRIAGE FROM THE TIME OF ADAM TO THE FLOOD

8 Before sin and imperfection brought about the death of Adam and Eve, the couple produced sons and daughters. (Gen. 5:4) Their first son, Cain, married one of his female relatives. Cain's descendant Lamech is the first man reported as having two wives. (Gen. 4:17, 19) In the generations from Adam to the Flood of Noah's day, only a few individuals are identified as worshippers of Jehovah. Among them were Abel, Enoch, and Noah and his

8. What is the history of marriage from the time of Adam to the Flood?

family. In Noah's day, "the sons of the true God began to notice that the daughters of men were beautiful," says the Bible. "So they began taking as wives all whom they chose." This unnatural union of materialized angels and women produced violent hybrids known as Nephilim. Moreover, "man's wickedness was great on the earth" and "every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only bad all the time."—Gen. 6:1-5.

9 Jehovah brought about the Flood of Noah's day in order to destroy the wicked. At that time, people were so occupied with the daily affairs of life, including marriage, that they did not take seriously what "Noah, a preacher of righteousness," said about the impending destruction. (2 Pet. 2:5) Jesus compared conditions then with what we would see in our day. (Read Matthew 24:37-39.)

9. What did Jehovah do to the wicked in Noah's day, and what lesson should we learn from what happened at that time?

Today, most people refuse to listen to the good news of God's Kingdom that is being preached throughout the earth for a witness to all the nations before this wicked system is brought to its end. Let us take to heart the lesson that even family-matters, such as marriage and the raising of children, should not be allowed to crowd out our sense of urgency as to Jehovah's day.

MARRIAGE FROM THE FLOOD TO JESUS' DAY

10 Although Noah and his three sons each had only one wife, polygamy was practiced in patriarchal times. In many cultures, sexual immorality became a way of life, even being incorporated into religious rites. When Abram (Abraham) and his wife, Sarai (Sarah), obeyed God and moved to Canaan, that land was filled with practices that made

10. (a) In many cultures, what sexual practices became a way of life? (b) How did Abraham and Sarah set a good example in their marriage?

a mockery of marriage. Jehovah therefore decreed that Sodom and Gomorrah be destroyed because inhabitants of those cities practiced or condoned gross sexual immorality. Abraham took the proper lead in his family, and Sarah set a fine example by submitting to her husband's headship. (Read 1 Peter 3:3-6.) Abraham made sure that his son Isaac married a worshipper of Jehovah. Similar concern for true worship guided Isaac's son Jacob, whose sons became the forefathers of the 12 tribes of Israel.

11 Later, Jehovah brought the descendants of Jacob (Israel) into a covenant relationship with Him. The basic marriage practices of patriarchal times, including polygamy, were regulated by the Mosaic Law. It helped to protect the Israelites spiritually by prohibiting marriage to false worshippers. (Read Deuteronomy 7:3, 4.) When

11. How did the Mosaic Law protect the Israelites?

serious problems arose in marriage, help was often provided by the elders. Unfaithfulness, jealousy, and suspicions were dealt with appropriately. Divorce was allowed, but it too was regulated. A man could divorce his wife for “something indecent.” (Deut. 24:1) What was “indecent” is not defined, but it is reasonable to assume that it did not include petty issues.—Lev. 19:18.

NEVER DEAL TREACHEROUSLY WITH YOUR MATE

12 In the days of the prophet Malachi, many Jewish husbands dealt treacherously with their wives by divorcing them, using all kinds of excuses. Such men thus rid themselves of the wives of their youth, perhaps to marry younger women or even pagan women. Jewish men were still treacherously divorcing their wives “on every sort

12, 13. (a) How were some men treating their wives in Malachi’s day? (b) Today, if a baptized person ran off with someone else’s mate, what would the consequences be?

of grounds” when Jesus was on earth. (Matt. 19:3) Jehovah God hated such divorcing.—Read Malachi 2:13-16.

13 Today, marital treachery cannot be tolerated among Jehovah’s people. But suppose a baptized married man or woman ran off with another person’s mate and married that one after obtaining a divorce. If he is unrepentant, the wrongdoer would be disfellowshipped in order to maintain the spiritual purity of the congregation. (1 Cor. 5:11-13) He or she would have to “produce fruits that befit repentance” before being accepted back into the congregation. (Luke 3:8; 2 Cor. 2:5-10) Though no set time must pass before that person’s reinstatement, such treachery, which seldom occurs among those associated with God’s people, cannot be ignored. It might take quite some time—a year or more—for the sinner to give proof of true repentance. Even if the person is reinstated, he or she

must still render an account “before the judgment seat of God.”—Rom. 14:10-12; see *The Watchtower*, November 15, 1979, pp. 31-32.

MARRIAGE AMONG CHRISTIANS

14 The Mosaic Law governed Israel’s affairs for over 1,500 years. It helped God’s people to keep righteous principles in mind in handling family matters and other concerns while it served as a guardian leading to the Messiah. (Gal. 3:23, 24) With the cancellation of the Law at Jesus’ death, God began a new arrangement. (Heb. 8:6) Under it, some concessions in the Law were no longer allowed.

15 In response to a question posed by some Pharisees, Jesus said that the concession made by Moses to divorce one’s mate had “not been the

14. What overall purpose did the Law serve?

15. (a) In the Christian congregation, what would be the standard for marriage? (b) What factors should a Christian consider when contemplating divorce?

case from the beginning.” (Matt. 19:6-8) Jesus thus indicated that the divine standard for marriage that was set in Eden would prevail in the Christian congregation. (1 Tim. 3:2, 12) Being “one flesh,” marriage mates were to stick together, allowing love for God and for each other to strengthen their bond. A legal divorce not based on sexual immorality would not free one to remarry. (Matt. 19:9) Of course, a person might choose to forgive an adulterous but repentant mate, even as the prophet Hosea apparently forgave his immoral wife, Gomer. Similarly, Jehovah extended mercy to repentant Israel after that nation’s spiritual adultery. (Hos. 3:1-5) It might be added that if a person knows that his or her mate committed adultery and chooses to resume sexual relations with the guilty mate, such an action constitutes forgiveness and removes a Scriptural basis for divorce.

16 After indicating that among true Christians there is no basis for divorce except sexual immorality, Jesus spoke of “those who have the gift” of living a single life. He added: “Let the one who can make room for it make room for it.” (Matt. 19:10-12) Many have chosen to remain single in order to serve Jehovah with an undivided mind. For doing so, they are to be commended.

17 Whether to stay single or to get married is a matter of determining in one’s heart if one is able to cultivate the gift of singleness. The apostle Paul recommended singleness; yet, he said: “Because of the prevalence of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife and each woman have her own husband.” Paul added: “If they do not have self-control, let them marry, for it is better to marry than to be inflamed with passion.” Getting married

16. What did Jesus say about singleness?

17. What can help a Christian to decide whether to get married?

can help a person to avoid letting passion lead him to such a practice as masturbation or to sexual immorality. In addition, age is a factor to consider, for the apostle stated: “If anyone thinks he is behaving improperly by remaining unmarried, and if he is past the bloom of youth, then this is what should take place: Let him do what he wants; he does not sin. Let them marry.” (1 Cor. 7:2, 9, 36; 1 Tim. 4:1-3) Nevertheless, a person should not be prompted to marry because of surges of passion that may come in youth. He may not be mature enough to take on the responsibilities of married life.

18 Christian marriage should begin with a man and a woman who are dedicated to Jehovah and love him wholeheartedly. They should also have come to love each other so much that they want to unite their lives in the marital bond. Of course,

18, 19. (a) How should a Christian marriage begin? (b) What will the following article discuss?

they will be blessed for having followed the counsel to marry “only in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 7:39) Once married, they will undoubtedly agree that the Bible gives the best advice for making their marriage a success.

19 The following article will discuss Scriptural points that can help married Christians face the challenges of living deep in “the last days” when so many men and women have traits that work against success in marriage. (2 Tim. 3:1-5) In his precious Word, Jehovah has given us what we need in order to have a successful and happy marriage as we keep on walking with his people on the road to everlasting life.—Matt. 7:13, 14.

11 *Making Jehovah's Heart Glad*

(Proverbs 27:11)

- 1. Great God, we've vowed to do your will;
 In wisdom your work we'll fulfill.
For then we know we'll have a part
 In making glad your loving heart.**
- 2. Your slave, your steward here on earth,
 Proclaims your greatness and your worth,
Feeds us with nourishment when due,
 Thus strengthens us your will to do.**
- 3. Impart to us your active force,
 That we may keep a faithful course
And bring forth fruitage to your praise
 And thus make glad your heart always.**

(See also Matt. 24:45-47; Luke 11:13; 22:42.)