

- Song 147 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah Takes Care of His People”:** (10 min.)
Isa 25:4, 5—Jehovah is a spiritual refuge to all who want to serve him (*ip-1* 272 ¶5)
Isa 25:6—Jehovah has kept his promise to provide an abundance of spiritual food (*w16.05* 24 ¶4; *ip-1* 273 ¶6-7)
Isa 25:7, 8—Sin and death will soon be done away with forever (*w14* 9/15 26 ¶15; *ip-1* 273-274 ¶8-9)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 26:15—How can we help as Jehovah extends “all the borders of the land”? (*w15* 7/15 11 ¶18)

Isa 26:20—What appears to be linked to the foretold “inner rooms”? (*w13* 3/15 23 ¶15-16)

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) Isa 28:1-13

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. During January, publishers have the option of offering the brochure *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking* if they meet someone who would benefit from a more in-depth discussion about evidence of a Creator. Encourage them to be alert for opportunities to play the video *Was Life Created?*

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 2
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 140-142)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 6 ¶8-15, box on p. 63
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 37 and Prayer

ISAIAH 24-28 | Jehovah Takes Care of His People

Like a generous host, Jehovah supplies us with an abundance of spiritual food.



25:6

“Jehovah of armies will make for all the peoples a banquet”

- In Bible times, when people ate a meal together, it signified peace and friendship
- “Of rich dishes filled with marrow, of fine, filtered wine”
- Rich dishes and fine, filtered wine picture the very best of spiritual food that Jehovah provides for us

Life Everlasting Is Promised

(Psalm 37:29)

C/G

G9sus4 G9

Life ev - er - last - ing is prom - ised.
 Par - a - dise brought to per - fec - tion;
 Soon in the grand res - ur - rec - tion,

Dm/G G7 C/G

Our earth - ly home will en - dure.
 All of God's chil - dren set free.
 Sor - row will all dis - ap - pear.

C G7/D C/E Cm/Eb G/D G#°

'Meek ones will thrive,' said the psalm - ist.
 Un - der Je - ho - vah's di - rec - tion,
 Show - er - ing ten - der af - fec - tion,

Am7 D9 Dm7 G9

This grand fu - ture is sure.
 Peace on earth we will see.
 God will dry ev - 'ry tear.

Life Everlasting Is Promised

Chorus

C C#° Dm7 G7

We can live for - ev - er.

Dm G13 Dm/G G13 C6

It's worth all en - deav - or.

Ab9 C/G Am

God's prom - ise is faith - ful.

Dm7 G7 C

His Word will come true.

There is no longer any
shipyard.*^a

- 11** He has stretched his hand
out over the sea;
He has shaken kingdoms.
Jehovah has ordered the an-
nihilation of Phoe-ni'cia's
strongholds.^b
- 12** And he says: "You will exult
no more,^c
O oppressed one, the virgin
daughter of Si'don.
Get up, cross over to
Kit'tim.^d
Even there you will find
no rest."^e
- 13** Look! The land of the
Chal-de'ans.^e
This is the people—As-syr'i-a'^f
was not the one—
They made her a place for
those haunting the desert.
They have erected their
siege towers;
They have stripped bare her
fortified towers,^g
Reducing her to a crumbling
ruin.
- 14** Wail, you ships of Tar'shish,
For your stronghold has
been destroyed.^h
- 15** In that day Tyre will be
forgotten for 70 years,ⁱ the same
as the lifetime* of one king. At
the end of 70 years, it will hap-
pen to Tyre as in the song of a
prostitute:
- 16** "Take a harp, go around
the city, O forgotten
prostitute.
Play your harp skillfully;
Sing many songs,
So that they will remember
you."^j
- 17** At the end of 70 years, Je-
hovah will turn his attention to
Tyre, and she will return to her
hire and prostitute herself with
all the world's kingdoms on the

23:10 *Or possibly, "harbor." 23:15
*Lit., "days."

CHAP. 23

- a Isa 23:1
Eze 26:14, 17
- b Eze 26:5, 15
- c Eze 26:13
- d Eze 27:6
- e Isa 13:19
Hab 1:6
- f Isa 10:12
Na 3:18
Zep 2:13
- g Eze 26:8, 9
- h Isa 23:1
- i Jer 25:8, 11
Jer 27:3, 6

Second Col.

a Isa 60:5

CHAP. 24

- b Isa 5:5
Jer 4:6
Eze 6:6
- c 2Ki 21:13
- d De 28:63, 64
Ne 1:8
Jer 9:16
- e Eze 7:12, 13
- f Le 26:31
De 29:28
- g Jer 4:28
La 1:4
- h Le 18:24
Nu 35:33, 34
2Ch 33:9
Jer 3:1
Jer 23:10, 11
La 4:13
- i 2Ki 22:13
Da 9:5
- j Mic 3:11
- k Ex 19:3, 5
Ex 24:7
Jer 31:32
Jer 34:18-20
- l Le 26:15, 16

face of the earth. **18** But her
profit and her hire will become
something holy to Jehovah. It
will not be stored or laid away,
because her hire will be for
those dwelling before Jehovah,
so that they may eat to satisfac-
tion and wear elegant clothing.^a

24 Look! Jehovah is empty-
ing the land* and making
it desolate.^b

He turns it upside
down^c and scatters its
inhabitants.^d

- 2** It will be the same for
everyone:
The people as well as the
priest,
The servant and his master,
The servant and her
mistress,
The buyer and the seller,
The lender and the borrower,
The creditor and the debtor.^e
- 3** The land will be completely
emptied;
It will be completely
plundered,^f
For Jehovah has spoken
this word.
- 4** The land mourns;^g it is
wasting away.
The productive land withers;
it is fading away.
The prominent people of the
land wither.
- 5** The land has been polluted
by its inhabitants,^h
For they have bypassed
the laws,ⁱ
Changed the regulation,^j
And broken the lasting*
covenant.^k
- 6** That is why the curse
devours the land,^l
And those inhabiting it are
held guilty.
That is why the inhabitants
of the land have dwindled,

24:1 *Or "earth." [#]Or "He twists the
face of it." 24:4 *Or possibly, "dries
up." 24:5 *Or "ancient."

- And very few men are left.^a
- 7** The new wine mourns,* the vine withers,^b
And all those cheerful at heart are sighing.^c
- 8** The joy of the tambourines has ceased;
The noise of the revelers has ended;
The happy sound of the harp has ceased.^d
- 9** They drink wine without song,
And alcohol tastes bitter to those drinking it.
- 10** The deserted town is broken down;^e
Every house is shut up so that no one can enter.
- 11** They cry out for wine in the streets.
All rejoicing has disappeared;
The joy of the land has gone.^f
- 12** The city is left in ruins;
The gate has been crushed to a heap of rubble.^g
- 13** For this is how it will be in the land, among the peoples:
As when an olive tree is beaten,^h
Like the gleaning when the grape harvest comes to an end.ⁱ
- 14** They will raise their voice,
They will shout joyfully.
From the sea* they will proclaim the majesty of Jehovah.^j
- 15** That is why they will glorify Jehovah in the region of light;^{*k}
In the islands of the sea they will glorify the name of Jehovah the God of Israel.^l
- 16** From the ends of the earth we hear songs:
- 24:7 *Or possibly, "dries up." 24:14 *Or "the west." 24:15 *Or "in the east."
- CHAP. 24
a De 4:27
De 28:15, 62
b Jer 8:13
Joe 1:10
c Isa 32:12
d Jer 7:34
e 2Ki 25:8-10
f La 5:15
g Isa 32:14
Jer 9:11
La 1:4
La 2:8, 9
h De 24:20
i Jer 6:9
Eze 6:8
j Isa 40:9
Jer 31:12
Jer 33:10, 11
k Isa 43:5
l Isa 11:11
Isa 60:9
- Second Col.
a Ex 15:11
Ezr 9:15
Ps 145:7
Re 15:3
b Jer 9:2, 3
c Jer 8:3
Eze 14:21
d Jer 48:44
e Jer 4:24
f 2Ki 21:16
2Ch 36:15, 16
Jer 14:20

- "Glory* to the Righteous One!"^a
- But I say: "I am wasting away,
I am wasting away!
Woe to me! The treacherous have acted treacherously;
With treachery the treacherous have acted treacherously."^b
- 17** Terror and pits and traps await you, inhabitant of the land.^c
- 18** Anyone fleeing from the sound of terror will fall into the pit,
And anyone coming up from the pit will be caught in the trap.^d
For the floodgates above will be opened,
And the foundations of the land will quake.
- 19** The land has burst apart;
The land has been shaken up;
The land convulses violently.^e
- 20** The land staggers like a drunken man,
And it sways back and forth like a hut in the wind.
Its transgression weighs heavily on it,^f
And it will fall, so that it will not rise up again.
- 21** In that day Jehovah will turn his attention to the army of the heights above
And to the kings of the earth upon the earth.
- 22** And they will be gathered together
Like prisoners gathered into a pit,
And they will be shut up in the dungeon;
After many days they will be given attention.
- 23** The full moon will be abashed,
- 24:16 *Or "Decoration."

And the shining sun will be
ashamed,^a

For Jehovah of armies
has become King^b in
Mount Zion^c and in
Jerusalem,

Glorious before the elders
of his people.*^d

25 O Jehovah, you are my God.

I exalt you, I praise your
name,

For you have done wonderful
things,^e

Things purposed* from
ancient times,^f

In faithfulness,^g in trust-
worthiness.

- 2 For you have turned a city
into a pile of stones,
A fortified town into a
crumbling ruin.

The foreigner's tower is a
city no more;

It will never be rebuilt.

- 3 That is why a strong people
will glorify you;
The city of tyrannical
nations will fear you.^h

- 4 For you have become a
stronghold to the lowly,
A stronghold to the poor
in his distress,ⁱ
A refuge from the rainstorm,
And a shade from the heat.^j
When the blast of the tyrants
is like a rainstorm against
a wall,

- 5 As the heat in a parched
land,
You subdue the uproar of
strangers.
Like heat is subdued by the
shadow of a cloud,
So the song of the tyrants
is silenced.

- 6 In this mountain^k Jehovah of
armies will make for all the
peoples

CHAP. 24

a Re 21:23

b Ps 97:1
Re 11:17

c Ps 132:13
Isa 12:6
Joe 3:17
Mic 4:7
Zec 2:10

d 1Ki 8:11

CHAP. 25

e Ps 40:5
Ps 98:1
Ps 107:8
Ps 145:1, 4

f Ps 33:11

g De 32:4
Ne 9:33

h Ps 46:10
Ps 66:3
Eze 38:23

i Ps 46:1
Na 1:7
Zep 3:12

j Ps 91:1
Ps 121:5-7
Isa 49:10

k Isa 11:9
Isa 65:25

Second Col.

a Ps 72:16
Ps 85:11, 12
Jer 31:12

b Ho 13:14
1Co 15:54
2Ti 1:10
Re 20:14

c Isa 35:10
Re 7:17
Re 21:4

d Isa 25:1

e Ps 37:34
Ps 146:5

f Mic 7:7

g Ps 20:5
Zep 3:14, 15

h Ps 132:13, 14
Isa 12:6

i Isa 15:1
Zep 2:9

j Jer 48:29
Jas 4:6

A banquet of rich dishes,^a

A banquet of fine wine,*

Of rich dishes filled with
marrow,

Of fine, filtered wine.

- 7 In this mountain he will
do away with* the shroud
that is enveloping all the
peoples

And the covering[#] that is
woven over all the nations.

- 8 He will swallow up* death
forever,^b

And the Sovereign Lord
Jehovah will wipe away
the tears from all faces.^c

The reproach of his people
he will take away from all
the earth,

For Jehovah himself has
spoken it.

- 9 In that day they will say:
“Look! This is our God!^d
We have hoped in him,^e

And he will save us.^f

This is Jehovah!

We have hoped in him.

Let us be joyful and rejoice
in the salvation by him.”^g

- 10 For the hand of Jehovah will
rest on this mountain,^h
And Mo'ab will be trampled
on in its placeⁱ

Like straw trampled into
a pile of manure.

- 11 He will slap out his hands
into it
Like a swimmer slapping out
his hands to swim,

And he will bring down its
haughtiness^j

With the skillful movements
of his hands.

- 12 And the fortified city, with
your high walls of security,
He will bring down;
He will knock it down to the
ground, to the very dust.

25:6 *Or “of wine kept on the dregs.”

25:7 *Lit., “swallow up.” #Or “veil.”

25:8 *Or “do away with.”

24:23 *Lit., “before his elders.” 25:1

*Or “Counselors.”

26 In that day this song will be sung^a in the land of Judah:^b

"We have a strong city.^c
He makes salvation its walls
and its ramparts.^d

2 Open up the gates^e so that
the righteous nation may
enter,

A nation that is keeping
faithful conduct.

3 You will safeguard those
who fully lean on you;*
You will give them
continuous peace,^f

Because it is in you that they
trust.^g

4 Trust in Jehovah forever,^h
For Jah* Jehovah is the
eternal Rock.ⁱ

5 For he has brought low those
inhabiting the height,
the lofty city.

He brings it down,
He brings it down to the
earth;

He casts it down to the dust.

6 The foot will trample it,
The feet of the afflicted,
the steps of the lowly."

7 The path of the righteous
one is upright.*

Because you are upright,
You will smooth out the
course of the righteous.

8 As we follow the path of your
judgments, O Jehovah,
Our hope is in you.

We* long for your name
and your memorial.[#]

9 In the night I long for you
with my whole being,*

Yes, my spirit keeps looking
for you;^j

26:3 *Or possibly, "those whose inclination is unshakable." **26:4** *"Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. **26:7** *Or "level." **26:8** *Or "With our soul we." [#]That is, that God and his name be remembered, made known. **26:9** *Or "with my soul."

CHAP. 26

^a Ex 15:1
2Sa 22:1
Isa 12:5

^b Jer 33:10, 11

^c Ps 48:2, 12

^d Isa 60:18
Zec 2:4, 5

^e Isa 60:11

^f Ps 119:165
Isa 54:13
Php 4:6, 7

^g Ps 9:10
Jer 17:7

^h 2Ch 20:20
Ps 62:8
Pr 3:5

ⁱ De 32:4, 31

^j Ps 63:6
Ps 119:62
Lu 6:12

Second Col.

^a Ps 9:8
Ps 58:10, 11
Ps 85:11, 13
Ps 96:13
Ps 97:2
Isa 61:11

^b Ps 106:43

^c Jer 2:7
Ho 11:7

^d Ps 28:5
Isa 5:12

^e Isa 6:9

^f Isa 57:19
Jer 33:6, 7

^g 2Ch 12:7, 8

^h 2Ti 2:19

ⁱ Jer 51:39

^j Isa 60:21

^k 1Ki 4:21

For when there are
judgments from you
for the earth,

The inhabitants of the
land learn about
righteousness.^a

10 Even if the wicked is shown
favor,

He will not learn
righteousness.^b

Even in the land of upright-
ness* he will act wickedly,^c

And he will not see the
majesty of Jehovah.^d

11 O Jehovah, your hand is
raised, but they do not
see it.^e

They will see your zeal for
your people and be put
to shame.

Yes, the fire for your adver-
saries will consume them.

12 O Jehovah, you will grant us
peace,^f

Because everything we have
done

You have accomplished
for us.

13 O Jehovah our God, other
masters besides you have
ruled over us,^g

But we make mention of your
name alone.^h

14 They are dead; they will not
live.

Powerless in death, they will
not rise up.ⁱ

For you have turned your
attention to them

To annihilate them and de-
stroy all mention of them.

15 You have enlarged the
nation, O Jehovah,
You have enlarged the
nation;

You have glorified yourself.^j

You have greatly extended
all the borders of the land.^k

16 O Jehovah, during distress
they turned to you;

26:10 *Or "straightforwardness."

They poured out their prayer
in a whisper when you
disciplined them.^a

- 17** Just as a pregnant woman
about to give birth
Has labor pains and cries out
in pain,
So we have been because of
you, O Jehovah.

- 18** We became pregnant, we had
labor pains,
But it is as if we have given
birth to wind.
We have not brought
salvation to the land,
And no one is born to inhabit
the land.

- 19** "Your dead will live.
My corpses* will rise up.^b
Awake and shout joyfully,
You residents in the dust!^c
For your dew is as the dew
of the morning,[#]
And the earth will let those
powerless in death come
to life.[△]

- 20** Go, my people, enter your
inner rooms,
And shut your doors behind
you.^d
Hide yourself for a brief
moment
Until the wrath* has
passed by.^e

- 21** For look! Jehovah is coming
from his place
To call the inhabitants of the
land to account for their
error,
And the land will expose
her bloodshed
And will no longer cover
over her slain."

- 27** In that day Jehovah, with
his harsh and great and
strong sword,^f

26:19 *Lit., "A corpse of mine." [#]Or possibly, "the dew of herbs (mallows)."
[△]Or "will give birth to those powerless
in death." **26:20** *Or "denunciation."

CHAP. 26

a Ps 78:34, 35
Ho 5:15

b Isa 25:8
Ho 13:14
Mr 12:26
Joh 5:28, 29
Joh 11:24, 25
Ac 24:15
1Co 15:21
1Th 4:14
Re 20:12, 13

c Ge 3:19

d Ge 7:15, 16
Ex 12:22, 23
Pr 18:10

e Ps 27:5
Ps 91:4

CHAP. 27

f De 32:41
Jer 47:6

Second Col.

a Ps 80:8
Isa 5:1
Jer 2:21

b De 33:29

c Isa 35:6
Isa 41:18
Isa 58:11

d Ps 121:4
Isa 46:3, 4

e Ps 85:2, 3
Isa 12:1

f Eze 39:25
Ho 14:5

g Isa 60:21, 22
Jer 30:18, 19

h Jer 4:11
Eze 13:13

i Isa 4:4
Isa 48:10

- Will turn his attention to
Le-vi'a-than,* the gliding
serpent,
To Le-vi'a-than, the twisting
serpent,
And he will kill the monster
that is in the sea.
- 2** In that day sing to her:*
"A vineyard of foaming wine!^a
- 3** I, Jehovah, am safeguarding
her.^b
Every moment I water her.^c
I safeguard her night and
day,
So that no one may harm
her.^d
- 4** There is no wrath in me.^e
Who will confront me with
thornbushes and weeds
in the battle?
I will trample them and set
them on fire all together.
- 5** Otherwise, let him hold fast
to my stronghold.
Let him make peace with me;
Peace let him make with me."
- 6** In the coming days Jacob
will take root,
Israel will blossom and
sprout,^f
And they will fill the land
with produce.^g
- 7** Must he be struck with the
stroke of the one striking
him?
Or must he be killed as with
the slaughter of his slain?
- 8** With a startling cry you
will contend with her when
sending her away.
He will expel her with his
fierce blast in the day of
the east wind.^h
- 9** So in this way the error of
Jacob will be atoned for,ⁱ
And this will be the full
fruitage when his sin is
taken away:

27:1 *See Glossary. **27:2** *Apparently
referring to Israel, here personified as a
woman and likened to a vineyard.

He will make all the stones
of the altar
Like chalkstones that have
been pulverized,
And no sacred poles* or
incense stands will be left.^a

10 For the fortified city will be
deserted;

The pastures will be
forsaken and abandoned
like a wilderness.^b

There the calf will graze
and lie down

And will consume her
branches.^c

11 When her twigs have
dried up,

Women will come and break
them off,

Making fires with them.

For this people is without
understanding.^d

That is why their Maker will
show them no mercy,

And the One who formed
them will show them no
favor.^e

12 In that day Jehovah will
beat out the fruit from the flow-
ing stream of the River[#] to the
Wadi* of Egypt,^f and you will be
gathered up one after the other,
O people of Israel.^g **13** In that
day a great horn will be blown,^h
and those who are perishing in
the land of As-syr'i-aⁱ and those
dispersed in the land of Egypt/
will come and bow down to Je-
hovah in the holy mountain in
Jerusalem.^k

28 Woe to the showy* crown[#]
of the drunkards of
E'phra-im!

And the fading blossom of its
glorious beauty,

Which is on the head of
the fertile valley of those
overcome with wine!

27:9, 12 *See Glossary. **27:12** [#]That is,
the Euphrates. **28:1, 3** *Or "haughty;
proud." **28:1** [#]Apparently referring to
the capital city, Samaria.

CHAP. 27

a Mic 5:13, 14

b Isa 6:11, 12

Jer 26:18

La 2:5

Eze 36:4

c Isa 32:14

d De 32:28

Isa 1:3

Jer 4:22

Ho 4:6

e 2Ch 36:15, 16

Eze 9:9, 10

f Nu 34:2, 5

g De 30:3

Ne 1:9

Isa 11:11, 12

Am 9:14

h Isa 49:22

Isa 62:10

i 2Ki 17:6

Isa 11:16

Ho 9:3

j Jer 43:4, 7

Zec 10:10

k Isa 2:3

Isa 25:6

Isa 52:1

Jer 3:17

CHAP. 28

l Isa 7:2

Second Col.

a 2Ki 17:6

Isa 17:3

b Isa 11:16

c Ps 18:34

Ps 68:35

d 2Ki 16:10, 11

Jer 5:31

2 Look! Jehovah has someone
strong and mighty.

Like a thundering hailstorm,
a destructive windstorm,

Like a thunderstorm of
powerful floodwaters,

He will forcefully hurl it
down to the earth.

3 The showy* crowns of the
drunkards of E'phra-im
Will be trampled underfoot.^a

4 And the fading flower of
its glorious beauty,

Which is on the head of the
fertile valley,

Will become like the early fig
before summer.

When someone sees it, he
swallows it as soon as it is
in his hand.

5 In that day Jehovah of ar-
mies will become a glorious
crown and a beautiful garland to
those left of his people.^b **6** And
he will become a spirit of jus-
tice to the one who sits in judg-
ment and a source of mightiness
to those who repel the attack at
the gate.^c

7 And these also go astray
because of wine;
Their alcoholic beverages
make them stagger.
Priest and prophet go astray
because of alcohol;
The wine confuses them,
And they stagger from their
alcohol;

Their vision makes them
go astray,

And they stumble in
judgment.^d

8 For their tables are full
of filthy vomit

—There is no place
without it.

9 To whom will one impart
knowledge,

And to whom will one
explain the message?

To those who have just been
weaned from milk,

To those who have just been
weaned from milk,

8 For their tables are full
of filthy vomit

—There is no place
without it.

9 To whom will one impart
knowledge,

And to whom will one
explain the message?

To those who have just been
weaned from milk,

Those just taken away from the breasts?

- 10** For it is “command after command, command after command,

Line by line, line by line,^{*a}
A little here, a little there.”

11 So by means of those with stammering speech* and a foreign language, he will speak to this people.^b **12** He once told them: “This is the resting-place. Let the weary one rest; this is the place of refreshment,” but they refused to listen.^c **13** So to them the word of Jehovah will be:

“Command after command,
command after command,
Line by line, line by line,^{*d}
A little here, a little there,”
So that when they walk,
They will stumble and fall
backward

And be broken and ensnared
and caught.^e

- 14** So hear the word of Jehovah,
you boasters,
You rulers of this people
in Jerusalem,

15 For you men say:
“We have made a covenant
with Death,^f
And with the Grave* we have
made an agreement.[#]

When the raging flash flood
passes through,
It will not reach us,
For we have made a lie
our refuge

And we have hidden
ourselves in falsehood.”^g

- 16** Therefore this is what the
Sovereign Lord Jehovah
says:

28:10, 13 *Or “Measuring line upon measuring line, measuring line upon measuring line.” **28:11** *Lit., “lip.” **28:15, 18** *Or “Sheol,” that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary. **28:15** *Or possibly, “effected a vision.”

CHAP. 28

a 2Kj 21:13
Isa 28:17
La 2:8

b De 28:49, 50
Jer 5:15
1Co 14:21

c Ps 81:10, 11

d Isa 28:17

e 2Ch 36:15, 16
Isa 8:14, 15

f Isa 28:18

g Isa 30:9, 10

Second Col.

a Ps 118:22

b Mt 21:42
Mr 12:10
Lu 20:17
Ac 4:11

c Eph 2:19, 20

d Ro 9:33
Ro 10:11
1Pe 2:4, 6

e 2Kj 21:13

f Jer 11:20

g Isa 28:15

h Isa 24:1

i Jos 10:8-14
2Sa 5:20
1Ch 14:10-16

j La 2:15
Hab 1:5-7

k 2Ch 36:15, 16
Jer 20:7

“Here I am laying as
a foundation in Zion
a tested stone,^a

The precious cornerstone^b
of a sure foundation.^c

No one exercising faith will
panic.^d

- 17** And I will make justice the
measuring line^e
And righteousness the
leveling tool.^{*f}
The hail will sweep away
the refuge of lies,
And the waters will flood out
the hiding place.

- 18** Your covenant with Death
will be dissolved,
And your agreement with
the Grave* will not stand.^g
When the raging flash flood
passes through,
You will be crushed by it.

- 19** As often as it passes
through,
It will sweep you away;^h
For it will pass through
morning after morning,
During the day and during
the night.
Only terror will make
them understand what was
heard.^{**}

- 20** For the bed is too short to
stretch out on,
And the woven sheet is too
narrow to wrap up in.

- 21** For Jehovah will rise up
as at Mount Pe-ra'zim;
He will rouse himself as in
the valley* near Gib'e-on,ⁱ
That he may do his deed
—his strange deed—
And that he may carry
out his work—his
unusual work.^j

- 22** Now do not scoff,^k
So that your bonds may not
be further tightened,

28:17 *Or “plumb line.” **28:19** *Or possibly, “When they understand, they will feel sheer terror.” **28:21** *Or “low plain.”

- For I have heard from the Sovereign Lord, Jehovah of armies,
That an extermination has been determined for all the land.*^a
- 23** Give ear and listen to my voice;
Pay attention and listen to what I say.
- 24** Does the plow keep plowing all day before he sows seed?
Does he continually break up and harrow his ground?^b
- 25** When he has smoothed out its surface,
Does he not then scatter black cumin and sow cumin,
And does he not plant wheat, millet, and barley in their places
And spelt^c around the edges?
- 26** For He teaches* him the right way;
His God instructs him.^d
- 27** For black cumin is not crushed with a threshing sledge,^e
And a wagon wheel is not driven over cumin.
Rather, black cumin is beaten out with a rod,
And cumin with a staff.
- 28** Does a person crush grain for bread?
No, he does not thresh it incessantly;^f
And when he drives the roller of his wagon over it with his horses,
He does not crush it.^g
- 29** This also comes from Jehovah of armies,
Whose counsel* is wonderful
And whose achievements are great.^h

28:22 *Or "for the whole earth." **28:26** *Or "disciplines; chastises." **28:29** *Or "purpose." #Or "And whose practical wisdom is great."

CHAP. 28

a Isa 10:23
Isa 24:1

b Ps 30:5
Ps 103:9
Mic 7:18

c Ex 9:31, 32
Eze 4:9

d Ps 119:71

e Isa 41:15
Am 1:3

f Ps 103:9
Isa 21:10
Mic 7:18

g Le 26:44
Jer 10:24

h Ps 40:5
Jer 32:19
Ro 11:33

Second Col.

CHAP. 29

a 2Sa 5:7, 9

b De 16:16

c De 28:53-55

d Isa 51:19
La 1:4

e Jer 15:14
Zep 1:7

f 2Ki 24:11
2Ki 25:1

g Isa 51:23

h Isa 13:19
Isa 14:22
Isa 21:9

i Isa 13:11
Isa 17:13

j Isa 47:9
Isa 48:3

k 1Sa 2:10
Jer 50:25
Na 1:3

l Jer 25:12, 14

29 "Woe to Ar'i-el,* Ar'i-el,
the city where David encamped!^a

Continue year after year;
Let the cycle of festivals^b continue.

2 But I will bring distress on Ar'i-el,^c

And there will be mourning and lamentation,^d
And she will become to me like an altar hearth of God.^e

3 I will encamp on all sides against you,
And I will besiege you with a palisade
And raise up siegeworks against you.^f

4 You will be brought low;
From the ground you will speak,
And what you say will be muffled by dust.

Your voice will come from the ground^g
Like the voice of a spirit medium,
And your words will chirp from the dust.

5 The crowd of your enemies* will be like fine powder,^h
The crowd of the tyrants just like the blowing chaff.ⁱ
And it will happen in an instant, suddenly.^j

6 Jehovah of armies will give you his attention
With thunder and earthquake and a great noise,
With storm wind and tempest and the flames of a consuming fire."^k

7 Then the crowd of all the nations waging war against Ar'i-el!
—All those waging war against her,

29:1 *Possibly meaning "The Altar Hearth of God," apparently referring to Jerusalem. **29:5** *Lit., "strangers."

- Song 147 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah Takes Care of His People”:** (10 min.)
Isa 25:4, 5—Jehovah is a spiritual refuge to all who want to serve him (*ip-1* 272 ¶5)
Isa 25:6—Jehovah has kept his promise to provide an abundance of spiritual food (*w16.05* 24 ¶4; *ip-1* 273 ¶6-7)
Isa 25:7, 8—Sin and death will soon be done away with forever (*w14* 9/15 26 ¶15; *ip-1* 273-274 ¶8-9)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 26:15—How can we help as Jehovah extends “all the borders of the land”? (*w15* 7/15 11 ¶18)

Isa 26:20—What appears to be linked to the foretold “inner rooms”? (*w13* 3/15 23 ¶15-16)

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) Isa 28:1-13

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. During January, publishers have the option of offering the brochure *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking* if they meet someone who would benefit from a more in-depth discussion about evidence of a Creator. Encourage them to be alert for opportunities to play the video *Was Life Created?*

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 2
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 140-142)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 6 ¶8-15, box on p. 63
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 37 and Prayer

ISAIAH 24-28 | Jehovah Takes Care of His People

Like a generous host, Jehovah supplies us with an abundance of spiritual food.



25:6

“Jehovah of armies will make for all the peoples a banquet”

- In Bible times, when people ate a meal together, it signified peace and friendship
- “Of rich dishes filled with marrow, of fine, filtered wine”
- Rich dishes and fine, filtered wine picture the very best of spiritual food that Jehovah provides for us

January 2-8

Treasures From God's Word

Isaiah 25:4, 5—Jehovah is a spiritual refuge to all who want to serve him

Reference: ip-1 272 **paragraph 5**.

Although fearsome when viewed by his enemies, Jehovah is a refuge to the meek and humble who want to serve him. Religious and political tyrants may try everything to break the faith of true worshipers, but they fail because these have absolute confidence in Jehovah. Eventually, he easily silences his opposers, doing so as if he were covering the burning desert sun with a cloud or blocking the force of a rainstorm with a wall.—
*Read **Isaiah 25:4, 5**.*

Isaiah 25:6—Jehovah has kept his promise to provide an abundance of spiritual food

Reference: w16.05 24 **paragraph 4**.

In addition to publications for Jehovah's Witnesses in general, we receive Bible-based material that appeals to specific groups. Some material is especially designed to help young people; other material assists their parents. Much of the material in print and on our website is prepared with the non-Witness public in mind. Such an abundance of spiritual food reminds us that Jehovah has kept his promise to "make for all the peoples a banquet of rich dishes."—**Isaiah 25:6**.

Reference: ip-1 273 **paragraphs 6-7**.

'A Banquet for All the Peoples'

6 Like a loving father, Jehovah not only protects but also feeds his children, especially in a spiritual way. After liberating his people in 1919, he set before them a victory banquet, an abundant supply of spiritual food: "Jehovah of armies will certainly make for all the peoples, in this mountain, a banquet of well-oiled dishes, a banquet of wine kept on the dregs, of well-oiled dishes filled with marrow, of wine kept on the dregs, filtered."—**Isaiah 25:6**.

7 The banquet is spread in Jehovah's "mountain." What is this mountain? It is "the mountain of the house of Jehovah" to which all nations stream "in the final part of the days." It is Jehovah's "holy mountain," where his faithful worshipers do no harm and cause no ruin. (**Isaiah 2:2; 11:9**) In this elevated place of worship, Jehovah spreads his lush banquet for faithful ones. And the spiritual good things now supplied so generously foreshadow the physical good things that will be provided when God's Kingdom becomes the sole government of mankind. Then hunger will be no more. "There will come to be plenty of grain on the earth; on the top of the mountains there will be an overflow."—**Psalms 72:8, 16**.

Isaiah 25:7, 8—Sin and death will soon be done away with forever

Reference: w14 9/15 26 **paragraph 15**.

By the end of the thousand years of Kingdom rule, obedient mankind will have been liberated from all enemies introduced by Adam's disobedience. The Bible says: "Just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive. But each one in his own proper order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to the Christ [his joint rulers] during his presence. Next, the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet. And the last enemy, death, is to be brought to nothing." (1 **Corinthians 15:22-26**) Yes, death inherited from Adam will at last be done away with. "The shroud" that entraps the entire human family will have been removed forever.—**Isaiah 25:7, 8**.

Reference: ip-1 273-274 **paragraphs 8-9**.

8 Those who now partake of the divinely provided spiritual feast have glorious prospects. Listen to Isaiah's next words. Comparing sin and death to a suffocating "woven work," or "envelopment," he says: "In this mountain [Jehovah] will certainly swallow up the face of the envelopment that is enveloping over all the peoples, and the woven work that is interwoven upon all the nations. He will actually swallow up death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will certainly wipe the tears from all faces."—**Isaiah 25:7, 8a**.

9 Yes, no more sin and death! (**Revelation 21:3, 4**) Moreover, the lying reproach that Jehovah's servants have endured for thousands of years will also be done away with. "The reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for Jehovah himself has spoken it." (Isaiah 25:8b) How will this happen? Jehovah will remove the source of that reproach, Satan and his seed. (Revelation 20:1-3) Little wonder that God's people will be moved to exclaim: "Look! This is our God. We have hoped in him, and he will save us. This is Jehovah. We have hoped in him. Let us be joyful and rejoice in the salvation by him."—Isaiah 25:9.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Isaiah 26:15—How can we help as Jehovah extends "all the borders of the land"?

Reference: w15 7/15 11 **paragraph 18**.

It is an honor to be allowed by Jehovah to contribute to the beauty of our spiritual paradise. We do that by zealously preaching the Kingdom good news and making more disciples. Each time we help a person progress to Christian dedication, we have worked to extend the borders of the spiritual paradise.—**Isaiah 26:15; 54:2**.

Isaiah 26:20—What appears to be linked to the foretold “inner rooms”?

Reference: w13 3/15 23 paragraphs 15-16.

Our “Real Dwelling” as the End Approaches

15 As Satan’s world nears its end, its “pangs of distress” will get worse. (Matthew 24:7, 8) Things will definitely get worse during the great tribulation. Infrastructures will collapse, and people will fear for their very lives. (Habakkuk 3:16, 17) Out of sheer desperation, they will, as it were, seek refuge “in the caves and in the rock-masses of the mountains.” (Revelation 6:15-17) But neither literal caves nor mountainlike political and commercial organizations will afford any protection.

16 Jehovah’s people, however, will continue to enjoy the safety of their “real dwelling,” Jehovah God. Like the prophet Habakkuk, they “will exult in Jehovah himself.” They “will be joyful in the God of [their] salvation.” (Habakkuk 3:18) In what ways will Jehovah prove to be “a real dwelling” during that tumultuous time? We will have to wait and see. But of this we can be sure: Like the Israelites at the time of the Exodus, the “great crowd” will remain organized, ever alert to divine direction. (Revelation 7:9; read Exodus 13:18.) That direction will come theocratically, probably by means of the congregation arrangement. Indeed, the many thousands of congregations around the world appear to be linked to the protective “interior rooms” foretold at Isaiah 26:20. (Read.) Do you value the congregation meetings? Do you act promptly on the direction Jehovah provides through the congregation arrangement?—Hebrews 13:17.

- Song 147 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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- Song 2
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ISAIAH 24-28 | Jehovah Takes Care of His People

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Jehovah Is Your Name

(Psalm 83:18)

F Am Dm Dm/C

The liv - ing and true God— The God of all cre - a - tion
You cause us to be - come What - ev - er you de - si - re,

Bb Bb/C F Am

In ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion— Je -
To do as you re - qui - re— Je -

Dm Dm/C Bb Dm/A Gm

ho - vah is your name. We're hon - ored and we're proud
ho - vah is your name. And Wit - ness - es for you

Gm/F Eb Bb/D

To be your con - gre - ga - tion. In
Is what you've kind - ly named us. We're

Jehovah Is Your Name

Csus4 C/Bb

ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion, Your
hon - ored you have claimed us— A

R.H.

F/A Bb Csus4 C Chorus

glo - ry we pro - claim. Je -
peo - ple for your name.

F C/E Dm Dm/C

ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, There is no God like you.

Bb F/A Gm Dm/F

There's no oth - er in the heav - ens Or

Jehovah Is Your Name

on the earth be - low. You a - lone are God Al -

The first system of music features a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 7/4 time signature. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. Chord symbols above the treble staff include F/Eb, Eb, F/Eb Eb, and Gm.

might - y, And this all men must know. Je -

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. Chord symbols above the treble staff include Gm/F, C/E, Dm11, and C.

ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, We have no oth - er

The third system features a more complex accompaniment with some chords marked with a colon (e.g., Am7, Dm7, Gm7). Chord symbols above the treble staff include F, Am7, Dm7, and Gm7.

God but you.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The treble staff has a long note for 'God' and a long note for 'you' that is circled. Chord symbols above the treble staff include C9sus4 and F.

8-10. How did conventions give impetus to the preaching work? Give an example. (See also the box “Early Conventions That Gave Impetus to the Preaching Work.”)

11, 12. What did *The Watch Tower* in 1920 say as to when the work that Jesus foretold would be done?

that slave began dispensing spiritual food—by means of convention discourses and printed publications—that repeatedly emphasized the responsibility of all Christians to have a *personal* share in preaching.

8 Convention discourses. Eager for direction, the Bible Students gathered at Cedar Point, Ohio, U.S.A., from September 1 to 8, 1919, for their first major convention following World War I. On the second day, Brother Rutherford gave a discourse in which he pointedly told the delegates: “A Christian’s mission on earth . . . is to proclaim the message of the Lord’s kingdom.”

9 The climax of that convention came three days later when Brother Rutherford delivered the talk entitled “Address to Co-laborers,” which was published in *The Watch Tower* under the title “Announcing the Kingdom.” He stated: “In sober moments a Christian naturally asks himself, Why am I on the earth? And the answer of necessity must be, The Lord has graciously made me his ambassador to bear the divine message of reconciliation to the world, and my privilege and duty is to announce that message.”

10 In that historic discourse, Brother Rutherford announced that a new magazine, *The Golden Age* (now called *Awake!*), would be published for use in directing people to the Kingdom as mankind’s only hope. He then asked how many of those in the audience wanted to have a share in distributing this journal. A report on the convention explained: “The response was an inspiring scene. Six thousand people, as one person, arose.”^[2] Clearly, the King had willing supporters who were eager to proclaim his Kingdom!

11 Printed publications. Through the pages of *The Watch Tower*, the significance of the work Jesus foretold—namely, the preaching of the good news of the Kingdom—became clearer and clearer. Consider some examples from the early 1920’s.

12 What message would be proclaimed in fulfillment of Matthew 24:14? When would that work be done? The July 1, 1920, issue of *The Watch Tower*, in the article entitled “Gospel of the Kingdom,” explained the message, stating: “The good news here is concerning the end of the old order of things and the establishment of Messiah’s kingdom.” The article clearly showed when this message would be preached, saying: “This message must be delivered between the time of the great world war [World War I] and the time of the ‘great tribulation.’” Hence, the article noted: “Now

FOOTNOTE

[2] The pamphlet *To Whom the Work Is Entrusted* explained: “*The Golden Age* work is a house-to-house canvass with the kingdom message. . . . In addition to the canvass, a copy of *The Golden Age* is to be left at each home, whether a subscription is taken or not.” For years thereafter, the brothers were encouraged to offer people subscriptions to *The Golden Age* as well as to *The Watch Tower*. Beginning February 1, 1940, Jehovah’s people were encouraged to distribute individual copies of the magazines and to report the number placed.



The 1922 Cedar Point, Ohio, convention. A banner reading “Advertise the King and Kingdom” was unfurled above the platform

EARLY CONVENTIONS THAT GAVE IMPETUS TO THE PREACHING WORK

■ 1919, Cedar Point, Ohio, U.S.A.

The program highlighted that a Christian’s vocation was “to announce the incoming glorious kingdom of Messiah.” An announcement was made that a new magazine, *The Golden Age*, would be published for use in directing people to the Kingdom. To organize and give impetus to the work, a service director would be appointed for each class, or congregation, of Bible Students.

■ **1922, Cedar Point, Ohio.** During the discourse entitled “The Kingdom,” the speaker urged: “Advertise, advertise, advertise the King and his Kingdom.” One of those present, Anna E. Zimmerman, later recalled: “Our mission was now loud and clear—to

advertise the King and the Kingdom, and we went forth from that convention and did just that.”

■ **1931, Columbus, Ohio.** The Bible Students adopted a new name—Jehovah’s Witnesses. That name clearly identified the responsibility of those who worship Jehovah, namely, to proclaim his name and Kingdom.

■ **1935, Washington, D.C.** The “great multitude,” or “great crowd,” was identified as consisting of individuals who have the prospect of living forever on earth. (Rev. 7:9-17; *King James Version*) With their understanding thus clarified, Jehovah’s people discerned that the scope of the preaching work before them was indeed great.

13. How did *The Watch Tower* in 1921 appeal to the willing spirit of anointed Christians?

14, 15. In 1922, *The Watch Tower* urged anointed Christians to reach others in what way?

16. How did some of the elected elders react to the idea that all should share in the ministry?

17, 18. How did most in the congregations respond to the direction from headquarters, and how have millions responded over the past 100 years?

is the time . . . to proclaim far and wide in Christendom this good news.”

13 Would God’s people be pressured into doing the work that Jesus foretold? No. The article “Be of Good Courage,” in the March 15, 1921, issue of *The Watch Tower*, appealed to the willing spirit of anointed Christians. Each one was encouraged to ask himself: “Is it not my greatest privilege, as well as my duty, to participate in this work?” The article went on to say: “We feel assured that when you do see it [as a privilege to share in the work] you will be like Jeremiah, in whose heart the word of the Lord was ‘as a burning fire shut up in [his] bones,’ urging him on so that he could not refrain from speaking.” (Jer. 20:9) That warm encouragement reflected the confidence that Jehovah and Jesus have in loyal Kingdom supporters.

14 How should true Christians reach others with the Kingdom message? The short but powerful article entitled “Service Essential,” in the August 15, 1922, issue of *The Watch Tower*, urged anointed Christians to take part in “actively carrying the printed message to the people and talking to them at their doors, giving the witness that the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

15 Clearly, from 1919 on, Christ has used his faithful and discreet slave to emphasize repeatedly that a Christian’s privilege and duty on earth is to proclaim the Kingdom message. How, though, did the early Bible Students respond to the encouragement to share in the work of Kingdom proclamation?

“The Faithful Will Be Volunteers”

16 In the 1920’s and 1930’s, some resisted the idea that *all* anointed Christians should share in the ministry. The November 1, 1927, *Watch Tower* explained what was happening: “There are those today in the church [congregation] occupying the responsible position of elder . . . who refuse to encourage their brethren to have part in the service, and who refuse to participate in the service themselves. . . . They scoff at the suggestion of going from door to door to carry the message of God, his King and his kingdom, to the people.” The article pointedly said: “The time has come for the faithful to mark such and to avoid them, and to say to them that no longer will we entrust such men with the office of eldership.”^[3]

17 Happily, most in the congregations responded enthusiastically to the direction from headquarters. They count-

FOOTNOTE

[3] At that time, elders were elected democratically by the congregation. Therefore, a congregation could refuse to vote for men who were opposed to the ministry. The change to theocratic appointment of elders will be discussed in Chapter 12.

Serving Jehovah Whole-Souled

(Matthew 22:37)

F Gm7 C/Bb Am7 F/A Bbma7 Bb6

O Je - ho - vah, Sov - 'reign Rul - er,
Fa - ther, all your works ex - alt you.

C7 F/A Dm G7/B G7 C7sus4 C7

You are the one I love and o - bey.
Earth, moon, and stars your glo - ry pro - claim.

R.H.

F Gm7 C/Bb Am7 F/A Bbma7 Bb6

You de - serve my full de - vo - tion;
May I al - so be as faith - ful,

C7 A/C# Dm Gm/Bb Bb/C C7 F

You are my God; I'll serve you each day.
Us - ing my strength to make known your name.

Serving Jehovah Whole-Souled

Am E7/G# E/D Am/C E7/B Am9 Am

Your com - mands I loy - al - ly fol - low;
 May I use my whole life to serve you,

C/G Dm/G G7 Gm11 Gm/Bb C7sus4 C7

How I love re - mind - ers from you!
 Prov - ing to be loy - al and true.

Chorus
 F Gm7 C7/Bb Am7 F/A Bb/D Bbm/Db

O Je - ho - vah, you are wor - thy;

F/C Fma7/C Bb/C C7 Gm/Bb Bb/C C7 F

Whole - souled de - vo - tion I give to you.

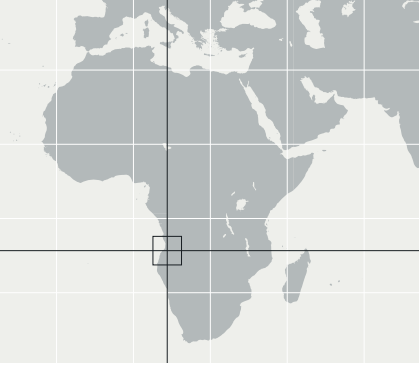
NOVEMBER 2016

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
DECEMBER 26, 2016–JANUARY 29, 2017



COVER IMAGE:
ANGOLA

In the city of Benguela, special pioneers are conducting a Bible study in sign language, using the brochure *Listen to God and Live Forever*. The 10 deaf publishers in that city were delighted that 62 people attended the Memorial there in 2015

PUBLISHERS
115,948

BIBLE STUDIES
502,848

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2015)
529,827

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 A Word That Meant So Much!

4 WEEK OF DECEMBER 26–JANUARY 1 “Keep On Encouraging One Another Each Day”

Jehovah God and Jesus Christ are the foremost examples of giving encouragement. The apostle Paul also considered encouragement to be very important. Following their lead will help all of us to make our home and the local Kingdom Hall places of love and encouragement.

9 WEEK OF JANUARY 2-8 Organized in Harmony With God’s Own Book

14 WEEK OF JANUARY 9-15 Do You Highly Esteem Jehovah’s Own Book?

These articles answer the following questions: Why should we expect Jehovah’s worshippers to be organized? How can we be organized in harmony with God’s own Book? How can we show that we loyally support Jehovah’s organization?

19 “The Work Is Great”

21 WEEK OF JANUARY 16-22 Called Out of Darkness

26 WEEK OF JANUARY 23-29 They Broke Free From False Religion

These articles explain when God’s people came into Babylonian captivity and what efforts anointed Christians made in the late 1800’s to understand Jehovah’s Word correctly. We will also consider the firm stand the Bible Students took regarding Babylon the Great, and we will learn when the Babylonian captivity ended.

31 FROM OUR ARCHIVES

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The Heavens Declare God's Glory

(Psalm 19)

Eb G7/D Cm Cm/Bb Ab Fm/Ab Ab/Bb Bb7 Eb
 The heav - ens tell the glo - ry of Je - ho - vah.
 Je - ho - vah's law is per - fect, life - re - stor - ing,
 The fear of God is pure and lasts for - ev - er.

R.H.

Bb7/D Eb Bb/Ab Eb/G Bb/F C/E C/Bb Fm9/Ab Fm/Ab Cm Fm/Ab G
 The work of his own hand, we see in skies a - bove.
 And his re - mind - ers guide the steps of old and young.
 The worth of his com - mands ex - ceeds the fin - est gold.

Eb Ab C7/G Fm Bb7/D Eb Bb7/F Eb/G Fm9/D G7 Cm
 And each new day brings to him right - ful praise.
 His rul - ings prove to be true, right, and just.
 His or - ders lead and pre - serve all his own.

Bb7 Eb Bb7/F Eb/G Ab° Cm/G G7 Cm Eb/Bb Abma7 Fm/Ab Ab/Bb Bb7 Eb
 The star - lit night pro - claims his might, His wis - dom, and his love.
 His word is sure, his law so pure, So sweet up - on the tongue.
 His hon - or, fame, and ho - ly name, We loy - al - ly up - hold.

(See also Ps. 111:9; 145:5; Rev. 4:11.)



Organized in Harmony With God’s Own Book

“Jehovah founded the earth in wisdom. He solidly established the heavens in discernment.”—PROV. 3:19.

DOES God have an organization? “You don’t need an organization to direct you,” some may say. “All you need is a personal relationship with God.” Is that viewpoint correct? What do the facts indicate?

² In this article, we will discuss evidence that Jehovah, the God of order, is the incomparable Organizer. We will also consider how we should respond to the direction we receive from Jehovah’s organization. (1 Cor. 14:33, 40) In the first century C.E. and in our day, the Scriptures have helped the earthly part of Jehovah’s organization to do the far-reaching work of preaching the good news. Because we stick to the Bible and comply with organizational instructions, we promote the cleanness, peace, and unity of the entire congregation.

JEHOVAH, THE INCOMPARABLE ORGANIZER

³ Creation proves that God is the incomparable Organizer. “Jehovah founded the earth in wisdom,” says the Bible. “He solidly established the heavens in discernment.” (Prov. 3:19)

- 1, 2. (a) How do some react to the thought that God has an organization? (b) What will we discuss in this article?
3. What convinces you that Jehovah is the incomparable Organizer?

SONGS: 6, 24

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What convinces you that Jehovah is the incomparable Organizer?

Why is it reasonable to conclude that Jehovah’s worshippers would be organized?

How does the counsel in God’s Word help us to maintain cleanness, peace, and unity?

We know only “the fringes of [God’s] ways,” and “only a faint whisper has been heard of him.” (Job 26:14) Yet, the little we know about planets, stars, and galaxies moves us to acknowledge that these celestial bodies are superbly organized. (Ps. 8:3, 4) Galaxies consist of millions of stars, all moving in space in an orderly way. Why, planets in our solar system travel in orbits around the sun as though they were humbly obeying traffic laws! Surely the mind-boggling order evident in the universe helps us to see that Jehovah, who “skillfully made the heavens” and the earth, deserves our praise, loyalty, and worship.—Ps. 136:1, 5-9.

⁴ Science has revealed much about the universe and our earthly home, and it has brought us advantages in various aspects of life. But there are many questions science has not been able to answer. For instance, astronomers cannot tell us exactly *how* the universe came into existence or *why* we are on planet Earth with its abundance of life. Also, people in general cannot explain why mankind has a strong desire to live forever. (Eccl. 3:11) Why are there so many important but unanswered questions? Partly because numerous scientists and others tend to promote godless thinking and endorse the theory of evolution. But in his own Book, Jehovah answers questions weighing on the hearts of people everywhere.

⁵ We are dependent on the consistent and reliable laws of nature established by Jehovah. Electricians, plumb-

4. Why has science failed to answer many questions?

5. In what ways are we dependent on the laws of nature?

ers, engineers, pilots, surgeons—all of them depend on these laws in order to do their work. For instance, surgeons count on the fact that the human anatomy is basically consistent. So a surgeon does not have to search for a patient’s heart. And all of us respect the laws of nature. Trying to defy the law of gravity might cost us our life!

ORGANIZED BY GOD

⁶ The universe truly is a marvel of organization. Surely, then, we should expect that Jehovah wants his worshippers to be well-organized. In fact, to that end God has provided the Bible for our guidance. Living without the help of God’s organization and his standards would result in unhappiness and misery.

⁷ The Bible is no mere collection of unrelated Jewish and Christian literature. Rather, it is a well-organized book—a divinely inspired masterpiece. The individual books of the Bible are interconnected. Interwoven from Genesis to Revelation is the Bible’s central theme—the vindication of Jehovah’s sovereignty and the fulfillment of his purpose for the earth by means of his Kingdom under Christ, the promised “offspring.”—**Read Genesis 3:15; Matthew 6:10; Revelation 11:15.**

⁸ The people of ancient Israel were a model of organization. Under the Mosaic Law, for example, there were “women who were organized to serve at the entrance of the tent of meeting.” (Ex.

6. Why should we expect Jehovah’s worshippers to be organized?

7. What shows that the Bible is a well-organized book?

8. Why can we say that the Israelites were well-organized?

38:8) The moving of the Israelite camp and the tabernacle took place in an orderly way. Later, King David organized the Levites and the priests into effective divisions. (1 Chron. 23:1-6; 24:1-3) And when they obeyed Jehovah, the Israelites were blessed with order, peace, and unity.—Deut. 11:26, 27; 28:1-14.

⁹ The first-century Christian congregation was organized, and it benefited from the direction of the governing body, initially made up of the apostles. (Acts 6:1-6) Later, additional brothers were added to that governing body. (Acts 15:6) Counsel and instructions were also provided by means of inspired letters written by men who were members of or closely associated with the first-century governing body. (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9) How did the congregations benefit from following the direction of the governing body?

¹⁰ **Read Acts 16:4, 5.** Brothers traveling on behalf of the governing body shared “the decrees that had been decided on by the apostles and the elders who were in Jerusalem.” As congregations observed those decrees, they “continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number day by day.” Does this Bible account contain a lesson that we are wise to apply within God’s organization today?

DO YOU FOLLOW DIRECTION?

¹¹ What should members of Branch

9. What shows that the first-century Christian congregation was organized?

10. What resulted when the early congregations observed the decrees decided on by the governing body? (See opening picture.)

11. How should appointed men respond to the direction they receive from God’s organization?

Committees or Country Committees, circuit overseers, and congregation elders do when they receive direction from God’s organization today? Jehovah’s own Book directs all of us to be obedient and submissive. (Deut. 30:16; Heb. 13:7, 17) A critical or rebellious spirit has no place in God’s organization, for such an attitude could disrupt our loving, peaceful, and united congregations. Of course, no loyal Christian would want to display a disrespectful and disloyal spirit like that of Diotrefes. (**Read 3 John 9, 10.**) We might well ask ourselves: ‘Do I contribute to the spirituality of those around me? Am I quick to accept and support the direction given by the brothers taking the lead?’

¹² Consider a recent decision made by the Governing Body. “Questions From Readers” in *The Watchtower* of November 15, 2014, outlined an adjustment in how elders and ministerial servants are appointed. The article noted that the first-century governing body authorized traveling overseers to make such appointments. In line with that pattern, since September 1, 2014, circuit overseers have been appointing elders and ministerial servants. The circuit overseer tries to get to know the men who are recommended and to work with them in the field service if possible. He also observes the family of the brother under consideration. (1 Tim. 3:4, 5) The body of elders and the circuit overseer carefully consider the Scriptural qualifications for ministerial servants and elders.—1 Tim. 3:1-10, 12, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-3.

12. What adjustment has been made in how elders and ministerial servants are appointed?

¹³ We need to follow the Bible-based direction we receive from the elders. These loyal shepherds within God’s organization are guided by “wholesome,” or “healthful; beneficial,” instruction found in God’s own Book. (1 Tim. 6:3; fn.) Recall Paul’s counsel regarding disorderly ones in the congregation. Some individuals were ‘not working at all but were meddling with what did not concern them.’ They were evidently admonished by the elders but persisted in disregarding the counsel. How was the congregation to deal with such a person? Paul directed: “Keep this one marked and stop associating with him.” That counsel was balanced with the caution not to treat such a person as an enemy. (2 Thess. 3:11-15) Today, elders may give a warning talk about someone’s persisting in a course that reflects badly on the congregation, such as dating an unbeliever. (1 Cor. 7:39) How do you react when the elders find it necessary to give such a talk? If you are aware of the situation described in the talk, will you take care to avoid socializing with such an individual? Your loving concern and firm stand may move the person to abandon a disorderly course.^[1]

MAINTAIN CLEANNES, PEACE, AND UNITY

¹⁴ We can contribute to the spiritual cleanness of the congregation by following the direction found in God’s Word. Consider the situation in ancient Corinth. Paul had poured himself out preaching in that city, and he loved his

fellow “holy ones” there. (1 Cor. 1:1, 2) But how troubling it must have been for him to have to address the problem of sexual immorality that was being tolerated in that congregation! Paul directed the elders to hand the immoral man over to Satan—in other words, to disfellowship him. To preserve the congregation’s purity, the elders needed to clear out the “leaven.” (1 Cor. 5:1, 5-7, 12) When we support the elders’ decision to disfellowship an unrepentant wrongdoer, we help to maintain the cleanness of the congregation and perhaps move the person to repent and seek Jehovah’s forgiveness.

¹⁵ Another problem in Corinth had to be addressed. Some brothers were taking fellow believers to court. Paul asked them a sobering question: “Why not rather let yourselves be wronged?” (1 Cor. 6:1-8) Similar situations have arisen today. At times, peace among spiritual brothers has been disrupted because a failed business venture led to loss of money and perhaps to accusations of fraud. Some have taken their brothers to court, but God’s own Book helps us to see that it is better to suffer loss than to bring reproach on God’s name or disturb the peace of the congregation.^[2] To resolve serious problems and disputes, we should of course apply Jesus’ counsel. (**Read Matthew 5:23, 24; 18:15-17.**) When we do so, we promote unity in the family of Jehovah’s worshippers.

¹⁶ Jehovah’s own Book shows why we should expect his people to be united.

13. How can we show our support for the direction we receive from the elders?

14. How can we contribute to the congregation’s cleanness?

15. How can we maintain peace in the congregation?

16. Why should we expect God’s people to be united?



Elders endeavor to give spiritual help to one who has taken a false step (See paragraph 17)

The psalmist sang: “Look! How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!” (Ps. 133:1) When they obeyed Jehovah, the Israelites were organized and unified. Foretelling the future condition of his people, God declared: “In unity I will place them, like sheep in the pen.” (Mic. 2:12) Moreover, Jehovah foretold through the prophet Zephaniah: “I will change the language of the peoples to a pure language [of Scriptural truth], so that all of them may call on the name of Jehovah, to serve him shoulder to shoulder [or, “worship him in unity,” ftn.]” (Zeph. 3:9) How grateful we are to have the privilege of worshipping Jehovah in unity!

¹⁷ If unity and cleanness are to be maintained in a congregation, the elders must care for judicial matters promptly and in a loving way. Paul knew that

17. To maintain a congregation’s unity and cleanness, how should the elders handle cases of wrongdoing?

God’s love is not guided by mere sentiment, and He does not turn a blind eye to wrongdoing. (Prov. 15:3) So Paul did not hold back from writing First Corinthians, a strong yet loving letter. Second Corinthians, written some months later, shows that progress was made because the elders had applied the apostle’s direction. If a Christian takes a false step before he is aware of it, qualified men should try to readjust him in a spirit of mildness.—Gal. 6:1.

¹⁸ It is clear that the inspired counsel in God’s own Book helped first-century Christians in Corinth and elsewhere to maintain cleanness, peace, and unity in their congregations. (1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4: 11-13, ftn.; 1 Pet. 3:8) As a result, our brothers and sisters of that time were able to accomplish much in the ministry. In fact, Paul could say that the good news “was preached in all creation under heaven.” (Col. 1:23) Today, knowledge of God’s wonderful purposes is being spread throughout the earth as a result of the efforts of those who are part of one united preaching organization. The next article will give further proof that these ones highly esteem the Bible and are determined to honor the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.—Ps. 71: 15, 16.

18. (a) In what ways did counsel provided in God’s Word help the first-century congregations? (b) What will be discussed in the next article?

ENDNOTES:

[1] (paragraph 13) See *Organized to Do Jehovah’s Will*, pp. 134-136.

[2] (paragraph 15) For information about situations in which one Christian might decide to take legal action against another Christian, see “*Keep Yourselves in God’s Love*,” p. 223, ftn.

Come to Jehovah's Mountain

(Isaiah 2:2-4)

B \flat Gm Cm/E \flat F B \flat /D F7/C B \flat F/A Gm C F F/E \flat

Raise your eyes up and see, Far a - bove the high - est hill.
Je - sus gave the com - mand To go forth and preach the word.

B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat Fm/A \flat G7 G+5/F Cm/E \flat E \flat m6 B \flat /D Gm7 Cm7 F

There stands Je - ho - vah's moun - tain Lift - ed up in this day.
Good news a - bout the King - dom Reach - es all men to - day.

B \flat Gm Cm/E \flat F B \flat /D F7/C B \flat F/A Gm C F F/E \flat

Peo - ple come from a - far, Ev - 'ry - where from sea to sea,
Christ now rules from a - bove, Urg - ing all to take his side.

B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat Fm/A \flat G7 G+5/F Cm/E \flat E \flat m6 B \flat /D Gm7 Cm7 F7 B \flat

Call - ing to one an - oth - er, 'Come serve God and o - bey.' Now the
Meek ones who hear his voice Let God's Word show them the way. It brings

Come to Jehovah's Mountain

Eb/Bb
Bbma7
Eb/Bb
Bbma7

time has ar-rived For the small, a great na-tion to be. As we
 joy to the heart, As the great crowd con-tin-ues to grow. And we

Eb/Bb
Dsus4
D
Gm
Gb7
F

grow and we thrive, God's di-rec-tion and bless-ing we see.
 all have a part, As we strive to let ev-'ry-one know.

Bb
Gm
Cm/Eb
F
Bb/D F7/C
Bb
F/A
Gm
C
F
F/Eb

Mil-lions now come to God And ac-cept his sov-'reign-ty.
 Let us lift up the voice, Call-ing out for all to hear,

Bb/D Cm11
Bb
Fm/Ab
G7
G+5/F
Cm/Eb
Eb6
Bb/D
Gm7
Cm7
F7
Bb

Loy-al they vow to be And from his side nev-er stray.
 'Come to Je-ho-vah's moun-tain, Here for-ev-er to stay.'

(See also Ps. 43:3; 99:9; Isa. 60:22; Acts 16:5.)