

- Song 103 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“A King Will Reign for Righteousness”:** (10 min.)
Isa 32:1—The King who will reign for righteousness is Jesus Christ (w14 2/15 6 ¶13)
Isa 32:2—The enthroned Jesus provides princes to care for the flock (ip-1 332-334 ¶7-8)
Isa 32:3, 4—Jehovah’s people are given instruction and training that help them demonstrate righteousness (ip-1 334-335 ¶10-11)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 30:21—In what ways does Jehovah communicate with his servants? (w14 8/15 21 ¶2)

Isa 33:22—When and how did Jehovah become Judge, Lawgiver, and King for the nation of Israel? (w14 10/15 14 ¶4)

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 30:22-33

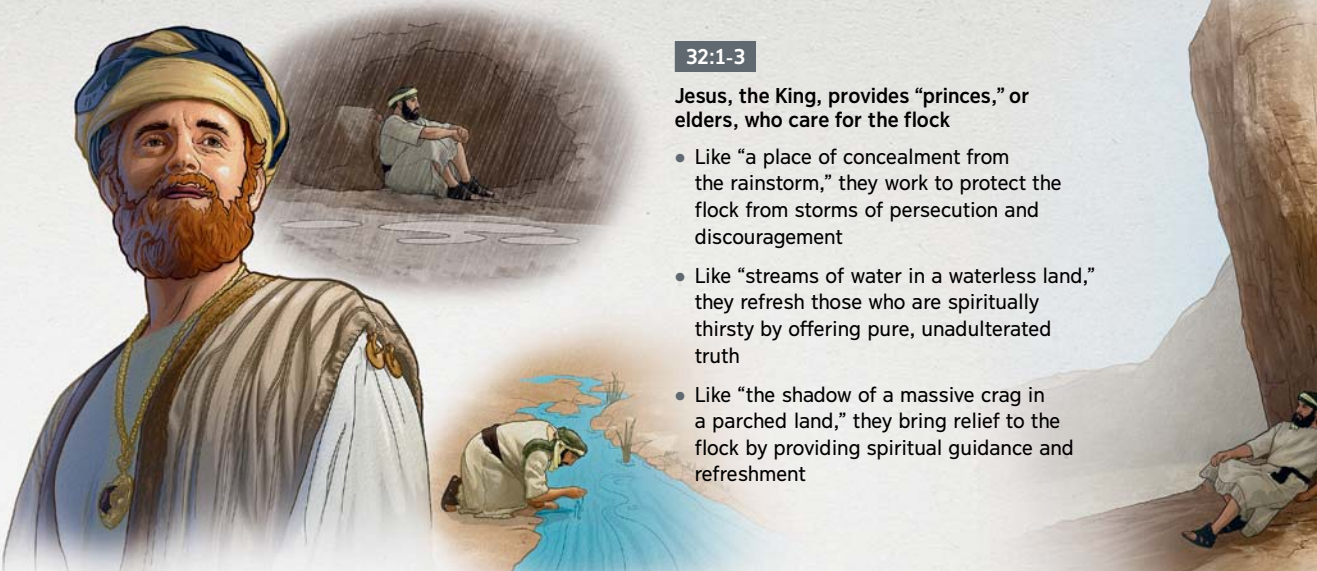
APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) wp17.1 cover—Respond to an irate householder.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) wp17.1 cover—Read scriptures from a mobile device.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) lv 31-32 ¶12-13—Demonstrate how to reach the heart.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 87
- **“A Hiding Place From the Wind” (Isa 32:2):** (9 min.) Play the video (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **Pay Attention at the Meetings:** (6 min.) Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Afterward, invite selected young children to the stage, and ask them: What could cause you not to pay attention during the meetings? What might have happened if Noah had not paid attention when Jehovah explained how to build the ark? Why is it important for children to pay attention during the meetings?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 6 ¶16-24, review box on p. 67
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 21 and Prayer

ISAIAH 29-33 | “A King Will Reign for Righteousness”



32:1-3

Jesus, the King, provides “princes,” or elders, who care for the flock

- Like “a place of concealment from the rainstorm,” they work to protect the flock from storms of persecution and discouragement
- Like “streams of water in a waterless land,” they refresh those who are spiritually thirsty by offering pure, unadulterated truth
- Like “the shadow of a massive crag in a parched land,” they bring relief to the flock by providing spiritual guidance and refreshment

103 *Shepherds—Gifts in Men*

(Ephesians 4:8)

1. Help in our lives, Jehovah provides,
 Shepherds to tend his flock.
By their example they serve as guides,
 Showing us how to walk.

(CHORUS)

*God gives us men who have earned our trust,
Men who are loyal and true.
They show concern for his precious sheep;
Love them for all that they do.*

2. Shepherds who love us care how we feel;
 Gently they guide the way.
When we are hurt, they help us to heal,
 Kind in the words they say.

(Chorus)

3. Godly advice and counsel they give,
 That we may never stray.
Thus they assist us, God's way to live,
 Serving him ev'ry day.

(Chorus)

Isaiah 29-33

- 29** “Woe to Ar'i-el, Ar'i-el, the city where David
encamped!
Continue year after year;
Let the cycle of festivals continue.
- ² But I will bring distress on Ar'i-el,
And there will be mourning and lamentation,
And she will become to me like an altar hearth
of God.
- ³ I will encamp on all sides against you,
And I will besiege you with a palisade
And raise up siegeworks against you.
- 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
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,
The crowd of the tyrants just like the blowing
chaff.
And it will happen in an instant, suddenly.
- 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.”

⁷ Then the crowd of all the nations waging war
against Ar'i-el

—All those waging war against her,
The siege towers against her,
And those bringing distress on her—
Will become like a dream, a vision of the night.

⁸ Yes, it will be just as when someone hungry
dreams that he is eating,

But he wakes up hungry,
And as when someone thirsty dreams that he is
drinking,
But he wakes up tired and thirsty.
So it will happen with the crowd of all the nations
That wage war against Mount Zion.

⁹ Be stunned and amazed;

Blind yourselves and be blinded.
They are drunk, but not with wine;
They are staggering, but not from alcohol.

¹⁰ For Jehovah has poured a spirit of deep sleep on
you;

He has closed your eyes, the prophets,
And he has covered your heads, the visionaries.

¹¹ Every vision becomes for you like the words of a
sealed book. When they give it to someone who can

read, saying: "Read this out loud, please," he will say: "I cannot, for it is sealed up." ¹² And when they give the book to someone who cannot read, saying: "Read this, please," he will say: "I cannot read at all."

¹³ Jehovah says: "This people approaches me with their mouth
And they honor me with their lips,
But their heart is far removed from me;
And their fear of me is based on commands of men that they have been taught.

¹⁴ Therefore, I am the One who will again do wonderful things with this people,
With wonder upon wonder;
And the wisdom of their wise men will perish,
And the understanding of their discreet men will be hidden."

¹⁵ Woe to those who go to great lengths to conceal their plans from Jehovah.
Their deeds are done in a dark place,
While they say: "Who sees us?
Who knows about us?"

¹⁶ How you twist things!
Should the potter be regarded the same as the clay?
Should what is made say about its maker:
"He did not make me"?

And does what is formed say about its former:
“He shows no understanding”?

¹⁷ In just a short time, Leb'a-non will be turned into an
orchard,

And the orchard will be regarded as a forest.

¹⁸ In that day the deaf will hear the words of the book,
And out of the gloom and darkness the eyes of
the blind will see.

¹⁹ The meek will rejoice greatly in Jehovah,
And the poor among men will be joyful in the
Holy One of Israel.

²⁰ For the tyrant will be no more,
The boaster will come to his finish,
And all those keeping alert to do harm will be
destroyed,

²¹ Those who with a false word make others guilty,
Who lay traps for the defender in the city gate,
And who with empty arguments deny justice to
the righteous one.

²² So this is what Jehovah, who redeemed Abraham,
says to the house of Jacob:

“Jacob will no longer be ashamed,
And no more will his face grow pale.

²³ For when he sees his children,
Who are the work of my hands, in his midst,

They will sanctify my name;
Yes, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob,
And they will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

²⁴ Those who are wayward in spirit will acquire
understanding,
And those who complain will accept instruction.”

30 “Woe to the stubborn sons,” declares Jehovah,
“Who carry out plans that are not mine,
Who make alliances, but not by my spirit,
In order to add sin to sin.

² They go down to Egypt without consulting me,
To take shelter under Phar'aoh's protection
And to take refuge in the shadow of Egypt!

³ But the protection of Phar'aoh will become for you
a reason for shame,
And refuge in Egypt's shadow a cause for
humiliation.

⁴ For his princes are in Zo'an,
And his envoys have reached Ha'nes.

⁵ They will all be put to shame
By a people who can bring no benefit to them,
Who offer no help and no benefit,
Only shame and disgrace.”

⁶ A pronouncement against the beasts of the south:
Through the land of distress and hardship,

Of the lion, the roaring lion,
Of the viper and the flying fiery snake,
They carry their wealth on the backs of donkeys
And their supplies on the humps of camels.
But these things will not benefit the people.

⁷ For Egypt's help is completely useless.
So I have called this one: "Ra'hab, who sits still."

⁸ "Now go, write it on a tablet in their presence,
And inscribe it in a book,
So that it may serve for a future day
As a permanent witness.

⁹ For they are a rebellious people, deceitful sons,
Sons who are unwilling to hear the law of
Jehovah.

¹⁰ They say to the seers, 'Do not see,'
And to the visionaries, 'Do not tell us truthful
visions.
Tell us flattering things; envision deceptive
illusions.

¹¹ Turn aside from the way; deviate from the path.
Quit putting before us the Holy One of Israel."

¹² Therefore this is what the Holy One of Israel says:
"Since you reject this word
And you trust in fraud and deceit
And you rely on these,

- 13 So this error will be for you like a broken wall,
Like a bulging high wall ready to fall.
It will crash suddenly, in an instant.
- 14 It will be broken like a large potter's jar,
So completely smashed that no fragment among
its pieces will be left
To rake the fire from the fireplace
Or to scoop water from a puddle.”
- 15 For this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, the
Holy One of Israel, says:
“By returning to me and resting, you will be
saved;
Your strength will be in keeping calm and
showing trust.”
But you were unwilling.
- 16 Instead, you said: “No, we will flee on horses!”
So flee you will.
- “And on swift horses we will ride!”
So those pursuing you will be swift.
- 17 A thousand will tremble at the threat of one;
At the threat of five you will flee
Until what is left of you is like a mast on the top
of a mountain,
Like a signal pole on a hill.
- 18 But Jehovah is waiting patiently to show you favor,
And he will rise up to show you mercy.

For Jehovah is a God of justice.

Happy are all those keeping in expectation of him.

¹⁹ When the people dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem, you will by no means weep. He will surely show you favor at the sound of your cry for help; he will answer you as soon as he hears it. ²⁰ Though Jehovah will give you bread in the form of distress and water in the form of oppression, your Grand Instructor will no longer hide himself, and you will see your Grand Instructor with your own eyes. ²¹ And your own ears will hear a word behind you saying, "This is the way. Walk in it," in case you should go to the right or in case you should go to the left.

²² And you will defile the silver overlay of your graven images and the golden plating of your metal statues. You will cast them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, "Be gone!" ²³ And he will give the rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the bread that the ground produces will be abundant and rich. In that day your livestock will graze in spacious pastures. ²⁴ And the cattle and the donkeys that work the ground will eat fodder seasoned with sorrel, which was winnowed with the shovel and the pitchfork. ²⁵ And on every tall mountain and on every high hill will be streams and watercourses, in the day of the great slaughter when the towers fall. ²⁶ And the light of the full moon will

become like the light of the sun; and the light of the sun will become seven times stronger, like the light of seven days, in the day that Jehovah binds up the breakdown of his people and heals the severe wound from the blow he inflicted.

²⁷ Look! The name of Jehovah is coming from far
away,

Burning with his anger and with heavy clouds.

His lips are full of indignation,

And his tongue is like a consuming fire.

²⁸ His spirit is like a flooding torrent that reaches clear
to the neck,

To shake the nations in a sieve of destruction;

And the peoples will have a bridle in their jaws
that leads them astray.

²⁹ But your song will be like the one sung in the night
When you prepare for a festival,

And your heart will rejoice like one

Who walks with a flute

On his way to the mountain of Jehovah, to the
Rock of Israel.

³⁰ Jehovah will make his majestic voice heard
And reveal his arm as it descends in the heat of
anger,

With the flame of a consuming fire,

A cloudburst and a thunderstorm and hailstones.

31 For because of the voice of Jehovah, As-syr'i-a will
be struck with terror;
He will strike it with a rod.

32 And every swing of his rod of punishment
That Jehovah will bring down on As-syr'i-a
Will be accompanied by tambourines and harps
As he brandishes his arm against them in battle.

33 For his To'pheth is already prepared;
It is also made ready for the king.
He has made the woodpile deep and wide,
With an abundance of fire and wood.
The breath of Jehovah, like a torrent of sulfur,
Will set fire to it.

31 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for
assistance,
Who rely on horses,
Who trust in war chariots because they are
numerous,
And in warhorses because they are mighty.
But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel,
And they do not search for Jehovah.

2 But he is also wise and will bring calamity,
And he will not take back his words.
He will rise up against the house of evildoers
And against those who help wrongdoers.

³ The Egyptians, though, are mere men and not God;

Their horses are flesh and not spirit.
When Jehovah stretches out his hand,
Whoever offers help will stumble
And whoever is helped will fall;
They will all perish at the same time.

⁴ For this is what Jehovah has said to me:

“Just as the lion growls, a strong young lion,
over its prey,
When a whole group of shepherds is called
together against it,
And it is not terrified by their voice
Or daunted by their commotion,
So will Jehovah of armies come down to wage
war
Over Mount Zion and over her hill.

⁵ Like swooping birds, so Jehovah of armies will defend Jerusalem.

He will defend her and save her.
He will spare her and rescue her.”

⁶ “Return to the One against whom you have blatantly revolted, O people of Israel. ⁷ For in that day each one will reject his worthless gods of silver and his valueless gods of gold, which your own hands sinfully made.

⁸ And the As-syr'i-an will fall by the sword, not of a man;

And a sword, not of a human, will devour him.

He will flee because of the sword,

And his young men will be put to forced labor.

⁹ His crag will pass away because of sheer fright,
And his princes will be terrified because of the
signal pole," declares Jehovah,

Whose light is in Zion and whose furnace is in
Jerusalem.

32 Look! A king will reign for righteousness,
And princes will rule for justice.

² And each one will be like a hiding place from the
wind,

A place of concealment from the rainstorm,

Like streams of water in a waterless land,

Like the shadow of a massive crag in a parched
land.

³ Then the eyes of those seeing will no longer be
pasted shut,

And the ears of those hearing will pay attention.

⁴ The heart of those who are impetuous will ponder
over knowledge,

And the stammering tongue will speak fluently
and clearly.

- ⁵ The senseless one will no longer be called
generous,
And the unprincipled man will not be called
noble;
- ⁶ For the senseless one will speak nonsense,
And his heart will devise harmful things,
To promote apostasy and to speak what is
wayward against Jehovah,
To cause the hungry one to go unfed
And to deprive the thirsty one of something to
drink.
- ⁷ The devices of the unprincipled man are bad;
He promotes shameful conduct
To ruin the afflicted one with lies,
Even when the poor speaks what is right.
- ⁸ But the generous one has generous intentions,
And in generous endeavors he perseveres.
- ⁹ “You complacent women, get up and listen to my
voice!
You carefree daughters, pay attention to what I
say!
- ¹⁰ In a little over a year, you who are carefree will
shudder,
Because no fruit will have been gathered when
the grape harvest ends.
- ¹¹ Tremble, you complacent women!

Shudder, you who are carefree!
Strip yourselves bare,
And put sackcloth around your hips.

¹² Beat your breasts in lamentation
Over the desirable fields and the fruitful vine.

¹³ For the ground of my people will be covered with
thorns and briars;
They will cover all the houses of rejoicing,
Yes, the city of exultation.

¹⁴ For the fortified tower has been forsaken;
The noisy city has been abandoned.
O'phel and the watchtower have become a
permanent wasteland,
A delight for wild donkeys,
A pasture for the flocks,

¹⁵ Until the spirit is poured out on us from above,
And the wilderness becomes an orchard,
And the orchard is regarded as a forest.

¹⁶ Then justice will reside in the wilderness,
And righteousness will dwell in the orchard.

¹⁷ The result of true righteousness will be peace,
And the fruitage of true righteousness will be
lasting tranquillity and security.

¹⁸ My people will dwell in a peaceful abiding place,

In secure dwellings and in tranquil resting-places.

- ¹⁹ But the hail will flatten the forest,
And the city will be completely leveled.
- ²⁰ Happy are you who sow seed alongside all waters,
Who send out the bull and the donkey.”
- 33** Woe to you, you destroyer who has not been destroyed;
You betrayer who has not been betrayed!
When you finish destroying, you will be destroyed.
When you finish betraying, you will be betrayed.
- ² O Jehovah, show us favor.
Our hope is in you.
Become our arm every morning,
Yes, our salvation in the time of distress.
- ³ At the sound of turmoil peoples flee.
When you rise up, nations scatter.
- ⁴ As the voracious locusts gather, so your spoil will be gathered;
People will rush on it like swarms of locusts.
- ⁵ Jehovah will be exalted,
For he resides in the heights above.
He will fill Zion with justice and righteousness.
- ⁶ He is the stability of your times;

An abundance of salvation, wisdom, knowledge,
and the fear of Jehovah
—This is his treasure.

⁷ Look! Their heroes cry out in the street;
The messengers of peace weep bitterly.

⁸ The highways are deserted;
There is no one traveling on the pathways.
He has broken the covenant;
He has rejected the cities;
He shows no regard for mortal man.

⁹ The land mourns and withers away.
Leb'a-non is ashamed; it has decayed.
Shar'on has become like the desert,
And Ba'shan and Car'mel shake off their leaves.

¹⁰ “Now I will rise up,” says Jehovah,
“Now I will exalt myself;
Now I will magnify myself.

¹¹ You conceive dried grass and give birth to stubble.
Your own spirit will consume you like a fire.

¹² And peoples will become as the burnings of lime.
As thorns cut down, they will be set ablaze with
fire.

¹³ You who are far away, listen to what I will do!
And you who are nearby, acknowledge my
might!

- 14 The sinners in Zion are in dread;
Trembling has seized the apostates:
‘Who of us can live where there is a consuming
fire?
Who of us can live with unquenchable flames?’
- 15 The one who walks in continual righteousness,
Who speaks what is upright,
Who rejects dishonest, fraudulent gain,
Whose hands refuse a bribe rather than
grabbing it,
Who closes his ear to talk of bloodshed,
And who shuts his eyes to avoid seeing what is
bad
- 16 —He will reside in the heights;
His secure refuge will be in rocky strongholds,
His bread will be provided,
And his water supply will never fail.”
- 17 Your eyes will behold a king in his splendor;
They will see a land far away.
- 18 In your heart you will recall the terror:
“Where is the secretary?
Where is the one who weighed out the tribute?
Where is the one who counted the towers?”
- 19 You will no more see the insolent people,
A people whose language is too obscure to
comprehend,

Whose stammering tongue you cannot understand.

- ²⁰ Behold Zion, the city of our festivals!
Your eyes will see Jerusalem as a tranquil dwelling place,
A tent that will not be moved.
Never will its tent pins be pulled out,
And none of its ropes will be torn apart.
- ²¹ But there the Majestic One, Jehovah,
Will be for us a region of rivers, of wide canals,
Where no galley fleet will go
And no majestic ships will pass by.
- ²² For Jehovah is our Judge,
Jehovah is our Lawgiver,
Jehovah is our King;
He is the One who will save us.
- ²³ Your ropes will hang loose;
They cannot hold up the mast nor spread the sail.
At that time an abundance of spoil will be divided up;
Even the lame will take much plunder.
- ²⁴ And no resident will say: "I am sick."
The people dwelling in the land will be pardoned for their error.

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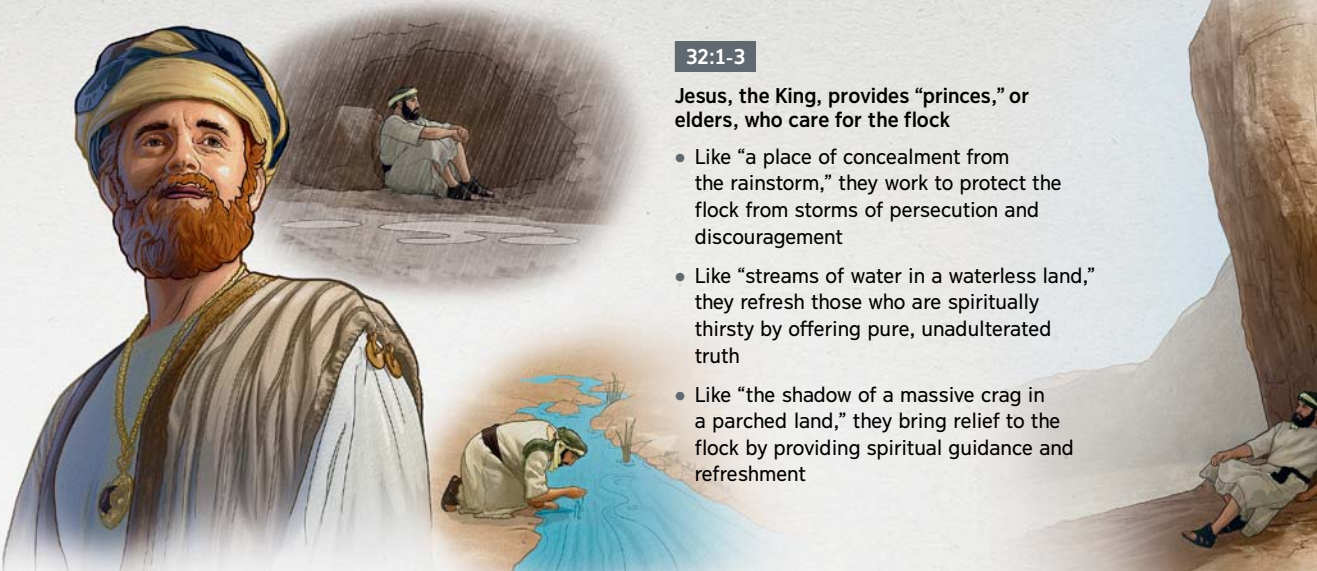
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January 9-15

Treasures From God's Word

Isaiah 32:1—The King who will reign for righteousness is Jesus Christ

Reference: *w14 2/15 6* **paragraph 13**.

Christ also sallies forth 'in the cause of righteousness.' The righteousness that the King defends is "God's righteousness"—Jehovah's standards of what is right and what is wrong. (**Romans 3:21**; **Deuteronomy 32:4**) About the King Jesus Christ, Isaiah prophesied: "A king will reign for righteousness." (**Isaiah 32:1**) Jesus' reign will usher in the promised "new heavens" and "new earth," wherein "righteousness is to dwell." (**2 Peter 3:13**) Every inhabitant of that new world will be required to conform to Jehovah's standards.—**Isaiah 11:1-5**.

Isaiah 32:2—The enthroned Jesus provides princes to care for the flock

Reference: *ip-1 332-334* **paragraphs 7-8**.

7 In his great prophecy describing the distressful "conclusion of the system of things," Jesus said: "See that you are not terrified." (Matthew 24:3-8) Why are Jesus' followers not terrified by today's dangerous world conditions? One reason is that the "princes"—

whether they be anointed or “other sheep”—are loyally protecting the flock. (John 10:16) They fearlessly care for their brothers and sisters, even in the face of such horrors as ethnic wars and genocide. In a spiritually exhausted world, they see to it that depressed souls are refreshed by the upbuilding truths of God’s Word, the Bible.

8 During the past 50 years, the “princes” have come clearly into view. “Princes” who are of the other sheep are being trained as a developing “chieftain” class so that after the great tribulation, qualified ones from among them will be ready for appointment to serve in an administrative capacity in the “new earth.” (**Ezekiel 44:2, 3**; 2 Peter 3:13) By providing spiritual guidance and refreshment as they take the lead in Kingdom service, they are proving themselves to be “like the shadow of a heavy crag,” bringing relief to the flock in its realm of worship.

Isaiah 32:3, 4—Jehovah’s people are given instruction and training that help them demonstrate righteousness

Reference: *ip-1* 334-335 paragraphs 10-11.

Paying Attention With Eyes, Ears, and Hearts

10 How have the great crowd responded to Jehovah’s theocratic arrangement? The prophecy continues: “The eyes of those seeing will not be pasted together, and the very ears of those hearing will pay attention.”

(Isaiah 32:3) Over the years, Jehovah has provided for the instruction and bringing to maturity of his precious servants. The Theocratic Ministry School and other meetings operating in the congregations of Jehovah’s Witnesses worldwide; the district, national, and international conventions; as well as the specialized training of the “princes” to treat the flock with loving care have all contributed to the building up of a united, global brotherhood of millions. Wherever these shepherds are on earth, their ears are wide open to adjustments in understanding of the advancing word of truth. With Bible-trained consciences, they are ever ready to hear and to obey.—Psalm 25:10.

11 The prophecy then cautions: “The heart itself of those who are overhasty will consider knowledge, and even the tongue of the stammerers will be quick in speaking clear things.” (Isaiah 32:4) Let no one be

overhasty in drawing conclusions about what is right and what is wrong. The Bible says: “Have you beheld a man hasty with his words? There is more hope for someone stupid than for him.” (Proverbs 29:20; Ecclesiastes 5:2) Before 1919, even Jehovah’s people were tainted with Babylonish ideas. But starting in that year, Jehovah has given them a clearer understanding of his purposes. They have found the truths he has revealed to be, not overhasty, but well thought out, and they are now speaking with the certainty of belief, not stammering with uncertainty.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Isaiah 30:21—In what ways does Jehovah communicate with his servants?

Reference: *w14 8/15 21* **paragraph 2.**

Today, Jehovah guides his people by means of the Bible, his holy spirit, and the congregation. (**Acts 9:31; 15:28; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17**) The guidance that we receive from him is so clear that it is as if ‘our own ears hear a word behind us saying: “This is the way. Walk in it.”’ (**Isaiah 30:21**) In effect, Jesus also conveys Jehovah’s voice to us as he directs the congregation through “the faithful and discreet slave.” (**Matthew 24:45**) We need to take this guidance and direction seriously, for our everlasting life depends on our obedience.—**Hebrews 5:9.**

Isaiah 33:22—When and how did Jehovah become Judge, Lawgiver, and King for the nation of Israel?

Reference: w14 10/15 14 **paragraph 4**.

The *Law covenant* went into effect at Mount Sinai in 1513 B.C.E. By means of that covenant, the ancient nation of Israel was set apart as God's chosen nation. Jehovah now became 'their Judge, their Lawgiver, and their King.' (**Isaiah 33:22**) The history of Israel provides a record of what happens when God's righteous standards are either observed or ignored. Since the Law forbade intermarrying with pagans and participation in false worship, it was designed to prevent Abraham's line of descent from being contaminated.—**Exodus 20:4-6; 34:12-16**.

- Song 103 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“A King Will Reign for Righteousness”:** (10 min.)
Isa 32:1—The King who will reign for righteousness is Jesus Christ (w14 2/15 6 ¶13)
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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Isa 30:22-33

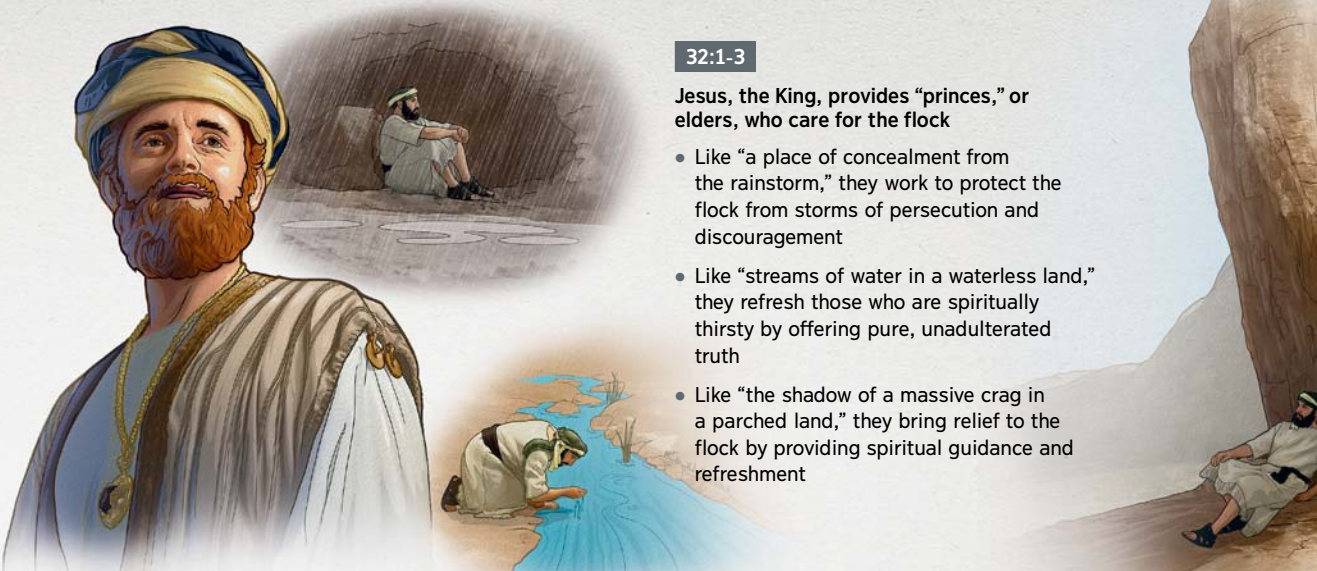
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

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ISAIAH 29-33 | “A King Will Reign for Righteousness”



32:1-3

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THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



How to Get More
From Reading the Bible



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is the Bible outdated in our modern age?
Or does it still have value? The Bible itself says:
“All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial.”
—2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

This issue of *The Watchtower* highlights examples of the Bible’s practical wisdom and offers suggestions on how to get the most out of your Bible reading.

HOW TO GET MORE FROM READING THE BIBLE

- 3 Why Read the Bible?
- 4 How Can I Get Started?
- 5 What Will Make It Interesting?
- 6 How Can the Bible Improve My Life?

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

8 THE BIBLE CHANGES LIVES

I Did Not Want to Die!

10 IMITATE THEIR FAITH | ENOCH

“He Had Pleasèd God Well”

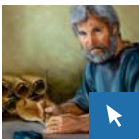
14 IS IT JUST A SMALL MISUNDERSTANDING?

16 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?



Would you welcome more information or a free home Bible study?

Visit www.jw.org, or send your request to one of the addresses below.



Are There Contradictions in the Bible?

(Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED)



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ENGLISH

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This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations.

To make a donation, please visit www.jw.org.

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

THIS MAGAZINE, *The Watchtower*, honors Jehovah God, the Ruler of the universe. It comforts people with the good news that God’s heavenly Kingdom will soon end all wickedness and transform the earth into a paradise. It promotes faith in Jesus Christ, who died so that we might gain everlasting life and who is now ruling as King of God’s Kingdom. This magazine has been published continuously since 1879 and is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

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though, that everyone who comes to meetings at the Kingdom Hall is a good associate? No, not necessarily.

CHOOSING OUR CLOSE ASSOCIATES

¹² Even within the congregation, we must be selective if our associates are to be spiritually upbuilding. Should this surprise us? Not really. Some Christians in the congregation may take longer to reach spiritual maturity, even as some fruit on a tree may take longer to ripen. Thus, in any given congregation, we find Christians who are at different levels of spiritual growth. (Hebrews 5:12–6:3) Of course, we show patience and love to newer or weaker ones, for we want to help them to grow spiritually.—Romans 14:1; 15:1.

¹³ Occasionally, there may be a situation in the congregation that calls for us to watch our association. Some individuals might engage in questionable conduct. Others may develop a bitter or complaining spirit. Congregations in the first century C.E. faced a similar challenge. While most members were faithful, some individuals did not conduct themselves aright. Because some in the congregation in Corinth did not

12, 13. (a) Why must we be selective in choosing associates even from among fellow Christians? (b) What challenge did first-century congregations face, prompting Paul to give what strong warnings?

uphold certain Christian teachings, the apostle Paul warned the congregation: “Do not be misled. Bad associations spoil useful habits.” (1 Corinthians 15:12, 33) Paul cautioned Timothy that even among fellow Christians, there might be some who do not act honorably. Timothy was told to keep clear of such ones, not making them his close associates.—2 Timothy 2:20-22.

¹⁴ How can we apply the principle behind Paul’s warnings? By avoiding close association with anyone—inside or outside the congregation—who could be a corrupting influence. (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 7, 14) We must protect our spirituality. Remember that like a sponge, we absorb the attitudes and ways of our close friends. Just as we cannot submerge a sponge in vinegar and expect it to fill with water, so we cannot associate with those who exert a negative influence and expect to absorb what is positive.—1 Corinthians 5:6.

¹⁵ Thankfully, the potential for finding wholesome associates among fellow worshippers is great indeed. (Psalm 133:1) How can you find spiritually-minded

14. How can we apply the principle behind Paul’s warnings about associations?

15. What can you do to find spiritually-minded friends in the congregation?

- Song 103 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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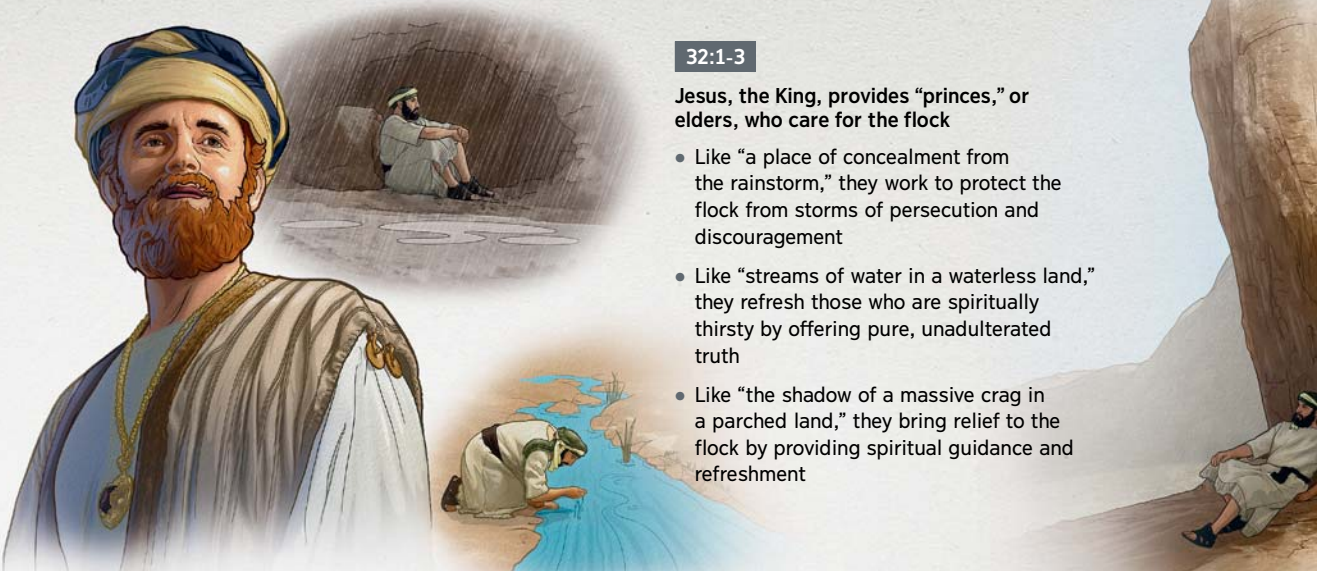
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Come! Be Refreshed

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. We live in a world that is wayward and lost;
The way of our God is not known.
We need sure direction to safeguard our steps;
We cannot succeed on our own.

Our meetings refresh us and brighten our hope;
They help us build faith in our God.
They move us with words that incite to fine deeds,
They give us the strength to go on.

We'll never forsake what Jehovah commands;
His will is what we want to do.
Our meetings instruct us in ways that are right;
Our love for the truth they renew.
2. Jehovah is keenly aware of our needs;
His counsel by us should be heard.
To buy out the time for occasions to meet
Shows wisdom and trust in his Word.

By wholesome instruction from God-fearing men,
We learn how our faith can be shown.
With loving support from our fam'ly of faith,
We know that we're never alone.

So as we look forward to much better times,
We'll meet with the ones whom we love.
And here at these meetings we'll learn how to live
With wisdom that comes from above.

- Song 103 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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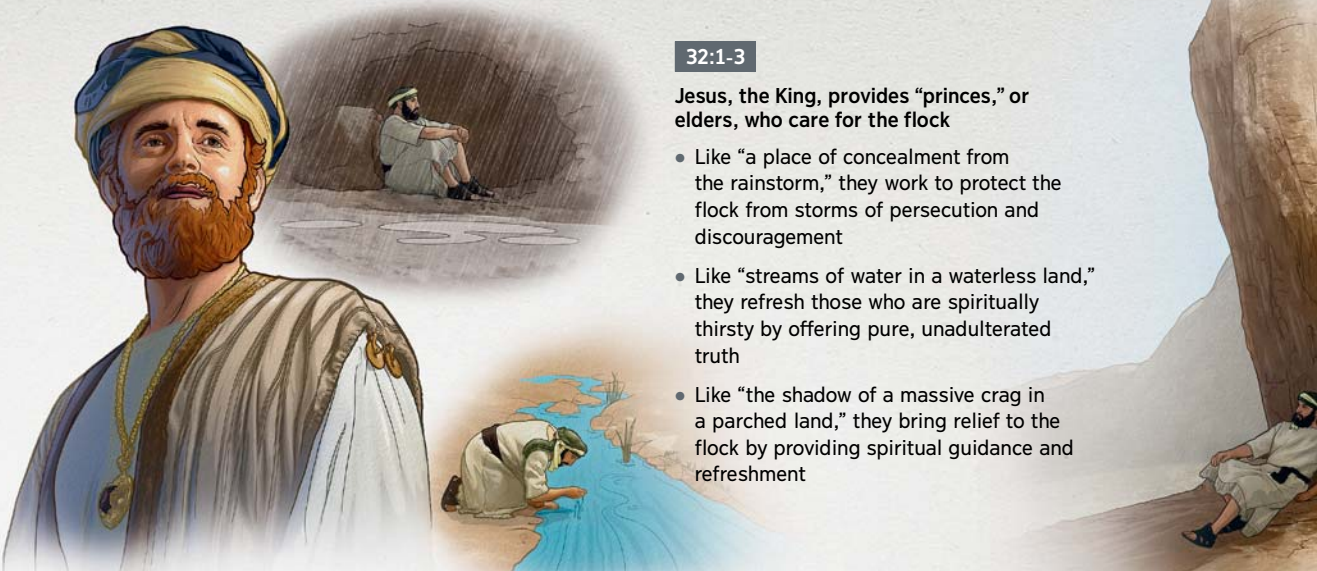
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dence that Jehovah and Jesus have in loyal Kingdom supporters.

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

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?

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 counted it a privilege to share the Kingdom message. *The Watch Tower* of March 15, 1926, put it this way: “The faithful will be volunteers . . . to tell this message to the people.” Such faithful ones lived up to the prophetic words found at Psalm 110:3 and

*^[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.

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

proved themselves to be willing supporters of the Messianic King.

¹⁸ Over the past 100 years, millions have offered themselves willingly to carry out the work of Kingdom proclamation. In the next few chapters, we will discuss *how* they have preached—the methods and the tools they have used—and *what* the results have been. First, though, let us discuss *why* millions have shared in this Kingdom-preaching work voluntarily, despite living in a me-first world. As we consider why, we do well to ask ourselves, ‘Why do I share the good news with others?’

“Keep . . . Seeking First the Kingdom”

¹⁹ Jesus counseled his followers to “keep . . . seeking first the Kingdom.” (Matt. 6:33) Why do we heed that counsel? Basically, because we recognize the importance of the Kingdom, that it is central to God’s purpose. As we saw in the preceding chapter, the holy spirit has gradually revealed thrilling truths about the Kingdom. When precious Kingdom truth touches our heart, we feel impelled to seek first that Kingdom.

19. Why do we heed Jesus’ counsel to “keep . . . seeking first the Kingdom”?

Like a man overjoyed
at finding a hidden treasure,
Christians rejoice that they
have found Kingdom truth
(See paragraph 20)



²⁰ Jesus knew how his followers would respond to the counsel to keep seeking first the Kingdom. Consider his illustration of the hidden treasure. (**Read Matthew 13:44.**) In the course of his daily work, the field laborer in the illustration happens to find a hidden treasure and immediately recognizes its value. What does he do? “Because of his joy, he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.” What is the lesson for us? When we find Kingdom truth and recognize its value, we will joyfully make whatever sacrifices are needed so that we may keep Kingdom interests where they belong—first in our life. ^{*[4]}

²¹ Loyal Kingdom supporters show by deeds, not mere words, that they are seeking first the Kingdom.

^{*[4]} Jesus made a similar point in his illustration of a traveling merchant who goes out in search of a pearl of high value. When the merchant finds it, he sells everything he has and buys it. (Matt. 13:45, 46) The two parables also teach us that we may learn of Kingdom truth in different ways. Some stumble upon it, so to speak; others search for it. But no matter how we find the truth, we are willing to make sacrifices in order to put the Kingdom first in our life.

20. How does Jesus’ illustration of the hidden treasure show how his followers would respond to the counsel to keep seeking first the Kingdom?

21, 22. How do loyal Kingdom supporters show that they are seeking first the Kingdom? Give an example.

They devote their lives, their abilities, and their resources to the Kingdom-preaching work. Many have made great sacrifices in order to pursue the full-time ministry. All such willing preachers have seen firsthand that Jehovah blesses those who put the Kingdom first. Consider an example from the early days.

²² Avery and Lovenia Bristow served together as colporteurs (pioneers) in the southern United States starting in the late 1920's. Years later, Lovenia recalled: "Avery and I have had many happy years together in the pioneer work since then. There have been many times when we did not know where the money for gasoline or groceries would come from. But one way or another, Jehovah always provided. We just kept on keeping on. We always had what we actually needed." Lovenia remembered one occasion when they were serving in Pensacola, Florida, and were low on money and groceries. They came home to their trailer and found two large bags of groceries along with a note that read, "With love from the Pensacola Company." *^[5] Reflecting on her decades in the full-time ministry, Lovenia said: "Jehovah

*^[5] Congregations were then called companies.

never forsakes us. He never betrays the trust we put in him.”

²³ We cannot all do the same amount of preaching. Our circumstances vary. However, all of us can count it a privilege to declare the good news whole-souled. (Col. 3:23) Because we prize the precious Kingdom truth we have found, we are willing—yes, eager—to make whatever sacrifices we can in order to serve to the fullest extent possible. Is that not your determination?

²⁴ Over the past century, the King has indeed been fulfilling his prophetic words recorded at Matthew 24:14. And he has done so without using coercion. After coming out of this self-centered world, his followers have willingly offered themselves to preach. Their earth-wide preaching of the good news is part of the sign of Jesus’ presence in Kingdom power—and one of the Kingdom’s greatest accomplishments in the last days.

23. How do you feel about the Kingdom truth that you have found, and what are you determined to do?

24. What is one of the Kingdom’s greatest accomplishments in the last days?

How Real Is the Kingdom to You?

- Why was Jesus confident that he would have willing supporters in the last days?
- How has the faithful and discreet slave emphasized the responsibility of all to have a personal share in preaching?
- How do you feel about the Kingdom truth you have found, and how can you show that you are seeking first the Kingdom?

21 *Keep On Seeking First the Kingdom*

(Matthew 6:33)

1. Something precious to Jehovah,
Bringing him such keen delight,
Is his Kingdom by Christ Jesus,
Which will set all matters right.

(CHORUS)

*Keep on seeking first the Kingdom
And Jehovah's righteousness.
Sing his praise among the nations,
Serving him in faithfulness.*

2. Why be anxious for tomorrow,
'Will we hunger, will we thirst?'
For our God will make provision
If we seek his Kingdom first.

(Chorus)

3. So declare the Kingdom good news;
Help deserving ones to see
That their hope is in Jehovah
And in his Theocracy.

(Chorus)

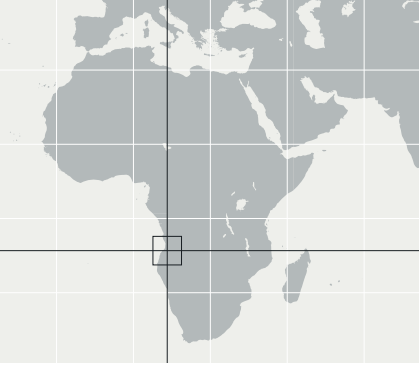
NOVEMBER 2016

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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November 2016
Vol. 137, No. 17 ENGLISH

96 *God's Own Book—A Treasure*

(Proverbs 2:1)

1. There is a book that by its many pages,
 Brings peace and joy and hope to humankind.
Its wondrous thoughts are charged with such great power;
 It brings life to the “dead,” sight to the “blind.”
That precious book is God's own Holy Bible.
 Its words were penned by men whom God inspired,
By men who truly loved their God Jehovah,
 And by his holy spirit they were fired.

2. They wrote a record true of God's creations,
 How by his might this universe appeared.
They also told how man at first was sinless
 But how his Paradise then disappeared.
They further told about a certain angel
 Who challenged God and spurned his sov'reignty.
That challenge led to sin and man's great sorrow,
 But soon will come Jehovah's victory.

3. The time has come with reason for rejoicing:
 Jehovah rules by his anointed King.
So now we preach the good news of the Kingdom
 And share the hope of blessings it will bring.
Within his book are found these cheerful tidings;
 A sacred banquet feast on which to feed.
It offers peace beyond all human thinking;
 This Living Treasure beckons all to read.

(See also 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.)

Do You Highly Esteem Jehovah's Own Book?

“When you received God’s word, . . . you accepted it . . . just as it truthfully is, as the word of God.”
—1 THESS. 2:13.

SONGS: 96, 94

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What counsel does the Bible give about controlling our emotions?

Why can we say that Jehovah’s chariot is on the move?

How can you show that you fully support Jehovah’s organization?

JEHOVAH’S servants highly esteem God’s own holy book, the Bible. Being imperfect, we all receive Scriptural counsel at times. How will we respond to it? Consider the first-century Christians Euodia and Syntyche. Serious problems arose between these anointed women. What problems? The Bible does not say. But for the sake of illustration, consider the following possibility.

2 Suppose Euodia invited some brothers and sisters to her

1-3. How might the differences between Euodia and Syntyche have arisen, and how can such problems be avoided? (See opening picture of the standard edition.)

home for a meal and pleasant association. Syntyche was not invited, but she heard about the good time that everyone had. Syntyche may have said: ‘I cannot believe that Euodia did not invite me! I thought we were best friends.’ Feeling betrayed, Syntyche began to look at Euodia with doubt and even suspicion. So Syntyche arranged her own gathering and invited the same brothers and sisters—but not Euodia! The problem that existed between Euodia and Syntyche could have disrupted the peace of the whole congregation. The Bible does not tell us the outcome, but these sisters may have responded well to the apostle Paul’s loving counsel.—Phil. 4:2, 3.

3 Similar situations sometimes cause difficulties in congregations of Jehovah’s people today. However, such problems can be solved or even avoided if we apply the counsel found in God’s Word, the Bible. And if we highly esteem Jehovah’s own Book, we will live by its instructions.—Ps. 27:11.

GOD’S OWN BOOK AND HUMAN EMOTIONS

4 It is not easy to control our emotions when we feel that we have been slighted or treated unjustly. It can be devastating if we are mistreated because of our ethnic background, the color of our skin, or some other physical difference. How much greater the pain is if it is caused by a fellow Christian!

4, 5. What counsel does God’s Word give us about controlling our emotions?

Does God's Word provide counsel to help us if we face this ugly side of imperfect human behavior?

5 Jehovah has observed human relations since mankind's beginning. He takes note of our emotions and actions. Thoughts, including those that are emotionally charged, can lead to words and actions we may later regret. How wise it is to apply the Bible's counsel to control our temper and avoid being quick to take offense! (Read Proverbs 16:32; Ecclesiastes 7:9.) No doubt all of us need to work at being less sensitive and more forgiving. Jehovah and Jesus take forgiveness very seriously. (Matt. 6:14, 15) Do you need to be more forgiving or to give attention to controlling your emotions?

6 People who fail to control their emotions often become bitter. As a result, others may not want to be around them. A bitter individual can exert a bad influence in the congregation. He may try to disguise his bitterness or even his hatred, but negative thoughts lurking in his heart "will be exposed in the congregation." (Prov. 26:24-26) The elders may be able to help such individuals to see that bitterness, hatred, and the harboring of grudges are traits that have no place in God's organization. Jehovah's own priceless Book is very clear about this. (Lev. 19:17, 18; Rom. 3:11-18) Do you agree with it?

6. Why should we guard against bitterness?

REMEMBER HOW WE ARE BEING LED

7 Jehovah leads and feeds those in the earthly part of his organization by means of “the faithful and discreet slave” under the direction of Christ, the “head of the congregation.” (Matt. 24:45-47; Eph. 5:23) Like the first-century governing body, this slave accepts God’s inspired word, or message, and highly esteems it. (Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.) What are some directives, or instructions, provided in the Bible for our benefit?

8 The Bible directs us to attend meetings regularly. (Heb. 10:24, 25) It urges us to promote unity of doctrine. (1 Cor. 1:10) God’s Word tells us to give the Kingdom first place in our lives. (Matt. 6:33) The Scriptures also emphasize our duty and privilege to preach from house to house, in public places, and informally. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 5:42; 17:17; 20:20) God’s own Book directs Christian elders to keep his organization clean. (1 Cor. 5:1-5, 13; 1 Tim. 5:19-21) And Jehovah decrees that all those in his organization must be clean physically and spiritually.—2 Cor. 7:1.

9 Some may feel that they can interpret the Bible on their

7, 8. (a) How does Jehovah lead the earthly part of his organization? (b) What are some of the directives found in God’s Word, and why should we obey them?

9. What is the only channel that is being used to help us understand God’s Word?

own. However, Jesus has appointed the ‘faithful slave’ to be the only channel for dispensing spiritual food. Since 1919, the glorified Jesus Christ has been using that slave to help his followers understand God’s own Book and heed its directives. By obeying the instructions found in the Bible, we promote cleanness, peace, and unity in the congregation. Each one of us does well to ask himself, ‘Am I loyal to the channel that Jesus is using today?’

JEHOVAH’S CHARIOT IS ON THE MOVE!

10 Jehovah’s written Word acquaints us with the heavenly part of his organization. For example, the prophet Ezekiel received a vision in which the heavenly part of God’s organization is represented by a celestial chariot. (Ezek. 1:4-28) Jehovah rides on this chariot, and it goes wherever his spirit impels it to go. In turn, the heavenly part of his organization influences the earthly part. The chariot certainly has been on the move! Think about the many organizational changes that have been made during the past decade—and bear in mind that Jehovah is behind such developments. With Christ and the holy angels about to destroy this wicked world, Jehovah’s chariot is rapidly moving toward the vindication of his sovereignty and the sanctification of his holy name!

10. How is the heavenly part of Jehovah’s organization described in the book of Ezekiel?

11 Reflect on what the earthly part of God's organization has been accomplishing in these last days. *Construction*. Hundreds of workers were very busy building the new headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses at Warwick, New York, U.S.A. Under the direction of the Worldwide Design/Construction Department, thousands of volunteers worldwide are working hard to build new Kingdom Halls and expand branch facilities. How thankful we are for the many willing volunteers who work tirelessly on such projects! Remember that Jehovah is blessing the Kingdom proclaimers earth wide who humbly and loyally contribute what they can to help finance such projects.—Luke 21:1-4.

12 *Education*. Consider the various schools that promote divine education. (Isa. 2:2, 3) We have the Pioneer Service School, the School for Kingdom Evangelizers, Gilead School, Bethel Entrants' School, the School for Circuit Overseers and Their Wives, the School for Congregation Elders, the Kingdom Ministry School, and the School for Branch Committee Members and Their Wives. How Jehovah loves to educate his people! Bible education is also promoted on our website, jw.org, where we have literature available in hundreds of languages. The site has special sections for children and for families as well as a section with news items. Have you been using jw.org in your ministry and in your family worship?

11, 12. What are some things being accomplished by Jehovah's organization?

SHOW LOYALTY TO JEHOVAH AND SUPPORT HIS ORGANIZATION

13 What a privilege it is to be part of Jehovah's organization! With our knowledge of God's requirements and standards comes the responsibility to do what is right and uphold his sovereignty. As this world sinks deeper and deeper into debauchery, we must "hate what is bad," as Jehovah does. (Ps. 97:10) We refuse to join the ungodly and say: "Good is bad and bad is good." (Isa. 5:20) Because we want to please God, we strive to remain clean physically, morally, and spiritually. (1 Cor. 6:9-11) We love Jehovah and put our trust in him; we choose to show our loyalty to him by living up to the standards clearly outlined in his own precious Book. And we make every effort to comply with those standards at home, in the congregation, on the job, at school—everywhere. (Prov. 15:3) Consider further ways we can prove our loyalty to God.

14 *Child-rearing.* Christian parents display loyalty to Jehovah by training their children according to his Word. Godly parents are not unduly influenced by local cultural views about child-rearing. The spirit of the world is unacceptable in a Christian home. (Eph. 2:2) A baptized Christian father will not think, 'Well, in our country the women teach the children.' The Bible is clear on this subject when it says: "Fathers, . . . go on bringing [your children] up in the discipline and

13. What responsibility do we as Jehovah's loyal worshippers have?

14. How can Christian parents show loyalty to God?

admonition [instruction; guidance] of Jehovah.” (Eph. 6:4; ftn.) God-fearing fathers and mothers want their children to be like Samuel, for Jehovah was with him while he was growing up.—1 Sam. 3:19.

15 *Making decisions.* When we make major decisions in life, one way to demonstrate our loyalty to God is by seeking help from his written Word and organization. To illustrate the importance of doing so, consider a sensitive subject that affects many parents. It is a practice among certain immigrants to send their newborn babies to relatives to be cared for so that the parents can continue working and making money in their new country. Yes, this is a personal decision, but we should bear in mind that God holds us responsible for the decisions we make. (Read Romans 14:12.) Would it be wise to make important decisions about our family and our livelihood without first consulting the Bible? Of course not! We need our heavenly Father’s help because we are unable to direct our own steps.—Jer. 10:23.

16 One woman who gave birth to a baby boy while living in a foreign country was going to send the child back to her homeland to be cared for by his grandparents. At the time of the birth, one of Jehovah’s Witnesses began to study the Bi-

15. How do we show our loyalty to Jehovah when we are making major decisions?

16. When her son was born, what choice did one mother have to make, and what helped her to make the right one?

ble with the woman. She made good progress and learned that it was her God-given duty to raise her child to worship Jehovah. (Ps. 127:3; Prov. 22:6) The young woman poured out her heart to Jehovah, as the Scriptures tell us to do. (Ps. 62: 7, 8) She also opened her heart to her Bible teacher and spoke to others in the congregation. Despite pressure from her relatives and friends to send her child to the grandparents, she concluded that it was not right to do so. Her husband was so impressed by the way the congregation proved to be a refuge for her and the baby that he accepted a Bible study and began to attend meetings with his wife and child. Do you think that this mother felt that Jehovah answered her heartfelt prayer? Undoubtedly, she did feel that way.

17 Following direction. An important way that we display loyalty to God is by following the direction we receive from his organization. For example, consider the suggestions we have been given regarding our Bible students. It has been recommended that soon after establishing a personal study with someone in the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* we take a few minutes after each study to direct the student's attention to the organization. We can do this by using the video *What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?* and the brochure *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?* It has been suggested that when we finish studying the *Bible Teach* book with a

17. What direction have we received regarding Bible students?

progressive student, we study the book *“Keep Yourselfes in God’s Love”* with him, even if he is baptized by that time. The organization has given this direction so that new disciples will be “stabilized in the faith.” (Col. 2:7) Are you following such suggestions from Jehovah’s organization?

18 There are many reasons why we should be thankful to Jehovah! We owe him our very life, for without him we would not even move or exist. (Acts 17:27, 28) He has given us a very precious gift—his own book, the Bible. We gratefully accept it as God’s message, even as the Christians in Thessalonica received God’s word and accepted it.—1 Thess. 2:13.

19 With the written Word of God in hand, we have drawn close to Jehovah and he has drawn close to us. (Jas. 4:8) Our heavenly Father has granted us the wonderful privilege of being part of his organization. How we appreciate such blessings! The psalmist put matters beautifully when he sang: “Give thanks to Jehovah, for he is good; his loyal love endures forever.” (Ps. 136:1) Twenty-six times in Psalm 136, we find the refrain “his loyal love endures forever.” By proving loyal to Jehovah and his organization, we will experience the truthfulness of those heartening words because we will live forever!

18, 19. What are some reasons why we should be thankful to Jehovah?

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Grateful for God's Word

(Philippians 2:16)

1. Jehovah, our Father, we want to express
How grateful we are that your Word we possess!
All Scripture is inspired;
its truth has set us free.
Its light gives us knowledge; the truth we can see.
2. Your Word has the power to reach deep inside.
Our thoughts and intentions, it helps to divide.
Your laws are clear and perfect,
your judgments ever true.
Your principles guide us in all that we do.
3. Your Word, O Jehovah, has human appeal.
Your prophets were like us; they felt what we feel.
Please help us build a strong faith
that follows what is heard.
We thank you, Jehovah, for your precious Word!