

- 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

Shepherds—Gifts in Men

(Ephesians 4:8)

C G/C F/C C F/C C D/C G/B

Help in our lives, Je - ho - vah pro - vides, Shep-herds to tend his flock.
 Shep-herds who love us care how we feel; Gent - ly they guide the way.
 God - ly ad - vice and coun - sel they give, That we may nev - er stray.

C G/B F/A C/G F Dm7 E7sus4 E7

By their ex - am - ple they serve as guides, Show - ing us how to walk.
 When we are hurt, they help us to heal, Kind in the words they say.
 Thus they as - sist us, God's way to live, Serv - ing him ev - 'ry day.

Chorus
Am F F/G G/F C/E Dm7 C/E D7/F# G

God gives us men who have earned our trust, Men who are loy - al and true.

Am F E7 Am F C/G G7 C

They show con - cern for his pre - cious sheep; Love them for all that they do.

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 prac-
tical 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 earth-
quake 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^l

—All those waging war
against her,

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

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.^a

9 Be stunned and amazed;^b
Blind yourselves and be
blinded.^c
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;^d
He has closed your eyes,
the prophets,^e
And he has covered your
heads, the visionaries.^f

11 Every vision becomes for
you like the words of a sealed
book.^g 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,^h
But their heart is far
removed from me;

29:8 *Or “and his soul is empty.” [#]Or
“and his soul is parched.”

CHAP. 29

a Isa 10:12
Jer 51:24

b Hab 1:5

c Isa 6:9

d Isa 6:10
Ro 11:8

e Jer 14:14
Jer 27:15

f Mic 3:7

g Isa 8:16

h Isa 48:1
Jer 5:2

Second Col.

a Mt 15:7-9
Mr 7:6-8

b Isa 28:21
Hab 1:5

c Jer 8:9
1Co 1:19

d Isa 30:1

e Eze 8:12

f Isa 64:8

g Jer 18:6

h Ro 9:20, 21

i Isa 35:1
Isa 41:19

j Isa 32:14, 15

k Isa 35:5
Isa 42:16

l Isa 41:16

And their fear of me is based
on commands of men that
they have been taught.^a

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

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

16 How you twist things!*
Should the potter be regard-
ed the same as the clay?^f
Should what is made say
about its maker:
“He did not make me?”^g
And does what is formed
say about its former:
“He shows no understand-
ing?”^h

17 In just a short time, Leb'-
a-non will be turned into
an orchard,ⁱ
And the orchard will be
regarded as a forest.^j

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.^k

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

20 For the tyrant will be
no more,
The boaster will come
to his finish,

29:15 *Or “counsel.” 29:16 *Or “How
perverse of you!”

And all those keeping alert
to do harm will be de-
stroyed,^a

- 21** Those who with a false word
make others guilty,
Who lay traps for the defend-
er* in the city gate,^b
And who with empty
arguments deny justice to
the righteous one.^c

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

"Jacob will no longer be
ashamed,
And no more will his face
grow pale."^e

- 23** For when he sees his
children,
Who are the work of my
hands, in his midst,^f
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.^g

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

30 "Woe to the stubborn
sons,"^h declares
Jehovah,

"Who carry out plans that
are not mine,ⁱ
Who make alliances,* but
not by my spirit,
In order to add sin to sin.

- 2** They go down to Egypt^j
without consulting me,^{*k}
To take shelter under
Phar'aoh's protection[#]
And to take refuge in the
shadow of Egypt!

29:21 *Lit., "the one reproving." **29:22**

*That is, from shame and disappoint-
ment. **30:1** *Lit., "pour out a libation,"
evidently referring to making an agree-
ment. **30:2** *Or "without inquiring of
my mouth." #Lit., "in the stronghold of
Pharaoh."

CHAP. 29

- a Mic 2:1
b Am 5:10
c Eze 13:19
d Ne 9:7
Mic 7:20
e Joe 2:7
f Isa 45:11
g Isa 8:13
Ho 3:5

CHAP. 30

- h Isa 1:2
Isa 63:10
Isa 65:2
i Isa 29:15
j Isa 31:1
Eze 29:6
k Nu 27:21
1Ki 22:7

Second Col.

- a Jer 17:5
b Isa 19:11
Eze 30:14
c Isa 31:3
Jer 2:36
d Isa 31:1
Jer 37:7, 8
e Ps 87:4
Ps 89:10
f Isa 8:1
Jer 36:2
g Ro 15:4
h De 31:27
Isa 1:4
Jer 44:3
i Isa 59:3
Jer 9:3
j 2Ch 33:10
2Ch 36:15, 16
Ne 9:29
Jer 7:13
k 2Ch 16:10
2Ch 18:7
Jer 11:21
Jer 26:11
l Jer 23:16, 17
Eze 13:7
Mic 2:11

- 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.^a

- 4** For his princes are in Zo'an,^b
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."^c

- 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.^d
So I have called this one:
"Ra'hab,^e who sits still."

- 8** "Now go, write it on a tablet
in their presence,
And inscribe it in a book,^f
So that it may serve for a
future day

As a permanent witness.^g

- 9** For they are a rebellious
people,^h deceitful sons,ⁱ
Sons who are unwilling to
hear the law* of Jehovah.^j

- 10** They say to the seers,
'Do not see,'
And to the visionaries, 'Do
not tell us truthful visions.^k
Tell us flattering* things; en-
vision deceptive illusions.'^l

30:6 *Or "the darting poisonous
snake." **30:9** *Or "instruction."
30:10 *Lit., "smooth."

- 11** Turn aside from the way;
deviate from the path.
Quit putting before us the
Holy One of Israel.”^a
- 12** Therefore this is what the
Holy One of Israel says:
“Since you reject this word^b
And you trust in fraud and
deceit
And you rely on these,^c
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 Sov-
ereign 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.”^d
But you were unwilling.^e
- 16** Instead, you said: “No, we
will flee on horses!”
So flee you will.
“And on swift horses we
will ride!”^f
So those pursuing you will
be swift.^g
- 17** A thousand will tremble at
the threat of one;^h
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.ⁱ

30:14 *Or possibly, “a cistern.”

CHAP. 30

- a Am 7:13, 16
b Am 2:4, 5
c Jer 13:25
Mic 3:11
d 1Ch 5:20
2Ch 16:8
Isa 26:3
e Mt 23:37
Ac 7:51
f Isa 31:1, 3
g De 28:49, 50
Jer 4:13
La 4:19
Hab 1:6, 8
h Le 26:36
De 32:30
i Eze 12:16

Second Col.

- a Ex 34:6
Eze 36:9, 10
b Ps 102:13
Ro 9:15
c Ps 99:4
Jer 10:24
d Jer 17:7
e Ne 11:1
Isa 44:28
Isa 62:1
Jer 31:6
Zec 1:17
f Ne 12:27
Isa 61:3
g Jer 29:11, 12
h Le 26:26
Ps 80:5
i Job 36:22
Ps 32:8
Ps 71:17
Ps 119:102
j Ps 25:8, 9
k De 5:32
Jos 1:7, 8
Pr 4:27
l Ex 32:4
De 7:5, 25
Jg 17:3, 4
m Ho 14:8
Zec 13:2
n Ps 65:9
Zec 10:1
o Ho 2:21, 22
p Isa 65:10
q Isa 41:18
Isa 44:3

- 18** But Jehovah is waiting pa-
tiently* to show you favor,^a
And he will rise up to show
you mercy.^b
For Jehovah is a God of
justice.^c
Happy are all those keeping
in expectation of^d him.^d

19 When the people dwell in
Zion, in Jerusalem,^e you will by
no means weep.^f He will sure-
ly show you favor at the sound
of your cry for help; he will an-
swer you as soon as he hears it.^g
20 Though Jehovah will give
you bread in the form of dis-
tress and water in the form of
oppression,^h your Grand Instruc-
tor will no longer hide himself,
and you will see your Grand In-
structorⁱ with your own eyes.
21 And your own ears will hear
a word behind you saying, “This
is the way!^j Walk in it,” in case
you should go to the right or in
case you should go to the left.^k

22 And you will defile the sil-
ver overlay of your graven im-
ages and the golden plating of
your metal statues.^l You will
cast them away like a men-
strual cloth and say to them, “Be
gone!”^m **23** And he will give
the rain for the seed you sow
in the ground,ⁿ and the bread
that the ground produces will
be abundant and rich.^o In that
day your livestock will graze in
spacious pastures.^p **24** And the
cattle and the donkeys that work
the ground will eat fodder sea-
soned 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 water-
courses,^q in the day of the great
slaughter when the towers fall.

30:18 *Or “keeping in expectation.”
^aOr “eagerly waiting for.” **30:22** *Or
“molten statues.” ^bOr possibly, “and
call them filth.” **30:23** *Lit., “fat and
well-oiled.”

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,^a like the light of seven days, in the day that Jehovah binds up the breakdown* of his people^b and heals the severe wound from the blow he inflicted.^c

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.^d

28 His spirit* is like a flooding torrent that reaches clear to the neck, To shake the nations in a sieve of destruction;^e And the peoples will have a bridle in their jaws^e that leads them astray.

29 But your song will be like the one sung in the night When you prepare* for a festival,^f And your heart will rejoice like one Who walks with^g a flute On his way to the mountain of Jehovah, to the Rock of Israel.^g

30 Jehovah will make his majestic voice^h heard And reveal his armⁱ as it descends in the heat of anger,^j With the flame of a consuming fire,^k A cloudburst^l and a thunderstorm and hailstones.^m

31 For because of the voice of Jehovah, As-syr'i-a will be struck with terror;ⁿ

30:26 *Or "fracture." 30:28 *Or "breath." ^aLit., "a sieve of worthlessness." 30:29 *Or "sanctify yourself." ^bOr "to the sound of."

CHAP. 30

a Isa 60:20
Re 21:23
Re 22:5

b La 2:13

c Jer 33:6
Am 9:11

d Isa 10:17
Na 1:6
Zep 3:8

e 2Ki 19:28
Ps 32:9

f De 16:14
Ps 42:4
Jer 33:10, 11

g De 32:4
Isa 26:4

h Ps 29:3, 4

i Ex 15:16
Ps 98:1

j Na 1:2

k Ps 18:13

l Jg 5:4

m Jos 10:11

n Isa 37:36

Second Col.

a Isa 10:12

b Ex 15:20
Jg 11:34

c Isa 10:24, 26

d 2Ki 23:10
Jer 7:32

e Isa 37:37, 38
Eze 32:22

CHAP. 31

f Isa 30:2

g De 17:15, 16

h Eze 29:6, 7

i Ps 33:17
Pr 21:31

He will strike it with a rod.^a

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^b

As he brandishes his arm against them in battle.^c

33 For his To'pheth*^d is already prepared;

It is also made ready for the king.^e

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,^f

Who rely on horses,^g

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.^h

3 The Egyptians, though, are mere men and not God; Their horses are flesh and not spirit.ⁱ

When Jehovah stretches out his hand,

Whoever offers help will stumble

30:33 *"Topheth" is here used as a figurative place of burning, representing destruction. 31:1 *Or "in horsemen."

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.^a

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.^b 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.^c

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.

31:4 *Or “a maned young lion.” 31:9 *Or “fire.”

CHAP. 31

a De 32:11, 12
Ps 91:4

b Isa 55:7
Joe 2:12

c 2Ki 19:35
2Ch 32:21
Isa 37:36

Second Col.

CHAP. 32

a Ge 49:10
Ps 2:6
Lu 1:32, 33
Joh 1:49

b Ps 45:6
Ps 72:1
Isa 9:7
Isa 11:4, 5
Jer 23:5
Zec 9:9
Heb 1:9
Re 19:11

c Isa 35:6

d Isa 35:6

e Mic 2:1

f Jer 5:26
Mic 7:3

32 Look! A king^a will reign for righteousness,^b
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,^c

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.^d

- 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,^e

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;^f

He promotes shameful conduct

To ruin the afflicted one with lies,^g

Even when the poor speaks what is right.

- 8 But the generous one has generous intentions,

32:2 *Or “a shelter.” [#]Or “A refuge.”

32:6 *Or “act in an irreverent way.”

[#]Or “the soul of the hungry one.”

g 1Ki 21:9, 10

And in generous* endeavors
he perseveres.

- 9 "You complacent women, get
up and listen to my voice!
You carefree daughters,^a 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.^b
- 11 Tremble, you complacent
women!
Shudder, you who are
carefree!
Strip yourselves bare,
And put sackcloth around
your hips.^c
- 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 hous-
es of rejoicing,
Yes, the city of exultation.^d
- 14 For the fortified tower has
been forsaken;
The noisy city has been
abandoned.^e
O'phel^f and the watchtower
have become a permanent
wasteland,
A delight for wild donkeys,
A pasture for the flocks,^g
- 15 Until the spirit is poured out
on us from above,^h
And the wilderness becomes
an orchard,
And the orchard is regarded
as a forest.ⁱ
- 16 Then justice will reside in
the wilderness,
And righteousness will dwell
in the orchard.^j
- 17 The result of true righteous-
ness will be peace,^k

32:8 *Or "noble."

CHAP. 32

- a Isa 3:16
b La 2:12
Zep 1:13
c Isa 3:24
d Isa 22:2
La 2:15
e 2Ki 25:9, 10
f 2Ch 27:1, 3
Ne 3:26
g Isa 27:10
h Isa 44:3
i Isa 29:17
Isa 35:1, 2
j Isa 42:1, 4
Isa 60:21
k Ps 119:165
Isa 55:12

Second Col.

- a Eze 37:26
Mic 4:3, 4
b Isa 60:18
Isa 65:22
Jer 23:6
Eze 34:25
Ho 2:18
c Isa 30:23, 24

CHAP. 33

- d 2Ki 18:13
Isa 10:5
e Isa 10:12
Na 3:7
f Ps 123:2
g Ps 44:3
Isa 52:10
h Ps 46:1
Na 1:7
i Ps 46:6
Ps 68:1
Isa 17:13
j Ps 27:1
k Pr 19:23

And the fruitage of true righ-
teousness will be lasting
tranquillity and security.^a

- 18 My people will dwell in a
peaceful abiding place,
In secure dwellings and in
tranquil resting-places.^b
- 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."^c
- 33** Woe to you, you destroyer
who has not been
destroyed;^d
You betrayer who has not
been betrayed!
When you finish destroying,
you will be destroyed.^e
When you finish betraying,
you will be betrayed.
- 2 O Jehovah, show us favor.^f
Our hope is in you.
Become our arm*^g every
morning,
Yes, our salvation in the
time of distress.^h
- 3 At the sound of turmoil
peoples flee.
When you rise up, nations
scatter.ⁱ
- 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,^j
wisdom, knowledge, and
the fear of Jehovah^k
—This is his treasure.

32:20 *Or "let loose." 33:2 *Or
"strength."

- 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.^a
- 9 The land mourns* and withers away.
Leb'a-non is ashamed;^b it has decayed.
Shar'on has become like the desert,
And Ba'shan and Car'mel shake off their leaves.^c
- 10 "Now I will rise up," says Jehovah,
"Now I will exalt myself;^d
Now I will magnify myself.
- 11 You conceive dried grass and give birth to stubble.
Your own spirit will consume you like a fire.^e
- 12 And peoples will become as the burnings of lime.
As thorns cut down, they will be set ablaze with fire.^f
- 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;^g
Trembling has seized the apostates:
'Who of us can live where there is a consuming fire?^h
Who of us can live with unquenchable flames?'
- 15 The one who walks in continual righteousness,ⁱ
Who speaks what is upright,^j
Who rejects dishonest, fraudulent gain,
Whose hands refuse a bribe rather than grabbing it,^k

CHAP. 33

a 2Ki 18:19, 20

b Isa 37:24

c Na 1:4

d Ps 46:10

e Isa 5:24

f Isa 9:18

g De 28:66, 67

h De 32:22

Na 1:6

Heb 12:29

i Eze 18:17

j 1Ch 29:17

k Ex 23:8

De 16:19

Second Col.

a 1Ki 19:5, 6

Ps 34:9, 10

Isa 65:13

b 2Ki 15:19

c De 28:49, 50

Isa 28:11

Jer 5:15

d De 12:5, 6

e Ps 125:1

f Ge 18:25

Ps 50:6

Ps 98:9

g Le 26:3

Jas 4:12

h Ps 44:4

Ps 97:1

Re 11:15, 17

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."^a
- 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?^b
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.^c
- 20 Behold Zion, the city of our festivals!^d
Your eyes will see Jerusalem as a tranquil dwelling place,
A tent that will not be moved.^e
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,^f
Jehovah is our Lawgiver,^g
Jehovah is our King,^h

33:8 *Referring to the enemy. 33:9
*Or possibly, "dries up."

33:16 *Or "secure height." 33:18 *Or
"meditate on." 33:19 *Lit., "deep."

He is the One who will
save us.^a

- 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.^b

- 24** And no resident* will say:
"I am sick."^c
The people dwelling in the
land will be pardoned for
their error.^d

- 34** Come close to hear,
you nations,
And pay attention, you
peoples.
Let the earth and that which
fills it listen,
The land and all its produce.

- 2** For Jehovah's indignation
is against all the nations,^e
And his wrath is against
all their army.^f
He will devote them to
destruction;
He will give them to the
slaughter.^g

- 3** Their slain will be thrown
out,
And the stench of their
carcasses will ascend;^h
The mountains will melt
because of* their blood.ⁱ

- 4** All the army of the heavens
will rot away,
And the heavens will be
rolled up like a scroll.
All their army will wither
away,
As a withered leaf falls from
the vine
And a shriveled fig from
the fig tree.

- 5** "For in the heavens my
sword will be drenched.^j
It will descend on E'dom
in judgment,^k

CHAP. 33

a Isa 12:2
Zep 3:17

b Isa 33:4

c De 7:15
Re 21:4
Re 22:1, 2

d Jer 50:20
Mic 7:18, 19

CHAP. 34

e Jer 25:15
Joe 3:12
Zep 3:8
Zec 14:3

f Isa 30:27
Na 1:2

g Re 19:11, 15

h Jer 25:33

i Eze 39:4

j De 32:41

k Ps 137:7
Jer 49:7, 22

Second Col.

a Le 3:16

b Isa 63:1-3
Ob 8, 9

c De 32:41
Ps 94:1

d Isa 35:4

e Mal 1:4

On the people whom
I devoted to destruction.

- 6** Jehovah has a sword; it will
be covered with blood.
It will be covered with the
fat,^a
With the blood of young
rams and goats,
With the kidney fat of rams.
For Jehovah has a sacrifice
in Boz'rah,
A great slaughter in the land
of E'dom.^b
- 7** The wild bulls will go down
with them,
The young bulls with the
powerful ones.
Their land will be drenched
in blood,
And their dust will be soaked
with fat.^c
- 8** For Jehovah has a day of
vengeance,^c
A year of retribution for the
legal case over Zion.^d
- 9** Her* streams will be changed
into pitch,
And her dust into sulfur,
And her land will become
like burning pitch.
- 10** By night or by day it will not
be extinguished;
Its smoke will keep
ascending forever.
From generation to gener-
ation she will remain
devastated;
No one will pass through her
forever and ever.^e
- 11** The pelican and the porcu-
pine will possess her,
And long-eared owls and
ravens will reside in her.
He will stretch out over
her the measuring line of
emptiness
And the plumb line* of
desolation.
- 12** None of her nobles will be
called to the kingship,

34:9 *Evidently referring to Bozrah,
the capital of Edom. **34:11** *Lit., "the
stones."

33:24 *Or "inhabitant." **34:3** *Or "will
flow with."

- 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

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.)
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What does this week's Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week's Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

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- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 6 ¶16-24, review box on p. 67
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- Song 21 and Prayer

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 Pleased God Well”

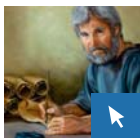
14 IS IT JUST A SMALL MISUNDERSTANDING?

16 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?



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Are There Contradictions in the Bible?

(Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS >
BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED)

THE **WATCHTOWER**[®]
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

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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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moral values, and our desire to remain faithful to God, there can be an interchange of thoughts, feelings, and experiences that encourage and upbuild us. (Romans 1: 11, 12) We find such spiritually-minded associates among fellow worshippers. Does this mean, 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 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

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?

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 friends in the congregation? As you cultivate godly qualities and ways, no doubt others of like mind will be drawn to you. At the same time, you may need to take some practical steps to reach out and make new friends. (See the box "How We Made Good Friends," on page 30.) Look for those who display the qualities you want to reflect. Heed the Bible's counsel to "widen out," seeking out friendships with fellow believers regardless of race, nationality, or culture. (2 Corinthians 6:13; 1 Peter 2:17) Do not limit yourself to those of your own age group. Remember that Jonathan was much older than David. Many older ones can bring to friendship a rich supply of experience and wisdom.

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)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

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- Like "the shadow of a massive crag in a parched land," they bring relief to the flock by providing spiritual guidance and refreshment

Come! Be Refreshed

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

C Dm/C Cma7 F/G Cma7 Dm/C

We live in a world that is way-ward and lost; The way of our God is not
Je - ho - vah is keen - ly a - ware of our needs; His coun-sel by us should be

Cma7 F/G C Dm/C Cma7 F/G

known. We need sure di - rec - tion to safe-guard our steps; We
heard. To buy out the time for oc - ca - sions to meet Shows

Cma7 Dm/C Bm11 E7 Ama7 Bm7

can - not suc - ceed on our own. Our meet - ings re - fresh us and
wis - dom and trust in his Word. By whole - some in - struc - tion from

C#m7 Dma7 C#m7 Bm7 Ama7 Bm7

bright-en our hope; They help us build faith in our God. They
God - fear - ing men, We learn how our faith can be shown. With

Come! Be Refreshed

$D\flat ma7$ $E\flat m7$ $Fm7$ $G\flat ma7$ $Fm7$ $E\flat m7$

move us with words that in - cite to fine deeds, They give us the strength to go
 lov - ing sup - port from our fam - 'ly of faith, We know that we're nev - er a -

$Dm7$ $G9$ C Dm/C $Cma7$ F/G

on. lone. We'll So nev - er for - sake what Je - ho - vah com - mands; His
 as we look for - ward to much bet - ter times, We'll

$Cma7$ Dm/C $Cma7$ F/G C Dm/C

will is what we want to do. Our meet - ings in - struct us in
 meet with the ones whom we love. And here at these meet - ings we'll

$Cma7$ F/C $Cma7/G$ Dm/G C

ways that are right; Our love for the truth they re - new.
 learn how to live With wis - dom that comes from a - bove.

- 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

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.

ed 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 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.

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. 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.

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

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.

FOOTNOTE

[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.

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



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 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?

FOOTNOTE

[5] Congregations were then called companies.

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?

Keep On Seeking First the Kingdom

(Matthew 6:33)

F B♭ B♭/A Cm/G F7 B♭ E♭/F F7 B♭ B♭/A B♭add9/G B♭/F

Some-thing pre - cious to Je - ho - vah, Bring - ing him such keen de -
 Why be anx - ious for to - mor - row, 'Will we hun - ger, will we
 So de - clare the King - dom good news; Help de - serv - ing ones to

E♭ G/D Cm G7 Cm Cm7 Gm7 C7

light, Is his King - dom by Christ Je - sus, Which will set all mat - ters
 thirst?' For our God will make pro - vi - sion If we seek his King - dom
 see That their hope is in Je - ho - vah And in his The - oc - ra -

F7sus4 F7 *Chorus* B♭ Dm7/A Gm B♭ma7/F F/E♭ E♭ G7 Cm7 F7

right.
 first.
 cy. Keep on seek - ing first the King - dom And Je - ho - vah's righ-teous-

F/B♭ B♭ F7 B♭ B♭/D D° Cm/E♭ E° B♭/F Cm7 F B♭

ness. Sing his praise a-mong the na-tions, Serv-ing him in faith-ful - ness.

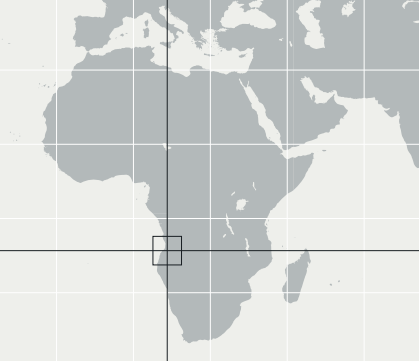
NOVEMBER 2016

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

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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

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*.

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God's Own Book—A Treasure

(Proverbs 2:1)

Ab Gb/Bb Ab7/C Db Ab/C Bbm Bbm/Ab Ab/Gb Gb

There is a book that by its man - y pag - es,
They wrote a rec - ord true of God's cre - a - tions,
The time has come with rea - son for re - joic - ing:

Bb Ab/C Bb7/D Ebm9 Ebm Ebm/Db Ebm/C

Brings peace and joy and hope to hu - man - kind.
How by his might this u - ni - verse ap - peared.
Je - ho - vah rules by his a - noint - ed King.

Ebm/F F7 Bbm9 Bbm Bbm/Ab Gbma7 Ebm/Gb

Its won - drous thoughts are charged with such great pow - er;
They al - so told how man at first was sin - less
So now we preach the good news of the King - dom

Db/F Bbm7 Eb7 Ebm11

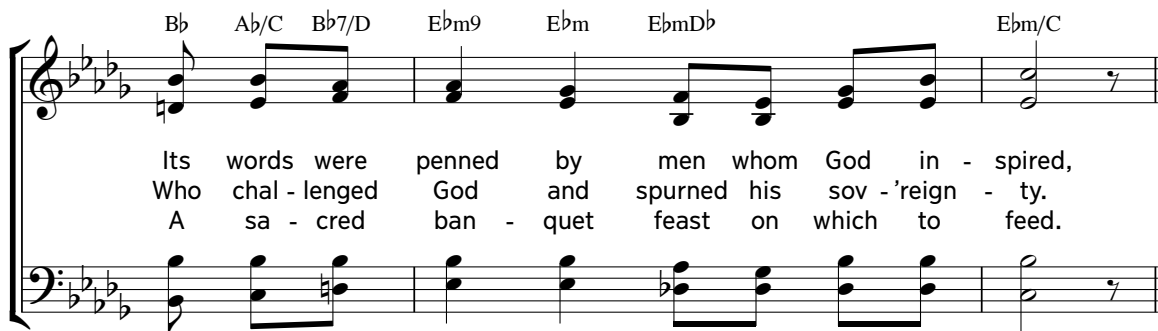
It brings life to the "dead," sight to the "blind."
But how his Par - a - dise then dis - ap - peared.
And share the hope of bless - ings it will bring.

God's Own Book—A Treasure

Ab7 Gb/Bb Ab7/C Db Ab/C Bbm Bbm/Ab Ab/Gb Gb

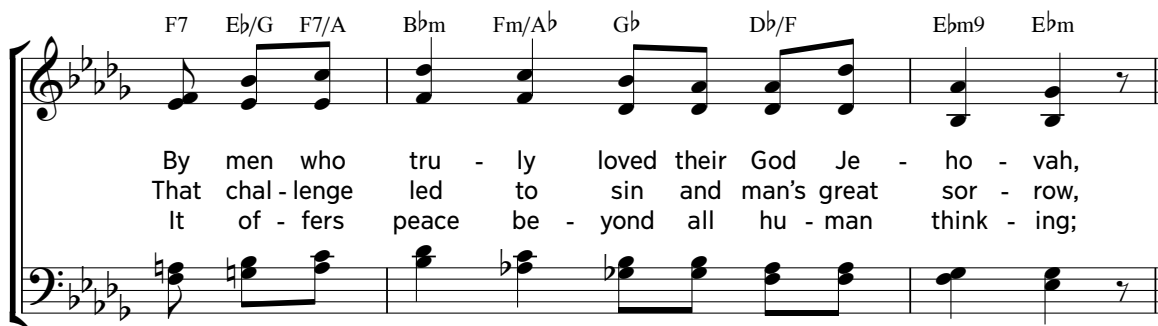
That pre - cious book is God's own Ho - ly Bi - ble.
They fur - ther told a - bout a cer - tain an - gel
With - in his book are found these cheer - ful tid - ings;

Bb Ab/C Bb7/D Ebm9 Ebm EbmDb Ebm/C



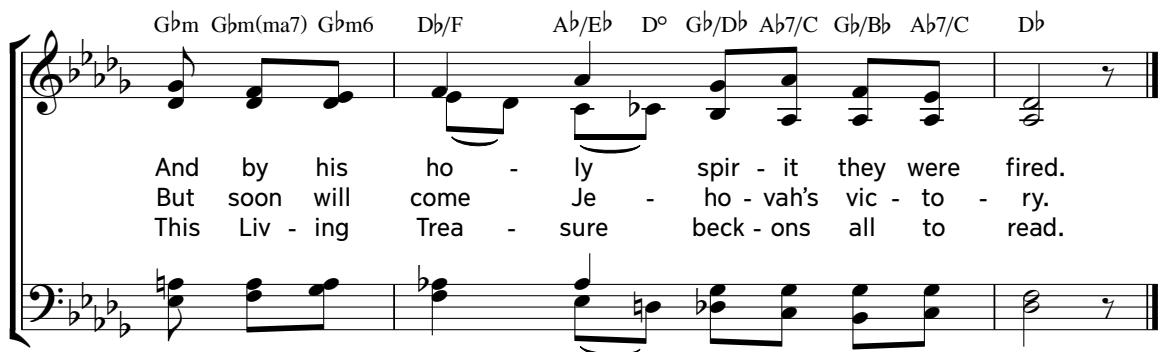
Its words were penned by men whom God in - spired,
Who chal - langed God and spurned his sov - 'reign - ty.
A sa - cred ban - quet feast on which to feed.

F7 Eb/G F7/A Bbm Fm/Ab Gb Db/F Ebm9 Ebm



By men who tru - ly loved their God Je - ho - vah,
That chal - lenge led to sin and man's great sor - row,
It of - fers peace be - yond all hu - man think - ing;

Gbm Gbm(ma7) Gbm6 Db/F Ab/Eb D° Gb/Db Ab7/C Gb/Bb Ab7/C Db



And by his ho - ly spir - it they were fired.
But soon will come Je - ho - vah's vic - to - ry.
This Liv - ing Trea - sure beck - ons 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 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

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

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! 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?

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

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;

6. Why should we guard against bitterness?

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?

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 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

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

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

How thankful we are for the many construction volunteers who work on projects tirelessly!

(See paragraph 11)



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!

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 Ser-

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

vice School, the School for Kingdom Evangelizers, Gilead School, Bethel Entrainants' 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?

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.

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

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 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.

14. How can Christian parents show loyalty to God?

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

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 Bible 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 atten-

tion 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 progressive student, we study the book "*Keep Yourself 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!

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

17. What direction have we received regarding Bible students?

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

Grateful for God's Word

(Philippians 2:16)

F F/A B \flat C7 B \flat /C C7 F

Je - ho - vah, our Fa - ther, we want to ex - press
Your Word has the pow - er to reach deep in - side.
Your Word, O Je - ho - vah, has hu - man ap - peal.

C7/E Gm/D A7/C \sharp Dm C \sharp 7 \flat 5 F/C Gm9 Gm B \flat ma7 C7

How grate - ful we are that your Word we pos - sess!
Our thoughts and in - ten - tions, it helps to di - vide.
Your proph - ets were like us; they felt what we feel.

F/A C F C/B \flat B \flat D/C Gm/B \flat D/A Gm/B \flat G7/B C

All Scrip - ture is in - spir - ed; its truth has set us free.
Your laws are clear and per - fect, your judg - ments ev - er true.
Please help us build a strong faith that fol - lows what is heard.

F/A C/G F B \flat D7/A Gm Gm/B \flat F/C C7sus4 C7 F

Its light gives us knowl - edge; the truth we can see.
Your prin - ci - ples guide us in all that we do.
We thank you, Je - ho - vah, for your pre - cious Word!