

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Jehovah Gives Power to the Tired One”:** (10 min.)
Isa 40:25, 26—Jehovah is the Source of all dynamic energy (*ip-1* 409-410 ¶23-25)
Isa 40:27, 28—Jehovah notices the hardships we endure and the injustices we suffer (*ip-1* 413 ¶27)
Isa 40:29-31—Jehovah gives power to those trusting in him (*ip-1* 413-415 ¶29-31)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 38:17—In what sense does Jehovah throw our sins behind his back? (*w03* 7/1 17 ¶17)

Isa 42:3—How was this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus? (*w15* 2/15 8 ¶13)

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 40:6-17

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *lc*—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *lc*—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *lv* 38-39 ¶6-7 —Demonstrate how to reach the heart.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 44
- **“Remember to Pray for Persecuted Christians”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Begin by playing the video *Retrial of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Taganrog—When Will the Injustice End?* (video category ORGANIZATION)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 7 ¶10-18, boxes on p. 73
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 10 and Prayer

ISAIAH 38-42 | Jehovah Gives Power to the Tired One

40:29-31

- An eagle can stay aloft for hours, using thermals, or columns of rising warm air. Once a thermal is found, the eagle circles within the column, which carries the eagle higher and higher. When it attains a certain height, it glides to the next thermal, and the process is repeated
- The eagle’s seemingly effortless flight beautifully illustrates how we are able to carry on in our worship with the strength that God supplies



1. Our Sov'reign Lord Jehovah
Is zealous for his holy name.
He fervently desires
To clear it from unrighteous blame.
Through many generations,
Great endurance he has shown;
In loving, kindly patience,
Not weary has he grown.
His will is that salvation
All sorts of people might attain.
Long-lasting, loving patience
By God will not have been in vain.

2. The quality of patience
Will help us on our godly path.
It lets our heart be tranquil,
Protects us from unrighteous wrath.
It finds the good in others,
Always hoping for the best.
It helps us keep our balance
In times when we're distressed.
Along with other virtues
That holy spirit can bestow,
Our patience will assist us
To imitate the God we know.

Isaiah 38-42

38 In those days Hez·e·ki'ah became sick and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah the son of A'moz came and said to him, "This is what Jehovah says: 'Give instructions to your household, for you will die; you will not recover.'" ² At that Hez·e·ki'ah turned his face to the wall and began to pray to Jehovah: ³ "I beg you, O Jehovah, remember, please, how I have walked before you faithfully and with a complete heart, and I have done what was good in your eyes." And Hez·e·ki'ah began to weep profusely.

⁴ Then the word of Jehovah came to Isaiah, saying: ⁵ "Go back and say to Hez·e·ki'ah, 'This is what Jehovah the God of David your forefather says: "I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears. Here I am adding 15 years to your life, ⁶ and I will rescue you and this city out of the hand of the king of As·syr'i·a, and I will defend this city. ⁷ This is the sign from Jehovah to show you that Jehovah will carry out the word that he has spoken: ⁸ Here I will make the declining shadow of the sun on the stairway of A'haz go back ten steps.'"" So the sun went back ten steps on the stairway that it had already descended.

⁹ A writing of King Hez·e·ki'ah of Judah when he became sick and recovered from his sickness.

¹⁰ I said: "In the middle of my life

I must go into the gates of the Grave.
I will be deprived of my remaining years.”

¹¹ I said: “I will not see Jah, Jah in the land of the living.

I will look no more on mankind
When I am with the inhabitants of the place
where everything ceases.

¹² My own dwelling has been pulled out and removed
from me

Like the tent of a shepherd.
I have rolled up my life like a loom worker;
He cuts me off like the threads of the warp.
From daylight to nightfall you keep bringing me
to an end.

¹³ I calm myself until the morning.

Like a lion, he keeps breaking all my bones;
From daylight to nightfall you keep bringing me
to an end.

¹⁴ Like the swift or the thrush, so I keep chirping;
I keep cooing like the dove.

My eyes look wearily to the height:
‘O Jehovah, I am in great distress;
Be my support!’

¹⁵ What can I say?

He has spoken to me and acted.
I will walk humbly all my years

Because of my bitter distress.

¹⁶ ‘O Jehovah, by these things every man lives,
And in them is the life of my spirit.
You will restore me to health and preserve me
alive.

¹⁷ Look! Instead of peace, I had great bitterness;
But in your fondness for me,
You preserved me from the pit of destruction.
You have thrown all my sins behind your back.

¹⁸ For the Grave cannot glorify you,
Death cannot praise you.
Those who go down into the pit cannot hope for
your faithfulness.

¹⁹ The living, the living can praise you,
Just as I can this day.
A father can give his sons knowledge about your
faithfulness.

²⁰ O Jehovah, save me,
And we will play my songs on stringed
instruments
All the days of our life at the house of Jehovah.”

²¹ Isaiah then said: “Bring a cake of pressed dried figs
and apply it to the boil, so that he may recover.”

²² Hez·e·ki'ah had asked: “What is the sign that I will go
up to the house of Jehovah?”

39 At that time the king of Babylon, Mer'o-dach-bal'a-dan son of Bal'a-dan, sent letters and a gift to Hez-e-ki'ah, for he had heard that he had been sick and had recovered. ² Hez-e-ki'ah gladly welcomed them and showed them his treasure-house—the silver, the gold, the balsam oil and other precious oil, his whole armory, and everything that was to be found in his treasuries. There was nothing that Hez-e-ki'ah did not show them in his own house and in all his dominion.

³ After that Isaiah the prophet came in to King Hez-e-ki'ah and asked him: “What did these men say, and where did they come from?” So Hez-e-ki'ah said: “They came from a distant land, from Babylon.” ⁴ Next he asked: “What did they see in your house?” Hez-e-ki'ah replied: “They saw everything in my house. There was nothing that I did not show them in my treasuries.”

⁵ Isaiah now said to Hez-e-ki'ah: “Hear the word of Jehovah of armies, ⁶ ‘Look! Days are coming, and all that is in your house and all that your forefathers have stored up to this day will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left,’ says Jehovah. ⁷ ‘And some of your own sons to whom you will become father will be taken and will become court officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”

⁸ At that Hez·e·ki'ah said to Isaiah: “The word of Jehovah that you have spoken is good.” Then he added: “Because there will be peace and stability during my lifetime.”

40 “Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God.

² “Speak to the heart of Jerusalem,
And proclaim to her that her compulsory service
has been fulfilled,
That her guilt has been paid off.
From the hand of Jehovah she has received a
full amount for all her sins.”

³ A voice of one calling out in the wilderness:
“Clear up the way of Jehovah!
Make a straight highway through the desert for
our God.

⁴ Let every valley be raised up,
And every mountain and hill be made low.
The rough ground must become level,
And the rugged ground a valley plain.

⁵ The glory of Jehovah will be revealed,
And all flesh will see it together,
For the mouth of Jehovah has spoken.”

⁶ Listen! Someone is saying: “Call out!”
Another asks: “What should I call out?”
“All flesh is green grass.
All their loyal love is like the blossom of the field.

- ⁷ The green grass dries up,
The blossom withers,
Because the breath of Jehovah blows upon it.
Surely the people are but green grass.
- ⁸ The green grass dries up,
The blossom withers,
But the word of our God endures forever.”
- ⁹ Go up onto a high mountain,
You woman bringing good news for Zion.
Raise your voice with power,
You woman bringing good news for Jerusalem.
Raise it, do not be afraid.
Announce to the cities of Judah: “Here is your
God.”
- ¹⁰ Look! The Sovereign Lord Jehovah will come with
power,
And his arm will rule for him.
Look! His reward is with him,
And the wage he pays is before him.
- ¹¹ Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.
With his arm he will gather together the lambs,
And in his bosom he will carry them.
He will gently lead those nursing their young.
- ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his
hand

And taken the measurements of the heavens
with a span of his hand?
Who has gathered in a measure the dust of the
earth
Or weighed the mountains in the balances
And the hills in the scales?

¹³ Who has taken the measurements of the spirit of
Jehovah,
And who can instruct him as his adviser?

¹⁴ With whom did he consult to gain understanding,
Or who teaches him in the path of justice,
Or teaches him knowledge,
Or shows him the way of true understanding?

¹⁵ Look! The nations are like a drop from a bucket,
And as the film of dust on the scales they are
regarded.
Look! He lifts up the islands like fine dust.

¹⁶ Even Leb'a-non is not sufficient to keep a fire
burning,
And its wild animals are not sufficient for a burnt
offering.

¹⁷ All the nations are as something nonexistent in
front of him;
He regards them as nothing, as an unreality.

¹⁸ To whom can you compare God?
What likeness can you put next to him?

- ¹⁹ The craftsman casts an idol,
The metalworker overlays it with gold,
And he forges silver chains.
- ²⁰ He chooses a tree for his contribution,
A tree that will not rot.
He searches for a skilled craftsman
To prepare a carved image that will not topple
over.
- ²¹ Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been told to you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of
the earth?
- ²² There is One who dwells above the circle of the
earth,
And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.
He is stretching out the heavens like a fine
gauze,
And he spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.
- ²³ He reduces high officials to nothing
And makes the judges of the earth an unreality.
- ²⁴ They are hardly planted,
They are hardly sown,
Their stem has hardly taken root in the earth,
And they are blown on and dry up,
And the wind carries them away like stubble.

25 “To whom can you liken me to make me his
equal?” says the Holy One.

26 “Lift up your eyes to heaven and see.
Who has created these things?
It is the One who brings out their army by
number;
He calls them all by name.
Because of his vast dynamic energy and his
awe-inspiring power,
Not one of them is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and why do you
declare, O Israel,
‘My way is hidden from Jehovah,
And I receive no justice from God’?

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard?
Jehovah, the Creator of the ends of the earth, is
a God for all eternity.
He never tires out or grows weary.
His understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the tired one
And full might to those lacking strength.

30 Boys will tire out and grow weary,
And young men will stumble and fall,

31 But those hoping in Jehovah will regain power.
They will soar on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary;

They will walk and not tire out.”

- 41** “Listen to me in silence, you islands;
Let the nations regain their strength.
Let them approach; then let them speak.
Let us come together for judgment.
- ² Who has raised up someone from the sunrise,
Calling him in righteousness to His feet,
To hand over nations to him
And to make him subdue kings?
Who reduces them to dust before his sword,
Like windblown stubble before his bow?
- ³ He pursues them, passing along unhindered
Over paths that his feet have not traveled.
- ⁴ Who has acted and done this,
Summoning the generations from the beginning?
I, Jehovah, am the First One;
And with the last ones I am the same.”
- ⁵ The islands have seen it and have become afraid.
The ends of the earth began to tremble.
They draw near and come forward.
- ⁶ Each one helps his companion
And says to his brother: “Be strong.”
- ⁷ So the craftsman strengthens the metalworker;
The one who flattens with the forge hammer
Strengthens the one hammering at the anvil.
He says about the soldering: “It is good.”

Then it is fastened with nails so that it will not
topple over.

⁸ “But you, O Israel, are my servant,
You, O Jacob, whom I have chosen,
The offspring of Abraham my friend,

⁹ You, whom I took from the ends of the earth,
And you, whom I called from its most distant
parts.

I said to you, ‘You are my servant;
I have chosen you; I have not rejected you.

¹⁰ Do not be afraid, for I am with you.
Do not be anxious, for I am your God.
I will fortify you, yes, I will help you,
I will really hold on to you with my right hand of
righteousness.’

¹¹ Look! All those getting enraged against you will be
put to shame and humiliated.
Those who fight with you will be brought to
nothing and perish.

¹² You will search for men who struggle with you, but
you will not find them;
The men at war with you will become as
something nonexistent, as nothing at all.

¹³ For I, Jehovah your God, am grasping your right
hand,

The One saying to you, 'Do not be afraid. I will help you.'

¹⁴ Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob,
You men of Israel, I will help you," declares
Jehovah, your Repurchaser, the Holy One of
Israel.

¹⁵ "Look! I have made you a threshing sledge,
A new threshing instrument with double-edged
teeth.
You will tread down the mountains and crush
them
And make the hills like chaff.

¹⁶ You will winnow them,
And the wind will carry them away;
A windstorm will scatter them.
You will be joyful in Jehovah,
And you will boast in the Holy One of Israel."

¹⁷ "The needy and the poor are seeking water, but
there is none.
Their tongue is dry from thirst.
I, Jehovah, will answer them.
I, the God of Israel, will not abandon them.

¹⁸ I will make rivers flow on the bare hills
And springs in the valley plains.
I will turn the wilderness into a reedy pool of
water

And the waterless land into springs of water.

¹⁹ In the desert I will plant the cedar tree,
The acacia and the myrtle and the pine tree.
In the desert plain I will plant the juniper tree,
Together with the ash and the cypress tree,

²⁰ So that all people may see and know
And pay attention and understand
That the hand of Jehovah has done this,
And the Holy One of Israel has created it.”

²¹ “Present your case,” says Jehovah.
“Produce your arguments,” says the King of
Jacob.

²² “Produce evidence and tell us the things that will
happen.
Do tell us about the former things,
So that we may reflect on them and know their
outcome.
Or declare to us the things that are coming.

²³ Tell us what will happen in the future,
So that we may know that you are gods.
Yes, do something, good or bad,
So that we may be amazed when we see it.

²⁴ Look! You are something nonexistent,
And your achievement is nothing.
Anyone who chooses you is detestable.

- ²⁵ I have raised up someone from the north, and he
will come,
One from the rising of the sun who will call on my
name.
He will trample rulers as if they were clay,
Like a potter who treads moist clay.
- ²⁶ Who told about this from the beginning, so that we
could know,
Or from times past, so that we could say, ‘He is
right’?
Indeed, no one announced it!
No one declared it!
No one heard anything from you!”
- ²⁷ I was the first to say to Zion: “Look! Here they are!”
And to Jerusalem I will send a bearer of good
news.
- ²⁸ But I kept looking, and there was no one;
There was not one among them to give advice.
And I kept asking them to reply.
- ²⁹ Look! All of them are a delusion.
Their works are nothing.
Their metal images are wind and unreality.
- 42** Look! My servant, whom I support!
My chosen one, whom I have approved!
I have put my spirit in him;
He will bring justice to the nations.

- ² He will not cry out or raise his voice,
And he will not make his voice heard in the
street.
- ³ No crushed reed will he break,
And no smoldering wick will he extinguish.
In faithfulness he will bring justice.
- ⁴ He will not grow dim or be crushed until he
establishes justice in the earth;
And the islands keep waiting for his law.
- ⁵ This is what the true God, Jehovah, says,
The Creator of the heavens and the Grand One
who stretched them out,
The One who spread out the earth and its
produce,
The One who gives breath to the people on it
And spirit to those who walk on it:
- ⁶ “I, Jehovah, have called you in righteousness;
I have taken hold of your hand.
I will safeguard you and give you as a covenant
for the people
And as a light of the nations,
- ⁷ For you to open the blind eyes,
To bring the prisoner out of the dungeon
And those sitting in darkness out of the prison.
- ⁸ I am Jehovah. That is my name;
I give my glory to no one else,

Nor my praise to graven images.

- ⁹ See, the first things have come to pass;
Now I am declaring new things.
Before they spring up, I tell you about them.”
- ¹⁰ Sing to Jehovah a new song,
His praise from the ends of the earth,
You who go down to the sea and all that fills it,
You islands and their inhabitants.
- ¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities raise their voice,
The settlements where Ke'dar dwells.
Let the inhabitants of the crag shout joyfully;
Let them cry out from the top of the mountains.
- ¹² Let them attribute glory to Jehovah
And declare his praise in the islands.
- ¹³ Jehovah will go out like a mighty man.
He will awaken his zeal like a warrior.
He will shout, yes, he will let out a war cry;
He will show himself mightier than his enemies.
- ¹⁴ “I have kept quiet for a long time.
I remained silent and restrained myself.
Like a woman giving birth,
I will groan, pant, and gasp all at once.
- ¹⁵ I will devastate mountains and hills
And dry up all their vegetation.
I will turn rivers into islands
And dry up reedy pools of water.

- ¹⁶ I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know
And cause them to tread on unfamiliar paths.
I will turn the darkness before them into light
And turn the rugged terrain into level land.
This is what I will do for them, and I will not
abandon them.”
- ¹⁷ They will be turned back and will be utterly put to
shame,
Those who trust in carved images,
Those who say to metal statues: “You are our
gods.”
- ¹⁸ Listen, you who are deaf;
Look and see, you who are blind.
- ¹⁹ Who is blind except my servant,
So deaf as the messenger I send?
Who is so blind as the one rewarded,
So blind as the servant of Jehovah?
- ²⁰ You see many things, but you do not keep watch.
You open your ears, but you do not listen.
- ²¹ For the sake of his righteousness,
Jehovah has taken pleasure in magnifying the
law and making it glorious.
- ²² But this is a people plundered and pillaged;
All of them are trapped in the holes and hidden
in the prisons.

They have been plundered with no one to rescue
them,
And pillaged with no one to say: "Bring them
back!"

²³ Who among you will hear this?
Who will pay attention and listen for the time to
come?

²⁴ Who has given Jacob for pillage
And Israel to the plunderers?
Is it not Jehovah, the One against whom we
sinned?
In His ways they refused to walk,
And His law they would not obey.

²⁵ So He kept pouring out on him wrath,
His anger and the fury of war.
It consumed everything around him, but he paid
no attention.
It blazed up against him, but he would not take it
to heart.

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- An eagle can stay aloft for hours, using thermals, or columns of rising warm air. Once a thermal is found, the eagle circles within the column, which carries the eagle higher and higher. When it attains a certain height, it glides to the next thermal, and the process is repeated
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January 23-29

Treasures From God's Word

Isaiah 40:25, 26—Jehovah is the Source of all dynamic energy

Reference: *ip-1* 409-410 paragraphs 23-25.

“Who Has Created These Things?”

23 There is yet another reason why the Jewish exiles can take heart. The One who promises deliverance is the Creator of all things and the Source of all dynamic energy. To stress his astounding capacity, Jehovah calls attention to his ability manifest in creation: “To whom can you people liken me so that I should be made his equal?’ says the Holy One. ‘Raise your eyes high up and see. Who has created these things? It is the One who is bringing forth the army of them even by number, all of whom he calls even by name. Due to the abundance of dynamic energy, he also being vigorous in power, not one of them is missing.’”—Isaiah 40:25, 26.

24 The Holy One of Israel is speaking for himself. To show that he is without equal, Jehovah directs attention to the stars of the heavens. Like a military commander able to marshal his troops, Jehovah is in command of the stars. If he were to muster them, ‘not one of them would be missing.’ Though the number of the stars is

great, he calls each one by name, either an individual name or a namelike designation. Like obedient soldiers, they keep their place and observe proper order, for their Leader has an abundance of “dynamic energy” and is “vigorous in power.” Therefore, the Jewish exiles have reason for confidence. The Creator, who commands the stars, has the power to support his servants.

25 Who of us can resist the divine invitation recorded at Isaiah 40:26: “Raise your eyes high up and see”? The discoveries of modern-day astronomers have shown that the starry heavens are even more awe-inspiring than they appeared to be in Isaiah’s day. Astronomers who peer into the heavens with their powerful telescopes estimate that the observable universe contains as many as 125 billion galaxies. Why, just one of these—the Milky Way galaxy—contains, according to some estimates, over 100 billion stars! Such knowledge should awaken in our hearts reverence for our Creator and complete trust in his word of promise.

Isaiah 40:27, 28—Jehovah notices the hardships we endure and the injustices we suffer

Reference: ip-1 413 **paragraph 27**.

Isaiah records Jehovah's words describing the feelings of the exiles in Babylon, hundreds of miles from their homeland. Some think that their "way"—the hard course of their life—is unseen or unknown by their God. They think that Jehovah is indifferent to the injustices they suffer. They are reminded of things that they should know, if not from personal experience, then at least from information that has been handed down. Jehovah is able and willing to deliver his people. He is the eternal God and the Creator of the *entire* earth. Hence, he still possesses the power he displayed in creation, and not even mighty Babylon is beyond his reach. Such a God cannot grow tired and fail his people. They ought not to expect to be able fully to grasp Jehovah's doings, for his understanding—or insight, discernment, and perception—is beyond their comprehension.

Isaiah 40:29-31—Jehovah gives power to those trusting in him

Reference: *ip-1* 413-415 **paragraphs 29-31**.

29 When speaking of the need to give to the tired one power, Jehovah may have in mind the arduous journey that the exiles will have to make in order to return home. Jehovah reminds his people that it is characteristic of him to come to the aid of weary ones

who look to him for support. Even the most vibrant of humans—“boys” and “young men”—may be worn down by fatigue and stumble from exhaustion. Yet, Jehovah promises to give power—unwearied power to run and to walk—to those who are trusting in him. The seemingly effortless flight of the eagle, a powerful bird that can soar for hours at a time, is used to illustrate how Jehovah empowers his servants. With prospects of such divine support, the Jewish exiles have no cause for despair.

30 These closing verses of Isaiah chapter 40 contain words of comfort for true Christians living in the last days of this wicked system. With so many pressures and problems that tend to dishearten, it is reassuring to know that the hardships we endure and the injustices we suffer do not go unnoticed by our God. We can be sure that the Creator of all things, the One whose “understanding is beyond recounting,” will correct all injustices in his own time and way. (**Psalm 147:5, 6**) Meanwhile, we need not endure in our own strength. Jehovah, whose resources are inexhaustible, can impart power—even “power beyond what is normal”—to his servants in times of trial.—2 Corinthians 4:7.

31 Think of those Jewish captives in Babylon in the sixth century B.C.E. Hundreds of miles away, their beloved Jerusalem lay desolate, its temple in ruins. For them, Isaiah’s prophecy contained a comforting

promise of light and hope—Jehovah would restore them to their homeland! In 537 B.C.E., Jehovah led his people home, proving that he is the Fulfiller of promises. We too can have absolute confidence in Jehovah. His Kingdom promises, which are so beautifully expressed in Isaiah’s prophecy, will become a reality. That is indeed good news—a message of light for all mankind!

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Isaiah 38:17—In what sense does Jehovah throw our sins behind his back?

Reference: *w03 7/1 17 paragraph 17*.

In a moving song of gratitude that Hezekiah composed after he was spared from a deadly sickness, he said to Jehovah: “You have *thrown behind your back* all my sins.” (Isaiah 38:17) Jehovah is here portrayed as taking the sins of a repentant wrongdoer and throwing them behind Him where He neither sees them nor takes notice of them anymore. According to one reference work, the idea conveyed may be expressed: “You have made [my sins] as if they had not happened.” Is that not comforting?

Isaiah 42:3—How was this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Reference: w15 2/15 8 **paragraph 13.**

His tender words. Jesus' tender heart moved him to speak tenderly to others, especially to the downtrodden. The apostle Matthew applied to Jesus these words of Isaiah: "No crushed reed will he break, and no smoldering wick will he extinguish." (**Isaiah 42:3; Matthew 12:20**) Jesus spoke in a way that lifted the spirits of those who were figuratively like a bruised reed or the wick of an oil lamp about to go out. He preached a message of hope "to bind up the brokenhearted." (**Isaiah 61:1**) He invited those who were "toiling and loaded down" to come to him, reassuring them that they would "find refreshment" for themselves. (**Matthew 11:28-30**) He assured his followers that God had tender concern for each of His worshippers, including the "little ones"—those who may seem unimportant from the standpoint of the world.—**Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 12:6, 7.**

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah Gives Power to the Tired One”:** (10 min.)
Isa 40:25, 26—Jehovah is the Source of all dynamic energy (*ip-1* 409-410 ¶23-25)
Isa 40:27, 28—Jehovah notices the hardships we endure and the injustices we suffer (*ip-1* 413 ¶27)
Isa 40:29-31—Jehovah gives power to those trusting in him (*ip-1* 413-415 ¶29-31)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 38:17—In what sense does Jehovah throw our sins behind his back? (*w03* 7/1 17 ¶17)

Isa 42:3—How was this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?
(*w15* 2/15 8 ¶13)

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 40:6-17

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *lc*—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *lc*—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *lv* 38-39 ¶6-7 —Demonstrate how to reach the heart.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 44
- **“Remember to Pray for Persecuted Christians”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Begin by playing the video *Retrial of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Taganrog—When Will the Injustice End?* (video category ORGANIZATION)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 7 ¶10-18, boxes on p. 73
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 10 and Prayer

ISAIAH 38-42 | Jehovah Gives Power to the Tired One

40:29-31

- An eagle can stay aloft for hours, using thermals, or columns of rising warm air. Once a thermal is found, the eagle circles within the column, which carries the eagle higher and higher. When it attains a certain height, it glides to the next thermal, and the process is repeated
- The eagle’s seemingly effortless flight beautifully illustrates how we are able to carry on in our worship with the strength that God supplies



of Uriah the Hittite and sent that innocent man to the front lines to be killed in battle. (2 Samuel 11:1-17) Yes, imperfection makes it hard for people to handle power well. And when those in power do not respect Jehovah, they do even worse. After describing the way that some Catholic popes instituted widespread persecution, a British statesman wrote: “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” With such a record in mind, let us consider the question: Why should we respect authority?

WHY RESPECT AUTHORITY?

⁶ The best reasons to respect authority spring from love—our love for Jehovah, for our fellow man, and even for ourselves. Because we love Jehovah above all else, we want to make his heart rejoice. (Proverbs 27:11; Mark 12:29, 30) We know that his sovereignty, his right to rule the universe, has been challenged on earth ever since the rebellion in Eden and that the majority of mankind have sided with Satan and rejected Jehovah’s rule. We are thrilled to take the

- 6, 7. (a) What does our love for Jehovah move us to do, and why?
(b) What attitude does submission involve, and how may we show it?**

opposite stand. When we read the majestic words of Revelation 4:11, they strike a chord in our heart. How clear it is to us that Jehovah is the rightful Ruler of the universe! We embrace Jehovah's sovereignty, accepting his rule in our day-to-day life.

⁷ Such respect means obedience and more. We obey Jehovah readily because we love him. However, there are bound to be times when obedience will be very difficult for us. At such times we, like that little boy described at the outset, will need to learn submission. We recall that Jesus submitted to his Father's will even when doing so could seem very challenging. "Let, not my will, but yours take place," he said to his Father.—Luke 22:42.

⁸ Of course, Jehovah does not speak to us individually today; he uses his Word and human representatives on earth. Most often, then, we show submission to Jehovah's authority by respecting those humans he has placed, or has allowed to continue, in positions of authority over us. If we were to

8. (a) Submission to Jehovah's authority today often involves what, and what reveals Jehovah's feelings in this regard? (b) What can help us to listen to counsel and accept discipline? (See the box on pages 59-61.)

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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- The eagle’s seemingly effortless flight beautifully illustrates how we are able to carry on in our worship with the strength that God supplies



44 *A Prayer of the Lowly One* (Psalm 4:1)

1. Jehovah God, I call to you and ask you:

“Hear my prayer.”

My wounds are deep and slow to heal;
my load is hard to bear.

Despondent thoughts and disappointed hopes
have left me weak.

O God of comfort, care for me;
your favor I do seek.

(CHORUS)

Do raise me up; help me endure.

When I'm in doubt, make my hope sure.

From deep despair, I turn to you.

Jehovah God, my strength renew.

2. Your Word has been my comfort and
a refuge when I'm weak,

Expressing feelings dear to me
in words I cannot speak.

Please build in me the faith and trust
that your Word does impart.

And help me always know your love
is greater than my heart.

(Chorus)

Remember to Pray for Persecuted Christians



The Bible prophesied that Satan would persecute us in an attempt to hinder our ministry. (Joh 15:20; Re 12:17) How can we help fellow Christians who are suffering persecution in other lands? We can pray for them. “A righteous man’s supplication has a powerful effect.”—Jas 5:16.

What can we pray for? We can ask Jehovah to give our brothers and sisters courage and to help them not to be afraid. (Isa 41:10-13) We can also pray for the authorities to be favorably disposed toward the preaching work, “so that we may go on leading a calm and quiet life.”—1Ti 2:1, 2.

When Paul and Peter were persecuted, the first-century Christians prayed for them by name. (Ac 12:5; Ro 15:30, 31) Even if we do not know the names of all those being persecuted today, could we mention their congregation, country, or region?

I want to pray for persecuted Christians in these lands:

- The latest information on the persecution of Jehovah’s Witnesses can be found on jw.org. (Look under [NEWSROOM > LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS](#).)
- The [jw.org](#) article “Jehovah’s Witnesses Imprisoned for Their Faith—By Location” lists the number of those currently imprisoned in each country. (Look under [NEWSROOM > LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS](#). Click on a country to learn more details and to access a PDF that provides the names of those imprisoned there.)



large zoological gardens,” says a report from 1913, “was brought into use in order to reproduce in Motion talking pictures Noah’s part in the big show.” As for the hundreds of different glass slides used in the production, artists in London, New York, Paris, and Philadelphia colored each one by hand.

⁹ Why was so much time and expense poured into making the “Photo-Drama”? A resolution adopted at the 1913 series of conventions explains: “The unprecedented success of the American newspapers in moulding public opinion by the aid of cartoons and illustrations in their news and magazine sections, together with the wonderful popularity and adaptability of moving pictures, has fully demonstrated their worth and, we believe, fully justifies us, as progressive preachers and Bible class teachers, in giving our unqualified endorsement of moving pictures and stereopticon slides as an effective and desirable method for evangelists and teachers.”

¹⁰ During 1914, the “Photo-Drama” was shown in 80 cities each day. Almost eight million people in

9. Why was so much time and expense poured into making the “Photo-Drama”?

10. How widely was the “Photo-Drama” shown?

the United States and Canada saw the presentation. That same year, the “Photo-Drama” was shown in Australia, Britain, Denmark, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. A simplified version of the production, one that did not include the motion pictures, was assembled for use in smaller towns. That version—the “Eureka Drama”—was cheaper to produce and easier to transport. By 1916, either the “Photo-Drama” or the “Eureka Drama” had been translated into Armenian, Dano-Norwegian, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Spanish, and Swedish.

¹¹ The French translation of the “Photo-Drama” had a great impact on an 18-year-old named Charles Rohner. “It was presented in my town—Colmar, Alsace, France,” says Charles. “From the very outset, I was impressed by the clear presentation of Bible truth.”

¹² As a result, Charles was baptized and in 1922 entered full-time service. One of his first assignments was to help present the “Photo-Drama” to audiences

11, 12. What impact did the “Photo-Drama” have on one young man, and what example did he set?

in France. Describing this work, Charles says: “I was assigned several jobs—to play the violin, to be the accounts servant, and to be the literature servant. I was also asked to quiet the audience before the program began. During intermission, we presented literature. We assigned each brother or sister a section of the hall. Each one had an armful of literature and approached every person in the section. In addition, at the entrance to the hall, we had tables full of literature.” In 1925, Charles was invited to serve at Bethel in Brooklyn, New York. There he was assigned to conduct an orchestra for the newly established radio station WBBR. After considering the example of Brother Rohner, we could ask ourselves, ‘Am I willing to accept whatever assignments I am given to help spread the Kingdom message?’—**Read Isaiah 6:8.**

¹³ **Radio.** In the 1920’s, the work with the “Photo-Drama” began to wind down, but radio emerged as a significant way to spread the good news of the Kingdom. On April 16, 1922, Brother Rutherford 13, 14. How was radio used to spread the good news? (See also the boxes “Programs on WBBR” and “A Momentous Convention.”)

PROGRAMS ON WBBR

WBBR broadcast Bible lectures and music. It also carried such programs as “Watching the World.” For this, brothers in the newsroom gathered reports from international news services. Another program had the title “A Young Minister Speaks.” Yet another was called “Home Bible Study Time.” In this program, Witnesses portrayed a model family Bible study. WBBR also broadcast Bible dramas and reenactments of recent court trials involving Jehovah’s people. Those reenactments exposed the clergy as promoters of opposition and turned the spotlight on prejudiced judges.

gave his first radio broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. An estimated 50,000 people heard the talk “Millions Now Living Will Never Die.” Then, in 1923, came the first broadcast of a convention session. In addition to using commercial stations, those taking the lead decided that it would be wise for us to build our own station, which was built on Staten Island, New York, and registered as WBBR. The initial broadcast was aired on February 24, 1924.

A MOMENTOUS CONVENTION

The year 1931 saw what was at the time the most extensive radio chain broadcast ever to air. A portion of the momentous convention held July 24-30 in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A., was transmitted via more than 450 radio stations in Australia, Canada, Europe, and the United States. At this convention we adopted the name Jehovah's Witnesses.

¹⁴ Explaining the purpose of WBBR, *The Watch Tower* of December 1, 1924, said: "We believe that the radio is the most economical and effective way of spreading the message of the truth that has yet been used." It then added: "If the Lord sees fit to build other radio stations for the spreading of the truth, he will provide the money in his own good way." (Ps. 127:1) By 1926, Jehovah's people owned six radio stations. Two were located in the United States—WBBR in New York and WORD near Chicago. The other four were in Canada, located in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

¹⁵ This wide broadcasting of Bible truth did not

15, 16. (a) How did the clergy in Canada react to our broadcasts? (b) How did radio lectures and the house-to-house work complement each other?

go unnoticed by the clergy of Christendom. Albert Hoffman, who was familiar with the work done at the radio station in Saskatchewan, Canada, said: “More and more people began to know of the Bible Students [as Jehovah’s Witnesses were then called]. A wonderful witness was given until 1928, when the clergy put pressure on officials and all the stations in Canada run by the Bible Students lost their licenses.”

¹⁶ Despite the closure of our radio stations in Canada, Bible lectures continued to be transmitted on commercial stations. (Matt. 10:23) To boost the effectiveness of those programs, *The Watch Tower* and *The Golden Age* (now called *Awake!*) carried a list of commercial stations that broadcast Bible truth so that publishers calling from door to door could encourage people to listen to the lectures on their local stations. With what impact? The *Bulletin* of January 1931 says: “The radio work has been a real stimulus to the friends in their canvassing from door to door. Many reports have come to the office telling us that persons have listened in and, because

of hearing the lectures given by Brother Rutherford, were very ready to take the books offered to them.” The *Bulletin* described the radio broadcasts and the house-to-house work as “the two great publicity branches of the Lord’s organization.”

¹⁷ During the 1930’s, opposition mounted against our use of commercial radio stations. So in late 1937, Jehovah’s people adapted to the changing circumstances. They withdrew from commercial broadcasting and focused even more on the house-to-house ministry.*^[1] Nevertheless, radio continued to play an important role in spreading the Kingdom message in some remote or politically isolated parts of the world. For example, from 1951 to 1991, a station in West Berlin, Germany, regularly broadcast Bible discourses so that those living in parts of what was then East Germany could hear the Kingdom message. Starting in 1961 and for more than three decades afterward, a national radio station in Suriname, South America, broadcast a weekly 15-minute

*[1] In 1957, those taking the lead decided to shut down WBBR in New York, the last of our radio stations.

17, 18. Although circumstances changed, how did radio continue to play a role?

program that spread Bible truths. From 1969 to 1977, the organization produced more than 350 recorded radio programs in the series “All Scripture Is Beneficial.” In the United States, 291 radio stations, in 48 states, carried the programs. In 1996, a radio station in Apia, the capital city of the South Pacific nation of Samoa, transmitted a weekly program entitled “Answers to Your Bible Questions.”

¹⁸ As the 20th century drew to a close, radio no longer played a primary role in spreading the good news. However, another technology emerged that made it possible to reach an audience of unprecedented size.

¹⁹ **The Internet.** As of 2013, more than 2.7 billion people, almost 40 percent of the world’s population, were connected to the Internet. According to certain estimates, some two billion access it on mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets. That figure continues to climb globally, but the fastest growth in mobile Internet connection is currently occurring in Africa, where there are more than 90 million

19, 20. Why have Jehovah’s people produced jw.org, and how effective has it been? (See also the box “JW.ORG.”)

10 *Praise Jehovah Our God!*

(Psalm 145:12)

1. Praise our God! Praise Jehovah God!
 Make his glorious name known to all!
 Sound alarm, For his day is near,
 Help all people hear his warning call.
 Jehovah decreed that now is the time
 For his Firstborn to rule as King.
 Reach out to all people, tell them the news,
 Tell what blessings our God will bring!

(CHORUS)

*Praise our God! Praise Jehovah God!
 Make his greatness known in all the earth!*

2. Praise our God! Sing it loud and clear!
 With a joyful song, laud his name!
 From the heart, From a grateful heart,
 All his glory boldly we proclaim.
 Though grand is our God and great are his works,
 He is humble and good to all.
 Our merciful Father knows what we need;
 He responds when he hears our call.

(Chorus)

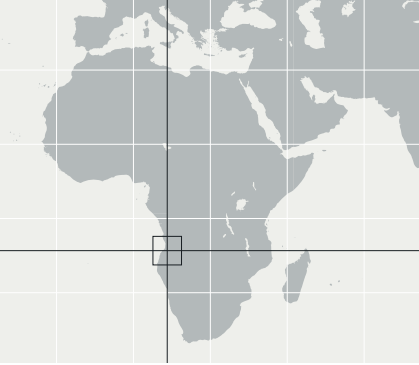
NOVEMBER 2016

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

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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

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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November 2016
Vol. 137, No. 17 ENGLISH

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

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

They Broke Free From False Religion

“Get out of her, my people.”—REV. 18:4.

SONGS: 72, 82

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What bold stand did the early Bible Students take relative to Babylon the Great?

Why did Jehovah’s servants need correction and discipline during World War I, but what does that not indicate?

When were the anointed freed from Babylonian captivity?

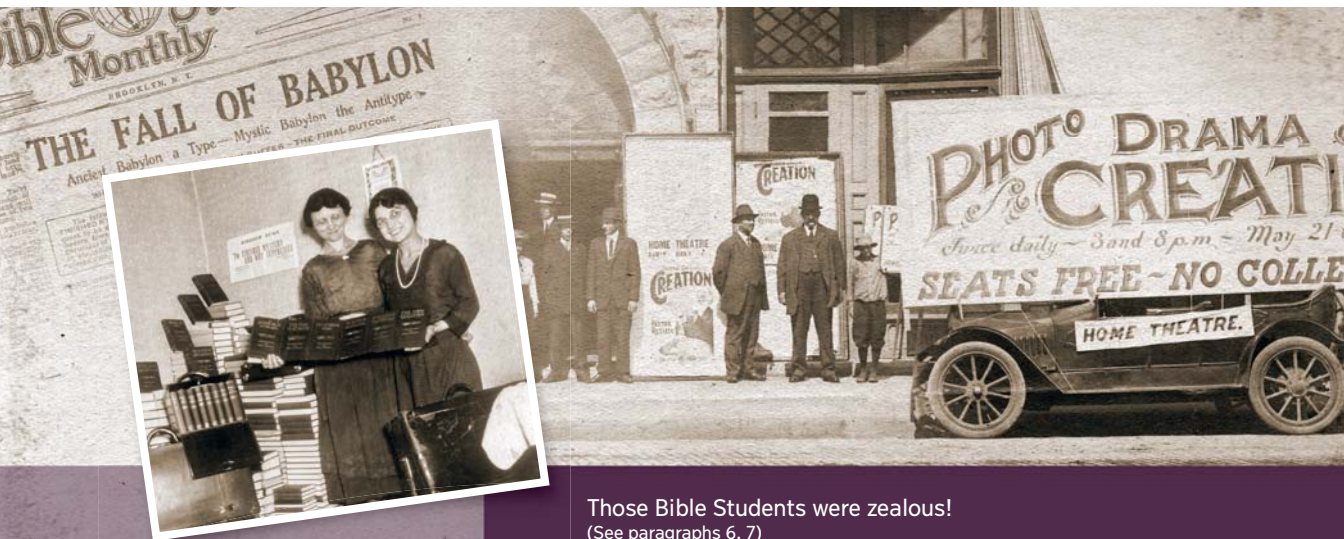
IN THE preceding article, we learned how faithful Christians found themselves in a form of Babylonian captivity. The good news, though, is that they would not remain in that condition indefinitely. God’s command “Get out of her, my people” would be meaningless if no one could ever

1. On what basis could God’s people hope to be liberated from Babylon the Great, and what questions will we examine?



They Broke Free From False Religion

“Get out of her, my people.”—REV. 18:4.



Those Bible Students were zealous!
(See paragraphs 6, 7)

escape the influence of the world empire of false religion. (Read Revelation 18:4.) We are eager to learn when God's people were completely freed from Babylon's clutches! But first, we must answer the following questions: What stand regarding Babylon the Great did the Bible Students take prior to 1914? How active were our brothers in the preaching work during World War I? Is there a connection between their need for correction and discipline during that time and their being held in Babylonian captivity?

“THE FALL OF BABYLON”

2 In the decades leading up to World War I, Charles Taze Russell and his associates realized that the organizations of Christendom were not teaching Bible truth. Accordingly, they resolved to have nothing to do with false religion as they

2. What position did the early Bible Students take regarding false religion as they understood it?

understood it. As early as November of 1879, *Zion's Watch Tower* straightforwardly set out their Scriptural position by stating: "Every church claiming to be a chaste virgin espoused to Christ, but in reality united to and supported by the world (beast) we must condemn as being in scripture language a *harlot church*," a reference to Babylon the Great.—Read Revelation 17:1, 2.

3 God-fearing men and women knew what they must do. They could not expect to receive God's blessing if they continued to support false religious organizations. Consequently, many Bible Students prepared letters of withdrawal from their churches. In some cases, they read the letters publicly at church meetings. Where a public reading was forbidden, some sent copies to every member

3. What decisive action did the Bible Students take, showing that they understood the need to separate themselves from false religion? (See opening picture of the standard edition.)

of the church. They wanted no further dealings with false religion! In another era, such a bold move would have cost them dearly. But in many countries in the late 1800's, the church was beginning to lose the backing of the State. Without fear of reprisals in such countries, citizens were free to discuss religious matters and to disagree openly with the established churches.

4 The Bible Students understood that it was not enough for them to inform relatives, close friends, and church members of their stand on false religion. The whole world needed to see Babylon the Great for what it is—a religious prostitute! Accordingly, between December 1917 and early 1918, the few thousand Bible Students zealously distributed 10,000,000 copies of a tract featuring the subject “The Fall of Babylon”—a hard-hitting indictment of Christendom. As

4. During World War I, what was the relationship between God's people and Babylon the Great?

you can imagine, the clergy were furious; but undeterred, the Bible Students kept right on with this important work. They were determined to obey “God as ruler rather than men.” (Acts 5:29) What can we conclude? That far from becoming enslaved to Babylon the Great during the war, these Christian men and women were breaking free from its influence and were helping others to do so.

ZEALOUS ACTIVITY DURING WORLD WAR I

5 In years gone by, we believed that Jehovah became displeased with his people because they did not have a zealous share in the preaching work during World War I. We concluded that for this reason, Jehovah allowed Babylon the Great to take them captive for a short time. However, faithful brothers and sisters who served God dur-

5. What testimony is there that the brothers were very zealous during World War I?

ing the 1914-1918 period later made it clear that as a whole the Lord's people did everything they could to keep the preaching work going. There is strong evidence to support this testimony. A more accurate understanding of our theocratic history has led to a clearer comprehension of certain events recorded in the Bible.

⁶ In actual fact, the Bible Students who were on hand during World War I (1914-1918) gave a tremendous witness during that time. It was not easy for them to do so, for several reasons. We will consider two of them. First of all, the main work being done in those days involved the distribution of Bible literature. When the book *The Finished Mystery* was banned by the secular authorities in early 1918, preaching became difficult for many of the brothers. They had not yet

6, 7. (a) What challenges did the Bible Students need to overcome during World War I? (b) Give examples illustrating the zeal of the Bible Students.

learned to preach using the Bible alone, and they had been counting on *The Finished Mystery* to “do the talking” for them. A second factor involved the devastating outbreak of the Spanish Influenza in 1918. The pervasiveness of that dreadful plague made it difficult for publishers to move about freely. In spite of these and other challenges, however, the Bible Students as a whole did their best to keep the work going.

7 In 1914 alone, the small number of Bible Students presented the “Photo-Drama of Creation” to more than 9,000,000 people. The Drama, as it was called, combined pictures and slides synchronized with sound and traced man’s history from the time of creation to the end of the Millennium. It was an outstanding achievement at the time. Think of it. The number of people who saw that presentation in 1914 alone was greater than the total number of Kingdom publishers ac-

tive in the world today! Reports further indicate that in 1916 a total of 809,393 attended public meetings in the United States, and in 1918 the number rose to 949,444. Those Bible Students were zealous!

8 During the first world war, no effort was spared to keep providing spiritual food and encouragement to the scattered Bible Students. These provisions gave the brothers the strength to carry on the preaching work. Richard H. Barber, who was active during that time, recalled: “We succeeded in keeping a few traveling overseers going and in keeping *The Watch Tower* in circulation and having it sent into Canada where it was banned. I had the privilege of mailing pocket-size copies of *The Finished Mystery* to a number of friends who had lost their copy due to

8. How were the spiritual needs of the brothers met during the first world war?

confiscation. Brother Rutherford requested that we arrange conventions in several cities in the western United States and send speakers to try to encourage the friends as much as possible.”

SOME REFINING NEEDED

9 Not everything the Bible Students did during the period between 1914 and 1919 was in harmony with Scriptural principles. Although they were sincere, the brothers did not always have a proper view of subjection to the secular governments. (Rom. 13:1) Therefore, as a group, they were not always neutral with regard to the war effort. For example, when the president of the United States decreed that May 30, 1918, would be set aside as a day of prayer for peace, *The Watch Tower* urged the Bible Students to join in the observance. Some brothers purchased bonds to provide financial as-

9. (a) Why did God’s people need correction and discipline between 1914 and 1919? (b) Of what was the need for discipline not an indication?

sistance to the war effort, and a few even went into the trenches with guns and bayonets. However, it would be a mistake to conclude that the Bible Students were first taken into captivity to Babylon the Great because they needed correction and discipline. On the contrary, they understood their obligation to separate themselves from false religion, and during World War I, the break with that world empire was almost complete.—Read Luke 12:47, 48.

10 While they did not understand every aspect of Christian neutrality as clearly as we do today, the Bible Students did know one thing: The Bible forbids the taking of human life. So even those few brothers who took up arms and entered the trenches during World War I resolutely refused to use those arms to kill another human. Some who

10. What firm stand did the Bible Students take with regard to the sacredness of life?

refused to kill were sent to the front lines, with the expectation that they would lose their life.

11 The Devil was clearly angry about the stand the brothers were taking with regard to the war, as imperfect as that stand was. As a result, he framed “trouble in the name of the law.” (Ps. 94: 20) Major-General James Franklin Bell of the U.S. Army revealed in a conversation with Brothers J. F. Rutherford and W. E. Van Amburgh that the U.S. Department of Justice had tried to introduce a bill in Congress that would allow the death sentence to be imposed on individuals who refused to take up arms in the war. He meant the Bible Students in particular. In the heat of anger, General Bell said to Brother Rutherford: “That bill did not pass because [U.S. President] Wilson prevented it; but we know how to get you, and *we are going to do it!*”

11. How did the secular authorities react to the Bible Students’ Scriptural stand on armed conflict?

12 The authorities made good on that threat. As representatives of the Watch Tower Society, Brothers Rutherford, Van Amburgh, and six others were arrested. When passing sentence, the judge in the case declared: “The religious propaganda in which these men are engaged is more harmful than a division of German soldiers . . . They have not only called in question the law officers of the Government and the army intelligence bureau but have *denounced all the ministers of all the churches*. Their punishment should be severe.” (*Faith on the March*, by A. H. Macmillan, p. 99) It was. The eight Bible Students were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment in the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia. When the war ended, however, they were released and the charges against them were dropped.

12, 13. (a) Why were eight responsible brothers sentenced to long prison terms? (b) Did incarceration break the brothers’ determination to obey Jehovah? Explain.

13 Even while in prison, the eight men held steadfastly to the Scriptures as they understood them. In a petition for clemency addressed to the president of the United States, they wrote: “The Lord’s will is as announced in the Scriptures, ‘Thou shalt not kill,’ and therefore any member of the [International Bible Students] Association so consecrated unto the Lord who would willingly violate his covenant of consecration would forfeit for himself God’s favor, even to his complete destruction. Hence such members could not willingly and conscientiously engage in the taking of the life of human beings.” Bold words those! Clearly, the brothers had no intention of compromising!

FREEDOM AT LAST!

14 Malachi 3:1-3 describes the time—from 1914 to early 1919—when the anointed “sons

14. Describe from the Scriptures what took place from 1914 to 1919.

of Levi” would undergo a period of refinement. (Read.) During that time, Jehovah God, “the true Lord,” accompanied by Jesus Christ, “the messenger of the covenant,” came to the spiritual temple to inspect those serving there. After receiving needed discipline, Jehovah’s cleansed people were ready to take up a further assignment of service. In 1919, a “faithful and discreet slave” was appointed to provide spiritual food to the household of faith. (Matt. 24:45) God’s people were now free of the influence of Babylon the Great. Since that time, by Jehovah’s undeserved kindness, his people have constantly been growing in knowledge of God’s will and in love for their heavenly Father. How grateful they are for his blessing! [1]

15 How exhilarating it is to have been released

15. How should our release from Babylon the Great affect us?

from captivity to Babylon the Great! Satan's effort to eradicate true Christianity from the earth has failed miserably. However, we must not miss the purpose for which Jehovah has granted us this freedom. (2 Cor. 6:1) Multitudes of sincere individuals are still being held captive by false religion. They need to be shown the way out. We can guide them. By all means, then, in imitation of our brothers in the past century, let us do all we can to help them get free!

ENDNOTE:

[1] (paragraph 14) There are many similarities between the Jewish captivity of 70 years in Babylon and what happened to Christians after the apostasy developed. However, the Jewish captivity does not appear to be a prophetic type of what happened to Christians. For one thing, the length of captivity is different. So we should not try to look for prophetic parallels in every detail of the Jewish captivity as if these should somehow apply to what happened to anointed Christians in the years leading up to 1919.

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“Let Your Light Shine”

(Matthew 5:16)

1. Jesus has commanded
That we shine our light,
Like the sun, impartial,
Comforting and bright.
Through the Holy Scriptures,
Thoughts of peace are heard.
May we now reflect his light
As we teach God’s Word.
2. Let God’s Kingdom message
Speak to ev’ry heart;
Let it shine before us
As we play our part.
Light from Scripture guides us
As we bring good news.
Sharing truth with ev’ryone;
Truth is theirs to choose.
3. Light from acts of kindness
Brightens up this world,
To our words adds beauty
Like a priceless pearl.
May our light keep shining
As we do what’s right,
Then our works will always be
Pleasing in God’s sight.