JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 5 | ISAIAH 43-46

- Song 55 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

 "Jehovah Is the God of True Prophecy": (10 min.) Isa 44:26-28—Jehovah prophesied that Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt, and he named Cyrus as the conqueror of Babylon (*ip*-2 71-72 ¶22-23) Isa 45:1, 2—Jehovah gave details about the con-

quest of Babylon (ip-2 77-78 ¶4-6)

Isa 45:3-6—Jehovah gave reasons why he used Cyrus to conquer Babylon (*ip-2* 79-80 ¶8-10)

• Digging for Spiritual Gems: (8 min.) Isa 43:10-12—In what way were the Israelites to be a nation of witnesses for Jehovah? (*w14* 11/15 21-22 ¶14-16)

Isa 43:25—What is the main reason why Jehovah wipes out transgressions? (ip-2 60 ¶24)

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?

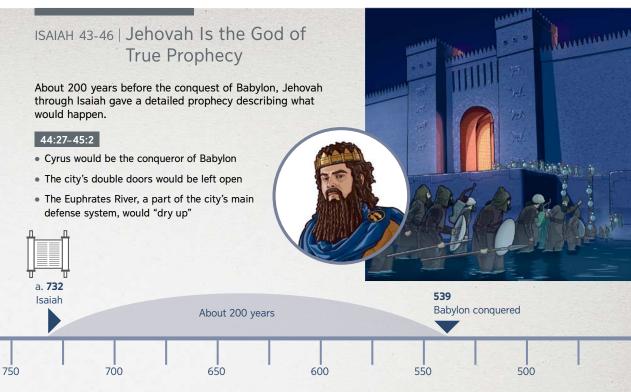
• Bible Reading: (4 min. or less) Isa 46:1-13

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- Initial Call: (2 min. or less) *Ic*—Witness informally to a workmate or schoolmate.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *lc*—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- Bible Study: (6 min. or less) jl lesson 4

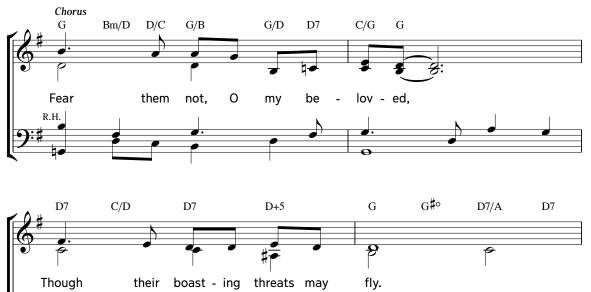
LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 77
- How Can We Be Sure the Bible Is True?: (15 min.) Play the video (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Then discuss the following questions: How can we use this video when witnessing informally, publicly, and from house to house? What good experiences have you had with this video?
- Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *kr* chap. 7 ¶19-23, box on p. 75, chart on pp. 76-77, review box on p. 77
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 83 and Prayer



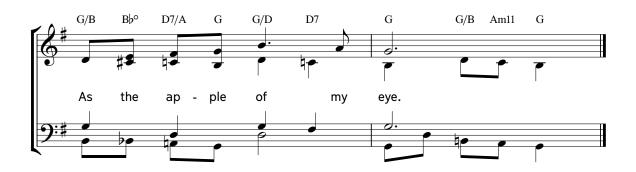


Fear Them Not!









ISAIAH 42:20-43:8

ISAIAH 42:20-43:8		994
Who is so blind as the one rewarded,	CHAP. 42 a Isa 56:10	"Do not be afraid, for I have repurchased you. ^a
So blind as the servant of Jehovah? ^a	Jer 4:22 Eze 12:2	I have called you by your name.
20 You see many things, but you do not keep watch.	b Eze 33:31	You belong to me. 2 When you pass through the
You open your ears, but you do not listen. ^b	c De 28:15, 33 Jer 50:17	waters, I will be with you, ^b And through the rivers, they
21 For the sake of his righteousness,	d Ps 102:19, 20	will not flood over you. ^c When you walk through the
Jehovah has taken pleasure in magnifying the law*	e De 28:29, 52 f Jg 2:12, 14	fire, you will not be scorched.
and making it glorious.	2Ch 15:3, 6	Nor will the flame singe you.
22 But this is a people	Ps 106:41	3 For I am Jehovah your God,
plundered and pillaged; ^c		The Holy One of Israel,
All of them are trapped	g De 32:22 Na 1:6	your Savior.
in the holes and hidden	10 1.0	I have given Egypt as a
in the prisons. ^d	h Isa 9:13	ransom for you,
They have been plundered	Jer 5:3 Ho 7:9	E·thi·o'pi·a and Se'ba in
with no one to rescue	107.5	exchange for you.
them, ^e	i Isa 57:11	4 For you became precious
And pillaged with no one to		in my eyes, ^d
say: "Bring them back!"	CHAP. 43	You were honored, and
23 Who among you will hear this?	j Ps 100:3 Isa 43:15	I have loved you. ^e
	Isa 44:2, 21	So I will give people in place
Who will pay attention and listen for the time to come?		of you
24 Who has given Jacob for	Second Col.	And nations in exchange for
pillage	a Isa 44:23	your life.*
And Israel to the plunderers?	Jer 50:34	5 Do not be afraid, for I am
Is it not Jehovah, the One	b Ex 14:29	with you. ^f
against whom we sinned?		I will bring your offspring*
In His ways they refused	c Jos 3:15, 16 2Ki 2:8	from the east
to walk,		And gather you together from the west. ^g
And His law* they would not	d Ex 19:5, 6	6 I will say to the north,
obey. ⁷ 25 So He kept pouring out on	e De 7:8	'Give them up!'
him wrath,	Jer 31:3	And to the south, 'Do not
His anger and the fury of	f Isa 41:10	hold them back.
war. ^g	Isa 44:2 Jer 30:10	Bring my sons from afar,
It consumed everything	Jer 50.10	and my daughters from
around him, but he paid	g De 30:1-3	the ends of the earth, ⁱ
no attention. ^h	Ps 106:47 Isa 66:20	7 Everyone who is called
It blazed up against him,	Eze 36:24	by my name ^j
but he would not take it	Mic 2:12 Zec 8:7	And whom I created for my
to heart.	200 0.7	own glory,
43 Now this is what Jehovah says,	h Jer 3:18	Whom I have formed and made.' ^k
Your Creator, O Jacob, the	i Jer 31:8	8 Bring out a people who are
One who formed you, O Israel: ^j	j Jer 33:16	blind, though they have eyes,
40-01 04 * O., "in star stings "	k Ps 100:3	
42:21, 24 * Or "instruction."	Isa 29:23	43:4 *Or "soul." 43:5 *Lit., "seed."

ISAIAH 43:9-23

	And who are deaf, though		CHAP. 43
	they have ears. ^a	a	lsa 6:9,10
9	Let all the nations assemble		Isa 42:18, 1
	in one place,		lsa 41:1
	And let the peoples be gathered together. ^b	с	lsa 41:21, 2 Isa 44:7
	Who among them can tell	d	1Ki 18:24, 2
	this?	e	Ac 1:8
	Or can they cause us to hear		Re 1:5
	the first things?*c		De 4:37
	Let them present their	g	lsa 41:4
	witnesses to prove	h	lsa 44:8
	themselves right,	i	De 6:4
	Or let them hear and say,	j	lsa 12:2
	'It is the truth!'"d		Ho 13:4 1Ti 2:3
10	"You are my witnesses," ^e		Jude 25
	declares Jehovah,	k	De 32:12
	"Yes, my servant whom	1	lsa 46:9,10
	I have chosen, ^f	m	lsa 41:4
	So that you may know and		Re 1:8
	have faith in me*	n	De 32:39
	And understand that I am	0	lsa 14:27
	the same One. ^g		Da 4:35
	Before me no God was	p	lsa 44:6 Isa 63:16
	formed,		Isa 54:5
	And after me there has been	1.	Isa 54:5
	none. ^h	ľ	ISa 45:1, Z
11	I–I am Jehovah, i and besides	s	econd Co
	me there is no savior."		Jer 50:10
12	"I am the One who declared	I	Ps 89:18
	and saved and made known		Isa 43:1
	When there was no foreign	I	De 33:5
	god among you. ^k	a	De 33:5 Ps 74:12
	So you are my witnesses,"		lsa 33:22
	declares Jehovah, "and		Re 11:17
	I am God.'	e	Ex 14:16 Jos 3:13
13	Also, I am always the same	f	Ex 15:4
	One; ^m		Jer 51:39
	And no one can snatch	۳.	lsa 42:9
	anything out of my hand."		Isa 42.9
	When I act, who can prevent it?"°		Isa 40:3
14	This is what Jehovah says,	1.	lsa 41:18
	your Repurchaser, ^p the	k	lsa 41:17 Jer 31:9
	Holy One of Israel: ^q	Ι,	Ps 33:12
	"For your sakes I will send	ľ	Isa 41:8
	to Babylon and bring down		1Pe 2:9
	all the bars of the gates, ^r	m	lsa 60:21
42		n	lsa 64:7
	9 *Possibly referring to the first	0	Jer 2:5
	igs to come in the future. 43:10 "and trust me."		Ho 7:10
Ur			Mic 6:3

з		And the Chal·de'ans, in
		their ships, will cry out in
19		distress. ^a
	15	I am Jehovah, your Holy
22		One, ^b the Creator of
~~		Israel, ^c your King." ^d
25	16	This is what Jehovah says,
	10	The One making a way
		through the sea
		And a path even through
		turbulent waters, ^e
	17	The One who draws out the
		war chariot and the horse, ^f
		The army together with the
		mighty warriors:
		"They will lie down and
		not get up. ^g
0		They will be extinguished,
		snuffed out like a burning
		wick."
	18	"Do not remember the
		former things,
		And do not dwell on the past.
	19	-
		new: ^h
		Even now it is springing up.
		Do you not recognize it?
		I will make a way through
ol.		the wilderness ⁱ
		And rivers through the
		desert. ^j
	20	
	20	
		will honor me,
		The jackals and the
		ostriches,
		For I provide water in the
		wilderness,
		Rivers in the desert, ^k
		For my people, my chosen
		one,' to drink,
	21	The people whom I formed
		for myself
		So that they might declare
		my praise. ^m
	22	But you have not called
		on me, O Jacob, ⁿ
		Because you grew weary
		of me, O Israel.º
	23	You have not brought me
		sheep for your whole
		burnt offerings

ISAIAH 43:24-44:9

n Ja 10:14 1Ki 18:26

1Co 8:4

	Or glorified me with your	CHAP. 43
	sacrifices.	a Isa 66:3
	I have not compelled you to bring me a gift,	b Le 3:14-16
	Nor have I made you	c Isa 1:14, 15
	weary by demanding	d Isa 1:18
	frankincense. ^a	Jer 50:20
24	You did not buy me sweet	e Ps 25:7
	cane* with your money,	Ps 79:8,9
	And with the fat of your	Eze 20:9
	sacrifices you did not	f Jer 31:34
	satisfy me. ^b	g Isa 28:7
	Instead, you have burdened	Jer 5:31
	me with your sins	h Ps 79:4
	And made me weary with	Ps 137:3
	your errors. ^c	
25	I, I am the One who is blot-	CHAP. 44
	ting out your transgres-	i Ge 17:1, 7
	sions ^{*d} for my own sake, ^e	Ge 35:10, 11
	And I will not remember	Isa 41:8
	your sins. ^f	j Isa 43:1
26	Remind me; let us bring our	Isa 44:21
	case against each other;	k Isa 41:10
	Tell your side of it to prove	Jer 30:10
	you are in the right.	/ De 32:15
27	Your first forefather sinned,	De 33:5, 26
	And your own spokesmen*	
	have rebelled against me. ^g	Second Col
28	So I will profane the princes	a Isa 41:17
	of the holy place,	b Isa 32:14, 1
	And I will give Jacob over	c Isa 61:11
	to destruction	
	And subject Israel to	d Zec 13:9
	insulting words. ^h	e De 33:5
4	"Now listen, O Jacob my	Isa 33:22
4	servant,	f Ex 6:6
	And you, O Israel, whom	Jer 50:34
	I have chosen.	g Isa 41:4
2	This is what Jehovah says,	Isa 48:12
	Your Maker and the One	Re 22:13
	who formed you, ^j	h De 4:35, 39
	Who has helped you from	lsa 43:10
	the womb:*	i Isa 46:9
	'Do not be afraid, my servant	j Isa 43:9
	Jacob, ^k	Isa 45:21
	And you, Jesh'u·run,# whom	k Isa 41:10
	I have chosen.	
		/ Isa 43:10
43:	24 * An aromatic reed. 43:25 * Or cellious acts." 43:27 * Possibly re-	m De 32:4
ret	Jenious acts. 43:27 "Possibly re-	2Sa 22:32

ferring to teachers of the Law. 44:2 *Or "from birth." "Meaning "Upright One," an honorary title for Israel.

CHAP. 43	3	For I will pour out water on
lsa 66:3		the thirsty one*a
Le 3:14-16		And flowing streams on the dry ground.
lsa 1:14, 15		I will pour out my spirit on
lsa 1:18		your offspring ^{#b}
Jer 50:20		And my blessing on your
Ps 25:7		descendants.
Ps 79:8,9	4	And they will spring up as
Eze 20:9		among the green grass, ^c
Jer 31:34		Like poplars by the streams
Isa 28:7		of water.
Jer 5:31	5	One will say: "I belong to
Ps 79:4	5	Jehovah."d
Ps 137:3		Another will call himself
13 15/.5		by the name of Jacob,
CHAP. 44		And yet another will write
Ge 17:1, 7		on his hand: "Belonging
Ge 35:10, 11		to Jehovah."
lsa 41:8		
lsa 43:1		And he will adopt the name
lsa 44:21		of Israel.'
Isa 41:10	6	This is what Jehovah says,
Jer 30:10		The King of Israel ^e and his
D. 22.15		Repurchaser, ^f Jehovah
De 32:15 De 33:5, 26		of armies:
		'I am the first and I am the
Second Col.		last. ^g
lsa 41:17		There is no God but me. ^h
	7	Who is there like me? ⁱ
Isa 32:14, 15		Let him call out and tell it
lsa 61:11		and prove it to me! ^j
Zec 13:9		From the time I established
		the people of long ago,
De 33:5 Isa 33:22		Let them tell both the things
		to come
Ex 6:6 Jer 50:34		And what will yet happen.
	8	
Isa 41:4		And do not become
lsa 48:12 Re 22:13		paralyzed with fear. ^k
		Have I not told each of
De 4:35, 39 Isa 43:10		you beforehand and
15d 45.10		declared it?
lsa 46:9		You are my witnesses. ¹
lsa 43:9		Is there any God but me?
lsa 45:21		No, there is no other Rock; ^m
lsa 41:10		I know of none."
	6	
Isa 43:10	9	All who form carved images
De 32:4		amount to nothing,
2Sa 22:32		And their cherished objects
Jg 10:14		will be of no benefit. ⁿ
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44:3 *Or "thirsty land." #Lit., "seed."

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ISAIAH 44:10-20

	As their witnesses, they*	CHAP. 44		He builds a fire and bakes
	see nothing and know	a Ps 115:4, 5		bread.
	nothing, ^a So those who made them will			But he also makes a god and
	be put to shame. ^b			worships it. He makes it into a carved
10	Who would form a god or	b .ler 51:17		image, and he bows down
	cast a metal image*	5 50 51.17		before it. ^a
	That can bring no benefit?		16	Half of it he burns up in a
11	Look! All his associates will			fire;
	be put to shame! ^d	c Jer 10:5		With that half he roasts the
	The craftsmen are mere	Ac 19:26		meat that he eats, and he
	humans.			is satisfied.
	Let them all assemble and take their stand.			He also warms himself and
	They will be terrified and	d 1Sa 5:3, 7		says: "Ah! I am warm as I watch
	be put to shame together.			the fire."
12	The metalsmith works the		17	But the rest of it he makes
	iron over the coals with			into a god, into his carved
	his tool.*	e Isa 40:19 Isa 41:7		image.
	He forms it with hammers,	lsa 46:6		He bows down to it and
	Working it with his powerful arm. ^e			worships it.
	Then he grows hungry and			He prays to it and says:
	his strength fails;	f Ex 20:4		"Save me, for you are my
	He drinks no water and	De 4:15, 16	10	god." ^b They know nothing, they
	grows tired.	Ac 17:29	10	understand nothing, c
13	The wood-carver stretches			Because their eyes are
	the measuring line, tracing			sealed shut and they
	out the pattern with red chalk.	g De 27:15		cannot see,
	He works it with a wood			And their heart has no
	scraper and traces it with			insight.
	a compass.	h Isa 40:20	19	No one reflects in his heart
	He patterns it after a man, ^{<i>t</i>}	Jer 10:3		Or has knowledge or under- standing, saying:
	With the beauty of a man,			"Half of it I burned up in
	To sit in a house.*g	Second Col.		a fire,
14	There is one whose work is to cut down cedars.	a Ex 20:4, 5 Le 26:1		And on its coals I baked
	He selects a certain type	Hab 2:18, 19		bread and roasted meat
	of tree, an oak,			to eat.
	And he lets it grow strong			Should I, then, make the
	among the trees of the	b Isa 37:37.38		rest of it into a detestable
	forest. ^h	Isa 45:20		thing? ^d Should I worship a block*
	He plants a laurel tree, and	lsa 46:7		of wood from a tree?"
15	the rain makes it grow. Then it becomes fuel for		20	He feeds on ashes.
15	a man to make fires.			His own deluded heart has
	He takes part of it to warm	c Jer 10:8, 14		led him astray.
	himself;	Ro 1:21-23		He cannot save himself,*
44				nor does he say:
	9 *That is, the images. 44:10 *Or olten statue." 44:12 *Or "billhook."		44.	19 *Or "a dry piece." 44:20 *Or
	13 *Or "shrine."	d De 27:15		s soul."

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ISAIAH 44:21-45:4

"Is there not a lie in my right hand?"	CHAP. 44	The One saying of Jerusalem, 'She will be
21 "Remember these things,	Isa 44:1	inhabited,'a
O Jacob, and you, O Israel,	b Isa 49:15	And of the cities of Judah,
For you are my servant.	c Ps 51:1	'They will be rebuilt, ^b
I formed you, and you are my	Ps 103:12 Isa 1:18	And I will restore her ruins'; ^c
servant.ª	lsa 43:25	27 The One saying to the deep
O Israel, I will not forget	Jer 33:8 Ac 3:19	waters, 'Be evaporated,
you. ^b	d Isa 1:27	And I will dry up all your
22 I will blot out your transgres- sions as with a cloud ^c	Isa 48:20	rivers'; ^d
And your sins as with a thick	Isa 59:20	28 The One saying of Cyrus, ^e
cloud.	e Isa 49:13 Isa 55:12	'He is my shepherd,
Return to me, for I will	f Isa 60:21	And he will completely carry out all my will'; ^r
repurchase you. ^d	g Isa 44:6	The One saying of Jerusa-
23 Shout joyfully, you heavens,	,	lem. 'She will be rebuilt.'
For Jehovah has acted!	h Job 26:7 Isa 40:22	And of the temple, 'Your
Shout in triumph, you depths	i Isa 42:5	foundation will be laid ""
of the earth!	lsa 48:13	45 This is what Jehovah says to his anointed one.
Shout for joy, you	j Ho 9:7	45 to his anointed one,
mountains, ^e	k 2Sa 15:31	to Cyrus, ^h
You forest, and all your	Isa 29:14	Whose right hand I have
trees!	/ Jos 23:14 Isa 55:10, 11	taken hold of ⁱ
For Jehovah has repurchased Jacob,	Zec 1:6	To subdue nations before
And on Israel he displays		him, ^j
his splendor."	Second Col.	To disarm* kings,
24 This is what Jehovah says,	a Ps 147:2	To open before him the dou-
your Repurchaser, ^g	b Isa 60:10	ble doors,
Who formed you since you	c Isa 61:4	So that the gates will not
were in the womb:	d Isa 42:15 Jer 50:38	be shut: 2 "Before you I will go, ^k
"I am Jehovah, who made	Re 16:12	And the hills I will level.
everything.	e Ezr 1:1, 2	The copper doors I will
I stretched out the heavens	Isa 41:25 Isa 45:1	break in pieces,
by myself, ^h And I spread out the earth. ⁱ	lsa 46:11	And the iron bars I will cut
Who was with me?	Da 10:1	down. ⁷
25 I am frustrating the signs of	f Isa 48:14	3 I will give you the treasures
the empty talkers,*	g 2Ch 36:22, 23 Ezr 6:3	in the darkness
And I am the One who makes	Isa 45:13	And the hidden treasures in
diviners act like fools; ^j		the concealed places, ^m
The One confounding the	CHAP. 45	So that you may know that
wise men	h Ezr 1:1, 2 Isa 44:28	I am Jehovah,
And turning their knowledge		The God of Israel, who is
into foolishness;*	i Isa 45:4	calling you by your name."
26 The One making the word	j Isa 13:17 Isa 41:25	4 For the sake of my servant Jacob and of Israel my
of his servant come true	k Isa 13:4	chosen one,
And completely fulfilling the predictions of his	/ Ps 107:16	I am calling you by your
messengers;	m Jer 50:35, 37	name.
	n Ezr 1:1, 2	
44:25 * Or "the false prophets."	Isa 44:28	45:1 *Lit., "ungird the hips of."

ISAIAH 45:5-16

I am giving you a name of honor, although you did	CHAP. 45	10	Woe to the one who says to a father: "What do you
not know me.	De 32:39		become father to?"
5 I am Jehovah. and there is	b 1Sa 17:46		And to a woman: "What are
no one else.	Ps 102:15, 16		you giving birth to?"*
There is no God except me. ^a	Isa 37:20	11	This is what Jehovah says,
I will strengthen*	c Ps 83:18		the Holy One of Israel, ^a
you, although you did not	C PS 05:10		the One who formed him:
know me,	d Ge 1:3		"Would you question me
6 In order that people may	Jer 31:35		about the things coming
know	e Ex 10:21		And command me about my
From the rising of the sun	Ps 104:20		sons ^b and the works of
to its setting*	()		my hands?
That there is none	f Isa 26:12	12	I made the earth ^c and
besides me. ^b	g Ec 7:14		created man on it. ^d
	Am 3:6		I stretched out the heavens
I am Jehovah, and there is	h Eze 34:26		with my own hands, ^e
no one else. ^c	17 226 54.20		And I give orders to all their
7 I form light ^d and create	i Isa 61:11		army."
darkness, ^e	į Isa 29:16	13	"I have raised up a man in
I make peace ^f and create	Jer 18:6		righteousness, ^g
calamity; ^g	Ro 9:20		And I will make all his ways
I, Jehovah, am doing all			straight.
these things.	Second Col.		He is the one who will build
8 You heavens, rain down	a Isa 43:3		my city ^h
from above; ^h			And set my exiles free' with-
Let the clouds pour down	b Ho 1:10		out a price or a bribe,"
righteousness.	C Ge 1:1		says Jehovah of armies.
Let the earth open up and be	Isa 40:28	14	This is what Jehovah says:
fruitful with salvation,	d Ge 1:27		"The profit* of Egypt and
And let it cause righteous-			the merchandise [#] of
ness to spring up at the	e Isa 44:24		E·thi·o'pi·a and the
same time. ⁱ	Jer 32:17 Zec 12:1		Sa·be'ans, tall of stature,
I, Jehovah, have created it."	200 12.1		Will come over to you and
9 Woe to the one who	f Ne 9:6		become yours.
contends* with his Maker.*	g Isa 42:6		They will walk behind you
For he is just an earthenware	g 15a 42.0		in chains.
fragment	h 2Ch 36:23		They will come over and bow
Among the other earthen-	Ezr 1:2, 3 Isa 44:28		down to you. ^k
ware fragments lying on	130 44.20		To you they will say
the ground!	i Isa 14:16, 17		in prayer, 'Surely God is
Should the clay say to the	Isa 43:14 Isa 49:25		with you,
Potter: [^] "What are you	130 49.25		And there is no one else;
making?"	j Isa 13:17		there is no other God.'"
Or should your work say:	k Es 8:17	15	Truly you are a God who
"He has no hands"?	Isa 14:1, 2		conceals himself.
	lsa 49:23		O God of Israel, the Savior. ^m
45:5 *Lit., "closely gird." 45:6 *Or	Isa 60:14 Isa 61:5	16	They will all be put to shame
"From east to west." 45:9 *Or "ar-			and be humiliated:
gues." "Or "with the One who formed	/ Zec 8:23	—	
him." ^Or "the One who formed it."	m Isa 43:11	45:	10 *Or "What are you in birth pains
[∞] Or possibly, "Or should the clay say:	lsa 60:16	with	h?" 45:14 *Or possibly, "laborers."
'Your work has no handles'?"	Tit 1:3	∣ #Or	possibly, "merchants."

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ISAIAH 45:17-46:4

	The makers of idols will all	CHAP. 45
	go off in disgrace. ^a	a Ps 97:7
17	But Israel will be saved	lsa 44:9
	by Jehovah with an	b Isa 26:4
	everlasting salvation. ^b	lsa 51:6
	You will not be put to shame	c Isa 29:22
	or disgraced for all	Isa 54:4
	eternity. ^c	Joe 2:26
18	For this is what Jehovah	Zep 3:11
	says,	d Isa 42:5
	The Creator of the heavens, ^d	Jer 10:12
	the true God,	e Ps 78:69
	The One who formed the	Ps 104:5
	earth, its Maker who firmly	Ps 119:90 Pr 3:19
	established it, ^e	PT 5.19
	Who did not create it simply	f Ge 1:28
	for nothing,* but formed it	Ge 9:1 Ps 37:29
	to be inhabited: ⁷	Ps 115:16
	"I am Jehovah, and there is	- Inc. 40-10
40	no one else.	g Isa 48:16
19	I did not speak in a	h Ps 111:7, 8
	concealed place, ^g in a	Ps 119:137
	land of darkness;	i Isa 66:20
	I did not say to the offspring* of Jacob.	Jer 50:28
		į Isa 42:17
	'Seek me simply for nothing.'#	Jer 50:2
	I am Jehovah, who speaks	
	what is righteous and de-	Second Col.
	clares what is upright. ^h	a Isa 43:3
20	Gather together and come.	b De 4:39
20	Approach together, you	Isa 44:8
	escapees from the nations. ⁱ	Mr 12:32
	They know nothing, those	c Mic 7:7
	who carry around carved	C 1110 717
	images	d De 4:35
	And pray to a god that	e Isa 55:10, 11
	cannot save them. ^j	
21		f De 6:13 Ro 14:11
~-	your case.	KO 14:11
	Let them consult together	g Isa 61:9
	in unity.	
	Who foretold this long ago	CHAP. 46
	And declared it from times	h Jer 50:2
	past?	Jer 51:44
	Is it not I, Jehovah?	i Isa 45:20
	There is no other God	j Isa 1:9
	but me:] ISB 1:9
		k Ex 19:4
45:	18 *Or possibly, "to be empty."	De 1:31 Isa 44:2
45:	19, 25 *Lit., "seed." 45:19 #Or "in	15d 44.2
vair	ı."	/ Isa 41:4

	A righteous God and a Savior. ^a there is none
	besides me. ^b
22	Turn to me and be saved, ^c
	all the ends of the earth,
	For I am God, and there is
	no one else. ^d
23	By myself I have sworn;
	The word has gone out of my
	mouth in righteousness,
	And it will not return: ^e
	To me every knee will bend,
	Every tongue will swear loyalty ^f
24	And say, 'Surely in Jehovah
	are true righteousness and
	strength.
	All those enraged against him will come before him
	in shame.
25	In Jehovah all the offspring*
25	of Israel will prove to be
	right, ^g
	And in him they will make
	their boast.'"
	Bel bends down, ^h Ne'bo
4	• stoops over.
	Their idols are loaded on ani-
	mals, on beasts of burden, ⁱ
	Like baggage that burdens
	the weary animals.
2	They stoop and bend down
	together;
	They cannot rescue the loads.*
	And they themselves [#]
	go into captivity.
3	
1	Jacob, and all you who
	remain of the house of
·	Israel, ^j
	You whom I have supported
	from birth and carried
	from the womb. ^k
4	Until you grow old I will be
	the same;'
	Until your hair is gray I will
1	keep bearing you.

46:2 *That is, the idols loaded on the animals. "Or "their souls."

1001

	As I have done, I will carry		сна	AP. 46
	you and bear you and	a	lsa	43:13
	rescue you. ^a	-		
5	To whom will you liken me	b	Ex 1	15:11
	or make me equal or			
	compare me, ^b	с	Ac :	17:29
	So that we should resemble	4	lee	40:19
	each other? ^c	ľ		10:8,9
6	There are those who lavish			
	gold from their purse;	e		44:16, 1
	They weigh out the silver		Da	3:1, 5
	on the scale.	f	Jer	10:5
	They hire a metalworker, and	Ľ		
	he makes it into a god. ^d	g	1Sa	5:3
	Then they prostrate			
	themselves, yes, they worship it.*e	h		18:26 37:37, 38
	worship it.* ^e		Jon	
7	They lift it to their			
	shoulders; ^f	i	De	33:26
	They carry it and put it in			
	its place, and it just stands	j		42:9 45:21
	there.		150	43.21
	It does not move from its	k	Ps 3	33:11
	place. ^g			
	They cry out to it, but it	1		135:6 55:10, 11
	does not answer;		ISd	55:10, 1
	It cannot rescue anyone	m	lsa	41:2
	from distress. ^h		lsa	45:1
8	Remember this, and take			
	courage.			nd Col
	Take it to heart, you			1:1, 2
-	transgressors.			44:28 48:14
9	Remember the former*			
	things of long ago,	b		23:19
	That I am God, # and there		Job	23:13
	is no other.		lsa	12.2
	I am God, and there is no one like me. ⁱ	ľ		51:5
10			lsa	62:11
10	From the beginning I foretell the outcome.			44:23
	,	ľ		44.25 60:21
	And from long ago the things that have not yet been			
	done. ^j		сня	AP. 47
	I say, 'My decision* will	e	Ps 1	137:8
	stand. ^k		Jer	50:41, 4
	And I will do whatever	4	D - 1	5.00
	I please."	ľ	Da	5:30
11	I am calling a bird of prey	g	De	32:35, 4
	from the sunrise, ^{#m}	ľ	Ps 9	
			l	
46:	6 *Lit., "bow down to it." 46:9	ⁿ		41:14 43:3
*Lit	., "first." "Or "the Divine One."			44:6
46:	10, 11 *Or "purpose; counsel."	Ι.		

46:11 #Or "east." i Isa 47:1

ISAIAH 46:5-47:5

	13AAAT 40.3-47.3
	From a distant land the man
	to carry out my decision.* ^a
	I have spoken, and I will
	bring it about.
	I have purposed it, and I will
	also carry it out. ^b
12	Listen to me, you who are
	stubborn* of heart,
	You who are far away from
	righteousness.
13	I have brought my
	righteousness near;
	It is not far away,
	And my salvation will not
	delay.°
	I will grant salvation in Zion,
	my splendor to Israel." ^d
4	the dust.
-	O virgin daughter of
	Babylon. ^e
	Sit down on the ground
	where there is no throne, ^{<i>f</i>}
	O daughter of the
	Chal·de'ans,
	For never again will people
	call you delicate and
	pampered.
2	
2	flour.
	Remove your veil.
	Strip off your skirt, uncover
	your legs.
	Cross over the rivers.
3	Your nakedness will be
3	uncovered.
	Your shame will be exposed.
	I will take vengeance, ^g and
	no man will stand in my
	way.*
4	"The One repurchasing us
4	–Jehovah of armies is his
	name—
-	Is the Holy One of Israel." ^h
5	Sit there silently and go
	into darkness,
	O daughter of the
	Chal·de'ans;
46.	12 *Lit., "powerful." 47:3 *Or pos-
sih	ly, "and I will not meet anyone kind-
5.0	y, and i will not meet anyone kind-

ly."

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 5 | ISAIAH 43-46

- Song 55 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

 "Jehovah Is the God of True Prophecy": (10 min.) Isa 44:26-28—Jehovah prophesied that Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt, and he named Cyrus as the conqueror of Babylon (*ip*-2 71-72 ¶22-23) Isa 45:1, 2—Jehovah gave details about the con-

quest of Babylon (ip-2 77-78 ¶4-6)

Isa 45:3-6—Jehovah gave reasons why he used Cyrus to conquer Babylon (*ip-2* 79-80 ¶8-10)

• Digging for Spiritual Gems: (8 min.) Isa 43:10-12—In what way were the Israelites to be a nation of witnesses for Jehovah? (*w14* 11/15 21-22 ¶14-16)

Isa 43:25—What is the main reason why Jehovah wipes out transgressions? (ip-2 60 ¶24)

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?

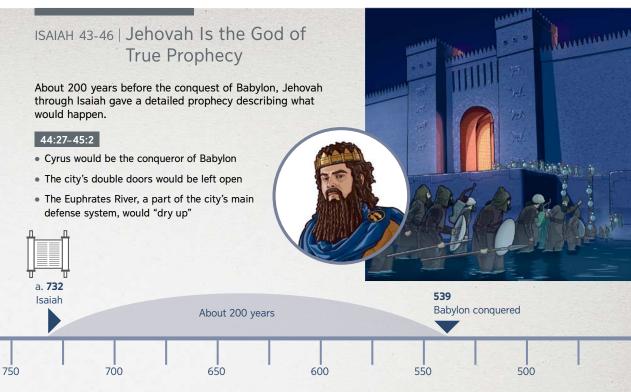
• Bible Reading: (4 min. or less) Isa 46:1-13

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- Initial Call: (2 min. or less) *Ic*—Witness informally to a workmate or schoolmate.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *lc*—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- Bible Study: (6 min. or less) jl lesson 4

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 77
- How Can We Be Sure the Bible Is True?: (15 min.) Play the video (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Then discuss the following questions: How can we use this video when witnessing informally, publicly, and from house to house? What good experiences have you had with this video?
- Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *kr* chap. 7 ¶19-23, box on p. 75, chart on pp. 76-77, review box on p. 77
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 83 and Prayer



January 30–February 5

Treasures From God's Word

Isaiah 44:26-28—Jehovah prophesied that Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt, and he named Cyrus as the conqueror of Babylon

Reference: ip-2 71-72 paragraphs 22-23.

22 Uninspired diviners usually dare not be too specific in their predictions for fear that time will prove them wrong. By contrast, through Isaiah, Jehovah reveals the very name of the man he will use to free his people from captivity so that they can go home and rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. His name is Cyrus, and he is known as Cyrus the Great of Persia. Jehovah also gives details of the strategy that Cyrus will use to penetrate Babylon's massive and elaborate defense system. Babylon will be protected by high walls and by waterways that run through and around the city. Cyrus will turn a main element of that system—the Euphrates River—to his advantage. According to ancient historians Herodotus and Xenophon, at a location upstream from Babylon, Cyrus diverted the waters of the Euphrates until the level of the river dropped low enough for his soldiers to wade through. As far as its ability to protect Babylon is concerned, the mighty Euphrates evaporates.

23 What about the promise that Cyrus will release God's people and that he will see to it that Jerusalem and the temple will be rebuilt? Cyrus himself, in an official proclamation preserved in the Bible, declares: "This is what Cyrus the king of Persia has said, 'All the kingdoms of the earth Jehovah the God of the heavens has given me, and he himself has commissioned me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God prove to be with him. So let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of Jehovah the God of Israel—he is the true God—which was in Jerusalem." (Ezra 1:2, 3) Jehovah's word through Isaiah is completely fulfilled!

Isaiah 45:1, 2—Jehovah gave details about the conquest of Babylon

Reference: ip-2 77-78 paragraphs 4-6.

4 Jehovah, through Isaiah, speaks to Cyrus as if he were alive, although in Isaiah's day Cyrus has not yet been born. (Romans 4:17) Since Jehovah appoints Cyrus in advance to accomplish a specific task, Cyrus can be said to be God's "anointed one." With God leading him, he will subdue nations, rendering kings weak and incapable of resistance. Then, when Cyrus attacks Babylon, Jehovah will see to it that the doors of the city are left open, making them as useless as gates that have been shattered. He will go before Cyrus, smoothing out all obstacles. In the end, Cyrus' troops will conquer the city and take possession of its "hidden treasures," its wealth stored in dark vaults. This is what Isaiah foretells. Do his words come true? 5 In the year 539 B.C.E.—some 200 years after Isaiah records this prophecy—Cyrus does indeed arrive at the walls of Babylon to attack the city. (Jeremiah 51:11, 12) The Babylonians, however, are not concerned. They feel that their city is unconquerable. Its towering walls loom over deep moats filled with water from the Euphrates River, which forms part of the city's defense system. For over a hundred years, no enemy has been able to take Babylon by storm! In fact, Babylon's ruler in residence, Belshazzar, feels so secure that he feasts with members of his court. (Daniel 5:1) That night—the night of October 5/6—Cyrus completes a brilliant military maneuver.

6 Upstream from Babylon, Cyrus' engineers have cut through the bank of the Euphrates River, diverting its waters so that they no longer flow southward toward the city. Before long, the water level of the river in and around Babylon falls so low that Cyrus' troops are able to slosh along the riverbed toward the heart of the city. (Isaiah 44:27; Jeremiah 50:38) Amazingly, just as Isaiah foretold, the gates along the river are open. Cyrus' forces swarm into Babylon, take the palace, and put King Belshazzar to death. (Daniel 5:30) In one night the conquest is all over. Babylon has fallen, and the prophecy is fulfilled to the letter.

Isaiah 45:3-6—Jehovah gave reasons why he used Cyrus to conquer Babylon

Reference: ip-2 79-80 paragraphs 8-10.

Why Jehovah Will Favor Cyrus

8 After stating who will conquer Babylon and how this will be done, Jehovah goes on to explain one reason why Cyrus will be given the victory. Jehovah, prophetically speaking to Cyrus, says that it is "in order that you may know that I am Jehovah, the One calling you by your name, the God of Israel." (Isaiah 45:3b) It is fitting that the ruler of the fourth world power of Bible history recognizes that his greatest victory comes as a result of the support of one who is greater than he is—Jehovah, the Universal Sovereign. Cyrus should acknowledge that the one who calls, or commissions, him is Jehovah, the God of Israel. The Bible record shows that Cyrus did indeed acknowledge that his great victory came from Jehovah.—Ezra 1:2, 3.

9 Jehovah explains the second reason why he brings Cyrus to conquer Babylon: "For the sake of my servant Jacob and of Israel my chosen one, I even proceeded to call you by your name; I proceeded to give you a name of honor, although you did not know me." (Isaiah 45:4) Cyrus' victory over Babylon is earth-shattering. It marks the fall of one world power and the ascent of another, and it leaves its mark on history for generations to come. Yet, those of the nations round about who are anxiously watching events would likely be astounded to know that it all happens for the sake of a few thousand "insignificant" exiles in Babylon—the Jews, descendants of Jacob. In Jehovah's eyes, however, these survivors of the ancient nation of Israel are far from insignificant. They are his "servant." Of all the nations of the earth, they are his "chosen one." Even though Cyrus previously did not know Jehovah, he is used by Jehovah as His anointed one to overthrow the city that refused to give up its captives. It is not God's purpose that his chosen people languish forever on foreign soil. 10 There is a third, even more important reason why Jehovah uses Cyrus to overthrow Babylon. Jehovah says: "I am Jehovah, and there is no one else. With the exception of me there is no God. I shall closely gird you, although you have not known me, in order that people may know from the rising of the sun and from its setting that there is none besides me. I am Jehovah, and there is no one else." (Isaiah 45:5, 6) Yes, the fall of the Babylonian World Power is a demonstration of Jehovah's Godship, proof to everyone that he alone is worthy of worship. Because God's people are released, individuals from many nations—from east to west—will come to acknowledge that Jehovah is the only true God.—Malachi 1:11.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Isaiah 43:10-12—In what way were the Israelites to be a nation of witnesses for Jehovah?

Reference: w14 11/15 21-22 paragraphs 14-16.

A Nation of Witnesses

14 The Israelites worshipped their God, Jehovah, whereas the other nations worshipped their own deities. At the time of the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah compared the world situation to that of a court trial. He challenged the gods of the nations to produce witnesses to confirm their divinity, declaring: "Let all the nations assemble in one place, and let the peoples be gathered together. Who [of their gods] among them can tell this? Or can they cause us to hear the first things? Let them present their witnesses to prove themselves right, or let them hear and say, 'It is the truth!"—Isaiah 43:9.

15 The gods of the nations were unable to produce any evidence of their godship. They were mere idols that were speechless and that needed to be carried around. (Isaiah 46:5-7) On the other hand, Jehovah told his people Israel: "You are my witnesses, . . . yes, my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and have faith in me and understand that I am the same One. Before me no God was formed, and after me there has been none. I—I am Jehovah, and besides me there is no savior. . . . So you are my witnesses, . . . and I am God."—Isaiah 43:10-12.

16 In what would amount to a universal court case over the issue "Who is the Supreme God?," Jehovah's chosen people were to attest loud and clear that Jehovah is the one true God. He called them "the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise." (Isaiah 43:21) They were the people who bore his name. Redeemed from Egypt by Jehovah, they were under a moral obligation to support his sovereignty before the other peoples of the earth. In effect, their stance was to be like that later set forth for God's present-day people by the prophet Micah: "All the peoples will walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of Jehovah our God forever and ever."—Micah 4:5.

Isaiah 43:25—What is the main reason why Jehovah wipes out transgressions?

Reference: ip-2 60 paragraph 24.

Notice, though, that the resulting divine mercy will not simply be because of Israel's contrition; it will be for Jehovah's own sake. Yes, his name is involved. Were he to abandon Israel to permanent exile, his own name would be reproached by onlookers. (Psalm 79:9; Ezekiel 20:8-10) Likewise today, the salvation of humans is secondary to the sanctification of Jehovah's name and the vindication of his sovereignty. Nonetheless, Jehovah loves those who accept his discipline without reservation and who worship him with spirit and truth. He demonstrates his love for these ones— whether anointed or other sheep—by wiping out their transgressions on the basis of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.—John 3:16; 4:23, 24.

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 5 | ISAIAH 43-46

- Song 55 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

 "Jehovah Is the God of True Prophecy": (10 min.) Isa 44:26-28—Jehovah prophesied that Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt, and he named Cyrus as the conqueror of Babylon (*ip*-2 71-72 ¶22-23) Isa 45:1, 2—Jehovah gave details about the con-

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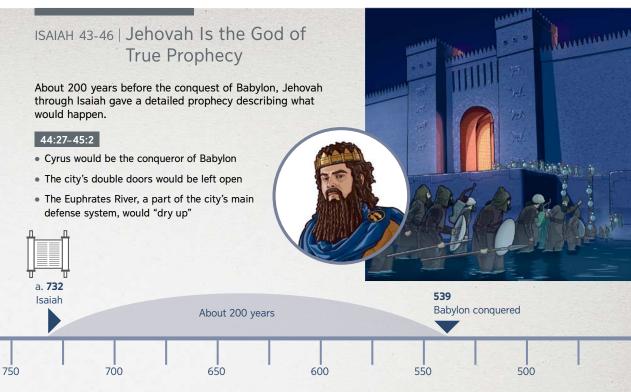
• Bible Reading: (4 min. or less) Isa 46:1-13

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- Initial Call: (2 min. or less) *Ic*—Witness informally to a workmate or schoolmate.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *lc*—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- Bible Study: (6 min. or less) jl lesson 4

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 77
- How Can We Be Sure the Bible Is True?: (15 min.) Play the video (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Then discuss the following questions: How can we use this video when witnessing informally, publicly, and from house to house? What good experiences have you had with this video?
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- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 83 and Prayer



Why Have We Produced the *New World Translation*?

For decades, Jehovah's Witnesses used, printed, and distributed various versions of the Bible. But then we saw the need to produce a new translation that would better help people to learn the "accurate knowledge of truth," which is God's will for everyone. (1 Timothy 2:3, 4) Thus, in 1950 we began to release portions of our modern-language Bible, the *New World Translation*. This Bible has been faithfully and accurately translated into over 100 languages.

A Bible was needed that was easy to understand.

Languages change over time, and many translations contain obscure or obsolete expressions that are difficult to understand. Also, ancient manuscripts that are more accurate and closer to the originals have been discovered, resulting in a better comprehension of Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

A translation was needed that was loyal to God's word.

Rather than taking liberties with God's inspired writings, Bible translators should be faithful to the original text. However, in most versions, the divine name, Jehovah, is not used in the Holy Scriptures.

A Bible was needed that gives credit to its Author.

(2 Samuel 23:2) In the *New World Translation*, Jehovah's name has been restored where it appears some 7,000 times in the oldest Bible manuscripts as illustrated in the example below. (Psalm 83:18) The result of years of diligent research, this Bible is a pleasure to read, as it clearly conveys God's thinking. Whether you have the *New World Translation* in your language or not, we encourage you to get into a good routine of reading Jehovah's Word every day.—Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2, 3.

- \blacksquare Why did we decide that a new translation of the Bible was needed?
- What daily practice is good for anyone wanting to learn God's will?



Symmachus fragment containing the divine name at Psalm 69:31, third or fourth century C.E.



FIND OUT MORE

Read the foreword of the *New World Translation*, and answer the question: "With what sense of responsibility did the translation committee produce this Bible?" Then compare their rendering of the following verses with that of other translations that you may possess: Genesis 25:29; Isaiah 14:23; Matthew 5:3; 11:12; 1 Corinthians 10:24, 25; Philippians 1:8.



Light in a Darkened World 77 (2 Corinthians 4:6) Bb/C Bb/C Ab/C Ab/C Gm/C Fm/C ₿ In these days, dark law - less days, and Those who sleep need wak- en - ing а --Bb/C Aþ/C Gm/C Eb/C F/C Bb/D 钌 Shines а light we can see. As the time ebbs а way. _ Ab/EbBb/Eb Ab/Eb Bb/Eb Ab/Eb Bb/Ebg: 8 **bS** Like the dawn of oth - er day an _ We give hope and cour - age - ment. en _ Dbma7 Eb/Db Bbm7 Eb/Bb Cm7 8: That will soon come to be. we'll For their fu - ture pray.

Light in a Darkened World



⁽See also John 3:19; 8:12; Rom. 13:11, 12; 1 Pet. 2:9.)

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 5 | ISAIAH 43-46

- Song 55 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

 "Jehovah Is the God of True Prophecy": (10 min.) Isa 44:26-28—Jehovah prophesied that Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt, and he named Cyrus as the conqueror of Babylon (*ip*-2 71-72 ¶22-23) Isa 45:1, 2—Jehovah gave details about the con-

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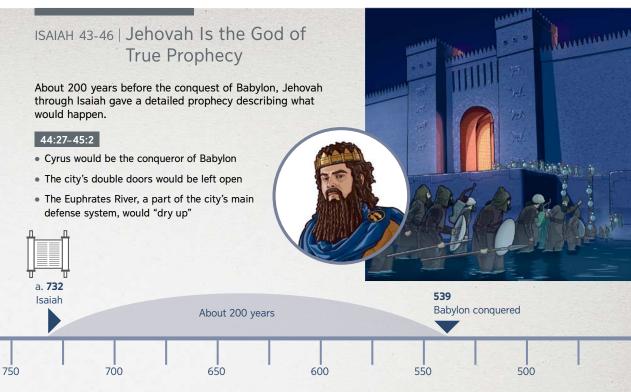
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- Song 83 and Prayer



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

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

FOOTNOTE

could encourage people to listen to the lectures on their local stations. With what impact? The *Bulletin* (now called *Our Kingdom Ministry*) 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 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 mobile Internet subscriptions. Those developments have fundamentally changed the way many people receive information.

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







DOWNLOADED EACH MONTH:

About 3 million short videos, 3 million complete books, 4 million complete magazines, and 22 million audio tracks

All figures as of 2013

VISITS:

Each day jw.org receives more than 750,000 individual visits



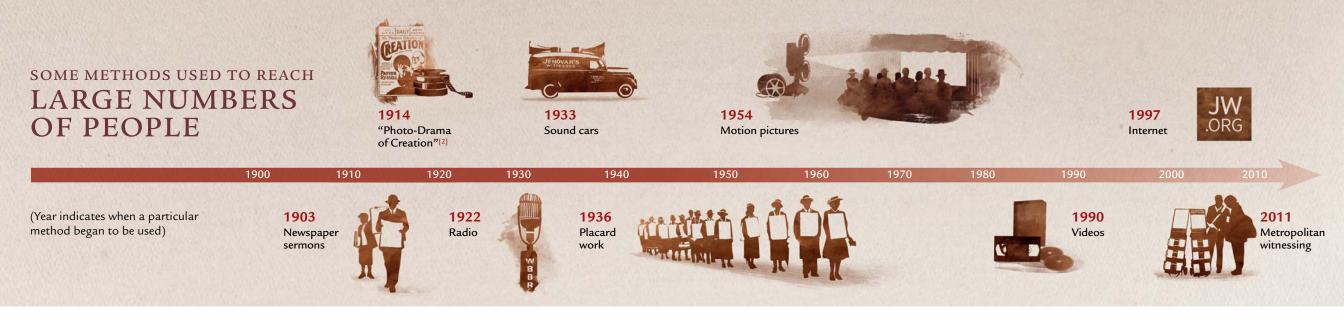
JW



over 300 languages

PUBLICATIONS:

Available for download in more than 520 languages



21. What have you learned from the experience involving Sina?

22, 23. (a) Have the methods of reaching large audiences replaced the door-to-door ministry?(b) How has the King blessed our efforts?

FOOTNOTE

[2] The "Photo-Drama" included some motion pictures.

²⁰ Starting in 1997, Jehovah's people adopted this method of mass communication. In 2013, the jw.org Web site became available in some 300 languages, and Bible-based information was made available for download in over 520 languages. Each day the site receives more than 750,000 individual visits. Each month, in addition to viewing videos, people download over 3 million complete books, 4 million complete magazines, and 22 million audio tracks.

²¹ The Web site has become a powerful method of spreading the good news of God's Kingdom, even in lands where our preaching work is restricted. For example, early in 2013, a man named Sina found the jw.org site and called world headquarters, which is located in the United States, asking for more information about the Bible. What made this call unusual? Sina comes from a Muslim background and lives in a remote village in a country where the work of Jehovah's Witnesses is severely restricted. As a result of this call, arrangements were made for Sina to study the Bible twice a week with a Witness in the United States. The study was conducted using an Internet video service.

Teaching Individuals

²² None of the methods we have used to reach large audiences, such as newspapers, the "Photo-Drama," radio programs, and the Web site, were meant to replace the

door-to-door ministry. Why not? Because Jehovah's people learned from the pattern set by Jesus. He did more than preach to large crowds; he focused on helping individuals. (Luke 19:1-5) Jesus also trained his disciples to do the same, and he gave them a message to deliver. **(Read Luke 10:1, 8-11.)** As discussed in Chapter 6, those taking the lead have always encouraged each servant of Jehovah to speak to people face-to-face.—Acts 5:42; 20:20.

²³ One hundred years after the Kingdom's birth, more than 7.9 million publishers actively share in teaching others about God's purposes. Without question, the King has blessed the methods we have used to advertise the Kingdom. As the following chapter will show, he has also provided us with the tools we need to spread the good news to every nation, tribe, and tongue.—Rev. 14:6.

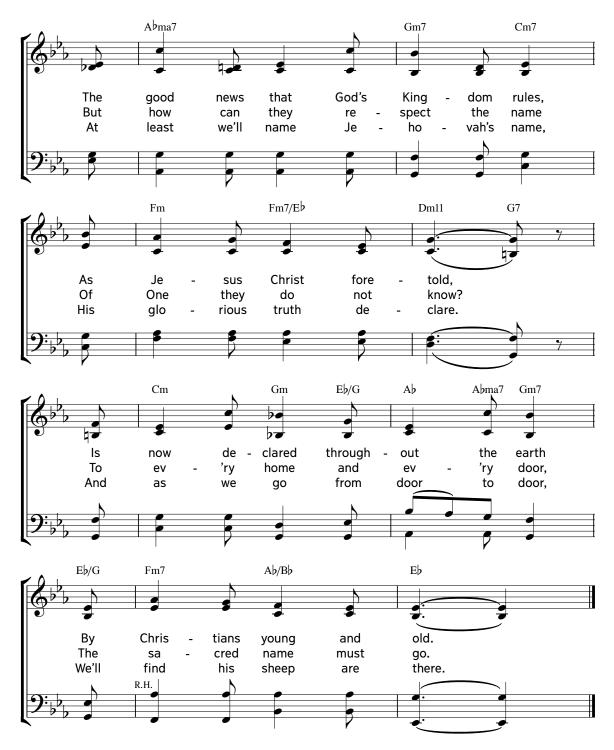
How Real Is the Kingdom to You?

- What events involving our use of newspapers, picture presentations, radio, and the Internet prove to you that the Kingdom is real?
- Why do we emphasize the door-to-door ministry?

(Acts 20:20) Еþ Bþ7 Cm7 Fm11 From house to house, from door to door, door From house to house, from to door, So let from door to door us go Ebsus4/G Eb/G Bþ7 Cm9 Cm Fm7 2 Ø spread. Je ho vah's word we Sal va tion we pro claim. spread То the King dom news. R.H. E♭/G Bb/Ab Cm7 From town from to town, farm to farm, lt who make choice comes to those the And wheth it's em braced or not, er Bþ7 Eb7sus4 Eþ7 Fm11 Fm7 Bb13sus4 vah's fed. Je ho sheep are _ То call up God's name. on We'll ple let the choose. peo R.H.

"From House to House"

"From House to House"



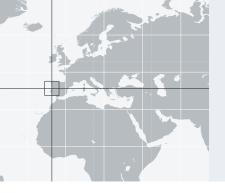
DECEMBER 2016

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM





STUDY ARTICLES FOR: JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 26, 2017



COVER IMAGE:

Many tourists come to the city of Aveiro in northern Portugal to see the interesting salt evaporation ponds. Local Witnesses make sure to offer the good news to those who sell the locally produced salt PUBLISHERS 48,840

BIBLE STUDIES 28,687

memorial attendance (2015) 91,472

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 'Setting Your Mind on the Spirit Means Life and Peace'

In Romans chapters 6 and 8, we find vital information related to our life as Christians. Studying that material can help us to benefit from God's undeserved kindness and to maintain our focus on what will result in our everlasting good.

18 DO YOU REMEMBER?

19 WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13-19 Throw All Your Anxiety on Jehovah

24 WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20-26 Jehovah Rewards Those Who Earnestly Seek Him

The first of these two articles discusses how we can throw all our anxiety on God. The second article explains how we can strengthen our faith by being firmly convinced that God rewards those who earnestly seek him. It also shows how the hope of a reward benefits us.

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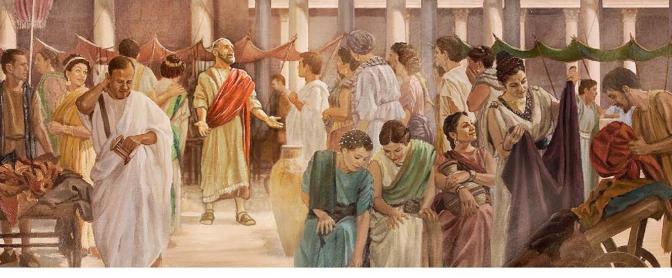


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(See also Ps. 50:14; 95:2; 147:7; Col. 3:15.)



By Undeserved Kindness You Were Set Free

"Sin must not be master over you, seeing that you are . . . under undeserved kindness."-ROM. 6:14.

SONGS: 46, 127

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

Why is God's provision of the ransom an undeserved kindness?

How is it that we can consider ourselves "dead with reference to sin"?

Why does appreciation for God's undeserved kindness move us to avoid more than just serious sins? IMAGINE you wanted to list Bible verses that Jehovah's Witnesses know well and use often. Would Romans 5:12 be high on your list? Think about how often you have referred to the statement: "Just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because they had all sinned."

² That verse is repeatedly used in the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* As you study this book with your children or others, you will likely read Romans 5:12 when you discuss God's purpose for the earth, the ransom, and the condition of the dead—chapters 3, 5, and 6. But how often do you think of Romans 5:12 with regard to your own standing before Jehovah, your actions, and your future prospects?

³ All of us, of course, must face the reality that we are sinners. We make mistakes every day. Yet, we are assured that God remembers that we are made of dust, and he is willing to show us mercy. (Ps. 103:13, 14) Jesus included in the model prayer the request to God: "Forgive us our sins." (Luke 11:

^{1, 2.} Why is Romans 5:12 of interest to Jehovah's Witnesses?

^{3.} We ought to face what fact about sin?

2-4) Hence, we have no reason to dwell on mistakes that God has forgiven. Still, we can benefit from thinking about how he could—and did—forgive us.

FORGIVEN THROUGH UNDESERVED KINDNESS

4 We find important information in the chapters surrounding the apostle Paul's words at Romans 5:12, especially in chapter 6. This will help us to understand how Jehovah can forgive us. In chapter 3, we read: "All have sinned ..., and it is as a free gift that they are being declared righteous by his undeserved kindness through the release by the ransom paid by Christ Jesus." (Rom. 3:23, 24) What did Paul mean by saying "undeserved kindness"? He used a Greek word that, according to one reference work, has the sense of "a favour freely done, without claim or expectation of return." It is unearned and unmerited.

⁵ Scholar John Parkhurst noted: "When spoken of God or Christ, it [that Greek word] very often particularly refers to their free and undeserved favour or kindness in the redemption and salvation of man." Thus, the rendering "undeserved kindness" in the New World Translation is fitting. But how did God manifest this undeserved kindness? And what does it have to do with your hope and your relationship with him? Let us see.

⁶ Adam was the "one man" through whom sin and death "entered into the world." Thus "by the trespass of the one man death ruled as king." Paul added that "the abundance of [God's] undeserved kindness" came about "through the one person, Jesus Christ." (Rom. 5:12, 15, 17) And that undeserved kindness has resulted in good for all mankind. "Through the obedience of the one person [Jesus] many will be made righteous." Actually, God's undeserved kindness can lead to "everlasting life through Jesus Christ."—Rom. 5: 19, 21.

⁷ Jehovah was not obliged to have his Son come to earth to provide the ransom. Moreover, imperfect, sinful humans did not of themselves merit, or deserve, what God and Jesus did in providing a ransom by which forgiveness was possible. So our being forgiven and offered the prospect of living forever is truly a kindness that is undeserved. We should highly value the gift of God's undeserved kindness and let it affect our life daily.

APPRECIATION FOR GOD'S UNDESERVED KINDNESS

⁸ Being imperfect descendants of Adam, we are inclined to err, to do what is bad, to sin. Still, it would be a serious mistake to presume on God's undeserved kindness, such as by thinking: 'Even if I do something wrong—something that God views as sin—I do not have to worry about it. Jehovah will forgive me.' Sadly, some Christians felt that way even while some of the apostles were still alive. **(Read Jude 4.)** We ourselves might never voice such a thought; yet, the seeds of this wrong viewpoint might be in us or they could be planted in us and start to grow.

^{4, 5. (}a) What sheds light on the sense of Romans 5:12? (b) What is the "undeserved kindness" that is mentioned at Romans 3:24?

^{6.} To what extent can individuals benefit from God's undeserved kindness?

^{7.} Why was God's provision of the ransom both kind and undeserved?

^{8.} What mistaken view might some people have of their sins?

⁹ Paul stressed that we must strongly reject the view: 'Oh, God understands. He will overlook my wrong deeds or actions.' Why? Because, as Paul writes, Christians have "died with reference to sin." (**Read Romans 6:1, 2.**) While they were still alive on earth, how could it be said of them that they had "died with reference to sin"?

¹⁰ God applied the ransom to Paul and others of his day. Thus Jehovah forgave their sins, anointed them with holy spirit, and called them to be his spiritual sons. Then they had the heavenly hope. If they proved faithful, they would live and rule with Christ in heaven. But Paul could speak of them while they were still alive and serving God on earth as having "died with reference to sin." He used the example of Jesus, who died as a human and then was raised up as an immortal spirit in heaven. Death was no longer master over Jesus. It was similar with anointed Christians, who could consider themselves "dead with reference to sin but living with reference to God by Christ Jesus." (Rom. 6:9, 11) Their way of life was not as it once was. They were no longer obeying the dictates or impulses of their sinful desires. They had died to that previous way of life.

¹¹ What of us? Well, before we became Christians, we often sinned, perhaps not realizing how wrong or bad our actions were in God's eyes. We were like "slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness." It could be said that we "were slaves of sin." (Rom. 6:19, 20) Then we came to know Bible truth, made changes in our lives, dedicated ourselves to God, and got baptized. Since then, it has been our desire to be "obedient from the heart" to God's teachings and standards. Even if we might not have spoken of it in those terms, we "were set free from sin" and we "became slaves to righteousness." (Rom. 6:17, 18) So we too could be said to have "died with reference to sin."

¹² Now think of yourself in the light of Paul's words: "Do not let sin continue to rule as king in your mortal bodies so that you should obey their desires." (Rom. 6: 12) We could "let sin continue to rule" by doing whatever our imperfect body moves us to do. Because we can "let" sin rule or refuse to let it rule, the question is, What do we really want at heart? Ask vourself: 'At times, do I let my imperfect body or mind point me in a bad direction and then go there? Or am I dead with reference to sin? Am I living with reference to God by Christ Jesus?' It really comes down to how much we appreciate the undeserved kindness God has shown by forgiving us.

A FIGHT THAT YOU CAN WIN

¹³ Jehovah's people have turned their back on "the fruit that [they] used to produce" before they came to know, love, and serve God. Their past way of life may have included "things of which [they] are now ashamed" and that would have merited death. (Rom. 6:21) Then they changed. That was true of many in Corinth to whom Paul wrote. Some had been idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, drunkards, and the like. Yet,

^{9, 10.} How were Paul and others set free from sin and death?

^{11.} In what sense have we who hope to live forever in Paradise "died with reference to sin"?

^{12.} What choice does each of us have to make?

^{13.} What evidence gives us confidence that it is possible to turn our back on sin?

they were "washed clean" and "sanctified." (1 Cor. 6:9-11) That was likely also true of some in the Roman congregation. Paul was inspired to write to them: "Neither go on presenting your bodies to sin as weapons of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, also your bodies to God as weapons of righteousness." (Rom. 6:13) Paul was sure that they could remain spiritually clean and thus continue to benefit from God's undeserved kindness.

¹⁴ It is similar today. Some brothers and sisters may at one time have been like those in Corinth. But they too changed. They left their sinful past and were "washed clean." To whatever extent that may be true in your case, what is your situation before God at this time? Now that God's undeserved kindness and resulting forgiveness are available, are you determined no longer 'to present your body to sin'? Will you instead 'present yourself to God as alive from the dead'?

¹⁵ For us to do that, we must certainly avoid choosing to practice the serious sins that some in Corinth had been guilty of. That is vital if we are to say that we have accepted God's undeserved kindness and that 'sin is not master over us.' However, are we also determined to be "obedient from the heart" by doing our best to avoid sins that some would view as less serious? —Rom. 6:14, 17.

¹⁶ Think of the apostle Paul. We can be

sure that he was not sharing in the gross wrongs mentioned at 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Nonetheless, he confessed that he was still guilty of sin. He wrote: "I am fleshly, sold under sin. For I do not understand what I am doing. For I do not practice what I wish, but I do what I hate." (Rom. 7:14, 15) This shows that there were other things that Paul viewed as sins, and he was fighting against those wrongs too. **(Read Romans 7:21-23.)** May that also be true of us as we strive to be "obedient from the heart."

¹⁷ Consider, for example, the matter of being honest. Honesty is basic to Christianity. (**Read Proverbs 14:5; Ephesians 4:25.)** Satan is "the father of the lie." And Ananias and his wife lost their lives because of lying. We do not want to imitate such ones—we avoid lying. (John 8:44; Acts 5:1-11) Is that, though, as far as our honesty goes? Actually, our honesty should reflect our deep appreciation for God's undeserved kindness.

¹⁸ To lie is to say something untruthful. However, Jehovah wants his people to go beyond not telling outright lies. He urged the ancient Israelites: "You should be holy, because I, Jehovah your God, am holy." Then he gave examples of being holy. In part, God said: "You must not steal, *you must not deceive*, and you must not deal falsely with one another." (Lev. 19:2, 11) Sadly, a person who makes it a point never to tell outright lies might still resort to deceiving others, dealing falsely with them.

¹⁹ For instance, a man tells his boss or

^{14, 15.} What should we ask ourselves about being "obedient from the heart"?

^{16.} How do we know that being a Christian involves more than leaving behind the practice of serious sins?

^{17.} Why do you want to be honest?

^{18, 19.} How does being honest go beyond simply not telling outright lies?

fellow workers that he cannot be at work the next day or that he must leave early because he has a "medical" appointment. In fact, his "medical" appointment is merely a brief stop at a pharmacy or a quick visit to the doctor's office to pay a bill. His real reason for not being at work is so that he can get a head start on a trip or so that he can take his family to the beach. There may have been a grain of truth in his mentioning a "medical" appointment, but would you say that he was being honest? Or was he being deceptive? You may know of similar instances of deliberate deception. Perhaps this is done to avoid punishment or to profit at others' expense. Even if no outright lie is told, what of God's direction: "You must not deceive"? Think, too, of Romans 6:19. which says: "Present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness."

Are we determined to avoid both lying and deception? (See paragraph 19)



²⁰ The point is that our appreciation for God's undeserved kindness involves. more than avoiding adultery, drunkenness, or other sins that some in Corinth had been guilty of. Accepting God's undeserved kindness means not only avoiding sexual immorality but also fighting any tendency to enjoy lewd entertainment. Presenting our members as slaves to righteousness will not only keep us from drunkenness but also move us to shun drinking to the point of almost being drunk. It may require considerable effort for us to fight against such wrong practices; still, it is a fight that we can win.

²¹ Our goal should be to avoid gross sins as well as wrongs that are not as flagrant. We will not be able to do that perfectly. Nevertheless, we should strive to do so, even as Paul did. He urged his brothers: "Do not let sin continue to rule as king in your mortal bodies so that you should obey their desires." (Rom. 6:12; 7:18-20) As we fight against sin in all its forms, we show true appreciation for God's undeserved kindness through Christ.

²² By means of God's undeserved kindness, our sins have been forgiven and can continue to be forgiven. In appreciation, let us work at overcoming any tendency to give in to what others might consider minor sins. Paul emphasized the reward that then awaits us: "Now that you were set free from sin and became slaves to God, you are producing your fruit in the way of holiness, and the end is everlasting life."—Rom. 6:22.

^{20, 21.} God's undeserved kindness should move us to what extent?

^{22.} What awaits those who prove their appreciation for God's undeserved kindness?



The Sort of Person I Should Be



The Sort of Person I Should Be

