

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Obedience to Jehovah Leads to Blessings”:** (10 min.)
Isa 48:17—True worship is based on obedience to divine instruction (*ip-2* 131 ¶18)
Isa 48:18—Jehovah loves us and wants us to enjoy life (*ip-2* 131 ¶19)
Isa 48:19—Obedience leads to eternal blessings (*ip-2* 132 ¶20-21)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 49:6—How is the Messiah “a light of nations,” even though his earthly ministry was limited to the Israelites? (*w07* 1/15 9 ¶8)

Isa 50:1—Why did Jehovah ask the Israelites: “Where is the divorce certificate of your mother?” (*it-1* 643 ¶4-5)

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 51:12-23

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.)
Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. During February, publishers may offer either *Was Life Created?* or *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*, depending on the response of the householder. (See the box “*The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking.*”)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 135
- **Local Needs:** (7 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 144-145)
- **Become Jehovah’s Friend—Obey Jehovah:** (8 min.)
Discussion. Start by playing the video *Become Jehovah’s Friend—Obey Jehovah* (video category CHILDREN). Then consider the following questions: What is the most important reason why we should obey Jehovah? (Pr 27:11) What are some ways that children must obey Jehovah? What are some ways that adults must obey Jehovah?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 8 ¶1-7, box on p. 79
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 68 and Prayer

ISAIAH 47-51 | Obedience to Jehovah Leads to Blessings

48:17

- Jehovah lovingly shows us ‘the way we should walk’ in order to enjoy life. We benefit ourselves by obeying him

48:18

“Peace . . . like a river”

- Jehovah promises peace that is as abundant and ongoing as a river

“Righteousness like the waves of the sea”

- Our deeds of righteousness can be as innumerable as the waves of the sea



Listen, Obey, and Be Blessed

(Luke 11:28)

A13sus4 A7 D Bm Gma7 Em/G A7 A#°

If we have lis - tened to Christ, will we show it? His teach - ing
 Our way of life, like a house, gives pro - tec - tion When it is
 Just as a tree root - ed deep by the wa - ters Gives of its

Bm D/A G B7b9b13

shines as it shows us the way. It makes us
 built on the rock, not on sand. If we ap -
 fruit when each sea - son ar - rives, If we o -

Em Em/D Em/C# F#7 E/G# F#7/A#

hap - py to hear and to know it, But we'll be
 ply Je - sus' lov - ing di - rec - tion, We'll build a
 bey as God's own sons and daugh - ters, We'll all be

Bm7 E7 Em11 G/A A7

blessed if we know and o - bey.
 life which on bed - rock will stand.
 blessed and en - joy end - less lives.

Listen, Obey, and Be Blessed

Chorus

D Em7 A7/E F#m7 Bm7

Lis - ten, o - bey, and be blessed

Em7 D/F# G G/A A7

When you hear God's will ex - pressed.

D Em7 A7/E D/F# D13sus4 D7 G

If you'd be hap - py and en - ter his rest,

D/A G/A A7 D

Lis - ten, o - bey, and be blessed.

- As I have done, I will carry you and bear you and rescue you.^a
- 5 To whom will you liken me or make me equal or compare me,^b So that we should resemble each other?^c
- 6 There are those who lavish gold from their purse; They weigh out the silver on the scale. They hire a metalworker, and he makes it into a god.^d Then they prostrate themselves, yes, they worship it.^e
- 7 They lift it to their shoulders;^f They carry it and put it in its place, and it just stands there. It does not move from its place.^g They cry out to it, but it does not answer; It cannot rescue anyone from distress.^h
- 8 Remember this, and take courage. Take it to heart, you transgressors.
- 9 Remember the former* things of long ago, That I am God,[#] and there is no other. I am God, and there is no one like me.ⁱ
- 10 From the beginning I foretell the outcome, And from long ago the things that have not yet been done.^j I say, "My decision* will stand,^k And I will do whatever I please."^l
- 11 I am calling a bird of prey from the sunrise,^{#m}

46:6 *Lit., "bow down to it." 46:9 *Lit., "first." #Or "the Divine One." 46:10, 11 *Or "purpose; counsel." 46:11 #Or "east."

CHAP. 46

- a Isa 43:13
b Ex 15:11
c Ac 17:29
d Isa 40:19
Jer 10:8,9
e Isa 44:16,17
Da 3:1,5
f Jer 10:5
g 1Sa 5:3
h 1Ki 18:26
Isa 37:37,38
Jon 1:5
i De 33:26
j Isa 42:9
Isa 45:21
k Ps 33:11
l Ps 135:6
Isa 55:10,11
m Isa 41:2
Isa 45:1

Second Col.

- a Ezr 1:1,2
Isa 44:28
Isa 48:14
b Nu 23:19
Job 23:13
c Isa 12:2
Isa 51:5
Isa 62:11
d Isa 44:23
Isa 60:21

CHAP. 47

- e Ps 137:8
Jer 50:41,42
f Da 5:30
g De 32:35,41
Ps 94:1
h Isa 41:14
Isa 43:3
Isa 44:6
i Isa 47:1

- 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.^c I will grant salvation in Zion, my splendor to Israel."^d

- 47 Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon.^e Sit down on the ground where there is no throne,^f O daughter of the Chal-de'ans, For never again will people call you delicate and pampered.
- 2 Take a hand mill and grind flour. Remove your veil. Strip off your skirt, uncover your legs. Cross over the rivers.
- 3 Your nakedness will be uncovered. Your shame will be exposed. I will take vengeance,^g and no man will stand in my way.^{*h}
- 4 "The One repurchasing us — 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;ⁱ

46:12 *Lit., "powerful." 47:3 *Or possibly, "and I will not meet anyone kindly."

- No more will they call you
Mistress* of Kingdoms.^a
- 6** I grew indignant at my
people.^b
I profaned my inheritance,^c
And I gave them into your
hand.^d
But you showed them no
mercy.^e
Even on the elderly you
placed a heavy yoke.^f
- 7** You said: "I will always be
the Mistress,* forever."^g
You did not take these things
to heart;
You did not consider how
the matter would end.
- 8** Now hear this, O lover of
pleasure,^h
Who sits in security, who
says in her heart:
"I am the one, and there is
no one else."ⁱ
I will not become a widow.
I will never know the loss
of children."^j
- 9** But these two things will
come upon you suddenly,
in one day:^k
Loss of children and
widowhood.
In full measure they will
come upon you!^l
Because of* your many
sorceries and all your
powerful spells.^m
- 10** You trusted in your
wickedness.
You said: "No one sees me."
Your wisdom and knowledge
are what led you astray,
And you say in your heart:
"I am the one, and there
is no one else."
- 11** But calamity will come upon
you,
And none of your charms
will stop it.*

47:5, 7 *Or "Queen." 47:9 *Or possibly, "Despite." 47:11 *Or "And you will not know how to charm it away."

CHAP. 47

a Isa 13:19
Isa 14:4
Re 17:5

b 2Ch 36:15, 16
Isa 42:24, 25
Zec 1:15

c De 28:63
Eze 24:21

d Jer 52:14

e 2Kl 25:18-21
Ps 137:8

f De 28:49, 50

g Da 4:30
Re 18:7

h Re 18:3

i Da 5:22, 23

j Re 18:7

k Re 18:10

l Jer 51:29

m Eze 21:21
Da 5:7
Re 18:23

Second Col.

a Re 18:10

b Da 2:2

c Da 5:7

d Jer 51:6

CHAP. 48
e Ge 32:28

Adversity will befall you; you
will not be able to avert it.
Sudden ruin will come upon
you like you have never
known.^a

- 12** Go ahead, then, with your
spells and your many
sorceries,^b
With which you have toiled
from your youth.
Perhaps you may be able
to benefit;
Perhaps you may strike
people with awe.

- 13** You have grown weary with
the multitude of your
advisers.
Let them stand up now and
save you,
Those who worship the
heavens,* who gaze at the
stars,^c
Those giving out knowledge
at the new moons
About the things that will
come upon you.

- 14** Look! They are like stubble.
A fire will burn them up.
They cannot save them-
selves* from the power
of the flame.
These are not charcoals for
keeping warm,
And this is not a fire to sit
in front of.

- 15** So your charmers will
become to you,
Those with whom you toiled
from your youth.
They will wander, each one
in his own direction.*
There will be no one to save
you.^d

48 Hear this, O house of
Jacob,
You who call yourselves by
the name of Israel^e

47:13 *Or possibly, "Those who divide the heavens; The astrologers." 47:14 *Or "their soul." 47:15 *Lit., "to his own region."

And who have come from
the waters of* Judah,
You who swear by the name
of Jehovah^a
And who call on the God
of Israel,
Though not in truth and
righteousness.^b

2 For they call themselves
after the holy city^c
And seek the support of the
God of Israel,^d
Whose name is Jehovah of
armies.

3 "The former* things I told
you long ago.
From my own mouth they
went out,
And I made them known.^e
Suddenly I took action,
and they came about.^f

4 Because I knew how
stubborn you are
—That your neck is an iron
sine and your forehead
is copper^g—

5 I told you long ago.
Before it came about,
I caused you to hear it,
So that you could not say,
'My idol did this;
My carved image and my
metal image* commanded
this.'

6 You have heard and seen
all of this.
Will you not declare it?^h
From now on I am announc-
ing new things to you,ⁱ
Guarded secrets that you
have not known.

7 Only now are they being
created, and not long ago,
Things that you never heard
before today,
So that you cannot say,
'Look! I already know
them.'

48:1 *Or possibly, "who are descend-
ed from." 48:3 *Lit., "first." 48:5 *Or
"molten statue."

CHAP. 48

- a De 6:13
b Le 19:12
Zep 1:4, 5
c Isa 52:1
d Jer 21:1, 2
e Isa 42:9
f Jos 21:45
Isa 55:10, 11
g Ex 32:9
2Ki 17:13, 14
2Ch 36:15, 16
Ps 78:8
Eze 3:7
h Isa 43:10
i Isa 42:9
Isa 65:17

Second Col.

- a Isa 29:10
b Jer 5:11
Jer 9:2
c De 9:7
Ps 95:10
d 1Sa 12:22
Ps 25:11
Ps 79:9
Jer 14:7
e Ne 9:30, 31
Ps 78:38
f Pr 17:3
g Isa 1:25
Jer 9:7
h Isa 48:9
i Eze 20:9
j Isa 43:13
Isa 46:4
k Isa 44:6
Re 1:8
Re 22:13
l Job 38:4
m Isa 40:22
Isa 42:5
n Isa 45:1
o Isa 44:28
p Isa 13:19
Jer 50:13
q Isa 41:2
r Isa 45:5

8 No, you have not heard,^a
you have not known,
And in the past your ears
were not opened.

For I know that you are very
treacherous,^b
And you have been called a
transgressor from birth.^c

9 But for the sake of my name
I will hold back my anger;^d
For my own praise I will re-
strain myself toward you,
And I will not do away with
you.^e

10 Look! I have refined you, but
not in the form of silver.^f
I have tested* you in the
smelting furnace of
affliction.^g

11 For my own sake, for my own
sake I will act,^h
For how could I let myself
be profaned?ⁱ
I give my glory to no one
else.*

12 Listen to me, O Jacob, and
Israel, whom I have called.
I am the same One,^j I am the
first; I am also the last.^k

13 My own hand laid the
foundation of the earth,^l
And my right hand spread
out the heavens.^m
When I call to them, they
stand up together.

14 Gather together, all of you,
and listen.
Who among them has
announced these things?

Jehovah has loved him.ⁿ
He will carry out his delight
against Babylon,^o
And his arm will come
against the Chal-de'ans.^p

15 I myself have spoken, and
I have called him.^q
I have brought him, and his
way will be successful.^r

48:10 *Or "examined." Or possibly,
"chosen." 48:11 *Or "I do not share my
glory with anyone else."

- 16** Come near to me, and hear this.
From the very start I have not spoken in secret.^a
From the time it happened I was there.”
And now the Sovereign Lord Jehovah has sent me, and* his spirit.
- 17** This is what Jehovah says, your Repurchaser, the Holy One of Israel:^b
“I, Jehovah, am your God, The One teaching you to benefit yourself,^c
The One guiding you in the way you should walk.^d
- 18** If only you would pay attention to my commandments!^e
Then your peace would become just like a river^f
And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.^g
- 19** Your offspring* would be as many as the sand
And your descendants as its grains.^h
Their name would never be cut off or annihilated from before me.”
- 20** Go out from Babylon!ⁱ
Flee from the Chal-de'ans!
Announce it with a joyful cry! Proclaim it!
Make it known to the ends of the earth.^k
Say: “Jehovah has repurchased his servant Jacob.^l
- 21** They did not become thirsty when he led them through devastated places.^m
He caused water to flow out of the rock for them;
He split a rock and made water gush out.”ⁿ
- 22** “There is no peace,” says Jehovah, “for the wicked.”^o

48:16 *Or “along with.” 48:17 *Or “for your own good.” 48:19 *Lit., “seed.”

CHAP. 48

- a Isa 45:19
b Isa 43:14
Isa 44:6
Isa 54:5
c 1Ki 8:36
Ps 25:8
Isa 54:13
Mic 4:2
d Ps 32:8
Isa 30:20, 21
Isa 49:10
e De 5:29
Ps 81:13, 14
f Ps 119:165
Isa 32:18
Isa 66:12
g Am 5:23, 24
h Ge 22:15, 17
Jer 33:22
Ho 1:10
i Jer 50:8
Re 18:4
j Isa 49:13
k Jer 50:2
l Jer 31:10, 11
m Ex 15:24, 25
De 8:14, 15
Isa 43:19
n Ex 17:5, 6
Nu 20:11
o Isa 57:20, 21

Second Col.

CHAP. 49

- a Isa 55:4
b Isa 44:2
Isa 46:3
c Isa 51:16
d Isa 43:10
e Isa 44:23
f Isa 40:10
g Isa 56:8
h Isa 42:6
Mt 12:18
Lu 2:30, 32

- 49** Listen to me, you islands,
And pay attention, you faraway nations.^a
Jehovah has called me before I was born.^{*b}
From the time I was in my mother's womb he has made mention of my name.
- 2** He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
He has hidden me in the shadow of his hand.^c
He made me a polished arrow;
He concealed me in his quiver.
- 3** He said to me: “You are my servant, O Israel,^d
Through whom I will show my splendor.”^e
- 4** But I said: “I have toiled for nothing.
I used up my strength for an unreality, in vain.
But surely my judgment is with Jehovah,^{*}
And my wages[#] with my God.”^f
- 5** And now Jehovah, the One who formed me from the womb as his servant,
Has said for me to bring Jacob back to him,
So that Israel may be gathered to him.^g
I will be glorified in the eyes of Jehovah,
And my God will have become my strength.
- 6** And he said: “It is not enough that you are my servant
To raise up the tribes of Jacob
And to bring back those who were preserved of Israel.
I have also given you as a light of nations,^h

49:1 *Lit., “from the womb.” 49:4 *Or “Jehovah will grant me justice.” #Or “reward.”

So that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth."^a

7 This is what Jehovah, the Repurchaser of Israel, his Holy One,^b says to the one who is despised,^c to the one who is detested by the nation, to the servant of rulers:

"Kings will see and rise up,
And princes will bow down
Because of Jehovah, who is faithful,^d

The Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."^e

8 This is what Jehovah says:

"In a time of favor^{*}

I answered you,^f

And in a day of salvation

I helped you;^g

I kept safeguarding you to give you as a covenant for the people,^h

To rehabilitate the land,
To cause them to possess their desolate inheritances,ⁱ

9 To say to the prisoners, 'Come out!'^j

And to those in the darkness,^k 'Show yourselves!' By the roadways they will feed,

Along all the worn paths^{*} will be their pastures.

10 They will not go hungry, nor will they thirst,^l

Nor will scorching heat or the sun beat down on them.^m

For the One who has mercy on them will lead them,ⁿ

And he will guide them by the springs of water.^o

11 I will make all my mountains into a road,
And my highways will be raised up.^p

CHAP. 49

a Ps 98:2
Isa 11:10
Isa 52:10
Ac 13:47

b Isa 43:14

c Isa 53:3

d De 7:9

e Isa 42:1

f Ps 69:13

g Lu 1:69
Lu 22:43
2Co 6:2
Heb 5:7

h Isa 42:6, 7

i Isa 54:3

j Ps 102:19, 20

k Ps 112:4
Isa 9:2
Lu 1:68, 79

l Isa 55:1
Isa 65:13

m Isa 32:2

n Eze 34:23

o Ps 23:1, 2
Jer 31:9
Re 7:16, 17

p Ps 107:6, 7
Isa 11:16
Isa 40:3, 4

Second Col.

a De 30:4

b Isa 43:5, 6

c Isa 42:10

d Isa 55:12

e Isa 12:1
Isa 40:1
Isa 66:13

f Isa 44:23
Isa 61:3
Jer 31:13

g Isa 54:7

h La 5:20

i Isa 44:21
Jer 31:20

j Isa 43:5, 6
Isa 60:4

k Isa 51:3

l Jer 30:18, 19

12 Look! These are coming from far away,^a
And look! these from the north and from the west,
And these from the land of Si'nim."^b

13 Shout for joy, you heavens, and rejoice, you earth.^c
Let the mountains become cheerful with a joyful cry,^d
For Jehovah has comforted his people,^e
And he shows mercy to his own afflicted ones.^f

14 But Zion kept saying: "Jehovah has abandoned me,^g and Jehovah has forgotten me."^h

15 Can a woman forget her nursing child
Or have no compassion for the son of her womb?
Even if these women forget, I would never forget you.ⁱ

16 Look! On my palms I have engraved you.
Your walls are always before me.

17 Your sons hurry back.
Those who tore you down and devastated you will depart from you.

18 Raise your eyes and look all around.

They are all gathering together.^j

They are coming to you.
"As surely as I am living," declares Jehovah,

"You will clothe yourself with all of them as with ornaments,

And you will fasten them on yourself as a bride does.

19 Although your places were devastated and desolate and your land was in ruins,^k

Now it will become too cramped for those dwelling there,^l

49:7 *Or "despised in soul." 49:8 *Or "goodwill." 49:9 *Or possibly, "the bare hills."

And those who swallowed you down^a will be far away.^b

20 The sons born when you were bereaved will say in your hearing, "This place is too cramped for me.

Make room for me to dwell here."^c

21 And you will say in your heart, "Who has fathered these for me, Since I am a woman bereaved of children and barren, Exiled and taken prisoner? Who has raised these?^d Look! I was left all alone,^e So where have these come from?"^f

22 This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: "Look! I will raise up my hand to the nations, And I will lift up my signal* to the peoples.^g They will bring your sons in their arms^h And carry your daughters on their shoulders.^h

23 Kings will become caretakers for you,ⁱ And their princesses will be your nurses.

They will bow down to you with their faces to the ground^j

And lick the dust of your feet,^k

And you will have to know that I am Jehovah; Those hoping in me will not be put to shame."^l

24 Can those already captured be taken from a mighty man, Or can the captives of the tyrant be rescued?

49:22 *Or "signal pole." [#]Lit., "bosom."

CHAP. 49

a Jer 51:34

b Jer 30:16

c Isa 54:1, 2

d Isa 43:5
Jer 31:17

e La 1:1

f Isa 62:4

g Ezz 1:3
Isa 11:10, 12
Isa 62:10

h Isa 60:4
Isa 66:20

i Isa 60:10, 16

j Isa 60:14

k Mic 7:16, 17

l Isa 25:9

Second Col.

a Jer 29:14
Jer 46:27
Ho 6:11
Joe 3:1

b Isa 52:2
Jer 29:10
Jer 50:34
Zec 9:11

c Isa 54:17

d Eze 39:28

e 1Ti 1:1

f Isa 41:14
Isa 48:20

g Isa 60:16

CHAP. 50

h De 24:1

i 2Ki 17:16, 17

j Isa 59:2
Jer 3:1

k Jer 35:15

l Isa 40:28
Isa 59:1

m Ex 14:21, 29
Ps 106:9
Isa 51:10

n Ps 107:33
Ps 114:1, 3
Isa 42:15
Na 1:4

o Ex 10:21

25 But this is what Jehovah says: "Even the captives of a mighty man will be taken away,^a

And those captured by the tyrant will be rescued.^b

I will oppose those who oppose you,^c

And I will save your own sons.

26 I will make those who mistreat you eat their own flesh,

And as with sweet wine, they will become drunk with their own blood.

And all people* will have to know that I am Jehovah,^d

Your Savior^e and your Repurchaser,^f

The Powerful One of Jacob."^g

50 This is what Jehovah says: "Where is the divorce certificate^h of your mother, whom I sent away?

Or to which of my creditors did I sell you?

Look! It was because of your own errorsⁱ you were sold,

And because of your own transgressions your mother was sent away.^j

2 Why, then, was no one here when I came?

Why did no one answer when I called?^k

Is my hand too short to redeem,

Or is there no power in me to rescue?^l

Look! With my rebuke I dry up the sea;^m

I make rivers a desert.ⁿ Their fish rot for lack of water,

And they die because of thirst.

3 I clothe the heavens with gloom,^o

49:26 *Lit., "all flesh."

And I make sackcloth their covering.”

- 4 The Sovereign Lord Jehovah has given me the tongue of those taught,*^a

So that I may know how to answer[#] the tired one with the right word.^{Δb}

He awakens me morning by morning;

He awakens my ear to listen like the taught ones.^c

- 5 The Sovereign Lord Jehovah has opened my ear, And I was not rebellious,^d I did not turn in the opposite direction.^e

- 6 I offered my back to those striking me And my cheeks to those who plucked them bare.* I did not hide my face from humiliating things and from spit.^f

- 7 But the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will help me.^g That is why I will not feel humiliated. That is why I have set my face like a flint,^h And I know that I will not be put to shame.

- 8 The One who declares me righteous is near. Who can accuse* me?ⁱ Let us stand up together.[#] Who has a case against me? Let him approach me.

- 9 Look! The Sovereign Lord Jehovah will help me. Who will pronounce me guilty? Look! They will all wear out like a garment. A moth will eat them up.

- 10 Who among you fears Jehovah

50:4 *Or “a well-trained tongue.” [#]Or possibly, “strengthen.” ^ΔLit., “with a word.” 50:6 *Or “who plucked the beard.” 50:8 *Or “contend with.” [#]Or “face each other.”

CHAP. 50

a Ex 4:11
Jer 1:9

b Joh 7:15, 46

c Mt 13:54

d Ps 40:6-8

e Mt 26:39
Php 2:8

f Mt 26:67
Mr 14:65
Lu 22:63
Joh 18:22

g Isa 49:8

h Eze 3:8, 9

i Ro 8:33

Second Col.

a Isa 42:1
Isa 53:11

CHAP. 51

b Ge 21:2

c Ge 12:1
Ge 15:2

d 1Ki 4:20

e Ps 102:13
Isa 66:13
Jer 31:12

f Isa 44:26
Isa 61:4

g Ge 2:8

h Isa 35:1
Isa 41:18

i Jer 33:10, 11

j Ex 19:6
De 7:6

And listens to the voice of his servant?^a

Who has walked in deep darkness, without any brightness?

Let him trust in the name of Jehovah and support himself on* his God.

- 11 “Look! All of you who are igniting a fire, Making sparks fly, Walk in the light of your fire, Among the sparks you have set ablaze. This is what you will have from my hand: In sheer pain you will lie down.

51 “Listen to me, you who are pursuing righteousness, You who are seeking Jehovah.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn

And to the quarry from which you were dug.

- 2 Look to Abraham your father And to Sarah^b who gave birth to you.*

For he was only one when I called him,^c

And I blessed him and made him many.^d

- 3 For Jehovah will comfort Zion.^e

He will bring comfort to all her ruins,^f

And he will make her wilderness like E'den^g

And her desert plain like the garden of Jehovah.^h

Exultation and rejoicing will be found in her, Thanksgiving and melodious song.ⁱ

- 4 Pay attention to me, O my people, And give ear to me, my nation.^j

50:10 *Or “rely on.” 51:2 *Or “brought you forth with labor pains.”

For a law will go out
from me,^a
And my justice I will
establish as a light to the
peoples.^b

- 5** My righteousness draws
near.^c
My salvation will go out,^d
And my arms will judge the
peoples.^e
In me the islands will hope,^f
And for my arm* they will
wait.
- 6** Raise your eyes to the
heavens,
And look at the earth below.
For the heavens will disperse
in fragments like smoke;
The earth will wear out like
a garment,
And its inhabitants will die
like gnats.
But my salvation will be
eternal,^g
And my righteousness will
never fail.^h
- 7** Listen to me, you who know
righteousness,
The people with my law*
in their heart.ⁱ
Do not be afraid of the taunts
of mortal men,
And do not be terrified
because of their insults.
- 8** For a moth will eat them up
just like a garment;
The clothes moth* will
devour them like wool.^j
But my righteousness will
last forever,
And my salvation for all
generations.^k
- 9** Awake! Awake! Clothe
yourself with strength,
O arm of Jehovah!
Awake as in the days of long
ago, as in past generations.

51:5 *Or "power." 51:6 *Or "will not be shattered." 51:7 *Or "instruction." 51:8 *Or possibly, "The worm."

CHAP. 51

a Isa 2:3
Mic 4:2
b Pr 6:23
c Isa 46:13
d Isa 12:2
Isa 56:1
e 1Sa 2:10
Isa 2:4
f Isa 60:9
g Isa 45:17
h Ps 102:25-27
Mt 24:35
i Jer 31:33
j Isa 50:9
k Isa 45:17
Lu 1:50
l Lu 1:51

Second Col.

a Ps 87:4
Ps 89:10
Isa 30:7
b Ex 15:4
Ne 9:10, 11
Ps 106:22
Eze 29:3
c Ex 14:21, 22
d Ps 106:9
e Jer 31:11
Zec 10:10
f Isa 35:10
g Isa 61:7
h Isa 25:8
Isa 65:18, 19
i Isa 49:13
Isa 66:13
j Ps 118:6
Da 3:16, 17
Mt 10:28
k Isa 44:2
l Isa 40:22
m Ezr 1:2, 3
Isa 48:20
Isa 52:2

n Jer 31:35, 36
Jon 1:4
o Isa 47:4

Was it not you who broke
Ra'hab*^a to pieces,
Who pierced the sea
monster?^b

- 10** Are you not the one who
dried up the sea, the
waters of the vast deep?^c
The one who made the
depths of the sea a road-
way for the repurchased
ones to cross?^d
- 11** The redeemed ones of
Jehovah will return.^e
They will come to Zion with
a joyful cry,^f
And unending joy will crown
them.^g
Exultation and rejoicing will
be theirs,
And grief and sighing will
flee away.^h
- 12** "I myself am the One
comforting you.ⁱ
Why should you be afraid of
a mortal man who will die/
And of a son of man who will
wither like green grass?"
- 13** Why do you forget Jehovah
your Maker,^k
The One who stretched out
the heavens^l and laid the
foundation of the earth?
And all day long you were in
constant fear of the rage
of the oppressor,^m
As though he were in a posi-
tion to bring you to ruin.
Where, now, is the rage of
the oppressor?
- 14** The one bent over in chains
will soon be set free;ⁿ
He will not die and go into
the pit,
Nor will his bread be lacking.
- 15** But I am Jehovah your God,
Who stirs up the sea
and makes its waves
boisterous^o
—Jehovah of armies is his
name.^o

51:9 *See Glossary. 51:11 *Lit., "be upon their head." 51:13 *Or "the one hemming you in."

- 16** I will put my words in your mouth,
And with the shadow of my hand I will cover you,^a
In order to plant the heavens
and to lay the foundation
of the earth^b
And to say to Zion, ‘You are
my people.’^c
- 17** Awake! Awake! Rise up,
O Jerusalem,^d
You who have drunk from
the hand of Jehovah his
cup of wrath.
You have drunk the goblet;
You have drained out the cup
causing staggering.^e
- 18** Not one of all the sons whom
she bore is there to guide
her,
And not one of all the sons
whom she raised has taken
hold of her hand.
- 19** These two things have
befallen you.
Who will sympathize with
you?
Destruction and devastation,
hunger and sword!^f
Who will comfort you?^g
- 20** Your sons have fainted.^h
They lie down at every street
corner*
Like wild sheep in the net.
They are full of the wrath
of Jehovah, the rebuke
of your God.”
- 21** So please listen to this,
O woman afflicted and
drunk, though not with
wine.
- 22** This is what your Lord
Jehovah says, your God
who defends his people:
“Look! I will take from
your hand the cup causing
staggering,ⁱ
The goblet, my cup of wrath;
You will never drink it again.^j

51:20 *Lit., “at the head of all streets.”

CHAP. 51

a De 33:27
Ps 91:1

b Isa 65:17
Isa 66:8, 22

c Isa 60:14
Jer 31:33
Zec 8:8

d Isa 52:1
Isa 60:1

e Jer 25:15

f Eze 14:21

g La 1:17

h La 2:11

i Isa 51:17

j Isa 54:9
Isa 62:8

Second Col.

a Isa 49:25

CHAP. 52

b Hag 2:4

c Isa 51:17

d Isa 61:3

e Isa 35:8
Isa 60:21
Re 21:27

f Isa 51:14
Isa 61:1

g Isa 50:1

h Isa 45:13

i Ge 46:5-7

j Ps 137:3
Jer 50:17

k Ps 74:10
Ro 2:24

l Eze 20:44

- 23** I will put it into the hand
of your tormentors,^a
Those who said to you,^{*}
‘Bow down so that we may
walk over you!’
So you made your back like
the ground,
Like a street for them to walk
on.”

52

Awake! Awake! Clothe
yourself with strength,^b
O Zion!^c

Put on your beautiful
garments,^d O Jerusalem,
the holy city!

For no more will the un-
circumcised and unclean
one enter into you.^e

- 2** Shake off the dust, rise and
take a seat, O Jerusalem.
Loosen the bonds on your
neck, O captive daughter
of Zion.^f

- 3** For this is what Jehovah
says:

“You were sold for nothing,^g
And without money you will
be repurchased.”^h

- 4** For this is what the Sover-
eign Lord Jehovah says:
“At first my people went
down to Egypt to live there
as foreigners;ⁱ
Then As-syr'i-a oppressed
them without cause.”

- 5** “What, then, should I do
here?” declares Jehovah.
“For my people were taken
for nothing.

Those ruling over them
keep howling in triumph,^j
declares Jehovah,

“And constantly, all day long,
my name is treated with
disrespect.^k

- 6** For that reason my people
will know my name;^l
For that reason they will
know in that day that I am
the One speaking.
Look, it is I!”

51:23 *Or “to your soul.”

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Obedience to Jehovah Leads to Blessings”:** (10 min.)
Isa 48:17—True worship is based on obedience to divine instruction (*ip-2* 131 ¶18)
Isa 48:18—Jehovah loves us and wants us to enjoy life (*ip-2* 131 ¶19)
Isa 48:19—Obedience leads to eternal blessings (*ip-2* 132 ¶20-21)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 49:6—How is the Messiah “a light of nations,” even though his earthly ministry was limited to the Israelites? (*w07* 1/15 9 ¶8)

Isa 50:1—Why did Jehovah ask the Israelites: “Where is the divorce certificate of your mother?” (*it-1* 643 ¶4-5)

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 51:12-23

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.)
Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. During February, publishers may offer either *Was Life Created?* or *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*, depending on the response of the householder. (See the box “*The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking.*”)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 135
- **Local Needs:** (7 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 144-145)
- **Become Jehovah’s Friend—Obey Jehovah:** (8 min.)
Discussion. Start by playing the video *Become Jehovah’s Friend—Obey Jehovah* (video category CHILDREN). Then consider the following questions: What is the most important reason why we should obey Jehovah? (Pr 27:11) What are some ways that children must obey Jehovah? What are some ways that adults must obey Jehovah?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 8 ¶1-7, box on p. 79
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 68 and Prayer

ISAIAH 47-51 | Obedience to Jehovah Leads to Blessings

48:17

- Jehovah lovingly shows us ‘the way we should walk’ in order to enjoy life. We benefit ourselves by obeying him

48:18

“Peace . . . like a river”

- Jehovah promises peace that is as abundant and ongoing as a river

“Righteousness like the waves of the sea”

- Our deeds of righteousness can be as innumerable as the waves of the sea



February 6-12

Treasures From God's Word

Isaiah 48:17—True worship is based on obedience to divine instruction

Reference: ip-2 131 **paragraph 18**.

Empowered by Jehovah's spirit, the prophet declares: "The Sovereign Lord Jehovah himself has sent me, even his spirit. This is what Jehovah has said, your Repurchaser, the Holy One of Israel: 'I, Jehovah, am your God, the One teaching you to benefit yourself, the One causing you to tread in the way in which you should walk.'" (**Isaiah 48:16b, 17**) This loving expression of Jehovah's care should reassure the nation of Israel that God is going to deliver them from Babylon. He is their Repurchaser. (**Isaiah 54:5**) Jehovah's heartfelt desire is that the Israelites restore their relationship with him and pay attention to his commandments. True worship is based upon obeying divine instructions. The Israelites are unable to walk in the right way unless they are taught 'the way in which to walk.'

Isaiah 48:18—Jehovah loves us and wants us to enjoy life

Reference: ip-2 131 **paragraph 19**.

Jehovah's desire that his people avoid calamity and enjoy life is beautifully expressed: "O if only you would actually pay attention to my commandments! Then your peace would become just like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea." (**Isaiah 48:18**) What a heartfelt appeal from the almighty Creator! (**Deuteronomy 5:29; Psalm 81:13**) Instead of going into captivity, the Israelites can enjoy peace that will be as bountiful as the water flowing in a river. (**Psalm 119:165**) Their deeds of righteousness can be as innumerable as the waves of the sea. (**Amos 5:24**) As the one really interested in them, Jehovah appeals to the Israelites, lovingly showing them the way in which they should walk. Oh, if only they will listen!

Isaiah 48:19—Obedience leads to eternal blessings

Reference: ip-2 132 **paragraphs 20-21**.

20 What blessings would come if Israel would repent? Jehovah says: "Your offspring would become just like the sand, and the descendants from your inward parts like the grains of it. One's name would not be cut off or be annihilated from before me." (**Isaiah 48:19**) Jehovah reminds the people of his promise that Abraham's seed would become many, "like the stars of the heavens and like the grains of sand that are on the seashore." (**Genesis 22:17; 32:12**) However, these descendants of Abraham have been rebellious, and they do not have the right to receive the fulfillment of the promise. Really, their record has been so bad that by Jehovah's own Law, they deserve to have their name as a nation cut off. (**Deuteronomy 28:45**) Still, Jehovah does not desire the annihilation of his people, and he does not want to forsake them utterly.

21 The principles embodied in this powerful passage apply to Jehovah's worshipers today. Jehovah is the Source of life, and he knows better than anyone how we should use our lives. (Psalm 36:9) He has given us guidelines, not to rob us of enjoyment, but to benefit us. True Christians respond by seeking to be instructed by Jehovah. (Micah 4:2) His directives protect our spirituality and our relationship with him, and they shield us from Satan's corrupting influence. When we appreciate the principles behind God's laws, we see that Jehovah teaches us for our good. We realize that "his commandments are not burdensome." And we will not be cut off.—1 John 2:17; 5:3.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Isaiah 49:6—How is the Messiah "a light of nations," even though his earthly ministry was limited to the Israelites?

Reference: w07 1/15 9 **paragraph 8**.

This is so because of what happened after Jesus' death. The Bible applies Isaiah 49:6 to his disciples. (**Acts 13:46, 47**) Today, anointed Christians, aided by a great crowd of worshippers, serve as "a light of the nations," enlightening peoples "to the extremity of the earth."—**Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20**.

Isaiah 50:1—Why did Jehovah ask the Israelites: "Where is the divorce certificate of your mother?"

Reference: it-1 643 **paragraphs 4-5**.

Figurative Divorce. The marriage relationship is used symbolically in the Scriptures. (**Isaiah 54:1, 5, 6**; 62:1-6) Reference is also made to symbolic divorcing, or the sending away of a wife.—**Jeremiah 3:8**.

The kingdom of Judah was overthrown and Jerusalem was destroyed in 607 B.C.E., the inhabitants of the land being taken into Babylonian exile. Years earlier Jehovah had said prophetically to Jews who would then be in exile: "Where, then, is the divorce certificate of the mother of you people, whom I sent away?" (**Isaiah 50:1**) Their "mother," or national organization, had been put away with just cause, not because Jehovah broke his covenant and started divorce proceedings, but because of her wrongdoing against the Law covenant. But a remnant of Israelites repented and prayed for a renewal of Jehovah's husbandly relationship with them in their homeland. Jehovah, for his own name's sake, restored his people to their homeland as promised, in 537 B.C.E., at the end of the 70 **year** desolation.—**Psalms 137:1-9**; see **MARRIAGE**.

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Obedience to Jehovah Leads to Blessings”:** (10 min.)
Isa 48:17—True worship is based on obedience to divine instruction (*ip-2* 131 ¶18)
Isa 48:18—Jehovah loves us and wants us to enjoy life (*ip-2* 131 ¶19)
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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 49:6—How is the Messiah “a light of nations,” even though his earthly ministry was limited to the Israelites? (*w07* 1/15 9 ¶8)

Isa 50:1—Why did Jehovah ask the Israelites: “Where is the divorce certificate of your mother?” (*it-1* 643 ¶4-5)

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 51:12-23

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.)
Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. During February, publishers may offer either *Was Life Created?* or *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*, depending on the response of the householder. (See the box “*The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking.*”)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 135
- **Local Needs:** (7 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 144-145)
- **Become Jehovah’s Friend—Obey Jehovah:** (8 min.)
Discussion. Start by playing the video *Become Jehovah’s Friend—Obey Jehovah* (video category CHILDREN). Then consider the following questions: What is the most important reason why we should obey Jehovah? (Pr 27:11) What are some ways that children must obey Jehovah? What are some ways that adults must obey Jehovah?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 8 ¶1-7, box on p. 79
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 68 and Prayer

ISAIAH 47-51 | Obedience to Jehovah Leads to Blessings

48:17

- Jehovah lovingly shows us ‘the way we should walk’ in order to enjoy life. We benefit ourselves by obeying him

48:18

“Peace . . . like a river”

- Jehovah promises peace that is as abundant and ongoing as a river

“Righteousness like the waves of the sea”

- Our deeds of righteousness can be as innumerable as the waves of the sea





Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Presentations



AWAKE!

Question: Reports of teen depression seem to be increasing at an alarming rate. What do you think can be done about the problem?

Offer: This magazine offers some suggestions on how teens can deal with depression and how their parents can help.



TEACH THE TRUTH

Question: What makes for a happy marriage?

Scripture: Eph 5:33

Truth: Marriages flourish when they are built on love and respect.



THE ORIGIN OF LIFE—FIVE QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING (If)

Question: When it comes to important questions such as how life began, what would you say we should base our belief on?

Scripture: Heb 11:1, ftn.

Offer: As the footnote in that verse indicates, we're wise to base our beliefs on "convincing evidence." This brochure considers five key questions about the origin of life and what reliable evidence reveals.

BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

Question:

Scripture:

Offer:

Help Your Children to Develop Unshakable Faith in the Creator



Creation declares Jehovah's glory. (Ps 19:1-4; 139:14) However, the Devil's world promotes God-dishonoring theories about the origin of life. (Ro 1:18-25) How can you prevent such ideas from taking root in the mind and heart of your children? Help them from an early age to develop faith that Jehovah exists and cares about them personally. (2Co 10:4, 5; Eph 6:16) Draw out their deepest thoughts about what they are taught at school, and use the many tools available to reach their heart.—Pr 20:5; Jas 1:19.

WATCH THE VIDEO *WHAT YOUR PEERS SAY—BELIEF IN GOD, AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:*

- What is a common myth about belief in God?

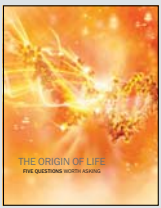
- What is taught in your school?

- What convinces you that Jehovah exists?

- How might you help someone to reason that God created all things?

ADDITIONAL TOOLS AVAILABLE:

- JW.ORG series “My Bible Lessons” (Ages 3 and under)
- Video *Become Jehovah’s Friend —“Jehovah . . . Created All Things”*
- *Awake!* series “Was It Designed?”
- JW.ORG worksheet “Why Do I Believe in God?”
- JW.ORG series “Creation or Evolution?” (four parts)
- JW Broadcasting video series “Viewpoints on the Origin of Life”
- Video *The Wonders of Creation Reveal God’s Glory*
- Brochure *Was Life Created?*
- Book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?*



The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking

This brochure was designed particularly to help Witness youths who are taught evolution in school. It may also be given to those who want an in-depth discussion about evidence of a Creator.



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135 Jehovah's Warm Appeal: "Be Wise, My Son"

(Proverbs 27:11)

E B/D# E E/G# F#m11 E B/D# Aadd9/C# B/D#

Young man and young wom - an, do give your heart to
Re - joice and take plea - sure in giv - ing me your

E G#m C#m C#m9/B C#m/B B/A A

me. My foe who now taunts me will then be made to
all, And though you may stum - ble, I'll raise you if you

E/G# F#m7 C#m Ama7 B/A

see. Your youth and de - vo - tion to me you free - ly
fall. No mat - ter who fails you or proves to be un -

G#m7 E/G# C#m G#m/B Ama7 E/G#

give; You show all the world that for me you real - ly
true, Take com - fort in know - ing I'll al - ways cher - ish

Jehovah's Warm Appeal: "Be Wise, My Son"

Chorus

live. you. Be - lov - ed son and pre - cious

Chords: F#m7, A/B, B7, E, B/D#

daugh - ter, Be wise and make my heart re - joice,

Chords: A/C#, E/B, A, C#m7/G#, F#m

That out of your own heart you serve me,

Chords: F#m/E, F#m/D#, G#7sus4, G#7, C#m9, C#m

And of - fer praise by your own choice.

Chords: Am6/C, Esus4/B, E/B, B7sus4, B7, Esus4, E



Daniel Lokollo

BORN 1965

BAPTIZED 1986

PROFILE A special pioneer who stood firm under persecution.

We Would Not Compromise Our Faith

ON April 14, 1989, I was conducting a meeting in the town of Maumere, on Flores Island, when government officials burst into the house and arrested me and three others.

The guards at the local prison tried to force us to salute the flag. When we refused, they beat us and kicked us and made us stand in the blistering sun for five days. We shivered at night on hard cement floors in our tiny cells, filthy, exhausted, and aching from our wounds. The prison warden repeatedly urged us to compromise, but we replied, “Until we die, we will not salute.” Like countless Christians before us, we felt privileged to “suffer for the sake of righteousness.”—1 Pet. 3:14.



Blasius da Gomes

BORN 1963

BAPTIZED 1995

PROFILE An elder who lovingly cared for the flock during a religious conflict on Ambon, which is part of the Maluku Islands.

We Obeyed Direction—And Lived!

ON January 19, 1999, growing hostility between Muslims and Christians exploded into violence about three kilometers from my home. The situation was chaotic.*

After seeing to the safety of my family, I phoned other publishers to check on their welfare. I urged them to remain calm and to avoid dangerous areas. Later, the elders visited the flock to strengthen them spiritually and to encourage them to meet for worship in small groups.

The branch office urged us to evacuate any publishers who were living in dangerous areas, and we passed that direction on to several families. One brother who refused to leave was later killed by an armed mob. But every person who heeded the direction from the branch office survived.

* The conflict raged throughout the province of Maluku for more than two years and drove tens of thousands of people from their homes.

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Obedience to Jehovah Leads to Blessings”:** (10 min.)
Isa 48:17—True worship is based on obedience to divine instruction (*ip-2* 131 ¶18)
Isa 48:18—Jehovah loves us and wants us to enjoy life (*ip-2* 131 ¶19)
Isa 48:19—Obedience leads to eternal blessings (*ip-2* 132 ¶20-21)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 49:6—How is the Messiah “a light of nations,” even though his earthly ministry was limited to the Israelites? (*w07* 1/15 9 ¶8)

Isa 50:1—Why did Jehovah ask the Israelites: “Where is the divorce certificate of your mother?” (*it-1* 643 ¶4-5)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

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

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 135
- **Local Needs:** (7 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 144-145)
- **Become Jehovah’s Friend—Obey Jehovah:** (8 min.)
Discussion. Start by playing the video *Become Jehovah’s Friend—Obey Jehovah* (video category CHILDREN). Then consider the following questions: What is the most important reason why we should obey Jehovah? (Pr 27:11) What are some ways that children must obey Jehovah? What are some ways that adults must obey Jehovah?
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- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 68 and Prayer

ISAIAH 47-51 | Obedience to Jehovah Leads to Blessings

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- Our deeds of righteousness can be as innumerable as the waves of the sea



8

Tools for Preaching Producing Literature for the Worldwide Field

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

Jehovah continues to provide us with the tools we need to teach individuals from every nation, tribe, and tongue

1, 2. (a) In the first century, what helped to spread the good news throughout the Roman Empire?

(b) What evidence do we have of Jehovah’s backing in our time? (See the box “Good News in More Than 670 Tongues.”)

3. Why do we use a variety of tools in our preaching work?

FOOTNOTE

[1] In the past decade alone, Jehovah’s people have produced more than 20 billion Bible-based publications. In addition, our Web site, jw.org, is now available to the more than 2.7 billion people worldwide who access the Internet.

VISITORS to Jerusalem could hardly believe what they were hearing. Galileans were speaking foreign languages fluently, and the message they were conveying captivated their listeners. It was Pentecost 33 C.E., and the disciples had miraculously received the gift of speaking in various languages—proof that they had God’s backing. **(Read Acts 2:1-8, 12, 15-17.)** The good news they preached that day reached people of diverse backgrounds and thereafter spread throughout the Roman Empire.—Col. 1:23.

2 Today, God’s servants do not miraculously speak in various languages. Even so, covering far more languages than in the first century, they translate the Kingdom message into over 670 languages. (Acts 2:9-11) God’s people have produced literature in such vast quantities and in so many languages that the Kingdom message has penetrated every corner of the globe.^[1] This too is unmistakable evidence that Jehovah is using the King Jesus Christ to direct our preaching work. (Matt. 28:19, 20) As we review just some of the tools we have used to accomplish this work over the past 100 years, note how the King has progressively trained us to be interested in individuals and has encouraged us to be teachers of God’s Word.—2 Tim. 2:2.

The King Equips His Servants to Plant Seeds of Truth

3 Jesus likened the “word of the Kingdom” to seeds and a person’s heart to soil. (Matt. 13:18, 19) Just as a gardener may use a variety of tools to soften the soil and prepare it to receive seed, Jehovah’s people have used a variety of tools that have helped them prepare the hearts of millions to receive the Kingdom message. Some of those tools were useful for a limited time. Others, such as books and magazines, continue to do valuable work. Unlike most of the methods of mass communication mentioned in the preceding

GOOD NEWS IN MORE THAN 670 TONGUES

IN 2000, the Governing Body authorized an unprecedented training program for all translation teams worldwide. The first step was the development of a three-month course on English comprehension, which was presented by 25 instructors to 1,944 translators, who were working in 182 language teams. This course helped translators gain a complete understanding of the English text before starting to translate it. Besides dealing with aspects of the English language, the course taught translators how to analyze the text and be aware of such features as its structure, tone, style, purpose, and intended audience.

A second course was developed in 2001 by a pool of experienced translators. This course focuses on specific translation techniques. All the translation teams around the world have now been put through this training program.

In addition to organizing the training courses, the Governing Body established a Translator Help Desk. Whenever a translation team needs help in understanding the source text or is not sure about how a translation technique should be applied in a specific case, they can electronically submit their question to this desk. When the question raised is editorial in nature, the

Translator Help Desk consults with the compiler, or main editor, of the publication. Once a question is answered, it automatically becomes available not just to the team that originated it but to all translation teams around the world that are working on that same publication. The answer is stored in a database that any translator can easily access. In that way, any team facing similar translation problems can benefit from the direction given.

How has this training helped the translators? One said: “The training we have received grants us the freedom to explore techniques for handling the original text, but it also sets reasonable boundaries that prevent us from taking over the role of the writer. Now we feel like fully equipped explorers ready to take on a challenge every day, knowing well where to go, what alternate routes to take, and when to stop.”

As of 2013, more than 2,700 translators were working in over 190 locations to help spread the good news in more than 670 tongues. This remarkable work is possible only because it has the backing of the King Jesus Christ.—Matt. 28:19, 20; Rev. 14:6.

A translation team
in Timor-Leste





Manufacturing phonographs and sound equipment, in Toronto, Canada

4, 5. How were phonograph records used, but what did they lack?

By 1940, more than 90 different recorded talks were available and over a million records had been made



chapter, all the tools discussed here have helped Kingdom publishers contact people face-to-face.—Acts 5:42; 17:2, 3.

4 Recorded talks. In the 1930's and into the 1940's, publishers used recorded Bible lectures played on portable phonographs. Each recording lasted less than five minutes. Sometimes the records had short titles, such as “Trinity,” “Purgatory,” and “Kingdom.” How were those records used? Brother Clayton Woodworth, Jr., who was baptized in 1930 in the United States, said: “I carried a little suitcase-type phonograph, spring wound, with a portable arm that I had to set in just the right position at the edge of the record if it was to play properly. I would approach a door, open the case, set the arm in place, and push the doorbell. When the householder opened the door, I would say, ‘I have an important message I would like you to hear.’” What was the response? “Many times,” says Brother Woodworth, “the person responded favorably. At other times, people just shut the door. Occasionally, they thought that I was selling phonographs.”

5 By 1940, over 90 different recorded talks were available and over a million records had been made. John E. Barr, who was pioneering in Britain at that time and who later served on the Governing Body, said: “During the years 1936 to 1945, a phonograph was my constant companion. In fact, in those days I felt lost without one. To hear Brother Rutherford’s voice at the doorstep was ever so encouraging; it felt as though he were there in person. Of course,

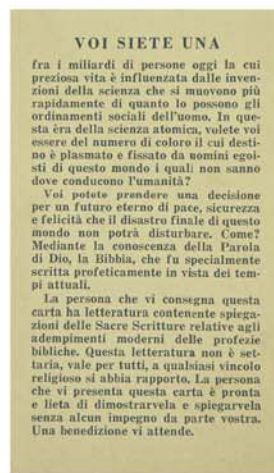
phonograph work still lacked the teaching aspect of the ministry, the ability to touch the hearts of people.”

6 Testimony cards. Beginning in 1933, publishers were encouraged to use testimony cards in their door-to-door ministry. A testimony card was about three by five inches in size. It contained a brief Bible message and a description of Bible-based literature that the householder could obtain. A publisher would simply hand the card to the householder and ask him to read it. “I welcomed the testimony card work,” said Lilian Kammerud, who eventually served as a missionary in Puerto Rico and Argentina. Why was that? “Not all of us could give a good presentation,” she said. “So it helped me get accustomed to approaching people.”

7 Brother David Reusch, who was baptized in 1918, observed, “Testimony cards helped the brothers, for very few felt that they were able to say the right thing.” This tool had its limits, though. “Sometimes,” said Brother Reusch, “we met people who thought we could not speak. In a sense, many of us were not able to speak. But Jehovah was preparing us to meet the public as his ministers. Soon he would put words in our mouth by teaching us to use the Scriptures at the door. This was accomplished through the Theocratic Ministry School that began in the 1940’s.”
—**Read Jeremiah 1:6-9.**

8 Books. Since 1914, Jehovah’s people have produced over 100 different books that discuss Bible topics. Some of those books were specifically designed to train publishers to be effective ministers. Anna Larsen, in Denmark, who has been a publisher for some 70 years, says: “Jehovah helped us to be more effective publishers by means of the Theocratic Ministry School and the associated books we received. I remember that the first of those books was the *Theocratic Aid to Kingdom Publishers*, released in 1945. It was followed by “*Equipped for Every Good Work*,” published in 1946. Now we have *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education*, published in 2001.” Certainly, the Theocratic Ministry School and related books have played a key role as Jehovah has “adequately qualified us to be ministers.” (2 Cor. 3:5, 6) Are you enrolled in the Theocratic Ministry School? Do you bring the *Ministry School* book to the meeting each week and follow along as the school overseer refers to it? If you do, you will be allowing Christ to train you to be a better teacher.—2 Cor. 9:6; 2 Tim. 2:15.

- 6, 7. (a) What were the benefits and the limitations of using testimony cards?
- (b) In what sense has Jehovah ‘put words in our mouths’?
8. How can you allow Christ to train you?



Testimony card
(Italian)

Sowing Kingdom Seed

(Matthew 13:4-8)

E \flat *A \flat /*E \flat* *E \flat ma7/*E \flat* *A \flat /*E \flat****

Come share in the work of our Mas - ter; Re -
How much of your work is suc - cess - ful May

E \flat *Gm* *A \flat* *C7/G*

spond to his call and o - bey. He
of - ten de - pend much on you. Those

Fm *D \flat /F* *Fm6* *Fm7*

of - fers to help and to guide you; His
hear - ing will need your as - sis - tance To

B \flat 7 *B \flat 9/*A \flat* *E \flat /G* *B \flat 7/F**

teach - ing will show you the way. The
learn and to love what is true. So

Sowing Kingdom Seed

E \flat *E \flat +5* *Cm*

seed of the truth has pow - er to grow In
help them to deal with pres - sures and doubts They're

D \flat *Fm7* *B \flat 7*

hearts that are hon - est and true. So
cer - tain to face on their way. The

E \flat *Fm7* *E \flat /G* *A \flat*

give of your best as you faith - ful - ly share In the
seed of the truth will bring joy when you see How it

E \flat /B \flat *B \flat 7sus4* *B \flat 7* *E \flat*

work you've been giv - en to do.
grows in their heart day by day.

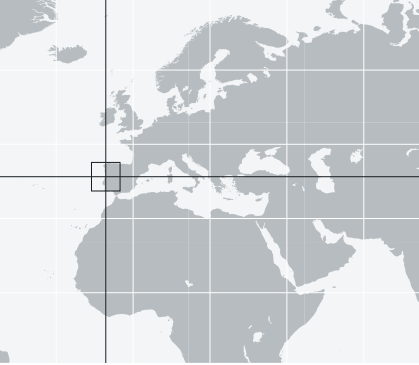
DECEMBER 2016

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JANUARY 30–FEBRUARY 26, 2017



COVER IMAGE:
PORTUGAL

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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Becoming “All Things
to People of All Sorts”

8 WEEK OF **JANUARY 30–FEBRUARY 5**
By Undeserved Kindness
You Were Set Free

13 WEEK OF **FEBRUARY 6-12**
‘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

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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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ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

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December 2016
Vol. 137, No. 18 ENGLISH

The Meditation of My Heart

(Psalm 19:14)

C Fm6/C C

The med - i - ta - tion of my heart, The
 What - ev - er things are chaste and true, What -

C Gm/Bb A7sus4 A7

thoughts I pon - der through the day - May
 ev - er vir - tue there may be, What -

Dm Gm/Bb A7+5 Dm

they be pleas - ing to you, Lord, And keep me
 ev - er things well - spo - ken - of - May thoughts of

Am7 D7 Dm11 G7 C Gm/Bb

stead - fast in your way. When wor - ries weigh up - on my
 these bring peace to me. How pre - cious are your thoughts, O

The Meditation of My Heart

A7sus4 A7 Dm Gm/B♭ A7+5 Dm

mind God! And Be - yond make me rest - less in the night, Then So

D#° C/E F/A Fm/A♭

may I med - i - tate on you And things I
may I pon - der your own words, Ab - sorbed in

C/G G7sus4 G7 C

know them to may be I up - right. be - come.

R.H.



‘Setting Your Mind on the Spirit Means Life and Peace’

“Those who live according to the spirit, [set their minds] on the things of the spirit.”—ROM. 8:5.

IN CONNECTION with the annual commemoration of Jesus’ death, have you read Romans 8:15-17? Probably so. That key passage explains how Christians know that they are anointed—holy spirit bears witness with their spirit. And the opening verse in that chapter refers to “those in union with Christ Jesus.” But does Romans chapter 8 apply only to anointed ones? Or does it also speak to Christians who hope to live on earth?

² Anointed Christians are those principally addressed in that chapter. They receive “the spirit” as ones “waiting for adoption as sons, the release from [their fleshly] bodies.” (Rom. 8:23) Yes, their future is to be sons of God in heaven. That is possible because they became baptized Christians, and God applied the ransom in their behalf, forgave their sins, and declared them righteous as spiritual sons.—Rom. 3:23-26; 4:25; 8:30.

³ However, Romans chapter 8 is also of interest to those who have the earthly hope because God in a sense views

1, 2. Why is Romans chapter 8 of special interest to anointed Christians?

3. Why do we conclude that Romans chapter 8 should be of interest to those with the earthly hope?

SONGS: 45, 36

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

No matter which hope we have, why can we benefit from considering Romans chapter 8?

How might a Christian begin to ‘set his mind on the flesh’?

Setting our minds on the spirit involves our doing what?

them as righteous. We see an indication of that in what Paul wrote earlier in his letter. In chapter 4, he discussed Abraham. That man of faith lived before Jehovah gave the Law to Israel and long before Jesus died for our sins. Still, Jehovah noted Abraham's outstanding faith and counted him as righteous. **(Read Romans 4:20-22.)** Jehovah can in a similar way consider as righteous the faithful Christians today who have the Bible-based hope of living forever on earth. Accordingly, they can benefit from the counsel found in Romans chapter 8 that is given to righteous ones.

4 At Romans 8:21, we find a guarantee that the new world will definitely come. This verse promises that "the creation itself will also be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God." The question is whether we will be there, whether we will gain that reward. Do you have confidence that you will? Romans chapter 8 offers advice that will help you to do so.

4. Romans 8:21 should lead us to reflect on what question?

"SETTING THE MIND ON THE FLESH"

5 **Read Romans 8:4-13.** Romans chapter 8 speaks of those who walk "according to the *flesh*" in contrast with those who walk "according to the *spirit*." Some might imagine that this is a contrast between those who are not in the truth and those who are, between those who are not Christians and those who are. However, Paul was writing to "those who are in Rome as God's beloved ones, *called to be holy ones.*" (Rom. 1:7) Thus, Paul was contrasting Christians who walked according to the flesh with Christians who walked according to the spirit. What was the contrast?

6 Consider first the term "flesh." To what was Paul referring? The Bible uses "flesh" in different ways. At times, it applies to the actual flesh of our physical body. (Rom. 2:28; 1 Cor. 15:39, 50) It can also signify kinship. Jesus was "from the offspring of David according

5. At Romans 8:4-13, what serious matter did Paul address?

6, 7. (a) What are some ways in which the term "flesh" is used in the Bible? (b) At Romans 8:4-13, in what sense did Paul use "flesh"?



to the flesh,” and Paul saw the Jews as “relatives according to the flesh.” —Rom. 1:3; 9:3.

⁷ However, what Paul wrote in chapter 7 gives us a clue as to the “flesh” spoken of at Romans 8:4-13. He linked “living according to the flesh” with “the sinful passions” that were then “at work in [their] bodies.” (Rom. 7:5) This sheds light on the meaning of the expression “those who live according to the flesh,” who Paul said, “set their minds on the things of the flesh.” He was referring to people who are ruled by or focused on their desires and leanings as imperfect humans. In the main, these are ones who follow their cravings, impulses, and passions, whether sexual or otherwise.

⁸ But you may wonder why Paul would stress to anointed Christians the danger of living “according to the flesh.” And could a similar danger today threaten Christians, whom God has accepted as his friends and views as righteous? Sadly, any Christian could begin to walk ac-

8. Why was it appropriate to warn even anointed Christians about walking “according to the flesh”?

ording to the sinful flesh. For example, Paul wrote that some among the brothers in Rome were slaves “of their own appetites,” which could have been sexual appetite or appetite for food, drink, or other things. Some of them were ‘seducing unsuspecting ones.’ (Rom. 16:17, 18; Phil. 3:18, 19; Jude 4, 8, 12) Recall, too, that for a time, a brother in Corinth was “living with his father’s wife.” (1 Cor. 5:1) It is understandable, then, why God used Paul to warn Christians about “setting the mind on the flesh.” —Rom. 8:5, 6.

⁹ That warning is equally valid now. After serving God for years, a Christian could begin to set his or her mind on the things of the flesh. That does not refer to a Christian who occasionally thinks about food, employment, recreation, or even romance. Those are aspects of life for the average servant of God. Jesus enjoyed food, and he fed others. He saw the need for refreshment. And Paul wrote about the proper place for passion or intimacy within marriage.

9. To what does Paul’s warning at Romans 8:6 not apply?



Do your conversations show that your mind is set on the spirit or on the flesh?

(See paragraphs 10, 11)

¹⁰ What, then, was Paul saying about “*setting the mind on the flesh*”? The Greek word that Paul used means “to set one’s mind or heart upon something, to employ one’s faculty for thoughtful planning, w[ith] the emphasis upon the underlying disposition or attitude.” Those who live according to the flesh allow their life course to be determined basically by their sinful human nature. One scholar says about that word at Romans 8:5: “They set their minds on—are most deeply interested in, constantly talk about, engage and glory in—the things pertaining to the flesh.”

¹¹ It was fitting for Christians in Rome to analyze what their focus in life really was. Could it be that their lives were dominated by or centered on “things of the flesh”? And it is fitting for us to consider the same about our lives. What is of greatest interest to us, and to what does our speech gravitate? What do we really pursue day in and day out? Some may find that they are focusing on trying different types of wine, decorating the home, finding new clothing styles, making investments, planning vacation trips, and the like. Such matters are not bad in themselves; they can be normal aspects of life. For example, Jesus once made wine, and Paul told Timothy to take “a little wine.” (1 Tim. 5:23; John 2:3-11) But did Jesus and Paul “constantly talk about, engage and glory in” wine? Was it their passion, what they ‘constantly talked’ about? No. What about us? What is our key interest in life?

10. At Romans 8:5, 6, the expression “set their minds on” implies what?

11. What sort of things might we include when asking ourselves, ‘What is my key interest?’

¹² Self-examination is important. Why? Paul wrote: “Setting the mind on the flesh *means death*.” (Rom. 8:6) That is serious—spiritual death now and physical death in the future. Still, Paul did not mean that if someone began to ‘set the mind on the flesh’ his end unavoidably would be death. Change is possible. Think of the immoral man in Corinth who went after “the flesh” and had to be disfellowshipped. Yet, he could and did change. He ceased to walk after the flesh and returned to a straight path.—2 Cor. 2:6-8.

¹³ If it was possible for that person to change, it is possible for a Christian today to change, especially one who has not gone after the flesh as far as the man in Corinth had. Certainly, Paul’s warning about the possible final outcome for someone who ‘sets his or her mind on the flesh’ should be a stimulus to Christians to make any needed changes!

“SETTING THE MIND ON THE SPIRIT”

¹⁴ After the apostle warned us against “setting the mind on the flesh,” he offered this positive assurance: “Setting the mind on the spirit means life and peace.” What a result or reward that is—life and peace! How can we gain that reward?

¹⁵ “Setting the mind on the spirit” does not imply that a person has to live with his head in the clouds, so to speak. He does not need to think and talk of nothing other than the Bible or his love for God and his hope for the future. Let us recall that Paul and others in the first

12, 13. Why is what we set our mind on a serious issue?

14, 15. (a) What alternative is there to “setting the mind on the flesh”? (b) What is not meant by “setting the mind on the spirit”?

century who pleased God were living rather normal lives in many respects. They consumed food and drink. Many married and enjoyed family life, working to support themselves.—Mark 6:3; 1 Thess. 2:9.

¹⁶ However, those servants of God did not allow such normal aspects of life to become the center of their lives. After showing that Paul worked as a tentmaker, the record reveals what his life was centered on: He regularly gave attention to the Christian preaching and teaching work. (**Read Acts 18:2-4; 20:20, 21, 34, 35.**) And those were the activities that he recommended to his brothers and sisters in Rome. Yes, Paul's life centered on spiritual provisions and activities. The Romans needed to imitate him, and so do we.—Rom. 15:15, 16.

¹⁷ What is the outcome if we maintain a spiritual focus? Romans 8:6 answers clearly: "Setting the mind on the spirit means life and peace." That implies letting our mind be influenced by and dominated by holy spirit and being in harmony with God and his thoughts. We can trust that by making "the spirit" the real center of our existence, we will have a satisfying, meaningful life now. And the lasting result is everlasting life, be that in heaven or on earth.

¹⁸ Let us reflect on the assurance that "setting the mind on the spirit means . . . peace." Many people struggle to find peace of mind. While they desperately search for inner peace, we already enjoy

it. One aspect of having such peace is that we strive to be at peace with those in our family and those in the congregation. We have the good sense to realize that both we and our brothers and sisters are imperfect. Because of this, problems may occasionally arise, and if that happens, we have been taught to follow Jesus' advice: "Make your peace with your brother." (Matt. 5:24) This is made easier when we recall that the other brother or sister is also serving "the God who gives peace."—Rom. 15:33; 16:20.

¹⁹ And there is another peace that is of incalculable value. By our "setting the mind on the spirit," we enjoy peace with our Maker. Isaiah recorded words that applied in his day but have an even greater fulfillment now: "You [Jehovah] will safeguard those who fully lean on you; you will give them continuous peace, because it is in you that they trust."—Isa. 26:3; **read Romans 5:1.**

²⁰ Accordingly, whether we are spirit anointed or we hope to live permanently in a paradise on earth, we can be thankful for the inspired counsel in Romans chapter 8. How grateful we can be for the encouragement not to let "the flesh" become the principal thing in our life! Instead, we see the wisdom of living in line with the inspired assurance: "Setting the mind on the spirit means life and peace." The reward of doing so will be everlasting, for Paul wrote: "The wages sin pays is death, but the gift God gives is everlasting life by Christ Jesus our Lord."—Rom. 6:23.

16. Though sharing in many normal aspects of life, on what was Paul focused?

17. If we 'set our mind on the spirit,' what sort of life can we have?

18. In what way does peace result from "setting the mind on the spirit"?

19. Depending on what we set our mind on, what special peace can we enjoy?

20. Why are you thankful for the counsel in Romans chapter 8?

We Guard Our Hearts

(Proverbs 4:23)

Eb
Ebma7
Eb
F#°
B7/F#
Eb/G

We guard our hearts, it means our life;
 Pre - pared hearts in heart, we search for God
 Our hearts we shield from harm - ful thoughts,

F#°
Bb7/F

We shun the path of sin.
 By means of on ear - nest prayer.
 We dwell on what is true.

Fm
Ab/Bb
Bb7
Bb7/D
Fm7
Bb7

God reads the heart, and there he finds
 Each day we give him to praise and thanks,
 We love God's Word to touch our hearts,

Eb/G
B7/F#
Fm7
Bb7
Eb

The per - son deep with - in.
 Re - veal - ing ev - 'ry care.
 To strength - en and re - new.

We Guard Our Hearts

Eb
Ebma7
Eb
F#°
B7/F#
Eb/G

Some - times the heart de - ceives the mind,
 The things Je - ho - vah teach - es us,
 Je - ho - vah loves his loy - al ones;

Eb
Eb/G
Bb7/F
Eb7
Ab
C7/G
Fm

And we be - gin to stray.
 We glad - ly will o - bey.
 On this we can de - pend.

Fm/Ab
A°
Eb6/Bb
Eb/G
Bbm/G
Bbm6/Db
C7

So may our mind di - rect our heart
 We cul - ti - vate a loy - al heart,
 We'll wor - ship him whole - heart - ed - ly

Fm
Fm7
Gm/Bb
Bb7
Eb

And keep Je - ho - vah's way.
 To please him ev - 'ry day.
 For - ev - er as his friend.

(See also Ps. 34:1; Phil. 4:8; 1 Pet. 3:4.)