

- Song 57 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Proclaim the Year of Jehovah’s Goodwill”:** (10 min.)  
Isa 61:1, 2—Jesus was anointed “to proclaim the year of Jehovah’s goodwill” (*ip-2* 322 ¶4)  
Isa 61:3, 4—Jehovah provides “big trees of righteousness” to support his work (*ip-2* 326-327 ¶13-15)  
Isa 61:5, 6—“Foreigners” cooperate with “the priests of Jehovah” in the greatest witnessing campaign of all time (*w12* 12/15 25 ¶5-6)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Isa 60:17—What are some ways that Jehovah has fulfilled this promise in the last days? (*w15* 7/15 9-10 ¶14-17)

Isa 61:8, 9—What is the “everlasting covenant,” and who are the “offspring”? (*w07* 1/15 11 ¶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 62:1-12

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh* 16 ¶19—If available, have a mother study with her minor daughter.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 66
- **Use Videos in Your Ministry:** (6 min.) Talk. Play the video *What Is God’s Kingdom?* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY) Encourage all to use the video in connection with the literature offer for March and April on an initial call or on a return visit.
- **“Make Wise Use of Bible Literature”:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Distributing Bible Literature in Congo* (video category ACTIVITIES).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 8 ¶14-18, box on p. 85, review box on p. 86
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 96 and Prayer

**Make Wise Use of Bible Literature**

Jesus taught: “You received free, give free.” (Mt 10:8) We adhere to that clear direction by not charging people for a copy of the Bible or our Bible-based literature. (2Co 2:17) Nevertheless, these publications contain precious truths from God’s Word. Great effort and expense are involved in printing literature and shipping it to congregations around the world. Therefore, we should take only what we need.

Use discernment when giving literature to others, even at public witnessing locations. (Mt 7:6) Instead of simply handing out literature to passersby, make an effort to converse with them to determine their interest. Can you answer yes to at least one of the questions in the accompanying box? If you are unable to determine someone’s interest, it is best to give him a tract. Of course, if he asks for a magazine or another publication, we will gladly give him a copy.—Pr 3:27, 28.



**DOES THE PERSON . . .**

- listen attentively when we speak?
- participate in the conversation?
- agree to read the literature?
- offer a contribution?
- respond appreciatively to what he hears from God’s Word?

# Preaching to All Sorts of People

(1 Timothy 2:4)

A Bm/A A A Bm A/C#

We real - ly want to im - i - tate our God, To be im -  
 It does - n't mat - ter where they may be found Or what at  
 Je - ho - vah wel - comes all who make the choice To leave the

D F#m7 E D E/D

par - tial, as we know he is. To save all  
 first they might ap - pear to be. What real - ly  
 world and all its ways be - hind. This we have

C#m7 F#m

sorts of peo - ple is his will; He wel - comes  
 counts is what they are at heart - The in - ner  
 learned, and this we want to share, And so we

D Bm D/E Chorus E

all to come and to be his.  
 self, the one Je - ho - vah sees. It's the  
 preach to peo - ple of all kinds.

# Preaching to All Sorts of People

A D/A E A D/A

per - son, not the place; It's the heart and not the face. God's

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The treble clef staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melody with chords A, D/A, E, A, and D/A. The bass clef staff provides a bass line with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The lyrics are: "per - son, not the place; It's the heart and not the face. God's".

A D Esus4 E

mes - sage to all peo - ple we ex - tend. So be -

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The treble clef staff has a key signature of two sharps and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melody with chords A, D, Esus4, and E. The bass clef staff provides a bass line with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The lyrics are: "mes - sage to all peo - ple we ex - tend. So be -".

A Bm7 A/C# D

cause we real - ly care, We keep preach - ing ev - 'ry - where: "All sorts of

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The treble clef staff has a key signature of two sharps and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melody with chords A, Bm7, A/C#, and D. The bass clef staff provides a bass line with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The lyrics are: "cause we real - ly care, We keep preach - ing ev - 'ry - where: "All sorts of".

A/E Bm/E C#m/E A

peo - ple can be - come God's friend."

R.H.

Detailed description: This system contains the final two lines of music. The treble clef staff has a key signature of two sharps and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melody with chords A/E, Bm/E, C#m/E, and A. The bass clef staff provides a bass line with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The lyrics are: "peo - ple can be - come God's friend." The system ends with a double bar line. There is a "R.H." marking above the bass staff in the final measure.

Remove any obstacle from the way of my people.”

**15** For this is what the High and Lofty One says, Who lives\* forever<sup>a</sup> and whose name is holy:<sup>b</sup> “I reside in the high and holy place,<sup>c</sup>

But also with those crushed and lowly in spirit, To revive the spirit of the lowly

And to revive the heart of those being crushed.<sup>d</sup>

**16** For I will not oppose them forever Or always remain indignant;<sup>e</sup> For a man’s spirit would grow feeble because of me,<sup>f</sup>

Even the breathing creatures that I have made.

**17** I was indignant at his sinful pursuit of dishonest gain,<sup>g</sup> So I struck him, I hid my face, and I was indignant. But he kept walking as a renegade,<sup>h</sup> following the way of his heart.

**18** I have seen his ways, But I will heal him<sup>i</sup> and lead him<sup>j</sup> And restore\* comfort to him<sup>k</sup> and to his mourning ones.”<sup>l</sup>

**19** “I am creating the fruit of the lips. Continuous peace will be given to the one who is far away and the one who is near,”<sup>m</sup> says Jehovah, “And I will heal him.”

**20** “But the wicked are like the restless sea that cannot calm down, And its waters keep tossing up seaweed and mire.

**21** There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”<sup>n</sup>

57:15 \*Or “resides.” 57:18 \*Or “make compensation with.”

CHAP. 57

a Ge 21:33  
Ps 90:2  
Isa 40:28  
1Ti 1:17

b Ex 15:11  
Lu 1:46, 49

c 1Ki 8:27

d Ps 34:18  
Ps 147:3  
Isa 61:1  
Isa 66:2

e Ps 103:9  
Mic 7:18

f Job 34:14, 15

g Jer 6:13  
Jer 8:10

h Jer 3:14

i Jer 33:6  
Ho 14:4

j Isa 49:10

k Isa 12:1

l Isa 61:2  
La 1:4

m Isa 48:18  
Eph 2:17

n Pr 13:9  
Isa 3:11

Second Col.

CHAP. 58

a Isa 1:2  
Isa 31:6  
Isa 59:13

b Isa 29:13  
Eze 33:32

c Isa 1:14, 15

d Mal 3:14

e Le 16:29

f Jer 34:15, 16  
Mic 3:2-4

**58** “Call out full-throated; do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a horn. Proclaim to my people their revolt,<sup>a</sup>

To the house of Jacob their sins.

**2** They seek me day after day, And they express delight to know my ways, As if they were a nation that had practiced righteousness

And had not abandoned the justice of their God.<sup>b</sup>

They ask me for righteous judgments, Delighting to draw close to God:<sup>c</sup>

**3** ‘Why do you not see when we fast?’<sup>d</sup>

And why do you not notice when we afflict ourselves?’<sup>e</sup>

Because on the day of your fast, you pursue your own interests.<sup>f</sup>

And you oppress your laborers.<sup>f</sup>

**4** Your fasting ends in quarrels and fights, And you strike with the fist of wickedness.

You cannot fast as you do today and have your voice heard in heaven.

**5** Should the fast that I choose be like this, As a day for someone to afflict himself,<sup>g</sup>

To bow down his head like a rush,

To make his bed on sackcloth and ashes?

Is this what you call a fast and a day pleasing to Jehovah?

**6** No, this is the fast that I choose:

58:3 \*Or “our soul?” #Or “delight.” 58:5 \*Or “his soul.”

- To remove the fetters of wickedness,  
To untie the bands of the yoke bar,<sup>a</sup>  
To let the oppressed go free,<sup>b</sup>  
And to break in half every yoke bar;
- 7 It is to share your bread with the hungry,<sup>c</sup>  
To bring the poor and homeless into your house,  
To clothe someone naked when you see him,<sup>d</sup>  
And not to turn your back on your own flesh.
- 8 Then your light will shine through like the dawn,<sup>e</sup>  
And your healing will spring up quickly.  
Your righteousness will go before you,  
And the glory of Jehovah will be your rear guard.<sup>f</sup>
- 9 Then you will call, and Jehovah will answer;  
You will cry for help, and he will say, 'Here I am!'  
If you remove from among you the yoke bar  
And stop pointing your finger and speaking maliciously,<sup>g</sup>
- 10 If you grant to the hungry what you yourself desire<sup>\*h</sup>  
And satisfy those who are afflicted,<sup>#</sup>  
Then your light will shine even in the darkness,  
And your gloom will be like midday.<sup>i</sup>
- 11 Jehovah will always lead you  
And satisfy you\* even in a parched land;<sup>j</sup>  
He will invigorate your bones,  
And you will become like a well-watered garden,<sup>k</sup>  
Like a spring whose waters never fail.

58:10 \*Or "your own soul desires."  
#Or "the afflicted souls." 58:11 \*Or "your soul."

## CHAP. 58

a Jer 34:8, 9

b Pr 28:27

c Ps 41:1

Ps 112:9

Pr 19:17

Pr 22:9

d Eze 18:7, 8

Jas 2:15, 16

1Jo 3:17

e Pr 4:18

f Ex 14:19

Isa 52:12

g Isa 32:6

Isa 59:3

h De 15:7, 8

i Ps 37:5, 6

j Isa 49:10

k Isa 61:11

Jer 31:12

## Second Col.

a Ne 2:5

Jer 31:38

b Isa 61:4

c Ne 6:1

Am 9:11, 14

d Ne 13:15

Isa 56:2

Jer 17:21

e De 5:12-14

f De 32:13

g Ps 105:10, 11

Jer 3:18

## CHAP. 59

h Nu 11:23

Isa 50:2

i Ps 116:1

j Jer 5:25

k De 31:16, 17

De 32:20

Isa 57:17

Eze 39:23

Mic 3:4

l Isa 1:15

Jer 2:34

Eze 7:23

m Jer 7:9, 10

Eze 13:8

- 12 They will rebuild ancient ruins on your account,<sup>a</sup>  
And you will restore the foundations of past generations.<sup>b</sup>  
You will be called the repairer of the broken walls,<sup>\*c</sup>  
The restorer of roadways by which to dwell.
- 13 If because of the Sabbath you refrain\* from pursuing your own interests<sup>#</sup> on my holy day<sup>d</sup>  
And you call the Sabbath an exquisite delight, a holy day of Jehovah, a day to be glorified,<sup>e</sup>  
And you glorify it rather than pursuing your own interests and speaking idle words,
- 14 Then you will find your exquisite delight in Jehovah,  
And I will make you ride on the high places of the earth.<sup>f</sup>  
I will cause you to eat from\* the inheritance of Jacob your forefather,<sup>g</sup>  
For the mouth of Jehovah has spoken."
- 59 Look! The hand of Jehovah is not too short to save,<sup>h</sup>  
Nor is his ear too dull\* to hear.<sup>i</sup>
- 2 No, your own errors have separated you from your God.<sup>j</sup>  
Your sins have made him hide his face from you,  
And he refuses to hear you.<sup>k</sup>
- 3 For your palms are polluted with blood<sup>l</sup>  
And your fingers with error.  
Your lips speak lies,<sup>m</sup>  
and your tongue mutters unrighteousness.

58:12 \*Lit., "the breach." 58:13 \*Lit., "turn your foot back." #Or "your own delights." 58:14 \*Or "to enjoy." 59:1 \*Lit., "heavy."

- 4** No one calls out for righteousness,<sup>a</sup>  
 And no one goes to court in truthfulness.  
 They trust in unreality<sup>\*b</sup> and speak what is worthless.  
 They conceive trouble and give birth to what is harmful.<sup>c</sup>
- 5** They hatch the eggs of a poisonous snake,  
 And they weave the cobweb of a spider.<sup>d</sup>  
 Anyone who eats their eggs would die,  
 And the egg that is crushed hatches a viper.
- 6** Their cobweb will not serve as a garment,  
 Nor will they cover themselves with what they make.<sup>e</sup>  
 Their works are harmful,  
 And deeds of violence are in their hands.<sup>f</sup>
- 7** Their feet run to do evil,  
 And they hurry to shed innocent blood.<sup>g</sup>  
 Their thoughts are harmful thoughts;  
 Ruin and misery are in their ways.<sup>h</sup>
- 8** They have not known the way of peace,  
 And there is no justice in their tracks.<sup>i</sup>  
 They make their roadways crooked;  
 No one treading on them will know peace.<sup>j</sup>
- 9** That is why justice is far away from us,  
 And righteousness does not overtake us.  
 We keep hoping for light, but look! there is darkness;  
 For brightness, but we keep walking in gloom.<sup>k</sup>
- 10** We grope for the wall like blind men;

59:4 \*Or "emptiness."

CHAP. 59

- a Jer 5:1  
 Eze 22:30  
 Mic 7:2
- b Isa 30:12, 13
- c Mic 2:1
- d Job 8:13, 14
- e Isa 57:12
- f Jer 6:7  
 Mic 6:12
- g Jer 22:17  
 Eze 9:9  
 Mt 23:35
- h Ro 3:15-17
- i Isa 5:7  
 Isa 59:15  
 Jer 5:1  
 Am 6:12  
 Hab 1:4
- j Jer 8:15
- k Isa 5:30
- Second Col.  
 a De 28:15, 29
- b Isa 1:5  
 Eze 5:5, 6
- c Jer 14:7  
 Ho 5:5
- d Eze 9:13  
 Ne 9:33  
 Da 9:5
- e Isa 31:6  
 Isa 32:6  
 Jer 17:13
- f Jer 5:23
- g Ps 82:2  
 Hab 1:4
- h Isa 5:22, 23
- i Isa 48:1
- j Mic 3:2

- Like those without eyes we keep groping.<sup>a</sup>  
 We stumble at high noon as in evening darkness;  
 Among the strong we are just like the dead.
- 11** We all keep growling like bears  
 And cooing mournfully like doves.  
 We hope for justice, but there is none;  
 For salvation, but it is far away from us.
- 12** For our revolts are many before you;<sup>b</sup>  
 Each of our sins testifies against us.<sup>c</sup>  
 For our revolts are with us;  
 We well know our errors.<sup>d</sup>
- 13** We have transgressed and denied Jehovah;  
 We have turned our backs on our God.  
 We have spoken of oppression and revolt;<sup>e</sup>  
 We have conceived lies and muttered false words from the heart.<sup>f</sup>
- 14** Justice is driven back,<sup>g</sup>  
 And righteousness stands far off;<sup>h</sup>  
 For truth\* has stumbled in the public square,  
 And what is upright is unable to enter.
- 15** Truth\* has vanished,<sup>i</sup>  
 And anyone who turns away from bad is plundered.  
 Jehovah saw this and was displeased,<sup>#</sup>  
 For there was no justice.<sup>j</sup>
- 16** He saw that there was no man,  
 And he was astonished that no one interceded,  
 So his own arm brought about salvation,<sup>\*</sup>

59:14, 15 \*Or "honesty." 59:15 #Lit., "and it was bad in his eyes." 59:16 \*Or "victory for him."

And his own righteousness supported him.

- 17 Then he put on righteousness like a coat of mail  
And the helmet of salvation\* on his head.<sup>a</sup>

He put on the garments of vengeance as his clothing<sup>b</sup>  
And wrapped himself with zeal like a coat.<sup>#</sup>

- 18 He will reward them for what they have done:<sup>c</sup>

Wrath to his adversaries, retribution to his enemies.<sup>d</sup>  
And to the islands he will repay their due.

- 19 From the sunset they will fear the name of Jehovah  
And from the sunrise his glory,

For he will come in like a rushing river,  
Which the spirit of Jehovah drives along.

- 20 "To Zion the Repurchaser<sup>e</sup> will come,<sup>f</sup>

To those in Jacob who turn from transgression,"<sup>g</sup> declares Jehovah.

21 "As for me, this is my covenant with them,"<sup>h</sup> says Jehovah. "My spirit that is on you and my words that I have placed in your mouth—they will not be removed from your mouth, from the mouth of your children,\* or from the mouth of your grandchildren,"<sup>#</sup> says Jehovah, "from now on and forever."

- 60 "Arise, O woman,<sup>i</sup> shed light, for your light has come.

The glory of Jehovah shines on you.<sup>j</sup>

- 2 For look! darkness will cover the earth  
And thick gloom the nations;  
But on you Jehovah will shine,

59:17 \*Or "victory." #Or "sleeveless coat." 59:21 \*Lit., "seed." #Lit., "of the seed of your seed."

CHAP. 59

a Eph 6:17  
1Th 5:8

b De 32:35  
Ps 94:1

c Job 34:11  
Ps 62:12  
Jer 17:10

d Isa 1:24  
La 4:11  
Eze 5:13

e Isa 48:17

f Isa 62:11

g De 30:1-3  
Ro 11:26

h Ro 11:27

CHAP. 60

i Isa 51:17  
Isa 52:1

j Isa 60:19, 20

Second Col.

a Isa 11:10

b Isa 49:23

c Re 21:23, 24

d Isa 49:17, 18  
Isa 54:1

e Isa 49:21, 22

f Jer 33:9

g Isa 61:6  
Hag 2:7, 8

h 1Ch 1:32, 33

i Mal 1:11

j Isa 42:11

k Ge 25:13

l Ex 29:39, 42  
Isa 56:6, 7

m Hag 2:9

n Isa 51:5

And on you his glory will be seen.

- 3 Nations will go to your light<sup>a</sup>  
And kings<sup>b</sup> to your shining splendor.\*<sup>c</sup>

- 4 Raise your eyes and look all around you!

They have all been assembled; they are coming to you.

From far away your sons keep coming,<sup>d</sup>

And your daughters being supported on the hip.<sup>e</sup>

- 5 At that time you will see and become radiant,<sup>f</sup>

And your heart will throb and overflow,

Because the wealth of the sea will be directed to you;  
The resources of the nations will come to you.<sup>g</sup>

- 6 Throngs of camels will cover your land,\*

Young male camels of Mid'i'an and E'phah.<sup>h</sup>

All those from She'ba—they will come;

Gold and frankincense they will carry.

They will proclaim the praises of Jehovah.<sup>i</sup>

- 7 All the flocks of Ke'dar<sup>j</sup> will be gathered to you.

The rams of Ne·ba'ioth<sup>k</sup> will serve you.

They will come on my altar with approval,<sup>l</sup>

And I will beautify my glorious house.\*<sup>m</sup>

- 8 Who are these that fly along like clouds,

Like doves to their dove-cotes?<sup>n</sup>

- 9 For in me the islands will hope;<sup>n</sup>

The ships of Tar'shish are in the lead,\*

60:3 \*Or "to the brightness of your dawn." 60:6 \*Lit., "you." 60:7 \*Or "my house of beauty." 60:8 \*Or "to the openings in the birdhouse?" 60:9 \*Or "as at the first."

To bring your sons from far away,<sup>a</sup>  
 Along with their silver and their gold,  
 To the name of Jehovah your God and to the Holy One of Israel,  
 For he will glorify\* you.<sup>b</sup>

**10** Foreigners will build your walls,  
 And their kings will minister to you,<sup>c</sup>  
 For in my indignation I struck you,  
 But in my favor\* I will have mercy on you.<sup>d</sup>

**11** Your gates will be kept open constantly;<sup>e</sup>  
 They will not be closed by day or by night,  
 To bring to you the resources of the nations,  
 And their kings will take the lead.<sup>f</sup>

**12** For any nation and any kingdom that will not serve you will perish,  
 And the nations will be utterly devastated.<sup>g</sup>

**13** To you the glory of Leb'a-non will come,<sup>h</sup>  
 The juniper tree, the ash tree, and the cypress together,<sup>i</sup>  
 To beautify the place of my sanctuary;  
 I will glorify the place for my feet.<sup>j</sup>

**14** The sons of those who oppressed you will come and bow down before you;  
 All those treating you disrespectfully must bow down at your feet,  
 And they will have to call you the city of Jehovah,  
 Zion of the Holy One of Israel.<sup>k</sup>

60:9 \*Or "beautify." 60:10 \*Or "good-will."

**CHAP. 60**  
 a Isa 60:4  
 Isa 66:20  
 b Ps 149:4  
 Isa 52:1  
 Isa 55:5  
 c Ezr 7:27  
 Ne 2:7, 8  
 Isa 49:23  
 d De 30:3  
 Ps 30:5  
 Isa 54:7  
 Isa 57:17, 18  
 e Re 21:25, 26  
 f Isa 60:3, 5  
 g Isa 41:11  
 h Isa 35:1, 2  
 i Isa 41:19  
 Isa 55:13  
 j Ps 132:7  
 k Isa 62:12

**Second Col.**  
 a 2Ch 36:20, 21  
 Isa 49:14  
 Jer 30:17  
 La 1:4  
 b Isa 35:10  
 Isa 61:7  
 Jer 33:10, 11  
 c Isa 61:6  
 d Isa 49:23  
 e Isa 49:26  
 f Isa 1:26  
 Isa 32:1  
 g Isa 2:4  
 Isa 11:9  
 Isa 54:14  
 Zec 9:8  
 h Isa 26:1  
 i Ps 36:9  
 Isa 60:1  
 Re 21:23  
 Re 22:5  
 j Zec 2:4, 5  
 k Ps 27:1  
 Ps 84:11  
 l Isa 25:8  
 Isa 30:19  
 Isa 35:10

**15** Instead of your being abandoned and hated, with nobody passing through,<sup>a</sup>  
 I will make you a source of everlasting pride,  
 A cause for rejoicing throughout all generations.<sup>b</sup>

**16** And you will actually drink the milk of nations,<sup>c</sup>  
 At the breast of kings you will nurse;<sup>d</sup>  
 And you will certainly know that I, Jehovah, am your Savior,  
 And the Powerful One of Jacob is your Repurchaser.<sup>e</sup>

**17** Instead of the copper I will bring in gold,  
 And instead of the iron I will bring in silver,  
 Instead of the wood, copper,  
 And instead of the stones, iron;  
 And I will appoint peace as your overseers  
 And righteousness as your task assigners.<sup>f</sup>

**18** No more will violence be heard in your land  
 Or destruction and ruin within your boundaries.<sup>g</sup>  
 And you will call your walls Salvation<sup>h</sup> and your gates Praise.

**19** For you the sun will no longer be a light by day,  
 Nor will the shining of the moon give you light,  
 For Jehovah will become to you an eternal light,<sup>i</sup>  
 And your God will be your beauty.<sup>j</sup>

**20** No more will your sun set,  
 Nor will your moon wane,  
 For Jehovah will become for you an eternal light,<sup>k</sup>  
 And the days of your mourning will have ended.<sup>l</sup>

**21** And all your people will be righteous;



They will possess the land forever.

They are the sprout that I planted,

The work of my hands,<sup>a</sup> for me to be beautified.<sup>b</sup>

- 22 The little one will become a thousand  
And the small one a mighty nation.  
I myself, Jehovah, will speed it up in its own time.”

- 61 The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah is upon me,<sup>c</sup>  
Because Jehovah anointed me to declare good news to the meek.<sup>d</sup>  
He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And the wide opening of the eyes to the prisoners,<sup>e</sup>

- 2 To proclaim the year of Jehovah's goodwill\*  
And the day of vengeance of our God,<sup>f</sup>  
To comfort all who mourn,<sup>g</sup>  
3 To provide for those mourning over Zion,  
To give them a headdress instead of ashes,  
The oil of exultation instead of mourning,  
The garment of praise instead of a despondent spirit.

And they will be called big trees of righteousness,  
The planting of Jehovah, in order to glorify\* him.<sup>h</sup>

- 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins;  
They will raise up the desolated places of the past,<sup>i</sup>  
And they will restore the devastated cities,<sup>j</sup>  
The places that lay desolate for generation after generation.<sup>k</sup>

CHAP. 60

a Isa 43:6, 7

b Isa 44:23

CHAP. 61

c Isa 42:1

Mt 3:16

d Mt 11:4, 5

Ac 10:37, 38

e Lu 4:17-21

Lu 7:22

Ac 26:17, 18

f Isa 34:8

g Isa 25:8

Mt 5:4

Lu 6:21

h Isa 60:21

i Isa 49:8

Isa 51:3

j Isa 44:26

Isa 58:12

k Eze 36:33, 34

Second Col.

a Isa 60:10

b Isa 14:1, 2

c Ex 19:6

d Isa 23:17, 18

Isa 60:5, 7

e Zec 9:12

f Isa 35:10

g De 32:4

Ps 33:5

Ps 37:28

h Pr 6:16-19

i Isa 55:3

Jer 32:40

j Zec 8:13

k Isa 65:23

l Isa 65:13

m Isa 52:1

Re 21:2

n Ex 28:39, 41

- 5 “Strangers will stand and shepherd your flocks,  
And foreigners<sup>a</sup> will be your farmers and your vinedressers.<sup>b</sup>

- 6 As for you, you will be called the priests of Jehovah;<sup>c</sup>  
They will call you the ministers of our God.  
You will eat the resources of the nations,<sup>d</sup>  
And about their glory\* you will boast.

- 7 Instead of shame you will have a double portion,  
And instead of humiliation they will shout joyfully over their share.  
Yes, they will possess a double portion in their land.<sup>e</sup>  
Everlasting rejoicing will be theirs.<sup>f</sup>

- 8 For I, Jehovah, love justice;<sup>g</sup>  
I hate robbery and unrighteousness.<sup>h</sup>  
I will faithfully give them their wages,  
And I will make an everlasting covenant with them.<sup>i</sup>

- 9 Their offspring\* will be known among the nations<sup>j</sup>  
And their descendants among the peoples.  
All who see them will recognize them,  
That they are the offspring\* whom Jehovah has blessed.”<sup>k</sup>

- 10 I will greatly exult in Jehovah.  
My whole being\* will rejoice in my God.<sup>l</sup>  
For he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;<sup>m</sup>  
He has wrapped me with the robe<sup>n</sup> of righteousness,  
Just like a turban like that of a priest,<sup>n</sup>

61:6 \*Or “riches.” 61:9 \*Lit., “seed.”  
61:10 \*Or “My soul.” <sup>n</sup>Or “sleeveless coat.”

And like a bride who  
adorns herself with her  
ornaments.

- 11** For as the earth brings  
forth its sprouts  
And as the garden makes  
what is sown in it sprout,  
So will the Sovereign Lord  
Jehovah

Cause righteousness<sup>a</sup> and  
praise to sprout<sup>b</sup> before  
all the nations.

- 62** For the sake of Zion I will  
not keep silent,<sup>c</sup>  
And for the sake of Jerusa-  
lem I will not keep still  
Until her righteousness  
shines like a bright light<sup>d</sup>  
And her salvation burns like  
a torch.<sup>e</sup>

- 2** "The nations will see your  
righteousness, O woman,<sup>f</sup>  
And all kings your glory,<sup>g</sup>  
And you will be called by  
a new name,<sup>h</sup>  
Which Jehovah's own mouth  
will designate.

- 3** You will become a crown  
of beauty in the hand of  
Jehovah,  
A royal turban in the palm  
of your God.

- 4** No more will you be called  
an abandoned woman,<sup>i</sup>  
And your land will no longer  
be called desolate.<sup>j</sup>  
But you will be called  
My Delight Is in Her,<sup>k</sup>  
And your land will be called  
the Married One.  
For Jehovah will take delight  
in you,  
And your land will be as  
one married.

- 5** For just as a young man  
marries a virgin,  
Your sons will marry you.  
With the rejoicing of a  
bridegroom over a bride,  
Your God will rejoice over  
you.<sup>l</sup>

**CHAP. 61**

a Isa 45:8  
Isa 62:1

b Isa 58:11  
Isa 60:18  
Isa 62:7

**CHAP. 62**

c Ps 102:13  
Zec 2:12

d Isa 1:26

e Isa 51:5

f Isa 54:1  
Isa 60:1

g Isa 49:23  
Isa 60:11

h Jer 33:16

i Isa 49:14  
Isa 54:6

j Isa 32:14

k Ps 149:4  
Zep 3:17

l Isa 65:18, 19  
Jer 32:41

**Second Col.**

a Isa 61:11  
Jer 33:9  
Zep 3:19, 20

b De 28:49-51  
Jer 5:17

c De 14:23  
Isa 65:21, 22

d Isa 40:3  
Isa 48:20

e Isa 57:14

f Eze 1:1, 3  
Isa 11:12  
Isa 49:22

g Zec 9:9  
Mt 21:5  
Joh 12:15

h Isa 40:9, 10  
Re 22:12

i Ps 107:2, 3

- 6** Upon your walls, O Jerusa-  
lem, I have commissioned  
watchmen.

Continuously, all day long  
and all night long, they  
should not be silent.

You who make mention  
of Jehovah,

Do not rest,

- 7** And do not give him any rest  
until he firmly establishes  
Jerusalem,

Yes, until he makes her the  
praise of the earth.<sup>a</sup>

- 8** Jehovah has sworn an  
oath with his right hand,  
with his strong arm:

"I will no longer give your  
grain as food to your  
enemies,

Nor will foreigners drink  
your new wine, for which  
you have toiled.<sup>b</sup>

- 9** But those gathering it will  
eat it and they will praise  
Jehovah;

And those collecting it will  
drink it in my holy  
courtyards."<sup>c</sup>

- 10** Pass through, pass through  
the gates.

Clear the way for the  
people.<sup>d</sup>

Build up, build up the  
highway.

Rid it of stones.<sup>e</sup>

Raise up a signal\* for the  
peoples.<sup>f</sup>

- 11** Look! Jehovah has  
proclaimed to the  
ends of the earth:

"Say to the daughter of Zion,  
'Look! Your salvation is  
coming.'<sup>g</sup>

Look! His reward is with him,  
And the wage he pays is  
before him."<sup>h</sup>

- 12** They will be called the holy  
people, those repurchased  
by Jehovah,<sup>i</sup>

**62:10** \*Or "signal pole."

And you will be called  
Sought After, a City  
Not Abandoned.<sup>a</sup>

- 63** Who is this coming from  
E'dom,<sup>b</sup>  
From Boz'rah<sup>c</sup> with bright-  
colored\* garments,  
This one with splendid  
clothing,  
Marching in his great power?  
"It is I, the One speaking in  
righteousness,  
The One with great power  
to save."  
**2** Why is your clothing red,  
And why are your garments  
like those of one treading  
the winepress?<sup>d</sup>  
**3** "I have trodden the wine  
trough alone.  
No one from the peoples  
was with me.  
I kept treading them in my  
anger,  
And I kept trampling them  
in my wrath.<sup>e</sup>  
My garments were spattered  
with their blood,  
And I have stained all my  
clothing.  
**4** For the day of vengeance  
is in my heart,<sup>f</sup>  
And the year of my repur-  
chased ones has come.  
**5** I looked, but there was no  
one to help;  
I was appalled that no one  
offered support.  
So my arm brought me  
salvation,<sup>\*g</sup>  
And my own wrath  
supported me.  
**6** I trampled peoples in my  
anger,  
I made them drunk with  
my wrath<sup>h</sup>  
And poured out their blood  
on the ground."  
**7** I will mention Jehovah's acts  
of loyal love,

63:1 \*Or possibly, "bright-red." 63:5  
\*Or "victory."

CHAP. 62

a Isa 54:7

CHAP. 63

b Ps 137:7

Isa 34:5, 6

c Am 1:12

d Joe 3:13  
Re 14:19, 20  
Re 19:15

e Isa 34:2

f Isa 34:8  
Isa 35:4  
Isa 61:1, 2

g Isa 51:9  
Isa 52:10  
Isa 59:16

h Jer 25:15, 16

Second Col.

a Ps 78:12  
Ps 105:5

b Ex 24:7

c Ex 14:30

d Ex 3:7

e Ex 14:19  
Ex 23:20

f De 7:8

g Ex 19:4  
De 1:31

h De 9:7

i Ac 7:51  
Eph 4:30

j Le 26:14, 17  
De 28:63

k Jer 21:5

l Ex 14:30  
Isa 51:10

m Ps 77:20

n Nu 11:16, 17

o Ex 6:1, 6  
Ex 15:16

p Ex 14:21, 22

q Ex 9:15, 16  
Ex 14:17  
Ro 9:17

- The praiseworthy acts  
of Jehovah,  
Because of all that Jehovah  
has done for us,<sup>a</sup>  
The many good things he  
has done for the house  
of Israel,  
According to his mercy and  
his great loyal love.  
**8** For he said: "Surely they are  
my people, sons who will  
not be disloyal."<sup>\*b</sup>  
So he became their Savior.<sup>c</sup>  
**9** During all their distress it  
was distressing to him.<sup>d</sup>  
And his own personal  
messenger\* saved them.<sup>e</sup>  
In his love and compassion  
he repurchased them,<sup>f</sup>  
And he lifted them up and  
carried them all the days  
of old.<sup>g</sup>  
**10** But they rebelled<sup>h</sup> and  
grieved his holy spirit.<sup>i</sup>  
He then turned into their  
enemy,<sup>j</sup>  
And he fought against them.<sup>k</sup>  
**11** And they remembered the  
days of old,  
The days of Moses his  
servant:  
"Where is the One who  
brought them up out of  
the sea' with the shepherds  
of his flock?<sup>m</sup>  
Where is the One who put  
within him His holy spirit,<sup>n</sup>  
**12** The One who made His  
glorious arm go with the  
right hand of Moses,<sup>o</sup>  
The One who split the waters  
before them<sup>p</sup>  
To make an everlasting name  
for himself,<sup>q</sup>  
**13** The One who made them  
walk through the surging  
waters,<sup>\*</sup>  
So that they walked without  
stumbling,

63:8 \*Or "prove false." 63:9 \*Or "the  
angel of his presence." 63:13 \*Or  
"deep waters."

- Song 57 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Proclaim the Year of Jehovah’s Goodwill”:** (10 min.)  
Isa 61:1, 2—Jesus was anointed “to proclaim the year of Jehovah’s goodwill” (*ip-2* 322 ¶4)  
Isa 61:3, 4—Jehovah provides “big trees of righteousness” to support his work (*ip-2* 326-327 ¶13-15)  
Isa 61:5, 6—“Foreigners” cooperate with “the priests of Jehovah” in the greatest witnessing campaign of all time (*w12* 12/15 25 ¶5-6)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Isa 60:17—What are some ways that Jehovah has fulfilled this promise in the last days? (*w15* 7/15 9-10 ¶14-17)

Isa 61:8, 9—What is the “everlasting covenant,” and who are the “offspring”? (*w07* 1/15 11 ¶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 62:1-12

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh* 16 ¶19—If available, have a mother study with her minor daughter.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 66
- **Use Videos in Your Ministry:** (6 min.) Talk. Play the video *What Is God’s Kingdom?* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY) Encourage all to use the video in connection with the literature offer for March and April on an initial call or on a return visit.
- **“Make Wise Use of Bible Literature”:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Distributing Bible Literature in Congo* (video category ACTIVITIES).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 8 ¶14-18, box on p. 85, review box on p. 86
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 96 and Prayer

**Make Wise Use of Bible Literature**

Jesus taught: “You received free, give free.” (Mt 10:8) We adhere to that clear direction by not charging people for a copy of the Bible or our Bible-based literature. (2Co 2:17) Nevertheless, these publications contain precious truths from God’s Word. Great effort and expense are involved in printing literature and shipping it to congregations around the world. Therefore, we should take only what we need.

Use discernment when giving literature to others, even at public witnessing locations. (Mt 7:6) Instead of simply handing out literature to passersby, make an effort to converse with them to determine their interest. Can you answer yes to at least one of the questions in the accompanying box? If you are unable to determine someone’s interest, it is best to give him a tract. Of course, if he asks for a magazine or another publication, we will gladly give him a copy.—Pr 3:27, 28.



**DOES THE PERSON . . .**

- listen attentively when we speak?
- participate in the conversation?
- agree to read the literature?
- offer a contribution?
- respond appreciatively to what he hears from God’s Word?

## February 20-26

### Treasures From God's Word

**Isaiah 61:1, 2**—Jesus was anointed “to proclaim the year of Jehovah’s goodwill”

Reference: *ip-2* 322 **paragraph 4**.

Isaiah writes: “The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah is upon me, for the reason that Jehovah has anointed me to tell good news to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening of the eyes even to the prisoners.” (Isaiah 61:1) Who is the one commissioned to tell good news? Likely, in the first instance it is Isaiah, who is inspired by God to record good news for the captives in Babylon. However, Jesus pointed to the most important fulfillment when he applied Isaiah’s words to himself. (Luke 4:16-21) Yes, Jesus was sent forth to tell good news to the meek, and to this end he was anointed with holy spirit at his baptism.—**Matthew 3:16, 17**.

**Isaiah 61:3, 4**—Jehovah provides “big trees of righteousness” to support his work

Reference: *ip-2* 326-327 **paragraphs 13-15**.

13 From Pentecost 33 C.E. onward, God planted similar “big trees of righteousness”—courageous anointed Christians—in the spiritual estate of his new nation, “the Israel of God.” (Galatians 6:16) Over the centuries, these “trees” have come to number 144,000, producing righteous fruitage to beautify, or bring glory to, Jehovah God. (Revelation 14:3) The final ones of these stately “trees” have flourished in the years since 1919, when Jehovah revived the remaining ones of the Israel of God from their temporary state of inactivity. By supplying them with an abundant supply of spiritual waters, Jehovah has produced a virtual forest of righteous, fruit-bearing trees.—Isaiah 27:6.

14 Highlighting the work of these “trees,” Isaiah continues: “They must rebuild the long-standing devastated places; they will raise up even the desolated places of former times, and they will certainly make anew the devastated cities, the places desolate for generation after generation.” (Isaiah 61:4) Under the decree of King Cyrus of Persia, faithful Jews who returned from Babylon rebuilt Jerusalem and its temple, which had been left in a devastated condition for so long. Restoration projects would also mark the years following 33 C.E. and 1919.

15 In 33 C.E., Jesus’ disciples were greatly saddened by his arrest, trial, and death. (Matthew 26:31) However, their outlook changed when he appeared to them after his resurrection. And once holy spirit was poured out on them, they got busy with the work of preaching the good news, “both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the most distant part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) Thus they began to restore pure worship. In a similar way, from 1919 onward Jesus Christ caused the remnant of his anointed brothers to rebuild “places desolate for generation after generation.” For centuries the clergy of Christendom had failed to impart the knowledge of Jehovah, replacing it with man-made traditions and unscriptural doctrines. The anointed Christians cleaned out of their congregations practices that were tainted by false religion so that the restoration of true worship could go forward. And they began what would prove to be the greatest witnessing campaign that the world has ever known.—Mark 13:10.

**Isaiah 61:5, 6**—“Foreigners” cooperate with “the priests of Jehovah” in the greatest witnessing campaign of all time

Reference: w12 12/15 25 paragraphs 5-6.

5 On the other hand, someone may point to chapter 61 of the book of Isaiah, which contains a prophecy finding fulfillment in the Christian congregation. Verse 6 of that chapter mentions those who will serve as “priests of Jehovah.” Verse 5, though, mentions “foreigners” who would cooperate with and work with those “priests.” How is this to be understood?

6 We understand those “priests of Jehovah” to be anointed Christians who have a share “in the first resurrection” and who “will be priests of God and of the Christ, and will rule as kings with him for the thousand years.” (**Revelation 20:6**) In addition, there are many loyal Christians who have an earthly hope. These, though working with and associating closely with those who will serve in heaven, are foreigners, figuratively speaking. They happily support and work along with “the priests of Jehovah,” serving as their “farmers” and “vinedressers,” as it were. Yes, they help cultivate spiritual fruitage to God’s glory, nurturing and harvesting people. Indeed, both the anointed and the “other sheep” find and then lovingly shepherd honest individuals who are desirous of serving God forever.—John 10:16.

## Digging for Spiritual Gems

**Isaiah 60:17**—What are some ways that Jehovah has fulfilled this promise in the last days?

Reference: w15 7/15 9-10 paragraphs 14-17.

14 Over the years, the older ones in our midst have personally experienced some of the organizational adjustments that have increased the beauty of the earthly part of Jehovah’s organization. They remember when congregations had a congregation servant rather than a body of elders, when countries had a branch servant rather than a Branch Committee, and when direction was given by the president of the Watch Tower Society rather than by a clearly established Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Although all these devoted brothers were supported by faithful assistants, one person was basically responsible for making decisions in the congregations, at the branch offices, and at world headquarters. During the 1970’s, adjustments were made to put the responsibility for oversight on groups of elders rather than on individuals.

15 Have these adjustments proved beneficial? Yes, and logically so. Why? Because the adjustments were based on increased knowledge about the pattern set in the Scriptures. Instead of having the influence of one individual dominate, the composite good qualities of *all* the “gifts in men” whom Jehovah has provided benefit the organization.—**Ephesians 4:8**; **Proverbs 24:6**.

16 Think, too, of more recent adjustments, such as the changes in appearance, contents, and methods of distribution of our publications. What a pleasure it is to offer practical, appealing, and attractive literature in the ministry! And when we use the latest technology to spread the truth, such as by means of the jw.org website, we reflect Jehovah’s interest in providing people everywhere with the guidance most of them lack but so desperately need.

17 Not to be overlooked is the wisdom behind the adjustment that allowed us to have a Family Worship evening or more time for personal study. We also appreciate advances made in assembly and convention programs. We often say that they get better every year! And we certainly rejoice over the increased training being provided by our many theocratic schools. In all these adjustments, Jehovah's hand is clearly seen. He progressively enhances the beauty of his organization and of the spiritual paradise that we enjoy even now!

**Isaiah 61:8, 9**—What is the “everlasting covenant,” and who are the “offspring”?

Reference: *w07 1/15 11* **paragraph 5**.

This is the new covenant that Jehovah has concluded with anointed Christians. The “offspring” are the “other sheep”—the millions who respond to their message.—John 10:16.

- Song 57 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Proclaim the Year of Jehovah’s Goodwill”:** (10 min.)  
Isa 61:1, 2—Jesus was anointed “to proclaim the year of Jehovah’s goodwill” (*ip-2* 322 ¶4)  
Isa 61:3, 4—Jehovah provides “big trees of righteousness” to support his work (*ip-2* 326-327 ¶13-15)  
Isa 61:5, 6—“Foreigners” cooperate with “the priests of Jehovah” in the greatest witnessing campaign of all time (*w12* 12/15 25 ¶5-6)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Isa 60:17—What are some ways that Jehovah has fulfilled this promise in the last days? (*w15* 7/15 9-10 ¶14-17)

Isa 61:8, 9—What is the “everlasting covenant,” and who are the “offspring”? (*w07* 1/15 11 ¶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 62:1-12

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh* 16 ¶19—If available, have a mother study with her minor daughter.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 66
- **Use Videos in Your Ministry:** (6 min.) Talk. Play the video *What Is God’s Kingdom?* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY) Encourage all to use the video in connection with the literature offer for March and April on an initial call or on a return visit.
- **“Make Wise Use of Bible Literature”:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Distributing Bible Literature in Congo* (video category ACTIVITIES).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 8 ¶14-18, box on p. 85, review box on p. 86
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 96 and Prayer

**Make Wise Use of Bible Literature**

Jesus taught: “You received free, give free.” (Mt 10:8) We adhere to that clear direction by not charging people for a copy of the Bible or our Bible-based literature. (2Co 2:17) Nevertheless, these publications contain precious truths from God’s Word. Great effort and expense are involved in printing literature and shipping it to congregations around the world. Therefore, we should take only what we need.

Use discernment when giving literature to others, even at public witnessing locations. (Mt 7:6) Instead of simply handing out literature to passersby, make an effort to converse with them to determine their interest. Can you answer yes to at least one of the questions in the accompanying box? If you are unable to determine someone’s interest, it is best to give him a tract. Of course, if he asks for a magazine or another publication, we will gladly give him a copy.—Pr 3:27, 28.



**DOES THE PERSON . . .**

- listen attentively when we speak?
- participate in the conversation?
- agree to read the literature?
- offer a contribution?
- respond appreciatively to what he hears from God’s Word?





## TEEN DEPRESSION

Why? What can help?



### 3 COVER SUBJECT TEEN DEPRESSION —Why? What Can Help?

*According to reports, the number of teens being diagnosed with depression is increasing at an alarming rate.*

*What can be done about the problem?*

*This issue of “Awake!” discusses some suggestions for teens who suffer from depression and for their parents as well, to help them offer their children comfort and support.*

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

8 Your Smile—A Gift to Share

10 THE BIBLE'S VIEWPOINT  
Abortion

12 “We Were Touched to See Such Love”

14 HELP FOR THE FAMILY  
How to Show Appreciation

16 WAS IT DESIGNED?  
The Compound Heat Shield  
of the Saharan Silver Ant



## MORE ONLINE

### ARTICLES

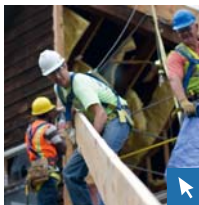


#### YOUNG PEOPLE ASK

### How Can I Deal With Anxiety?

The tips in this article can help you make anxiety work for you rather than against you.

(Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > TEENAGERS, or use the Search function)



#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Do Jehovah's Witnesses Assist With Disaster Relief?

Learn how Jehovah's Witnesses provide practical assistance to fellow believers and others.

(Look under ABOUT US > FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

<sup>19</sup> How can you draw close to God? To begin with, continue doing what you are doing now—learning about God. Jesus said: “This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.” (John 17:3) Yes, the Bible teaches that learning about Jehovah and Jesus leads to “everlasting life”! As already noted, “God is love.” (1 John 4:16) Jehovah also has many other beautiful and appealing qualities. For example, the Bible says that Jehovah is “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and truth.” (Exodus 34:6) He is “good and ready to forgive.” (Psalm 86:5) God is patient. (2 Peter 3:9) He is loyal. (Revelation 15:4) As you read more in the Bible, you will see how Jehovah has shown that he has these and many other appealing qualities.

<sup>20</sup> True, you cannot see God because he is an invisible spirit. (John 1:18; 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17) By learning about him through the pages of the Bible, however, you can come to know him as a person. As the psalmist said, you can “behold the pleasantness of Jehovah.” (Psalm 27:4; Romans 1:20) The more you learn about Jehovah, the more real he will become to you and the more reason you will have to love him and feel close to him.

<sup>21</sup> You will come to understand why the Bible teaches us to think of Jehovah as our Father. (Matthew 6:9) Not only does our life come from him but he wants the best life possible for us—just as any loving father would want for his children. (Psalm 36:9) The Bible also teach-

---

19. (a) How can we begin to draw close to God, and with what benefit? (b) What qualities of God are most appealing to you?

20-22. (a) Does our inability to see God prevent us from getting close to him? Explain. (b) What may some well-meaning people urge you to do, but what should you do?

- Song 57 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Proclaim the Year of Jehovah’s Goodwill”:** (10 min.)  
Isa 61:1, 2—Jesus was anointed “to proclaim the year of Jehovah’s goodwill” (*ip-2* 322 ¶4)  
Isa 61:3, 4—Jehovah provides “big trees of righteousness” to support his work (*ip-2* 326-327 ¶13-15)  
Isa 61:5, 6—“Foreigners” cooperate with “the priests of Jehovah” in the greatest witnessing campaign of all time (*w12* 12/15 25 ¶5-6)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Isa 60:17—What are some ways that Jehovah has fulfilled this promise in the last days? (*w15* 7/15 9-10 ¶14-17)

Isa 61:8, 9—What is the “everlasting covenant,” and who are the “offspring”? (*w07* 1/15 11 ¶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 62:1-12

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh* 16 ¶19—If available, have a mother study with her minor daughter.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 66
- **Use Videos in Your Ministry:** (6 min.) Talk. Play the video *What Is God’s Kingdom?* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY) Encourage all to use the video in connection with the literature offer for March and April on an initial call or on a return visit.
- **“Make Wise Use of Bible Literature”:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Distributing Bible Literature in Congo* (video category ACTIVITIES).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 8 ¶14-18, box on p. 85, review box on p. 86
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 96 and Prayer

**Make Wise Use of Bible Literature**

Jesus taught: “You received free, give free.” (Mt 10:8) We adhere to that clear direction by not charging people for a copy of the Bible or our Bible-based literature. (2Co 2:17) Nevertheless, these publications contain precious truths from God’s Word. Great effort and expense are involved in printing literature and shipping it to congregations around the world. Therefore, we should take only what we need.

Use discernment when giving literature to others, even at public witnessing locations. (Mt 7:6) Instead of simply handing out literature to passersby, make an effort to converse with them to determine their interest. Can you answer yes to at least one of the questions in the accompanying box? If you are unable to determine someone’s interest, it is best to give him a tract. Of course, if he asks for a magazine or another publication, we will gladly give him a copy.—Pr 3:27, 28.



**DOES THE PERSON . . .**

- listen attentively when we speak?
- participate in the conversation?
- agree to read the literature?
- offer a contribution?
- respond appreciatively to what he hears from God’s Word?

# Declare the Good News

(Revelation 14:6, 7)

Cm11 F13 F7b13 Dm7 Bb6/D C#° Cm B° Cm7 F7

The full - ness of the King - dom truth was long con - cealed. The  
The good news that we now de - clare was long fore - known. Je -

Cm11 F13 F7b13 Dm7 Bb6/D C#° Cm7 F13

truth a - bout the prom - ised King is now re - vealed. Je -  
ho - vah will that in this time it would be shown. A -

Bb/D Bb Gm/E A7+5 A7 Dm A7/E Dm/F

ho - vah in his mer - cy and his love of right Con -  
long with us, his an - gels take de - light to share, To

Gm6/Bb A7 Gm6/Bb A7 Dm C#° Cm7 F9

sid - ered man's con - di - tion in his sin - ful plight. He  
aid us as the King - dom truth we now de - clare. We

# Declare the Good News

Cm11 F13 F7b13 Dm7 Bb6/D C#° Cm B° Cm7 F7

formed his pur - pose that his Son should rule the earth; In  
 have the du - ty and the hon - or in these days To

Bb7 Eb G7/D Cm C#°

God's due time the King - dom rule would be brought to birth. And  
 sanc - ti - fy his name and give him his right - ful praise. We're

Bb/D Bb F/Eb Eb Cm11 F7 Bb6 F6/A Fm/Ab G7

that he might ar - range to bring his Son a bride, A  
 hon - ored as his Wit - ness - es that name to bear With

Ebm/C F13 Fm/D G7+5 G7 C9 F7 Bb

lit - tle flock of cho - sen ones is glo - ri - fied.  
 ev - er - last - ing good news that we now de - clare.

(See also Mark 4:11; Acts 5:31; 1 Cor. 2:1, 7.)

- Song 57 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Proclaim the Year of Jehovah’s Goodwill”:** (10 min.)  
Isa 61:1, 2—Jesus was anointed “to proclaim the year of Jehovah’s goodwill” (*ip-2* 322 ¶4)  
Isa 61:3, 4—Jehovah provides “big trees of righteousness” to support his work (*ip-2* 326-327 ¶13-15)  
Isa 61:5, 6—“Foreigners” cooperate with “the priests of Jehovah” in the greatest witnessing campaign of all time (*w12* 12/15 25 ¶5-6)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Isa 60:17—What are some ways that Jehovah has fulfilled this promise in the last days? (*w15* 7/15 9-10 ¶14-17)

Isa 61:8, 9—What is the “everlasting covenant,” and who are the “offspring”? (*w07* 1/15 11 ¶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 62:1-12

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *g17.1* cover
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh* 16 ¶19—If available, have a mother study with her minor daughter.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 66
- **Use Videos in Your Ministry:** (6 min.) Talk. Play the video *What Is God’s Kingdom?* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY) Encourage all to use the video in connection with the literature offer for March and April on an initial call or on a return visit.
- **“Make Wise Use of Bible Literature”:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Distributing Bible Literature in Congo* (video category ACTIVITIES).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 8 ¶14-18, box on p. 85, review box on p. 86
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 96 and Prayer

**Make Wise Use of Bible Literature**

Jesus taught: “You received free, give free.” (Mt 10:8) We adhere to that clear direction by not charging people for a copy of the Bible or our Bible-based literature. (2Co 2:17) Nevertheless, these publications contain precious truths from God’s Word. Great effort and expense are involved in printing literature and shipping it to congregations around the world. Therefore, we should take only what we need.

Use discernment when giving literature to others, even at public witnessing locations. (Mt 7:6) Instead of simply handing out literature to passersby, make an effort to converse with them to determine their interest. Can you answer yes to at least one of the questions in the accompanying box? If you are unable to determine someone’s interest, it is best to give him a tract. Of course, if he asks for a magazine or another publication, we will gladly give him a copy.—Pr 3:27, 28.



**DOES THE PERSON . . .**

- listen attentively when we speak?
- participate in the conversation?
- agree to read the literature?
- offer a contribution?
- respond appreciatively to what he hears from God’s Word?

---

13. What do you find remarkable about our magazines? (Discuss the chart “World Records for Publications.”)

14. What have we zealously promoted, and why?

15, 16. (a) What do you appreciate about the *New World Translation*? (Discuss the box “Speeding Up Bible Translation.”) (b) How can you allow Jehovah to touch your heart?

who know little about the Bible and the true God, Jehovah.—Acts 17:22, 23.

**13** By the beginning of 2014, each month more than 44 million copies of *Awake!* and some 46 million copies of *The Watchtower* were published. *Awake!* was translated into some 100 languages, and *The Watchtower*, into over 200, which made them the most widely translated and distributed magazines on earth! As remarkable as those achievements are, they should not surprise us. These magazines contain the message that Jesus said would be preached in all the inhabited earth.—Matt. 24:14.

**14 The Bible.** In 1896, Brother Russell and his associates changed the name of the corporation they used to publish literature so that it included the word Bible; it became known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. That change was appropriate because the Bible has always been the primary tool for spreading the good news about the Kingdom. (Luke 24:27) In harmony with the legal corporation’s name, God’s servants have zealously promoted the distribution and reading of the Bible. For example, in 1926, we printed on our own presses *The Emphatic Diaglott*, a translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures produced by Benjamin Wilson. Beginning in 1942, we printed and distributed some 700,000 copies of the entire *King James Version*. Just two years later, we began printing the *American Standard Version*, which uses Jehovah’s name in 6,823 places. By 1950, we had distributed over 250,000 copies.

**15** The year 1950 saw the release of the *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures*. The complete *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* was released in one volume in 1961. This translation honors Jehovah by restoring his name to the locations where it appeared in the original Hebrew text. The divine name also appears 237 times in the main text of the Christian Greek Scriptures. To ensure that it is as accurate and readable as possible, the *New World Translation* has been revised several times, most recently in 2013. As of 2013, more than 201 million copies of the *New World Translation* have been published in whole or in part in 121 languages.

**16** How have some responded to reading the *New World Translation* in their own language? A Nepali man said: “For many, the old Nepalese translation that we had was difficult to understand, since it used classical language. But now we can understand the Bible so much better, as it uses the language of everyday life.” When a woman in the



# SPEEDING UP BIBLE TRANSLATION

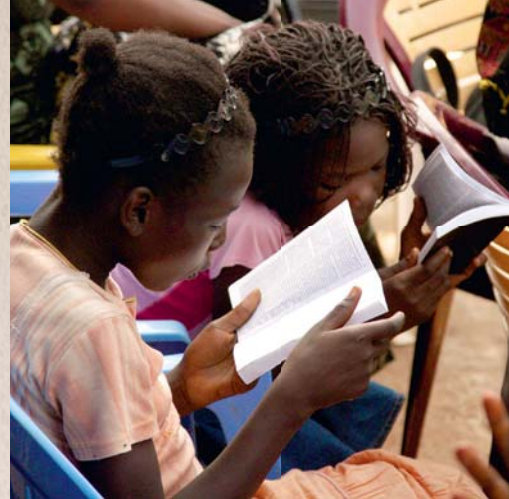
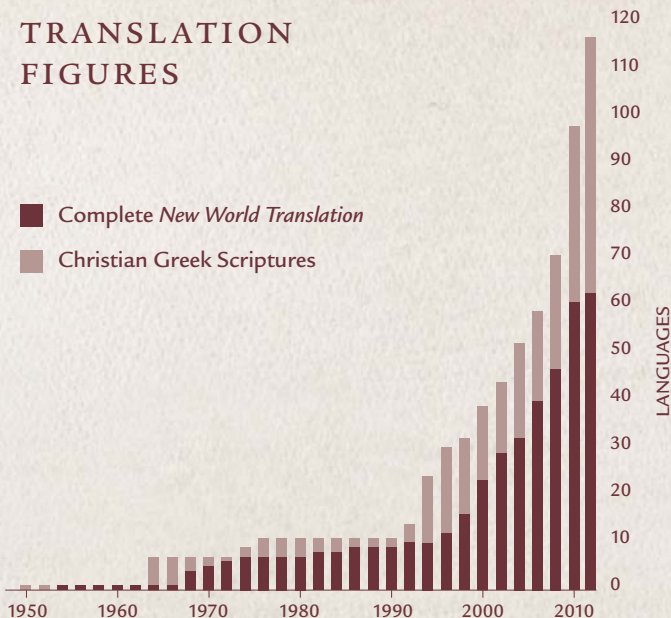
BY 1989, the *New World Translation* had been published, in whole or in part, in 11 languages. To help fill the growing need for the *New World Translation*, the Writing Committee of the Governing Body arranged for training courses to help translators approach the work systematically and efficiently. The MEPS Programming department developed a computer program called the Bible Translation System.<sup>[4]</sup> This program does not translate the text, but it does help translators to organize their work and easily access reference material. Devoted translators, trainers, and support personnel have worked hard to help produce Bibles in language after language.

As a result of those efforts, by 2004 the *New World Translation* was available in over 50 languages! Just nine years later, in 2013, there were 121 language editions of the *New World Translation* available, and the number continues to grow.

## FOOTNOTE

[4] The Bible Translation System is now part of a program called Watchtower Translation System, which is used worldwide by thousands of translators.

## TRANSLATION FIGURES



---

17. How can you show that you appreciate the tools and training that you receive, and what will be the result if you do so?

18. What privilege do we have?

Central African Republic began reading the Sango translation, she started to cry and said, “This is the language of my heart.” Like that woman, each of us can allow Jehovah to touch our heart by reading his Word every day.—Ps. 1:2; Matt. 22:36, 37.

### Grateful for the Tools and Training

**17** Do you appreciate the tools and progressive training that the King Jesus Christ has given us? Do you make time to read the literature God’s organization produces, and do you use it to help others? If so, you will relate to the comments of Sister Opal Betler, who was baptized on October 4, 1914. Opal said: “Through the years, my husband [Edward] and I used the phonograph and the testimony cards. We witnessed from house to house with books, booklets, and magazines. We went on campaigns and marches and distributed printed proclamations. Later we were trained to make back-calls [now referred to as return visits] and hold Bible studies in the homes of interested persons. It has been a busy and happy life.” Jesus promised that his subjects would be busy sowing, reaping, and rejoicing together. Millions like Opal can testify to the truthfulness of that promise.—**Read John 4:35, 36.**

**18** Many who are not yet servants of the King might consider God’s people to be “uneducated and ordinary.” (Acts 4:13) But just think! The King has caused his ordinary people to become a publishing powerhouse, producing some of the most widely translated and distributed publications in history! More important, he has trained and motivated us to use these tools to spread the good news to people of all nations. What a privilege we have to work with Christ in planting seeds of truth and harvesting disciples!

## How Real Is the Kingdom to You?

- How does our translation work prove that we have the King’s backing?
- What facts about our publications prove to you that the Kingdom is real?
- What can you do to show appreciation for the tools that the King provides?

# God's Own Book—A Treasure

(Proverbs 2:1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Db/F Bbm7 Eb7 Ebm11

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

God's Own Book—A Treasure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

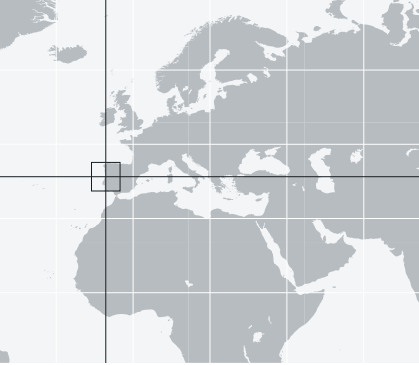
DECEMBER 2016

# 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**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

**3** LIFE STORY  
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

**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.

---

**29** A Mild Temper—The Way of Wisdom

---

**32** SUBJECT INDEX  
FOR *THE WATCHTOWER* 2016

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

To make a donation, please visit [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org).

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

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

*The Watchtower* (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 18 December 2016 is published monthly with an additional issue published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2016 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

December 2016  
Vol. 137, No. 18 ENGLISH

# "A Perfect Wage" From Jehovah

(Ruth 2:12)

G C/G Gma7 Cadd9/G D7 G C/G D7/G

Je - ho - vah is faith - ful and ful - ly a - ware Of all those who serve him whole -  
At times we may feel that our lot in this life Has bur - dened us more than our

G Bm Cadd9 Bm Cadd9

souled. He knows there are times their de - vo - tion and zeal Re -  
share. And some - times it seems that the cares of the day Are

G/D Cm/D# B7/D# Em G/D Cma7 D/C Bm7 G6/B

sult in their loss as fore - told. If you have left hous - es or  
more than we're a - ble to bear. The God of all com - fort takes

Am7 D7/A G Dm/F E7sus4 E7 Am

fam - 'ly or friends, Be sure that our God knows the sum. He  
note of your need; You know he's the Hear - er of prayer. His

# "A Perfect Wage" From Jehovah

Em/C# F#7+5 F#7 Bm D#° Em G/A A9

makes it up now with our dear broth-er - hood And life in the new world to  
Word and his spir - it and true, lov-ing friends Will bring to you com - fort and

Chorus  
Am C/D D G Am11 D7/A Gadd9/B C Bm Am7

come. care. May Je - ho - vah re - ward what you have done. May he pro -

G/D Cm/D# B7/D# Em D/F# Em/G Am7 Gma7/B

vide a per - fect wage for you. May you find ref - uge be - neath his

C Cm/Eb G/D C/D D7 G

wings. Je - ho - vah is faith - ful; Je - ho - vah is true.





# Jehovah Rewards Those Who Earnestly Seek Him

*“Whoever approaches God must believe that he is and that he becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him.”—HEB. 11:6.*

SONGS: 136, 139

## CAN YOU EXPLAIN?

How can we be sure that Jehovah rewards his servants?

How did Jehovah bless his servants in the past?

What rewards do we receive from Jehovah?

WE LOVE Jehovah “because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) As one expression of his tender love, Jehovah has taken the initiative to bless his loyal servants. The more we love our God, the stronger our faith becomes, not only that he exists, but that he unfailingly rewards those whom he loves.—**Read Hebrews 11:6.**

<sup>2</sup> Being a rewarder is an integral part of who Jehovah is and what he does. Our faith is not complete unless we are firmly convinced that God will reward those who earnestly seek him, for “faith is the assured expectation of what is hoped for.” (Heb. 11:1) Yes, faith involves the certain expectation of God’s promised blessings. How, though, does the hope of a reward benefit us? How has Jehovah rewarded his servants, both in the past and in the present? Let us see.

## JEHOVAH PROMISES TO BLESS HIS SERVANTS

<sup>3</sup> Jehovah God has obligated himself to reward his faithful servants, so he invites us to reach out for his blessing. We

- 1, 2. (a) How are love and faith connected? (b) What questions will we consider?
3. What promise is found at Malachi 3:10?

read: “Test me out, please, . . .’ Jehovah of armies says, ‘to see whether I will not open to you the floodgates of the heavens and pour out on you a blessing until there is nothing lacking.’” (Mal. 3:10) We show our deep appreciation and gratitude when we accept Jehovah’s generous offer.

<sup>4</sup> Jesus assured his disciples that if they would put the Kingdom first, God would support them. **(Read Matthew 6: 33.)** The certainty of Jesus’ promise was based on Jehovah’s perfect record of trustworthiness. Jesus knew that God’s promises never fail. (Isa. 55:11) We, in turn, can be certain that if we manifest heartfelt faith in Jehovah, he

4. Why can we have confidence in Jesus’ assurance recorded at Matthew 6:33?

will keep his promise: “I will never leave you, and I will never abandon you.” (Heb. 13:5) We can link that inspired statement with what Jesus said about seeking first the Kingdom and God’s righteousness.

<sup>5</sup> The apostle Peter once asked Jesus: “We have left all things and followed you; what, then, will there be for us?” (Matt. 19:27) Instead of rebuking Peter for asking that question, Jesus told his disciples that they would be rewarded for their sacrifices. The faithful apostles and others will rule with him in heaven. But even now there are rewards. Jesus said: “Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother

5. Why is Jesus’ reply to Peter faith-strengthening?

---

Jesus showed that his disciples would be rewarded for their sacrifices  
(See paragraph 5)



or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit everlasting life.” (Matt. 19:29) His disciples would gain blessings far in excess of any personal sacrifices they might make. Are not spiritual fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and children much more valuable than anything we have renounced or given up for the sake of the Kingdom?

### “AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL”

<sup>6</sup> By promising his worshippers a reward, Jehovah helps to sustain them during tests of integrity. Besides enjoying rich spiritual blessings now, Jehovah God’s faithful servants eagerly look forward to even greater blessings in the future. (1 Tim. 4:8) Yes, our being firmly convinced that Jehovah “becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him” will help us to stand firm in the faith. —Heb. 11:6.

<sup>7</sup> In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: “Rejoice and be overjoyed, since your reward is great in the heavens, for in that way they persecuted the prophets prior to you.” (Matt. 5:12) Aside from those who will receive a reward in heaven, the prospect of everlasting life on a paradise earth is indeed reason to “rejoice and be overjoyed.” (Ps. 37:11; Luke 18:30) Whether heavenly or earthly, our hope can serve as “an anchor for the soul, both sure and firm.” (Heb. 6:17-20) Just as an anchor keeps a ship steady during a storm, the sure hope of a reward can help us to maintain our emotional, mental, and spiritual stability. It can help us to have the strength to endure hardships.

6. Why does Jehovah promise his worshippers a reward?
7. How does hope serve as an anchor?

<sup>8</sup> Our Bible-based hope has the power to reduce present anxiety. God’s promises act like spiritual balm that soothes our anxious heart. How comforting it is for us to ‘throw our burden on Jehovah,’ knowing that ‘he will sustain us’! (Ps. 55:22) We can have full confidence that God can do “more than superabundantly beyond all the things we ask or conceive.” (Eph. 3:20) Imagine that—not just abundantly and not superabundantly but “more than superabundantly”!

<sup>9</sup> To receive the reward, we need to exercise full faith in Jehovah and be obedient to his directions. Moses told the nation of Israel: “Jehovah will surely bless you in the land that Jehovah your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, but only if you strictly obey the voice of Jehovah your God and carefully observe all this commandment that I am giving you today. For Jehovah your God will bless you just as he has promised you.” (Deut. 15:4-6) Do you have full confidence that Jehovah will bless you if you continue to serve him faithfully? You certainly have good reason for such confidence.

### JEHOVAH WAS THEIR REWARDER

<sup>10</sup> The Bible was recorded for our benefit. It contains many accounts of how God did indeed reward faithful servants. (Rom. 15:4) Joseph was an outstanding example. As a result of a conspiracy by his brothers and the later treachery of his master’s wife, he found himself in an Egyptian prison. Was he cut off from his God? Not at all! “Jehovah continued

8. How does hope have the power to reduce anxiety?
9. How sure can we be of Jehovah’s blessing?
- 10, 11. How did Jehovah reward Joseph?

with Joseph and kept showing loyal love to him . . . Jehovah was with Joseph and Jehovah made whatever he did successful.” (Gen. 39:21-23) Joseph, through those trialsome times, waited patiently on his God.

<sup>11</sup> Years later, Pharaoh released Joseph from prison and made this humble slave second ruler in Egypt. (Gen. 41:1, 37-43) When his wife bore him two sons, “Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, for he said, ‘God has made me forget all my trouble and all the house of my father.’ And he named the second one Ephraim, for he said, ‘God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.’” (Gen. 41:51, 52) Because Joseph remained loyal to God, he was rewarded with blessings that resulted in the preservation of life both for the Israelites and for the Egyptians. The point is, Joseph recognized that it was Jehovah who had rewarded him and blessed him.—Gen. 45:5-9.

<sup>12</sup> Jesus Christ likewise remained obedient to God through various tests of his faith, and he was rewarded. What helped him to cope? God’s Word explains: “For the joy that was set before him he endured a torture stake, despising shame.” (Heb. 12:2) Jesus certainly found joy in being able to sanctify God’s name. Furthermore, he was rewarded with his Father’s approval and many wonderful privileges. The Bible reports that he “has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” And elsewhere we read: “God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name.”—Phil. 2:9.

12. How did Jesus remain faithful when under trial?

## JEHOVAH DOES NOT FORGET WHAT WE DO

<sup>13</sup> We can be sure that Jehovah appreciates every effort that we make to serve him. He understands any insecurities or self-doubts that we may have. He shows us compassion if financial burdens weigh us down or our health or emotions tend to limit our sacred service. And we can have full confidence in Jehovah’s tender regard for what his servants do to stay faithful to him.—**Read Hebrews 6: 10, 11.**

<sup>14</sup> Bear in mind, too, that we can approach the “Hearer of prayer” with the confidence that he will give attention to our concerns. (Ps. 65:2) “The Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort” will unstintingly give us the emotional and spiritual support that we need, perhaps doing so by means of our fellow worshippers. (2 Cor. 1:3) It touches Jehovah’s heart when we show compassion toward others. “The one showing favor to the lowly is lending to Jehovah, and He will repay him for what he does.” (Prov. 19:17; Matt. 6:3, 4) Hence, when we unselfishly help those who are in difficulty, Jehovah views our good deed as a loan made to Him. And he promises to reward that kindness.

## REWARDS NOW AND FOREVER

<sup>15</sup> Spirit-anointed Christians are sustained by the prospect of receiving “the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give . . . as a reward in that day.” (2 Tim. 4:7, 8) You will, however, not be shortchanged if

13, 14. How does Jehovah feel about what we do for him?

15. What rewards do you look forward to? (See opening picture.)

God has given you a different prospect. Millions of Jesus' "other sheep" eagerly anticipate the future reward of everlasting life on a paradise earth. There "they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace."—John 10:16; Ps. 37:11.

<sup>16</sup> At times, we may feel that we are accomplishing little, or we might wonder whether Jehovah is pleased with our efforts. We may even doubt that we qualify to receive any kind of reward. Let us never forget, though, that "God is greater than our hearts and knows all things." **(Read 1 John 3:19, 20.)** He rewards every expression of sacred service that springs from a heart motivated by faith and love, no matter how insignificant it might seem to the giver of the sacrifice.—Mark 12:41-44.

<sup>17</sup> Even in these dark last days of Satan's wicked system of things, Jehovah is blessing his people. He makes sure that true worshippers flourish in their spiritual estate, which is unprecedented in its spiritual abundance. (Isa. 54:13) As Jesus promised, Jehovah rewards us *now* by letting us be part of a loving family of spiritual brothers and sisters, a family that is international in scope. (Mark 10:29, 30) Furthermore, those who earnestly seek God are rewarded with the incomparable blessings of peace of mind, contentment, and happiness.—Phil. 4:4-7.

<sup>18</sup> Jehovah's servants around the world can testify to the wonderful rewards they receive from him. For example, Bianca from Germany says: "I can-

---

16. What comfort do we find at 1 John 3:19, 20?

17. What are some of the rewards that we enjoy now?

18, 19. How do Jehovah's servants feel about the rewards they receive?

not thank Jehovah enough for helping me with my worries and for being at my side each day. The world out there is chaotic and bleak. But as I work closely with Jehovah, I feel secure in his arms. Whenever I make personal sacrifices for him, he gives me back a hundredfold in blessings."

<sup>19</sup> Or consider 70-year-old Paula in Canada who is severely restricted by spina bifida. "Reduced mobility does not necessarily mean a reduced ministry," she says. "I take advantage of different forms of service, such as telephone and informal witnessing. For my own encouragement, I keep a notebook with scriptures and thoughts from our publications that I can consult from time to time. I call it 'My Survival Notebook.' Discouragement is temporary if we focus on Jehovah's promises. Jehovah is always there to help us, regardless of our circumstances." Your situation may be quite different from that of Bianca or of Paula. Yet, you can likely think of ways in which Jehovah has rewarded you and those around you. How good it is to reflect on how Jehovah is rewarding you at this time and how he will reward you in the future!

<sup>20</sup> Never forget that your heartfelt prayers and freeness of speech with God "will be richly rewarded." You can be certain that "after you have done the will of God, you [will] receive the fulfillment of the promise." (Heb. 10:35, 36) So let us now continue to strengthen our faith and to work whole-souled as to Jehovah. We can do this, knowing that it is from Jehovah that we will receive the due reward.—**Read Colossians 3:23, 24.**

---

20. What can we look forward to if we continue to serve Jehovah whole-souled?

## See Yourself When All Is New

(Revelation 21:1-5)

Db/Eb Eb6 Ab Bbm7 Eb7 Ab/C C7b9b13

Just see your - self, just see me too; Just see us  
Now see your - self, and see me too; And look a -

Fm Cm/Eb Db Ab/C

all in a world that is new. Think how you'll  
head to a world that is new. No sight we

Bbm Db/Ab Gm11 C7

feel, how it will be, To live in  
see, no sound we hear Will cause a -

Fm7 Ab/Bb Bb9 Bbm11 Db/Eb Eb6

peace, to be tru - ly free. No e - vil  
larm or give rise to fear. All has come

# See Yourself When All Is New

Ab Bbm7 Eb7 Ab/C C7b9b13

one true, will then pre - vail; Rule by our  
just as he said; Now o - ver

Fm Cm/Eb Db Ab6/C

God can - not ev - er fail. The  
man - kind, his tent is spread. He

Bbm7 Cm7 Dbma7 Cm7

time will have come for a new earth - ly start, The  
now will a - wak - en those sleep - ing in death; Their

Fm Ab/Eb Dbma7 Abadd9/C

song of our prais - es will pour out from our  
voic - es will join ours with ev - 'ry grate - ful

# See Yourself When All Is New

*Chorus*

B♭m7 Eb9sus4 Eb7 A♭ Eb/G

heart:  
breath: "We thank you, our God, for all you have

Fm A♭/E♭ D♭ma7 E♭sus4/D♭ E♭/D♭ A♭add9/C G♭/B♭ A♭7

done. All things are new by the rule of your Son. The

D♭ B♭m7 B♭m/G C7sus4 C7

full - ness of our heart o - ver - flows in our song; All

Fm A♭/E♭ D♭ma7 A♭add9/C B♭m7 E♭9sus4 A♭sus4 A♭

glo - ry and hon - or and praise to you be - long."