

- Song 37 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“They Stopped Doing God’s Will”:** (10 min.)  
Jer 6:13-15—Jeremiah exposed the nation’s sins (w88 4/1 11-12 ¶7-8)  
Jer 7:1-7—Jehovah tried to move them to repentance (w88 4/1 12 ¶9-10)  
Jer 7:8-15—Israel believed that Jehovah would not take action (jr 21 ¶12)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Jer 6:16—What was Jehovah urging his people to do? (w05 11/1 23 ¶11)

Jer 6:22, 23—Why could it be said that a people would be “coming from the land of the north”? (w88 4/1 13 ¶15)

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) Jer 5:26-6:5

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) T-36—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) T-36—Discuss “To Think About.” Invite the person to the Memorial.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *jl* lesson 1—Invite the person to the Memorial.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 123
- **“Who Are Doing Jehovah’s Will Today?—How to Use It”:** (15 min.) Begin with a five-minute discussion of the article. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows how lesson 8 of the brochure might be considered with a Bible student. Encourage everyone who conducts a Bible study to use the brochure each week.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 9 ¶16-21, box on p. 94, review box on p. 95
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 75 and Prayer

JEREMIAH 5-7 | They Stopped Doing God’s Will

**Jeremiah in the gate of the house of Jehovah**



**7:1-4, 8-10, 15**

- Jeremiah boldly exposed the Israelites’ sins and hypocrisy
- The Israelites considered the temple to be a talisman that would protect them
- Jehovah let it be known that ritualistic sacrifices did not make up for wrong conduct

**Consider:** How can I make sure that my worship is in harmony with Jehovah’s will and does not become formalistic?

# Serving Jehovah Whole-Souled

(Matthew 22:37)

F Gm7 C/Bb Am7 F/A Bbma7 Bb6

O Je - ho - vah, Sov - 'reign Rul - er,  
Fa - ther, all your works ex - alt you.

C7 F/A Dm G7/B G7 C7sus4 C7

You are the one I love and o - bey.  
Earth, moon, and stars your glo - ry pro - claim.

R.H.

F Gm7 C/Bb Am7 F/A Bbma7 Bb6

You de - serve my full de - vo - tion;  
May I al - so be as faith - ful,

C7 A/C# Dm Gm/Bb Bb/C C7 F

You are my God; I'll serve you each day.  
Us - ing my strength to make known your name.

# Serving Jehovah Whole-Souled

Am E7/G# E/D Am/C E7/B Am9 Am

Your com - mands I loy - al - ly fol - low;  
 May I use my whole life to serve you,

C/G Dm/G G7 Gm11 Gm/Bb C7sus4 C7

How I love re - mind - ers from you!  
 Prov - ing to be loy - al and true.

**Chorus**  
 F Gm7 C7/Bb Am7 F/A Bb/D Bbm/Db

O Je - ho - vah, you are wor - thy;

F/C Fma7/C Bb/C C7 Gm/Bb Bb/C C7 F

Whole - souled de - vo - tion I give to you.

- Keep hearing the sound of the horn?<sup>a</sup>
- 22** For my people are foolish;<sup>b</sup> They take no note of me. They are stupid sons, with no understanding. They are clever\* enough when it comes to doing bad, But they do not know how to do good.
- 23** I saw the land, and look! it was empty and desolate.<sup>c</sup> I looked at the heavens, and their light was no more.<sup>d</sup>
- 24** I saw the mountains, and look! they were quaking, And the hills were shaking.<sup>e</sup>
- 25** I saw, and look! there was no man, And the birds of the heavens had all fled.<sup>f</sup>
- 26** I saw, and look! the orchard had become a wilderness, And its cities had all been torn down.<sup>g</sup> It was because of Jehovah, Because of his burning anger.
- 27** For this is what Jehovah says: "The whole land will become desolate,<sup>h</sup> But I will not carry out a complete extermination.
- 28** For this reason the land will mourn,<sup>i</sup> And the heavens above will become dark.<sup>j</sup> It is because I have spoken, I have decided, And I will not change my mind,\* nor will I turn back from it.<sup>k</sup>
- 29** At the sound of the horsemen and the archers, The entire city flees,<sup>l</sup> They enter into the thickets, And they climb the rocks.<sup>m</sup>
- CHAP. 4  
a Jer 6:1  
b De 32:6 Jer 5:21  
c Jer 9:10  
d Isa 5:30 Joe 2:31  
e Isa 5:25  
f Zep 1:3  
g De 29:22, 23  
h Le 26:32 2Ch 36:20, 21 Isa 6:11 Jer 10:22 Eze 33:28  
i Isa 24:4 Joe 1:10  
j Isa 5:30 Joe 2:30, 31  
k 2Ki 23:26 Eze 24:14  
l 2Ki 25:4  
m Isa 2:19

## Second Col.

a Eze 23:22, 26

b La 1:2

c La 1:17

## CHAP. 5

d Eze 22:29 Mic 7:2

e Isa 48:1

f 2Ch 16:9

g 2Ch 28:20-22 Jer 2:30

- Every city is abandoned, And no man dwells in them."
- 30** Now that you are devastated, what will you do? You used to clothe yourself with scarlet, To deck yourself with gold ornaments, And to enlarge your eyes with black paint.\* But it is in vain that you beautified yourself,<sup>a</sup> For those lusting after you have rejected you; They are now seeking to take your life.<sup>#b</sup>
- 31** For I have heard the sound like that of a sick woman, The distress like that of a woman giving birth to her first child, The voice of the daughter of Zion who keeps gasping for breath. She says as she spreads out her palms:<sup>c</sup> "Woe to me, for I am\* exhausted because of the killers!"
- 5** Roam the streets of Jerusalem. Look around and take note. Search her public squares to see Whether you can find a man who acts with justice,<sup>d</sup> One who seeks to be faithful, And I will forgive her.
- 2** Even if they say: "As surely as Jehovah is alive!" They would still swear to what is false.<sup>e</sup>
- 3** O Jehovah, do your eyes not look for faithfulness?<sup>f</sup> You struck them, but it made no impact on them.\* You exterminated them, but they refused to accept discipline.<sup>g</sup>

4:22 \*Or "eye shadow." #Or "seeking your soul." 4:31 \*Or "my soul is." 5:3 \*Lit., "they did not become weak."

4:22 \*Or "wise." 4:28 \*Or "feel regret."

They made their faces  
harder than a rock,<sup>a</sup>  
And they refused to turn  
around.<sup>b</sup>

- 4** But I said to myself: "Surely  
these must be the lowly.  
They act foolishly, for they  
do not know the way of  
Jehovah,  
The judgment of their God.  
**5** I will go to the prominent  
men and speak with them,  
For they must have taken  
note of the way of Jehovah,  
The judgment of their God.<sup>c</sup>  
But they had all broken the  
yoke  
And torn apart the  
restraints."<sup>\*</sup>
- 6** That is why a lion of the  
forest attacks them,  
A wolf of the desert plains  
keeps ravaging them,  
A leopard lies awake at  
their cities.  
Everyone going out from  
them is torn to pieces.  
For their transgressions  
are many;  
Their acts of unfaithfulness  
are numerous.<sup>d</sup>
- 7** How can I forgive you for  
this?  
Your sons have  
abandoned me,  
And they swear by what  
is no God.<sup>e</sup>  
I satisfied their needs,  
But they kept committing  
adultery,  
And they flocked to the  
house of a prostitute.
- 8** They are like eager, lustful  
horses,  
Each neighing after another  
man's wife.<sup>f</sup>
- 9** "Should I not call them to  
account for these things?"  
declares Jehovah.  
"Should I\* not avenge myself  
on such a nation?"<sup>g</sup>

5:5 \*Lit., "bands." 5:9 \*Or "my soul."

**CHAP. 5**

a Zec 7:11

b Ps 50:17  
Isa 42:24, 25  
Eze 3:7  
Zep 3:2

c Mic 3:1

d Eze 9:6  
Isa 59:12  
Eze 23:19

e Jos 23:6, 7  
Jos 23:7  
Jer 2:11  
Jer 12:16  
Zep 1:4, 5

f Eze 22:11

g Le 26:25  
Jer 9:9  
Jer 44:22  
Na 1:2

**Second Col.**

a Le 26:44  
Jer 46:28

b Isa 48:8  
Jer 3:20  
Ho 5:7  
Ho 6:7

c 2Ch 36:15, 16  
Isa 28:15

d Jer 23:17

e Jer 1:9

f Jer 23:29

g Jer 1:15  
Jer 4:16  
Jer 25:9  
Eze 7:24  
Hab 1:6

h De 28:49, 50

i Le 26:16

- 10** "Come up against her  
vineyard terraces  
and bring ruin,  
But do not make a complete  
extermination.<sup>a</sup>  
Take away her spreading  
shoots,  
For they do not belong  
to Jehovah.
- 11** For the house of Israel and  
the house of Judah  
Have been utterly treach-  
erous with me," declares  
Jehovah.<sup>b</sup>
- 12** "They have denied Jehovah,  
and they keep saying,  
'He will do nothing.'<sup>c</sup>  
No calamity will come  
upon us;  
We will not see sword or  
famine.<sup>d</sup>
- 13** The prophets are full of  
wind,  
And the word\* is not in them.  
Let this happen to them!"
- 14** Therefore this is what  
Jehovah, the God of  
armies, says:  
"Because these men are  
saying this,  
Here I am making my words  
a fire in your mouth,<sup>e</sup>  
And this people is the wood,  
And it will consume them."<sup>f</sup>
- 15** "Here I am bringing in on  
you a nation from far away,  
O house of Israel,"<sup>g</sup>  
declares Jehovah.  
"It is an enduring nation.  
It is an ancient nation,  
A nation whose language  
you do not know,  
And whose speech you  
cannot understand.<sup>h</sup>
- 16** Their quiver is like an open  
grave;  
All of them are warriors.
- 17** They will devour your  
harvest and your bread.<sup>i</sup>

5:12 \*Or possibly, "He does not exist."

5:13 \*That is, God's word.

They will devour your sons  
and your daughters.

They will devour your flocks  
and your herds.

They will devour your vines  
and your fig trees.

They will destroy with the  
sword your fortified cities  
in which you trust.”

**18** “But even in those days,”  
declares Jehovah, “I will not carry  
out a complete extermination  
of you.<sup>a</sup> **19** And when they  
ask, ‘Why has Jehovah our God  
done all these things to us?’ you  
should answer them, ‘Just as you  
abandoned me to serve a foreign  
god in your land, so you will  
serve foreigners in a land that is  
not yours.’”<sup>b</sup>

**20** Declare this in the house  
of Jacob,  
And proclaim it in Judah,  
saying:

**21** “Hear this, you foolish and  
senseless people:<sup>\*c</sup>  
They have eyes but cannot  
see;<sup>d</sup>  
They have ears but cannot  
hear.<sup>e</sup>

**22** ‘Do you not fear me?’  
declares Jehovah,  
‘Should you not tremble  
before me?  
It is I who placed the sand as  
the boundary for the sea,  
A permanent regulation that  
it cannot pass over.  
Although its waves toss,  
they cannot prevail;  
Although they roar, they still  
cannot pass beyond it.’<sup>f</sup>

**23** But this people has a stub-  
born and rebellious heart;  
They have turned aside and  
gone their own way.<sup>g</sup>

**24** And they do not say in their  
heart:  
“Let us now fear Jehovah  
our God,

5:21 \*Lit., “you foolish people without  
heart.”

CHAP. 5

a Jer 4:27

b De 4:27  
De 28:48  
De 29:24, 25  
2Ch 7:21, 22

c Jer 4:22

d Isa 59:10

e Isa 6:9  
Eze 12:2  
Mt 13:13

f Job 38:8, 11  
Ps 33:7  
Pr 8:29

g Ps 95:10  
Jer 11:8

Second Col.

a De 11:14

b De 28:23, 24  
Jer 3:3

c Am 8:5  
Mic 6:11, 12

d Isa 1:23

e Ps 82:2

f Jer 14:14  
La 2:14  
Eze 13:6

g Isa 30:10  
Joh 3:19

CHAP. 6

h Jer 4:5

i 2Ch 11:5, 6  
Am 1:1

The One who gives the rain  
in its season,  
Both the autumn rain and  
the spring rain,

The One who guards for us  
the appointed weeks of  
the harvest.”<sup>a</sup>

**25** Your own errors have  
prevented these things  
from coming;  
Your own sins have deprived  
you of what is good.<sup>b</sup>

**26** For among my people there  
are wicked men.  
They keep peering, as when  
birdcatchers crouch down.  
They set a deadly trap.  
It is men whom they catch.

**27** Like a cage full of birds,  
So their houses are full of  
deception.<sup>c</sup>  
That is why they have  
become powerful and rich.

**28** They have grown fat and  
smooth;  
They overflow with evil.  
They do not plead the legal  
case of the fatherless,<sup>d</sup>  
That they may gain success;  
And they deny justice to the  
poor.”<sup>e</sup>

**29** “Should I not call them to  
account for these things?”  
declares Jehovah.  
“Should I\* not avenge myself  
on such a nation?”

**30** Something appalling and  
horrible has occurred in  
the land:

**31** The prophets prophesy lies,<sup>f</sup>  
And the priests dominate  
by their own authority.  
And my own people love it  
that way.<sup>g</sup>  
But what will you do when  
the end comes?”

**6** Take shelter, O sons  
of Benjamin, away from  
Jerusalem.  
Blow the horn<sup>h</sup> in Te-ko’a;<sup>i</sup>

5:29 \*Or “my soul.”

Light a fire signal over  
Beth-hac-che/rem!  
For a calamity looms from  
the north, a great disaster.<sup>a</sup>

**2** The daughter of Zion  
resembles a beautiful  
and delicate woman.<sup>b</sup>

**3** The shepherds and their  
droves will come.  
They will pitch their tents  
all around her,<sup>c</sup>  
Each grazing the flock in  
his care.<sup>d</sup>

**4** "Prepare for\* war against  
her!  
Rise up, and let us attack  
her at midday!"  
"Woe to us, for the day is  
declining,  
For the shadows of evening  
are getting longer!"

**5** "Rise up, and let us attack  
during the night  
And destroy her fortified  
towers."<sup>e</sup>

**6** For this is what Jehovah of  
armies says:  
"Cut down wood and raise  
up a siege rampart against  
Jerusalem.<sup>f</sup>

She is the city that must be  
held to account;  
There is nothing but  
oppression within her.<sup>g</sup>

**7** As a cistern keeps its water  
cool,\*  
So she keeps her wickedness  
cool.\*

Violence and destruction  
are heard in her;<sup>h</sup>  
Sickness and plague are  
constantly before me.

**8** Be warned, O Jerusalem,  
or I\* will turn away from  
you in disgust;<sup>i</sup>  
I will make you desolate, a  
land without inhabitants."<sup>j</sup>

**9** This is what Jehovah of  
armies says:

6:4 \*Lit., "Sanctify." 6:7 \*Or "fresh."  
6:8 \*Or "my soul."

**CHAP. 6**

a Jer 1:14  
Jer 10:22

b Isa 3:16

c 2Ki 25:1

d Jer 4:16, 17

e 2Ch 36:17, 19  
Am 2:5

f Eze 21:21, 22

g 2Ki 21:16  
Eze 7:23

h Eze 7:11  
Mic 2:2

i Eze 23:18

j Le 26:34  
Jer 9:11

**Second Col.**

a Isa 6:10  
Ac 7:51

b 2Ch 36:15, 16  
Jer 20:8

c Jer 20:9

d Jer 18:21

e Eze 9:6

f De 28:30  
Jer 8:10  
La 5:11  
Zep 1:13

g Eze 22:12

h Jer 2:8  
Jer 8:10-12  
Jer 23:11  
Mic 3:5, 11  
Zep 3:4

i Jer 14:13  
Jer 23:16, 17  
Eze 13:10  
1Th 5:3

"They will thoroughly glean  
the remnant of Israel as  
the last grapes on a vine.  
Pass your hand again like  
one gathering grapes from  
the vines."

**10** "To whom should I speak and  
give warning?  
Who will listen?

Look! Their ears are closed,\*  
so that they are unable to  
pay attention.<sup>a</sup>

Look! The word of Jehovah  
has become something  
they scorn;<sup>b</sup>

They find no pleasure in it.

**11** So I am filled with the wrath  
of Jehovah,  
And I am tired of holding  
it in."<sup>c</sup>

"Pour it out on the child in  
the street,<sup>d</sup>

On the groups of young men  
gathered together.

They will all be captured,  
a man along with his wife,  
The old men along with the  
very old."<sup>e</sup>

**12** Their houses will be turned  
over to others,  
Together with their fields  
and their wives.<sup>f</sup>

For I will stretch my hand  
out against the inhabitants  
of the land," declares  
Jehovah.

**13** "For from the least to the  
greatest, each one is  
making dishonest gain;<sup>g</sup>

From the prophet to the  
priest, each one is  
practicing fraud.<sup>h</sup>

**14** And they try to heal the  
breakdown\* of my people  
lightly,<sup>i</sup> saying,  
"There is peace! There is  
peace!"

When there is no peace.<sup>j</sup>

6:10 \*Lit., "Their ear is uncircumcised."  
6:11 \*Lit., "those full of days." 6:14  
\*Or "fracture." <sup>i</sup>Or "superficially."

15 Do they feel ashamed of the detestable things they have done?

They feel no shame at all!  
They do not even know  
how to feel humiliated!<sup>a</sup>

So they will fall among  
the fallen.

When I bring punishment  
on them they will stumble,"  
says Jehovah.

16 This is what Jehovah says:  
"Stand at the crossroads  
and see.

Ask about the ancient  
roadways,

Ask where the good way is,  
and walk in it,<sup>b</sup>

And find rest for  
yourselves."<sup>\*</sup>

But they say: "We will not  
walk in it."<sup>c</sup>

17 "And I appointed watchmen<sup>d</sup>  
who said,  
'Pay attention to the sound  
of the horn!'"<sup>e</sup>

But they said: "We will not  
pay attention."<sup>f</sup>

18 "Therefore hear, O nations!  
And know, O assembly,  
What will happen to them.

19 Listen, O earth!

I am bringing calamity on  
this people<sup>g</sup>

As the fruitage of their own  
schemes,

For they paid no attention  
to my words

And they rejected my law."<sup>\*</sup>

20 "What do I care that you  
bring frankincense from  
She'ba

And sweet cane\* from  
a distant land?

Your whole burnt offerings  
are not acceptable,

And your sacrifices do not  
please me."<sup>h</sup>

21 Therefore this is what  
Jehovah says:

CHAP. 6

a Jer 3:3

b Isa 30:21

c Jer 18:15

d Jer 25:4  
Eze 3:17  
Hab 2:1

e Isa 58:1

f Zec 7:11

g De 4:25, 26  
Da 9:12

h Isa 1:11  
Isa 66:3  
Jer 7:21  
Am 5:21

Second Col.

a 2Ch 36:17  
La 2:21

b Jer 1:14  
Jer 25:9

c Hab 1:8

d Eze 21:7

e Jer 4:31

f Jer 4:8

g La 1:2, 16

h Jer 15:8

i Isa 30:1  
Isa 48:4  
Jer 5:23

"Here I am setting for this  
people stumbling blocks,  
And they will stumble over  
them,

Fathers and sons together,  
A neighbor and his  
companion,

And they will all perish."<sup>a</sup>

22 This is what Jehovah says:  
"Look! A people is coming  
from the land of the north,  
And a great nation will be  
awakened from the remot-  
est parts of the earth.<sup>b</sup>

23 They will grab hold of the  
bow and the javelin.  
They are cruel and will have  
no mercy.

Their voice will roar like  
the sea,

And they ride on horses.<sup>c</sup>

They draw up in battle order  
like a man of war against  
you, O daughter of Zion."

24 We have heard the report  
about it.

Our hands fall limp;<sup>d</sup>

Distress has seized us,  
Anguish\* like that of a  
woman giving birth.<sup>e</sup>

25 Do not go into the field,  
And do not walk on the road,  
For the enemy has a sword;  
There is terror all around.

26 O daughter of my people,  
Put on sackcloth<sup>f</sup> and roll  
in the ashes.

Mourn as for an only son,  
with bitter wailing,<sup>g</sup>

For suddenly the destroyer  
will come upon us.<sup>h</sup>

27 "I have made you\* a metal  
tester among my people,  
One making a thorough  
search;

You must take note and  
examine their way.

28 All of them are the most  
stubborn men,<sup>i</sup>

6:16 \*Or "your souls." 6:19 \*Or "in-  
struction." 6:20 \*An aromatic reed.

6:24 \*Lit., "Birth pangs." 6:27 \*That  
is, Jeremiah.



Walking about as slanderers.<sup>a</sup>

They are like copper and iron;

All of them are corrupt.

**29** The bellows have been scorched.

Out from their fire there is lead.

One keeps refining intensely simply for nothing,<sup>b</sup>

And those who are bad have not been separated.<sup>c</sup>

**30** Rejected silver is what people will certainly call them, For Jehovah has rejected them."<sup>d</sup>

**7** This is the word that came to Jeremiah from Jehovah, saying: **2** "Stand in the gate of the house of Jehovah and proclaim there this message, 'Hear the word of Jehovah, all you people of Judah who enter these gates to bow down to Jehovah. **3** This is what Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, says: "Reform your ways and your actions, and I will allow you to keep residing in this place."<sup>e</sup> **4** Do not put your trust in deceptive words and say, 'This is\* the temple of Jehovah, the temple of Jehovah, the temple of Jehovah!'"<sup>f</sup> **5** For if you truly reform your ways and actions; if you truly uphold justice between a man and his neighbor;<sup>g</sup> **6** if you do not oppress foreign residents, orphans,<sup>\*</sup> and widows;<sup>h</sup> if you do not shed innocent blood in this place; and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm;<sup>i</sup> **7** then I will allow you to keep residing in this place, in the land I gave to your forefathers for all time."<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

**8** "But you are putting your trust in deceptive words/—it

7:4 \*Lit., "They are," referring to all the buildings of the temple complex. 7:6 \*Or "fatherless children." 7:7 \*Or "from eternity to eternity."

CHAP. 6  
a Jer 9:4

b Jer 9:7  
Eze 22:20

c Eze 24:13

d Jer 14:19  
La 5:22

CHAP. 7  
e Jer 26:13

f Mic 3:11

g Jer 21:12  
Jer 22:3

h De 24:17  
Ps 82:3  
Zec 7:9,10  
Jas 1:27

i De 8:19

j Isa 30:10  
Jer 5:31  
Jer 14:14

Second Col.

a Isa 3:14  
Mic 2:2

b Jer 5:2

c Jer 11:13

d Mt 21:13  
Mr 11:17  
Lu 19:45, 46

e Jos 18:1

f De 12:5, 11

g 1Sa 4:11  
Ps 78:60  
Jer 26:6, 9

h 2Ch 36:15, 16  
Jer 25:3, 4

i Isa 65:12

j 2Ki 25:8, 9

k Jer 7:4

l 1Sa 4:10, 11  
Ps 78:60  
Jer 26:4, 6  
La 2:7

m 2Ki 17:22, 23

n Ex 32:9, 10  
Jer 11:14

o Jer 15:1

p Jer 44:17

q Isa 57:6  
Jer 19:13  
Eze 20:28

will bring absolutely no benefit. **9** Can you steal,<sup>a</sup> murder, commit adultery, swear falsely,<sup>b</sup> make sacrifices\* to Ba'al,<sup>c</sup> and follow after gods you had not known, **10** and then come and stand before me in this house that bears my name and say, 'We will be saved,' despite your doing all these detestable things? **11** Has this house that bears my name become a cave of robbers in your eyes?<sup>d</sup> Here I have seen it for myself," declares Jehovah.

**12** "However, go now to my place in Shi'loh,<sup>e</sup> where I first caused my name to reside,<sup>f</sup> and see what I did to it because of the badness of my people Israel.<sup>g</sup> **13** But you kept doing all these things,' declares Jehovah, 'and even though I spoke to you again and again,<sup>\*</sup> you did not listen.<sup>h</sup> I kept calling you, but you would not answer.<sup>i</sup> **14** So I will do to the house that bears my name,<sup>j</sup> in which you are trusting,<sup>k</sup> and to this place that I gave to you and your forefathers, just as I did to Shi'loh.<sup>l</sup> **15** I will throw you out of my sight, just as I threw out all your brothers, all the descendants of E'phra-im.'<sup>m</sup>

**16** "As for you, do not pray in behalf of this people. Do not cry out or offer a prayer or plead with me in their behalf,<sup>n</sup> for I will not listen to you.<sup>o</sup> **17** Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? **18** The sons are gathering wood, the fathers are lighting the fire, and the wives are kneading dough in order to make sacrificial cakes to the Queen of Heaven,<sup>\*p</sup> and they are pouring out drink offerings to other gods to offend me.<sup>q</sup> **19** 'But am I the one they are

7:9 \*Or "sacrificial smoke." 7:13 \*Lit., "rising up early and speaking." 7:18 \*The title of a goddess worshipped by apostate Israelites; possibly a fertility goddess.

hurting?"\* declares Jehovah. 'Is it not they themselves, to their own shame?'<sup>a</sup> **20** Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says, 'Look! My anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place,<sup>b</sup> on man and beast, on the trees of the field and the fruitage of the ground; it will burn and will not be extinguished.'<sup>c</sup>

**21** "This is what Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, says, 'Go ahead, add your whole burnt offerings to your other sacrifices, and eat the flesh yourselves.'<sup>d</sup> **22** For on the day I brought your forefathers out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak with them or command them concerning whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.<sup>e</sup> **23** But I did give them this command: "Obey my voice, and I will become your God, and you will become my people.<sup>f</sup> You must walk in all the way that I command, so that it may go well with you."<sup>g</sup>

**24** But they did not listen or incline their ear;<sup>h</sup> instead, they walked in their own schemes,\* stubbornly following their wicked heart,<sup>i</sup> and they went backward, not forward, **25** from the day your forefathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day.<sup>j</sup> So I kept sending all my servants the prophets to you, sending them each day, again and again.<sup>k</sup> **26** But they refused to listen to me, and they did not incline their ear.<sup>l</sup> Instead, they were stubborn,\* and they acted worse than their forefathers!

**27** "You will speak all these words to them,<sup>m</sup> but they will not listen to you; you will call to them, but they will not answer you. **28** And you will say

7:19 \*Or "offending; provoking." 7:24 \*Or "advice." 7:25 \*Lit., "daily rising up early and sending." 7:26 \*Lit., "they hardened their neck."

## CHAP. 7

- a Da 9:7  
b La 2:3  
c 2Ki 22:17  
Jer 17:27  
d Isa 1:11  
Jer 6:20  
Ho 8:13  
Am 5:21  
e 1Sa 15:22  
Ho 6:6  
f Ex 19:5  
Le 26:3,12  
g De 5:29  
h Ex 32:8  
i Ho 4:16  
Zec 7:12  
j De 9:7  
1Sa 8:8  
k 2Ki 17:13  
2Ch 36:15  
Ne 9:17,30  
Jer 25:4  
l 2Ch 33:10  
Jer 25:3  
m Jer 26:2  
Eze 2:7

## Second Col.

- a Jer 5:1  
Mic 7:2  
b 2Ki 21:1,4  
2Ch 33:1,4  
Jer 23:11  
Jer 32:34  
c Jos 15:8,12  
d De 12:29-31  
2Ki 17:17  
2Ch 28:1,3  
2Ch 33:1,6  
Eze 20:31  
e Le 18:21  
Le 20:3  
Jer 19:5,6  
Jer 32:35  
f Jer 19:11  
Eze 6:4,5  
g De 28:26  
Ps 79:2  
Jer 16:4  
h Isa 24:8  
Jer 25:10  
i Le 26:33  
Isa 1:7  
Isa 6:11

to them, "This is the nation that did not obey the voice of Jehovah their God and refused to accept discipline. Faithfulness has perished and is not even mentioned among them."<sup>a</sup>

**29** "Shear off your uncut\* hair and throw it away, and on the bare hills raise a dirge,<sup>#</sup> for Jehovah has rejected and will abandon this generation that has infuriated him. **30** 'For the people of Judah have done what is bad in my eyes,' declares Jehovah. 'They have set up their disgusting idols in the house that bears my name, in order to defile it.'<sup>b</sup> **31** They have built the high places of To'pheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hin'nom,<sup>\*c</sup> in order to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire,<sup>d</sup> something that I had not commanded and that had never even come into my heart.'<sup>##</sup>

**32** "'Therefore look! the days are coming,' declares Jehovah, 'when it will no longer be called To'pheth or the Valley of the Son of Hin'nom\* but the Valley of the Slaughter. They will bury in To'pheth until there is no place left.'<sup>f</sup> **33** And the dead bodies of this people will become food for the birds of the heavens and for the beasts of the earth, with no one to frighten them away.<sup>g</sup> **34** I will put an end to the sound of exultation and the sound of rejoicing, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride,<sup>h</sup> in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, for the land will be reduced to ruins."<sup>##</sup>

**8** "At that time," declares Jehovah, "the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its

7:28 \*Lit., "is cut off from their mouth." 7:29 \*Or "dedicated." #Or "song of mourning." 7:31, 32 \*See Glossary, "Gehenna." 7:31 #Or "had never entered my thoughts."

- Song 37 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“They Stopped Doing God’s Will”:** (10 min.)  
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JEREMIAH 5-7 | They Stopped Doing God’s Will

**Jeremiah in the gate of the house of Jehovah**



**7:1-4, 8-10, 15**

- Jeremiah boldly exposed the Israelites’ sins and hypocrisy
- The Israelites considered the temple to be a talisman that would protect them
- Jehovah let it be known that ritualistic sacrifices did not make up for wrong conduct

**Consider:** How can I make sure that my worship is in harmony with Jehovah’s will and does not become formalistic?

# March 13-19

## Treasures From God's Word

**Jeremiah 6:13-15**—Jeremiah exposed the nation's sins

Reference: w88 4/1 11-12 paragraphs 7-8.

7 “And they will be certain to fight against you,” warned Jehovah, “but they will not prevail against you.” (Jeremiah 1:19) Now why would the Jews and their rulers want to fight against this prophet? Because his message attacked their complacency and their formalistic form of worship. Jeremiah did not pull his punches: “Look! The very word of Jehovah has become to them a reproach, in which word they can take no delight. For from the least one of them even to the greatest one of them, every one is making for himself unjust gain; and from the prophet even to the priest [the very ones who should have been the guardians of moral and spiritual values], each one is acting falsely.”—**Jeremiah 6:10, 13.**

8 True, they were leading the nation in making sacrifices. They were going through the motions of true worship, but their hearts were not in it. Ritual meant more to them than right conduct. At the same time, the Jewish religious leaders were lulling the nation into a false sense of security, saying, “There is peace! There is peace!” when there was no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11) Yes, they were fooling the people into believing that they were at peace with God. They felt that there was nothing to worry about, for they were Jehovah's saved people, possessing the holy city and its temple. But is that how Jehovah viewed the situation?

**Jeremiah 7:1-7**—Jehovah tried to move them to repentance

Reference: w88 4/1 12 paragraphs 9-10.

9 Jehovah commanded Jeremiah to take a position in full public view at the gate of the temple and deliver His message to the worshipers who entered there. He had to tell them: “Do not put your trust in fallacious words, saying, ‘The temple of Jehovah, the temple of Jehovah, the temple of Jehovah they are!’ . . . It will certainly be of no benefit at all.” The Jews were walking by sight, not by faith, as they boasted in their temple. They had already forgotten Jehovah's cautionary words: “The heavens are my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where, then, is the house that you people can build for me?” Jehovah, the Sovereign Lord of this vast universe, was certainly not restricted to the confines of their temple, no matter how glorious it might be!—**Jeremiah 7:1-8; Isaiah 66:1.**

10 Jeremiah continued with his stinging public rebuke: “Can there be stealing, murdering and committing adultery and swearing falsely and making sacrificial smoke to Baal and walking after other gods whom you had not known, . . . and must you say, ‘We shall certainly be delivered,’ in the face of doing all these detestable things?” The Jews, as God's ‘chosen people,’ thought he would tolerate any kind of conduct, as long as they were bringing their sacrifices to the temple. However, if they perceived him as a sentimental father pampering a spoiled and only child, they were in for a rude awakening.—**Jeremiah 7:9, 10; Exodus 19:5, 6.**

**Jeremiah 7:8-15**—Israel believed that Jehovah would not take action

Reference: *jr* 21 **paragraph 12**.

At the start of Jehoiakim's reign, Jehovah told Jeremiah to go to the temple and roundly condemn the Judeans for their wickedness. They considered Jehovah's temple to be a talisman that would protect them. Yet, if they would not abandon their "stealing, murdering and committing adultery and swearing falsely and making sacrificial smoke to Baal and walking after other gods," Jehovah would forsake his temple. And he would do the same to the hypocrites who worshipped in it, just as he abandoned the tabernacle at Shiloh in the days of High Priest Eli. The land of Judah would "become nothing but a devastated place." (**Jeremiah 7:1-15, 34; 26:1-6**) Think of the courage Jeremiah needed to declare that message! Likely, he did so in public before prominent, influential people. Some brothers and sisters today have likewise felt that they needed a measure of courage to share in street witnessing or to address wealthy or important people. We can, though, be sure of this: God's support for us is certain, just as it was for Jeremiah.—**Hebrews 10:39; 13:6**.

## Digging for Spiritual Gems

**Jeremiah 6:16**—What was Jehovah urging his people to do?

Reference: *w05 11/1 23* **paragraph 11**.

Are we really allowing God's Word to guide us that closely? It is worthwhile to pause at times and examine ourselves honestly. Consider a verse that will help us to do so: "This is what Jehovah has said: 'Stand still in the ways, you people, and see, and ask for the roadways of long ago, where, now, the good way is; and walk in it, and find ease for your souls.'" (**Jeremiah 6:16**) These words might remind us of a traveler who pauses at a crossroads to ask for directions. In a spiritual sense, Jehovah's rebellious people in Israel needed to do something similar. They needed to find their way back to "the roadways of long ago." That "good way" was the way in which their faithful forefathers had walked, the way from which the nation had foolishly strayed. Sadly, Israel responded stubbornly to this loving reminder from Jehovah. The same verse continues: "But they kept saying: 'We are not going to walk.'" In modern times, though, God's people have responded differently to such counsel.

**Jeremiah 6:22, 23**—Why could it be said that a people would be "coming from the land of the north"?

Reference: *w88 4/1 13* **paragraph 15**.

By about 632 B.C.E., Assyria had fallen to the Chaldeans and the Medes, and Egypt was reduced to a minor power to the south of Judah. The real threat to Judah would come through the invasion route to the north. Thus, Jeremiah had to give his fellow Jews some bad news! "Look! A people is coming from the land of the north . . . It is a cruel one, and they will have no pity. . . . It is drawn up in battle order like a man of war against you, O daughter of Zion." The ascendant world power at that time was Babylon. This would be God's instrument for punishing faithless Judah.—**Jeremiah 6:22, 23; 25:8, 9**.

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# What is the Kingdom of God?

FYI: Tracts 30 through 37 are available each as a single PDF containing 50 different languages in the "Old Publications" folder at [da.getmyip.com](http://da.getmyip.com) (private section). Page two of the PDF lets you select which language you wish to view.

Would you say it is . . .

- something within your heart?
- a figure of speech?
- a government in heaven?

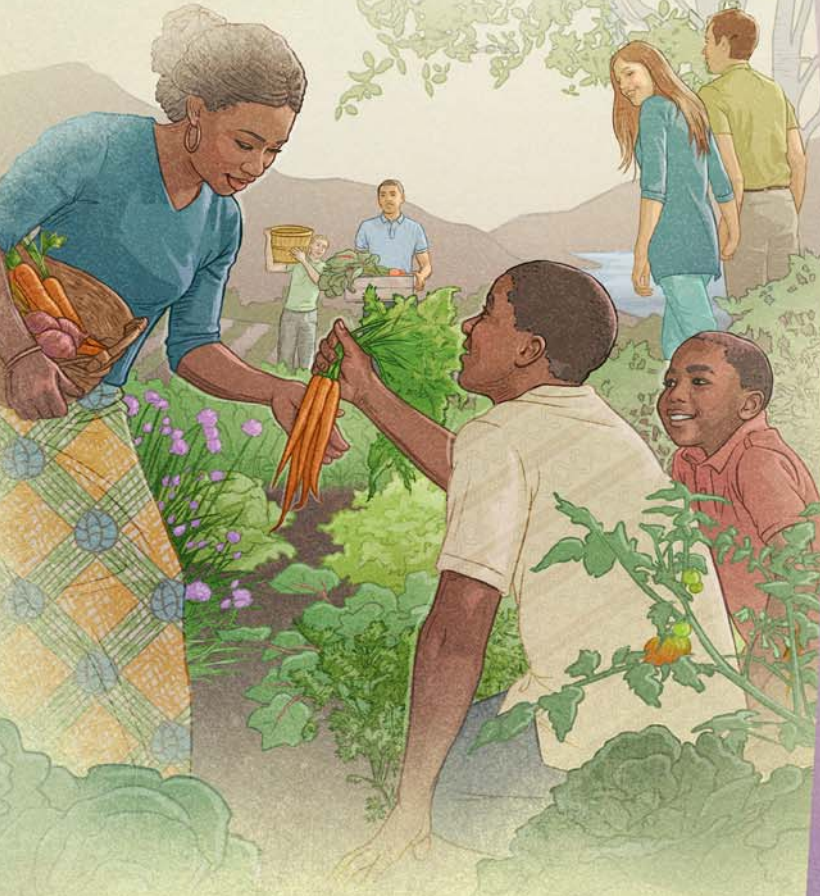
## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

“The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed.”

—Daniel 2:44, *New World Translation*.

“A son has been given to us; and the *government* will rest on his shoulder.”

—Isaiah 9:6; footnote.



## WHAT THAT CAN MEAN FOR YOU

- A righteous government that can benefit you personally.—Isaiah 48:17, 18.
- In a coming new world, life in perfect health and happiness.  
—Revelation 21:3, 4.

## CAN WE REALLY BELIEVE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS?

Yes, for at least two reasons:

- ***Jesus showed what God’s Kingdom will accomplish.*** Jesus taught his followers to pray for God’s Kingdom to come and for God’s will to be done on earth. (Matthew 6:9, 10) Jesus demonstrated how that prayer will be answered. While on earth, Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, and restored life to the dead! (Matthew 15:29-38; John 11:38-44) As the future Ruler of God’s Kingdom, Jesus provided a beautiful preview of what that Kingdom will do for its subjects.—Revelation 11:15.

- ***World conditions confirm that God’s Kingdom will soon come.*** Jesus foretold that just before the Kingdom brings peace to the earth, our world would be plagued with wars, famines, and earthquakes.—Matthew 24:3, 7.

We see those very conditions today. So we can be confident that God’s Kingdom will soon bring an end to all such problems.

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If you do not have a Bible, you can read it online at [www.jw.org/en](http://www.jw.org/en)  
(Go to PUBLICATIONS > BIBLE)



# TO THINK ABOUT

What will life be like under the rule of God's Kingdom?

The Bible answers that question at PSALM 37:29 and ISAIAH 65:21-23.



# TO LEARN MORE WITHOUT COST

Read lesson 7 of this brochure.

Please send me this brochure.

.....  
(Indicate which language.)



Discuss the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses.

Please send someone to visit me.

You can also request a visit or download the brochure at [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org).

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

Province/State ..... Postal/ZIP Code .....

SEND YOUR REQUEST TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:

For a complete list of worldwide addresses, see [www.jw.org/en/contact](http://www.jw.org/en/contact).

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## INVITATION

Centuries ago, a divinely inspired prophet foretold the time when man would be at peace with nature. Illness would be eliminated. Families would build their own houses, plant their own fields, and enjoy the fruits of their labors.—Isaiah 11:6-9; 35:5, 6; 65:21-23.

Jesus performed powerful works that showed on a small scale how such prophecies will become a global reality. His death was fundamental to the future elimination of every cause for sorrow. So important was Jesus' death to the fulfillment of God's purposes that Jesus commanded his disciples to commemorate it.—Luke 22:19, 20.

This year, according to the Bible's lunar calendar, the anniversary of Jesus' death falls on **Tuesday, April 11**. Jehovah's Witnesses invite you to meet with them on that date to listen to an explanation of how his death can benefit you and your family.

This free event will be held at the time and place shown below.

FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU  
[www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)  
(Look under ABOUT US > MEMORIAL)

You are also invited to a special Bible talk entitled  
**"How to Cultivate Peace in an Angry World."**

FIND THE LOCATION OF  
A PUBLIC MEETING NEAR YOU  
[www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)  
(Look under ABOUT US > MEETINGS)



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## What Sort of People Are Jehovah's Witnesses?

How many of Jehovah's Witnesses do you know? Some of us may be your neighbors, work colleagues, or classmates. Or we may have engaged you in Bible discussions. Who really are we, and why do we publicly share our beliefs?

**We are ordinary people.** We come from various backgrounds and social conditions. Some of us formerly practiced a different religion, while others did not believe in God. Before becoming Witnesses, however, all of us took the time to examine carefully the teachings of the Bible. (Acts 17:11) We agreed with what we learned, and then we made a personal choice to worship Jehovah God.

**We benefit from studying the Bible.** Like everyone else, we have to deal with problems and our own weaknesses. But by trying to apply Bible principles in our everyday lives, we have experienced a marked improvement in our quality of life. (Psalm 128:1, 2) That is one reason why we share with others the good things that we have learned from the Bible.

**We live by godly values.** These values, as taught in the Bible, promote well-being and respect for others, along with such qualities as honesty and kindness. They contribute to the development of healthy and productive members of society, and they encourage family unity and morality. Convinced that "God is not partial," we belong to a spiritual brotherhood that is truly international, free of racial and political barriers. Although we are ordinary, we make up a unique people.—Acts 4:13; 10:34, 35.

- What do Jehovah's Witnesses have in common with other people?
- What values have the Witnesses learned from studying the Bible?



Denmark



Taiwan



Venezuela



India

# 123 *Loyally Submitting to Theocratic Order*

(1 Corinthians 14:33)

C Fma7 F6 Dm7 G9 Em7 C/E

As Je - ho - vah's peo - ple sound through - out the earth  
God pro - vides his stew - ard and his ac - tive force.

Am Am7/G F Dm7 C/E Fma7 G9sus4 G

Truths a - bout the King - dom and its price - less worth,  
These will ev - er guide us in our Chris - tian course.

C Fma7 F6 Dm7 G9 Em7 C/E

The - o - crat - ic or - der they must all o - bey  
So may we be stead - fast, seek - ing God to please,

F/A G/B Em7 Am Dm7 G7 G7sus4 C C/B

And re - main u - nit - ed, loy - al - ty dis - play.  
Loy - al - ly pro - claim - ing all his wise de - crees!

# Loyally Submitting to Theocratic Order

*Chorus*

Am Cma7/G G/F F Em7 Cma7/E C/E Fma7 F6

Loy - al sub - mis - sion in rec - og - ni - tion,

R.H. R.H.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of the chorus. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The right hand (R.H.) is indicated above the bass staff.

Dm9 Dm7 G7sus4 G7 Cma7 E7sus4 E7

This to our God we owe.

R.H. R.H.

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of the chorus. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The right hand (R.H.) is indicated above the bass staff.

Am Cma7/G G/F F Em7 Cma7/E C/E Fma7 F6

He gives pro - tec - tion, ten - der af - fec - tion,

R.H. R.H.

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of the chorus. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The right hand (R.H.) is indicated above the bass staff.

Dm7 F/G G7 C

Loy - al - ty to him we show.

R.H.

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth lines of the chorus. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The right hand (R.H.) is indicated above the bass staff.



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16, 17. What is one reason why ‘the sower and the reaper rejoice together’? (See also the box “How Two Tracts Touched Two Hearts in the Amazon.”)

18. What reason for joy is mentioned at 1 Corinthians 3:8?

19. (a) How does Jesus’ prophecy found at Matthew 24:14 relate to our joy? (b) What should we keep in mind even if we do not personally succeed in making a disciple?

the scope of the modern-day spiritual harvest and the joy this harvest would cause.<sup>[3]</sup> Jehovah describes people “from far away” streaming toward his organization. Directing himself to a “woman,” who today is represented by the anointed remnant on earth, he states: “You will see and become radiant, 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.” (Isa. 60:1, 4, 5, 9) How true those words are! Today, longtime servants of Jehovah are indeed radiant with joy as they observe how the number of Kingdom publishers in their lands has increased from just a few to many thousands.

### Why All Servants of Jehovah Have Reason to Rejoice

**16** You will recall that Jesus told his apostles: “The reaper is . . . gathering fruit for everlasting life, so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together.” (John 4:36) How do we “rejoice *together*” in the global harvest? In several ways. Let us consider three.

**17** First, we rejoice to see Jehovah’s role in the work. When we preach the Kingdom message, we sow seed. (Matt. 13:18, 19) When we help someone to become a disciple of Christ, we harvest fruitage. And all of us feel deep joy as we observe with awe how Jehovah causes Kingdom seed to “sprout and grow tall.” (Mark 4:27, 28) Some seed that we scatter sprouts later and is harvested by others. You may have had an experience similar to that of Joan, a Christian sister in Britain who was baptized 60 years ago. She said: “I have met individuals who told me that I planted a seed in their heart when I preached to them years ago. Unknown to me, other Witnesses later studied the Bible with them and helped them to become servants of Jehovah. I rejoice that the seed I planted grew and was harvested.”—**Read 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7.**

**18** Second, we remain joyful workers when we keep in mind that Paul stated: “Each person will receive his own reward according to his *own work*.” (1 Cor. 3:8) The reward is given according to the work, not according to the results of that work. How heartening that assurance is for those preaching in territories where there is little response! In God’s eyes, every Witness who wholeheartedly shares in the sowing work is “bearing much fruit” and therefore has reason to rejoice.—John 15:8; Matt. 13:23.

**19** Third, we rejoice that our work fulfills prophecy. Consider Jesus’ answer to his apostles when they asked: “What

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#### FOOTNOTE

[3] For more details about this colorful prophecy, see *Isaiah’s Prophecy—Light for All Mankind II*, pages 303-320.



## HOW TWO TRACTS TOUCHED TWO HEARTS IN THE AMAZON



The first congregation in Brazil's Amazonas State



Antônio Simões

A FAITHFUL 91-year-old Christian elder named Antônio Simões fondly remembers how his father and his uncle found the truth by means of two tracts published by Jehovah's Witnesses. "Do you want to hear about it?" he asks his visitors. "We would love to," they say. Antônio's kind eyes light up, and with a smile he sits down to tell his story. "My father, Zeno, was a Baptist preacher. In 1931, he traveled to a remote part of the Amazon forest to visit a church member. In her home, he noticed two Bible tracts. She had found them in the church, but she didn't know who left them. One tract spoke about hell; the other about the resurrection. Father was touched by what he read. He immediately thought about his brother-in-law, Guilherme, who had often told him: 'I don't believe in hellfire. A God of love couldn't create such a place.' Eager to show the tracts to Guilherme, Father got into his canoe and paddled for eight hours to Manaquiri, a

settlement near Manaus, where Guilherme was living.

"After Father and Uncle Guilherme examined the tracts, both said, 'This is the truth!' Right away, they wrote to the branch office in Brazil, asking for literature. Father resigned as a pastor, and he and my uncle began sharing the Bible's message in that isolated area. The people responded so well that within a year a congregation was formed in Manaquiri. Before long, 70 villagers attended the meetings, making it, at the time, the largest congregation in Brazil." Antônio pauses. Then, he asks, "Isn't it wonderful to hear how the Kingdom message entered the Amazon?" Indeed, it is. Two tiny scattered seeds—two small Bible tracts—took root in the vast Amazon forest and sprouted into a flourishing congregation. And today the 83-year-old Manaquiri Congregation is no longer the only congregation in Brazil's Amazonas State, but one of 143!

will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?” He told them that one feature of that sign would be a global preaching work. Was he speaking of the disciple-making work? No. He said: “This good news of the Kingdom will be *preached* in all the inhabited earth for a witness.” (Matt. 24:3, 14) Thus, Kingdom preaching—sowing seed—is a feature of the sign. Hence, as we preach the good news of the Kingdom, we keep in mind that even if we do not succeed in making a disciple, we do succeed in giving “a witness.”<sup>[4]</sup> Yes, no matter how people respond, we share in fulfilling Jesus’ prophecy and have the honor to serve as “God’s fellow workers.” (1 Cor. 3:9) What good reason to rejoice!

### “From the Rising of the Sun to Its Setting”

**20** In the first century, Jesus helped his apostles to see that the harvest work was urgent. From 1919 onward, Jesus has helped his modern-day disciples to grasp the same truth. In response, God’s people have intensified their activities. In fact, the harvest work has proved to be unstoppable. As foretold by the prophet Malachi, the preaching work is being carried out today “from the rising of the sun to its setting.” (Mal. 1:11) Yes, from sunrise to sunset—from east to west, no matter where they are on earth—sowers and reapers work and rejoice together. And from sunrise to sunset—from morning till evening, or all day long—we work with a sense of urgency.

**21** As we look back today over some 100 years and see how a small group of God’s servants has grown into “a mighty nation,” our heart does indeed “throb and overflow” with joy. (Isa. 60:5, 22) May that joy and our love for Jehovah, “the Master of the harvest,” impel each one of us to keep on doing our share in completing the greatest harvest of all time!—Luke 10:2.

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**20, 21.** (a) How are the words of Malachi 1:11 being fulfilled? (b) As to the harvest work, what are you determined to do, and why?

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#### FOOTNOTE

[4] That vital truth was already understood by the early Bible Students. *Zion’s Watch Tower* of November 15, 1895, stated: “If but little wheat can be garnered, abundant *testimony to the truth* can at least be borne. . . . All can preach the gospel.”

## How Real Is the Kingdom to You?

- What has the Kingdom accomplished in relation to the spiritual harvest?
- How do the parables of the mustard grain and the leaven encourage you to carry out your ministry?
- What reasons do you have to rejoice in the ministry?

# “Here I Am! Send Me!”

(Isaiah 6:8)

Eb Ebma7 Eb Abma7/Eb Fm/Eb Eb/sus4 Bb7/D Abadd9/C Bb7/D

To - day men heap re - proach and shame Up - on Je - ho - vah's  
 Some make the claim that God is slow; The fear of God they  
 To - day the meek ones mourn and sigh Be - cause the e - vils

Eb/sus4 Eb Bbm6/Db C7/sus4 C7 Fm9 Fm C7/G

ho - ly name. Some show God weak; some paint him cruel. “There  
 do not know. Some wor - ship i - dols made of stone; Some  
 mul - ti - ply. With hon - est hearts they seek to find The

Fm/Ab Fm7 Ab/Bb Bb7 Eb/sus4 Eb

is no God,” so shouts the fool. Who'll  
 would put Cae - sar on God's throne. Who'll  
 truth that gives real peace of mind. Who'll

R.H.

Cm F/A Eb/G F7 Bb/D Bbm7/D

go Je - ho - vah's name to clear? Who'll  
 tell the wick - ed what's in store? Who'll  
 go with com - fort to the meek? Who'll

*“Here I Am! Send Me!”*

Chorus

Cm7 F7sus4 F9 Bb

sing his praise for all to hear? ‘Lord,  
 warn of God’s great fi - nal war? ‘Lord,  
 help them righ - teous - ness to seek? ‘Lord,

Eb Bb7/F Eb/G Eb/Bb Bb7 Bb Fm Bb7 Gm/Bb

here I am! Send me, send me! I’ll sing your prais - es  
 here I am! Send me, send me! I’ll sound the warn - ing  
 here I am! Send me, send me! I’ll teach the meek ones

Ab/Eb Eb° Eb Bb Eb/G Bb7/F Eb Bb7/D

faith - ful - ly.  
 fear - less - ly. No great - er hon - or  
 pa - tient - ly.

Eb7/Db Ab/C Eb/Bb Ab Eb/Bb E° Bb7/F Bb7 Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

could there be, Lord. Here I am! Send me, send me!



JANUARY 2017

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
FEBRUARY 27–APRIL 2, 2017



COVER IMAGE:

## CHILE

Publishers in the south of Chile follow a river that winds through lush forests and snowcapped peaks of the Andes Mountains. They participate in a preaching campaign to reach as many remote homes as possible while the weather is favorable.

PUBLISHERS

76,296

BIBLE STUDIES

64,178

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE  
(2015)

174,761

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### 3 THEY OFFERED THEMSELVES WILLINGLY

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### 7 WEEK OF FEBRUARY 27–MARCH 5 “Trust in Jehovah and Do What Is Good”

This article discusses how our yeartext for 2017 encourages us to look to Jehovah for help when faced with challenges. Using faithful examples from the past, we will examine how we can trust in Jehovah to support us while taking whatever action we can to solve problems and help others.

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### 12 WEEK OF MARCH 6-12 Treasure Your Gift of Free Will

In this article, we will learn how to treasure God’s gift of free will by using it in a way that pleases the Giver of that gift. It will also help us to see how we can respect the way that others exercise their gift of free will.

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### 17 WEEK OF MARCH 13-19 Why Modesty Still Matters

### 22 WEEK OF MARCH 20-26 You Can Remain Modest Under Test

These articles will help us to understand better the desirable quality of modesty. The first article explains what modesty is and what it is not. The second article teaches us how to remain modest even when we are under test.

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### 27 WEEK OF MARCH 27–APRIL 2 “These Things Entrust to Faithful Men”

As one generation replaces another, younger ones take on the work of older ones. This article discusses how both young and old can successfully make the transition.

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### 32 DID YOU KNOW?

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 THE WATCHTOWER®  
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM


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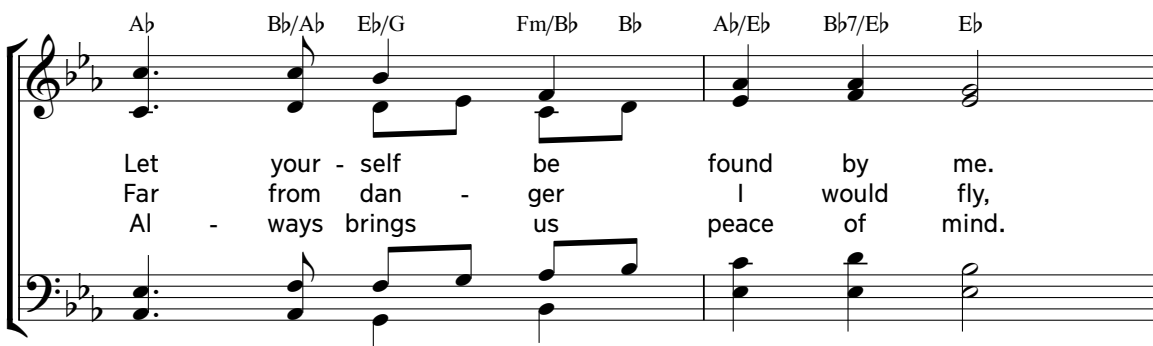
January 2017  
Vol. 138, No. 2 ENGLISH

# Throw Your Burden on Jehovah

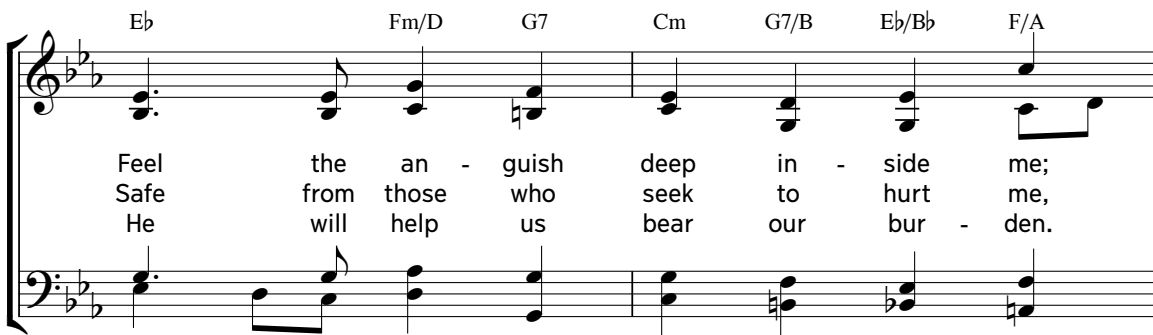
(Psalm 55)

Eb Eb/G Abma7 Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb Ebsus4 Eb  


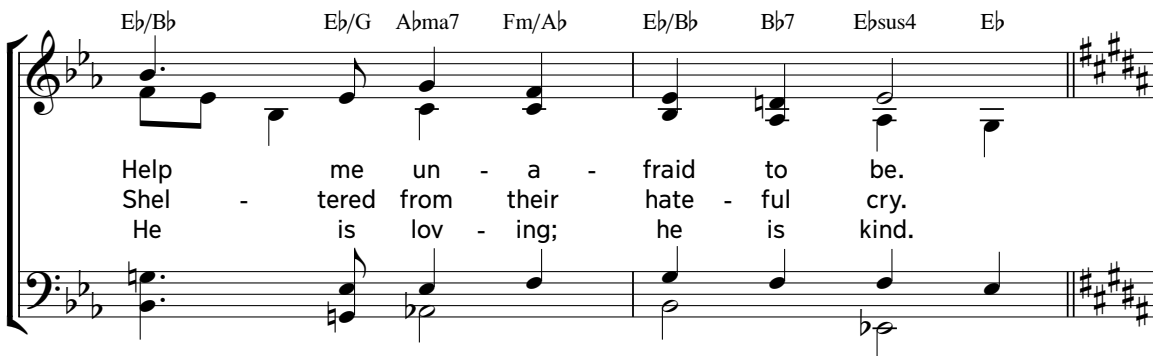
"Lis - ten to my prayer," Je - ho - vah.  
 Had I wings just as a dove has,  
 Com - fort from our God, Je - ho - vah,

Ab Bb/Ab Eb/G Fm/Bb Bb Ab/Eb Bb7/Eb Eb  


Let your - self be found by me.  
 Far from dan - ger I would fly,  
 Al - ways brings us peace of mind.

Eb Fm/D G7 Cm G7/B Eb/Bb F/A  


Feel the an - guish deep in - side me;  
 Safe from those who seek to hurt me,  
 He will help us bear our bur - den.

Eb/Bb Eb/G Abma7 Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb7 Ebsus4 Eb  


Help me un - a - fraid to be.  
 Shel - tered from their hate - ful cry.  
 He is lov - ing; he is kind.

# Throw Your Burden on Jehovah

Chorus

B B<sup>o</sup> C#m7 F# B/D# F#7sus4 F#7 E/B B C#m/B B

Throw your bur - den on Je - ho - vah;

Ema7 F#9/E B/D# F#7sus4 F#7 Bsus4 B Bb7sus4 Bb7

Trust in him to sus - tain and save you.

Eb Abma7 Bb/Ab Eb/G Bb7/F Eb Fm7 Fm6

He will al - ways give pro - tec - tion.

Eb/G Abma7 Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

He is loy - al; he is true.





## Why Modesty Still Matters

*“Wisdom is with the modest ones.”—PROV. 11:2.*

KING SAUL of ancient Israel began his reign as a modest and respected man. (1 Sam. 9:1, 2, 21; 10:20-24) But soon after he became king, he carried out a series of presumptuous acts. When God’s prophet Samuel did not show up in Gilgal at the appointed time, Saul became impatient. The Philistines were preparing for battle, and the Israelites were deserting Saul. He must have thought, ‘I have to do something—and quickly.’ So he offered up a sacrifice to God, which he was not authorized to do. Jehovah was not pleased.—1 Sam. 13:5-9.

<sup>2</sup> When Samuel arrived in Gilgal, he rebuked Saul. Instead of accepting the correction, Saul made excuses, tried to shift the blame, and minimized what he had done. (1 Sam. 13:10-14) That started a terrible chain of events that eventually cost Saul his kingship and, more important, Jehovah’s approval. (1 Sam. 15:22, 23) Despite a promising beginning, Saul’s life ended in complete disaster.—1 Sam. 31:1-6.

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1, 2. Why was a once modest man rejected by God? (See opening picture.)

SONGS: 33, 88

### CAN YOU EXPLAIN?

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Why is modesty important?

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How is modesty related to humility?

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How can we flourish in our assigned place?

<sup>3</sup> In today's competitive world, many feel that they have to stand out from the crowd in order to get ahead. In doing so, they may sacrifice all modesty. For example, a well-known movie star, turned politician, once said: "Modesty is not a word that applies to me in any way—I hope it never will." Why, though, does modesty still matter? What is modesty, and what is it not? And how can we remain modest despite challenging situations or pressure from others? In this article, we will answer the first two questions. The third question will be addressed in the following article.

#### WHY IS MODESTY IMPORTANT?

<sup>4</sup> The Bible contrasts modesty with presumptuousness. (**Read Proverbs 11:2.**) Wisely, David asked Jehovah to "hold [him] back from presumptuous acts." (Ps. 19:13) What are "presumptuous acts"? By definition, when someone rashly or impertinently does something that he is not authorized to do, he is acting presumptuously. Because of inherited sin, we all act presumptuously at times. But as King Saul's example illustrates, if we develop a pattern of pushing ahead, sooner or later we will find ourselves in serious trouble with God. Psalm 119:21 says of Jehovah: "You rebuke the presumptuous." Why is that?

<sup>5</sup> Presumptuous acts are more serious than innocent mistakes. First, when we

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3. (a) What do many people think about modesty? (b) What questions need to be answered?

4. How would you define a presumptuous act?

5. Why are presumptuous acts serious?

act immodestly, we fail to honor Jehovah as our rightful Sovereign. Second, if we act beyond the scope of our authority, we are likely to get into conflict with others. (Prov. 13:10) And third, when it becomes clear that we have acted presumptuously, we may be embarrassed or even humiliated. (Luke 14: 8, 9) Presumptuous acts do not turn out well. As the Scriptures show, modesty is always the right course.

#### WHAT DOES MODESTY INVOLVE?

<sup>6</sup> Modesty and humility are closely linked traits. In the Bible, humility refers to being free from pride or arrogance. It is described as "lowliness of mind." (Phil. 2:3, ftn.) A humble person is generally also a modest person, able to estimate accurately his own abilities and achievements, to acknowledge his mistakes, and to accept suggestions and new ideas. Humility greatly pleases Jehovah.

<sup>7</sup> In the Bible, modesty similarly refers to having a proper estimate of ourselves and an awareness of our limitations. In the original language of the text, the emphasis seems to be on how that awareness should affect our behavior toward others.

<sup>8</sup> When might we start to think or act immodestly? Consider a few of the warning signs. We might be taking ourselves or our privileges too seriously. (Rom. 12:16) We might be drawing attention to ourselves in inappropriate

---

6, 7. What is humility, and how is modesty related to it?

8. What are some warning signs of immodest thinking or behavior?

ways. (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) Or we might be advocating strong opinions solely on the basis of our position, connections, or personal thinking. (1 Cor. 4:6) Often, when we act like this, we may not even be aware that we have crossed the line from modesty to presumptuousness.

<sup>9</sup> Anyone can act immodestly if he allows himself temporarily to be overcome by fleshly desires. Selfish ambition, envy, and uncontrolled anger have led many to presumptuous acts. Bible characters like Absalom, Uzziah, and Nebuchadnezzar succumbed to such works of the flesh and were humbled by Jehovah for their presumptuousness.—2 Sam. 15:1-6; 18:9-17; 2 Chron. 26:16-21; Dan. 5:18-21.

<sup>10</sup> There are other reasons, though, why someone may act immodestly. Consider, for example, the following Bible accounts: Genesis 20:2-7 and Matthew 26:31-35. Were the seemingly presumptuous actions of Abimelech and Peter motivated by sinful desires? Or were these individuals simply unaware of all the facts, or were they caught off guard? Since we cannot read hearts, it is both wise and loving to avoid jumping to conclusions about other people's motives.—**Read James 4:12.**

### ACKNOWLEDGING OUR PLACE

<sup>11</sup> Modesty really starts with acknowledging our place in God's arrangement.

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9. What has led some to become presumptuous? Give a Bible example.

10. Why should we avoid judging other people's motives? Give a Bible example.

11. How is modesty related to acknowledging our place in God's arrangement?

As a God of order, Jehovah gives each one of us a place or sphere of operation in his household. Everyone's role in the congregation is unique, but all of us are needed. In his undeserved kindness, Jehovah has given each of us certain gifts, assets, abilities, or talents. We can use them to glorify him and to benefit others. (Rom. 12:4-8) Jehovah has entrusted us with a stewardship that comes with honor, trust, and responsibility.

—**Read 1 Peter 4:10.**

<sup>12</sup> Our place in God's arrangement is not fixed, however. It can change over time. Consider Jesus' example. Initially, he was alone with Jehovah. (Prov. 8:22) Then he helped make other spirit creatures, the material universe, and finally, humans. (Col. 1:16) Still later, Jesus took on a new role on earth, first as a helpless baby and then as an adult. (Phil. 2:7) After his sacrificial death, Jesus returned to heavenly spirit life to become the King of God's Kingdom in 1914. (Heb. 2:9) And that will not be his last change of assignment. After his Thousand Year Reign, Jesus will hand over his Kingdom to Jehovah so that "God may be all things to everyone."—1 Cor. 15:28.

<sup>13</sup> We can likewise expect our assignments to change from time to time, often because of decisions we make. For example, were you single, but then you got married? Have you begun raising children? In your later years, have you simplified your life to take up the full-time ministry? Each of those decisions came with certain privileges and

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12, 13. Why should we not be surprised if our place in God's arrangement changes from time to time?



What can we learn from Jesus' example when we receive a change of assignment? (See paragraphs 12-14)

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responsibilities. Our changing circumstances can expand or limit our sphere of operation. Are you young or up in years? Is your health good or fragile? Jehovah always considers how each of us might best be used in his service. He only expects from us what is reasonable, and he greatly appreciates whatever we do.—Heb. 6:10.

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found joy in every one of his assignments, and we can find joy in ours. (Prov. 8:30, 31) A modest person does not feel cramped by his current assignments or responsibilities in the congregation. He does not worry about gaining future privileges or about what others are achieving. Instead, he focuses his energies on finding purpose and enjoyment in his present role because he views it as coming from Jehovah. At the same time, he sincerely respects the role or place that Jehovah has given to others. Modesty helps us to enjoy giving others due honor and support.—Rom. 12:10.

#### WHAT MODESTY IS NOT

<sup>15</sup> Gideon is an excellent example of modesty in action. When Jehovah's angel first appeared to him, Gideon readily acknowledged his modest background and credentials. (Judg. 6:15) After he accepted Jehovah's assignment, Gideon made sure that he thor-

14. How can a modest outlook help us to find fulfillment and keep our joy in any situation?

15. What can we learn from Gideon's modesty?



oughly understood what was required, and he looked to Jehovah for guidance. (Judg. 6:36-40) Gideon was bold and courageous. Yet, he acted with caution and shrewdness. (Judg. 6:11, 27) He did not seize upon his assignment to gain prominence. Rather, as soon as he could, he gladly returned to his former place.—Judg. 8:22, 23, 29.

<sup>16</sup> Being modest does not mean that we should never reach out for or accept additional privileges of service. The Scriptures encourage all of us to make advancement. (1 Tim. 4:13-15) Does this always require a change of assignment though? Not necessarily. With Jehovah's blessing, we can make spiritual progress in whatever role we are currently serving. We can continue to cultivate our God-given abilities and expand in doing good works.

<sup>17</sup> Before accepting a new assignment, a modest person will first find out what will be required of him. He can then make an honest evaluation of his circumstances. For example, will he be able to take on more work or responsibility without neglecting other important things? Can some of his current work be delegated to make room for the new responsibility? If the answer to one or both of these questions is no, perhaps there is someone else who might be in a better position to care for the assignment right now. A prayerful and realistic analysis will help us to avoid overreaching our current abilities and limitations. Modesty may lead us to say no.

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16, 17. What does a modest person take into consideration when thinking about making spiritual progress?

<sup>18</sup> When we do accept a new assignment, Gideon's example reminds us that we cannot succeed without Jehovah's direction and blessing. After all, we have been invited "to walk in modesty with [our] God." (Mic. 6:8) So any time we take on new responsibilities, we need to reflect prayerfully on whatever Jehovah tells us through his Word and his organization. We have to learn to adjust our unsteady steps to match Jehovah's steady lead. Let us remember that it is Jehovah's humility and not our own ability that 'makes us great.' (Ps. 18:35) Choosing to walk modestly with God will therefore help us to think neither too much nor too little of ourselves. —**Read Romans 12:3.**

<sup>19</sup> A modest person gives Jehovah the honor he deserves, since Jehovah is our Creator and Universal Sovereign. (Rev. 4:11) Modesty helps us to be satisfied with and productive in our assigned place in God's arrangement. Modesty restrains us from acting dishonorably, and it promotes unity among Jehovah's people. Modesty motivates us to consider others ahead of ourselves, and it encourages us to be cautious, thus avoiding serious mistakes. For these reasons, modesty still matters to all of God's people, and Jehovah treasures those who cultivate it. But what about when we are under pressure? The next article will show us how to remain modest in stressful situations.

---

18. (a) What will modesty move us to do in a new role or assignment? (b) How does Romans 12:3 apply to a modest person?

19. For what reasons should we cultivate modesty?

# Make Me Know Your Ways

(Psalm 25:4)

A F#m C#m G/A A7

We're gath - ered to - geth - er, Je - ho - vah our God, Ac -  
Un - reach - a - bly high is your wis - dom, O God; Your

D F#7+5 Bm Bm/A

cept - ing your warm in - vi - ta - tion. Your  
judg - ments we find re - as - sur - ing. Your

Bm/G# C#7 F° F#m

Word is a lamp that lights up our path - way, The  
Word is a source of un - end - ing won - der; Your

A/B B13 Bm7 E13sus4 E7

source of di - vine ed - u - ca - tion.  
say - ings of truth are en - dur - ing.

# Make Me Know Your Ways

## Chorus

Teach me your ways, and make me un - der - stand; In -

Chords: A, C#+5, D, Bm7

cline my ear to hear your wise com - mand.

Chords: E7sus4, E/D, A/C#, Bm11, E7

Cause me to walk in ways of truth and right, And

Chords: G/A, A13, Dma7, G13sus4, Dm6/F

make your law my prin - ci - pal de - light.

Chords: A/E, D/E, E7, A



