

- Song 86 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Humans Can Have Success Only With Jehovah’s Guidance”:** (10 min.)
 Jer 10:2-5, 14, 15—The gods of the nations are false gods (*it-1* 555)
 Jer 10:6, 7, 10-13—Unlike the gods of the nations, Jehovah is the only true God (*w04* 10/1 11 ¶10)
 Jer 10:21-23—Humans cannot have success without Jehovah’s guidance (*w15* 9/1 15 ¶1)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Jer 9:24—What type of boasting and pride are good? (*w13* 1/15 20 ¶16)

 Jer 11:10—Why did Jeremiah include the northern ten-tribe kingdom in his pronouncements, even though Samaria had fallen in 740 B.C.E.? (*w07* 3/15 9 ¶2)

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 11:6-16

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Memorial invitation and *wp17.2* cover—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 72
- **“Listen to God—How to Use It”:** (15 min.) Begin with a five-minute discussion of the article. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows a portion of a Bible study being conducted using pages 8 and 9 of the brochure. The student is using *Listen to God* while the teacher is using *Listen to God and Live Forever*. Encourage the audience to follow along in their copy of *Listen to God and Live Forever*.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* pp. 98-99, chap. 10 ¶1-7
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 115 and Prayer

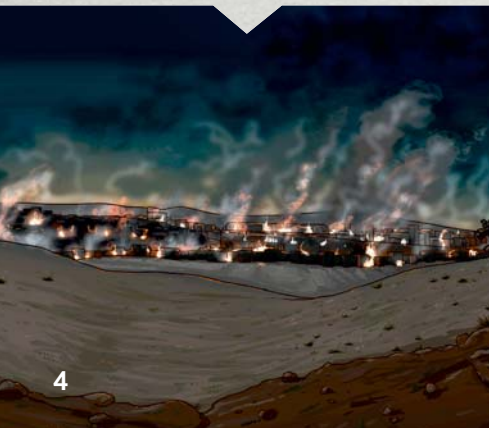
JEREMIAH 8-11 | Humans Can Have Success Only With Jehovah’s Guidance



10:21-23

Humans have neither the ability nor the right to govern themselves

- ◀ Because Israel’s spiritual shepherds did not inquire of Jehovah, the people were scattered
- ▶ Those who followed Jehovah’s direction had peace, happiness, and prosperity



We Must Be Taught

(Isaiah 50:4; 54:13)

1. Come with rejoicing, and learn about Jehovah.
“Come drink life’s water,” the spirit has said.
Healthful instruction, God has provided.
All those who hunger for truth will be fed.
2. Never forsaking our gathering together,
We must be taught; we must learn what is right.
Here with God’s spirit, here with our brothers,
Here we are strengthened to walk in the light.
3. Lips that sing praise, how encouraging to hear them!
Tongues of the taught ones, how sweet is their sound!
Oh, may we always meet with God’s people!
Oh, may we always among them be found!

Jeremiah 8-11

8 “At that time,” declares Jehovah, “the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its princes, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be taken from their graves. ² They will be spread out to the sun and to the moon and to all the army of the heavens that they loved and served and followed and sought after and bowed down to. They will not be gathered, nor will they be buried. They will become like manure on the surface of the ground.”

³ “And the remnant of this evil family who survive will choose death over life in all the places where I disperse them,” declares Jehovah of armies.

⁴ “And you must say to them, ‘This is what Jehovah says:

“Will they fall and not get up again?

If one would turn back, will the other not also turn back?

⁵ Why is this people, Jerusalem, unfaithful with an enduring unfaithfulness?

They hold fast to deception;

They refuse to turn back.

⁶ I paid attention and kept listening, but the way they spoke was not right.

Not a man repented over his wickedness or
asked, 'What have I done?'

Each one keeps returning to the popular course,
like a horse dashing into the battle.

⁷ Even the stork in the sky knows its seasons;
The turtledove and the swift and the thrush keep
to the time of their return.
But my own people do not understand the
judgment of Jehovah.”

⁸ 'How can you say: "We are wise, and we have the
law of Jehovah"?

For in fact, the lying stylus of the scribes has
been used only for falsehood.

⁹ The wise have been put to shame.
They have become terrified and will be caught.
Look! They have rejected the word of Jehovah,
And what wisdom do they have?

¹⁰ So I will give their wives to other men,
Their fields to other owners;
For from the least to the greatest, each one is
making dishonest gain;
From the prophet to the priest, each one is
practicing fraud.

¹¹ And they try to heal the breakdown of the daughter
of my people lightly, saying,
"There is peace! There is peace!"

When there is no peace.

¹² 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!

So they will fall among the fallen.

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

¹³ 'When I gather them, I will bring them to their end,' declares Jehovah.

'There will be no grapes left on the vine, no figs on the fig tree, and the leaves will wither.

And what I gave to them will be lost to them.'"

¹⁴ "Why are we sitting here?

Let us gather together and enter the fortified cities and perish there.

For Jehovah our God will do away with us,

And he gives us poisoned water to drink,

Because we have sinned against Jehovah.

¹⁵ There was a hope for peace, but nothing good came,

For a time of healing, but there is terror!

¹⁶ From Dan is heard the snorting of his horses.

At the sound of the neighing of his stallions,

The whole land quakes.

They come in and devour the land and
everything in it,
The city and its inhabitants.”

¹⁷ “For here I am sending in serpents among you,
Poisonous snakes that cannot be charmed,
And they will certainly bite you,” declares
Jehovah.

¹⁸ My grief is incurable;
My heart is sick.

¹⁹ From a distant land there is a cry for help
From the daughter of my people:
“Is Jehovah not in Zion?
Or is her king not in her?”
“Why have they offended me with their graven
images,
With their worthless foreign gods?”

²⁰ “The harvest has passed, the summer has ended,
But we have not been saved!”

²¹ I am shattered over the breakdown of the daughter
of my people;
I am dejected.
Horror has seized me.

²² Is there no balsam in Gil'e-ad?
Or is there no healer there?
Why has the daughter of my people not been
restored to health?

- 9 O that my head were waters,
My eyes a fountain of tears!
Then I would weep day and night
For the slain ones of my people.
- 2 O that I had a traveler's lodging place in the
wilderness!
Then I would leave my people and go away from
them,
For they are all adulterers,
A band of treacherous people.
- 3 They bend their tongue like a bow;
Falsehood, not faithfulness, prevails in the land.
"They advance from evil to evil,
And they pay no attention to me," declares
Jehovah.
- 4 "Everyone, be on guard against your neighbor,
And do not trust even your brother.
For every brother is a betrayer,
And every neighbor is a slanderer.
- 5 Each one cheats his neighbor,
And no one speaks truth.
They have taught their tongue to speak
falsehood.
They wear themselves out doing what is wrong.
- 6 You are living in the midst of deception.

In their deception they refused to know me,”
declares Jehovah.

⁷ Therefore this is what Jehovah of armies says:
“I will smelt them and test them,
For what else can I do with the daughter of my
people?”

⁸ Their tongue is a deadly arrow that speaks
deception.
With his mouth a person speaks of peace to his
neighbor,
But inside he lays an ambush.”

⁹ “Should I not call them to account for these
things?” declares Jehovah.
“Should I not avenge myself on such a nation?”

¹⁰ I will weep and lament over the mountains
And take up a dirge over the pastures of the
wilderness,
For they have been burned up so that no man
passes through,
And the sound of livestock is not heard.
The birds of heaven and the beasts have fled;
they are gone.

¹¹ I will make Jerusalem piles of stones, the lair of
jackals,
And I will make the cities of Judah desolate,
without an inhabitant.

¹² Who is wise enough to understand this?

To whom has the mouth of Jehovah spoken, that
he may declare it?

Why has the land perished?

Why is it scorched like the wilderness,
So that no one is passing through?"

¹³ Jehovah replied: "Because of their rejecting my law
that I set before them, and because they have not
followed it and obeyed my voice. ¹⁴ Instead, they

stubbornly followed their own hearts, and they followed
the Ba'al images, as their fathers had taught them to

do. ¹⁵ Therefore this is what Jehovah of armies, the
God of Israel, says, 'Here I am making this people eat
wormwood, and I will make them drink poisoned water.

¹⁶ I will scatter them among the nations that they and
their fathers have not known, and I will send a sword
after them until I will have exterminated them.'

¹⁷ This is what Jehovah of armies says,

'Behave with understanding.

Summon the women who sing dirges,

And send for the skilled women to come,

¹⁸ So that they may hurry and raise a lamentation for
us,

So that our eyes may stream with tears

And our eyelids trickle with water.

- ¹⁹ For the sound of lamentation has been heard from Zion:
“How we have been devastated!
How great our shame is!
For we have left the land, and they have thrown down our homes.”
- ²⁰ You women, hear the word of Jehovah.
May your ear receive the word of his mouth.
Teach your daughters this lamentation,
And teach one another this dirge.
- ²¹ For death has come up through our windows;
It has entered our fortified towers
To take away the children from the streets
And the young men from the public squares.’
- ²² Say, ‘This is what Jehovah declares:
“The dead bodies of people will fall like manure on the surface of the field,
Like a row of newly cut grain after the reaper,
With no one to gather them up.”’”
- ²³ This is what Jehovah says:
“Let not the wise man boast about his wisdom;
Let not the mighty man boast about his mightiness;
And let not the rich man boast about his riches.”
- ²⁴ “But let the one boasting boast about this:
That he has insight and knowledge of me,

That I am Jehovah, the One showing loyal love,
justice, and righteousness in the earth,
For in these things I take delight,” declares
Jehovah.

²⁵ “Look! Days are coming,” declares Jehovah, “and I will hold an accounting with everyone circumcised and yet uncircumcised, ²⁶ with Egypt and Judah and E'dom and the Am'mon-ites and Mo'ab and with all of those with hair clipped at the temples who are dwelling in the wilderness; for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in heart.”

10 Hear the word that Jehovah has spoken against you, O house of Israel. ² This is what Jehovah says:

“Do not learn the way of the nations,
And do not be terrified by the signs of the
heavens

Because the nations are terrified by them.

³ For the customs of the peoples are a delusion.
It is just a tree of the forest that is cut down,
Worked by the hands of the craftsman with his
tool.

⁴ They adorn it with silver and gold
And fasten it with hammer and nails so that it will
not fall over.

⁵ Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field, they cannot
speak;

They have to be carried, for they cannot walk.
Do not fear them, for they can do no harm,
Nor can they do any good.”

⁶ No one is like you, O Jehovah.

You are great, and your name is great and
mighty.

⁷ Who should not fear you, O King of the nations, for
it is fitting;

Because among all the wise ones of the nations
and among all their kingdoms,
There is no one at all like you.

⁸ They are all unreasoning and stupid.

Instruction from a tree is an utter delusion.

⁹ Silver plates are imported from Tar'shish and gold
from U'phaz,

The work of a craftsman, of the hands of a
metalworker.

Their clothing is blue thread and purple wool.

They are all made by skilled workers.

¹⁰ But Jehovah is truly God.

He is the living God and the eternal King.

Because of his indignation the earth will quake,

And no nations will endure his denunciation.

¹¹ This is what you should say to them:

“The gods that did not make the heavens and
the earth

Will perish from the earth and from under these heavens.”

¹² He is the Maker of the earth by his power,
The One who established the productive land by
his wisdom
And who stretched out the heavens by his
understanding.

¹³ When he makes his voice heard,
The waters in the heavens are in turmoil,
And he causes clouds to ascend from the ends
of the earth.
He makes lightning for the rain,
And he brings the wind out of his storehouses.

¹⁴ Every man acts unreasonably and without
knowledge.
Every metalworker will be put to shame because
of the carved image;
For his metal image is a falsehood,
And there is no spirit in them.

¹⁵ They are a delusion, a work of mockery.
When their day of reckoning comes, they will
perish.

¹⁶ The Share of Jacob is not like these things,
For he is the One who formed everything,
And Israel is the staff of his inheritance.
Jehovah of armies is his name.

- ¹⁷ Gather up your bundle from the ground,
O woman dwelling under siege.
- ¹⁸ For this is what Jehovah says:
“Here I am hurling the inhabitants out of the land
at this time,
And I will cause them to experience distress.”
- ¹⁹ Woe to me because of my breakdown!
My wound is incurable.
And I said: “Surely this is my sickness, and I
must bear it.
- ²⁰ My tent has been devastated, and my tent cords
have all been torn apart.
My sons have left me and are no more.
There is no one left to stretch out my tent or
raise up my tent cloths.
- ²¹ For the shepherds have behaved senselessly,
And they have not inquired of Jehovah.
That is why they have not acted with insight,
And all their flocks have been scattered.”
- ²² Listen! A report! It is coming!
A great pounding from the land of the north,
To make the cities of Judah desolate, a lair of
jackals.
- ²³ I well know, O Jehovah, that man’s way does not
belong to him.

It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step.

²⁴ Correct me, O Jehovah, with judgment,
But not in your anger, that you may not reduce me to nothing.

²⁵ Pour out your wrath on the nations who ignore you
And on the families who do not call on your name.

For they have devoured Jacob,
Yes, they have devoured him to the point of extermination,
And they have desolated his homeland.

11 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from Jehovah, saying: ² “Hear the words of this covenant, you people!

“Speak them to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem ³ and say to them, ‘This is what Jehovah the God of Israel says: “Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant, ⁴ which I commanded your forefathers on the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the iron-smelting furnace, saying, ‘Obey my voice, and do all the things that I command you; and you will become my people and I will be your God, ⁵ so that I may fulfill the oath that I swore to your forefathers, to give them the land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day.’””

And I answered: “Amen, O Jehovah.”

⁶ Jehovah then said to me: “Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: ‘Hear the words of this covenant, and carry them out.’
⁷ For I solemnly admonished your forefathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt and to this day, admonishing them again and again: “Obey my voice.”
⁸ But they did not listen or incline their ear; instead, each kept stubbornly following his own wicked heart. So I brought on them all the words of this covenant that I commanded them to do, but they refused to carry them out.’”

⁹ Jehovah then said to me: “There is a conspiracy among the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ They have returned to the errors of their forefathers of old, who refused to obey my words. They too have followed other gods and have served them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant that I made with their forefathers.
¹¹ Therefore this is what Jehovah says, ‘Here I am bringing on them a calamity that they will not be able to escape. When they call to me for help, I will not listen to them.’ ¹² Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go to the gods to which they are making sacrifices and call for help, but these will by no means save them in the time of their calamity. ¹³ For your gods have become as many as your cities, O

Judah, and you have set up as many altars to the shameful thing as there are streets in Jerusalem, altars to make sacrifices to Ba'al.'

¹⁴ "As for you, do not pray in behalf of this people. Do not cry out in their behalf or offer a prayer for them, for I will not be listening when they call out to me because of their calamity.

¹⁵ What right does my beloved one have to be in my house
When so many have carried out evil schemes?
With holy flesh will they avert the calamity when it comes upon you?
Will you exult at that time?

¹⁶ Jehovah once called you a thriving olive tree,
Beautiful with fine fruit.
With a great roaring sound, he has set her on fire,
And they have broken its branches.

¹⁷ "Jehovah of armies, your Planter, has declared that a calamity will come upon you because of the evil committed by the house of Israel and the house of Judah, who have offended me by making sacrifices to Ba'al."

¹⁸ Jehovah informed me so that I would know;
At that time you caused me to see what they were doing.

¹⁹ I was like a docile lamb being brought to the slaughter.

I did not know that they were scheming against me:

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
And let us cut him off from the land of the living,
So that his name may be remembered no more.”

²⁰ But Jehovah of armies judges with righteousness;
He examines the innermost thoughts and the heart.

Let me see your vengeance on them,
For to you I have committed my legal case.

²¹ Therefore this is what Jehovah says against the men of An'a-thoth who are seeking to take your life and who say: “You must not prophesy in the name of Jehovah, or you will die by our hand”; ²² therefore this is what Jehovah of armies says: “Here I am going to call them to account. The young men will die by the sword, and their sons and their daughters will die by famine. ²³ Not even a remnant will be left of them, because I will bring calamity on the men of An'a-thoth in the year of their being called to account.”

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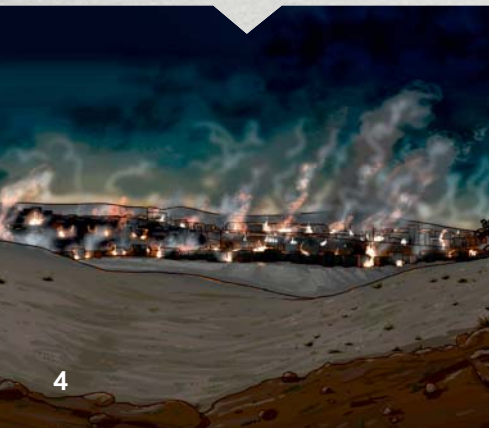
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March 20-26

Treasures From God's Word

Jeremiah 10:2-5, 14, 15—The gods of the nations are false gods

Reference: *it-1* 555.

Pillars, poles, or other devices were also placed in the cultivated fields to scare off the animals, and to such a mute inanimate “scarecrow of a cucumber field” the prophet Jeremiah likened the images made by the idolatrous nations.—**Jeremiah 10:5**.

Jeremiah 10:6-13—Unlike the gods of the nations, Jehovah is the only true God

Reference: *w04* 10/1 11 **paragraph 10**.

Whether you look at the heavens above or gaze at creation right here on earth, the evidence of a Creator is clear. (Jeremiah 10:12) We should heartily agree with the heavenly creatures who cry out: “You are worthy, Jehovah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things.” (Revelation 4:11) Yet, many scientists fail to see the evidence with ‘the eyes of their heart,’ even though they may marvel at the design

in things they see with the eyes of their body. (Ephesians 1:18) We can illustrate it this way: To admire the beauty and design in nature and deny the existence of a Great Designer is as illogical as admiring a magnificent painting and at the same time denying the existence of the artist who transformed a blank canvas into a masterpiece. Little wonder that those who refuse to believe in God are pronounced “inexcusable”!

Jeremiah 10:21-23—Humans cannot have success without Jehovah’s guidance

Reference: *w15 9/1 15* **paragraph 1**.

The miserable conditions on earth today are clear evidence that human rulership has utterly failed. Not only have worldly governments failed to bring peace, security, and happiness but they have also brought the earth to the brink of ruin. This reinforces the fundamental truth stated in the Bible: “It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step.” (Jeremiah 10:23) Only God’s way of ruling can guarantee lasting peace, happiness, and prosperity to mankind, because that is God’s purpose.—Isaiah 45:18.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Jeremiah 9:24—What type of boasting and pride are good?

Reference: w13 1/15 20 **paragraph 16**.

Taking pride in the right things can be good. For example, we should always feel proud to be Jehovah's Witnesses. (**Jeremiah 9:24**) A healthy measure of self-respect helps us to make good decisions and to avoid lowering our moral standards. But placing too high a value on our own views or position can distance us from Jehovah.—**Psalms 138:6**; **Romans 12:3**.

Jeremiah 11:10—Why did Jeremiah include the northern ten-tribe kingdom in his pronouncements, even though Samaria had fallen in 740 B.C.E.?

Reference: w07 3/15 9 **paragraph 2**.

This was because the destruction of Jerusalem in 607 B.C.E. was an expression of Jehovah's judgment on the entire nation of Israel, not on Judah alone. (**Ezekiel 9:9, 10**) Moreover, after its fall, the interests of the ten-tribe kingdom continued to be represented in Jerusalem, since the messages of God's prophets continued to include the Israelites.

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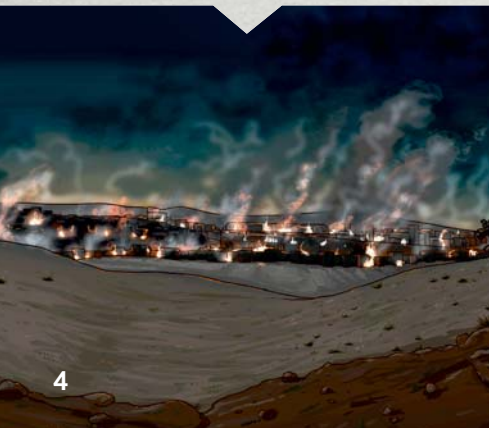
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INVITATION

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.

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THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

Will You Accept
GOD'S GREATEST GIFT?



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is the greatest gift that God has ever given us?

The Bible says: “God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son.”—John 3:16.

This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses why God sent Jesus to earth to die for us and how we can show appreciation for that gift.

WILL YOU ACCEPT GOD’S GREATEST GIFT?

- 3 A Gift Unlike Any Other
- 4 God’s Greatest Gift—Why So Precious?
- 6 How Will You Respond to God’s Greatest Gift?

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8 IS CELIBACY A REQUIREMENT FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTERS?

10 ESCAPE FROM SLAVERY—THEN AND NOW

13 ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF GIVING

16 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?



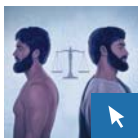
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How Is Jesus’ Sacrifice “a Ransom for Many”?

(Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED)

THE WATCHTOWER
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

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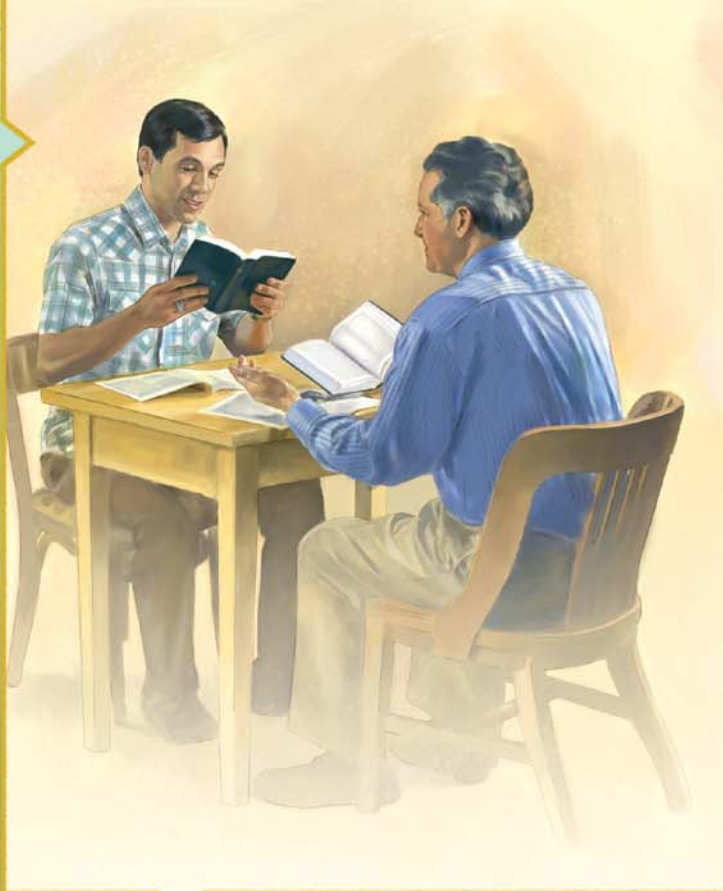
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

THIS MAGAZINE, *The Watchtower*, honors Jehovah God, the Ruler of the universe. It comforts people with the good news that God’s heavenly Kingdom will soon end all wickedness and transform the earth into a paradise. It promotes faith in Jesus Christ, who died so that we might gain everlasting life and who is now ruling as King of God’s Kingdom. This magazine has been published continuously since 1879 and is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

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God speaks to us through the Bible.
2 Timothy 3:16



People everywhere are listening.
Matthew 28:19

- Song 86 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Humans Can Have Success Only With Jehovah’s Guidance”:** (10 min.)
 Jer 10:2-5, 14, 15—The gods of the nations are false gods (*it-1* 555)
 Jer 10:6, 7, 10-13—Unlike the gods of the nations, Jehovah is the only true God (*w04* 10/1 11 ¶10)
 Jer 10:21-23—Humans cannot have success without Jehovah’s guidance (*w15* 9/1 15 ¶1)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Jer 9:24—What type of boasting and pride are good? (*w13* 1/15 20 ¶16)

 Jer 11:10—Why did Jeremiah include the northern ten-tribe kingdom in his pronouncements, even though Samaria had fallen in 740 B.C.E.? (*w07* 3/15 9 ¶2)

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 11:6-16

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Memorial invitation and *wp17.2* cover—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Memorial invitation and *wp17.2* cover—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *Id* pp. 4-5 (Student may select which pictures to consider.)—Invite the person to the Memorial.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 72
- **“Listen to God—How to Use It”:** (15 min.) Begin with a five-minute discussion of the article. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows a portion of a Bible study being conducted using pages 8 and 9 of the brochure. The student is using *Listen to God* while the teacher is using *Listen to God and Live Forever*. Encourage the audience to follow along in their copy of *Listen to God and Live Forever*.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* pp. 98-99, chap. 10 ¶1-7
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 115 and Prayer

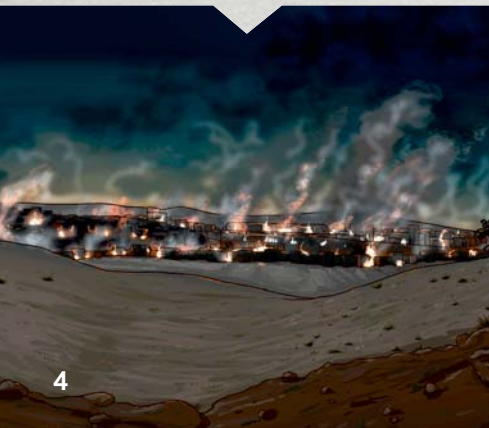
JEREMIAH 8-11 | Humans Can Have Success Only With Jehovah’s Guidance



10:21-23

Humans have neither the ability nor the right to govern themselves

- ◀ Because Israel’s spiritual shepherds did not inquire of Jehovah, the people were scattered
- ▶ Those who followed Jehovah’s direction had peace, happiness, and prosperity



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

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

- Song 86 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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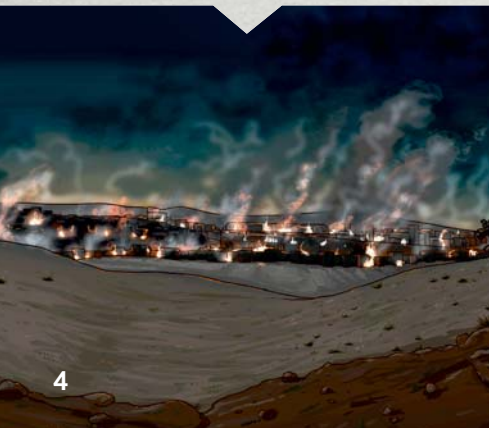
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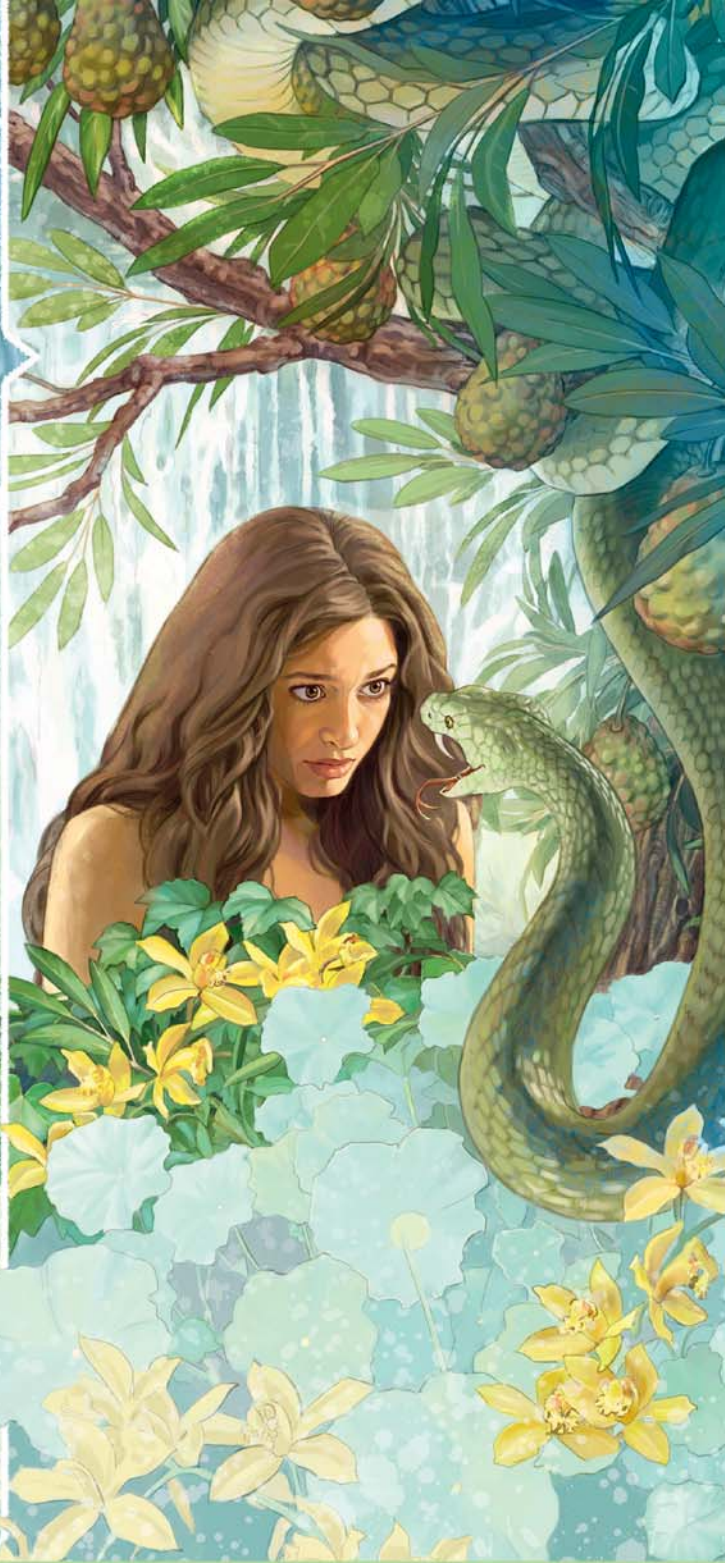
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- ▶ Those who followed Jehovah’s direction had peace, happiness, and prosperity





Jehovah gave Adam and Eve many good things.
Genesis 1:28



God said not to eat from one of the trees.
Genesis 2:16, 17

What Was Life Like in Paradise?

Jehovah made the first woman, Eve, and gave her to Adam to be his wife.
—Genesis 2:21, 22.


Jehovah created them with minds and bodies that were perfect, without any flaw.

Their Paradise home was the garden of Eden—a place of great beauty with a river and fruit trees and animals.

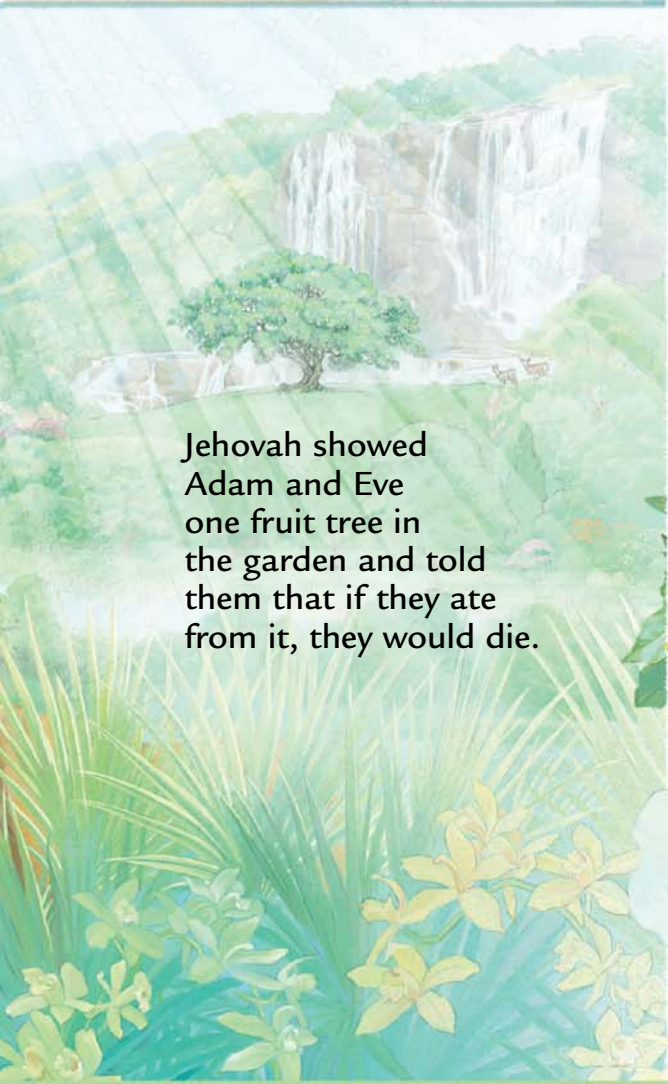
Jehovah spoke to them; he taught them. If they listened to him, they would live forever in Paradise on earth.

Jehovah gave Adam and Eve many good things.

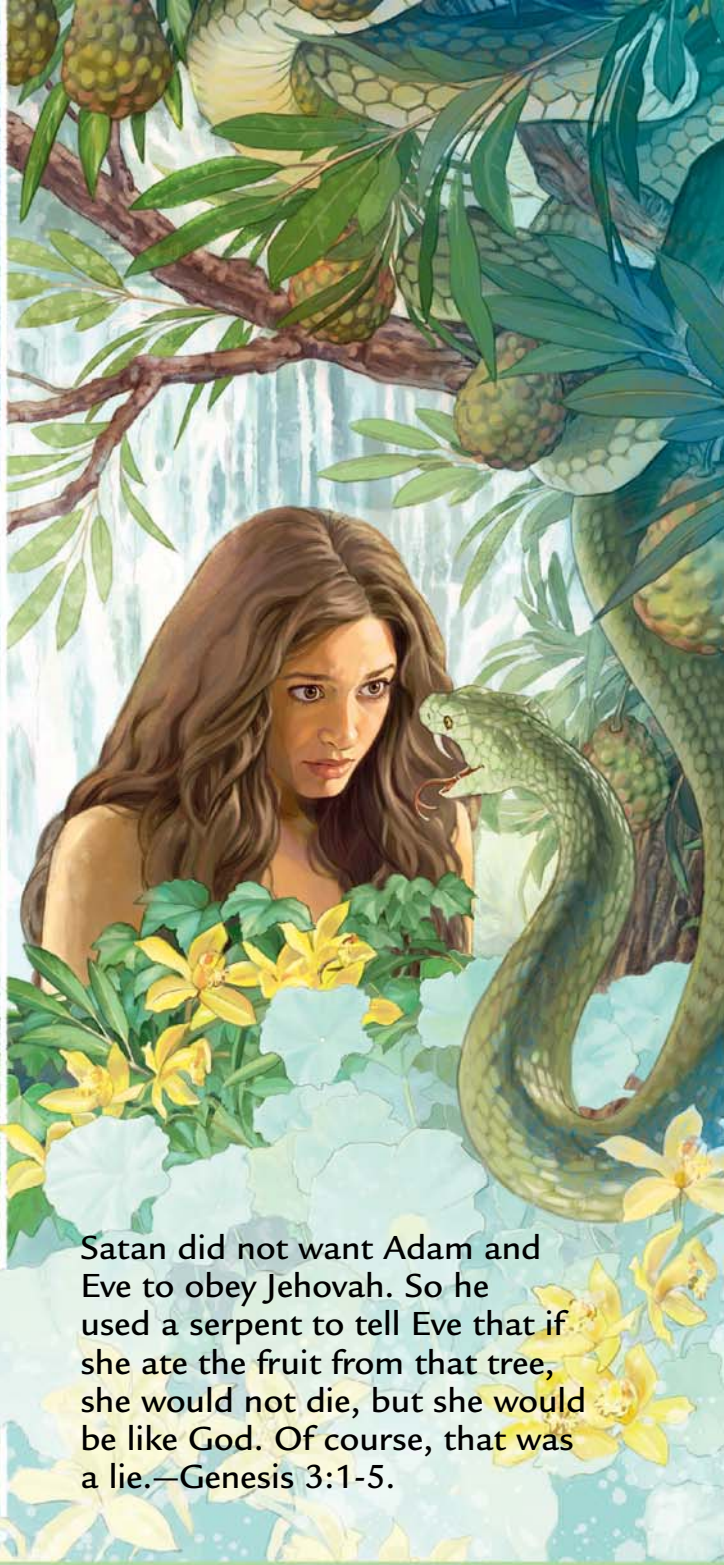
Genesis 1:28



One of the angels rebelled against God. That wicked angel is Satan the Devil.



Jehovah showed Adam and Eve one fruit tree in the garden and told them that if they ate from it, they would die.



Satan did not want Adam and Eve to obey Jehovah. So he used a serpent to tell Eve that if she ate the fruit from that tree, she would not die, but she would be like God. Of course, that was a lie.—Genesis 3:1-5.

God said not to eat from one of the trees.
Genesis 2:16, 17

SECTION 3

KINGDOM STANDARDS

Seeking God's Righteousness

YOU wave to your neighbor as you walk by. Lately, you have noticed that he has been observing you and your family. He waves back and then beckons you over. He says: “May I just ask a question? What is it that makes you people so different?” “What do you mean?” you ask. “Well,” he says, “you are Jehovah’s Witnesses, right? You are not like anybody else. You do not fit in with the other religions—you don’t celebrate the holidays, and you don’t get involved in politics and wars. None of you smoke. And your family seems to have high moral standards. What is it that makes you people so different in so many ways?”

You know that the answer comes down to one thing: We live under the rulership of God’s Kingdom. As King, Jesus is ever refining us. He is helping us to walk in his footsteps and thus to stand out as different in this wicked world. In this section, we will see how the Messianic Kingdom has been refining God’s people spiritually, morally, and organizationally—all to Jehovah’s glory.

10 The King Refines His People Spiritually

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

Why and how Jesus has refined and cleansed his followers spiritually

JESUS had great respect for the temple in Jerusalem because he knew what it stood for. The temple had long been the center of true worship on earth. But that worship—the worship of the holy God, Jehovah—must be clean and pure. Imagine, then, how Jesus felt when he came to the temple on Nisan 10, 33 C.E., and found that it was being polluted. What was happening?—**Read Matthew 21:12, 13.**

² In the Court of the Gentiles, greedy merchants and money changers were taking unfair advantage of the worshippers who came to present offerings to Jehovah.*^[1] Jesus “threw out all those selling and

*^[1] Visiting Jews had to use certain currency to pay the annual temple tax, and the money changers charged a fee to convert coins into the required currency. Additionally, visitors might have needed to buy animals for offerings. Jesus called the merchants “robbers,” likely because they charged exorbitant prices or fees for their services.

1-3. What did Jesus do when he found that the temple was being polluted?

buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers.” (Compare Nehemiah 13: 7-9.) He denounced those selfish men for turning his Father’s house into “a cave of robbers.” Jesus thereby showed his respect for the temple and what it represented. The worship of his Father had to be kept clean!

³ Centuries later, after he was installed as Messianic King, Jesus again cleansed a temple—one that involves all today who want to worship Jehovah acceptably. What temple did he then cleanse?

Cleansing “the Sons of Levi”

⁴ As we saw in Chapter 2 of this publication, after being enthroned in 1914, Jesus came with his Father to inspect the *spiritual* temple—the arrangement for pure worship.*^[2] As a result of that inspection, the King saw that anointed Christians, “the sons of Levi,” needed some refining and cleansing. (Mal. 3: 1-3) From 1914 to early 1919, the Refiner, Jehovah,

^{*}^[2] Jehovah’s people on earth worship him in the earthly courtyards of his great spiritual temple.

4, 5. (a) How were Jesus’ anointed followers refined and cleansed from 1914 to early 1919? (b) Was that the end of the refining and cleansing for God’s people? Explain.

allowed his people to go through various trials and hardships that served to refine and cleanse them. Happily, those anointed ones emerged from the fiery tests in a cleaner condition, eager to show their support for the Messianic King!

⁵ Was that the end of the refining and cleansing for God's people? No. Throughout the last days, Jehovah by means of the Messianic King has continued to help his followers to be clean so that they might remain in the spiritual temple. In the next two chapters, we will see how he has refined them morally and organizationally. First, though, let us discuss *spiritual* cleansing. It is faith-strengthening to consider what Jesus has done—both in clearly recognizable ways and behind the scenes—to help his followers to be spiritually clean.

“Keep Yourselves Clean”

⁶ What is spiritual cleanness? To answer that, let us examine the words that Jehovah spoke to Jewish exiles as they were about to leave Babylon in the

6. How do Jehovah's commands to the Jewish exiles help us to understand what spiritual cleanness involves?

sixth century B.C.E. (**Read Isaiah 52:11.**) Those exiles were returning home to Jerusalem primarily to rebuild the temple and restore true worship. (Ezra 1:2-4) Jehovah wanted his people to leave behind all traces of Babylon's religion. Notice that he gave them a series of commands: "Touch nothing unclean," "get out from the midst of her," and "keep yourselves clean." Jehovah's pure worship must not be tainted by false worship. What, then, may we conclude? Spiritual cleanness involves keeping free of the teachings and practices of false religion.

⁷ Shortly after he was installed as King, Jesus put in place a clearly recognizable channel through which he has helped his followers to be spiritually clean. That channel is the faithful and discreet slave, which Christ appointed in 1919. (Matt. 24:45) By that year, the Bible Students had already cleansed themselves of many false religious teachings. Still, they needed some further cleansing spiritually. Through his faithful slave, Christ has gradually enlightened his followers about various observances

7. Through what channel has Jesus helped his followers to be spiritually clean?

and practices that they needed to abandon. (Prov. 4: 18) Let us consider some examples of this.

Should Christians Celebrate Christmas?

⁸ The Bible Students long acknowledged that Christmas has pagan roots and that Jesus was not born on December 25. *Zion's Watch Tower* of December 1881 stated: "Millions were brought into the church from Paganism. But the *change* was mostly in *name*, for the pagan priests became christian priests and the pagan holidays came to be called by christian names—Christmas being one of these holidays." In 1883, under the title "When Was Jesus Born?" the *Watch Tower* reasoned that Jesus was born about the beginning of October.*^[3] Yet, the Bible Students did not at the time clearly see the need to stop celebrating Christmas. It continued to be celebrated even by members of the Brooklyn Bethel family. After 1926, however, things began to change. Why?

⁹ As a result of careful, closer scrutiny of the

*^[3] This article noted that a winter date for Jesus' birth "does not comport well with the account of the shepherds being out with their flocks."—Luke 2:8.

8. What had the Bible Students long acknowledged about Christmas, yet what did they not see clearly?

9. What did the Bible Students come to realize about Christmas?

115 *Gratitude for Divine Patience*

(2 Peter 3:15)

1. Great God, Jehovah, boundless in might,
 You have made known your love of right.
 Badness prevails on earth below,
 Causing us pain, as you well know.
 You are not slow, as men may contend;
 Your time is near for patience to end.

(CHORUS)

*We look ahead with hope renewed,
 Praising your name in deep gratitude.*

2. One thousand years, from your point of view,
 Are like a day when they are through.
 Time now proceeds to your great day;
 It will arrive without delay.
 Though all transgression you do resent,
 Your heart is glad when sinners repent.

(Chorus)

JANUARY 2017

THE  **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
FEBRUARY 27–APRIL 2, 2017

LARGE
PRINT
EDITION



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.

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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.

16 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.

PUBLISHERS

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BIBLE STUDIES

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29 WEEK OF MARCH 13-19

Why Modesty Still Matters

40 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.

52 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.

48 *Daily Walking With Jehovah*

(Micah 6:8)

1. Hand in hand with our dear Father,
 We would humbly walk with him each day.
Oh, how undeserved his kindness
 That he grants to those who seek his way!
By his love God made provision;
 We may freely take his hand.
So we make our dedication;
 With Jehovah we take our stand.
2. In this day of Satan's anger,
 As the end is drawing ever near,
We are faced with opposition
 That could make us turn away in fear.
But Jehovah gives protection;
 Close to him we want to stay,
That we might forever serve him.
 Love him loyally, never stray.
3. Help for us God has provided
 Through his spirit and his written Word,
Through the Christian congregation,
 Through assurance that our prayer is heard.
As we're walking with Jehovah,
 He will help us do what's right.
He will help us to be loyal
 And walk modestly in his sight.



SONGS:
48, 80

You Can Remain Modest Under Test

HOW CAN MODESTY HELP US TO . . .

succeed in our assignments?

cope with criticism or praise?

make decisions in the face of uncertainty?

“Walk in modesty with your God!”

—MIC. 6:8.

SOMETIME during King Jeroboam’s reign, Jehovah sent a certain prophet from Judah to deliver a scathing judgment message to that apostate king of Israel. The humble prophet faithfully delivered God’s message, and Jehovah protected his

1-3. What did the unnamed prophet from Judah fail to do, and what was the result? (See opening picture.)

servant from Jeroboam's violent wrath.—1 Ki. 13: 1-10.

² On his way home, the prophet unexpectedly met up with an old man from nearby Bethel. The man claimed to be a prophet of Jehovah. He deceived the younger man into disobeying Jehovah's strict instructions 'not to eat bread or drink water in Israel' and 'not to return by the way that he came.' Jehovah was not pleased. Later, on his way home, a lion came across Jehovah's prophet on the road and killed him.—1 Ki. 13:11-24.

³ Why did the once modest prophet presumptuously go along with that deceitful older man? The Bible does not say. But it could be that he completely forgot that he was supposed to be 'walking modestly with God.' (Read Micah 6:8.) In the Bible, walking with Jehovah conveys the idea of trusting in him, supporting his sovereignty, and following his lead. A modest person is keenly aware that he can and must be in constant communication with his loving and almighty Father. The prophet could have asked Jehovah to clarify His instructions, but the Scriptures do not say that he did so. At times, we too have to make

difficult decisions, and the right course to take may not be clear. Modestly seeking Jehovah's guidance helps us to avoid making grave mistakes.

⁴ In the preceding article, we learned why modesty is still important for Christians and what displaying it involves. What situations, though, might put our modesty to the test? And how can we cultivate this desirable quality, so that we remain modest even under pressure? To answer these questions, we will consider three common situations that can put modesty to the test, and we will see how we can act wisely in each case. —Prov. 11:2.

WHEN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE

⁵ Changes in personal circumstances or of assignments can test our modesty. When David asked 80-year-old Barzillai to accept an invitation to live in the royal court, Barzillai must have been greatly honored. Accepting David's invitation would have allowed him to continue to enjoy the king's association. Yet, Barzillai declined. Why? Because of his advanced age, he told David

4. What will we learn in this article?

5, 6. How did Barzillai manifest modesty?

that he did not want to become a burden to the king. So Barzillai recommended that Chimham, presumably one of his sons, take his place.—2 Sam. 19:31-37.

⁶ Modesty helped Barzillai to make a reasonable decision. He did not turn down David's invitation because he felt inadequate to shoulder responsibility or because he wanted to enjoy a quiet life in retirement. He simply recognized and accepted his changing circumstances and his limitations. He did not want to take on more than he reasonably could. (Read Galatians 6:4, 5.) If we focus on position, prominence, or recognition, it only provides a breeding ground for egotism, competition, and eventual disappointment. (Gal. 5:26) Modesty, however, helps all to focus their collective abilities and efforts on bringing glory to God and doing what is best to help others.—1 Cor. 10:31.

⁷ Greater responsibility often comes with greater authority, and that can test our modesty. When Nehemiah heard about the plight of the people in Jerusalem, he fervently prayed to Jehovah. (Neh. 1:4, 11) Jehovah's blessing came when

7, 8. How can modesty help us to avoid becoming self-reliant?

King Artaxerxes appointed Nehemiah governor of the region. Yet, despite his prominent position, personal wealth, and considerable authority, Nehemiah never relied on his own experience or abilities. He kept walking with God. He continually sought Jehovah's direction by consulting God's Law. (Neh. 8:1, 8, 9) Nehemiah did not domineer over others; rather, he served them at his own expense.—Neh. 5:14-19.

⁸ Nehemiah's example demonstrates how modesty can help us to keep from becoming self-reliant when we receive a change of assignment or additional responsibility. Relying just on his own experience, an elder could begin to care for congregation matters without first approaching Jehovah in prayer. Others might make a decision first and then pray for Jehovah to bless their decision. Is that being modest, however? A modest person will always remember his place before God and his role in God's arrangement. Our abilities are not the important thing. Especially when we are faced with a familiar situation or problem, we have to be careful not to rely on ourselves. (Read Proverbs 3:5, 6.) As members of God's household, we learn to think in terms of fulfilling roles in a family or

as part of a congregation rather than achieving a rank or climbing a corporate ladder.—1 Tim. 3:15.

RECEIVING CRITICISM OR PRAISE

⁹ It can be hard to control our feelings when we have to put up with unfair criticism. Hannah often cried because Peninnah, her rival, relentlessly taunted her. Hannah’s husband loved her, but she was barren. Later, when she was praying at the tabernacle, High Priest Eli mistakenly accused her of being drunk. Imagine that! Yet, despite all of this, modest Hannah kept herself restrained and was respectful in her response to Eli. Her touching prayer is preserved in the Bible. It is full of expressions of faith, praise, and appreciation.—1 Sam. 1:5-7, 12-16; 2:1-10.

¹⁰ Modesty can also help us to “keep conquering the evil with the good.” (Rom. 12:21) Life in Satan’s system is often unfair, and we need to fight against becoming incensed by the conduct of evildoers. (Ps. 37:1) When problems arise between spiritual brothers or sisters, the pain can be much deeper. A modest person will imitate Jesus. “When he was being insulted,” the Bible says,

9, 10. How can modesty help us to cope with unfair criticism?

“he did not insult in return . . . , but he entrusted himself to the One who judges righteously.” (1 Pet. 2:23) Jesus knew that vengeance belongs to Jehovah. (Rom. 12:19) Christians are likewise admonished to be humble and not to “pay back injury for injury.”—1 Pet. 3:8, 9.

¹¹ Excessive flattery or praise can test our modesty as well. Consider Esther’s excellent response to a surprising turn of events. She was strikingly beautiful and was pampered with luxurious treatments for a year. She was in daily association with many young women from all over the Persian Empire who were competing for the attention of the king. Yet, she remained respectful and composed. She did not become vain or immodest even after the king selected her to be his queen.—Esther 2:9, 12, 15, 17.

¹² Modesty helps us always to dress, groom, and comport ourselves in a decent and respectable manner. We realize that we win people’s hearts, not by boasting or drawing undue attention to ourselves, but by displaying a “quiet and mild

11, 12. (a) How can modesty help us to deal with flattery or excessive praise? (b) How should modesty govern our choice of dress and grooming as well as our behavior?



Does our dress and grooming show respect for Jehovah and others, or does it show a lack of modesty?

(See paragraph 12)

spirit.” (Read 1 Peter 3:3, 4; Jer. 9:23, 24) Vain sentiments in our hearts will eventually show up in our actions. We might drop hints, for example, implying that we enjoy special privileges, possess inside information, or have special relationships with responsible brothers. Or we might explain things in such a way that only we get the credit for ideas or accomplishments that others also contributed to. Again, Jesus set a wonderful example. A good portion of what he said was either a quotation from or an allusion to the Hebrew

Scriptures. He modestly spoke that way so that his hearers would know that what he said was coming from Jehovah and was not the product of his own intellect or wisdom.—John 8:28.

COPING WITH UNCERTAINTY

¹³ Another test of our modesty might come when decisions are made. While the apostle Paul was staying in Caesarea, the prophet Agabus told him that if he continued on to Jerusalem, he would end up being arrested. He might even be killed. Fearing the worst, the brothers begged Paul not to go. However, Paul would not be dissuaded. He was neither overconfident nor paralyzed with fear. He trusted in Jehovah completely and was prepared to see his assignment through, wherever Jehovah would allow it to take him. On hearing this, the brothers modestly stopped objecting to Paul's decision to go on to Jerusalem.—Acts 21:10-14.

¹⁴ Modesty can also help us to make good decisions even when we cannot fully know or control how things will turn out. As an example, if we enter some feature of the full-time service, what will

13, 14. How can modesty help us to make better decisions?

happen to us if we get sick? What if our aging parents need our help? How will we look after ourselves in our old age? No amount of prayer or research will reveal a complete answer to questions like these. (Eccl. 8:16, 17) Our confidence in Jehovah will help us not only to acknowledge but also to accept our limitations. After doing research, consulting others, and praying for guidance, we need to take steps in the direction that God's spirit is leading us. (Read Ecclesiastes 11:4-6.) That gives Jehovah something to bless, or he can gently redirect our goals.—Prov. 16:3, 9.

CULTIVATING MODESTY

¹⁵ Since modesty has so many advantages, how can we cultivate it to an even greater degree? Let us consider four ways. First, we will develop greater modesty and reverence for Jehovah by appreciatively reflecting on his vastly superior qualities and position. (Isa. 8:13) Remember, we are walking with Almighty God, not an angel or a man. That realization will move us 'to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.'—1 Pet. 5:6.

15. How does reflecting on Jehovah help to keep us humble?

16 Second, meditating on Jehovah’s love will help us to cultivate modesty. The apostle Paul wrote that Jehovah surrounded the less honorable parts of the human body “with greater honor.” (1 Cor. 12:23, 24) Similarly, Jehovah cares for each one of us despite our limitations. He does not compare us with others or withhold his love when we make mistakes. Because of Jehovah’s love, we can feel secure wherever we serve in his household.

17 Third, appreciation for our role in Jehovah’s service will grow as we, in imitation of our God, look for the good in others. Instead of seeking the spotlight or always stepping in to take over, we will more often find ourselves modestly seeking the advice of others and yielding to their suggestions. (Prov. 13:10) We will rejoice with them when they receive privileges. And we will praise Jehovah as we see how he blesses “the entire association of [our] brothers in the world.”—1 Pet. 5:9.

18 Fourth, our personal sense of decency and re-

16. How will meditating on God’s love motivate us to be modest?

17. What effect will learning to look for the good in others have on us?

18. How can we train our conscience to have a godly sense of decency?

“Taste and See That Jehovah Is Good”

(Psalm 34:8)

1. Our service to God we cherish;
We value our priv’lege to preach.
We buy out the time and give God our best,
For many we still need to reach.

(CHORUS)

*God’s Word invites us: ‘Come taste and see—
See that Jehovah is good.’*

*Godly devotion brings greatest gain,
We know we’ve done all we could.*

2. For those in the full-time service,
Rich blessings and treasures abound.
By trusting in God to care for our needs,
In all things contentment is found.

(Chorus)

