

- Song 2 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“A Sign That Israel Would Be Restored”:** (10 min.)
 Jer 32:6-9, 15—Jehovah directed Jeremiah to buy a field as a sign that Jehovah would restore Israel (*it-1* 105 ¶2)
 Jer 32:10-12—Jeremiah followed all the proper legal procedures for the transaction (*w07* 3/15 11 ¶3)
 Jer 33:7, 8—Jehovah promised to “purify” the captives (*jr* 152 ¶22-23)
 - **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Jer 33:15—Who is the “sprout” for David? (*jr* 173 ¶10)
- Jer 33:23, 24—What “two families” are spoken of here? (*w07* 3/15 11 ¶4)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Jer 32:1-12

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.)
 Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. Encourage all to make good use of the introduction video when offering the brochure *Your Family Can Be Happy* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY).

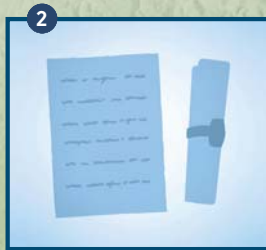
LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 42
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 67-71)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 12 ¶1-8, box on p. 121
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 7 and Prayer

JEREMIAH 32-34 | A Sign That Israel Would Be Restored

32:9-14

Jeremiah took steps to purchase the land.



33:10, 11

Jehovah demonstrated goodness by promising that captives who responded to his discipline would be forgiven and would return to Israel.

How has Jehovah demonstrated goodness to you?

• Anathoth
 • Jerusalem

Jordan River

Salt Sea

Jehovah Is Your Name

(Psalm 83:18)

F Am Dm Dm/C

The liv - ing and true God— The God of all cre - a - tion
You cause us to be - come What - ev - er you de - si - re,

Bb Bb/C F Am

In ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion— Je -
To do as you re - qui - re— Je -

Dm Dm/C Bb Dm/A Gm

ho - vah is your name. We're hon - ored and we're proud
ho - vah is your name. And Wit - ness - es for you

Gm/F Eb Bb/D

To be your con - gre - ga - tion. In
Is what you've kind - ly named us. We're

Jehovah Is Your Name

Csus4 C/Bb

ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion, Your
hon - ored you have claimed us— A

R.H.

F/A Bb Csus4 C Chorus

glo - ry we pro - claim. Je -
peo - ple for your name.

F C/E Dm Dm/C

ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, There is no God like you.

Bb F/A Gm Dm/F

There's no oth - er in the heav - ens Or

Jehovah Is Your Name

F/Eb Eb F/Eb Eb Gm

on the earth be - low. You a - lone are God Al -

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The treble staff features chords F/Eb, Eb, F/Eb, Eb, and Gm. The lyrics are "on the earth be - low. You a - lone are God Al -". The bass staff provides a melodic accompaniment.

Gm/F C/E Dm11 C

might - y, And this all men must know. Je -

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The treble staff features chords Gm/F, C/E, Dm11, and C. The lyrics are "might - y, And this all men must know. Je -". The bass staff continues the melodic accompaniment.

F Am7 Dm7 Gm7

ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, We have no oth - er

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of music. The treble staff features chords F, Am7, Dm7, and Gm7. The lyrics are "ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, We have no oth - er". The bass staff continues the melodic accompaniment.

C9sus4 F

God but you.

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth lines of music. The treble staff features chords C9sus4 and F. The lyrics are "God but you.". The bass staff continues the melodic accompaniment.

'my covenant that they broke,^a although I was their true master,"* declares Jehovah."

33 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares Jehovah. "I will put my law within them,^b and in their heart I will write it.^c And I will become their God, and they will become my people."^d

34 "And they will no longer teach each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know Jehovah!'^e for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them,"^f declares Jehovah. "For I will forgive their error, and I will no longer remember their sin."^g

35 This is what Jehovah says, Who gives the sun for light by day,
The laws* of the moon and the stars for light by night,
Who stirs up the sea and makes its waves boisterous,
Whose name is Jehovah of armies:^h

36 "If these regulations should ever fail,' declares Jehovah, 'Only then would the offspring of Israel cease as a nation before me always.'"ⁱ

37 This is what Jehovah says: "If the heavens above could be measured and the foundations of the earth below could be explored, only then could I reject all the offspring of Israel for all they have done,' declares Jehovah."^j

38 "Look! The days are coming," declares Jehovah, "when the city will be built^k to Jehovah from the Tower of Ha-nan'-el' to the Corner Gate.^m **39** And the measuring lineⁿ will go out straight ahead to the hill of

31:32 *Or possibly, "their husband."
31:35 *Or "statutes."

CHAP. 31

- a Eze 16:59
b Eze 11:19
c Heb 10:16
d Jer 24:7
Jer 30:22
e Isa 54:13
Joh 17:3
f Isa 11:9
Hab 2:14
g Jer 33:8
Jer 50:20
Mt 26:27, 28
Heb 8:10-12
Heb 9:15
Heb 10:17
h Isa 51:15
i Isa 54:10
Jer 33:20, 21
j Jer 30:11
k Ne 12:27
Isa 44:28
Jer 30:18
l Ne 3:1
Zec 14:10
m 2Ch 26:9
n Zec 1:16

Second Col.

- a 2Sa 15:23
2Ki 23:6
Joh 18:1
b Ne 3:28
c Joe 3:17

CHAP. 32

- d Jer 25:1
e Ne 3:25
Jer 33:1
Jer 38:28
f Jer 37:18, 21
g Jer 34:2, 3
Jer 37:8, 17
h 2Ki 25:6, 7
Jer 38:17, 18
Jer 39:5
Eze 12:13
i Jer 21:4
Eze 17:15
j Jos 21:8, 18
Jer 1:1
k Le 25:23, 24

Go'arb, and it will turn toward Go'ah. **40** And all the valley* of the carcasses and of ashes^a and all the terraces as far as the Kidron Valley,^a clear to the corner of the Horse Gate^b toward the east, will be something holy to Jehovah.^c It will never again be uprooted or torn down."

32 The word that came to Jeremiah from Jehovah in the 10th year of King Zed-e-ki'ah of Judah, that is, the 18th year of Neb-u-chad-nez'zar.*^d **2** At that time the armies of the king of Babylon were besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the Courtyard of the Guard^e in the house* of the king of Judah. **3** For King Zed-e-ki'ah of Judah had confined him,^f saying, "Why do you prophesy like this? You say, 'This is what Jehovah says: "I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it,"^g **4** and King Zed-e-ki'ah of Judah will not escape from the Chal-de'ans, for he will surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will speak to him face-to-face and see him eye to eye."^h **5** 'He will take Zed-e-ki'ah to Babylon, and there he will remain until I turn my attention to him,' declares Jehovah. 'Although you keep fighting against the Chal-de'ans, you will not succeed.'"ⁱ

6 Jeremiah said: "The word of Jehovah has come to me, saying, **7** 'Here Han'a-mel the son of Shal'lum your uncle* will come to you and say: "Buy for yourself my field in An'a-thoth,^j because you have the first right to repurchase it.'"^k

31:40 *Or "low plain." #Or "fatty ashes," that is, ashes soaked with the fat of the sacrifices. 32:1 *Lit., "Nebuchadrezzar," a variant spelling. 32:2 *Or "palace." 32:7 *That is, paternal uncle.

8 Han'a-mel the son of my uncle came to me, just as Jehovah had said, into the Courtyard of the Guard, and he said to me: "Please buy my field in An'a-thoth, in the land of Benjamin, for you have the right to take possession of it and to repurchase it. Buy it for yourself." At that I knew that this was by the word of Jehovah.

9 So I bought the field in An'a-thoth from Han'a-mel the son of my uncle. I weighed out the money^a to him, seven shekels* and ten silver pieces. 10 Then I recorded it in a deed,^b affixed the seal, called in witnesses,^c and weighed the money in the scales. 11 I took the deed of purchase, the one that was sealed according to the commandment and legal requirements, as well as the one that was left unsealed, 12 and I gave the deed of purchase to Bar'uch^d son of Ne-ri'ah^e son of Mah-sei'ah in the presence of Han'a-mel the son of my uncle, the witnesses who wrote in the deed of purchase, and all the Jews who were sitting in the Courtyard of the Guard.^f

13 I now commanded Bar'uch in their presence, saying: 14 "This is what Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, says, 'Take these deeds, this deed of purchase, the sealed one and the other deed left unsealed, and put them into an earthenware vessel, so that they may be kept for a long time.' 15 For this is what Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, says, 'Houses and fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.'"^g

16 Then I prayed to Jehovah after giving the deed of purchase to Bar'uch the son of Ne-ri'ah, saying: 17 "Alas, O Sovereign

CHAP. 32

a Ge 23:16

b Jer 32:44

c Ru 4:9

d Jer 36:4
Jer 36:26

e Jer 51:59

f Jer 33:1

g Am 9:14
Zec 3:10

Second Col.

a Isa 40:26
Re 4:11

b Ex 34:6, 7
Nu 14:18

c Isa 28:29

d Pr 15:3
Heb 4:13

e Ec 12:14
Jer 17:10
Ro 2:6

f Ex 7:3, 5
Ex 9:15, 16
De 4:34
2Sa 7:23
Isa 63:12

g Ex 6:1, 6
Ex 15:16
De 26:8

h Ge 13:14, 15
Ge 26:3

i Ex 3:8

j De 28:15
Jos 23:16

k De 28:52
2Ki 25:1
Jer 33:4
Eze 4:1, 2

l Le 26:31, 33

m Jer 14:12
Jer 15:2

Lord Jehovah! Look! You made the heavens and the earth by your great power^a and by your outstretched arm. Nothing is too wonderful for you, 18 the One showing loyal love to thousands, but repaying the error of the fathers to* their sons after them,^b the true God, the great and mighty One, whose name is Jehovah of armies. 19 You are great in counsel* and mighty in deed,^c you whose eyes observe all the ways of men,^d to give to each one according to his ways and according to what he does.^e 20 You have performed signs and miracles in the land of Egypt, which are known down to this day, and thus you have made a name for yourself in Israel and among mankind,^f as it is today. 21 And you brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt, with signs, with miracles, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with terrifying deeds.^g

22 "In time you gave them this land that you swore to give to their forefathers,^h a land flowing with milk and honey.ⁱ 23 And they came in and took possession of it, but they did not obey your voice or walk in your law. They did not do anything you commanded them to do, so that you caused all this calamity to befall them.^j 24 Look! Men have come with siege ramparts to capture the city,^k and because of the sword,^l the famine, and the pestilence,^m the city will certainly fall into the hands of the Chal-de'ans who are fighting against it; what you said has all happened, as you now see. 25 But you have told me, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah, 'Buy for yourself the field with money and call in witnesses,' although

32:18 *Lit., "into the bosom of." 32:19

*Or "great as regards your purposes."

32:24 *Or "disease."

32:9 *A shekel equaled 11.4 g (0.367 oz t). See App. B14.

the city will certainly be given into the hand of the Chal-de'ans."

26 At that the word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah, saying: **27** "Here I am, Jehovah, the God of all mankind.* Is there anything too wonderful for me? **28** So this is what Jehovah says, 'Here I am handing this city over to the Chal-de'ans and into the hand of King Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar* of Babylon, and he will capture it.^a **29** And the Chal-de'ans fighting against this city will come in and set this city on fire and burn it down^b along with the houses on whose roofs the people offered sacrifices to Ba'al and poured out drink offerings to other gods to offend me.^c

30 "For the people of Israel and of Judah have done only what was bad in my eyes, from their youth on;^d the people of Israel keep offending me by the work of their hands,' declares Jehovah. **31** 'For this city, from the day that they built it down to this day, has been nothing but a cause of anger and wrath to me,^e so that it must be removed from before my face,^f **32** because of all the evil that the people of Israel and of Judah have done to offend me—they, their kings,^g their princes,^h their priests, their prophets,ⁱ and the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. **33** They kept turning their backs to me, not their faces;^j although I tried to teach them again and again,* none of them would listen to receive discipline.^k **34** And they put their disgusting idols in the house that bears my name, in order to defile it.^l **35** Furthermore, they built the high places of Ba'al in the Valley of the Son of Hin'nom,^m in order to make

32:27 *Lit., "all flesh." **32:28** *Lit., "Nebuchadrezzar," a variant spelling. **32:33** *Lit., "rising up early and teaching." **32:35** *See Glossary, "Gehenna."

CHAP. 32

- a 2Ki 25:4
Jer 20:5
b 2Ki 25:9, 10
2Ch 36:17, 19
La 4:11
c Jer 7:18
Jer 19:13
Jer 44:25
d De 9:7
2Ki 17:9
e 1Ki 11:7
2Ki 21:1, 4
f 2Ki 23:27
2Ki 24:3, 4
g 1Ki 11:9, 10
2Ki 23:26
1Ch 10:13
h Eze 22:6
i Mic 3:5, 11
j 2Ch 29:6
Jer 2:27
k Jer 25:3
Jer 35:15
l 2Ki 21:1, 4
Jer 23:11
Eze 8:5, 6
m Jos 15:8, 12

Second Col.

- a 2Ch 28:1, 3
2Ch 33:1, 6
Jer 7:31
b Le 18:21
De 18:10, 12
c De 30:3
Jer 29:14
Eze 37:21
d Jer 23:3, 6
Jer 33:16
Eze 34:25
e Jer 31:33
Mic 4:5
f Eze 11:19
g De 5:29
h Isa 55:3
Isa 61:8
i Eze 39:29
j Eze 36:26
k Isa 65:19
Zep 3:17
l Isa 58:11
Jer 24:6
Am 9:15
m Jer 31:28
Zec 8:14, 15
n Eze 37:14

their sons and their daughters pass through the fire to Mo'lech,^a something that I had not commanded them^b and that had never come into my heart* to do such a detestable thing, causing Judah to sin.^c

36 "Therefore this is what Jehovah the God of Israel says concerning this city that you are saying will be given into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, **37** 'Here I will gather them together from all the lands where I dispersed them in my anger and in my wrath and in great indignation,^c and I will bring them back to this place and let them dwell in security.^d **38** And they will be my people, and I will be their God.^e **39** And I will give them one heart^f and one way so that they may always fear me, for their own good and the good of their children after them.^g **40** And I will make with them an everlasting covenant,^h that I will not turn away from doing good to them;ⁱ and I will put the fear of me in their hearts, so that they will not turn away from me.^j **41** I will exult over them to do good to them,^k and I will firmly plant them in this land,^l with all my heart and with all my soul."^m

42 "For this is what Jehovah says, 'Just as I have brought on this people all this great calamity, so I will bring on them all the goodness* that I am promising them.^m **43** And fields will again be bought in this land,ⁿ though you are saying: "It is a wasteland without man and beast, and it has been handed over to the Chal-de'ans."^o

44 "Fields will be bought with money, deeds of purchase will be recorded and sealed, and

32:35 *Or "had never entered my thoughts." **32:41** *See Glossary. **32:42** *Or "the good things."

witnesses will be called in the land of Benjamin,^a in the areas around Jerusalem, in the cities of Judah,^b in the cities of the mountainous region, in the cities of the lowland,^c and in the cities of the south, because I will bring back their captives,^d declares Jehovah.”

33 The word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah the second time, while he was still confined in the Courtyard of the Guard,^e saying: **2** “This is what Jehovah the Maker of earth says, Jehovah who formed it and firmly established it; Jehovah is his name, **3** ‘Call to me, and I will answer you and readily tell you great and incomprehensible things that you have not known.’”^f

4 “For this is what Jehovah the God of Israel says concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah that are pulled down because of the siege ramparts and the sword,^g **5** and concerning those who are coming to fight the Chal-de’ans, filling these places with the carcasses of those whom I struck down in my anger and in my wrath, those whose evil has caused me to hide my face from this city: **6** ‘Here I am bringing recuperation and health to her,^h and I will heal them and reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.’ **7** And I will bring back the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel,ⁱ and I will build them up as I did at the start.^k **8** And I will purify them from all the guilt of their sins against me,^l and I will forgive all the guilt of their sins and their transgressions against me.^m **9** And she will become to me a name of exultation, a praise, and a beauty before all the nations of the earth who will hear of all the goodness that I bestow on

CHAP. 32

- a Jer 32:10, 25
- b Jer 31:23
- c Jer 17:26
Jer 33:13
- d Ps 126:1

CHAP. 33

- e Ne 3:25
Jer 32:2
Jer 37:21
Jer 38:28
- f Isa 48:6
- g De 28:52
Jer 32:24
- h Isa 30:26
Jer 30:17
- i Isa 54:13
- j De 30:3
Jer 30:3
- k Jer 24:6
- l Isa 40:2
Zec 13:1
- m Ps 85:2
Isa 43:25
Jer 31:34
Mic 7:18

Second Col.

- a Isa 62:3, 7
- b Mic 7:17
- c Ne 6:15, 16
- d Jer 31:12
- e Zec 9:17
- f 2Ch 5:13
Ezr 3:11
Ps 106:1
Isa 12:4
Mic 7:18
- g Le 7:12
Ps 107:22
- h Isa 65:10
Jer 32:43
- i Jer 17:26
- j Jer 32:44
- k Jer 29:10
- l Isa 53:2
Zec 6:12
Re 22:16
- m Isa 11:1, 4
Jer 23:5
Heb 1:9
- n Isa 45:17

them.^a And they will be in dread and will tremble^b because of all the goodness and peace that I will bestow on her.”^c

10 “This is what Jehovah says: ‘In this place that you will say is a wasteland, without man or livestock, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or livestock, there will again be heard **11** the sound of exultation and the sound of rejoicing,^d the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those saying: ‘Give thanks to Jehovah of armies, for Jehovah is good;^e his loyal love endures forever!’”^f

“They will bring thanksgiving offerings into the house of Jehovah,^g for I will bring back the captives of the land, as at the start,’ says Jehovah.”

12 “This is what Jehovah of armies says: ‘In this wasteland, without man or livestock, and in all its cities, there will again be pastures for the shepherds to rest their flocks.’”^h

13 “‘In the cities of the mountainous region, in the cities of the lowland, in the cities of the south, in the land of Benjamin, in the areas around Jerusalem,ⁱ and in the cities of Judah,^j flocks will again pass under the hands of the one counting them,’ says Jehovah.”

14 “‘Look! The days are coming,’ declares Jehovah, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise that I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah.^k **15** In those days and at that time I will cause to sprout for David a righteous sprout,^l and he will execute justice and righteousness in the land.^m **16** In those days Judah will be savedⁿ and Jerusalem will reside

33:15 *Or “heir.”

in security.^a And this is what she will be called: Jehovah Is Our Righteousness.”^b

17 “For this is what Jehovah says: ‘There will never fail to be a man from David’s line to sit on the throne of the house of Israel,^c 18 nor will the Levitical priests ever fail to have a man stand before me to offer whole burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to offer sacrifices.”

19 And the word of Jehovah again came to Jeremiah, saying: 20 “This is what Jehovah says, ‘If you could break my covenant regarding the day and my covenant regarding the night, to prevent day and night from coming at their proper time,^d 21 only then could my covenant with my servant David be broken,^e so that he should not have a son ruling as king on his throne,^f and so also my covenant with the Levitical priests, my ministers.^g 22 Just as the army of the heavens cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring* of my servant David and the Levites who are ministering to me.”

23 And the word of Jehovah again came to Jeremiah, saying: 24 “Have you not taken note of what this people is saying, ‘Jehovah will reject the two families that he chose’? And they are treating my own people with disrespect, and they no longer regard them as a nation.

25 “This is what Jehovah says: ‘Just as surely as I have established my covenant regarding the day and the night,^h the laws* of heaven and earth,ⁱ 26 so I will never reject the offspring* of Jacob and of my servant David, so as not to take from his

CHAP. 33

a Eze 28:26

b Jer 23:6

c 2Sa 7:16, 17
1Ki 2:4
Ps 89:20, 29
Isa 9:7
Lu 1:32, 33

d Ge 1:16
Isa 54:10
Jer 31:35-37

e 2Sa 7:16, 17
2Sa 23:5
Ps 89:34, 35
Ps 132:11
Isa 55:3

f Isa 9:6
Lu 1:32, 33

g De 21:5

h Ge 1:16

i Ps 104:19
Jer 31:35, 36

Second Col.

a Eze 2:1, 70

b Isa 14:1
Jer 31:20

CHAP. 34

c 2Ki 25:1
Jer 32:2
Jer 39:1
Jer 52:4

d 2Ch 36:11
Jer 37:1

e Jer 21:10
Jer 32:28, 29
Jer 39:8

f Jer 37:17
Jer 39:5

g 2Ki 25:6, 7
Eze 12:13

h Eze 17:16

i Jer 4:5

j Mic 1:13

k Jos 15:20, 35

offspring* rulers over the descendants* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will gather back their captives^a and have pity on them.”^b

34 The word that came to Jeremiah from Jehovah, when King Neb-u-chad-nez'zar* of Babylon and all his army and all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion and all the peoples were fighting against Jerusalem and all her cities:^c

2 “This is what Jehovah the God of Israel says, ‘Go and speak to King Zed-e-ki'ah^d of Judah and tell him: “This is what Jehovah says, ‘Here I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will burn it with fire.^e 3 And you will not escape out of his hand, for you will without fail be caught and handed over to him.^f And you will see the king of Babylon eye to eye, and he will speak to you face-to-face, and you will go to Babylon.’^g

4 However, hear the word of Jehovah, O King Zed-e-ki'ah of Judah, ‘This is what Jehovah says concerning you: “You will not die by the sword. 5 In peace you will die,^h and they will make a burning ceremony for you as they did for your fathers, the former kings who were before you, and they will mourn you, ‘Alas, O master!’ for ‘I have spoken the word,’ declares Jehovah.””

6 Jeremiah the prophet then spoke all these words to King Zed-e-ki'ah of Judah in Jerusalem, 7 when the armies of the king of Babylon were fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left,ⁱ against La'chish^j and against A-ze'kah;^k for they were the only fortified cities that remained of the cities of Judah.

34:1 *Lit., “Nebuchadrezzar,” a variant spelling.

33:22, 26 *Lit., “seed.” 33:25 *Or “statutes.”

8 The word that came to Jeremiah from Jehovah after King Zed-e-ki'ah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim liberty to them,^a 9 that everyone should free his Hebrew slaves, male and female, so that no one would keep a fellow Jew as his slave. 10 So all the princes and all the people obeyed. They had entered into the covenant that everyone should free his male and female slaves and not keep them as slaves any longer. They obeyed and let them go. 11 However, they later brought back the male and female slaves whom they had freed, and they again forced them back into slavery. 12 So the word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah from Jehovah, saying:

13 "This is what Jehovah the God of Israel says, 'I made a covenant with your forefathers^b in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,^c saying: 14 "At the end of seven years, each of you should free his Hebrew brother who was sold to you and who has served you six years; you must set him free."^d But your forefathers did not listen or incline their ears to me. 15 And recently* you yourselves turned around and did what was right in my eyes by proclaiming liberty to your fellow men, and you made a covenant before me in the house that bears my name. 16 But then you turned around and profaned my name^e by bringing back your male and female slaves whom you had freed according to their desire,^{*} and you forced them back into slavery.'

17 "Therefore this is what Jehovah says: 'You have not obeyed me in proclaiming liber-

34:15 *Lit., "today." 34:16 *Or "soul."

CHAP. 34

- a Ex 21:2
- b Ex 24:7
- c Ex 13:3
- d Ex 21:2
Le 25:10
Le 25:39-42
De 15:12
- e Le 19:12

Second Col.

- a Ex 21:2
Le 25:10
- b 2Ki 25:3
Jer 21:7
- c Jer 15:2, 4
Jer 29:18
- d Ge 15:10, 17
- e De 28:26
Ps 79:2
Jer 16:4
- f 2Ki 25:6, 7
La 4:20
- g Jer 37:5
- h 2Ki 25:9, 10
Jer 32:29
Jer 39:8
- i Le 26:33
Jer 44:2

CHAP. 35

- j 2Ki 23:34
2Ch 36:5
Da 1:1
- k 2Ki 10:15
1Ch 2:55

ty, each one to his brother and to his fellow man.^a So I will now proclaim liberty to you,' declares Jehovah, 'to the sword, to pestilence,^{*} and to famine,^b and I will make you an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.^c 18 And this is what will happen to the men who violated my covenant by not carrying out the words of the covenant that they made before me when they cut the calf in two and passed between the halves,^d 19 namely, the princes of Judah, the princes of Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the halves of the calf: 20 I will hand them over to their enemies and to those seeking to take their lives,^{*} and their dead bodies will become food for the birds of the heavens and for the beasts of the earth.^e 21 And I will give King Zed-e-ki'ah of Judah and his princes into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those seeking to take their lives* and into the hand of the armies of the king of Babylon,^f who are withdrawing from against you.'^g

22 "'Here I will give the order,' declares Jehovah, 'and I will bring them back to this city, and they will fight against it and capture it and burn it with fire;^h and the cities of Judah I will make a wasteland, without an inhabitant.'ⁱ"

35 The word that came to Jeremiah from Jehovah in the days of Je-hoi'a-kim^j son of Jo-si'ah, the king of Judah, saying: 2 "Go to the house of the Re'cha-bites^k and speak with them and bring them into the house of Jehovah, into one of the dining rooms;^{*} then offer them wine to drink."

34:17 *Or "disease." 34:20, 21 *Or "seeking their souls." 35:2 *Or "the chambers."

- Song 2 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“A Sign That Israel Would Be Restored”:** (10 min.)
 Jer 32:6-9, 15—Jehovah directed Jeremiah to buy a field as a sign that Jehovah would restore Israel (*it-1* 105 ¶2)
 Jer 32:10-12—Jeremiah followed all the proper legal procedures for the transaction (*w07* 3/15 11 ¶3)
 Jer 33:7, 8—Jehovah promised to “purify” the captives (*jr* 152 ¶22-23)
 - **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Jer 33:15—Who is the “sprout” for David? (*jr* 173 ¶10)
- Jer 33:23, 24—What “two families” are spoken of here? (*w07* 3/15 11 ¶4)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Jer 32:1-12

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.)
 Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. Encourage all to make good use of the introduction video when offering the brochure *Your Family Can Be Happy* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY).

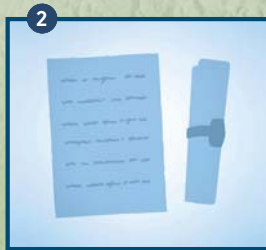
LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 42
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 67-71)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 12 ¶1-8, box on p. 121
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 7 and Prayer

JEREMIAH 32-34 | A Sign That Israel Would Be Restored

32:9-14

Jeremiah took steps to purchase the land.



33:10, 11

Jehovah demonstrated goodness by promising that captives who responded to his discipline would be forgiven and would return to Israel.

How has Jehovah demonstrated goodness to you?

• Anathoth
 • Jerusalem

Jordan River

Salt Sea

May 1-7

Treasures From God's Word

Jeremiah 32:6-9, 15—Jehovah directed Jeremiah to buy a field as a sign that Jehovah would restore Israel

Reference: it-1 105 **paragraph 2**.

Jeremiah was from Anathoth but became a ‘prophet without honor’ among his own people, as they threatened his life for speaking Jehovah’s message of truth. (**Jeremiah 1:1**; 11:21-23; 29:27) As a result, Jehovah foretold calamity for the city, and this came in due time when Babylon overran the land. (**Jeremiah 11:21-23**) Prior to Jerusalem’s fall, Jeremiah exercised his legal rights to purchase his cousin’s tract of land at Anathoth as a sign that there would be a restoration from exile. (**Jeremiah 32:7-9**) Among the first group of those returning from exile with Zerubbabel were 128 men of Anathoth; and Anathoth is included among the towns that were resettled, thus fulfilling Jeremiah’s prophecy.—**Ezra 2:23**; **Nehemiah 7:27**; 11:32.

Jeremiah 32:10-12—Jeremiah followed all the proper legal procedures for the transaction

Reference: w07 3/15 11 **paragraph 3**.

What was the purpose of making two deeds of the same transaction? The deed left open was for consultation. The sealed deed served as a backup to verify the accuracy of the open one if needed. By following reasonable legal procedures even when dealing with a relative and fellow believer, Jeremiah set an example for us.

Jeremiah 33:7, 8—Jehovah promised to “purify” the captives

Reference: jr 152 **paragraphs 22-23**.

22 When someone offends you by thoughtless words and actions, will you imitate Jehovah? Regarding the ancient Jews, God said that he would “purify” those whom he forgave. (Read Jeremiah 33:8.) He is able to purify, or cleanse, in the sense of putting behind him the error of repentant ones, giving the person a new start in His service. Granted, gaining God’s forgiveness does not mean that the person is purified of inherited imperfection so that he is now perfect, sinless. Still, there is a lesson for us in what God said about purifying humans. We can strive to put behind us the error, or offense, of the other person, which figuratively amounts to purifying the view of that person that we have in our heart. How so?

23 Imagine that you received an heirloom bowl or vase as a gift. If it became soiled or stained, would your immediate response be to throw it away? Not likely. You would probably put forth effort to clean it carefully, removing any spots or dirt and perhaps eliminating the stain. You want to behold its beauty, the way it gleams in the sunlight. In like fashion, you can work hard to get rid of any lingering rancor or feelings of annoyance toward a brother or a sister who offended you. Fight the tendency to dwell on the painful words or acts. As you succeed in putting them behind you, you purify the image and memories you have in your heart of the one whom you have forgiven. With your heart cleansed of negative thoughts toward that one, you are more open to enjoy again the close friendship that had seemed lost for good.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Jeremiah 33:15—Who is the “sprout” for David?

Reference: jr 173 **paragraph 10**.

Jeremiah depicted the coming One, the Messiah, as the “sprout” for David. That is fitting. Even while Jeremiah was serving as a prophet, David’s royal family tree was cut down. However, the stump was not dead. In time, Jesus was born in the line of King David. He could be called “Jehovah Is Our Righteousness,” highlighting God’s deep concern for that quality. (Read **Jeremiah 23:5, 6**.) Jehovah allowed his only-begotten Son to experience suffering on earth and to die. Then Jehovah—in harmony with justice—could apply the value of the ransom sacrifice of the “sprout” for David as a basis for forgiveness. (**Jeremiah 33:15**) This opened the way for some humans to be declared “righteous for life” and anointed with holy spirit, becoming parties to the new covenant. As further evidence of God’s concern for righteousness, others who are not directly in that covenant can and do benefit from it, as we will see.—**Romans 5:18**.

Jeremiah 33:23, 24—What “two families” are spoken of here?

Reference: w07 3/15 11 **paragraph 4**.

One is the royal family through the line of King David, and the other, the priestly family of the descendants of Aaron. With the destruction of Jerusalem and Jehovah’s temple, it appeared that Jehovah had rejected these two families and would no longer have a kingdom over the earth or have his worship revived.

- Song 2 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“A Sign That Israel Would Be Restored”:** (10 min.)
 Jer 32:6-9, 15—Jehovah directed Jeremiah to buy a field as a sign that Jehovah would restore Israel (*it-1* 105 ¶2)
 Jer 32:10-12—Jeremiah followed all the proper legal procedures for the transaction (*w07* 3/15 11 ¶3)
 Jer 33:7, 8—Jehovah promised to “purify” the captives (*jr* 152 ¶22-23)
 - **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Jer 33:15—Who is the “sprout” for David? (*jr* 173 ¶10)
- Jer 33:23, 24—What “two families” are spoken of here? (*w07* 3/15 11 ¶4)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Jer 32:1-12

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.)
 Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. Encourage all to make good use of the introduction video when offering the brochure *Your Family Can Be Happy* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY).

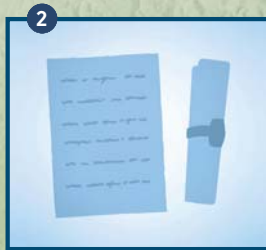
LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 42
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 67-71)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 12 ¶1-8, box on p. 121
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 7 and Prayer

JEREMIAH 32-34 | A Sign That Israel Would Be Restored

32:9-14

Jeremiah took steps to purchase the land.



33:10, 11

Jehovah demonstrated goodness by promising that captives who responded to his discipline would be forgiven and would return to Israel.

How has Jehovah demonstrated goodness to you?





Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Presentations



THE WATCHTOWER

Introduction: The ride of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse is one of the best-known scenes from the book of Revelation. Some are scared by it. Others are intrigued.

Scripture: Re 1:3

Offer: This issue of *The Watchtower* explains how the ride of the four horsemen can mean good news for us.



TEACH THE TRUTH

Question: Do you think it's possible to know what the future holds?

Scripture: Isa 46:10

Truth: God reveals the future to us through his Word, the Bible.



YOUR FAMILY CAN BE HAPPY

Introduction: We're showing this short video about the family. [Play the introduction video for *Your Family Can Be Happy*.]

Offer: If you would like to read the brochure mentioned in the video, I can give you a free copy or I can show you how to download it from the website.

BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

Question:

Scripture:

Offer:

The Prayer of God's Servant

(Ephesians 6:18)

B \flat Eb/F F7 B \flat Cm7 F7 B \flat Eb/F F \sharp $^\circ$

Al - might - y God, Je - ho - vah, our Fa - ther, May your great name be
Thank you, dear God, for each dai - ly bless - ing, Gifts from your hand— good
While in this world, we have trib - u - la - tion. We look to you for

Gm Gm/F Gm/E Ebm6 B \flat /D Cm11 F7/C B \flat F/A

sanc - ti - fied and hon - ored. All that you wish you cause to be - come.
things be - yond as - sess - ing. Source of all life, Pro - vid - er of light,
hope and con - so - la - tion. Fa - ther, we throw our bur - den on you.

B \flat Ebm B \flat /F C9/G F/A B \flat F/A

Great God, in faith we pray for your King - dom. May it come when
You give us knowl - edge, wis - dom, and in - sight. May we thank you
Give us the will and strength to con - tin - ue. Help us, please, to

Gm Gm/E Ebm6 B \flat /D Ebm F7 B \flat

you de - cree, And its bless - ings may we see.
ev - 'ry day, As we praise your lov - ing way.
do your will, And our vows to you ful - fill.

- Song 2 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“A Sign That Israel Would Be Restored”:** (10 min.)
 Jer 32:6-9, 15—Jehovah directed Jeremiah to buy a field as a sign that Jehovah would restore Israel (*it-1* 105 ¶2)
 Jer 32:10-12—Jeremiah followed all the proper legal procedures for the transaction (*w07* 3/15 11 ¶3)
 Jer 33:7, 8—Jehovah promised to “purify” the captives (*jr* 152 ¶22-23)
 - **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Jer 33:15—Who is the “sprout” for David? (*jr* 173 ¶10)
- Jer 33:23, 24—What “two families” are spoken of here? (*w07* 3/15 11 ¶4)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Jer 32:1-12

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.)
 Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. Encourage all to make good use of the introduction video when offering the brochure *Your Family Can Be Happy* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY).

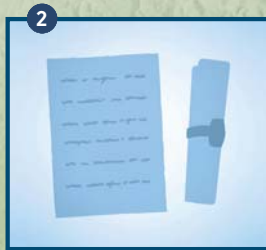
LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 42
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (*yb16* 67-71)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 12 ¶1-8, box on p. 121
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 7 and Prayer

JEREMIAH 32-34 | A Sign That Israel Would Be Restored

32:9-14

Jeremiah took steps to purchase the land.



33:10, 11

Jehovah demonstrated goodness by promising that captives who responded to his discipline would be forgiven and would return to Israel.

How has Jehovah demonstrated goodness to you?

• Anathoth
 • Jerusalem

Jordan River

Salt Sea

England: Brothers and sisters warmly welcome delegates to the international convention

her with a warm embrace. The woman reacted with surprise, so Elizabeth apologized. “I am sorry,” she said. “I thought you were a delegate!”

“A delegate for what?” asked the woman.

Elizabeth pointed to the sign on the reception desk welcoming Jehovah’s Witnesses and was pleasantly surprised by the woman’s response. “How lovely!” she said. “Do I look the part?”

In the ensuing conversation, Elizabeth found out that the woman’s name was Vivien, that she was originally from Nigeria, and that she and Elizabeth lived only a few minutes away from each other. Vivien accepted the offer of a Bible study and wanted her children to join in too. Andrew and Elizabeth contacted Vivien at home, and it was their turn to be greeted with a warm embrace. Their chance meeting in central London had clearly made a positive impression on Vivien. When Andrew and Elizabeth showed Vivien the *Bible Teach* book, she surprised them by saying that she already had a copy and was reading it with four of her children. After being told that this was the book that comes with a free home Bible study, Vivien responded excitedly, “Let’s start now!”

A Letter From a Roma Brother

In November 2014, the first Romany congregation in **Slovakia** was formed. At a recent circuit assembly, 21 Romany-speaking publishers got baptized. All were from the same village. At the Memorial, the attendance



Slovakia: Two Kingdom preachers happily share the good news with a Roma woman

at the Romany congregation was 495. One newly baptized brother wrote the following:

“I am of the Roma people from Žehra, Slovakia. Where I live, many white people view us as Gypsies and feel that we are dirty and that we lie and steal. When I wanted to go to church, I was told by the custodian that I didn’t belong there and should go away. After experiences like that, you can imagine my view of white people. Then Jehovah’s Witnesses invited me to the Kingdom Hall. I went with great suspicion, expecting to be disappointed again. I was surprised that even before entering the Kingdom Hall, a white man shook my hand and warmly welcomed me. During the public talk, I wasn’t able to pay attention. I could only think, ‘How is it possible that everyone is so nice to me?’

“That night, I couldn’t sleep at all because I kept thinking about what had happened at the Kingdom Hall. So I decided to go again to find out if the kindness I had been shown was just a coincidence. That time, the people there were even nicer and treated me like an old friend. I never stopped attending the meetings, and I eventually got baptized. After my baptism, the kindness of the brothers never changed, and they continue to show that they value me. At times, they even share with me better food than they themselves eat! I always want to be part of this organization, and Jehovah is the God I want to serve forever.”

A Prayer to Share the Good News Is Answered

A sister named Aysel was traveling by bus from the town of Ganja to Baku in **Azerbaijan**. She prayed to Jehovah, expressing her desire to talk to someone about the Bible on the way. Although Aysel already had an

assigned seat on the bus, a woman insisted that Aysel sit next to her instead. Aysel began talking with the woman and was eventually able to steer the conversation toward the Bible. The woman explained that she loved Jesus and wanted to know more about him. Aysel and the woman exchanged phone numbers and agreed to meet again. The woman asked Aysel to bring her a Bible if possible.

After Aysel returned to Ganja, she visited the interested woman at her workplace. The woman mentioned that she has a “prayer book” that she reads every day. Our sister was surprised to find out that the so-called prayer book was actually the booklet *Examining the Scriptures Daily* from 2013! A Bible study was started, and Aysel was delighted that Jehovah gave her the courage to witness informally.

A Letter of Thanks From a Prison Inmate

From **Spain** comes the following letter:

“First of all, I’d like to thank you for the effort you are making to reach all sorts of people with the Bible’s message.

“The first time I had contact with Jehovah’s Witnesses was 15 years ago in Tiranë, Albania. I was surprised that a Witness had the courage to approach us, because we were a gang of ten youngsters. Nobody dared to talk to us, yet that brother did so despite our weapons. He fearlessly spoke to us about the Bible. His courage impressed me a lot.

“Four years ago here in Spain, a Witness visited me in prison and offered me a Bible study. I accepted, and since then I have changed for the better. I am no longer

a violent, aggressive man. It's been years since I last got into trouble. I have come to know Jehovah, and this has given purpose to my life. I try to live in peace with people around me, and I have been serving as an unbaptized publisher for over a year.

“Although I have been in prison for 12 years now, during the past 4 years, I have experienced happiness and peace of mind that I never felt before. I thank Jehovah for this every day.

“Some weeks ago I watched some videos on jw.org. The video about a brother who had been in prison in the United States really moved me. I am not an emotional man, but when I saw the changes he had made in his life, I could not hold back my tears.

“May Jehovah keep on blessing your efforts to reach all sorts of people by translating the good news into so many languages and also by visiting those of us who are in penitentiaries.

“Thank you very much.”

Spain: A prisoner could not hold back his tears when he watched the jw.org video *From Prison to Prosperity*



12

Organized to Serve “the God of Peace”

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

Jehovah progressively organizes his people

1, 2. What change did *Zion’s Watch Tower* undergo in January 1895, and how did the brothers react?

3, 4. What problem was addressed in the *Watch Tower* of November 15, 1895, and what far-reaching change was announced?

WHEN zealous Bible Student John A. Bohnet received his copy of *Zion’s Watch Tower* of January 1895, he was thrilled by what he saw. The magazine had a bold new cover—an illustration of a lighthouse towering over a stormy sea, sweeping its beams of light across a dark sky. The announcement in the magazine about the new design was entitled “Our New Dress.”

² Impressed, Brother Bohnet sent a letter to Brother Russell. “Glad to see the TOWER out on Dress Parade,” he wrote. “It looks nice.” Another faithful Bible Student, John H. Brown, wrote about the cover: “It is very striking. How firm a foundation the tower stands upon, while those waves and storms beat upon it.” That new cover was the first change our brothers saw that year—but it was not the last. In November they learned of yet another major change. Significantly, again it involved a stormy sea.

³ An extensive article published in the *Watch Tower* of November 15, 1895, laid bare a problem: Stormy waves of trouble were disrupting the peace in the association, or organization, of Bible Students. Brothers increasingly argued about who should be the leader in the local congregation. To help the brothers see what was needed to correct that divisive spirit of rivalry, the article compared the organization to a ship. Then it candidly admitted that those taking the lead had failed to prepare the shiplike organization for stormy weather. What had to be done?

⁴ The article noted that a capable captain makes sure that life preservers are aboard and that the crew is ready to batten down the hatches when a storm is coming. Similarly, those leading the organization needed to make sure that all congregations were prepared to handle stormy conditions. To accomplish that, the article announced a far-reaching change. It directed that starting immediately, “in

every company, elders be chosen” to “take the oversight of the flock.”—Acts 20:28.

5 That first elder arrangement signified a timely step forward in establishing a stable congregation structure. It helped our brothers to navigate through the raging waves stirred up by World War I. In the decades that followed, further organizational improvements helped God’s people to become better equipped to serve Jehovah. What Bible prophecy foretold this development? What organizational changes have you witnessed? How have you benefited from them?

“I Will Appoint Peace as Your Overseers”

6 As we considered in Chapter 9, Isaiah foretold that Jehovah would bless his people with an increase in numbers. (Isa. 60:22) However, Jehovah promised to do even more. In the same prophecy, he stated: “Instead of the copper I will bring in gold, and instead of the iron I will bring in silver, instead of the wood, copper, and instead of the stones, iron; and I will appoint peace as your overseers and righteousness as your task assigners.” (Isa. 60:17) What does that prophecy mean? How does it apply to us today?

7 Isaiah’s prophecy states that one material would be replaced by another. But note that the replacements are changes, not from bad to good, but from good to better. Replacing copper with gold is an improvement, and the same is true of the other materials here mentioned. Thus, with this word picture, Jehovah foretold that the condition of his people would improve step-by-step. To what sort of improvement does the prophecy refer? By mentioning “overseers” and “task assigners,” Jehovah indicated that gradual improvements would come in the way his people were cared for and organized.

8 Who causes this organizational progress? Jehovah states: “I will bring in gold, . . . I will bring in silver, . . . and I will appoint peace.” Indeed, improvements in congregation organization have been brought about, not by human efforts, but by Jehovah himself. And ever since Jesus was installed as King, Jehovah has brought about these improvements by means of his Son. How do we benefit from these changes? The same scripture states that these improvements will result in “peace” and “righteousness.” As we accept God’s guidance and make adjustments, peace prevails among us and love of righteousness moves us to serve Jehovah, whom the apostle Paul described as “the God of peace.”—Phil. 4:9.

5. (a) Why was the first elder arrangement a timely step forward? (b) What questions will we consider?

6, 7. (a) What is the meaning of Isaiah 60:17? (b) What does the mention of “overseers” and “task assigners” indicate?

8. (a) The improvements mentioned in Isaiah’s prophecy are caused by whom? (b) How do we benefit from the improvements? (See also the box “He Humbly Accepted Correction.”)

The replacements are changes, not from bad to good, but from good to better

HE HUMBLY ACCEPTED CORRECTION

THE Finnish edition of *The Watch Tower* of April 1, 1916, contained a letter from Brother Russell directed to a few brothers in Scandinavia, including Brother Kaarlo Harteva. Brother Russell wrote to them: “We encourage all of you, dear brothers in the faith, to return to the truth and the work that belongs to this era.” Why did Brother Russell make this appeal?

Brother Harteva, who was born in 1882, was one of the first Bible Students in Finland. He was baptized in April 1910, and in the summer of 1912, Brother Russell authorized him to publish *The Watch Tower* in Finnish. All went well until World War I broke out. Brother Harteva wrote in the December 1, 1914, issue of *The Watch Tower*: “Because of the difficult economic situation, . . . we cannot promise that *The Watch Tower* will have the same number of pages or will be published as often this year.” However, in 1915, to raise funds, Brother Harteva and others founded a cooperative association called Ararat, which began to publish a magazine by that name.

As Brother Harteva focused his attention on the new association and the new magazine, another brother began to serve as editor of the Finnish *Watch Tower*. *Ararat* magazine published Biblical articles but also articles on such topics as natural cures and the newly invented language Esperanto. Before long, the new magazine distracted the brothers from the clear teachings of truth. At that point, Brother Russell, out of concern for their spiritual welfare, appealed to Brother Harteva and others to “return to the truth.”

How did Brother Harteva react? He published Brother Russell’s letter in *Ararat* magazine, together with his own reply. Brother Harteva



Kaarlo Harteva

apologized for his actions and stated: “If I may correct the matter, I want to do what I can.” Shortly thereafter, in the last issue of *Ararat* magazine, Brother Harteva again apologized for the confusion he had caused and added: “I will try to be more careful with regard to every aspect of the present truth.” Unlike some of the proud elected elders of those days, Kaarlo Harteva humbly accepted correction.

Later, Brother Harteva was again appointed as the editor of *The Watch Tower* in Finnish and as branch overseer. He continued to take care of those responsibilities until 1950. He finished his earthly course in 1957, faithful to Jehovah and to the truth. Indeed, those who humbly accept correction from their King, Jesus, are refined and receive Jehovah’s blessing.

Jehovah, Our Strength

(Isaiah 12:2)

C G/B C G7/D C/G G C C° C

Gra - cious Je - ho - vah, our strength and our might,
 We who now serve you re - joice in your light;
 Glad - ly, O God, we keep do - ing your will.

G7 C/G G C G/B Am G/D C/D D G

You are our Sav - ior, in you we de - light.
 Eyes that are o - pened now see truth and right.
 Though Sa - tan mocks us, we're trust - ing you still.

C G/B C G7/D C/G E7/G# Am E7/G# Am

We are your Wit - ness - es bear - ing your news,
 Search - ing the Scrip - tures, we hear your com - mand;
 Though he may slay us, oh, help us to be

E/B Am/C G/D B7/D# Em A7 D7 G Chorus G7

Wheth - er men hear or they proud - ly re - fuse.
 Mak - ing our choice, for your King - dom we stand. Je -
 Firm to the end for your grand Sov - 'reign - ty.

Jehovah, Our Strength

C F/C C C/E F C/E F C

ho - vah, our Rock, Our strength and our might,

This system of musical notation features a treble and bass clef. The treble clef staff contains a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, F4, E4, and D4. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with notes G2, A2, B2, C3, G2, F2, E2, and D2. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff.

G B° Am/C E7/B Am G/D D7 G

Your name we make known Both day and night.

This system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble clef staff notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, F4, E4, and D4. The bass clef staff notes are G2, A2, B2, C3, G2, F2, E2, and D2. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff.

C G7/F C/E G7/D C G/F C/E G7/D C F

Glo - rious Je - ho - vah, Al - might - y in pow'r,

This system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble clef staff notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, F4, E4, and D4. The bass clef staff notes are G2, A2, B2, C3, G2, F2, E2, and D2. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff.

F#° C/G C#° Dm C/G G C

You are our hid - ing place; You are our Tow'r.

This system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble clef staff notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, F4, E4, and D4. The bass clef staff notes are G2, A2, B2, C3, G2, F2, E2, and D2. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff.

(See also 2 Sam. 22:3; Ps. 18:2; Isa. 43:12.)

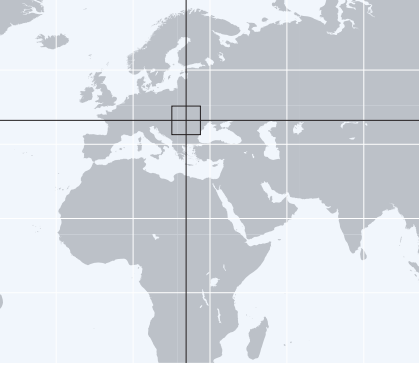
MARCH 2017

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
MAY 1-28, 2017



COVER IMAGE:
ROMANIA

This elder and his wife find that Sunday after the meeting is a good time to reach sheeplike people in northern Romania. These include two neighbors who are combing the wool from literal sheep in that area.

PUBLISHERS
40,575

BIBLE STUDIES
25,623

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2015)
78,300

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 LIFE STORY I Have Benefited From Walking With Wise Ones

8 WEEK OF MAY 1-7 Give Honor to Whom It Is Due

Christians need to have a balanced view of how to show respect and honor. To whom is honor due? Why? This article will help us to answer those questions, and it also highlights the benefits of rendering honor to those to whom it is due.

13 WEEK OF MAY 8-14 Exercise Faith—Decide Wisely!

According to the Bible, we should not be unsteady, unable to decide. But why do we need to make wise decisions? What will help us to do so? And should we at times change a decision that we have made? This article will help us to answer those questions.

18 WEEK OF MAY 15-21 Serve Jehovah With a Complete Heart!

23 WEEK OF MAY 22-28 Will You Apply Your Heart to the Things Written?

Being imperfect, all of us make mistakes. However, does that mean we cannot please Jehovah? In these two articles, we will discuss the examples of four kings of Judah and the mistakes they made, some of which were very serious. Yet, Jehovah viewed those kings as having a complete heart. Will God view us as having a complete heart, despite mistakes we make?

28 Being a Friend When Friendship Is in Danger

32 A Bible Name on an Ancient Jar

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

To make a donation, please visit www.jw.org.



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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 5 March 2017 is published monthly with an additional issue published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2016 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

March 2017

Vol. 138, No. 5 ENGLISH

Praise Jehovah Our God!

(Psalm 145:12)

G7 C G7/D C/E G7 C F C/E G7

Praise our God! Praise our God!
 Sing it loud and clear!
 Jehovah and God!
 Make his name
 With a

C C/E Am D7 G Dm7 G7 F/A G7/B C C#°

glo - rious name known to all!
 joy - ful song, laud his name!
 Sound a - larm,
 From the heart,
 For his
 From a

G7/D Dm/C G7/B G9/F G9+5/F C/E Am7 Dm7 G7 G7sus4

day is near, Help all peo - ple hear his warn - ing
 grate - ful heart, All his glo - ry bold - ly we pro -

C D7 G C D/C G/B D G G/B C

call. Je - ho - vah de - creed that now is the time For his
 claim. Though grand is our God and great are his works, He is

Praise Jehovah Our God!

G C D/C G/B G D Em11 D/F# D7 G C D/C G/B D

First - born to rule as King. Reach out to all peo - ple,
 hum - ble and good to all. Our mer - ci - ful Fa - ther

G G/F C/E Cm/Eb G/D Em7 A7 D7

tell them the news, Tell what bless - ings our God will
 knows what we need; He re - sponds when he hears our

Chorus
 G G7 C G7/D C/E G7 C F C/E D#°

bring! Praise our God! Praise Je - ho - vah God! Make his
 call.

C/E Am7 Dm7 F/G G7 C

great - ness known in all the earth!

(See also Ps. 89:27; 105:1; Jer. 33:11.)



Give Honor to Whom It Is Due

“To the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever.”—REV. 5:13.

SONGS: 10, 16

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

Why do Jehovah and Christ deserve to be honored?

What humans are deserving of honor, and why?

What are some benefits of giving honor to those to whom it is due?

TO HONOR someone means to show him special attention as well as respect. Reasonably, we would expect that a person who is worthy of such attention and respect has done something to merit honor or that he serves in a special position. So we might well ask, Whom should we honor, and why is such honor merited?

² As Revelation 5:13 indicates, “the One sitting on the throne and . . . the Lamb” surely deserve to be honored. We note in chapter 4 of the same Bible book one reason why Jehovah deserves to be honored. Exalted creatures in the heavenly realm lift their voices in praise to Jehovah, “the One who lives forever and ever.” They declare: “You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and be-

1. Why might some individuals deserve to be honored, and what will we now discuss?

2, 3. (a) Why is Jehovah especially worthy of honor? (See opening picture.) (b) At Revelation 5:13, who is the Lamb, and why is he worthy of honor?

cause of your will they came into existence and were created.”—Rev. 4:9-11.

³ The Lamb is Jesus Christ, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) The Bible tells us that he is far superior to all men who are or have been kings. It explains: “He is the King of those who rule as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords, the one alone having immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see.” (1 Tim. 6:14-16) Indeed, what other king has ever voluntarily died as a ransom for our sins? Do you not feel moved to join with myriads of heavenly creatures in proclaiming: “The Lamb who was slaughtered is worthy to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.”—Rev. 5:12.

⁴ Honoring Jehovah and Christ is not optional. Our everlasting life depends on our doing so. Jesus’ words that we read at John 5:22, 23 help us to see that plainly: “The Father judges no one at all, but he has entrusted all the judging to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.”—**Read Psalm 2:11, 12.**

⁵ Humans were created “in God’s image.” (Gen. 1:27) Thus, most of them exhibit some godly qualities, though to differing degrees. Humans are capable of showing one another love, kindness, and compassion. Having been creat-

4. Why is honoring Jehovah and Christ not optional?

5. Why should we show a measure of honor and respect to people in general?

ed with a conscience, people normally have an inborn sense—albeit at times inaccurate or distorted—that alerts them to what is right or wrong, honest or dishonest, appropriate or inappropriate. (Rom. 2:14, 15) Most people are drawn to things that are clean and beautiful. Generally, they want to live with others in peace. Whether they realize it or not, they reflect to some extent Jehovah’s glory, and for this reason, they deserve a measure of honor and respect.—Ps. 8:5.

PROPER BALANCE IN RENDERING OTHERS HONOR

⁶ Balance is needed in determining what kind of honor should be rendered to other humans and to what extent. Most imperfect humans are strongly influenced by the spirit of Satan’s world. That is why people tend to *idolize* certain men or women rather than just show them appropriate honor and respect. They place religious and political leaders, sports figures, entertainment stars, and other celebrities on pedestals, often considering them to be almost superhuman. Hence, young and old alike look to them as role models, perhaps imitating their mannerisms, dress, or conduct.

⁷ True Christians refrain from such a distorted view of honoring humans. Christ is the only human who ever lived whom we can consider a perfect role model. (1 Pet. 2:21) God would not be pleased if we extended to humans more honor than they are due. We need to bear in mind this basic truth: “All have

6, 7. In the matter of rendering humans honor, how do Jehovah’s Witnesses differ from many people?

sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23) Truly, no human warrants the kind of honor that borders on idolatry.

⁸ In the secular realm, some individuals serve in positions of authority. Government officials are expected to maintain law and order and to care for the needs of their citizens. This brings benefits to all. Accordingly, the apostle Paul advised Christians to view such human governmental authorities as “superior authorities” to whom Christians should be in subjection. He instructed them: “Render to all their dues: to the one who calls for the tax, the tax; . . . to the one who calls for honor, such honor.”—Rom. 13:1, 7.

⁹ Fittingly, Jehovah’s Witnesses willingly render honor to public servants, even as it may be expected and as may be customary in the land. We cooperate with them as they perform their duties. Of course, our honor and support have reasonable, Scriptural limits. We cannot go to the point of disobeying God or violating our Christian neutrality.—**Read 1 Peter 2:13-17.**

¹⁰ Jehovah’s servants in the past set the pattern in their relationship with governments and officials. When the Roman Empire called on people to participate in a census, Joseph and Mary complied. They traveled to Bethlehem despite the fact that Mary was soon to give birth to her first child. (Luke 2:1-5) Later, when Paul was accused of wrong-

doing, he respectfully defended himself and showed proper honor to King Herod Agrippa and to Festus, governor of the Roman province of Judea.—Acts 25:1-12; 26:1-3.

¹¹ However, Jehovah’s Witnesses refrain from treating religious leaders as ones who merit extraordinary honor, even though those leaders may expect it. False religion misrepresents God and distorts the teachings of his Word. Thus, we show religious leaders regard as fellow humans, but we do not show them special honor. We recall that Jesus denounced such men of his day as hypocrites and blind guides. (Matt. 23: 23, 24) In contrast, our showing government officials due respect and honor can at times have positive, even unexpected, results.

¹² Leopold Engleitner was a zealous Witness from Austria whom the Nazis arrested and sent by train to Buchenwald concentration camp. Dr. Heinrich Gleissner was a prisoner on the same train. He had been an Austrian politician. However, he was out of favor with the Nazis. On the trip to the camp, Brother Engleitner respectfully explained his beliefs to Gleissner, who listened carefully. After the second world war, Gleissner repeatedly used his influence to help the Witnesses in Austria. You may recall other examples of the good that can come about when Witnesses manifest appropriate respect for public officials, rendering them the honor that the Bible says Christians should give them.

8, 9. (a) How do Jehovah’s Witnesses view government officials? (b) To what extent is it proper to support officials?

10. How did servants of Jehovah in the past set the pattern in their relationship with secular governments and officials?

11, 12. (a) Why do we make a distinction between government officials and religious leaders? (b) What good resulted when an Austrian Witness showed a politician honor?

OTHERS WHO MERIT HONOR

¹³ Those related to us in the faith certainly merit honor and respect. This is especially true of the elders who are taking the lead. (**Read 1 Timothy 5:17.**) We honor these brothers regardless of their nationality, education, social standing, or financial status. The Bible refers to them as “gifts in men,” and they are a key part of God’s arrangement to care for the needs of his people. (Eph. 4: 8) Think of congregation elders, circuit overseers, Branch Committee members, and the members of the Governing Body. Our brothers and sisters in the first century had high regard for those appointed to take the lead, and we feel similarly today. We do not idolize well-known representatives of the Christian congregation or react in their presence as if angels were standing nearby. Still, we do respect and honor such brothers for their hard work and humility.—**Read 2 Corinthians 1:24; Revelation 19:10.**

¹⁴ Such elders are recognized as humble spiritual shepherds. As evidence of

13. Who are especially worthy of being respected and honored, and why?

14, 15. Contrast genuine Christian shepherds with those who only claim to be such.

their humility, they refuse to let themselves be treated as celebrities. In this they differ from many modern-day religious leaders and from those of the first century about whom Jesus said: “They like the most prominent place at evening meals and the front seats in the synagogues and the greetings in the market-places.”—Matt. 23:6, 7.

¹⁵ Genuine Christian shepherds humbly obey Jesus’ words: “Do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your Teacher, and all of you are brothers. Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One. Neither be called leaders, for your Leader is one, the Christ. But the greatest one among you must be your minister. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matt. 23:8-12) You can thus understand why elders in congregations around the globe earn their fellow Witnesses’ love, respect, and honor.

¹⁶ Admittedly, it may take time for us to achieve proper balance in regard to how and to whom we render honor. This

16. Why should you continue to work to understand and apply what the Bible tells us about showing honor?



As they serve with humility, elders earn love, respect, and honor
(See paragraphs 13-15)

was also true of the early Christians. (Acts 10:22-26; 3 John 9, 10) But it is definitely worth our effort to put into practice what the Bible indicates about rendering honor. Achieving proper balance brings many benefits.

BENEFITS OF RENDERING PROPER HONOR

¹⁷ As we respect and show honor to those who are in positions of secular authority, it is more likely that they will defend our right to preach without interference. Often, the result is that our activity is seen in a positive way. Several years ago, Birgit, a pioneer in Germany, attended her daughter's school graduation. The teachers told Birgit that it had been a pleasure to work with Witness children over the years. They said that it would be a shame if they had no Witness children in their school. Birgit explained, "Our children are taught to follow God's standards of conduct, and this includes showing respect for teachers and honoring them." One teacher said, "If all children were like yours, teaching would be like paradise." Several weeks later, one of the teachers attended a convention in Leipzig.

¹⁸ Rendering proper honor to congregation elders is, of course, to be guided by the perfect and wise principles found in God's Word. **(Read Hebrews 13:7, 17.)** We can and should commend them for their hard work and strive to cooperate with directions that they provide. Our doing that may help them to continue carrying out their duties with joy. But

17. What are some benefits of showing honor to those in positions of authority?

18, 19. Why is rendering proper honor to elders a concern?

this does not mean that we try to copy a "prominent" elder in the exact way he dresses and grooms himself, his manner of public speaking, or even his style of conversation. Were we to do so, it could give the wrong impression. We should not forget that he too is an imperfect human. The model to follow and imitate is Christ.

¹⁹ By giving the elders appropriate honor and respect while not treating them as celebrities, we are helping them. We make it easier for them to avoid falling victim to pride, to having any feelings of superiority or self-righteousness.

²⁰ On a more personal level, showing honor to those to whom it is due keeps us from becoming self-centered. It helps us to avoid having an inflated opinion of ourselves if some honor comes our way. It also keeps us in line with Jehovah's organization, which refrains from giving humans—whether believers or unbelievers—excessive or undue honor. Moreover, it is the course of wisdom, helping us to avoid being stumbled if some human to whom we showed honor disappoints us.

²¹ The most important benefit of giving proper honor to those to whom it is due is that we thereby please God. We act as he wants us to and thus maintain integrity to him. That contributes to making a reply to any who would try to taunt him. (Prov. 27:11) The world is full of people whose sense of how to bestow honor is distorted. We are truly grateful to know how to give honor Jehovah's way.

20. How does rendering honor to others help us?

21. What is the most important benefit of giving proper honor to those to whom it is due?

16 Praise Jah for His Son, the Anointed

(Revelation 21:2)

F Bb Eb/Bb F/Bb Eb/Bb Bb F/A Gm7 Bb/F Eb Bb/F

Je - ho - vah a - noint - ed his Son To rule o - ver ev - 'ry -
Christ's broth - ers are cho - sen and called. God gives them their own new

F Fsus4/G F/A F Bb C/Bb Csus4/Bb C/Bb F/A F

one. His throne is es - tab - lished on jus - tice, That
birth. This bride class will share in the King - dom And

C C7 Gm7/D C7/E Am/C C7/Bb F/A C7/G F *Chorus* Gm Dm/F Gm/E

God's will on earth may be done. Praise Jah for his Son, the A -
bring Par - a - dise to this earth.

Dm/F Dm Eb Bb/D Cm7 Bb/D Cm11 Bb

noint - ed. Praise Je - sus, O you faith - ful sheep, Who

Praise Jah for His Son, the Anointed

E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 B \flat /D D7 Gm/D D7 Gm F/C Gm/C F/C Gm/C C7

loy - al - ly fol - low day af - ter day and all his com - mand - ments

F Fsus4 F Gm Dm/F Gm/E F/Dm Dm

keep. Praise Jah for his Son, the A - noint - ed, the

E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 B \flat /D

Rul - er of heav - en - ly fame, A - noint - ed with ex - ul -

D7 Gm/D D7 Gm E \flat m6/G \flat B \flat /F Cm/E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 F7 B \flat

ta - tion and might to hon - or God's ho - ly name.

