

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Gog of Magog Will Soon Be Destroyed”:** (10 min.)
Eze 38:2—The name Gog of Magog refers to a coalition of nations (w15 5/15 29-30)
Eze 38:14-16—Gog of Magog will attack Jehovah’s people (w12 9/15 5-6 ¶18-9)
Eze 38:21-23—Jehovah God will magnify and sanctify himself by destroying Gog of Magog (w14 11/15 27 ¶16)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Eze 36:20, 21—What is a primary reason why we must maintain fine conduct? (w02 6/15 20 ¶12)

Eze 36:33-36—How have these words been fulfilled in modern times? (w88 9/15 24 ¶11)

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) Eze 35:1-15


APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Ps 37:29—Teach the Truth.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Ge 1:28; Isa 55:11—Teach the Truth.
- **Talk:** (6 min. or less) w16.07 31-32—Theme: What Is the Meaning of the Joining Together of the Two Sticks?

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 119
- **“Cultivate Godly Qualities—Faith”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Pursue What Builds Loyalty—Faith*.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 16 ¶18-24, box on p. 178, review box on p. 181
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 87 and Prayer

EZEKIEL 35-38 | Gog of Magog Will Soon Be Destroyed

 The Bible describes the events that will occur before and after the destruction of Gog of Magog.

			
<p>Re 17:16-18</p> <p>The great tribulation will begin with the destruction of</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Eze 38:2, 11, 15</p> <p>Jehovah’s people will be attacked by</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Re 16:16</p> <p>Jehovah will destroy Gog of Magog in the war of</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Re 20:4</p> <p>Christ will begin his reign of</p> <p>_____</p>

How can I prepare spiritually for the attack of Gog of Magog?

A Victory Song

(Exodus 15:1)

1. Sing to Jehovah. His great name is highly exalted.
His proud Egyptian foes, He has cast into the sea.
Praise Jah Almighty;
Besides him there can be no other.
Jehovah is his name;
He has gained the victory.

(CHORUS)

*Jehovah God, Most High over all,
The one who is forevermore the same,
You soon will cause your enemies to fall
And sanctify your holy name.*

2. See now all nations Opposing the Sov'reign, Jehovah.
Though mightier than Pharaoh,
They too will suffer shame.
Judgment awaits them;
They cannot escape Armageddon.
Soon ev'ryone will know
That Jehovah is God's name.

(Chorus)

Ezekiel 35-38

35 The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying:
² “Son of man, turn your face toward the mountainous region of Se'ir, and prophesy against it. ³ Say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Here I am against you, O mountainous region of Se'ir, and I will stretch out my hand against you and make you a desolate wasteland. ⁴ I will turn your cities into ruins, and you will become a desolate wasteland; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah. ⁵ For you showed unrelenting hostility, and you gave the Israelites over to the sword at the time of their disaster, at the time of their final punishment.””

⁶ “‘Therefore as surely as I am alive,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘I will prepare you for bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you. Since it was blood that you hated, bloodshed will pursue you. ⁷ I will make the mountainous region of Se'ir a desolate wasteland, and I will cut off from it anyone passing through and anyone returning. ⁸ I will fill its mountains with the slain; and those slain by the sword will fall on your hills, in your valleys, and in all your streams. ⁹ I will make you a perpetual desolation, and your cities will not be inhabited; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.’”

¹⁰ “Because you said, ‘These two nations and these two lands will become mine, and we will take possession of both,’ even though Jehovah himself was there, ¹¹ ‘therefore as surely as I am alive,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘I will deal with you according to the same anger and jealousy that you displayed in your hatred toward them; and I will make myself known among them when I judge you. ¹² You will then have to know that I myself, Jehovah, have heard all the insolent things you spoke against the mountains of Israel when you said, “They have been laid desolate and have been given to us to devour.” ¹³ And you spoke arrogantly against me, and you multiplied your words against me. I heard it all.’

¹⁴ “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘The whole earth will rejoice when I will make you a desolate wasteland. ¹⁵ Just as you rejoiced when the inheritance of the house of Israel was laid desolate, that is how I will deal with you. You will become a desolate ruin, O mountainous region of Se'ir, yes, all of E'dom; and they will have to know that I am Jehovah.’”

36 “As for you, son of man, prophesy about the mountains of Israel and say, ‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of Jehovah. ² This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “The enemy has said against you, ‘Aha! Even the ancient high places have become our possession!’””

³ “So prophesy and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Because they have desolated and attacked you from every direction, so that you would become a possession of the survivors from among the nations and people keep talking about you and slandering you, ⁴ therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah! This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says to the mountains and the hills, to the streams and the valleys, to the ruins that were desolated, and to the abandoned cities that have been plundered and ridiculed by the survivors of the nations around them; ⁵ to these the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘In the fire of my zeal I will speak against the survivors of the nations and against all E'dom, those who with great rejoicing and utter scorn have claimed my land as their own possession, to take over its pastures and to plunder it.’””

⁶ “So prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains and to the hills, to the streams and to the valleys, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Look! I will speak in my zeal and in my rage, because you have borne humiliation by the nations.””

⁷ “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘I myself raise my hand in an oath that the surrounding nations will themselves bear their own shame. ⁸ But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and bear your fruitage for my people Israel,

for they will soon return. ⁹ For I am with you, and I will turn toward you, and you will be cultivated and sown with seed. ¹⁰ I will multiply your people—the whole house of Israel, all of it—and the cities will be inhabited and the ruins will be rebuilt. ¹¹ Yes, I will multiply your people and your livestock; they will increase and be fruitful. And I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly, and I will make you prosper more than in the past; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah. ¹² I will cause people—my people Israel—to walk upon you, and they will take possession of you. You will become their inheritance, and you will never again make them childless.”

¹³ “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘Because they are saying to you, “You are a land that devours people and bereaves your nations of children,”’ ¹⁴ ‘therefore, you will no longer devour people or make your nations childless,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. ¹⁵ ‘I will not subject you to any more insults of the nations or make you bear the taunts of people, and you will no longer cause your nations to stumble,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.”

¹⁶ And the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: ¹⁷ “Son of man, when the house of Israel was dwelling in their land, they made it unclean by their ways and their dealings. Their ways were like the

uncleanness of menstruation to me. ¹⁸ So I poured out my rage on them because of the blood that they had shed upon the land and because they made the land unclean with their disgusting idols. ¹⁹ So I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them among the lands. I judged them according to their way and according to their dealings. ²⁰ But when they came to those nations, people profaned my holy name by saying about them, 'These are the people of Jehovah, but they had to leave his land.' ²¹ So I will show concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they have gone."

²² "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: "Not for your sakes am I acting, O house of Israel, but for my holy name, which you profaned among the nations where you have gone.'" ²³ 'I will certainly sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the nations, which you profaned among them; and the nations will have to know that I am Jehovah,' declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, 'when I am sanctified among you before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you back from all the lands and bring you into your land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will become clean; I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your disgusting idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you. I will remove the

heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put my spirit inside you, and I will cause you to walk in my regulations, and you will observe and carry out my judicial decisions. ²⁸ Then you will dwell in the land that I gave to your forefathers, and you will be my people and I will be your God.'

²⁹ "I will save you from all your uncleanness and summon the grain and make it abound, and I will not bring famine upon you. ³⁰ I will make the fruitage of the tree and the produce of the field abound, so that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. ³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves because of your guilt and your detestable practices. ³² But know this: I am not doing this for your sakes,' declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. 'Instead, be ashamed and feel humiliated because of your ways, O house of Israel.'

³³ "This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: 'In the day that I cleanse you from all your guilt, I will cause the cities to be inhabited and the ruins to be rebuilt. ³⁴ The desolate land that was lying desolate for everyone passing by to see will be cultivated. ³⁵ And people will say: "The desolate land has become like the garden of E'den, and the cities that were in ruins and desolate and torn down are now fortified and inhabited." ³⁶ And the nations that are left remaining

around you will have to know that I myself, Jehovah, have built what was torn down, and I have planted what was desolate. I myself, Jehovah, have spoken, and I have done it.'

³⁷ "This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: 'I will also let the house of Israel ask me to do this for them: I will multiply their people like a flock. ³⁸ Like the flock of holy ones, like the flock of Jerusalem during her festivals, the cities that were in ruins will become full of flocks of people; and they will have to know that I am Jehovah.'"

37 The hand of Jehovah was upon me, and by his spirit Jehovah took me and set me down in the middle of the valley plain, and it was full of bones. ² He had me pass all around them, and I saw that there were very many bones lying in the valley plain, and they were very dry. ³ He asked me: "Son of man, can these bones come to life?" To that I said: "Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you are the one who knows." ⁴ So he said to me: "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, 'You dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah:

⁵ "This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says to these bones: "I will cause breath to enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will put sinews and flesh on you, and I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will come to life; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.'"

⁷ Then I prophesied just as I had been commanded. As soon as I prophesied, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones began to come together, bone to bone. ⁸ Then I saw sinews and flesh come on them, and skin covered over them. But there was still no breath in them.

⁹ He then said to me: “Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “From the four winds come in, O wind, and blow upon these people who were killed, so that they may come to life.”””

¹⁰ So I prophesied just as he commanded me, and breath came into them, and they began to live and to stand on their feet, an extremely large army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Here they are saying, ‘Our bones are dry, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’ ¹² So prophecy and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people, and bring you to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you will have to know that I am Jehovah when I open your graves and when I raise you up out of your graves, O my people.” ¹⁴ ‘I will put my spirit in you and you will come to life, and I will settle you on your land; and you will have to know that I myself, Jehovah, have spoken and I have done it,’ declares Jehovah.”

¹⁵ The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying:
¹⁶ “And you, son of man, take a stick and write on it, ‘For Judah and for the people of Israel who are with him.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of E'phra-im, and all the house of Israel who are with him.’ ¹⁷ Then bring them close to each other so that they become just one stick in your hand. ¹⁸ When your people say to you, ‘Will you not tell us what these things mean?’ ¹⁹ tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of E'phra-im, and the tribes of Israel who are with him, and I will join them to the stick of Judah; and I will make them one stick, and they will become one in my hand.” ²⁰ The sticks that you write on should be in your hand for them to see.

²¹ “Then tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will take the Israelites from among the nations where they have gone, and I will collect them together from every direction and bring them to their land. ²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will rule over all of them, and they will no longer be two nations; nor will they be divided any longer into two kingdoms. ²³ They will no longer defile themselves with their disgusting idols and their detestable practices and all their transgressions. I will save them from all their unfaithfulness by which they have sinned, and I will

cleanse them. They will be my people, and I myself will be their God.

²⁴ “““My servant David will be their king, and they will all have one shepherd. They will walk in my judicial decisions and carefully observe my statutes. ²⁵ They will dwell on the land that I gave to my servant, to Jacob, where your forefathers lived, and they will dwell on it forever, they and their children and their children’s children; and David my servant will be their chieftain forever.

²⁶ “““And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an eternal covenant with them. I will establish them and make them many and place my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷ My tent will be with them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸ And the nations will have to know that I, Jehovah, am sanctifying Israel when my sanctuary is in their midst forever.”””

38 The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying:
² “Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Ma'gog, the head chieftain of Me'shech and Tu'bal, and prophesy against him. ³ Say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Here I am against you, O Gog, head chieftain of Me'shech and Tu'bal. ⁴ I will turn you around and put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in splendor, a vast assembly with large

shields and bucklers, all of them wielding swords;

⁵ Persia, E-thi-o'pi-a, and Put are with them, all of them with buckler and helmet; ⁶ Go'mer and all its troops, the house of To-gar'mah from the remotest parts of the north, along with all its troops—many peoples are with you.

⁷ ““Be ready, prepare yourselves, you with all your armies that are assembled with you, and you will be their commander.

⁸ ““You will be given attention after many days. In the final part of the years you will invade the land whose people have been restored from the ravages of the sword, collected together out of many peoples onto the mountains of Israel, which had long been lying devastated. The inhabitants of this land were restored from the peoples, and all of them dwell in security.

⁹ You will come against them like a storm, and you will cover the land like clouds, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.”

¹⁰ “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘In that day thoughts will come into your heart, and you will devise an evil plan. ¹¹ You will say: “I will invade the land of unprotected settlements. I will come against those living in security, without disturbance, all of them living in settlements unprotected by walls, bars, or gates.” ¹² It will be to take much spoil and plunder, to attack the devastated places that are now inhabited

and a people regathered from the nations, who are accumulating wealth and property, those who are living in the center of the earth.

¹³ “‘She'ba and De'dan, the merchants of Tar'shish and all its warriors will say to you: “Are you invading to get much spoil and plunder? Have you assembled your armies to carry off silver and gold, to take wealth and property, to seize a very great spoil?’”

¹⁴ “So prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “On that day when my people Israel are dwelling in security, will you not know it? ¹⁵ You will come from your place, from the remotest parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly, a vast army. ¹⁶ Like clouds covering the land, you will come against my people Israel. In the final part of the days I will bring you against my land so that the nations may know me when I sanctify myself through you before their eyes, O Gog.’”

¹⁷ “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘Are you not the same one I spoke about in the former days through my servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for many years that you would be brought against them?’

¹⁸ “‘On that day, the day when Gog invades the land of Israel,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘my

great rage will flare up. ¹⁹ In my zeal, in the fire of my fury, I will speak; and in that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. ²⁰ Because of me the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the wild beasts of the field, all the reptiles that creep on the ground, and all humans on the surface of the earth will tremble, and the mountains will be thrown down, and the cliffs will fall, and every wall will collapse to the ground.'

²¹ "'I will call for a sword against him on all my mountains,' declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. 'Every man's sword will be against his own brother. ²² I will bring my judgment against him with pestilence and bloodshed; and I will rain down a torrential downpour and hailstones and fire and sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many peoples with him. ²³ And I will certainly magnify myself and sanctify myself and make myself known before the eyes of many nations; and they will have to know that I am Jehovah.'

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- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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- **“Gog of Magog Will Soon Be Destroyed”:** (10 min.)
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EZEKIEL 35-38 | Gog of Magog Will Soon Be Destroyed

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<p>Re 17:16-18</p> <p>The great tribulation will begin with the destruction of</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Eze 38:2, 11, 15</p> <p>Jehovah’s people will be attacked by</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Re 16:16</p> <p>Jehovah will destroy Gog of Magog in the war of</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Re 20:4</p> <p>Christ will begin his reign of</p> <p>_____</p>

How can I prepare spiritually for the attack of Gog of Magog?

August 21-27

Treasures From God's Word

Ezekiel 38:2—The name Gog of Magog refers to a coalition of nations

Reference: w15 5/15 29-30.

Who is Gog of Magog mentioned in the book of Ezekiel?

▪ For a number of years, our publications have explained that Gog of Magog is the name given to Satan the Devil after his ouster from heaven. This explanation was based on the fact that the book of Revelation identifies Satan the Devil as the leader of the worldwide attack on God's people. (**Revelation 12:1-17**) So it was thought that Gog must be another prophetic name for Satan.

However, that explanation raised some important questions. Why so? Consider this: When referring to the time that Gog is defeated, Jehovah says regarding Gog: "I will give you as food to all kinds of birds of prey and the wild beasts of the field." (**Ezekiel 39:4**) Then Jehovah adds: "On that day I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel . . . That is where they will bury Gog and all his hordes." (**Ezekiel 39:11**) But how could a spirit creature be eaten by "birds of prey and the wild beasts of the field"? How could Satan be given "a burial

place” on earth? The Bible clearly shows that Satan will be abysed for 1,000 years, not eaten or buried.—**Revelation 20:1, 2.**

We are told that at the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be released from the abyss, and “he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war.” (**Revelation 20:8**) But how can Satan mislead Gog if he himself is Gog? Therefore, “Gog” does not refer to Satan in either Ezekiel’s prophecy or the book of Revelation.

Who, then, is Gog of Magog? To answer that question, we need to search the Scriptures to find out who attacks God’s people. The Bible speaks not only of the attack by ‘Gog of Magog’ but also of the attack by “the king of the north” and of the attack by “the kings of the earth.” (**Ezekiel 38:2, 10-13; Daniel 11:40, 44, 45; Revelation 17:14; 19:19**) Do these represent separate attacks? Not likely. The Bible is no doubt referring to the same attack under different names. Why can we draw that conclusion? Because the Scriptures tell us that all the nations of the earth will be involved in this final attack that prompts the war of Armageddon.—**Revelation 16:14, 16.**

When we compare all these Scriptural references about the final attack on God’s people, it becomes

evident that the name Gog of Magog refers, not to Satan, but to a coalition of nations. Will this coalition be led by the figurative “king of the north”? We cannot say with any certainty. But this thought does seem to be in harmony with what Jehovah says about Gog: “You will come from your place, from the remotest parts of the *north*, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly, a vast army.”—**Ezekiel 38:6, 15.**

Similarly, the prophet Daniel, who was a contemporary of Ezekiel, says of the king of the north: “Reports out of the east and out of the north will disturb him, and he will go out in a great rage to annihilate and to devote many to destruction. And he will plant his royal tents between the grand sea and the holy mountain of Decoration; and he will come all the way to his end, and there will be no helper for him.” (**Daniel 11:44, 45**) This clearly parallels what the book of Ezekiel says about Gog’s activities.—**Ezekiel 38:8-12, 16.**

What occurs next as a result of this final attack? Daniel tells us: “During that time Michael [Jesus Christ] will stand up [at Armageddon], the great prince who is standing [since 1914] in behalf of your people. And there will occur a time of distress [the great tribulation] such as has not occurred since there came to be a nation until that time. And during that time your people

will escape, everyone who is found written down in the book.” (**Daniel 12:1**) This action on the part of God’s representative Jesus is also described at Revelation 19:11-21.

But who is referred to as “Gog and Magog” at Revelation 20:8? During the final test at the end of the 1,000 years, those who rebel against Jehovah will manifest the same murderous attitude as ‘Gog of Magog,’ those nations that attack God’s people at the end of the great tribulation. And the outcome for both groups will be exactly the same—everlasting death! (**Revelation 19:20, 21; 20:9**) It seems fitting, then, that all those rebels at the end of the Millennium be called “Gog and Magog.”

As keen students of God’s Word, we wait with eager anticipation to see who in the near future will assume the role of “the king of the north.” But no matter who may take the lead in this coalition of nations, we are certain of two things: (1) Gog of Magog and his armies will be defeated and destroyed; and (2) our reigning King, Jesus Christ, will save God’s people and usher them into a new world of peace and true security.—**Revelation 7:14-17.**

Ezekiel 38:14-16—Gog of Magog will attack Jehovah's people

Reference: w12 9/15 5-6 paragraphs 8-9.

8 After false religion has been destroyed, God's servants will still be found "dwelling in security" and "without wall." (Ezekiel 38:11, 14) What will happen to this seemingly defenseless group of people who continue to worship Jehovah? It appears that they will become the object of an all-out assault by "many peoples." God's Word describes that development as the attack by "Gog of the land of Magog." (Read Ezekiel 38:2, 15, 16.) How should we view that attack?

9 Knowing in advance about this attack on God's people does not make us overly anxious. Rather, our main concern is, not our own salvation, but the sanctification of Jehovah's name and the vindication of his sovereignty. In fact, Jehovah declared more than 60 times: "You will have to know that I am Jehovah." (Ezekiel 6:7; see footnote.) Hence, we look forward with intense interest to the fulfillment of that outstanding aspect of Ezekiel's prophecy, trusting that "Jehovah knows how to deliver people of godly devotion out of trial." (2 Peter 2:9) Meanwhile, we want to use every opportunity to strengthen our faith so that we will be able to keep our integrity to Jehovah no matter what tests we may face. What should we do?

We should pray, study God’s Word and meditate on it, and share the Kingdom message with others. By doing so, we keep our hope of everlasting life firm, like “an anchor.”—**Hebrews 6:19**; **Psalm 25:21**.

Ezekiel 38:21-23—Jehovah God will magnify and sanctify himself by destroying Gog of Magog

Reference: w14 11/15 27 **paragraph 16**.

After the destruction of Babylon the Great, there will be an all-out assault on Jehovah’s people, and at that time we will need to be under the protection that Jehovah will provide for his servants. Since this attack will trigger the final part of the “great tribulation,” it is Jehovah himself who will set the stage and choose the moment for this showdown. (**Matthew 24:21**; **Ezekiel 38:2-4**) At that time, Gog will attack “a people regathered from the nations,” Jehovah’s people. (**Ezekiel 38:10-12**) That attack will be the signal for the execution of Jehovah’s judgments against Gog and his hordes. Jehovah will magnify his sovereignty and sanctify his name, for he says: “I will certainly . . . make myself known before the eyes of many nations; and they will have to know that I am Jehovah.”—**Ezekiel 38:18-23**.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Ezekiel 36:20, 21—What is a primary reason why we must maintain fine conduct?

Reference: w02 6/15 20 **paragraph 12**.

The apostle highlighted a prime reason for learning and then applying the morality that you find in the Bible. The Jews' misconduct reflected on Jehovah: "You, who take pride in law, do you by your transgressing of the Law dishonor God? For 'the name of God is being blasphemed on account of you people among the nations.'" (**Romans 2:23, 24**) It is equally true now that if we ignore Christian morality, we dishonor its Source. Conversely, if we hold firmly to God's standards, it reflects well on him, honoring him. (Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:20) Your being aware of this can strengthen your resolve if you face temptations or situations where ignoring Christian morality might seem the easiest or most convenient way to act. Moreover, Paul's words teach us something else. Beyond being personally aware that your conduct reflects on God, as you teach others, help them to see that how they apply the moral standards that they are learning will reflect on Jehovah. It is not simply that Christian morality promotes contentment and protects one's health. It also reflects on the One who provided and encourages that morality.—Psalm 74:10; James 3:17.

Ezekiel 36:33-36—How have these words been fulfilled in modern times?

Reference: w88 9/15 24 **paragraph 11**

After a remnant returned to Judah, that desolated land was transformed into a fruitful “garden of Eden.” (Read Ezekiel 36:33-36.) Similarly, since 1919 Jehovah has transformed the once desolate estate of the anointed remnant into a fruitful spiritual paradise, now shared with the “great crowd.” Since this spiritual paradise has been populated with holy people, let each dedicated Christian work to keep it clean.—**Ezekiel 36:37, 38.**

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Gog of Magog Will Soon Be Destroyed”:** (10 min.)
Eze 38:2—The name Gog of Magog refers to a coalition of nations (w15 5/15 29-30)
Eze 38:14-16—Gog of Magog will attack Jehovah’s people (w12 9/15 5-6 ¶18-9)
Eze 38:21-23—Jehovah God will magnify and sanctify himself by destroying Gog of Magog (w14 11/15 27 ¶16)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Eze 36:20, 21—What is a primary reason why we must maintain fine conduct? (w02 6/15 20 ¶12)

Eze 36:33-36—How have these words been fulfilled in modern times? (w88 9/15 24 ¶11)

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) Eze 35:1-15


APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Ps 37:29—Teach the Truth.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Ge 1:28; Isa 55:11—Teach the Truth.
- **Talk:** (6 min. or less) w16.07 31-32—Theme: What Is the Meaning of the Joining Together of the Two Sticks?

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 119
- **“Cultivate Godly Qualities—Faith”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Pursue What Builds Loyalty—Faith*.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 16 ¶18-24, box on p. 178, review box on p. 181
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 87 and Prayer

EZEKIEL 35-38 | Gog of Magog Will Soon Be Destroyed

 The Bible describes the events that will occur before and after the destruction of Gog of Magog.

			
<p>Re 17:16-18</p> <p>The great tribulation will begin with the destruction of</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Eze 38:2, 11, 15</p> <p>Jehovah’s people will be attacked by</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Re 16:16</p> <p>Jehovah will destroy Gog of Magog in the war of</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Re 20:4</p> <p>Christ will begin his reign of</p> <p>_____</p>

How can I prepare spiritually for the attack of Gog of Magog?

Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

Talk: Theme: What Is the Meaning of the Joining Together of the Two Sticks?

Reference: w16.07 31-32.

- Jehovah gave Ezekiel a message of hope promising the unification of the nation of Israel after its being restored to the Promised Land. That message also foretells the unification of God's people that started to take place during the last days.

Jehovah told his prophet Ezekiel to write on two sticks. He was to write on one stick, "For Judah and for the people of Israel who are with him," and on the other one, "For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and all the house of Israel who are with him." The two sticks were to become "just one stick" in Ezekiel's hand.—**Ezekiel 37:15-17.**

What is represented by the term "Ephraim"? The first king of the northern ten-tribe kingdom, Jeroboam, was from the tribe of Ephraim, which had become the dominant tribe. (**Deuteronomy 33:13, 17; 1 Kings 11:26**) This tribe came from Joseph's son Ephraim. (**Numbers 1:32, 33**) Joseph had received a special blessing from his father, Jacob. Therefore, it was appropriate that the stick representing the ten-tribe kingdom be called "the

stick of Ephraim.” By the time Ezekiel recorded the prophecy about the two sticks, the northern kingdom of Israel had long since been taken captive by the Assyrians in 740 B.C.E. (**2 Kings 17:6**) Thus, the majority of those Israelites were by that time scattered throughout the Babylonian Empire, which had supplanted the Assyrian Empire.

In 607 B.C.E., the southern two-tribe kingdom and perhaps any remaining ones from the northern kingdom were taken into exile in Babylon. The kings in the line of Judah had ruled these two tribes, and the priesthood was associated with them, for the priests served at the temple in Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 11:13, 14; 34:30**) So it was fitting that the two-tribe kingdom would be represented by the stick that was “for Judah.”

When were these two symbolic sticks joined together? It was when the Israelites returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple in 537 B.C.E. Representatives of both the two-tribe kingdom and the ten-tribe kingdom returned together from exile. No longer was there a division between the sons of Israel. (**Ezekiel 37:21, 22**) Once again, the Israelites worshipped Jehovah unitedly. This reconciliation had also been foretold by the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah.—**Isaiah 11:12, 13; Jeremiah 31:1, 6, 31.**

What important truth about pure worship is highlighted by this prophecy? This: Jehovah will cause his worshippers to “become one.” (**Ezekiel 37:18, 19**) Has this promise of unity come true in our time? Yes. Initially, the prophecy began to be fulfilled in 1919 when God’s people were gradually reorganized and reunited. Satan’s attempts to divide them permanently had been thwarted.

At that time, the majority of those reunited had the hope of becoming kings and priests in heaven with Jesus. (**Revelation 20:6**) Symbolically, they were like the stick for Judah. However, as time progressed, more and more of those with an earthly hope started to join themselves to these spiritual Jews. (**Zechariah 8:23**) They were like the stick for Joseph, and they did not have the hope of ruling with Christ.

Unitedly, both groups serve together today as Jehovah’s people under one King, Jesus Christ, who is spoken of prophetically as “my servant David.” (**Ezekiel 37:24, 25**) Jesus prayed that all his followers would ‘be one, just as his Father is in union with him and he is in union with his Father.’ * (**John 17:20, 21**) Jesus also foretold that his little flock of anointed followers would “become one flock” with his “other sheep.” All of them would be under “one shepherd.” (John 10:16) How well Jesus’ words describe the spiritual unity of Jehovah’s

people today no matter what hope they have for the future!

[Footnote.] * It is interesting to note the progression that Jesus used when he told the illustrations that became part of the sign of his presence. First, he referred to “the faithful and discreet slave,” the small group of anointed brothers who would take the lead. (Matthew 24:45-47) Then, he gave illustrations that applied primarily to all those with a heavenly hope. (Matthew 25:1-30) Finally, he spoke of those with an earthly hope who would support Christ’s brothers. (Matthew 25:31-46) Similarly, the modern-day fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy points first to what would happen to those with a heavenly hope. Although the ten-tribe kingdom does not usually picture those with the earthly hope, the unification described in this prophecy does remind us of the unity that exists between those with an earthly hope and those with a heavenly hope. [End of Footnote.]

(Hebrews 10:38, 39)

1. On many occasions God spoke to men
By means of his prophets of old.
Today he is saying, 'Let all repent,'
By God's own Son we are told.

(CHORUS)

*Do we have strong faith? Is it real?
We must build such faith to survive.
Is our faith proved true by our works?
By means of faith, we'll be preserved alive.*

2. We gladly obey Christ Jesus' command
To share Kingdom truth far and wide.
We boldly declare God's message of hope;
His promise we'll never hide.

(Chorus)

3. Our faith is an anchor firm and secure;
We never will shrink back in fear.
Our trust in Jehovah helps us endure;
We know salvation is near.

(Chorus)

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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How can I prepare spiritually for the attack of Gog of Magog?

speaker himself is not important. But if he prepares well and rests all his confidence in Jehovah, he will be heard with pleasure and the hearers will learn something.”

¹⁷ In 1959, sisters were invited to enroll in the school. Sister Edna Bauer recalls hearing the announcement at the assembly she attended. “I remember the excitement it caused among the sisters,” she said. “Now their opportunities were expanded.” Over the years, many brothers and sisters seized the opportunity to enroll in the Theocratic Ministry School and be taught by Jehovah. Today, we continue to receive such training at our midweek meeting. —**Read Isaiah 54:13.**

¹⁸ **Service Meeting.** As early as 1919, meetings were held to organize field service. At the time, not all in the congregation attended those meetings—only those who were directly engaged in distributing literature. For much of the year 1923, a Service Meeting was held once a month, and all in the class, or congregation, were to attend. By **18, 19.** (a) How do we now receive practical guidance for carrying out the ministry? (b) Why do we sing at our meetings? (See the box “The Singing of the Truth.”)

“THE SINGING OF THE TRUTH”

JEHOVAH’S people love to express their devotion to him by singing *about* him and *to* him. For example, when Jehovah delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians at the Red Sea, the people expressed their gratitude and admiration in a stirring song. (Ex. 15:1-21) Later, singing became an integral part of the worship of Jehovah at the temple. (1 Chron. 23:4, 5; 25:7) In the first century, Jesus and his disciples expressed their feelings for Jehovah in songs of praise.—Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19.

Likewise, during the time since Brother Russell and his associates began rediscovering the truth, we have used numerous collections of songs in our worship of Jehovah. Explaining the important role that singing plays, the February 15, 1896, issue of the *Watch Tower* said: “The singing of the truth is a good way to get it into the heads and hearts of God’s people.”

Box on p. 178

1928, congregations were urged to hold the Service Meeting each week, and in 1935, *The Watchtower* encouraged all congregations to base the Service Meeting on information published in the *Director* (later called *Informant* and still later, *Our Kingdom Ministry*). This meeting soon became a regular feature of each congregation’s schedule.

¹⁹ Today we receive practical guidance for carrying out the ministry at our midweek meeting. (Matt. 10:5-13) If you qualify to receive a personal copy of the meeting workbook, do you study it and apply the suggestions it contains as you engage in the ministry?

The Most Important Meeting of the Year

²⁰ Jesus told his followers to commemorate his death until his arrival. Like the Passover celebration, the Memorial of Christ's death is an annual event. (1 Cor. 11:23-26) This meeting draws millions each year. It reminds the anointed of the privilege they have of being joint heirs of the Kingdom. (Rom. 8:17) And in the other sheep, it engenders deep respect for and loyalty to the King of God's Kingdom.—John 10:16.

²¹ Brother Russell and his associates recognized the importance of commemorating the Lord's Evening Meal and knew that it should be observed only once each year. The April 1880 issue of the *Watch Tower* said: "It has for several years been the custom

20-22. (a) Why do we commemorate Jesus' death? (b) What benefit do you gain from attending the Memorial each year?



Since the first century C.E.,
Christians have gathered
together annually to observe
the Memorial of Christ's death
(See paragraph 20)

of many of us here in Pittsburgh to . . . remember the Passover [Memorial] and eat the emblems of our Lord's body and blood." Conventions were soon being held in conjunction with the Memorial. The first time records were kept for such an occasion was in 1889, when 225 attended and 22 were baptized.

²² Today, we no longer observe the Memorial as part of a convention program, but we do invite all in whatever community we live in to join us at a local Kingdom Hall or rented facility. In 2013, over 19 million commemorated Jesus' death. What a privilege we have not only to attend the Memorial but also to encourage others to join us on this most sacred night! Do you enthusiastically invite as many as possible to the Memorial each year?

What Our Attitude Reveals

²³ Loyal servants of Jehovah do not view the instruction to meet together as a burden. (Heb. 10:24, 25; 1 John 5:3) King David, for example, loved going to Jehovah's house for worship. (Ps. 27:4) He especially enjoyed doing so in the company of others who loved God. (Ps. 35:18) And think of Jesus' example.

23. How do you view our meeting together?

Even while young, he felt a deep desire to be in his Father's house of worship.—Luke 2:41-49.

²⁴ When we attend meetings, we show our love for Jehovah and our desire to build up our fellow believers. We also express our longing to learn how to live as subjects of God's Kingdom, for it is primarily at our meetings, assemblies, and conventions that we receive such training. In addition, our meetings provide us with the skill and strength we need to endure in one of the most important activities being carried out by God's Kingdom today—the making and training of disciples of the King Jesus Christ. (**Read Matthew 28:19, 20.**) Without a doubt, the depth of our desire to meet together reveals just how real God's Kingdom is to us as individuals. May we always value our meetings!

24. When we attend meetings, what opportunities do we have?

How Real Is the Kingdom to You?

- Why do we meet together?
- How do you feel about the various meetings?
- What does your attitude toward meetings reveal? Explain.

Box on p. 181

Come! Be Refreshed

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. We live in a world that is wayward and lost;
The way of our God is not known.
We need sure direction to safeguard our steps;
We cannot succeed on our own.

Our meetings refresh us and brighten our hope;
They help us build faith in our God.
They move us with words that incite to fine deeds,
They give us the strength to go on.

We'll never forsake what Jehovah commands;
His will is what we want to do.
Our meetings instruct us in ways that are right;
Our love for the truth they renew.
2. Jehovah is keenly aware of our needs;
His counsel by us should be heard.
To buy out the time for occasions to meet
Shows wisdom and trust in his Word.

By wholesome instruction from God-fearing men,
We learn how our faith can be shown.
With loving support from our fam'ly of faith,
We know that we're never alone.

So as we look forward to much better times,
We'll meet with the ones whom we love.
And here at these meetings we'll learn how to live
With wisdom that comes from above.

JUNE 2017

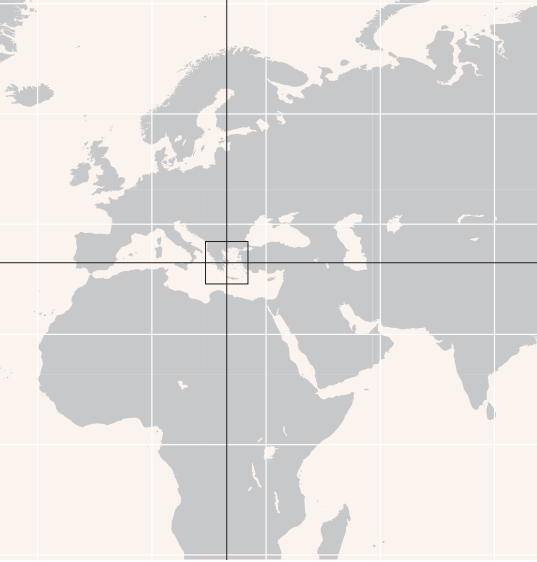
THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JULY 31–AUGUST 27, 2017

LARGE
PRINT
EDITION



COVER IMAGE:

GREECE

Greek families in the Athens area practice Kingdom songs during a Christian gathering

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Set Your Heart on Spiritual Treasures

This article will help us to apply a lesson that Jesus taught in the illustration about a merchant seeking pearls. It will also help us to analyze our personal view of the lifesaving ministry that Christians have been assigned and the truths that we have learned over the years.

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New World Translation
of the *Holy Scriptures*.

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In the rush of life, it is easy to lose sight of what is important. These articles will help us to appreciate the importance of Jehovah's sovereignty and to understand how we can uphold it.

52 Will You Resolve Conflicts and Promote Peace?

12

Great God, Jehovah

(Exodus 34:6, 7)

1. Great God, Jehovah, you are deserving,
Worthy of the highest praise,
Good and just in all your ways.
You have such power, deep love, and wisdom.
You are God to endless days.
2. Father, we feel your tender compassion.
We are dust, and still you care;
Graciously you hear our prayer.
How you sustain us, teach us, and guide us!
Help from you is always there.
3. Heaven and earth now sing of your glory.
Joyfully with voices raised,
We exalt you all our days.
Great God, Jehovah, you are deserving.
Please accept our heartfelt praise.



SONGS:
12, 150

**HOW WOULD YOU
ANSWER?**

Why is Jehovah the rightful Sovereign of the universe?

Why is Jehovah's rulership the best possible?

How can we uphold Jehovah's sovereignty now?

Uphold Jehovah's Sovereignty!

“You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things.”—REV. 4:11.

AS DISCUSSED in the preceding article, the Devil contends that Jehovah exercises his sovereignty in an unworthy way and that mankind would be better off ruling themselves. Is Satan

1, 2. Of what must each of us be convinced? (See opening picture.)

right? Suppose that humans who chose self-rule could live forever. Would they be better off without God's rulership? Would *you* be happier if you had absolute independence *and* everlasting life?

² No one can answer those questions for you. Each person should think the matter through. In doing so, it should become evident that God's sovereignty is right. It is the best rulership. And it deserves our wholehearted support. The Bible provides a basis for such conviction. Consider, for example, what the Scriptures tell us about the *rightfulness* of Jehovah's sovereignty.

JEHOVAH HAS THE RIGHT TO RULE

³ Jehovah is the rightful Sovereign of the universe because he is *the almighty God and Creator*. (1 Chron. 29:11; Acts 4:24) At Revelation 4:11, Christ's 144,000 heavenly corulers are depicted in a vision, saying: "You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they came into existence and were created." Yes, because Jehovah created all things,

3. Why is Jehovah the only rightful Sovereign?

he has full right to rule over humans as well as spirit creatures.

⁴ Satan has created nothing. Consequently, he has no rightful claim to universal rulership. In rebelling against Jehovah's sovereignty, he and the first human couple acted arrogantly. (Jer. 10: 23) True, as creatures with free will, they could choose independence from God. But did that give them the *right* to do so? No. Free will enables people to make many appropriate choices daily. However, it does not entitle them to rebel against their Creator and Life-Giver. Clearly, taking a stand against Jehovah is a *misuse* of free will. As humans, our place is under Jehovah's righteous rule.

⁵ Jehovah is the rightful Sovereign for yet another reason. He exercises his authority with *perfect justice*. He declares: "I am Jehovah, the One showing loyal love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I take delight." (Jer. 9:24) He does not look to any written code of laws made by imperfect men as a basis for determining what is just and fair. His perfect sense of justice emanates from his own being, and on that ba-

4. Why is opposing God's sovereignty a misuse of free will?

5. Why can we be sure that God's decisions are just?

sis, he provided written laws for humans. “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of [his] throne,” so we can be confident that all of his laws, principles, and decisions are righteous. (Ps. 89:14; 119:128) In contrast, despite his allegation that Jehovah’s sovereignty is deficient, Satan has been unable to produce a world wherein justice always prevails.

⁶ Moreover, Jehovah is the rightful Sovereign because he has the *knowledge and wisdom* needed to care for the universe. Consider, for example, the fact that God enabled his Son to heal diseases that doctors could not cure. (Matt. 4:23, 24; Mark 5:25-29) From Jehovah’s standpoint, this was no miracle. He understands the processes involved and has the ability to undo any damage. The same is true with regard to his ability to raise the dead and prevent natural disasters.

⁷ The world under Satan’s influence is still searching for a way to settle national and international disputes. Jehovah alone has the wisdom to bring about world peace. (Isa. 2:3, 4; 54:13) As we

6. What is one reason why Jehovah has the right to govern the world?

7. How is Jehovah’s wisdom far superior to that of the world under Satan’s dominion?

learn of Jehovah’s knowledge and wisdom, we feel as did the apostle Paul, who wrote under inspiration: “O the depth of God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How unsearchable his judgments are and beyond tracing out his ways are!”—Rom. 11:33.

JEHOVAH’S RULERSHIP IS BEST

⁸ The Bible does more than establish Jehovah’s right to rule. It shows why his sovereignty is superior to that of others. One reason is that he *rules with love*. Indeed, our hearts are touched by how he chooses to exercise his sovereignty. He is “merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and abundant in loyal love and truth.” (Ex. 34:6) God treats his human servants with dignity and respect. He cares for us better than we can care for ourselves. Contrary to what the Devil claims, Jehovah does not hold back anything good from his faithful worshippers. Why, he even gave his precious Son so that we could have the prospect of endless life! —Read Psalm 84:11; Romans 8:32.

⁹ Jehovah’s concern extends beyond the welfare of his people as a whole. He also *shows keen inter-*

8. What touches your heart about Jehovah’s way of ruling?

9. How do we know that God’s concern extends to individuals?

est in each individual. Consider, for example, the three centuries during which Jehovah was raising up and empowering judges to deliver the nation of Israel from their oppressors. During that turbulent period, he did not fail to notice one non-Israelite named Ruth. At considerable sacrifice, she converted to true worship. Jehovah blessed Ruth with a husband and a son. But that is not all. When she is resurrected, Ruth will learn that her son was part of the line that led to the Messiah. And imagine how moved she will be to discover that her life story was preserved in a Bible book bearing her name!—Ruth 4:13; Matt. 1:5, 16.

¹⁰ Jehovah's way of ruling is neither oppressive nor rigid. It *allows for freedom and promotes joy.* (2 Cor. 3:17) David expressed it this way: "In his [God's] presence are majesty and splendor; strength and joy are in his dwelling place." (1 Chron. 16:7, 27) Similarly, the psalmist Ethan wrote: "Happy are the people who know the joyful shouting. O Jehovah, they walk in the light of your face. They rejoice in your name all day long, and in your righteousness they are exalted."—Ps. 89:15, 16.

10. Why is Jehovah's sovereignty not unduly restrictive?

¹¹ Frequent meditation on Jehovah's goodness can strengthen our conviction that his rulership is best. We come to feel as did the psalmist: "A day in your courtyards is better than a thousand anywhere else!" (Ps. 84:10) How could it be otherwise? As our loving Designer and Creator, Jehovah knows what we need in order to be truly happy, and he fills that need abundantly. Whatever he requires of us is for our benefit and ultimately results in our greatest joy. That is so even if his requirements involve our making some sacrifices. —Read Isaiah 48:17.

¹² The Bible indicates that after the Thousand Year Reign of Christ, some people will choose to rebel against Jehovah's sovereignty. (Rev. 20:7, 8) What might induce them to do such a thing? The Devil, released from imprisonment and intent on misleading mankind, will no doubt appeal to selfishness. He has always done that. He may attempt to convince people that there is a way to live forever without obeying Jehovah. Of course, that could never be true. But more to the point: Will

11. How can we strengthen our conviction that Jehovah's sovereignty is best?

12. What is our primary motive for upholding Jehovah's sovereignty?

such a false claim hold any appeal for us? If we love Jehovah and serve him because of his goodness and because of his being the rightful Sovereign of the universe, then such a devilish claim will be repulsive. We will never desire life other than life under Jehovah's rightful and loving sovereignty.

LOYALLY UPHOLD GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

¹³ Surely Jehovah's sovereignty merits our wholehearted support. As we have seen, he has the right to rule, and his way of ruling is the best. We can uphold Jehovah's sovereignty by maintaining our integrity and by serving God faithfully. How else can we show our support? We can do so by doing things Jehovah's way. When we handle matters as Jehovah would, we show that we love and uphold his way of ruling.—Read Ephesians 5:1, 2.

¹⁴ We learn from our study of the Bible that Jehovah exercises authority in a loving manner. In harmony with that, family heads and elders who love his sovereignty will not be demanding, as if exercising a small sovereignty of their own.

13. How does imitating God show support for him?

14. How can elders and family heads imitate Jehovah?

Instead, they will imitate Jehovah. Paul was just such an imitator of God and his Son. (1 Cor. 11:1) Paul did not embarrass others or pressure them into taking a desired course of action. Rather, he *appealed* to them. (Rom. 12:1; Eph. 4:1; Philem. 8-10) That is Jehovah's way of handling matters. Thus, that should be the way of all who love and uphold his way of ruling.

¹⁵ What is our response to divinely authorized headship? By our respectful cooperation, we show our support for Jehovah's sovereignty. Even if we do not fully understand or agree with a decision, we will still want to support theocratic order. That is quite different from the way of the world, but it is the way of life under Jehovah's rulership. (Eph. 5:22, 23; 6:1-3; Heb. 13:17) We benefit from doing so, for God has our interests at heart.

¹⁶ We can also show our support of God's sovereignty by our personal decisions. It is not Jehovah's way to provide a specific command for every situation. Instead, in guiding us he reveals his thinking. For example, he does not provide a de-

15. How does respect for theocratic headship reveal our love for Jehovah's way of ruling?

16. How do supporters of God's sovereignty make personal decisions?



Uphold God's sovereignty in making
decisions and in family activities
(See paragraphs 16-18)

tailed dress code for Christians. Rather, he reveals his desire that we select styles of dress and grooming that show modesty and that befit Christian ministers. (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) He is also concerned that we do not stumble others or disturb them by our decisions. (1 Cor. 10:31-33) When we guide our steps, not solely by preference, but primarily

by Jehovah's thinking and concerns, we show that we love and support his way of ruling.

¹⁷ Consider an area wherein Christian married couples can support Jehovah's ways and thereby uphold his sovereignty. What if married life proves to be more challenging than expected? Suppose that it even seems disappointing. Why not pause to reflect on Jehovah's dealings with Israel. He referred to himself as being like a husband to that ancient nation. (Isa. 54:5; 62:4) What a difficult "marriage" that proved to be! Yet, Jehovah was not quick to give up on it. He repeatedly showed mercy toward the nation and loyalty to his covenant with them. (Read Psalm 106:43-45.) Are we not drawn to Jehovah by such loyal love?

¹⁸ Accordingly, married couples who love Jehovah's ways imitate him. They do not seek an unscriptural way out of a difficult marriage. They realize that Jehovah has yoked them together and that he wants them to "stick" to each other. The only Scriptural ground for divorce that might free one to remarry is sexual immorality. (Matt. 19:5, 6, 9) By making the best of their situation and

17, 18. What are some ways in which married couples can show that they uphold Jehovah's sovereignty?

even seeking to improve it, they uphold Jehovah's righteous way of ruling.

¹⁹ Being imperfect, we will on occasion do things that disappoint Jehovah. He knows this and has lovingly made provision for us by means of Christ's ransom. Thus, when we fall short in some respect, we should ask Jehovah for forgiveness. (1 John 2:1, 2) Rather than continually berate ourselves, we should endeavor to learn from the mistake. If we stay close to Jehovah, he will forgive us and help us to heal and to handle similar situations successfully in the future.—Ps. 103:3.

²⁰ In the new world, all will come under Jehovah's sovereignty and learn his righteous ways. (Isa. 11:9) We, however, receive much of that education *now*. And the settling of the issue of sovereignty is well under way. Now is the time to uphold God's sovereignty by our integrity, our service, and our earnest endeavors to imitate him in all we do.

19. If we fall short of upholding God's sovereignty, what should we do?

20. Why show support for Jehovah's sovereignty now?

150 *Seek God for Your Deliverance*

(Zephaniah 2:3)

1. Nations align as one,
 Opposing Jehovah's Son.
Their time of human rulership
 By God's decree now is done.
Rulers have had their day;
 God's Kingdom is here to stay.
Soon Christ will crush earthly enemies.
 No more will there be delay.

(CHORUS)

*Seek God for your deliverance,
 Yes, look to him with confidence.
Seek his righteousness,
 Show your faithfulness,
For his sov'reignty, take your stand.
 Then see our God deliver you
By his mighty hand.*

2. People on earth now choose,
 Responding to this good news.
We offer to all men the choice
 To hear or proudly refuse.
Trials, although severe,
 Need not fill our hearts with fear.
Jehovah cares for his loyal ones;
 Our cries for help he will hear.

(Chorus)

(See also 1 Sam. 2:9; Ps. 2:2, 3, 9; Prov. 2:8; Matt. 6:33.)



Stay Inside God's Organization!