

- Song 47 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- “Are You Serving Jehovah Continually?”: (10 min.)

Da 6:7-10—Daniel risked his life in order to serve Jehovah continually (*w10 11/15 6 ¶16; w06 11/1 24 ¶12*)

Da 6:16, 20—King Darius noted Daniel’s close relationship with Jehovah (*w03 9/15 15 ¶2*)

Da 6:22, 23—Jehovah blessed Daniel for his unwavering worship (*w10 2/15 18 ¶15*)

- Digging for Spiritual Gems: (8 min.)

Da 4:10, 11, 20-22—What did the immense tree in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream represent? (*w07 9/1 18 ¶5*)

Da 5:17, 29—Why did Daniel initially not accept King Belshazzar’s gifts but later accept them? (*w88 10/1 30 ¶3-5; dp 109 ¶22*)

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) Da 4:29-37

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- Initial Call: (2 min. or less) *inv*
- Return Visit: (4 min. or less) *inv*—The meeting invitation was placed on the preceding visit. Demonstrate a return visit.
- Bible Study: (6 min. or less) *bh 120 ¶16*—Encourage the student to demonstrate integrity despite opposition from a family member.


**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 79
- “Train Them to Serve Jehovah Continually”: (15 min.) Discussion. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows an experienced publisher working in the ministry with a new publisher.
- Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *kr chap. 18 ¶9-20, box on pp. 200-201, review box on p. 199*
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 109 and Prayer

DANIEL 4-6 | Are You Serving Jehovah Continually?

**6:10**

Daniel’s spiritual routine included prayer. He did not allow anything, not even a royal decree, to interfere with his routine

 A good spiritual routine includes:



# 47 *Pray to Jehovah Each Day*

(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

1. Pray to Jehovah, the Hearer of prayer.  
This is our priv'lege, for his name we bear.  
Open your heart as you would to a friend,  
Trust that on Him you can always depend.  
Pray to Jehovah each day.
2. Pray to Jehovah, give thanks that we live,  
Asking forgiveness as we do forgive.  
May we confess to our God whom we trust.  
He is our Maker and knows we are dust.  
Pray to Jehovah each day.
3. Pray to Jehovah when troubles appear.  
He is our Father and ever so near.  
Seek his protection, and look for his aid;  
He is our confidence; don't be afraid.  
Pray to Jehovah each day.

## Daniel 4-6

4 “From King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar to all the peoples, nations, and language groups dwelling in all the earth: May your peace abound! <sup>2</sup> I am pleased to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed toward me. <sup>3</sup> How great are his signs, and how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his rulership is for generation after generation.

<sup>4</sup> “I, Neb·u·chad·nez'zar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. <sup>5</sup> I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay on my bed, the images and visions of my head frightened me. <sup>6</sup> So I issued an order to bring in before me all the wise men of Babylon so that they could make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

<sup>7</sup> “At that time the magic-practicing priests, the conjurers, the Chal·de'ans, and the astrologers came in. When I told them what the dream was, they could not make its interpretation known to me. <sup>8</sup> At last there came in before me Daniel, whose name is Bel·te·shaz'zar after the name of my god and in whom there is the spirit of the holy gods, and I told him the dream:

<sup>9</sup> “O Bel-te-shaz'zar the chief of the magic-practicing priests, I well know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and no secret is too difficult for you. So explain to me the visions I saw in my dream and its interpretation.

<sup>10</sup> “In the visions of my head while on my bed, I saw a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was enormous. <sup>11</sup> The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached the heavens, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth. <sup>12</sup> Its foliage was beautiful, and its fruit was abundant, and there was food on it for all. Beneath it the beasts of the field would seek shade, and on its branches the birds of the heavens would dwell, and all creatures would feed from it.

<sup>13</sup> “As I viewed the visions of my head while on my bed, I saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from the heavens. <sup>14</sup> He called out loudly: “Chop down the tree, cut off its branches, shake off its leaves, and scatter its fruit! Let the beasts flee from beneath it, and the birds from its branches. <sup>15</sup> But leave the stump with its roots in the ground, with a banding of iron and of copper, among the grass of the field. Let it be wet with the dew of the heavens, and let its portion be with the beasts among the vegetation of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Let its heart be changed from that of a human, and let it be given the heart of a beast, and let seven times pass over it. <sup>17</sup> This is by the decree of watchers, and the

request is by the word of the holy ones, so that people living may know that the Most High is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind and that he gives it to whomever he wants, and he sets up over it even the lowliest of men.”

<sup>18</sup> ““This was the dream that I, King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar, saw; now you, O Bel·te·shaz'zar, tell its interpretation, for all the other wise men of my kingdom are unable to make the interpretation known to me. But you are able to do so, because the spirit of holy gods is in you.’

<sup>19</sup> “At that time Daniel, whose name is Bel·te·shaz'zar, was alarmed for a moment, and his thoughts began to frighten him.

“The king said, ‘O Bel·te·shaz'zar, do not let the dream and the interpretation frighten you.’

“Bel·te·shaz'zar answered, ‘O my lord, may the dream apply to those hating you, and its interpretation to your enemies.

<sup>20</sup> ““The tree that you saw that grew great and became strong, whose top reached the heavens and was visible to all the earth, <sup>21</sup> which had beautiful foliage, abundant fruit, and food for all, beneath which the beasts of the field would dwell and on whose branches the birds of the heavens would reside, <sup>22</sup> it is

you, O king, because you have grown great and become strong, and your grandeur has grown and reached to the heavens, and your rulership to the ends of the earth.

<sup>23</sup> “And the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from the heavens, who was saying: “Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump with its roots in the ground, with a banding of iron and of copper, among the grass of the field. And let the dew of the heavens make it wet, and let its portion be with the beasts of the field until seven times pass over it.”

<sup>24</sup> This is the interpretation, O king; it is the decree of the Most High that must befall my lord the king. <sup>25</sup> You will be driven away from among men, and your dwelling will be with the beasts of the field, and you will be given vegetation to eat just like bulls; and you will become wet with the dew of the heavens, and seven times will pass over you, until you know that the Most High is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind and that he grants it to whomever he wants.

<sup>26</sup> “But because they said to leave the stump of the tree with its roots, your kingdom will be yours again after you come to know that the heavens are ruling.

<sup>27</sup> Therefore, O king, may my counsel be acceptable to you. Turn away from your sins by doing what is right,

and from your iniquity by showing mercy to the poor. It may be that your prosperity will be extended.”

<sup>28</sup> All of this befell King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar.

<sup>29</sup> Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. <sup>30</sup> The king was saying: “Is this not Babylon the Great that I myself have built for the royal house by my own strength and might and for the glory of my majesty?”

<sup>31</sup> While the word was yet in the king's mouth, a voice came down from the heavens: “To you it is being said, O King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar, ‘The kingdom has gone away from you, <sup>32</sup> and from mankind you are being driven away. With the beasts of the field your dwelling will be, and you will be given vegetation to eat just like bulls, and seven times will pass over you, until you know that the Most High is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind and that he grants it to whomever he wants.’”

<sup>33</sup> At that moment the word was fulfilled on Neb·u·chad·nez'zar. He was driven away from mankind, and he began to eat vegetation just like bulls, and his body became wet with the dew of the heavens, until his hair grew long just like eagles' feathers and his nails were like birds' claws.

<sup>34</sup> “At the end of that time I, Neb·u·chad·nez'zar, looked up to the heavens, and my understanding

returned to me; and I praised the Most High, and to the One living forever I gave praise and glory, because his rulership is an everlasting rulership and his kingdom is for generation after generation. <sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth are regarded as nothing, and he does according to his own will among the army of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth. And there is no one who can hinder him or say to him, 'What have you done?'

<sup>36</sup> "At that time my understanding returned to me, and the glory of my kingdom, my majesty, and my splendor returned to me. My high officials and nobles eagerly sought me out, and I was restored to my kingdom, and even more greatness was added to me.

<sup>37</sup> "Now I, Neb-u-chad-nez'zar, am praising and exalting and glorifying the King of the heavens, because all his works are truth and his ways are just, and because he is able to humiliate those who are walking in pride."

**5** As regards King Bel-shaz'zar, he held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in front of them. <sup>2</sup> While under the influence of the wine, Bel-shaz'zar gave an order to bring in the vessels of gold and silver that his father Neb-u-chad-nez'zar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his concubines and his secondary



wives could drink from them. <sup>3</sup> Then they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his concubines and his secondary wives drank from them. <sup>4</sup> They drank wine, and they praised the gods of gold and silver, of copper, iron, wood, and stone.

<sup>5</sup> At that very moment the fingers of a man's hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace opposite the lampstand, and the king could see the back of the hand as it was writing. <sup>6</sup> Then the king turned pale and his thoughts terrified him, and his hips shook and his knees began to knock together.

<sup>7</sup> The king called out loudly to summon the conjurers, the Chal-de'ans, and the astrologers. The king said to the wise men of Babylon: "Any man who reads this writing and tells me its interpretation will be clothed with purple, a gold necklace will be placed around his neck, and he will rule as the third one in the kingdom."

<sup>8</sup> Then all the wise men of the king came in, but they were not able to read the writing or to make known the interpretation to the king. <sup>9</sup> So King Bel-shaz'zar was very frightened and his face turned pale; and his nobles were perplexed.

<sup>10</sup> Because of the words of the king and his nobles, the queen entered the banqueting hall. The queen said: “O king, may you live on forever. Do not let your thoughts terrify you, nor let your face turn pale.

<sup>11</sup> There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of holy gods. In the days of your father, enlightenment and insight and wisdom like the wisdom of gods were found in him. King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar your father appointed him as chief of the magic-practicing priests, conjurers, Chal·de'ans, and astrologers; your father did this, O king. <sup>12</sup> For Daniel, whom the king named Bel·te·shaz'zar, had an extraordinary spirit and knowledge and insight to interpret dreams, to explain riddles, and to solve knotty problems. Now let Daniel be summoned, and he will tell you the interpretation.”

<sup>13</sup> So Daniel was brought in before the king. The king asked Daniel: “Are you Daniel of the exiles of Judah, whom my father the king brought out of Judah? <sup>14</sup> I have heard concerning you that the spirit of gods is in you and that enlightenment and insight and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you. <sup>15</sup> Now the wise men and the conjurers were brought in before me to read this writing and to make its interpretation known to me, but they are not able to tell the interpretation of the message. <sup>16</sup> But I have heard concerning you that you are able to provide interpretations and to solve knotty problems. Now if

you are able to read the writing and to make its interpretation known to me, you will be clothed with purple, a gold necklace will be placed around your neck, and you will rule as the third one in the kingdom.”

<sup>17</sup> Daniel then replied to the king: “You may keep your gifts and give your presents to others. However, I will read the writing to the king and make known its interpretation to him. <sup>18</sup> As for you, O king, the Most High God granted to Neb·u·chad·nez'zar your father the kingdom and greatness and honor and majesty.

<sup>19</sup> Because of the greatness He gave him, all peoples, nations, and language groups trembled with fear before him. Whomever he wanted, he killed or let live, and whomever he wanted, he exalted or humiliated. <sup>20</sup> But when his heart became haughty and his spirit became hardened, so that he acted presumptuously, he was brought down from the throne of his kingdom, and his dignity was taken away from him. <sup>21</sup> He was driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was given vegetation to eat just like bulls, and his body became wet with the dew of the heavens, until he came to know that the Most High God is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind and that he sets up over it whomever he wants.

<sup>22</sup> “But you, his son Bel-shaz'zar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all of this. <sup>23</sup> Instead, you exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens, and you had them bring you the vessels of his house. Then you and your nobles, your concubines and your secondary wives drank wine from them and praised gods of silver and gold, of copper, iron, wood, and stone, gods that see nothing and hear nothing and know nothing. But you have not glorified the God in whose hand is your breath and all your ways. <sup>24</sup> So the hand was sent from him, and this writing was inscribed. <sup>25</sup> And this is the writing that was inscribed: ME'NE, ME'NE, TE'KEL, and PAR'SIN.

<sup>26</sup> “This is the interpretation of the words: ME'NE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end.

<sup>27</sup> “TE'KEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found lacking.

<sup>28</sup> “PE'RES, your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians.”

<sup>29</sup> Then Bel-shaz'zar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and placed a gold necklace around his neck; and they heralded concerning him that he was to become the third ruler in the kingdom.

<sup>30</sup> That very night Bel-shaz'zar the Chal-de'an king was killed. <sup>31</sup> And Da-ri'us the Mede received the kingdom; he was about 62 years old.

**6** It seemed good to Da-ri'us to appoint 120 satraps over the whole kingdom. <sup>2</sup> Over them were three high officials, one of whom was Daniel; and the satraps would report to them, so that the king would not suffer loss. <sup>3</sup> Now Daniel was distinguishing himself over the other high officials and the satraps, for there was an extraordinary spirit in him, and the king intended to elevate him over the entire kingdom.

<sup>4</sup> At that time the high officials and the satraps were seeking to find some grounds for accusation against Daniel respecting matters of state, but they could find no grounds for accusation or anything corrupt, for he was trustworthy and no negligence or corruption could be found in him. <sup>5</sup> These men then said: "We will find in this Daniel no grounds for accusation at all, unless we find it against him in the law of his God."

<sup>6</sup> So these high officials and satraps went in as a group to the king, and they said to him: "O King Da-ri'us, may you live on forever. <sup>7</sup> All the royal officials, prefects, satraps, high royal officers, and governors have consulted together to establish a royal decree and to enforce a ban, that for 30 days whoever makes a petition to any god or man except to you, O

king, should be thrown into the lions' pit. <sup>8</sup> Now, O king, may you establish the decree and sign it, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be annulled."

<sup>9</sup> So King Da-ri'us signed the decree and the ban.

<sup>10</sup> But as soon as Daniel knew that the decree had been signed, he went to his house, which had the windows of his roof chamber open toward Jerusalem. And three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed and offered praise before his God, as he had regularly done prior to this. <sup>11</sup> At that time those men burst in and found Daniel petitioning and pleading for favor before his God.

<sup>12</sup> So they approached the king and reminded him about the royal ban: "Did you not sign a ban stating that for 30 days any man who makes a petition to any god or man except to you, O king, should be thrown into the lions' pit?" The king replied: "The matter is well-established according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be annulled." <sup>13</sup> They immediately said to the king: "Daniel, who is of the exiles of Judah, has paid no regard to you, O king, nor to the ban that you signed, but three times a day he is praying." <sup>14</sup> As soon as the king heard this, he was greatly distressed, and he tried to think of a way to rescue Daniel; and until the sun set he made every

effort to save him. <sup>15</sup> Finally those men went in as a group to the king, and they said to the king: “Take note, O king, that the law of the Medes and the Persians is that any ban or decree that the king establishes cannot be changed.”

<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the pit of lions. The king said to Daniel: “Your God whom you are continually serving will rescue you.” <sup>17</sup> Then a stone was brought and placed over the entrance of the pit, and the king sealed it with his signet ring and with the signet ring of his nobles, so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel.

<sup>18</sup> The king then went to his palace. He passed the night fasting and refused any entertainment, and he could not sleep. <sup>19</sup> Finally at the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ pit. <sup>20</sup> As he got near the pit, he called out to Daniel with a sad voice. The king asked Daniel: “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you are continually serving been able to rescue you from the lions?” <sup>21</sup> Daniel immediately said to the king: “O king, may you live on forever. <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions, and they have not harmed me, for I was found innocent before him; nor have I done any wrong to you, O king.”

<sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed, and he commanded that Daniel be lifted up out of the pit. When Daniel was lifted up out of the pit, he was completely unharmed, because he had trusted in his God.

<sup>24</sup> The king then gave an order, and the men who had accused Daniel were brought, and they were thrown into the lions' pit, along with their sons and their wives. They had not reached the bottom of the pit before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

<sup>25</sup> Then King Da-ri'us wrote to all the peoples, nations, and language groups dwelling throughout the earth: "May you have abundant peace! <sup>26</sup> I am issuing an order that in every domain of my kingdom, people are to tremble in fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rulership is eternal.

<sup>27</sup> He rescues, saves, and performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, for he rescued Daniel from the paw of the lions."

<sup>28</sup> So this Daniel prospered in the kingdom of Da-ri'us and in the kingdom of Cyrus the Persian.



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Da 6:7-10—Daniel risked his life in order to serve Jehovah continually (*w10 11/15 6 ¶16; w06 11/1 24 ¶12*)

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

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

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DANIEL 4-6 | Are You Serving Jehovah Continually?

**6:10**

Daniel’s spiritual routine included prayer. He did not allow anything, not even a royal decree, to interfere with his routine

 A good spiritual routine includes:



September 25–October 1

## Treasures From God's Word

**Daniel 6:7-10**—Daniel risked his life in order to serve Jehovah continually

Reference: *w10* 11/15 6 **paragraph 16**.

Why should you want to obey Jehovah even when you are alone? Remember this: You are able either to hurt Jehovah's feelings or to make his heart rejoice. (**Genesis 6:5, 6; Proverbs 27:11**) Jehovah is affected by your actions because "he cares for you." (**1 Peter 5:7**) He wants you to listen to him so that you can benefit yourself. (**Isaiah 48:17, 18**) When some of Jehovah's servants in ancient Israel ignored his counsel, they caused him to feel pain. (**Psalms 78:40, 41**) On the other hand, Jehovah felt deep affection for the prophet Daniel, for an angel called him a "very desirable man." (**Daniel 10:11**) Why? Daniel remained loyal to God not only when in public but also in private.—Read Daniel 6:10.

Reference: *w06* 11/1 24 **paragraph 12**.

Not surprisingly, many things related to the lives of anointed members of the Christian congregation and their companions are held sacred. *Our relationship with Jehovah* is something sacred. (1 Chronicles 28:9; Psalm 36:7) It is so

precious to us that we allow nothing and no one to come between us and our God, Jehovah. (**2 Chronicles 15:2; James 4:7, 8**) *Prayer* plays an important part in our maintaining a close relationship with Jehovah. Prayer was so sacred to the prophet Daniel that even at the risk of his life, he continued faithful in his custom of praying to Jehovah. (Daniel 6:7-11) “The prayers of the holy ones,” or anointed Christians, are likened to incense used in temple worship. (**Revelation 5:8; 8:3, 4; Leviticus 16:12, 13**) This symbolism underscores the sacredness of prayer. What a privilege it is to be able to communicate with the Sovereign of the universe! No wonder prayer is held sacred in our lives!

**Daniel 6:16**<sup>20</sup>—King Darius noted Daniel’s close relationship with Jehovah

Reference: *w03 9/15 15* **paragraph 2.**

How did Jehovah view Daniel? When the angel Gabriel came to answer one of Daniel’s prayers, he described the prophet as “someone very desirable” or “a man greatly beloved.” (Daniel 9:20-23; *The New English Bible*) In the prophecy of Ezekiel, Jehovah referred to Daniel as a righteous man. (**Ezekiel 14:14, 20**) Over the years, Daniel’s prayers evidently resulted in a close relationship with his God, a fact recognized even by Darius.—Daniel 6:16.

**Daniel 6:22-23**—Jehovah blessed Daniel for his unwavering worship

Reference: *w10 2/15 18 paragraph 15*.

After Daniel had spent a night in the lions' pit, the king himself went there and cried out: "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you are serving with constancy been able to rescue you from the lions?" Daniel immediately replied: "O king, live on even to times indefinite. My own God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions, and they have not brought me to ruin, forasmuch as before him innocence itself was found in me; and also before you, O king, no hurtful act have I done." Jehovah blessed Daniel for serving "with constancy." — **Daniel 6:19-22**.

## **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**Daniel 4:10, 11, 20-22**—What did the immense tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represent?

Reference: *w07 9/1 18 paragraph 5*.

The tree initially represented Nebuchadnezzar as the ruler of a world power. Since the rulership extended "to the extremity of the earth," however, the tree must signify

something far grander. Daniel 4:17 connects the dream to the rulership of “the Most High” over mankind. The tree, then, also symbolized Jehovah’s universal sovereignty, especially with respect to the earth. Therefore, the dream has two fulfillments—in Nebuchadnezzar’s rulership and in Jehovah’s sovereignty.

**Daniel 5:17<sup>29</sup>**—Why did Daniel initially not accept King Belshazzar’s gifts but later accept them?

Reference: w88 10/1 30 **paragraphs 3-5.**

When the Hebrew named Daniel was finally brought in, the king repeated his offer—to clothe Daniel with purple, to put a gold necklace on him, and to make him the third ruler in the kingdom. The prophet honorably replied: “Let your gifts prove to be to you yourself, and your presents do you give to others. However, I shall read the writing itself to the king, and the interpretation I shall make known to him.” —Daniel 5:17.

So Daniel did not need to be bribed or paid to provide the interpretation. The king could keep his gifts or bestow them on someone else. Daniel would provide the explanation, not for a reward, but because he was empowered to do so by Jehovah, the true God, whose judgment on Babylon was impending.

As we read at Daniel 5:29, after Daniel had read and interpreted the words as he said he would, the king ordered that the rewards be given to Daniel anyway. Daniel himself did not put on the clothing and the necklace. They were put on him by order of the absolute ruler, King Belshazzar. But this does not conflict with Daniel 5:17, where the prophet made it clear that his motive was not a selfish one.

Reference: *dp* 109 **paragraph 22**.

Thus the riddle was solved. Mighty Babylon was about to fall to the Medo-Persian forces. Though crestfallen in the face of this pronouncement of doom, Belshazzar kept his word. He had his servants clothe Daniel with purple, bedeck him with a golden necklace, and herald him as the third ruler in the kingdom. (Daniel 5:29) Daniel did not refuse these honors, recognizing that they reflected the honor due Jehovah. Of course, Belshazzar may have hoped to soften Jehovah's judgment by honoring His prophet. If so, it was a case of too little too late.

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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 79
- **“Train Them to Serve Jehovah Continually”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows an experienced publisher working in the ministry with a new publisher.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr chap. 18 ¶9-20, box on pp. 200-201, review box on p. 199*
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 109 and Prayer

DANIEL 4-6 | Are You Serving Jehovah Continually?

**6:10**

Daniel’s spiritual routine included prayer. He did not allow anything, not even a royal decree, to interfere with his routine

 A good spiritual routine includes:



Satan was still taunting God and accusing His servants. When we live in a way that pleases Jehovah, we actually help to give an answer to Satan's false charges, and in that way we make God's heart rejoice. How do you feel about that? Would it not be wonderful to have a part in answering the Devil's lying claims, even if it means making certain changes in your life?

<sup>15</sup> Notice that Satan said: "Everything that *a man* has he will give in behalf of his soul." (Job 2:4) By saying "a man," Satan made it clear that his charge applied not just to Job but to *all* humans. That is a very important point. Satan has called into question *your* integrity to God. The Devil would like to see you disobey God and abandon a righteous course when difficulties arise. How might Satan try to accomplish this?

<sup>16</sup> As discussed in Chapter 10, Satan uses various methods to try to turn people away from God. On the one hand, he attacks "like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone." (1 Peter 5:8) Thus Satan's

**16. (a) By what methods does Satan try to turn people away from God? (b) How might the Devil use these methods against you?**



influence may be seen when friends, relatives, or others oppose your efforts to study the Bible and apply what you learn.\* (John 15:19, 20) On the other hand, Satan “keeps transforming himself into an angel of light.” (2 Corinthians 11:14) The Devil can use subtle means to mislead you and lure you away from a godly way of life. He can also use discouragement, perhaps causing you to feel that you are not good enough to please God. (Proverbs 24:10) Whether Satan is acting like “a roaring lion” or posing as “an angel of light,” his challenge remains the same: He says that when you are faced with trials or temptations, you will stop serving God. How can you answer his challenge and prove your integrity to God, as Job did?

## **OBEYING JEHOVAH’S COMMANDMENTS**

<sup>17</sup> You can answer Satan’s challenge by living in a way that pleases God. What does this involve? The

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\* This does not mean that those who oppose you are personally controlled by Satan. But Satan is the god of this system of things, and the whole world is in his power. (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19) So we can expect that living a godly life will be an unpopular course, and some will oppose you.

**17. What is the main reason to obey Jehovah’s commandments?**

# 79

## *Teach Them to Stand Firm*

(Matthew 28:19, 20)

1. What a joy to teach Jehovah's sheep  
And to see how they have grown.  
We have seen how he has guided them  
As they've made the truth their own.

*(CHORUS)*

*Jehovah, may you hear our prayer  
And keep them in your watchful care.  
In Jesus' name, for them we plead: May they succeed;  
May ev'ry one of them stand firm.*

2. Ev'ry day we said a prayer for them,  
As their faith was under test.  
We made time to teach and care for them;  
They've grown strong, and they've been blessed.

*(Chorus)*

3. May they all maintain their confidence,  
Trust in God and in his Son.  
Through endurance and obedience,  
May their race for life be won.

*(Chorus)*

- Song 47 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Are You Serving Jehovah Continually?”:** (10 min.)

Da 6:7-10—Daniel risked his life in order to serve Jehovah continually (*w10 11/15 6 ¶16; w06 11/1 24 ¶12*)

Da 6:16, 20—King Darius noted Daniel’s close relationship with Jehovah (*w03 9/15 15 ¶2*)

Da 6:22, 23—Jehovah blessed Daniel for his unwavering worship (*w10 2/15 18 ¶15*)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)

Da 4:10, 11, 20-22—What did the immense tree in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream represent? (*w07 9/1 18 ¶5*)

Da 5:17, 29—Why did Daniel initially not accept King Belshazzar’s gifts but later accept them? (*w88 10/1 30 ¶3-5; dp 109 ¶22*)

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) Da 4:29-37

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *inv*
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *inv*—The meeting invitation was placed on the preceding visit. Demonstrate a return visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh 120 ¶16*—Encourage the student to demonstrate integrity despite opposition from a family member.


**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 79
- **“Train Them to Serve Jehovah Continually”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows an experienced publisher working in the ministry with a new publisher.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr chap. 18 ¶9-20, box on pp. 200-201, review box on p. 199*
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DANIEL 4-6 | Are You Serving Jehovah Continually?

**6:10**

Daniel’s spiritual routine included prayer. He did not allow anything, not even a royal decree, to interfere with his routine

 A good spiritual routine includes:



## Train Them to Serve Jehovah Continually

Experience shows that new publishers who are trained from the beginning to have a regular and zealous share in the ministry often become effective publishers. (Pr 22:6; Php 3:16) Here are some suggestions on how you can help a student to develop a good foundation for the ministry:

- As soon as your student is approved to be a publisher, begin training him. (*km* 8/15 1) Impress on him the importance of making the ministry a part of his *weekly* routine. (Php 1:10) Be positive in your comments about the territory. (Php 4:8) Encourage him to work along with the group overseer and other publishers in order to benefit from their experience.—Pr 1:5; *km* 10/12 6 ¶3



- After your student gets baptized, do not stop encouraging him and training him in the ministry, especially if he has not completed the “*God’s Love*” book. —*km* 12/13 7



- Use a simple presentation when working in the ministry with a new publisher. After hearing his presentation, give generous commendation. Offer suggestions that will help him to be more effective. —*km* 5/10 7



of our Lord is offensive, unacceptable to him, and does not bring his blessing either upon the givers or the work accomplished.”\*[2]

### **“Let Each One Do Just as He Has Resolved in His Heart”**

<sup>9</sup> As Kingdom subjects today, we do not need to be coerced into giving. Quite the contrary, we gladly use our money and other resources to support Kingdom activities. Why are we so willing to give? Consider three reasons.

<sup>10</sup> First, we make voluntary contributions because we love Jehovah and want to do “what is pleasing in his eyes.” (1 John 3:22) Jehovah is indeed pleased with a worshipper who gives freely from his heart. Let us examine the apostle Paul’s words about Christian giving. (**Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.**) A true Christian is not a reluctant or forced giver. Rather, he gives because he has “resolved in his heart” to do so.<sup>#[3]</sup> That is, he gives after he has considered a need and

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\*[2] The *Watch Tower*, August 1, 1899, page 201.

#[3] One scholar says that the Greek term rendered “resolved” “has the idea of predetermination.” He adds: “Though there is spontaneous joy in giving, it is still to be planned and systematic.” —1 Cor. 16:2.

**9, 10. What is one reason why we make voluntary contributions?**

how he can fill it. Such a giver is dear to Jehovah, for “God loves a cheerful giver.” Another translation reads: “God loves people who love to give.”

<sup>11</sup> Second, we make material contributions as a way of thanking Jehovah for our many blessings. Consider a heart-searching principle in the Mosaic Law. (**Read Deuteronomy 16:16, 17.**) When attending the three annual festivals, each Israelite man was to give a gift “in proportion to the blessing that Jehovah” had given him. Hence, before attending a festival, each man had to count his blessings and search his heart, deciding on the best possible gift he could bring. In a similar way, when we contemplate the many ways that Jehovah has blessed us, we feel moved to give him our best possible gift. Our wholehearted gift, which includes our material contributions, is a reflection of how much we appreciate the blessings Jehovah has showered upon us.—2 Cor. 8: 12-15.

<sup>12</sup> Third, by our voluntary contributions, we show our love for the King Jesus Christ. How so? Note

**11. What moves us to give Jehovah our best possible gift?**

**12, 13. How do our voluntary contributions show our love for the King, and how much does each one give?**

what Jesus told his disciples on the final night of his earthly life. **(Read John 14:23.)** “If anyone loves me,” Jesus said, “he will observe my word.” Jesus’ “word” includes his command to preach the Kingdom good news in all the earth. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) We observe that “word” by doing all within our power—expending our time, energy, and material resources—to promote the Kingdom-preaching work. We thereby show our love for the Messianic King.

<sup>13</sup> Yes, as loyal Kingdom subjects, we want with all our heart to show our support for the Kingdom by making financial contributions. How do we do so? That is a personal decision. Each one gives to the best of his ability. Many of our fellow believers, however, have few of this world’s goods. (Matt. 19:23, 24; Jas. 2:5) But such ones can take comfort in knowing that Jehovah and his Son value even small contributions made from a willing heart.—Mark 12:41-44.

### **How Is Money Received?**

<sup>14</sup> For many years, Jehovah’s Witnesses offered Bible literature on a contribution basis. The suggested

**14. For many years, Jehovah’s Witnesses offered their literature on what basis?**

contribution was kept as low as possible so that people of even modest means could receive the literature. Of course, if a householder seemed interested but could not afford to contribute, Kingdom publishers were more than willing to leave the literature. Their heartfelt desire was to get the literature into the hands of sincere people who could read it and benefit from it.

<sup>15</sup> In 1990, the Governing Body began to adjust the way we offer our literature. Starting that year in the United States, all literature began to be offered completely on a donation basis. A letter to all congregations in that land explained: “Magazines and literature will be provided to publishers and to the interested public without asking or even suggesting that a specific contribution be made as a precondition to receiving an item. . . . Any who wish to make a donation to defray the expenses of our educational work may do so, but they may receive the literature whether or not a donation is made.” That

**15, 16. (a) What adjustment in the way we offer our literature was started by the Governing Body in 1990? (b) How are voluntary donations made? (See also the box “Where Do Our Donations Go?”)**



arrangement served to clarify the voluntary and religious nature of our work and to make clear that “we are not peddlers of the word of God.” (2 Cor. 2:17) In time, the voluntary donation arrangement was implemented in branches around the world.

<sup>16</sup> How are voluntary donations made? In Kingdom Halls of Jehovah’s Witnesses, there are discreetly-placed contribution boxes. Individuals may use them or send donations directly to one of the legal entities used by Jehovah’s Witnesses. Each year an article in *The Watchtower* outlines how such willing donations can be made.

### **How Is the Money Used?**

<sup>17</sup> **Worldwide work.** Funds are used to cover the expenses incurred in carrying out the worldwide preaching work. These expenses include the cost of producing literature for global distribution, constructing and maintaining branch offices and Bethel homes, and operating various theocratic schools. In addition, funds are used to care for missionaries,

**17-19. Explain how donated funds are used for (a) the worldwide work, (b) Kingdom Hall construction worldwide, and (c) local congregation expenses.**

traveling overseers, and special pioneers. Our donations are also used to provide emergency relief aid to fellow believers in times of disaster.\*[4]

**18 Kingdom Hall construction worldwide.** Funds are used to help congregations to build or remodel a Kingdom Hall. As contributions are received, still more funds can be made available to assist other congregations.#[5]

**19 Local congregation expenses.** Funds are used to pay for the operation and upkeep of the Kingdom Hall. The elders might recommend that some funds be sent to the local branch office for use in furthering the worldwide work. In such cases, the elders would present a resolution to the congregation. If approved, the recommended funds would be sent. Each month, the brother who cares for the congregation's accounts prepares a financial report, which is read to the congregation.

**20** When we consider all that is involved in carrying out the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making

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\*[4] See Chapter 20 for more information about the ministry of relief.

#[5] See Chapter 19 for details about Kingdom Hall construction.

## **20. How can you honor Jehovah with your “valuable things”?**

work earth wide, we are moved to “honor Jehovah with [our] valuable things.” (Prov. 3:9, 10) Our valuable things include our physical, mental, and spiritual assets. We certainly want to use these to the full in Kingdom work. Remember, though, that our valuable things also include our material assets. Let us be resolved to give what we can, when we can. Our voluntary donations bring honor to Jehovah and show our support for the Messianic Kingdom.

## **How Real Is the Kingdom to You?**

- What can you learn from the example of those who contributed for the construction of the tabernacle and of the temple?
- Why do Kingdom subjects today gladly use their money and other resources to support Kingdom activities?
- How can you show your support for all that the Kingdom is accomplishing today?

# WHERE DO OUR DONATIONS GO?

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ALL DONATIONS ARE USED EXCLUSIVELY TO  
SUPPORT KINGDOM INTERESTS

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**1**

## **PUBLISHING**

Publishing and distributing literature, printed and electronic

**2**

## **LOCAL CONGREGATION**

Operating expenses, upkeep of the Kingdom Hall, and congregation resolutions\*<sup>[6]</sup>

**3**

## **KINGDOM HALL CONSTRUCTION**

Between 1999 and 2013, over 24,500 Kingdom Halls were built in lands with limited resources

**4**

## **DISASTER RELIEF**

\*<sup>[6]</sup> Wherever they gather for worship, Jehovah's Witnesses have arrangements in place for making contributions, but the specifics may vary somewhat from one land to another.

**5**

## **SPECIAL FULL-TIME SERVANTS**

Includes basic living expenses such as housing, food,  
and health care

Traveling Overseers

Special Pioneers

Missionaries

International and Kingdom Hall Construction Personnel

Bethelites

**6**

## **BRANCHES AND TRANSLATION OFFICES**

**7**

## **CONVENTIONS**

**8**

## **THEOCRATIC SCHOOLS**

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## **WAYS TO DONATE**

**CONTRIBUTION BOXES**

**DIRECT DONATIONS**

(made by cash, check, or electronically, such as through [jw.org](http://jw.org))

**ESTATES/NONCASH DONATIONS**

**TRUSTS AND ANNUITIES**

# **109**    *Love Intensely From the Heart*

(1 Peter 1:22)

1. When our love is pure and intense,  
    We make Jehovah's heart rejoice.  
Love is his greatest quality,  
    Something that we hold dear.  
Warm affection glows in our hearts,  
    Making a loyal friendship grow.  
Love always acts unselfishly,  
    Proving our love sincere.

When we see a friend in need,  
    We'll be there to lend a helping hand.  
Truly we can be a friend,  
    Someone who can understand.

Jesus showed what love really means,  
    Helping us see Jehovah's love,  
Touching our hearts and moving us.  
    Tender feelings are a start.  
Love intensely from the heart.

AUGUST 2017

# THE WATCHTOWER

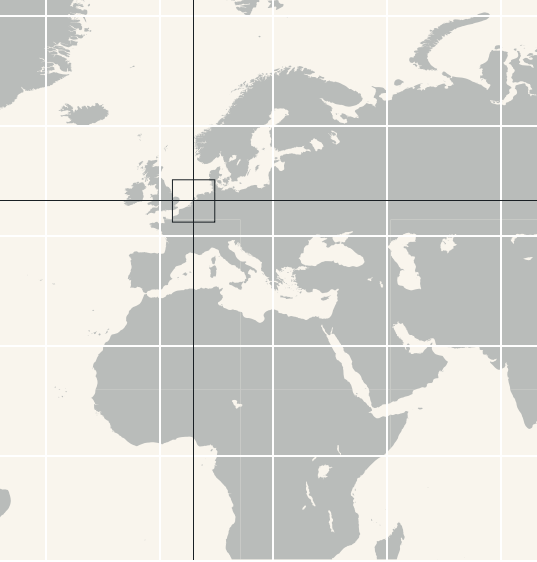
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
SEPTEMBER 25–OCTOBER 22, 2017

LARGE  
PRINT  
EDITION





COVER IMAGE:

# NETHERLANDS

Two pioneers in Amsterdam share the Kingdom message with a passerby

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### **4 WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25–OCTOBER 1**

**Are You Willing to Wait Patiently?**

### **15 WEEK OF OCTOBER 2-8**

**“The Peace of God . . . Surpasses All Understanding”**

The first article explains why we should be willing to wait on Jehovah. We will also consider how the examples of faithful men and women of old can help us learn to wait patiently. The second article highlights how Jehovah can do the unexpected by accomplishing things we could never imagine. This will strengthen our trust in him as we wait patiently for him to act in our behalf.

1. Our Sov'reign Lord Jehovah  
Is zealous for his holy name.  
He fervently desires  
To clear it from unrighteous blame.  
Through many generations,  
Great endurance he has shown;  
In loving, kindly patience,  
Not weary has he grown.  
His will is that salvation  
All sorts of people might attain.  
Long-lasting, loving patience  
By God will not have been in vain.
  
2. The quality of patience  
Will help us on our godly path.  
It lets our heart be tranquil,  
Protects us from unrighteous wrath.  
It finds the good in others,  
Always hoping for the best.  
It helps us keep our balance  
In times when we're distressed.  
Along with other virtues  
That holy spirit can bestow,  
Our patience will assist us  
To imitate the God we know.



**SONGS:**  
114, 79

**HOW WOULD YOU  
ANSWER?**

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What is involved in being patient?

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What helped men and women of old to be willing to wait on Jehovah?

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How have both Jehovah and Jesus shown a willingness to wait?

## Are You Willing to Wait Patiently?

*“You too exercise patience.”—JAS. 5:8.*

**“HOW long?”** That was the question raised by the faithful prophets Isaiah and Habakkuk. (Isa. 6:11; Hab. 1:2) When composing Psalm 13, King David four times likewise asked: “How long?” (Ps.

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**1, 2.** (a) What may cause us to ask: “How long”? (b) Why can we be encouraged by the examples of faithful servants in the past?

13:1, 2) Even our Lord Jesus Christ asked this question when confronted with the faithless attitude of those around him. (Matt. 17:17) So we should not be surprised if we find ourselves at times asking the very same question.

<sup>2</sup> What can cause us to ask: “How long”? Perhaps we have had to deal with some form of injustice. Or maybe we are enduring old age and sickness or the pressures of living in these “critical times” that are so “hard to deal with.” (2 Tim. 3:1) Or maybe the wrong attitudes of those around us are wearing us out. Whatever the cause, how encouraging it is to know that Jehovah’s faithful servants in the past felt free to express the same question that may loom in our minds, and they were not condemned for asking it!

<sup>3</sup> But what can help us when we come face-to-face with such difficult circumstances? The disciple James, Jesus’ half brother, was inspired to tell us: “Be patient then, brothers, until the presence of the Lord.” (Jas. 5:7) Yes, we all need patience. But what is involved in having this godly quality?

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3. What can help us when we face difficult circumstances?

## WHAT IS PATIENCE?

<sup>4</sup> According to the Bible, patience is a product of holy spirit; without God's help, imperfect humans cannot be patient to the degree needed. Patience is a gift from God, and being patient is a key way to show our love for him. Patience is also an expression of our love for others. Persistent impatience weakens the bonds of love; patience strengthens them. (1 Cor. 13:4; Gal. 5:22) Patience involves a number of other vital Christian qualities. For example, it is closely connected with endurance, which enables us to put up with difficult circumstances while maintaining a positive attitude. (Col. 1:11; Jas. 1:3, 4) Patience can also involve suffering without retaliating and remaining firm and steadfast no matter what may come our way. Additionally, the Bible urges us to *accept willingly the need to wait*. This aspect of patience is highlighted at James 5:7, 8. (Read.)

<sup>5</sup> Why must we be willing to accept the need to wait for Jehovah to act? James compares our situation to that of a farmer. Even though a farmer works hard to plant his crop, he has no control over the weather or the growth of the plants. He cannot

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4, 5. (a) What is involved in being patient? (b) How does the disciple James illustrate one aspect of patience? (See opening picture.)

speed up the time. He accepts that he needs to wait patiently for “the precious fruit of the earth.” In a similar manner, there are many factors that are beyond our control as we wait for the fulfillment of Jehovah’s promises. (Mark 13:32, 33; Acts 1:7) Like the farmer, we need to wait patiently.

<sup>6</sup> The conditions we face today are similar to those in the days of the prophet Micah. He lived during the reign of wicked King Ahaz, a time when all sorts of corruption prevailed. In fact, the people had become “expert at doing what is bad.” (Read Micah 7:1-3.) Micah realized that he could not personally change these conditions. So, what could he do? He tells us: “As for me, I will keep on the lookout for Jehovah. I will show a waiting attitude [“I will wait patiently,” ftn.] for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.” (Mic. 7:7) Like Micah, we too need to have “a waiting attitude.”

<sup>7</sup> If we have faith like that of Micah, we will be *willing* to wait for Jehovah. Our situation is not like that of a prisoner who is waiting in his cell for his execution. He is forced to wait, and he is not looking forward to the outcome. How different things

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6. What can we learn from the example of the prophet Micah?

7. Why is more required of us than just waiting for Jehovah to fulfill his promises?

are for us! We are willing to wait for Jehovah because we know that he will fulfill his promise to give us everlasting life at exactly the right time, the best time! So we “endure fully with patience *and joy*.” (Col. 1:11, 12) To do otherwise—to wait while complaining and grumbling that Jehovah is not acting fast enough—would be displeasing to our God. —Col. 3:12.

## FAITHFUL EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE

<sup>8</sup> We will be more willing to wait if we remember faithful men and women of old who waited patiently for Jehovah to fulfill his promises. (Rom. 15:4) As we meditate on their examples, it is good for us to remember how long they had to wait, why they were willing to wait, and what blessings resulted from their patience.

<sup>9</sup> Consider the example of Abraham and Sarah. They are among “those who through faith and *patience* inherit the promises.” The Scriptures tell us that “after Abraham had shown patience,” he obtained the promise that Jehovah would bless him and multiply his offspring. (Heb. 6:12, 15) Why did

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8. What do we need to remember as we meditate on the examples of faithful men and women of old?

9, 10. How long did Abraham and Sarah have to wait on Jehovah?



Abraham had to wait many years before his  
grandsons Esau and Jacob were born  
(See paragraphs 9, 10)

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**Abraham need to show patience? Simply stated, the fulfillment of the promise would take time. The covenant Jehovah made with Abraham started to take effect on Nisan 14, 1943 B.C.E. That was when he and Sarah along with their household crossed the Euphrates River and entered the Promised Land. Abraham then had to wait 25 years before his son Isaac was born in 1918 B.C.E., and he had to wait another 60 years before his grandsons Esau and Jacob were born in 1858 B.C.E.—Heb. 11:9.**



<sup>10</sup> How much land did Abraham inherit? We are told: “Yet, he [Jehovah] did not give him [Abraham] any inheritance in it, no, not even enough to put his foot on; but he promised to give it to him as a possession and after him to his offspring, though as yet he had no child.” (Acts 7:5) It was not until 430 years after Abraham had crossed the Euphrates that his descendants were organized into a nation that would take possession of the land.—Ex. 12: 40-42; Gal. 3:17.

<sup>11</sup> Abraham was willing to wait, because his patience was based on his faith in Jehovah. (Read Hebrews 11:8-12.) Abraham was happy to wait, even though he did not see the complete fulfillment of the promise in his day. But just imagine Abraham’s joy when he is resurrected back to a paradise earth. He will be surprised to see how much of the Bible was used to record his personal story and that of his descendants.\* Just imagine how thrilled he will be to understand for the first time his vital role in the outworking of Jehovah’s purpose with regard

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\* Some 15 chapters of the book of Genesis are devoted to the account about Abraham. Additionally, the writers of the Christian Greek Scriptures refer to Abraham more than 70 times.

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**11.** Why was Abraham willing to wait on Jehovah, and what blessings will he see as a result of his patience?

to the promised offspring! No doubt, he will feel that the long wait was worth it.

<sup>12</sup> Abraham's great-grandson Joseph also showed a willingness to be patient. He was the victim of some outrageous injustices. First, his brothers sold him into slavery when he was about 17 years old. Then, he was falsely accused of trying to rape his master's wife and ended up in irons in prison. (Gen. 39:11-20; Ps. 105:17, 18) For his righteous actions, he seemed to be punished rather than blessed. But after 13 years, everything changed very quickly. He was released from prison and promoted to the second-highest position in Egypt.—Gen. 41:14, 37-43; Acts 7:9, 10.

<sup>13</sup> Did the injustices make Joseph bitter? Did he lose confidence in his God, Jehovah? No. What helped Joseph to wait patiently? It was his faith in Jehovah. He saw Jehovah's hand in matters. Notice how this is reflected in what he told his brothers: "Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God? Although you meant to harm me, God intended it to turn out well and to preserve many people alive, as he is doing today." (Gen. 50:19, 20) Ultimately, Joseph realized that the wait was worth it.

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12, 13. Why did Joseph need patience, and what fine attitude did he have?

**14** King David was also the victim of many injustices. Although anointed by Jehovah at an early age to be the future king of Israel, David had to wait some 15 years before he was made king over his own tribe. (2 Sam. 2:3, 4) During part of this time, unfaithful King Saul pursued David, seeking to kill him.\* As a result, David had to live as a fugitive, at times in a foreign country and at other times in caves in the wilderness. Even when Saul was eventually killed in battle, David still had to wait about seven more years before he was given the kingship over the whole nation of Israel.—2 Sam. 5:4, 5.

**15** Why was David willing to wait patiently? He gives us the answer in the very psalm in which he four times asked: “How long?” This is what he says: “As for me, I trust in your loyal love; my heart will rejoice in your acts of salvation. I will sing to Jehovah, for he has richly rewarded me.” (Ps. 13:5, 6) David trusted in Jehovah’s loyal love. He joyfully looked forward to deliverance, and he reflected on

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\* Although Saul was rejected by Jehovah after ruling a little over two years, he was allowed to continue ruling for 38 more years, until his death.—1 Sam. 13:1; Acts 13:21.

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**14, 15.** (a) What is outstanding about David’s patience? (b) What helped David to wait patiently?

how Jehovah had dealt rewardingly with him. Yes, David felt that the wait would be worth it.

<sup>16</sup> With regard to exercising patience, Jehovah does not expect us to do something that he is not willing to do himself. He has set the supreme example of being willing to wait. (Read 2 Peter 3:9.) Jehovah has been waiting patiently for thousands of years so that the moral issues raised in the garden of Eden could eventually be settled beyond a doubt. He is “waiting patiently” and “keeping in expectation” of the time when his name will be fully sanctified. This will result in unimaginable blessings for those who are “eagerly waiting for him.”—Isa. 30:18; ftn.

<sup>17</sup> Jesus likewise has been willing to wait. Although he passed the test of integrity here on earth and presented the value of his ransom sacrifice in 33 C.E., he had to wait until 1914 before commencing his rule. (Acts 2:33-35; Heb. 10:12, 13) It will not be until the end of his Thousand Year Reign that all his enemies will be completely destroyed. (1 Cor. 15:25) It will have been a long wait, but we can be sure that the wait will be worth it.

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**16, 17.** How have both Jehovah God and Jesus Christ set excellent examples with regard to being willing to wait?

## WHAT WILL HELP US?

**18** Without a doubt, therefore, each one of us needs to be willing to wait, to show a patient attitude. But what will help us to do this? Pray for God's spirit. Remember, patience is an aspect of the fruitage of the spirit. (Eph. 3:16; 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:17-19) Plead with Jehovah to help you to endure patiently.

**19** Remember, too, what helped Abraham, Joseph, and David to wait patiently for the fulfillment of Jehovah's promises. It was their faith in Jehovah and their trust in his dealings with them. They did not focus just on themselves and their personal comfort. As we contemplate how well things worked out for them, we too will be encouraged to show a waiting attitude.

**20** So even though we face tests and trials, we are determined to show "a waiting attitude." Yes, at times we might cry out: "How long, O Jehovah?" (Isa. 6:11) But with the strengthening power of God's holy spirit, each of us is determined to echo the words of Jeremiah: "Jehovah is my share . . . That is why I will show a waiting attitude for him." —Lam. 3:21, 24.

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**18, 19.** What will help us to be willing to wait patiently?

**20.** What should be our personal determination?

# 79

## *Teach Them to Stand Firm*

(Matthew 28:19, 20)

1. What a joy to teach Jehovah's sheep  
And to see how they have grown.  
We have seen how he has guided them  
As they've made the truth their own.

*(CHORUS)*

*Jehovah, may you hear our prayer  
And keep them in your watchful care.  
In Jesus' name, for them we plead: May they succeed;  
May ev'ry one of them stand firm.*

2. Ev'ry day we said a prayer for them,  
As their faith was under test.  
We made time to teach and care for them;  
They've grown strong, and they've been blessed.

*(Chorus)*

3. May they all maintain their confidence,  
Trust in God and in his Son.  
Through endurance and obedience,  
May their race for life be won.

*(Chorus)*

