

- Song 95 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **"Daniel's Prophecy Foretold the Messiah's Arrival":** (10 min.)
 Da 9:24—The Messiah's sacrifice opened the way for forgiveness of sins (*it-2* 902 ¶12)
 Da 9:25—The Messiah arrived at the end of the 69th week of years (*it-2* 900 ¶17)
 Da 9:26, 27a—The Messiah was put to death in the middle of the 70th week of years (*it-2* 901 ¶2, 5)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Da 9:24—When was "the Holy of Holies" anointed? (*w01* 5/15 27)

 Da 9:27—What covenant was kept in force for the many until the end of the 70th week of years, or 36 C.E.? (*w07* 9/1 20 ¶4)

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

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

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Da 7:1-10

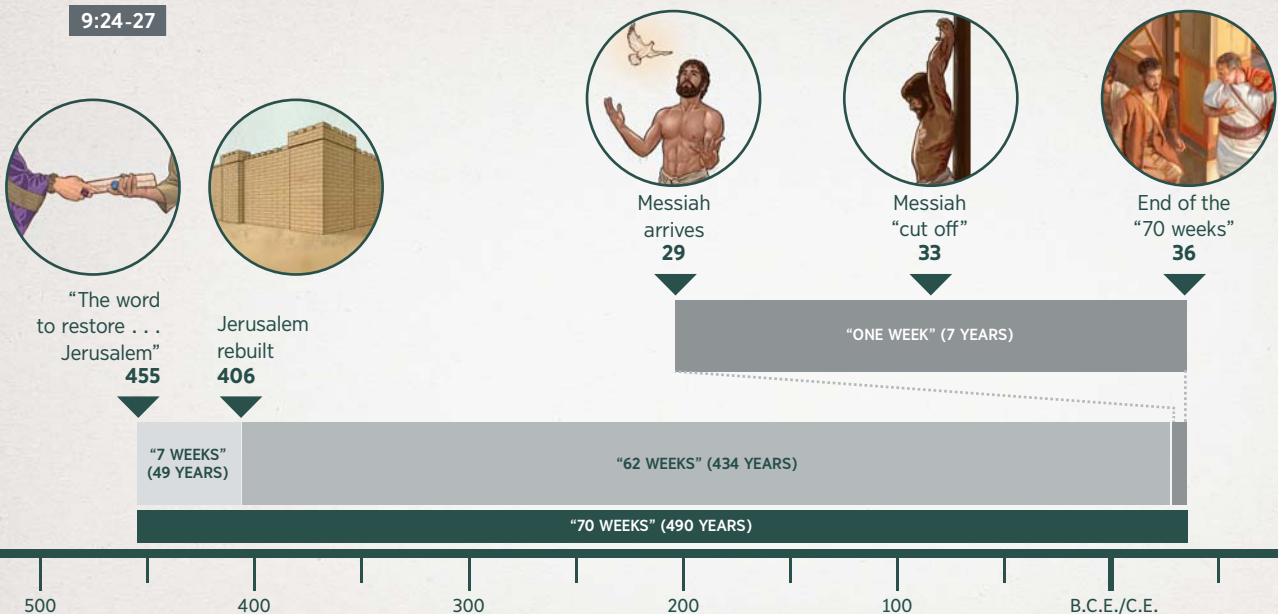
APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month's Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion based on "Sample Presentations." Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. Encourage publishers to follow up on any interest promptly.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 78
- **"How to Become a Diligent Student of the Scriptures":** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Research Tools for Discovering Spiritual Treasures* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
kr chap. 19 ¶1-7, boxes on pp. 203-205
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 101 and Prayer

DANIEL 7-9 | Daniel's Prophecy Foretold the Messiah's Arrival



The Light Gets Brighter

(Proverbs 4:18)

B \flat Cm9/B \flat Cm/B \flat

The proph - ets of old sought to learn of the Christ, The
Our Lord has ap - point - ed a trust - wor - thy slave, Through

B \flat ma7 Cm Dm/B \flat Cm/B \flat E \flat /B \flat B \flat ma7 Cm Dm

hope of all groan - ing cre - a - tion. God's spir - it re - vealed that Mes -
whom He gives food in due sea - son. The light of the truth has grown

Cm/B \flat Dm/B \flat Cm Dm Cm/B \flat Cm

si - ah would come, Pro - vid - ing the means of sal - va - tion. The
bright - er with time, Ap - peal - ing to heart and to rea - son. Our

Dm Cm/E \flat Dm Cm/E \flat B \flat m/F C \flat /G \flat

time has ar - rived, the Mes - si - ah now reigns, The proof of his pres - ence is
path ev - er clear - er, our steps ev - er firm, We walk in the bright - ness of

The Light Gets Brighter

Db/Ab Cb/Gb Bb/F Cm/F Dm/F Cm/F

clear. day. How great is the fa - vor of learn - ing such things; In - to day. All thanks to Je - ho - vah, the Source of all truth, We most

Dm/F Eb/F F **Chorus**
Eb/F Bb F/A

these e - ven an - gels would peer! grate - ful - ly walk in his way. Our path now be - comes ev - er

Gm7 Bb/F Eb Bb/D C7sus4 F F#°

bright - er; We walk in the full light of day. Be -

Gm Bb/F Ebma7 Cm/Eb C7/E Bb/F Cm7/F F7 Bb

hold what our God is re - veal - ing; He guides us each step of the way.

18 The king then went to his palace. He passed the night fasting and refused any entertainment,* and he could not sleep.#

19 Finally at the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' pit. 20 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?" 21 Daniel immediately said to the king: "O king, may you live on forever. 22 My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions,^a and they have not harmed me,^b for I was found innocent before him; nor have I done any wrong to you, O king."

23 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.^c

24 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.^d

25 Then King Dar-i-us wrote to all the peoples, nations, and language groups dwelling throughout the earth:^e "May you have abundant peace! 26 I am issuing an order that in every domain of my kingdom, people are to tremble in fear before the God of Daniel.^f For he is the living God and he endures forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his ruler-

6:18 *Or possibly, "no musicians were brought in." #Lit., "his sleep fled from him." 6:24 *Or "slandered."

CHAP. 6

a 1Sa 17:37
Heb 11:32, 33

b Ps 34:7
Ps 118:5
Da 3:28

c Ps 37:40
Pr 18:10
Da 3:26, 27

d Es 7:10

e Es 8:9
Da 4:1

f Da 3:29

Second Col.

a Da 4:34

b Da 3:28

c Jer 32:20
Da 4:3

d Da 5:31
Da 6:1, 2

e 2Ch 36:22, 23
Ezr 1:1, 2
Isa 44:28

CHAP. 7

f Da 5:1, 30

g Da 2:19
Da 8:1

h Isa 30:8
Hab 2:2
Re 1:11

i Isa 57:20
Re 17:15

j Da 7:17

k Da 2:37, 38

l De 28:49, 50
Jer 48:40
La 4:19
Hab 1:8

m Da 2:39
Da 5:28
Da 8:3, 20

n Isa 13:17, 18
Da 11:2

o Da 2:39
Da 8:5
Da 11:3

p Da 8:8
Da 11:4

q Da 2:40
Da 7:19

ship* is eternal.^a 27 He rescues,^b saves, and performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth,^c for he rescued Daniel from the paw of the lions."

28 So this Daniel prospered in the kingdom of Da-r-i-us^d and in the kingdom of Cyrus the Persian.^e

7 In the first year of King Belshaz'zar^f of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay on his bed.^g Then he wrote down the dream;^h he recorded a complete account of the matters. 2 Daniel declared:

"I was watching in my visions during the night, and look! the four winds of the heavens were stirring up the vast sea.ⁱ 3 And four huge beasts^j came out of the sea, each different from the others.

4 "The first one was like a lion,^k and it had the wings of an eagle.^l I watched until its wings were plucked out, and it was lifted up from the earth and was made to stand up on two feet like a man, and it was given the heart of a man.

5 "And look! another beast, a second one, like a bear.^m It was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Get up, eat much flesh.'ⁿ

6 "After this I kept watching, and look! another beast, like a leopard,^o but on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. And the beast had four heads,^p and it was given authority to rule.

7 "After this I kept watching in the visions of the night, and I saw a fourth beast, fearsome and terrifying and unusually strong, and it had large iron teeth. It was devouring and crushing, and what was left it trampled down with its feet.^q It

6:26 *Or "sovereignty."

was different from all the other beasts that were prior to it, and it had ten horns. **8** While I considered the horns, look! another horn, a small one,^a came up among them, and three of the first horns were plucked up from before it. And look! there were eyes like human eyes in this horn, and there was a mouth speaking arrogantly.*^b

9 "I kept watching until thrones were set in place and the Ancient of Days^c sat down.^d His clothing was white like snow,^e and the hair of his head was like clean wool. His throne was flames of fire; its wheels were a burning fire.^f **10** A stream of fire was flowing and going out from before him.^g A thousand thousands kept ministering to him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.^h The Courtⁱ took its seat, and books were opened.

11 "I kept watching at that time because of the sound of the arrogant* words that the horn was speaking;^j I watched until the beast was killed and its body was destroyed and it was given over to be burned in the fire. **12** But as for the rest of the beasts,^k their rulerships were taken away, and their lives were prolonged for a time and a season.

13 "I kept watching in the visions of the night, and look! with the clouds of the heavens, someone like a son of man^l was coming; and he gained access to the Ancient of Days,^m and they brought him up close before that One. **14** And to him there were given rulership,ⁿ honor,^o and a kingdom, that the peoples, nations, and language groups should all serve him.^p His rulership is an everlasting rul-

7:8, 20 *Or "boastfully." 7:11 *Or "boastful."

CHAP. 7

a Da 7:24
b Da 7:20
Re 13:5
c Ps 90:2
Da 7:13, 22
Hab 1:12
d Isa 6:1, 2
Re 4:2, 3
e Ps 104:1, 2
f De 9:3
Heb 12:29
g Ps 50:3
Ps 97:3
h De 33:2
1Ki 22:19
Ps 68:17
Heb 12:22
Jude 14
Re 5:11
i 1Sa 2:10
Ps 50:6
j Da 7:8, 25
k Da 7:3
l Mt 24:30
Lu 21:27
Joh 3:13
Ac 7:56
Re 14:14
m Ps 90:2
Da 7:9, 22
Hab 1:12
n Ps 2:6
Ps 110:1, 2
Mt 28:18
1Co 15:25
Eph 1:22
Re 3:21
o Php 2:9-11
p Ge 49:10

Second Col.

a Ps 45:6
Isa 9:6, 7
Da 2:44
Lu 1:32, 33
Re 11:15
b Da 8:27
c Da 7:3
d Da 2:39, 40
e Da 7:25, 27
f Mt 19:28
2Ti 2:12
Re 3:21
Re 5:9, 10
g Da 7:21, 22
Lu 22:29
h Da 2:40
Da 7:7
i Da 7:24
j Da 7:8
k Da 8:23, 24
Da 12:7
Re 13:7
l Ps 90:2
Da 7:9, 13
Hab 1:12
m Da 7:18, 27
n Mt 19:28
Lu 22:29
Re 1:6
Re 3:21
Re 5:9, 10
Re 20:4
o Da 2:40
Da 7:7

ership that will not pass away, and his kingdom will not be destroyed.^a

15 "As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me because the visions of my head frightened me.^b **16** I went near to one of those who were standing there to ask him about the true meaning of this. So he replied and made known to me the interpretation of these things.

17 "These huge beasts, four in number,^c are four kings who will stand up from the earth.^d

18 But the holy ones of the Supreme One^e will receive the kingdom,^f and they will possess the kingdom^g forever, yes, forever and ever.^h

19 "Then I wanted to know more about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others; it was extraordinarily fearsome, with iron teeth and copper claws, and it was devouring and crushing, and trampling down what was left with its feet;^h

20 and about the ten hornsⁱ on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three fell,^j the horn that had eyes and a mouth speaking arrogantly* and whose appearance was bigger than that of the others.

21 "I kept watching as that horn made war on the holy ones, and it was prevailing against them,^k **22** until the Ancient of Days^l came and judgment was rendered in favor of the holy ones of the Supreme One,^m and the appointed time arrived for the holy ones to take possession of the kingdom.ⁿ

23 "This is what he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there is a fourth kingdom that will come to be on the earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms, and it will devour all the earth and will trample it down and crush it.^o **24** As for the ten horns, ten kings will rise up out

of that kingdom; and still another one will rise up after them, and he will be different from the first ones, and he will humiliate three kings.^a **25** He will speak words against the Most High,^b and he will continually harass the holy ones of the Supreme One. He will intend to change times and law, and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.^{*c} **26** But the Court sat, and they took away his rulership, in order to annihilate him and to destroy him completely.^d

27 "And the kingdom and the rulership and the grandeur of the kingdoms under all the heavens were given to the people who are the holy ones of the Supreme One.^e Their kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,^f and all rulerships will serve and obey them.^g

28 "This is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts alarmed me greatly, so that I turned pale;^{*} but I kept the matter in my own heart."

8 In the third year of the kingship of King Bel-shaz'zar,^a a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after the one that appeared to me previously.^b **2** I saw the vision, and as I watched I was in Shu'shan^{*i} the citadel,[#] which is in the province^Δ of E'lam;^j I viewed the vision, and I was next to the watercourse of U'lai. **3** As I raised my eyes, look! there was a ram^k standing before the watercourse, and it had two horns.^l The two horns were tall, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up later.^m **4** I saw the ram making thrusts to the west and to the north and to the south, and

7:25 *That is, three and a half times.
7:28 *Or "my appearance changed."
8:2 *Or "Susa." #Or "palace; fortress." ΔOr "jurisdictional district."

CHAP. 7

a Da 7:20

b Da 7:8

c Da 12:7
Re 13:5-7

d Da 7:10, 11

e Da 7:22
Mt 19:28
Lu 22:29
Re 20:4

f Re 11:15

CHAP. 8

g Da 5:1, 30

h Da 7:1, 15

i Ne 1:1
Es 2:8j Ge 10:22
Isa 11:11
Isa 21:2k Isa 13:17
Jer 51:11
Da 7:5
Da 8:20

l Es 1:1, 3

m Isa 44:28

Second Col.

a Isa 45:1
Jer 51:12
Da 5:30, 31b Da 2:39
Da 7:6
Da 8:21

c Da 11:3

d Da 8:22
Da 11:4e Ps 48:2
Da 11:16, 45f Da 11:31
Da 12:11

no wild beasts could stand before it, and there was no one who could provide rescue from its power.^{*a} It did as it pleased and exalted itself.

5 As I kept watching, look! there was a male goat^b coming from the west^{*} crossing the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between its eyes.^c **6** It was coming toward the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing before the watercourse; it was running toward it in a powerful rage.

7 I saw it closing in on the ram, and it was filled with bitterness toward it. It struck down the ram and broke its two horns, and the ram was powerless to stand up to it. It threw the ram to the ground and trampled it down, and there was no one to rescue it from its power.^{*}

8 Then the male goat exalted itself exceedingly, but as soon as it became mighty, the great horn was broken; then four conspicuous horns came up instead of the one, toward the four winds of the heavens.^d

9 Out of one of them came another horn, a small one, and it grew very great toward the south and toward the east^{*} and toward the Decoration.^{#e} **10** It grew so great that it reached all the way to the army of the heavens, and it caused some of the army and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down. **11** It exalted itself even against the Prince of the army, and from him the constant feature^{*} was taken away, and the established place of his sanctuary was thrown down.^f **12** And an army

8:4, 7 *Lit., "hand." 8:5 *Or "sunset."
8:9 *Or "sunrise." #Or "the Beauty."
8:11 *Or "the continual sacrifice."

was given over, together with the constant feature,* because of transgression; and it kept throwing truth to the earth, and it acted and had success.

13 And I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one speaking: "How long will the vision of the constant feature* and of the transgression causing desolation continue,^a to make both the holy place and the army things to trample on?" **14** So he said to me: "Until 2,300 evenings and mornings; and the holy place will certainly be restored to its right condition."

15 While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and seeking to understand it, suddenly I saw standing in front of me someone who appeared to be a man.

16 Then I heard the voice of a man in the midst of the U'lai,^b and he called out: "Ga'bri-el,^c make that one understand what he saw."^d **17** So he came near to where I was standing, but when he came I was so terrified that I fell facedown. He said to me: "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end."^e **18** But while he was speaking with me, I fell fast asleep with my face to the ground. So he touched me and made me stand up where I had been standing.^f **19** Then he said: "Here I am causing you to know what will happen in the final part of the denunciation, because it is for the appointed time of the end."^g

20 "The two-horned ram that you saw stands for the kings of Me'di-a and Persia.^h **21** The hairy male goat stands for the king of Greece;ⁱ and the great horn that was between its eyes stands for the first king.^j **22** As for the horn that was broken, so

8:12, 13 *Or "the continual sacrifice."

CHAP. 8

a Da 12:11

b Da 8:2

c Lu 1:19, 26

d Da 9:21, 22

e Da 10:14
Da 12:4, 9

f Da 10:9, 10

g Da 11:27

h Da 7:5
Da 8:3
Da 11:2

i Da 7:6

j Da 8:5
Da 11:3

Second Col.

a Da 8:8
Da 11:4

b Da 7:25
Da 8:10

c Da 10:14

d Da 7:28
Da 10:16

e Da 2:48, 49

f Da 8:17

CHAP. 9

g Da 6:28
Da 11:1

h Da 5:30, 31

that four stood up instead of it,^a there are four kingdoms from his nation that will stand up, but not with his power.

23 "And in the final part of their kingdom, as the transgressors act to a completion,* a fierce-looking king who understands ambiguous sayings^f will stand up. **24** His power will become great, but not through his own power. He will bring ruin in an extraordinary way,* and he will be successful and act effectively. He will bring mighty ones to ruin, also the people made up of the holy ones.^b **25** And by his cunning he will use deception to succeed; and in his heart he will exalt himself; and during a time of security* he will bring many to ruin. He will even stand up against the Prince of princes, but he will be broken without human hand.

26 "What was said in the vision about the evenings and the mornings is true, but you must keep the vision secret, for it refers to a time many days from now."^c

27 As for me, Daniel, I felt exhausted and I was sick for some days.^d Then I got up and carried out the king's work;^e but I was numbed by what I had seen, and no one could understand it.^f

9 In the first year of Da-ri'-us^g the son of A-has-u-e-rus—a descendant of the Medes who had been made king over the kingdom of the Chal-de'ans^h—**2** in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, discerned by the books* the number of years mentioned in the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet to fulfill the

8:23 *Or "have reached their limit." *Or "who is skilled in intrigue." **8:24** *Or "bring terrible destruction." **8:25** *Or possibly, "and without warning." **8:26** *Or "to the distant future." **9:2** *That is, the sacred books.

desolation of Jerusalem,^a namely, 70 years.^b **3** So I turned my face to Jehovah the true God, entreating him in prayer, along with fasting^c and sackcloth and ashes. **4** I prayed to Jehovah my God and made confession and said:

“O Jehovah the true God, the great and awe-inspiring One, who keeps his covenant and shows loyal love^d to those who love him and keep his commandments,^e **5** we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled;^f and we have deviated from your commandments and your judgments. **6** We have not listened to your servants the prophets,^g who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, our forefathers, and all the people of the land. **7** To you, O Jehovah, belongs righteousness, but to us belongs shame* as is the case today, to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those nearby and far away, in all the lands to which you dispersed them because they acted unfaithfully toward you.^h

8 “O Jehovah, to us belongs shame,* to our kings, our princes, and our forefathers, because we have sinned against you. **9** To Jehovah our God belong mercy and forgiveness,ⁱ for we have rebelled against him.^j **10** We have not obeyed the voice of Jehovah our God by following his laws that he set before us through his servants the prophets.^k **11** All Israel has overstepped your Law and turned away by not obeying your voice, so that you poured out on us the curse and the sworn oath written about in the Law of Moses the servant of the true God,^l for we have sinned against Him. **12** He has carried

9:7, 8 *Lit., “shame of face.”

CHAP. 9

- a Ezr 1:1, 2
Ps 79:1
Isa 64:10
La 1:1
b 2Ch 36:20, 21
Jer 25:11
Jer 29:10
Zec 1:12
Zec 7:5
c Ezr 8:21
d Ex 34:6
e De 5:9, 10
Ne 1:5
f Ezr 9:6, 7
Ne 9:26, 33
Ps 106:6
La 3:42
g 2Ch 36:15, 16
Jer 7:13
h Le 26:33
De 28:41
2Ki 17:6
Isa 11:11
i Ex 34:6, 7
Ne 9:17
Ps 86:5
j Ne 9:26
k 2Ki 17:13, 14
l De 28:15
De 31:17

Second Col.

- a La 2:17
b Jer 39:8
c Le 26:16, 17
De 28:15
La 1:1
d Isa 9:13
Jer 5:3
e Ne 9:33
f Ex 6:1
g Ex 9:16
Ne 9:10
Ps 106:7, 8
h Ps 89:14
Isa 26:9
i Le 26:38, 39
1Ki 9:7-9
Ps 79:1, 4
Jer 24:9
j Nu 6:23, 25
k Isa 64:10, 11
La 5:18
l Ps 102:13
Isa 54:7, 8
Jer 14:7
m 1Ki 8:30

out his words that he spoke against us^a and against our rulers who ruled over us,* by bringing great calamity on us; nothing has ever been done under the whole heavens such as what was done in Jerusalem.^b **13** Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us,^c yet we have not begged for the favor* of Jehovah our God by turning away from our error^d and by showing insight into your truth.^e

14 “So Jehovah kept watchful and brought calamity on us, for Jehovah our God is righteous in all the works that he has done; yet we have not obeyed his voice.^e

15 “Now, O Jehovah our God, the One who brought your people out of the land of Egypt by a mighty hand^f and made a name for yourself down to this day,^g we have sinned and acted wickedly. **16** O Jehovah, according to all your righteous acts,^h please, may your anger and wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the errors of our forefathers, Jerusalem and your people are an object of reproach to all those around us.ⁱ **17** And now listen, O our God, to the prayer of your servant and to his entreaties, and cause your face to shine upon your sanctuary^j that is desolate,^k for your own sake, O Jehovah. **18** Incline your ear, O my God, and hear! Do open your eyes and see our desolate condition and the city that has been called by your name; for we are not entreating you because of our righteous acts but because of your great mercy.^l **19** O Jehovah, do hear. O Jehovah, do forgive.^m O Jehovah, do

9:12 *Lit., “our judges who judged us.”
9:13 *Or “softened the face.” *Or “faithfulness.”

pay attention and act! Do not delay, for your own sake, O my God, for your own name has been called upon your city and upon your people.^a

20 While I was still speaking and praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request for favor before Jehovah my God concerning the holy mountain of my God,^b **21** yes, while I was yet speaking in prayer, the man Ga'bri-el,^c whom I had previously seen in the vision,^d came to me when I was extremely weary at about the time of the evening gift offering. **22** And he gave me understanding, saying:

"O Daniel, now I have come to give you insight and understanding. **23** When you began your entreaty the word went out, and I have come to report it to you, because you are someone very precious.^e So consider the matter and understand the vision.

24 "There are 70 weeks* that have been determined for your people and your holy city,^f in order to terminate the transgression, to finish off sin,^g to make atonement for error,^h to bring in everlasting righteousness,ⁱ to seal up the vision and the prophecy,^j and to anoint the Holy of Holies.^Δ **25** You should know and understand that from the issuing of the word to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem^k until Mes-si'ah^l the Leader,^m there will be 7 weeks, also 62 weeks.ⁿ She will be restored and rebuilt, with a public square and moat, but in times of distress.

26 "And after the 62 weeks, Mes-si'ah will be cut off,^o with nothing for himself.^p

9:23 *Or "very desirable; highly esteemed." 9:24 *That is, weeks of years. ^ΔLit., "prophet." ^ΔOr "the Most Holy." 9:25 *Or "the Anointed One." 9:26 *Or "put to death."

CHAP. 9

- a Ps 79:8, 9
Isa 63:18, 19
Jer 14:9
b Ps 87:1, 2
Zec 8:3
c Da 8:16
Lu 1:19
d Da 8:1
e Da 10:11, 19
f Ne 11:1
Isa 52:1
g Lu 1:76, 77
Heb 9:26
h Ro 3:25
l Jo 2:1, 2
l Jo 4:10
i Isa 53:11
Ro 1:16, 17
j 2Co 1:19, 20
k Ne 2:5, 11
Ne 6:15
l Ps 2:2
Joh 1:41
m Isa 55:4
Mt 23:10
Joh 1:45, 49
n Lu 3:1, 2
o Isa 53:8, 12
Mt 26:2
Lu 24:26
1Co 15:3
p Mr 9:12

Second Col.

- a Mt 24:15
Lu 19:43, 44
Lu 21:20
b Lu 21:22, 24
c Heb 9:11, 12
Heb 10:8-10
d Mr 13:14
Lu 21:20

CHAP. 10

- e Ezz 1:1, 2
Isa 45:1
Da 1:21
Da 6:28
f Da 1:7
Da 4:8
g Da 9:3
h Ge 2:14
i Re 19:14
j Eze 1:16
k Eze 1:5, 7
l 2Ki 6:17
Ac 9:7

"And the people of a leader who is coming will destroy the city and the holy place.^a And its end will be by the flood. And until the end there will be war; what is decided upon is desolations.^b

27 "And he will keep the covenant in force for the many for one week; and at the half of the week, he will cause sacrifice and gift offering to cease.^c

"And on the wing of disgusting things there will be the one causing desolation;^d and until an extermination, what was decided on will be poured out also on the one lying desolate."

10 In the third year of King Cyrus^e of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel, who was called by the name Bel-teshaz'zar;^f and the message was true, and it was about a great conflict. And he understood the message and was given understanding about what he had seen.

2 In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning^g for three full weeks. **3** I ate no rich food, and no meat or wine entered my mouth, and I did not put any oil on myself for three full weeks.

4 On the 24th day of the first month, while I was on the bank of the great river, the Ti'gris,^h

5 I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen,ⁱ and around his waist was a belt of gold from U'phaz. **6** His body was like chrys'o-lite,^j his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like fiery torches, his arms and his feet looked like burnished copper,^k and the sound of his words was like the sound of a multitude. **7** Only I, Daniel, saw the vision; the men with me did not see the vision.^l However, a great trembling seized them, and they ran away and hid.

10:4 *Lit., "Hiddekel."

- Song 95 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **"Daniel's Prophecy Foretold the Messiah's Arrival":** (10 min.)
 Da 9:24—The Messiah's sacrifice opened the way for forgiveness of sins (*it-2* 902 ¶12)
 Da 9:25—The Messiah arrived at the end of the 69th week of years (*it-2* 900 ¶17)
 Da 9:26, 27a—The Messiah was put to death in the middle of the 70th week of years (*it-2* 901 ¶2, 5)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Da 9:24—When was "the Holy of Holies" anointed? (*w01* 5/15 27)

 Da 9:27—What covenant was kept in force for the many until the end of the 70th week of years, or 36 C.E.? (*w07* 9/1 20 ¶4)

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

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

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Da 7:1-10

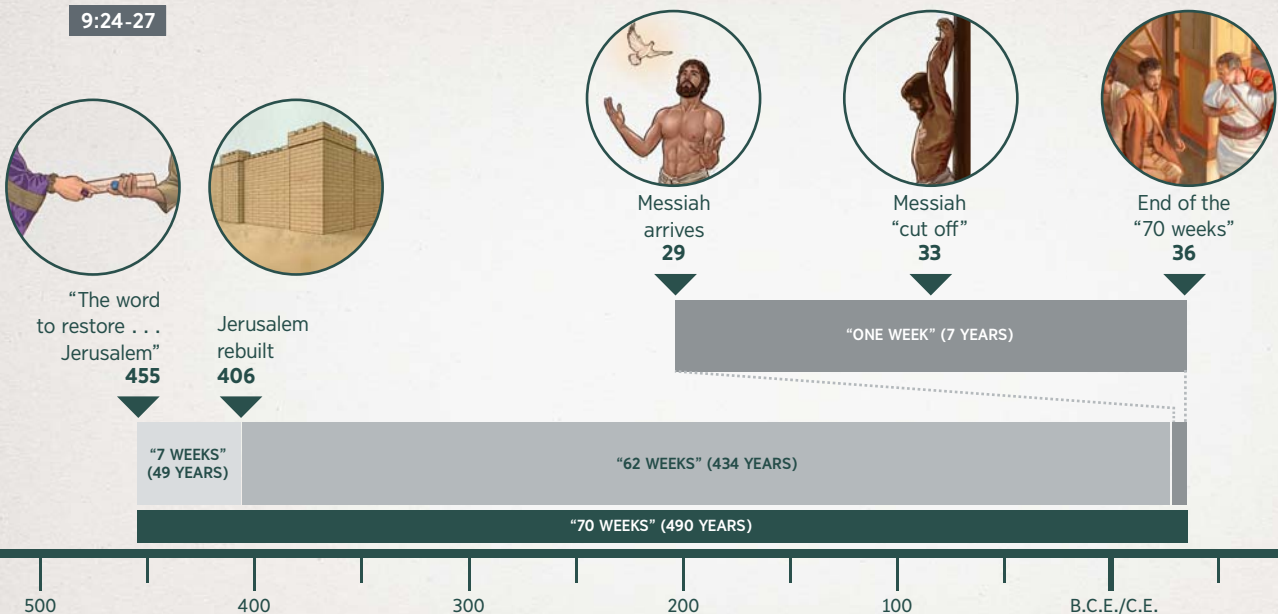
APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month's Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion based on "Sample Presentations." Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. Encourage publishers to follow up on any interest promptly.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 78
- **"How to Become a Diligent Student of the Scriptures":** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Research Tools for Discovering Spiritual Treasures* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
kr chap. 19 ¶1-7, boxes on pp. 203-205
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 101 and Prayer

DANIEL 7-9 | Daniel's Prophecy Foretold the Messiah's Arrival



October 2-8

Treasures From God's Word

Daniel 9:24—The Messiah's sacrifice opened the way for forgiveness of sins

Reference: it-2 902 [paragraph 2](#).

Transgression and sin terminated. Jesus' being cut off in death, his resurrection, and his appearance in heaven resulted in 'terminating transgression and finishing off sin as well as in making atonement for error.' (**Daniel 9:24**) The Law covenant had exposed the Jews as sinners, condemned them as such, and brought upon them the curse as covenant breakers. But where sin "abounded" as exposed or made evident by the Mosaic Law, God's mercy and favor abounded much more through his Messiah. (**Romans 5:20**) By Messiah's sacrifice, transgression and sin of the repentant sinners can be canceled and the penalty thereof be lifted.

Daniel 9:25—The Messiah arrived at the end of the 69th week of years

Reference: it-2 900 [paragraph 7](#).

Messiah's Arrival After 'Sixty-Nine Weeks.' As to the following "sixty-two weeks" (**Daniel 9:25**), these, being part of the 70 and named second in order, would continue from the conclusion of the "seven weeks." Therefore, the time "from the going forth of the word" to rebuild Jerusalem until "Messiah the Leader" would be 7 plus 62 "weeks," or 69 "weeks"—483 years—from the year 455 B.C.E. to 29 C.E. As mentioned above, in the autumn of that year, 29 C.E., Jesus was baptized in water, was anointed with holy spirit, and began his ministry as "Messiah the Leader."—**Luke 3:1, 2, 21, 22**.

Daniel 9:26, 27a—The Messiah was put to death in the middle of the 70th week of years

Reference: it-2 901 [paragraph 2](#).

"Cut off" at the half of the week. Gabriel further said to Daniel: "After the sixty-two weeks Messiah will be cut off, with nothing for himself." (**Daniel 9:26**) It was sometime after the end of the 'seven plus sixty-two weeks,' actually about three and a half years afterward, that Christ was cut off in death on a torture stake, giving up all that he had, as a ransom for mankind. (**Isaiah 53:8**) Evidence indicates that the first half of the "week" was spent by Jesus in the ministry. On one occasion, likely in the fall of 32 C.E., he gave an illustration, apparently speaking of the Jewish nation as a fig tree (compare **Matthew 17:15-20; 21:18, 19, 43**) that had borne no fruit for "three years." The vinedresser said to the owner of the vineyard: "Master, let it alone also this year, until I dig around it and put on manure; and if then it produces fruit in the future, well and good; but if not, you shall cut it down." (**Luke 13:6-9**) He may have referred here to the time period of his own ministry to that unresponsive nation, which ministry had continued at that point for about three years and was to continue into a fourth year.

Reference: it-2 901 [paragraph 5](#).

"The half of the week" would be at the middle of seven years, or after three and a half years within that "week" of years. Since the 70th "week" began about the *fall* of 29 C.E. at Jesus' baptism and anointing to be Christ, half of that week (three and a half years) would extend to the spring of 33 C.E., or Passover time (Nisan 14) of that year. This day appears to have been April 1, 33 C.E., according to the Gregorian calendar. (See LORD'S EVENING MEAL [Time of Its Institution].) The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus 'came to do the will of God,' which was to 'do away with what is first [the sacrifices and offerings according to the Law] that he may establish what is second.' This he did by offering as a sacrifice his own body.—**Hebrews 10:1-10**.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Daniel 9:24—When was “the Holy of Holies” anointed?

Reference: w01 5/15 27.

Questions From Readers

When was “the Holy of Holies” anointed, as foretold at Daniel 9:24?

Daniel 9:24-27 is a prophecy concerning the appearance of “Messiah the Leader”—the Christ. The foretold anointing of “the Holy of Holies,” then, does not refer to the anointing of the Most Holy compartment of the temple in Jerusalem. Rather, the expression “Holy of Holies” refers to the heavenly sanctuary of God—the heavenly Most Holy—in the great spiritual temple of Jehovah.—**Hebrews 8:1-5; 9:2-10, 23.**

When did God’s spiritual temple begin to operate? Well, consider what took place when Jesus presented himself for baptism in 29 C.E. From that point on in his life, Jesus fulfilled the words of Psalm 40:6-8. The apostle Paul later indicated that Jesus had prayed to God: “Sacrifice and offering you did not want, but you prepared a body for me.” (Hebrews 10:5) Jesus knew that God “did not want” animal sacrifices to continue to be offered at Jerusalem’s temple. Instead, Jehovah had prepared a perfect human body for Jesus to offer as a sacrifice. Expressing his heartfelt desire, Jesus continued: “Look! I am come (in the roll of the book it is written about me) to do your will, O God.” (Hebrews 10:7) And what was Jehovah’s response? The Gospel of Matthew states: “After being baptized Jesus immediately came up from the water; and, look! the heavens were opened up, and he saw descending like a dove God’s spirit coming upon him. Look! Also, there was a voice from the heavens that said: ‘This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved.’”—**Matthew 3:16, 17.**

Jehovah God’s acceptance of the presentation of Jesus’ body for sacrifice meant that an altar greater than the literal altar in Jerusalem’s temple had come into existence. This was an altar of God’s “will,” or arrangement for accepting Jesus’ human life as a sacrifice. (Hebrews 10:10) The anointing of Jesus with holy spirit meant that God had now brought forth his entire spiritual temple arrangement. Hence, at the time of Jesus’ baptism, God’s heavenly abode was anointed, or set apart, as “the Holy of Holies” in the great spiritual temple arrangement.

Daniel 9:27—What covenant was kept in force for the many until the end of the 70th week of years, or 36 C.E.?

Reference: w07 9/1 20 **paragraph 4.**

The Law covenant was removed in 33 C.E. when Jesus was impaled. But by keeping the Abrahamic covenant in force toward fleshly Israel until 36 C.E., Jehovah extended the period of special favor to the Jews on the basis of their being descendants of Abraham. The Abrahamic covenant continues in force with regard to “the Israel of God.”—**Galatians 3:7-9, 14-18, 29; 6:16.**

- Song 95 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Daniel’s Prophecy Foretold the Messiah’s Arrival”:** (10 min.)

Da 9:24—The Messiah’s sacrifice opened the way for forgiveness of sins (*it-2* 902 ¶12)

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

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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Da 7:1-10

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights. Encourage publishers to follow up on any interest promptly.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 78
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- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 101 and Prayer

DANIEL 7-9 | Daniel’s Prophecy Foretold the Messiah’s Arrival

9:24-27



“The word to restore . . . Jerusalem”
455



Jerusalem rebuilt
406



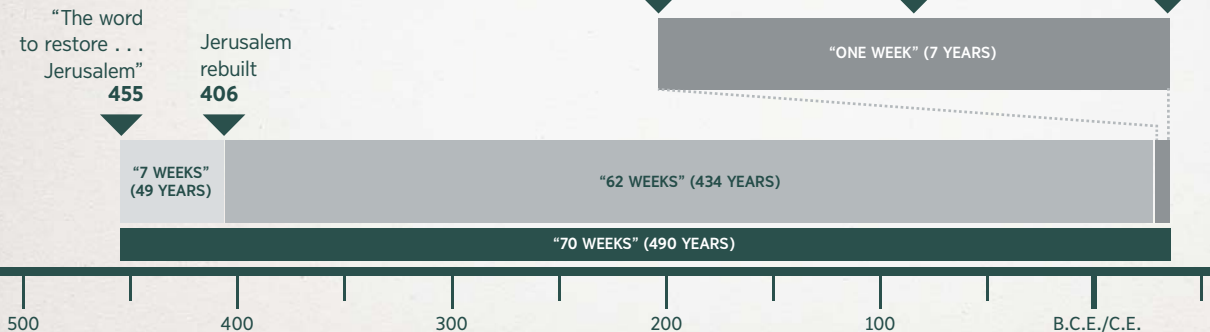
Messiah arrives
29



Messiah “cut off”
33



End of the “70 weeks”
36





Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Presentations



AWAKE!

Question: Why is it important to prepare for disasters?

Scripture: Pr 27:12

Offer: This magazine highlights what we should do before, during, and after a disaster.



TEACH THE TRUTH

Question: How do we show love for God?

Scripture: 1Jo 5:3

Truth: We show love for God by obeying his commandments.

Can the dead really live again?



CAN THE DEAD REALLY LIVE AGAIN? (T-35)

Question: Many sincere people around the world hold annual festivals to honor the dead. Can we hope to see our dead loved ones again?

Scripture: Ac 24:15

Offer: This tract discusses what the resurrection hope can mean for you. [If possible, play the video *Is There Hope for the Dead?*]

BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

Question:

Scripture:

Offer:

“Teaching the Word of God”

(Acts 18:11)

C G6/B G7/B Gm/Bb A7

For those who teach the Word of God, There
 As teach - ers of Je - ho - vah's Word, We
 Je - ho - vah gives us all we need To

Dm A7+5 Dm7 F/G G13

is a joy - ful share. The
 strive to do what's right, So
 teach his pre - cious Word. So

Cma7 C B7/D# C/E F° F A7/E

ben - e - fits that we re - ceive Are
 all may see sin - cer - i - ty As
 if we pray to ask for help, We

C+5/D C6/D D7 Fm/Ab G7sus4 G7

far be - yond com - pare. We
 we re - flect God's light. With
 know that we'll be heard. We

“Teaching the Word of God”

C G6/B G7/B Gm/Bb A7

im - i - tate the Son of God And
 dil - i - gence we search God's Word, For
 love what's in the Word of God; What's

Dm A7+5 Dm7 F/G G13

how he taught with love. And
 it has news to tell. So
 more, we know it's true. And

Cma7 C B7/D# C/E G/F F C#° Dm

as we teach, the ones we're help - ing Draw
 we can share our heart's good trea - sure And
 as we love the ones we're teach - ing, They'll

Ab7+5 F/G G7 C

close to God a - bove.
 teach our - selves teach as well.
 soon be teach - ers too!

- Song 95 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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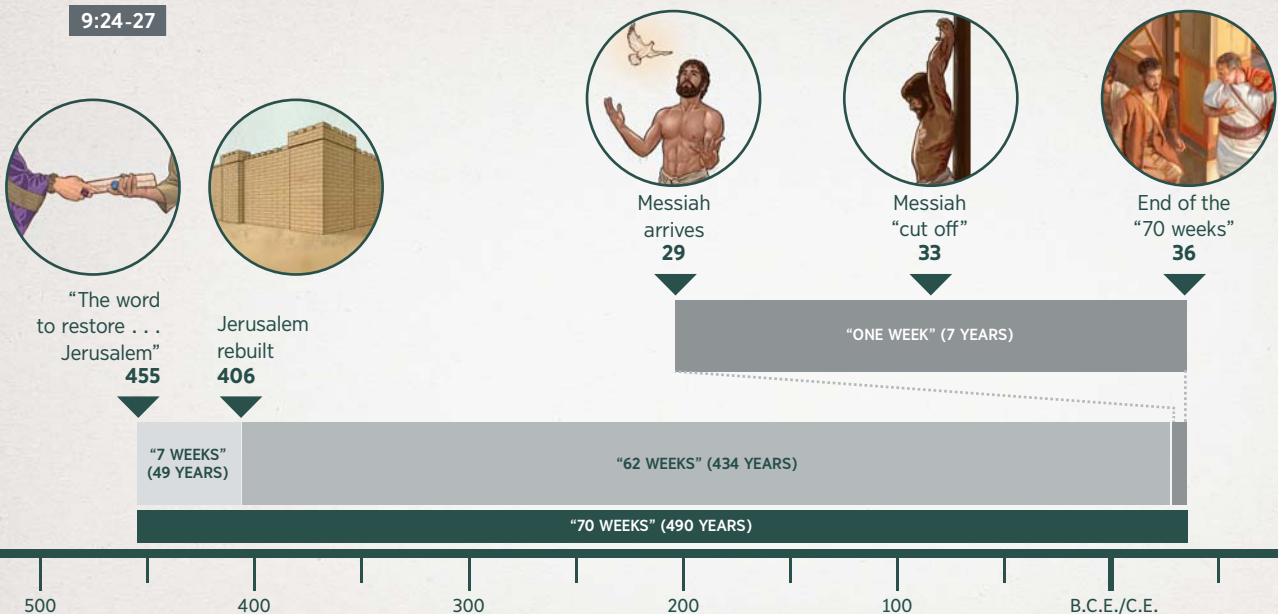
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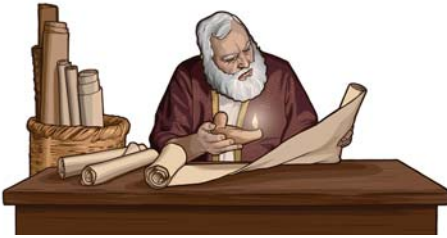
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DANIEL 7-9 | Daniel's Prophecy Foretold the Messiah's Arrival



How to Become a Diligent Student of the Scriptures



Would you like to be faithful under trial as Daniel was? Daniel diligently studied God’s Word, including deep prophecy. (Da 9:2) Diligent Bible study can help you to remain faithful. How so? It can increase your faith that Jehovah’s promises will come true. (Jos 23:14) It can also help you to increase your love for God, which will motivate you to do what is right. (Ps 97:10) But where should you begin? Consider the following suggestions.

- **What should I study?** A good study routine includes preparing for congregation meetings. The weekly Bible reading will be more rewarding if you take time to research points that you do not understand. In addition, some have chosen to learn more about Bible prophecy, the various aspects of the fruitage of God’s spirit, the missionary journeys of the apostle Paul, or even Jehovah’s physical creation. If you think of a Bible question during the day, write it down and make it the subject of your next study project.
- **Where can I find information?** For some options, watch the video *Research Tools for Discovering Spiritual Treasures*. To test your skills, research the identity of the world powers that are portrayed by the beasts in Daniel chapter 7.
- **How much time should I devote to study?** Regular study is a key to spiritual health. You can start with shorter study periods, if needed, and gradually increase the length. Studying God’s Word is like digging for hidden treasures; the more treasure you find, the more you will want to dig! (Pr 2:3-6) Your longing for God’s Word will increase, and regular Bible study will continue to be your routine.—1Pe 2:2.

For suggestions on how to make study enjoyable, see the February 2012 *Awake!*, pp. 18-20.

WHAT DO THE BEASTS OF DANIEL CHAPTER 7 REPRESENT?

Da 7:4



WORLD POWER:

Da 7:5



WORLD POWER:

Da 7:6



WORLD POWER:

Da 7:7



WORLD POWER:



EXTRA QUESTION:

How was Daniel 7:8, 24 fulfilled?

NEXT PROJECT:

What do the beasts of Revelation chapter 13 represent?

19

Building Work That Honors Jehovah

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

Worldwide construction work serves Kingdom interests

- 1, 2. (a) What have Jehovah's servants long enjoyed doing? (b) What does Jehovah treasure?
3. What will we review in this chapter?
4. (a) Why do we need more places of worship? (b) Why have various branch offices been consolidated? (See the box "Branch Construction—Adjusting to Changing Needs.")

JEHOVAH'S loyal servants have long enjoyed constructing buildings that bring praise to his name. The Israelites, for example, enthusiastically participated in the building of the tabernacle and generously provided materials for it. —Ex. 35:30-35; 36:1, 4-7.

² Jehovah does not view the building materials themselves as the primary things that bring him honor, nor are they the things that he values most. (Matt. 23:16, 17) What Jehovah treasures, the gift that brings him honor above all else, is the worship rendered him by his servants, including their willing spirit and zealous work. (Ex. 35:21; Mark 12:41-44; 1 Tim. 6:17-19) That fact is significant. Why? Because buildings come and go. For instance, the tabernacle and the temple no longer exist. Those structures may be gone, but Jehovah has not forgotten the generosity and labor of his loyal servants who supported their construction. —**Read 1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 6:10.**

³ Jehovah's modern-day servants have also worked hard to construct places of worship. And what we have accomplished under the direction of our King Jesus Christ is truly remarkable! Clearly, Jehovah has blessed our efforts. (Ps. 127:1) In this chapter, we will review just some of the work that has been done and how it has brought honor to Jehovah. We will also hear from some who have been involved in accomplishing the work.

Building Kingdom Halls

⁴ As discussed in Chapter 16, Jehovah requires that we meet for worship. (Heb. 10:25) Our meetings not only strengthen our faith but also heighten our enthusiasm for the preaching work. As the last days progress, Jehovah continues to speed up that work. In response, hundreds of thousands flock to his organization each year. (Isa. 60:22)

With the greater number of Kingdom subjects comes a greater need for printing facilities to produce Bible-based literature. We also need more places of worship.

⁵ Early in the modern history of Jehovah's people, the Bible Students began to see the need for their own meeting places. It appears that one of the first places of worship constructed was in West Virginia, U.S.A., in 1890. By the 1930's, Jehovah's people had built or renovated a number of halls, but those meeting places had not yet been given a distinctive name. In 1935, though, Brother Rutherford visited Hawaii, where a hall was being constructed in conjunction with a new branch office. When asked what this building should be called, Brother Rutherford replied: "Don't you think we should call it 'Kingdom Hall,' since that is what we are doing, preaching the good news of the Kingdom?" (Matt. 24: 14) That appropriate name would soon be given not only

5. Why is the name Kingdom Hall appropriate? (See also the box "The New Light Church.")

THE NEW LIGHT CHURCH

IN THE late 1880's, many members of a Baptist congregation in the area of Mount Lookout, West Virginia, became Bible Students. For a while they continued to share the Baptist church with the Baptists. Apparently, whichever group got to the building first used it. By 1890, however, our brothers had

stopped meeting in the Baptist church and had constructed their own hall.

This hall appears to be one of the first places of worship built by Jehovah's modern-day people. It became known as the New Light church because the truths that the Bible Students taught were viewed as new light on the Scriptures.

The hall was used until the 1920's. Brother A. H. Macmillan and other traveling speakers known as pilgrims gave talks at the hall, and it was used to show the "Photo-Drama of Creation."

Bible Students shown in front of the New Light church



6, 7. What has the construction of quickly built Kingdom Halls provided?

to that particular hall but to most of the meeting places used by congregations of Jehovah’s people worldwide.

⁶ By the 1970’s, the need for Kingdom Halls was rapidly increasing. In response, brothers in the United States developed an efficient method of building attractive, functional structures in just a few days. By 1983, some 200 of such Kingdom Halls had been erected in the United States and Canada. To accomplish the work, brothers began forming regional building committees. This method worked so well that in 1986, the Governing Body formalized the arrangement, and by 1987, there were 60 Regional Building Committees (RBCs) in the United States.^[1] By 1992, RBCs had also been appointed in Argentina, Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, and Spain. To be sure, the hardworking brothers who build Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls deserve our support, for the work they are doing is part of sacred service.

⁷ These quickly built Kingdom Halls provided a wonderful witness to the communities in which they were constructed. A newspaper in Spain, for example, carried the headline “Faith Moves Mountains.” Commenting on the construction of such a Kingdom Hall in the town of Martos, the paper asked: “How is it possible that in this present world based on selfishness, volunteers from various regions [of Spain] unselfishly travel to Martos in order to

FOOTNOTE

[1] In 2013, more than 230,000 volunteers were approved to work with the 132 RBCs in the United States. In that country, annually those committees coordinated the construction of about 75 new Kingdom Halls and helped with the renovation or repair of about 900 halls.

BRANCH CONSTRUCTION —ADJUSTING TO CHANGING NEEDS



AS THE Kingdom-preaching work began to expand worldwide, branch offices were set up in one country after another. The first one was established in Britain in 1900; the second, in Germany in 1903; and the third, in Australia in 1904. The demand for literature also grew rapidly, requiring that printing facilities be constructed. One of the first was an eight-story structure in Brooklyn, New York, that was built in 1927. By 2013, Bibles, books, or magazines were being printed by 15 branches.

Construction of one of our first factory buildings in Brooklyn, 1927

erect a building that has broken all records for speed, perfection, and organization?” The article answered the question by quoting the words of one of the Witness volunteers: “The merit simply lies in the fact that we are a people taught by Jehovah.”

Building in Lands With Limited Resources

8 As the 20th century drew to a close, people streamed into Jehovah’s organization in lands where the brothers have limited resources. The local congregations did what they could to build meeting places. But in some countries, they had to endure ridicule and prejudice because the local Kingdom Halls were very primitive when compared with other places of worship. Starting in 1999, however, the Governing Body approved a program to accelerate the construction of Kingdom Halls in developing lands. Funds from more prosperous lands were made available so that an “equalizing” could take place. **(Read 2 Corinthians 8: 13-15.)** And brothers and sisters from other lands volunteered to help with the work.

9 At first, the task seemed overwhelming. A report in 2001 revealed that more than 18,300 Kingdom Halls were needed in 88 developing countries. With the backing of God’s spirit and our King Jesus Christ, though, no task is impossible. (Matt. 19:26) Within about 15 years, from 1999

-
8. In 1999, what new program did the Governing Body approve, and why?
 9. What task seemed overwhelming, but what was accomplished?

From the mid-1970’s to the early 1990’s, new branch facilities were built in some 60 lands. In a further 30 locations, branch offices were expanded. In recent years, however, a number of branch offices have been consolidated. Explaining some of the reasons, the *2013 Yearbook of Jehovah’s Witnesses* said: “Improvements in communications and printing technology have reduced the number of personnel needed at larger branches. With fewer people serving at larger branches, room became available to house some who were working in smaller branches in other countries. Now, from key locations, a pool of experienced Witnesses [care] for the work of Bible education.”

Bethel buildings in Papua New Guinea, dedicated in 2010



Working Together in Unity

(Ephesians 4:3)

F F6/C Fma7 F/C F/A

From a world di - vid - ed and cold, God has
As we pray to be of one mind, Al - ways

Ab^o C7/G C7 Bb/C C7 C7/G Bb/C

brought us in - to his fold. U - ni - ty and
ten - der, lov - ing, and kind, Love will grow and

C7/G C7 Bb/C C7 C7/E Bb/D C7 Gm C7 F Gm11

peace we pos - sess, Bring - ing us hap - pi - ness.
praise will in - crease, Giv - ing us joy and peace.

F7/A Eb/G F7 Bb F/A Dm7 Db7

U - ni - ty we cher - ish; Har - mo -
Peace is so re - fresh - ing, Bring - ing

Working Together in Unity

C7 Bb/C C7 Bb/C C7 F F6/C

ny is sweet. In God's work there's
such de - light. As we show true

Fma7 F/C F/A Ab° C7/G

much to be done. He di - rects us now through his
broth - er - ly love, God will grant us peace from a -

C7 Bb/C C7 C7/G Bb/C C7/G

Son. May we serve o - be - di - ent -
bove. With his help, u - nit - ed we'll

C7 Bb/C C7 Bb6 Dm/A Gm7 Bb/C C7 F Gm7/C F

ly, Work - ing in har - mo - ny.
be, Serv - ing him end - less - ly.

(See also Mic. 2:12; Zeph. 3:9; 1 Cor. 1:10.)

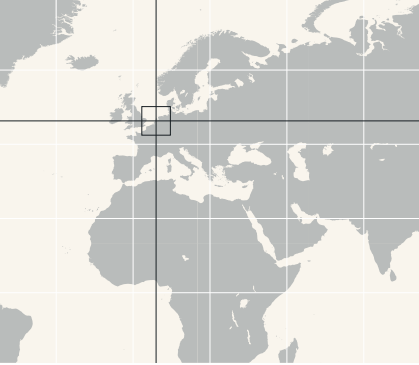
AUGUST 2017

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
SEPTEMBER 25–OCTOBER 22, 2017



COVER IMAGE:
NETHERLANDS

Two pioneers in Amsterdam
share the Kingdom message with a passerby

PUBLISHERS
29,839

BIBLE STUDIES
12,802

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2016)
51,404

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Are You Willing to Wait Patiently?

8 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.

17 WEEK OF **OCTOBER 9-15**
**How We Strip Off and Keep
Off the Old Personality**

22 WEEK OF **OCTOBER 16-22**
**How We Put On and Keep
On the New Personality**

The first article explains what it means to strip off the old personality and why doing so is urgent. It also discusses what we can do to keep off the old personality. The second article considers several qualities that are part of the new personality and explains how we can demonstrate these in our life and ministry.

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**Endurance Under Trial Results
in Blessings**

27 **Love—A Precious Quality**

30 FROM OUR ARCHIVES

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Jehovah, God of Peace

(Philippians 4:9)

C Am F Dm

Je - ho - vah, God of love, You have prom - ised us your peace.
 Your spir - it aids our sight As your Word gives need - ed light.
 You've gath - ered those you love, Both in heav - en and on earth,

E7b9 Am9 Am Am7/B B7 E G7/D

So we ask you for your spir - it; May its fruit - age yet in - crease.
 We are guid - ed and pro - tect - ed In a world as dark as night.
 We're u - nit - ed by your spir - it To pro - claim the King - dom's birth.

C Am F Dm

Our faith in your dear Son, Who is loy - al, ev - er true,
 Un - til the time has come When all wars and ter - rors cease,
 Your righ - teous King - dom rule Soon will bring an end to war.

E7b9 Am9 Am G/F F F#° C/G Dm/G C

Gives us ac - cess to your friend - ship; We are now at peace with you.
 May your spir - it bless our ef - forts To main - tain our god - ly peace.
 Then the meek ones will de - light to Live in peace for - ev - er - more.



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

“The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts.”—PHIL. 4:7.

SONGS: 112, 58

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What lessons do we learn from what happened to the apostle Paul in Philippi?

What Scriptural examples prove that Jehovah can do the unexpected?

How can we with full confidence retain “the peace of God”?

IT IS about midnight. Two missionaries, Paul and Silas, are in prison—the innermost part of the prison—in the city of Philippi. Their feet are fastened securely in stocks, and their backs are still aching from the beatings they had just received. (Acts 16:23, 24) How quickly things had happened! Without any warning, they had been dragged by a mob to the marketplace to stand before a hastily convened court. Their clothes were torn off them, and they were severely beaten with rods. (Acts 16:16-22) The injustice of it all! Paul, a Roman citizen, deserved a proper trial.*

² As Paul sits in the darkness, he contemplates the events of the day. He thinks about the people of Philippi. They do not even have a Jewish synagogue in their city, unlike so many other cities that Paul has visited. In fact, the Jewish worship-

* Apparently, Silas too was a Roman citizen.—Acts 16:37.

1, 2. What events in Philippi led to the imprisonment of Paul and Silas? (See opening picture.)

pers need to gather outside the city gates beside a river. (Acts 16:13, 14) Is this because there are not even ten Jewish males in the city, the number required to form a synagogue? The people of Philippi are obviously very proud of their Roman citizenship, even if it is only a partial or secondary form of citizenship. (Acts 16:21) Could this be why they do not even think it possible that these Jews, Paul and Silas, could be Roman citizens? Whatever the case, here they are, unjustly thrown into prison.

³ Perhaps Paul is also thinking about the events of the past few months. He was on the other side of the Aegean Sea, in Asia Minor. While Paul was there, the holy spirit repeatedly stopped him from preaching in certain areas. It was as if the holy spirit were pushing him to go somewhere else. (Acts 16:6, 7) But where? The answer came in a vision while he was in Troas. Paul was told: "Step over into Macedonia." With such a clear indication of Jehovah's will, Paul immediately accepted the invitation. **(Read Acts 16:8-10.)** But what happened next? Soon after he arrived in Macedonia, he ended up in prison! Why did Jehovah allow this to happen to Paul? How long would he be stuck in prison? Even if these questions weighed heavily on Paul's mind, he did not let them erode his faith and joy. Both he and Silas started "praying and praising God with song." (Acts 16:25) Their hearts and minds were soothed by the peace of God.

⁴ Perhaps there have been times in

3. Why may Paul have found his imprisonment confusing; yet, what attitude did he display?

4, 5. (a) How could our situation be similar to that of Paul? (b) How did Paul's situation change unexpectedly?

your life when you felt that you, like Paul, were following the leadings of God's holy spirit, but then things did not turn out the way you expected. You came face-to-face with challenges, or you found yourself in new circumstances that required massive changes in your life. (Eccl. 9:11) As you look back, maybe you are left wondering why Jehovah allowed certain things to happen. If so, what can help you to continue to endure with full confidence in Jehovah? To find the answer, let us return to the account of Paul and Silas.

⁵ As Paul and Silas sing songs of praise, a series of totally unexpected events occurs. Suddenly, there is a violent earthquake. The doors of the prison are thrown wide open. All the prisoners' bonds are loosened. Paul stops the jailer from committing suicide. The jailer and his entire family get baptized. As the new day starts, the city magistrates send constables to release Paul and Silas. The officials ask them to leave the city peacefully. Then, on realizing that Paul and Silas are Roman citizens, the magistrates see that they have made a huge blunder, so they themselves come to escort the two men out. But Paul and Silas insist on first saying good-bye to their newly baptized sister Lydia. Additionally, they use the opportunity to strengthen the brothers. (Acts 16:26-40) How quickly everything changed!

IT "SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING"

⁶ What do we learn from these events? Jehovah can do the unexpected, so we need not be anxious in the face of

6. What will we now discuss and review together?

trials. That lesson no doubt made a deep impression on Paul, as evidenced by what he later wrote to the brothers in Philippi about anxiety and the peace of God. Let us first discuss Paul's words recorded at **Philippians 4:6, 7. (Read.)** Then, we will review some additional Scriptural examples of how Jehovah did the unexpected. Finally, we will consider how "the peace of God" can help us to endure with full confidence in Jehovah.

⁷ No doubt when the brothers in Philippi read Paul's letter to them, they remembered what had happened to him and how none of them had expected Jehovah to take action in the way that he did. What lesson was Paul teaching them? Basically: Do not worry. Pray, and then you will receive the peace of God. But notice that "the peace of God . . . surpasses all understanding." What does that mean? Some translators render this expression "surpasses all our dreams" or "excels all human planning." Paul was, in effect, saying that "the peace of God" is more wonderful than can be imagined. So although from a human viewpoint we may not see a way out of our problems, Jehovah does, and he can do the unexpected.—**Read 2 Peter 2:9.**

⁸ As the brothers in Philippi thought over what had happened in the ten years since those events, they would have been strengthened. What Paul wrote was true. Although Jehovah had allowed an injustice to occur, this ultimately

7. What lesson did Paul highlight when he later wrote to the brothers in Philippi, and what lesson can we learn from his words?

8, 9. (a) Even though Paul had suffered an injustice in Philippi, what good resulted because of those events? (b) Why could the brothers in Philippi take Paul's words seriously?

resulted in "the defending and legally establishing of the good news." (Phil. 1:7) Those city magistrates would think twice before doing anything against the newly formed Christian congregation in their city. Perhaps because of Paul's actions, his traveling companion Luke, the physician, was able to remain in Philippi after Paul and Silas left. Luke could thus give extra help to the new Christians in that city.

⁹ Indeed, when those brothers in Philippi read Paul's letter, they knew that these were not the words of an academic who was sitting somewhere in an office. Paul had experienced extreme difficulties; yet, he demonstrated that he had "the peace of God." In fact, when Paul wrote to those brothers, he was under house arrest in Rome. But he was still showing that "the peace of God" was with him.—Phil. 1:12-14; 4:7, 11, 22.

"DO NOT BE ANXIOUS OVER ANYTHING"

¹⁰ What can help us not to be anxious over anything and to experience "the peace of God"? Paul's words to the Philippians show us that the antidote to worry is prayer. So when we are anxious, we need to turn our worries into prayers. (**Read 1 Peter 5:6, 7.**) Pray to Jehovah in full faith, knowing that he cares for you. Pray to him "with thanksgiving," remembering your blessings. Our confidence in him will be strengthened when we keep in mind that he can "do more than superabundantly beyond all the things we ask or conceive."—Eph. 3:20.

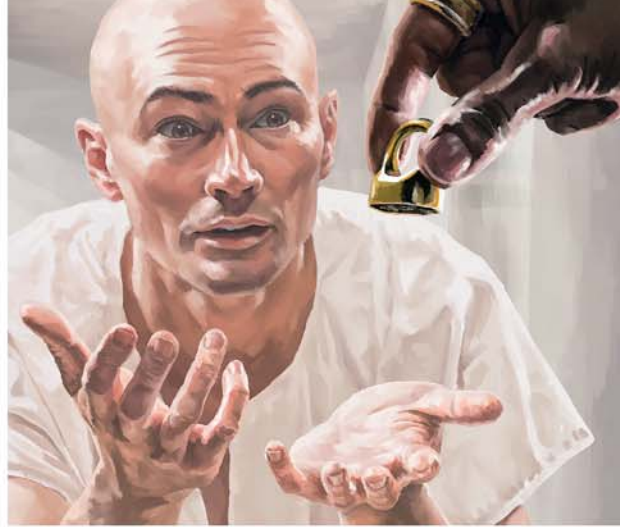
10, 11. What do we need to do when we are overly worried about a problem, and what can we reasonably expect?

¹¹ As in the case of Paul and Silas in Philippi, we may be surprised by what Jehovah does for us personally. It may not be spectacular, but it will always be what we need. (1 Cor. 10:13) Of course, this does not mean that we sit back and do nothing, simply waiting for Jehovah to correct the situation or solve the problem. We need to act in harmony with our prayers. (Rom. 12:11) Our actions thereby prove our sincerity and give Jehovah something to bless. But at the same time, we need to realize that Jehovah is not limited by our requests, plans, and expectations. Sometimes he surprises us by doing the unexpected. Let us consider some Bible accounts that reinforce our confidence in Jehovah's ability to do the unexpected in our behalf.

EXAMPLES OF JEHOVAH DOING THE UNEXPECTED

¹² As we search the Scriptures, time and again we find examples of Jehovah doing the unexpected. King Hezekiah lived at a time when King Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah and captured all the fortified cities, with the exception of Jerusalem. (2 Ki. 18:1-3, 13) Then, Sennacherib turned his attention to Jerusalem. What did King Hezekiah do when faced with this imminent threat? He approached Jehovah in prayer and turned to Jehovah's prophet Isaiah for advice. (2 Ki. 19:5, 15-20) Hezekiah also tried to show his reasonableness by paying the fine that Sennacherib imposed on him. (2 Ki. 18:14, 15) In time, Hezekiah made preparations for a long siege.

12. (a) What did King Hezekiah do when threatened by Assyrian King Sennacherib? (b) What do we learn from how Jehovah resolved the problem?



What lesson do we learn from what happened to Joseph?—Gen. 41:42
(See paragraph 13)

(2 Chron. 32:2-4) But how was the situation resolved? Jehovah sent an angel to destroy 185,000 of Sennacherib's soldiers in one night. Truly, not even Hezekiah expected that to happen!—2 Ki. 19:35.

¹³ Consider the young man Joseph, a son of Jacob. While in a prison hole in Egypt, did Joseph have any idea that he would be appointed to the second-highest position in the land or that he would be used by Jehovah to save his family from starvation? (Gen. 40:15, ftn.; 41:39-43; 50:20) No doubt Jehovah's actions exceeded all of Joseph's expectations. Think, too, about Joseph's great-grandmother Sarah. Did aged Sarah expect that Jehovah would allow her to give birth to her own son, not just receive as son the child produced by her servant girl? The birth of

13. (a) What lesson do we learn from what happened to Joseph? (b) How did something unexpected occur in the case of Abraham's wife, Sarah?

Isaac certainly exceeded all that Sarah could ever have imagined.—Gen. 21:1-3, 6, 7.

¹⁴ Granted, we do not expect that Jehovah will miraculously take away all our problems before the promised new world; nor do we demand that spectacular things occur in our lives. But we do know that the God who helped his servants in amazing ways is our God, Jehovah. **(Read Isaiah 43:10-13.)** This confidence helps us to have faith in him. We know that he can do whatever is needed to empower us to accomplish his will fully. (2 Cor. 4:7-9) What lessons do we

Jehovah can help us to conquer the seemingly unconquerable if we remain faithful to him

learn from these Bible accounts? As the examples of Hezekiah, Joseph, and Sarah show, Jehovah can help us to conquer the seemingly unconquerable if we remain faithful to Him.

¹⁵ How can we face challenges and still retain “the peace of God”? It is by maintaining a good relationship with our God, Jehovah. Such a relationship is possible only “by means of Christ Jesus,” who offered his life as a ransom sacrifice. The provision of that ransom is yet another one of the amazing works of our Father. Jehovah uses the ransom to cover our sins, enabling us to have a

14. What confidence can we have in Jehovah?
15. What will help us to retain “the peace of God,” and how is this possible?

clean conscience and draw close to him.—John 14:6; Jas. 4:8; 1 Pet. 3:21.

IT WILL GUARD OUR HEARTS AND MENTAL POWERS

¹⁶ What results when we receive this “peace of God that surpasses all understanding”? The Scriptures answer by saying that it ‘will guard our hearts and our mental powers by means of Christ Jesus.’ (Phil. 4:7) The original-language word for “guard” was a military expression. It referred to a garrison of troops that was assigned to guard a fortified city in ancient times. Philippi was such a city. The inhabitants of Philippi slept soundly at night, knowing that soldiers were guarding the gates of their city. In a similar manner, when we have “the peace of God,” our hearts and minds remain at rest. We know that Jehovah cares for us and wants us to succeed. (1 Pet. 5:10) That knowledge guards us from becoming overwhelmed by anxiety or discouragement.

¹⁷ Soon mankind will face the greatest tribulation that will ever occur here on earth. (Matt. 24:21, 22) We do not know all the details of what that will mean for us individually. However, there is no need for us to be consumed by anxiety. Even though we do not know everything Jehovah will *do*, we do know *our God*. We have seen from his past dealings that no matter what happens, Jehovah will always accomplish his purpose, and sometimes he does it in an unexpected manner. Each time Jehovah does so for us, we may experience in a new way “the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.”

16. What will result when we attain “the peace of God”? Illustrate.
17. What will help us to face the future with full confidence?

Searching for Friends of Peace

(Luke 10:6)

D Dsus4 D A

Je - sus com - mand - ed: 'Let the truth be heard.' In sum - mer
Time waits for no one, so the search goes on. A mil - lion

Bm7 D/G Gadd9

heat, on dust - y roads, He let all hear Je - ho - vah's word.
hearts, a mil - lion lives, We give our all to save just one.

D Dsus4 D A

He loved God's sheep and called to ev - 'ry - one. He searched the
Love is the force that makes us call a - gain. A wound - ed

Bm7 Em7 D/F# D/G Gadd9

land from the sun - rise 'til the day was done. From
heart can be healed, and bro - ken lives can mend. We

Searching for Friends of Peace

Em11 D/G A D/F# Gadd9 D/E

door to door and in the street, We share with ev - 'ry -
search the towns and cit - y squares, And when we find some -

A Bm7 Em11 D/G A Bm7

one we meet The news that soon man's trou - bles all will be
one who cares, The joy we feel in - spi - res us to go

Asus4 A Chorus D

gone.
on. Search - ing the world

A/C# D/F# Gadd9

For friends of peace in ev - 'ry na - tion,

Searching for Friends of Peace

D A/C# D/F# Gadd9

Search - ing to find A heart in - clined to - ward

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The treble clef staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The first measure features a half note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata. The second measure contains a quarter note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata, followed by a quarter rest and a quarter note G4. The third measure has a quarter note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G4. The fourth measure has a quarter note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G4. The bass clef staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes in the first two measures and quarter notes in the last two. The lyrics are: "Search - ing to find A heart in - clined to - ward".

D A/C#

sal - va - tion, Want - ing to leave No

Detailed description: This system contains the next two measures. The treble clef staff has a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. The first measure features a half note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata. The second measure contains a quarter note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata, followed by a quarter rest and a quarter note G4. The third measure has a quarter note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G4. The fourth measure has a quarter note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G4. The bass clef staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes in the first two measures and quarter notes in the last two. The lyrics are: "sal - va - tion, Want - ing to leave No".

D/F# Gadd9

stone un - turned.

Detailed description: This system contains the final two measures. The treble clef staff has a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. The first measure features a half note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata. The second measure contains a quarter note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata, followed by a quarter rest and a quarter note G4. The third measure has a quarter note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G4. The fourth measure has a quarter note chord (D4, F#4, A4) with a fermata, followed by a quarter note G4. The bass clef staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes in the first two measures and quarter notes in the last two. The lyrics are: "stone un - turned."

