

- Song 63 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah Foresaw the Future of Kings”:** (10 min.)
Da 11:2—Four kings arose for the Persian Empire (dp 212-213 ¶5-6)
Da 11:3—Alexander the Great appeared (dp 213 ¶8)
Da 11:4—Alexander’s kingdom was divided into four parts (dp 214 ¶11)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Da 12:3—Who are “those having insight,” and when do they “shine as brightly as the expanse of heaven”? (w13 7/15 13 ¶16, endnote)

Da 12:13—In what way will Daniel “stand up”? (dp 315 ¶18)

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 11:28-39

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

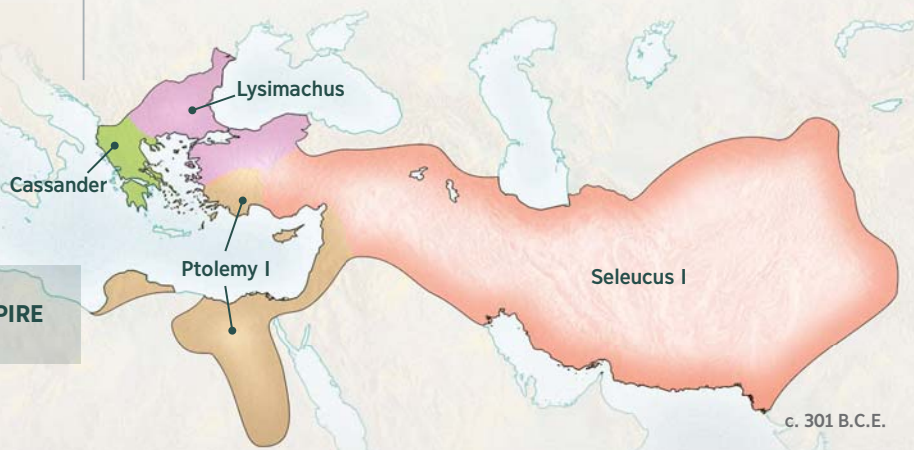
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) g17.5 cover—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) g17.5 cover—The magazine was featured on the preceding visit. Continue the conversation, and lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Talk:** (6 min. or less) w16.11 5-6 ¶7-8—Theme: How Should We Imitate Jehovah’s Example of Giving Encouragement?

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 94
- **Fortified by Bible Prophecy:** (15 min.) Play the video *Fortified by “the Prophetic Word”* (video category FROM OUR STUDIO).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 19 ¶8-18, review box on p. 208
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 91 and Prayer

DANIEL 10-12 | Jehovah Foresaw the Future of Kings

11:2	11:3	11:4
Four kings would stand up for Persia. The fourth would “rouse up everything against the kingdom of Greece.”	A powerful king of Greece would arise and rule an extensive empire.	The Greek Empire would be divided among four of Alexander’s generals.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cyrus the Great 2. Cambyses II 3. Darius I 4. Xerxes I (believed to be King Ahasuerus, who married Esther) 	Alexander the Great	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cassander 2. Lysimachus 3. Seleucus I 4. Ptolemy I



BREAKUP OF ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE

We're Jehovah's Witnesses!

(Isaiah 43:10-12)

Ab Eb7/G Ab Db/Ab Ab Eb7/Db Ab/C Bbm7 Db/Eb Eb9

Men make gods of wood and stone, But the true God
Proud - ly we de - clare God's name, Bear - ing wit - ness
Wit - ness - ing ex - alts God's name, Lifts there - from re -

Ab Absus4 Ab Ab/C Eb7/Bb Ab A°

they've not known. He is God Al - might - y,
to his fame. News a - bout his King - dom,
proach and shame. And it warns the wick - ed,

Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb Fm11 Eb/G Eb7/G Ab Ab/C Eb7

As he's of - ten shown. Oth - er gods just can - not see
Bold - ly we pro - claim. We help oth - ers come to see
Who God's name de - fame. Par - don it holds out to men,

Bbm7 Bbm7/Eb Eb+5 Ab6 Ab Eb Bbm Bbm/Db

What in fu - ture days will be. For wit - ness - es they
How the truth can set them free. As they grow strong, their
If they turn to God a - gain. Whole - souled de - vo - tion

We're Jehovah's Witnesses!

Eb
Bbm
Bb7
Ab/Bb Bb7

look all in vain, Since none their god - ship
 voic - es they'll raise, Sing - ing to God this
 brings joy and peace; Prom - ise of life that

Chorus

Eb
Bb7
Eb
Eb7
Ab
Ab/Eb
Ab/C
Ab
Eb7

can main - tain.
 song of praise. We're Je - ho - vah's Wit - ness - es.
 will not cease.

Bbm7
B°
Ab/C
Eb7
Ab6
Ab
C7
Fm

We speak out in fear - less - ness. Ours is the God of

Bbm/Db
F/C
Bbm
Ab/Eb
Eb7
Ab

true proph - e - cy; What he fore - tells comes to be.

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 Uphaz. **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."

8 Then I was left by myself, and when I saw this great vision, there was no power left in me and my dignified appearance left me and I lost all strength.^a

9 Then I heard the sound of him speaking; but when I heard him speaking, I fell fast asleep with my face to the ground.^b 10 But then a hand touched me,^c and it stirred me to get up on my hands and knees. 11 Then he said to me:

“O Daniel, you very precious* man,^d give attention to the words that I am about to speak to you. Now stand up in your place, for I have been sent to you.”

When he said this to me, I stood up, trembling.

12 He then said to me: “Do not be afraid,^e O Daniel, your words have been heard from the first day that you gave your heart to understanding and to humbling yourself before your God, and I have come because of your words.^f 13 But the prince^g of the royal realm of Persia stood in opposition to me for 21 days. But then Mi’cha-el,^h one of the foremost princes,ⁱ came to help me; and I remained there beside the kings of Persia. 14 I have come to make you understand what will befall your people in the final part of the days,^j because it is a vision yet for the days to come.”^k

15 Now when he spoke these words to me, I turned my face to the ground and became speechless. 16 Then one who looked like a man touched my lips,^k and I opened my mouth and said to the one who stood in front of me: “My lord, I am shuddering because of the vision, and I have no strength.^l 17 So how can my lord’s servant speak with my lord?”^m For now I have no

10:11, 19 *Or “very desirable; highly esteemed.” 10:13 *Meaning “Who Is Like God?” #Or “a prince of the first rank.”

CHAP. 10

a Da 7:28

Da 8:27

b Da 8:18

c Jer 1:9

Re 1:17

d Da 9:23

Da 10:19

e Re 1:17

f Da 9:23

g Eph 6:12

h Da 10:21

Da 12:1

Jude 9

Re 12:7,8

i Da 2:28

j Da 8:17, 26

Da 12:4

k Isa 6:7

Jer 1:9

l Da 10:8

m Jg 6:22

Second Col.

a Isa 6:5

b Da 10:10

c Re 1:17

d Da 9:22, 23

Da 10:11

e Jg 6:23

f Da 10:13

g Da 10:13

Jude 9

Re 12:7,8

h Da 12:1

CHAP. 11

i Da 5:30, 31

Da 9:1

j Da 8:21

k Da 8:5, 21

l Da 7:6

Da 8:8, 22

strength, and there is no breath left in me.”^a

18 The one who looked like a man touched me again and strengthened me.^b 19 Then he said: “Do not be afraid,^c O very precious* man.^d May you have peace.^e Be strong, yes, be strong.” As he spoke with me I was strengthened and I said: “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

20 Then he said: “Do you know why I have come to you? Now I will go back to fight with the prince of Persia.^f When I leave, the prince of Greece will come. 21 However, I will tell you the things recorded in the writings of truth. There is no one strongly supporting me in these things but Mi’cha-el,^g your prince.^h

11 “As for me, in the first year of Da-ri’us’ the Mede, I stood up to strengthen and fortify him.* 2 What I will tell you now is the truth:

“Look! Three more kings will stand up* for Persia, and the fourth one will amass greater riches than all others. And when he becomes strong by means of his riches, he will rouse up everything against the kingdom of Greece.ⁱ

3 “And a mighty king will stand up and rule with extensive dominion^k and do as he pleases.

4 But when he has stood up, his kingdom will be broken and be divided toward the four winds of the heavens,^l but not to his descendants* and not like the dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom will be uprooted and go to others besides these.

5 “And the king of the south will become strong, that is, one of his princes; but one will prevail against him and will rule

11:1 *Or “and as a fortress to him.”

11:2 *Or “arise.” 11:4 *Or “posterity.”

with extensive dominion, greater than that one's ruling power.

6 "After some years they will make an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the south will come to the king of the north in order to make an equitable arrangement.* But she will not retain the power of her arm; and he will not stand, nor his arm; and she will be given up, she and those bringing her in, and the one who caused her birth, and the one making her strong in those times. **7** And one from the sprout of her roots will stand up in his position, and he will come to the army and come against the fortress of the king of the north and will take action against them and prevail. **8** Also with their gods, with their metal images,* with their desirable^a articles of silver and of gold, and with captives, he will come to Egypt. For some years he will stand off from the king of the north, **9** who will come against the kingdom of the king of the south, but will go back to his own land.

10 "As for his sons, they will prepare for war and assemble a vast, great army. He will certainly advance and sweep through like a flood. But he will go back, and he will wage war all the way to his fortress.

11 "And the king of the south will become bitter and will go out and fight with him, that is, with the king of the north; and he will muster a large crowd, but the crowd will be given into that one's hand. **12** And the crowd will be carried away. His heart will become exalted, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; but he will not make use of his strong position.

13 "And the king of the north will return and muster a crowd

11:6 *Or "an agreement." **11:8** *Or "molten statues." #Or "precious."

Second Col.

CHAP. 11

^a Ps 48:2
Da 8:9
Da 11:41, 45

larger than the first; and at the end of the times, after some years, he will surely come with a large army and with many resources. **14** In those times many will stand up against the king of the south.

"And the violent ones* among your people will be carried along to try making a vision come true; but they will stumble.

15 "And the king of the north will come and throw up a siege rampart and capture a fortified city. And the arms* of the south will not stand, nor will his select men; and they will have no power to stand. **16** The one coming against him will do as he pleases, and no one will stand before him. He will stand in the land of the Decoration,^a and ability to exterminate will be in his hand. **17** He will set his face* to come with the full force of his kingdom, and there will be equitable terms[#] with him; and he will act effectively. As regards the daughter of women, it will be granted to him to bring her to ruin. And she will not stand, and she will not continue to be his. **18** He will turn his face back to the coastlands and will capture many. And a commander will make the reproach from him cease for himself, so that his reproach will not be. He will make it turn back on that one. **19** Then he will turn his face back to the fortresses of his own land, and he will stumble and fall, and he will not be found.

20 "And there will stand up in his position one who causes an exactor* to pass through the splendid kingdom, but in a few

11:14 *Or "the sons of the robbers."

11:15 *Or "armies." **11:16** *Or "the Beauty." **11:17** *Or "be determined." #Or "he will make an agreement."

11:20 *"An exactor," possibly of taxes. Or "a taskmaster."

days he will be broken, though not in anger nor in warfare.

21 "And there will stand up in his position a despised* one, and they will not give him the majesty of the kingdom; and he will come in during a time of security[†] and take hold of the kingdom by means of smoothness.^Δ

22 And the arms* of the flood will be swept away on account of him, and they will be broken; as will be the Leader^α of the covenant.^β **23** And because of their alliance with him, he will carry on deception and rise up and become mighty by means of a little nation. **24** During a time of security[†] he will come into the richest parts* of the province^Δ and do what his fathers and their fathers have not done. Plunder and spoil and goods he will distribute among them; and against fortified places he will plot his schemes, but only for a time.

25 "And he will muster his power and his heart against the king of the south with a large army, and the king of the south will prepare himself for the war with an exceedingly large and mighty army. And he will not stand, because they will plot schemes against him. **26** And those eating his delicacies will bring his downfall.

"As for his army, it will be swept* away, and many will fall down slain.

27 "As regards these two kings, their heart will be inclined to do what is bad, and they will sit at one table speaking lies to each other. But nothing will succeed, because the end is yet for the time appointed.^c

11:21 *Or "despicable." **11:21, 24** *Or possibly, "without warning." **11:21** ^ΔOr "intrigue." **11:22, 31** *Or "armies." **11:24** *Lit., "the fatness." ^ΔOr "jurisdictional district." **11:26** *Or "flooded."

CHAP. 11

a Da 9:25
Joh 1:45, 49

b Ge 15:18
Ac 3:25

c Da 12:9

Second Col.

a Ge 10:4
Nu 24:24
Isa 23:1
Jer 2:10
Eze 27:6

b Da 11:28

c Da 8:11

d Da 8:12

e Da 12:11
Mt 24:15
Mr 13:14
Lu 21:20

f Da 12:10

g Da 12:10

28 "And he will go back to his land with a great amount of goods, and his heart will be against the holy covenant. He will act effectively and go back to his land.

29 "At the time appointed he will return and come against the south. But this time will not be as it was before, **30** for the ships of Kit'tim^α will come against him, and he will be humbled.

"He will go back and hurl denunciations* against the holy covenant^β and act effectively; and he will go back and will give attention to those leaving the holy covenant. **31** And arms* will stand up, proceeding from him; and they will profane the sanctuary,^c the fortress, and remove the constant feature.^d

"And they will put in place the disgusting thing that causes desolation.^e

32 "And those who act wickedly against the covenant, he will lead into apostasy by means of smooth words.* But the people who know their God will prevail and act effectively. **33** And those having insight^f among the people will impart understanding to the many. And they will be made to stumble by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plundering, for some days. **34** But when they are made to stumble, they will be given a little help; and many will join with them by means of smooth speech.* **35** And some of those having insight will be made to stumble, in order to do a refining work because of them and to do a cleansing and a whitening^g until the time of the end; because it is yet for the time appointed.

11:30 *Or "direct his fury." **11:31** *Or "the continual sacrifice." **11:32, 34** *Or "flattery; insincerity."

36 "The king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt himself and magnify himself above every god; and against the God of gods^a he will speak astonishing things. And he will prove successful until the denunciation comes to a finish; because what is determined must take place. 37 He will show no regard for the God of his fathers; nor will he show regard for the desire of women or for any other god, but he will magnify himself over everyone. 38 But instead^{*} he will give glory to the god of fortresses; to a god that his fathers did not know he will give glory by means of gold and silver and precious stones and desirable[#] things. 39 He will act effectively against the most fortified strongholds, along with^{*} a foreign god. He will give great glory to those who give him recognition,[#] and he will make them rule among many; and the ground he will apportion out^Δ for a price.

40 "In the time of the end the king of the south will engage with him in a pushing,^{*} and against him the king of the north will storm with chariots and horsemen and many ships; and he will enter into the lands and sweep through like a flood. 41 He will also enter into the land of the Decoration,^{*b} and many lands will be made to stumble. But these are the ones that will escape out of his hand: E'dom and Mo'ab and the main part of the Am'mon-ites. 42 And he will keep thrusting out his hand against the lands; and as regards the land of Egypt, she will not es-

11:38 *Or "in his place." 11:38, 43 #Or "precious." 11:39 *Or "helped by." #Or possibly, "to whomever he recognizes." ΔOr "distribute." 11:40 *Or "will lock horns with him." 11:41, 45 *Or "Beauty."

CHAP. 11

a De 10:17
Ps 136:1, 2

b Ps 48:2
Da 8:9
Da 11:16, 45

Second Col.

a Ps 48:2
Da 8:9
Da 11:16, 41

CHAP. 12

b Da 10:13
Jude 9
Re 12:7, 8

c Da 10:21

d Isa 26:20
Joe 2:31, 32
Mt 24:21, 22
Re 7:13, 14

e Mal 3:16
Lu 10:20
Re 3:5

f Da 8:17, 26
Da 12:9

g Isa 11:9

cape. 43 And he will rule over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the desirable[#] things of Egypt. And the Lib'y-ans and the E-thi-o'pi-ans will be at his steps.^{*}

44 "But reports out of the east^{*} and out of the north will disturb him, and he will go out in a great rage to annihilate and to devote many to destruction. 45 And he will plant his royal[#] tents between the grand sea and the holy mountain of Decoration;^{*a} and he will come all the way to his end, and there will be no helper for him.

12 "During that time Mi'chael^{#b} will stand up,[#] the great prince^c who is standing in behalf of your people.^Δ And there will occur a time of distress such as has not occurred since there came to be a nation until that time. And during that time your people will escape,^d everyone who is found written down in the book.^e 2 And many of those asleep in the dust of the earth will wake up, some to everlasting life and others to reproach and to everlasting contempt.

3 "And those having insight will shine as brightly as the expanse of heaven, and those bringing the many to righteousness like the stars, forever and ever.

4 "As for you, Daniel, keep the words secret, and seal up the book until the time of the end.^f Many will rove about,^{*} and the true knowledge will become abundant."^g

5 Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others standing there,

11:43 *Or "will follow him." 11:44 *Or "sunrise." 11:45 #Or "palatial." 12:1 *Meaning "Who Is Like God?" #Or "arise." ΔLit., "the sons of your people." 12:4 *Or "examine it [that is, the book] thoroughly."

one on this bank of the stream and one on the other bank of the stream.^a **6** Then one said to the man clothed in linen,^b who was up above the waters of the stream: "How long will it be to the end of these marvelous things?" **7** Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was up above the waters of the stream, as he raised his right hand and his left hand to the heavens and swore by the One who is alive forever:^c "It will be for an appointed time, appointed times, and half a time.* As soon as the dashing to pieces of the power of the holy people comes to an end,^d all these things will come to their finish."

8 Now as for me, I heard, but I could not understand;^e so I said: "O my lord, what will be the outcome of these things?"

12:7 *That is, three and a half times.

CHAP. 12

- a Da 10:4
 b Da 10:5, 6
 c Da 4:34
 Re 4:9
 Re 10:6
 d Da 8:24
 e Lu 18:34
 Ac 1:7
 1Pe 1:10, 11

Second Col.

- a Da 8:17, 26
 Da 10:14
 Da 12:4
 b Da 11:35
 c Ps 111:10
 Da 11:33
 Da 12:3
 d Da 8:11
 e Da 11:31
 Mr 13:14
 f Joh 11:24
 Ac 17:31
 Ac 24:15
 Re 20:12

DANIEL 12:6–HOSEA Contents

9 Then he said: "Go, Daniel, because the words are to be kept secret and sealed up until the time of the end.^a **10** Many will cleanse themselves and whiten themselves and will be refined,^b And the wicked ones will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand; but those having insight will understand.^c

11 "And from the time that the constant feature^{*d} has been removed and the disgusting thing that causes desolation has been put in place,^e there will be 1,290 days.

12 "Happy is the one who keeps in expectation* and who arrives at the 1,335 days!

13 "But as for you, go on to the end. You will rest, but you will stand up for your lot* at the end of the days."^f

12:11 *Or "the continual sacrifice."

12:12 *Or "who is waiting eagerly."

12:13 *Or "in your allotted place."

HOSEA

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- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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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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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

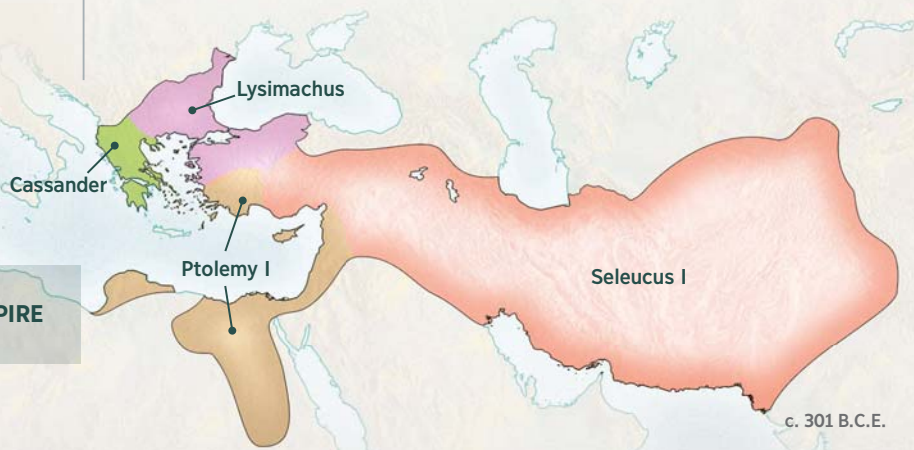
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 94
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DANIEL 10-12 | Jehovah Foresaw the Future of Kings

11:2	11:3	11:4
Four kings would stand up for Persia. The fourth would “rouse up everything against the kingdom of Greece.”	A powerful king of Greece would arise and rule an extensive empire.	The Greek Empire would be divided among four of Alexander’s generals.
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BREAKUP OF ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE

October 9-15

Treasures From God's Word

Daniel 11:2—Four kings arose for the Persian Empire

Reference: dp 212-213 **paragraphs 5-6.**

5 The first three kings were Cyrus the Great, Cambyses II, and Darius I (Hystaspes). Since Bardiya (or perhaps a pretender named Gaumata) ruled for only seven months, the prophecy did not take his brief reign into consideration. In 490 B.C.E., the third king, Darius I, attempted to invade Greece for the second time. However, the Persians were routed at Marathon and retreated to Asia Minor. Though Darius made careful preparations for a further campaign against Greece, he could not carry it out before his death four years later. That was left up to his son and successor, the “fourth” king, Xerxes I. He was the King Ahasuerus who married Esther.—Esther 1:1; 2:15-17.

6 Xerxes I did indeed “rouse up everything against the kingdom of Greece,” that is, the independent Grecian states as a group. “Urged on by ambitious courtiers,” says the book *The Medes and Persians—Conquerors and Diplomats*, “Xerxes launched an assault by land and sea.” Greek historian Herodotus, of the fifth century B.C.E., writes that “no other expedition compared to this seems of any account.” His record states that the sea force “amounted in all to 517,610 men. The number of the foot soldiers was 1,700,000; that of the horsemen 80,000; to which must be added the Arabs who rode on camels, and the Libyans who fought in chariots, whom I reckon at 20,000. The whole number, therefore, of the land and sea forces added together amounts to 2,317,610 men.”

Daniel 11:3—Alexander the Great appeared

Reference: dp 213 **paragraph 8.**

“A mighty king will certainly stand up and rule with extensive dominion and do according to his will,” said the angel. (Daniel 11:3) Twenty **year** old Alexander ‘stood up’ as king of Macedonia in 336 B.C.E. He did become “a mighty king”—Alexander the Great. Driven by a plan of his father, Philip II, he took the Persian provinces in the Middle East. Crossing the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, his 47,000 men scattered the 250,000 troops of Darius III at Gaugamela. Subsequently, Darius fled and was murdered, ending the Persian dynasty. Greece now became the world power, and Alexander ‘ruled with extensive dominion and did according to his will.’

Daniel 11:4—Alexander's kingdom was divided into four parts

Reference: dp 214 **paragraph 11.**

Following the death of Alexander, his kingdom was “divided toward the four winds.” His many generals quarreled among themselves as they grabbed for territory. One-eyed General Antigonus I tried to bring all of Alexander's empire under his control. But he was killed in a battle at Ipsus in Phrygia. By the year 301 B.C.E., four of Alexander's generals were in power over the vast territory that their commander had conquered. Cassander ruled Macedonia and Greece. Lysimachus gained control over Asia Minor and Thrace. Seleucus I Nicator secured Mesopotamia and Syria. And Ptolemy Lagus took Egypt and Palestine. True to the prophetic word, Alexander's great empire was divided into four Hellenistic kingdoms.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Daniel 12:3—Who are “those having insight,” and when do they “shine as brightly as the expanse of heaven”?

Reference: w13 7/15 13 **paragraph 16**, endnote.

Daniel 12:3 states that “the ones having insight [anointed Christians] will shine like the brightness of the expanse.” While still on earth, they do this by sharing in the preaching work. However, Matthew 13:43 points to the time when they will shine brightly in the heavenly Kingdom. Previously, we thought that both scriptures referred to the same activity—the preaching work.

Daniel 12:13—In what way will Daniel “stand up”?

Reference: dp 315 **paragraph 18**.

The book of Daniel closes with one of the most beautiful promises God has ever made to a human. Jehovah’s angel told Daniel: “You will stand up for your lot at the end of the days.” What did the angel mean? Well, since the “rest” he had just referred to was death, the promise that Daniel would “stand up” at some later time could mean only one thing—resurrection! In fact, some scholars have asserted that Daniel chapter 12 contains the first explicit reference to resurrection to be found in the Hebrew Scriptures. (Daniel 12:2) In this, though, they are wrong. Daniel was very familiar with the resurrection hope.

- Song 63 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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- **“Jehovah Foresaw the Future of Kings”:** (10 min.)
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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?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Da 11:28-39

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

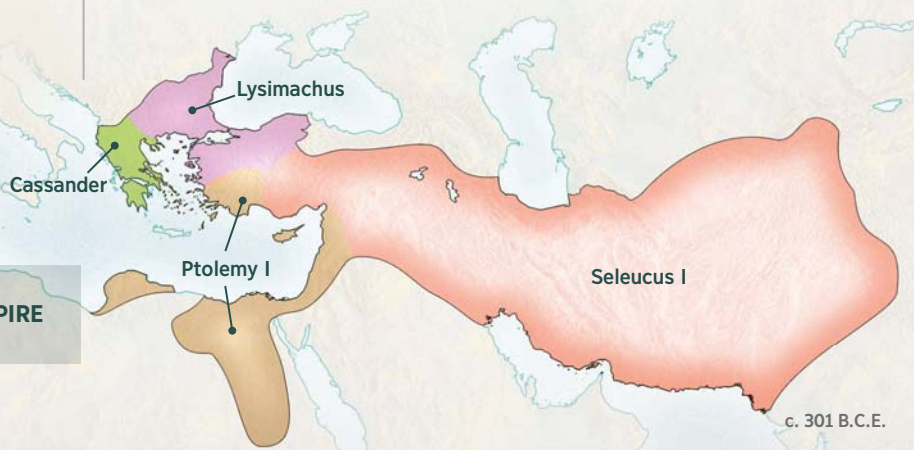
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BREAKUP OF ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE



WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

Steps That
Can Save Lives



3 COVER SUBJECT When Disaster Strikes —Steps That Can Save Lives

Why is it important to prepare for disasters?

The Bible says: “The shrewd person sees the danger and conceals himself, but the inexperienced keep right on going and suffer the consequences.”—Proverbs 27:12.

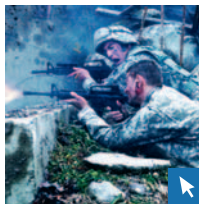
This magazine highlights what we should do before, during, and after a disaster.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 8 What You Should Know About Energy Conservation
- 10 **THE BIBLE'S VIEWPOINT**
War
- 12 **HELP FOR THE FAMILY**
Is Thrill-Seeking Worth the Risk?
- 14 **LANDS AND PEOPLES**
A Visit to Kazakhstan
- 16 **WAS IT DESIGNED?**
The Shape of Seashells



MORE ONLINE



COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

Why Don't Jehovah's Witnesses Go to War?

Jehovah's Witnesses are known worldwide for refusing to go to war. Learn why we take this stand.

(Look under ABOUT US > FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)



HELPING THE COMMUNITY

When Disaster Strikes, Love Moves Us to Action

In dozens of countries, Jehovah's Witnesses have provided assistance in times of need.

(Look under ABOUT US > ACTIVITIES)



COVER SUBJECT

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

STEPS THAT CAN SAVE LIVES

“A deafening explosion nearly threw me to the floor. Smoke came from the air vents, and our high-rise office erupted in flames.”—Joshua.

Earthquake . . . hurricane . . . terrorist attack . . . school shooting. Those terms appear in the headlines too often. Of course, it is one thing to *read* about a disaster; it is another to live through one. What can you do *before*, *during*, and *after* a disaster to improve the likelihood of your survival?



Preparation
is your most
important key to survival

BEFORE

PREPARE!

NO ONE is immune to disaster. Preparation is your most important key to survival. But what does preparation involve?

- **Prepare mentally.** Acknowledge the fact that disasters happen and that you and your loved ones are potentially at risk. It is too late to prepare *after* disaster strikes.
- **Learn about disasters** that can happen in your area. Know where shelters are. Consider whether the construction of your home and its location are as safe as possible. Remove fire hazards. Install smoke detectors, and change their batteries at least once a year, if not more often.
- **Prepare emergency supplies.** Power, water, phone, and transportation services can fail. If you own a car, try to keep the fuel tank at least half full, and always have food, water, and an emergency kit in your home.—See the box “Do You Have What You Need?”

- **Have access to the phone numbers** of friends, both near and far.
- **Make and rehearse an escape plan.** Know the nearest exits in your building, as well as the emergency plan of your children’s school. Set up family meeting places—such as a school or a library—one nearby and another outside your neighborhood. Authorities recommend that you practice walking with your family to those meeting points.
- **Plan to help others,** including the elderly and the infirm.

DURING

ACT QUICKLY

“When fire broke out, most people didn’t panic—they delayed,” relates Joshua, quoted at the outset. “Some turned off a computer or filled a water bottle. One man said, ‘Maybe we should just wait.’” Despite the hesitancy of others, Joshua shouted: “We need to get out of here *now!*” At that,

If authorities order evacuation, leave immediately!



his coworkers snapped out of denial and followed him down the stairs. “If anyone falls, pick him up and keep moving,” Joshua kept calling out. “We’re all going to make it!”

- **In a fire.** Stay close to the floor, and move quickly to the nearest exit. Smoke makes it hard to see, and most fire deaths are caused by smoke inhalation. Leave behind personal items. Seconds can make the difference between life and death.
- **In an earthquake.** Get under sturdy furniture or next to an inside wall. Expect aftershocks, and get outside and away from buildings as soon as you can. Trained rescuers may not arrive for hours, so try to rescue others if you can.
- **In a tsunami.** If the water suddenly rushes away from the shore, move *quickly* to higher ground. Expect more and larger waves.
- **In a tornado or a hurricane.** Go to a storm shelter without delay.
- **In a flood.** Stay out of flooded buildings. Avoid wading in or driving through water. Floodwater can contain sewage and

conceal dangers, including debris, open manholes, and downed power lines.

- **Did you know?** Two feet [0.6 m] of moving water can carry a car away. Most deaths in a flood result when people try to drive through moving water.
- **If the authorities order evacuation,** leave immediately! Let friends know where you are, or they may risk *their* lives looking for you.
- **Did you know?** Text messaging may be more reliable than telephone voice service.
- **If the authorities direct residents to remain at home or shelter in place,** stay inside. In case of an outdoor chemical, biological, or nuclear accident or attack, stay indoors, turn off ventilation, and seal all doors and windows. In a nuclear event, go to the lowest internal part of your building to reduce exposure to radiation. Listen to local TV or radio news. Stay indoors until authorities announce that the threat has passed.



DO YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED?

Disaster management organizations urge families to store and annually update emergency supplies. Of course, needs will vary according to your location and circumstances, so check with local emergency management services for recommendations that could be applied in your area.

In general it is recommended that you keep *at least* three gallons (11 L) of water per person and three days of nonperishable, ready-to-eat foods.

Also, some families have prepared “go bags” with such items as the following.*

- Blankets, complete change of warm clothes, and sturdy shoes
- Flashlight, radio (battery or windup), and spare batteries
- First-aid kit and a whistle to signal for help
- Eating utensils, can opener, pocket tool set, and waterproof matches
- Dust masks, waterproof tape, and plastic sheeting for shelter
- Toothbrushes, soap, towels, and toilet paper
- _____
- _____
- Child-care supplies and special-needs items for seniors or the disabled
- A waterproof container with needed medication, copies of prescriptions, and other important documents
- List of emergency contacts and meeting places and a local map
- Credit cards and cash
- Extra set of house keys and car keys
- Paper, pencils, books, and games for children
- Bible
- _____
- _____

* Not every item listed may be suitable in your case or in your part of the world. You might also have to include some items not listed here.



After the disaster,
keep your routine
as normal as
possible



AFTER **STAY SAFE!**

To avoid disease and danger, consider the following recommendations:

- **Stay with friends**, if possible, rather than in a camp.
- **Keep your living space sanitary.**
- **Use personal protective equipment** when cleaning up debris. If possible, wear gloves, sturdy shoes, a hard hat, and a dust mask. Beware of electrical wires and hidden embers.
- **Keep your daily routine** as normal as possible. Your children need to see that you are calm and hopeful. Do school lessons, play, and worship as a family. Do not dwell on news coverage of the tragedy, and do not take out your anxiety or frustration on family members. Accept help, and help others.
- **Acknowledge that disasters cause loss.** Government and other relief efforts focus on helping people to survive, not on replacing everything that was lost. To survive, we need clean water, food, clothing, and shelter from the weather.—1 Timothy 6:7, 8.

- **Recognize and address emotional injury.** This often surfaces after the initial shock has passed. Symptoms include anxiety, depression, and mood swings, as well as difficulty thinking, working, and sleeping. Talk to caring friends.

Although Joshua survived the fire in his workplace, many of his acquaintances did not. He received assistance from Christian elders and mental-health professionals. “They assured me that my grief was part of a natural healing process and that it would pass,” Joshua says. “After six months, the nightmares lessened. Other symptoms have lasted longer.”

Disasters assault our very sense of justice. In response, some people mistakenly blame God. Many, like Joshua, experience “survivor’s guilt.” “I still wonder if I could have saved more people,” he says. “I am comforted by my belief that God will soon bring complete justice to the earth and will right all wrongs. In the meantime, I cherish each day of life and do what I reasonably can to preserve it.”—Revelation 21:4, 5.* ■

* For more information about God’s promises for the future and why he has permitted suffering, see the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* It is available for download at www.jw.org.

Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

Talk: How Should We Imitate Jehovah's Example of Giving Encouragement?

Reference: w16.11 5-6 paragraphs 7-8.

7 **Jehovah.** The psalmist sang: "Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those who are discouraged." ([Psalms 34:18](#), [footnote](#)) When Jeremiah was afraid and discouraged, Jehovah built up that faithful prophet's confidence. ([Jeremiah 1:6-10](#)) And just imagine how encouraged the elderly prophet Daniel was when God sent an angel to strengthen him. That angel called Daniel a "very precious," or "highly esteemed," man! ([Daniel 10:8, 11, 18, 19](#); [footnote](#)) Could you similarly encourage publishers, pioneers, and older brothers and sisters whose strength is failing?

8 God did not feel that because he and his dear Son had worked together for ages, there was no need to commend and encourage Jesus when he was on earth. Instead, on two occasions Jesus heard his Father speak from heaven and say: "This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved." ([Matthew 3:17](#); [17:5](#)) God thus commended Jesus and assured him that he was doing well. Jesus must have felt encouraged on the two occasions when he heard these words—at the beginning of his ministry and during the final year of his earthly life.[6] Jehovah also sent an angel to strengthen Jesus when he was in anguish on the night before his death. ([Luke 22:43](#)) If we are parents, let us follow Jehovah's example by regularly encouraging our children and giving them commendation when they do well. We should also give them extra support if they are facing tests of integrity day after day in school.

Grateful for God's Word

(Philippians 2:16)

F F/A B \flat C7 B \flat /C C7 F

Je - ho - vah, our Fa - ther, we want to ex - press
Your Word has the pow - er to reach deep in - side.
Your Word, O Je - ho - vah, has hu - man ap - peal.

C7/E Gm/D A7/C \sharp Dm C \sharp 7 \flat 5 F/C Gm9 Gm B \flat ma7 C7

How grate - ful we are that your Word we pos - sess!
Our thoughts and in - ten - tions, it helps to di - vide.
Your proph - ets were like us; they felt what we feel.

F/A C F C/B \flat B \flat D/C Gm/B \flat D/A Gm/B \flat G7/B C

All Scrip - ture is in - spir - ed; its truth has set us free.
Your laws are clear and per - fect, your judg - ments ev - er true.
Please help us build a strong faith that fol - lows what is heard.

F/A C/G F B \flat D7/A Gm Gm/B \flat F/C C7sus4 C7 F

Its light gives us knowl - edge; the truth we can see.
Your prin - ci - ples guide us in all that we do.
We thank you, Je - ho - vah, for your pre - cious Word!

- Song 63 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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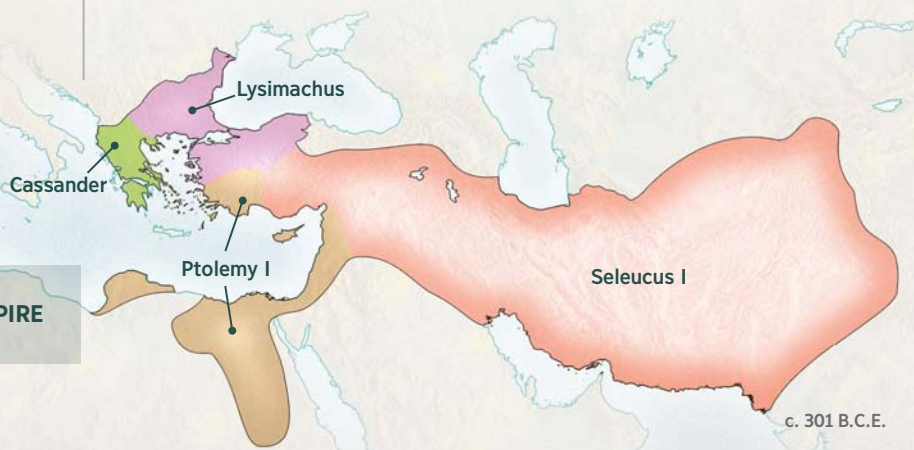
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BREAKUP OF ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE

c. 301 B.C.E.

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



10-12. How has the construction of Kingdom Halls brought honor to Jehovah's name?

13, 14. (a) What have you learned from the way one married couple reacted after observing activities at a Kingdom Hall construction site? (b) What can you do to ensure that your place of worship brings honor to Jehovah's name?

to 2013, God's people had built 26,849 Kingdom Halls as part of this program.^[2] Jehovah continues to bless the preaching work, so that as of 2013, there was still a need for some 6,500 Kingdom Halls in those countries, and currently, hundreds more are needed each year.

10 How has the construction of those new Kingdom Halls brought honor to Jehovah's name? A report from the branch office in Zimbabwe said: "Within one month of building a new Kingdom Hall, attendance at the meetings usually doubles." In many countries, it seems that people are reluctant to associate with us until a suitable place of worship is available. Once a Kingdom Hall is built, though, it soon fills up and another is required. However, it is more than just the appearance of the structures that draws people to Jehovah. The genuine Christian love displayed by those building the halls also affects the way people view his organization. Consider a few examples.

11 **Indonesia.** When a man who had been watching the construction of a Kingdom Hall found out that all the workers were volunteers, he said: "You people are simply amazing! I have seen how each one of you works wholeheartedly and with joy, even though you receive no payment. I think that there is no other religious organization like yours!"

12 **Ukraine.** A woman who had passed by a Kingdom Hall construction project each day concluded that the workers were Jehovah's Witnesses and that the building was to be a Kingdom Hall. She said: "I had heard about Jehovah's Witnesses from my sister who became one. Observing this building work, I decided that I also wanted to be in this spiritual family. Here I have seen love displayed." This woman accepted a Bible study and was baptized in 2010.

13 **Argentina.** A married couple approached the brother overseeing a Kingdom Hall construction site. The husband said, "We have been following your building activities very closely, and . . . we have decided that we want to learn about God in this place." He then asked, "What must we do to qualify to attend meetings here?" The couple accepted the offer of a Bible study, but on the condition that the whole family could take part. The brothers happily agreed to this condition.

14 You may not have had the privilege of helping to construct the Kingdom Hall in which you meet, but you can still do much to help your local place of worship bring honor to Jehovah's name. For example, you can enthusiastically

FOOTNOTE

[2] This figure does not include the numerous Kingdom Halls that were built in lands outside the program.



Building Kingdom Halls in lands with limited resources presents unique challenges

invite your Bible students, return visits, and other members of the public to attend meetings with you at the Kingdom Hall. You also have the opportunity to help clean and maintain your place of worship. With good planning, you may be able to donate toward the care of the Kingdom Hall you attend or donate toward the building of these places of worship in other parts of the world. **(Read 1 Corinthians 16:2.)** All these activities add to the praise of Jehovah’s name.

Workers Who “Offer Themselves Willingly”

15 Much of the work that goes into building Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and branch facilities is done by local brothers and sisters. Often, though, they are assisted by brothers and sisters from other countries who have experience in construction. Some of those volunteers have organized their affairs so that they can work on an international project for a number of weeks. Others have made themselves available to serve for many years, moving from one construction assignment to the next.

16 International construction work presents unique challenges but also offers satisfying rewards. Timo and Lina, for instance, have traveled to countries in Asia, Europe, and South America to work on building Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and branch offices. Says Timo, “I have had a change of assignment on average every two years for the past 30 years.” Lina, who married Timo 25 years ago, says: “I’ve served with Timo in ten different countries. It takes a

15-17. (a) Who carry out much of the building work?
(b) What have you learned from the comments made by the couples who have worked on international construction projects?

18. How is the prophecy recorded at Psalm 110:1-3 being fulfilled?



Timo and Lina Lappalainen
(See paragraph 16)

FOOTNOTE

[3] International servants and volunteers spend the majority of their time working on the building site, but they also support the local congregations in the preaching work on the weekend or in the evening.

considerable amount of energy and time to adapt to new food, a new climate, a new language, and a new preaching territory and to make new friends.”^[3] Has the effort been worthwhile? “The challenges,” says Lina, “have resulted in our greatest blessings. We have experienced Christian love and hospitality and have felt Jehovah’s loving care for us. We have also seen the fulfillment of the promise Jesus gave to his disciples, which is recorded at Mark 10:29, 30. We have received a hundred times more in terms of spiritual brothers, sisters, and mothers.” Timo says, “It brings us deep satisfaction to use our skills for the noblest of all purposes, participating in the expansion of the King’s belongings.”

17 Darren and Sarah, who have helped on construction projects in Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, South America, and the South Pacific, feel that they have received more than they have given. Despite the challenges they have faced, Darren says: “It has been a privilege to work with brothers from various parts of the globe. I have seen that the love we share for Jehovah is like a thread that circles the globe, joining us all together.” Sarah says: “I have learned so much from brothers and sisters with different cultures! Seeing the sacrifices they make to serve Jehovah motivates me to continue giving my best.”

18 King David prophesied that even though subjects of God’s Kingdom would face challenges, they would “offer themselves willingly” to serve Kingdom interests. (**Read Psalm 110:1-3.**) All who are involved in work that supports the Kingdom are having a share in fulfilling those prophetic words. (1 Cor. 3:9) The scores of branch office buildings, hundreds of Assembly Halls, and tens of thousands of Kingdom Halls around the world provide tangible proof that God’s Kingdom is real and is now ruling. What a privilege we have to serve the King Jesus Christ in a work that brings Jehovah the honor he so richly deserves!

How Real Is the Kingdom to You?

- Why do we build meeting places and branch facilities?
- How does our building work bring honor to Jehovah?
- What can you do to support the building and maintenance of places of worship?

Our Labor of Love

(Psalm 127:1)

B \flat

Je - ho - vah, this is the day; Now from our
What hap - py fac - es we see, And what good

Gm7 Gm7/F E \flat ma7
hearts, we want to pray. How you have hon - ored us,
friends we've come to be! And how we'll cher - ish these

B \flat add9/D Cm11 E \flat /F B \flat
fa - vored us, More than words can say! Up - on our la - bor of love,
mem - o - ries For e - ter - ni - ty! We saw your spir - it, O Lord,

Gm7 Gm7/F
We've seen your bless - ing from a - bove. And now a
In how we worked with one ac - cord. And how we've

Our Labor of Love

E♭ma7 *B♭add9/D* *Cm11*

build - ing stands, by our hands, As the proof there - of.
add - ed fame to your name; What a grand re - ward!

Chorus
E♭/F *F7* *B♭* *B♭+5* *B♭6* *Fm/B♭* *E♭ma7* *B♭add9/D*

Je-ho-vah God, it was a priv-'lege For us to build this place for

Cm7 *Cm7/B♭* *Cm6/A* *D7♭9♭13* *D7♭9* *Gm9* *Gm* *E♭m6/G♭*

you. May we con - tin - ue in your ser - vice through-out our

B♭/F *E♭/F* *F9* *B♭*

days And bring you praise in all we do.

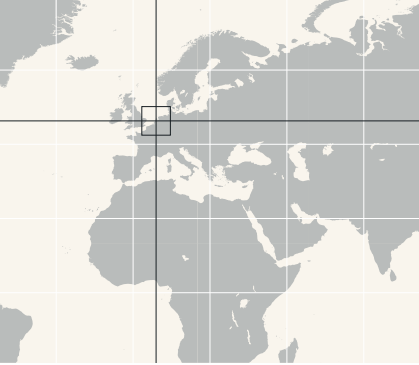
AUGUST 2017

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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We Need Self-Control

(Romans 7:14-25)

Eb Eb/D Cm9 Cm Eb/Bb Ab Bb Ab/Bb

We love Je - ho - vah with heart, mind, and soul; But
 Sa - tan's temp - ta - tions con - front us each day, And
 Each word and ac - tion re - flects on God's name, So

R.H.

Eb Eb/D Cm9 Cm Eb/Bb Ab Ab/Bb Bb

since we are sin - ful, we need self - con - trol.
 sin's law with - in us can lead us a - stray.
 we must en - deav - or to keep free from blame.

G G7/B Cm Bb Bb7/D Eb Eb/Bb

Flesh - ly de - sires bring trou - ble and strife;
 Pow - er of truth is great - er than sin.
 In all we do, we make this our goal:

Ab Ab/G Fm7 Fm/Ab Ab/Bb Bb7 Eb

Liv - ing by spir - it brings peace and life.
 Thanks to Je - ho - vah, our minds can win.
 Al - ways main - tain - ing our self - con - trol.

R.H. R.H.



How We Strip Off and Keep Off the Old Personality

“Strip off the old personality with its practices.”—COL. 3:9.

OBSERVERS have commented on the outstanding qualities seen among Jehovah’s people. For example, regarding our brothers and sisters in Nazi Germany, author Anton Gill wrote: “Jehovah’s Witnesses attracted the especial enmity of the Nazis. . . . By 1939 there were 6,000 of them in the [concentration camps].” Even so, despite the bitter persecution they endured, adds the author, the Witnesses showed “dependability and equanimity [calmness under stress]” as well as “integrity and solidarity.”

² More recently, observers in South Africa noticed similar attractive qualities among God’s people. At one time, Witnesses of different skin color in that country could not freely associate with one another. However, on Sunday, December 18, 2011, it was a wonderful sight to see over 78,000 of our brothers of different races from South Africa and neighboring countries packed into the largest stadium in the city of Johannesburg to enjoy a spiritual program. In commenting on those gathered, one of the managers of the stadium said: “This is the best-behaved crowd I have ever seen in this

1, 2. What has been noted about Jehovah’s Witnesses?

SONGS: 121, 142

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What makes our worldwide brotherhood unique?

What are some practices that must be put away and kept away?

How can we strip off and keep off the old personality?

stadium. All are neatly dressed. And you people have cleaned the stadium so nicely. But most of all, you are truly multi-racial.”

³ Such comments by non-Witnesses show that our international brotherhood is truly unique. (1 Pet. 5:9, fn.) What, though, makes us so different from any other organization? With the help of God’s Word and his holy spirit, we work hard to “strip off the old personality.” In its place, we “clothe [ourselves] with the new personality.”—Col. 3:9, 10.

⁴ It is one thing to strip off the old personality, yet quite another to keep it off. In this article, we will consider how we can strip off the old personality, why doing so is urgent, and why change is possible no matter how deeply involved one may be in wrong practices. We will also examine what those who have been in the truth for many years can do to keep off the old personality. Why are such reminders needed? Sadly, some who once served Jehovah have lowered their guard and have slipped back into their old ways. Thus, we all need to take to heart the warning: “Let the one who thinks he is standing beware that he does not fall.”—1 Cor. 10:12.

“DEADEN” ANY DESIRES “AS RESPECTS SEXUAL IMMORALITY”

⁵ What would you do if your clothing became dirty, perhaps even having a foul odor? You would strip off the soiled garment as soon as possible. Similarly, we

3. What makes our brotherhood unique?
4. What will be considered in this article, and why?
5. (a) Illustrate why it is urgent to strip off the old personality. (See opening picture.) (b) According to Colossians 3:5-9, what practices belong to the old personality?

need to act with urgency in obeying the command to strip off habits that are contrary to God’s personality. We want to heed Paul’s clear instruction to Christians in his day: “You must put them all away from you.” Let us consider two of the sinful practices listed by Paul—sexual immorality and uncleanness.—**Read Colossians 3:5-9.**

⁶ *Sexual immorality.* The meaning of the original Bible word translated “sexual immorality” includes sexual relations between individuals who are not legally married to each other and homosexuality. Paul told fellow Christians to “dead- en” their “body members”—that is, to eliminate any desires—“as respects sexual immorality.” Paul’s descriptive language clearly shows that strong measures are needed to wipe out such wrong desires. Yet, the fight against sinful desires can be won.

⁷ Consider what happened to Sakura* from Japan. Growing up, she struggled with loneliness and a feeling of emptiness. From the age of 15, she began to have sexual relations with different partners in order to relieve her loneliness. “As a result,” she confesses with shame, “I had three abortions.” She explains: “At first, I got a sense of security when having immoral relations, thinking that I was needed and loved. But the more I had sexual relations, the more insecure I felt.” This way of life continued until Sakura was 23 years old. Then she began to study the Bible with the Witnesses.

* Some of the names in this article have been changed.

- 6, 7. (a) How do Paul’s words show that strong measures are needed to strip off the old personality? (b) What kind of life did Sakura live, and what gave her the strength to leave it behind?

Sakura loved what she learned, and with Jehovah's help she was able to overcome deep feelings of guilt and shame and to put away sexual immorality. Sakura now serves as a regular pioneer and no longer feels lonely. Instead, as she puts it, "I am really happy to be basking in Jehovah's love day in and day out."

OVERCOMING UNCLEAN PRACTICES

⁸ *Uncleanness*. The original Bible word translated "uncleanness" is a broad term that includes much more than sexual sins. It can refer to the harmful practice of smoking or the telling of obscene jokes. (2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 5:3, 4) It also applies to unclean activities practiced by an individual in private, such as reading sexually stimulating books or viewing pornography, which may lead to the unclean habit of masturbation.—Col. 3:5.*

⁹ Those who habitually view pornography nurture "uncontrolled sexual passion," which may result in their becoming addicted to sex. Research indicates that individuals who admitted to having an irresistible urge to watch pornography show the same signs of addiction as do alcoholics and drug addicts. No wonder the practice of viewing pornography has harmful results—such as deep feelings of shame, low productivity in the workplace, unhappy family life, divorce, and suicide. On celebrating a year of being free of his addiction to pornography, one man wrote: "I have restored a sense of personal integrity that was missing."

* See chapter 25 in the book *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Volume 1.

8. What are some things that can make us unclean in God's eyes?

9. Nurturing "uncontrolled sexual passion" can have what consequences?

¹⁰ For many, staying free from pornography is an ongoing battle. Yet, as shown by what happened to Ribeiro from Brazil, this battle can be won. Ribeiro left home when he was in his teens and in time began working in a paper-recycling plant, where he was exposed to pornographic materials. He relates: "Slowly, I became addicted. It got so bad that I could not wait for the woman I was living with to leave the house so that I could watch pornographic videos." Then, one day at work, Ribeiro looked at a pile of books that were to be recycled, and he noticed a book with the title *The Secret of Family Happiness*. He picked it up from the pile and read it. What he learned moved him to study the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses, but it took him a long time to break his bad habit. What helped him eventually? He explains: "Through prayer, Bible study, and meditation on what I learned, my appreciation of God's qualities increased until my love for Jehovah became stronger than my desire for pornography." Helped by the power of God's Word and his holy spirit, Ribeiro stripped off his old personality, got baptized, and now serves as a congregation elder.

¹¹ Notice that Ribeiro had to do more than simply study the Bible to succeed in his struggle. He had to take time to allow the Bible's message to touch his heart. By prayer and meditation, his love for God overpowered the craving for pornography. Developing a strong love for Jehovah and a hatred for what is bad is the best way to stay free from pornography.—**Read Psalm 97:10.**

10. How did Ribeiro overcome his addiction to pornography?

11. What is needed for a person to stay free from pornography?

PUT AWAY ANGER, ABUSIVE SPEECH, AND LYING

¹² People who are quick-tempered often express their anger with abusive speech. Obviously, such conduct cannot contribute to a happy family life. Relates Stephen, a father from Australia: “I used to swear a lot and would regularly fly into a rage over trivial things. My wife and I were separated three times and were in the process of getting divorced.” Then, the Witnesses began to study the Bible with the couple. What was the outcome when Stephen began to follow the Bible’s advice? He says: “Our family life improved dramatically. With Jehovah’s help, I now have an overriding sense of peace and calm, whereas before I was a time bomb of bitterness and rage, ready to explode at the slightest annoyance.” Today, Stephen serves as a ministerial servant, and his wife has been a regular pioneer for several years. The elders of the congregation that Stephen attends note: “Stephen is a quiet, hardworking brother, and he has a humble attitude.” They cannot recall ever seeing him angry. Does Stephen accept the credit for this? He states: “None of these beautiful blessings would be part of my life if I hadn’t accepted Jehovah’s help to give my personality a complete makeover.”

¹³ For good reason, the Bible warns against anger, abusive speech, and screaming. (Eph. 4:31) Sadly, such conduct often escalates into violence. The world may view angry behavior as normal, but it dishonors our Creator. Many had to strip off these harmful ways be-

12. What helped Stephen to put away anger and abusive speech?

13. What makes anger so dangerous, and what warning does the Bible give?

fore being able to clothe themselves with the new personality.—**Read Psalm 37: 8-11.**

¹⁴ Consider the example of Hans, who serves as an elder in a congregation in Austria. “He is one of the meekest brothers you could ever wish to meet,” says the coordinator of the body of elders in the congregation to which Hans belongs. But Hans was not always meek. While in his teens, he began to abuse alcohol and, as a result, turned aggressive. In an alcohol-induced rage, he killed his girlfriend, for which he received a 20-year prison sentence. At first, life in prison did not change Hans’ aggressive personality. In time, his mother arranged for an elder to contact her son in prison, and Hans began to study the Bible. He explains: “It was a struggle for me to strip off my old personality. Bible texts that encouraged me were Isaiah 55:7, which says: ‘Let the wicked man leave his way,’ and 1 Corinthians 6:11, which says about those who had abandoned sinful ways: ‘And yet that is what some of you were.’ For many years, Jehovah patiently helped me by means of his holy spirit to put on the new personality.” After having served 17-and-a-half years of his sentence, Hans was released from prison as a baptized Christian. He states: “I am grateful for Jehovah’s overwhelming mercy and forgiveness.”

¹⁵ Besides abusive speech, the practice of lying is also a trait of the old personality. For example, it is common for people to lie on tax returns or to lie to avoid taking responsibility for their sins. By

14. Is it possible for an aggressive person to become meek?

15. What practice is common, but what does the Bible say about it?



How can we succeed in stripping off the old personality?
(See paragraph 16)

contrast, Jehovah is “the God of truth.” (Ps. 31:5) Therefore, he requires that “each one” of his worshippers “speak truth with his neighbor” and “not lie.” (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9) Thus, we must tell the truth even if it may be embarrassing or inconvenient.—Prov. 6:16-19.

HOW THEY GAINED THE VICTORY

¹⁶ Stripping off old personality traits cannot be done in one’s own strength. The individuals mentioned in this article—Sakura, Ribeiro, Stephen, and Hans—had to fight hard to put away their bad practices. They gained the victory by opening their mind and heart to the power of God’s Word and his holy spirit. (Luke 11:13; Heb. 4:12) To benefit from that power, we must read the Bible daily,

16. How can one succeed in stripping off the old personality?

meditate on it, and pray constantly for the wisdom and strength to apply Bible counsel. (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:97; 1 Thess. 5:17) We also benefit from God’s Word and his holy spirit when we prepare for and attend congregation meetings. (Heb. 10:24, 25) In addition, we want to make good use of the various means by which spiritual food is now made available to God’s people worldwide.—Luke 12:42.

¹⁷ We have considered a number of bad practices that Christians must strip off and keep off. But is that all that is required to gain God’s approval? No. We must also clothe ourselves with the new personality. In the following article, we will consider several aspects of the new personality that we need to make a permanent part of our figurative clothing.

17. What will be discussed in the next article?

Holding Fast to Our Hope

(Hebrews 6:18, 19)

Dm Dsus4 Dm A Dm/A Gadd9/B A/C# Dm Gm/D

Man - kind has stum - bled for cen - tu - ries in dark - ness.
 "God's day is near!" rings the King - dom proc - la - ma - tion;

Dm Dsus4 Dm A Dm/A Gadd9/B A/C# Dm

Vain is their quest as they try to catch the wind.
 Men will no long - er cry out to God: "How long?"

Dm7 Gm Gm/Bb G7/B C Bb/D C7/E F F/A

Man's trag - ic flaw is re - vealed in its stark - ness;
 Soon he will free all his groan - ing cre - a - tion.

Bb Gm6/Bb Bb Gm6/Bb Bb6 E7/B B° A/C#

None can they save, for they all have sinned.
 Praise God Al - might - y, and join our song.

Holding Fast to Our Hope

Chorus

D Dma7 G G/B Gm/Bb A Bm7 A7/C# D F#/C#

Sing with good cheer, for God's King - dom is here! His

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of the chorus. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the treble staff is a bass clef staff with a similar key signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

Bm Bm/A G Em7 A7 G/B A7/C# D

Son's might - y reign brings us free - dom from fear.

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of the chorus. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the treble staff is a bass clef staff with a similar key signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

Dma7 G G/B Gm/Bb A Bm7 A7/C# D F#/C#

Through him, at last, e - vil soon will be past; This

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of the chorus. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the treble staff is a bass clef staff with a similar key signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

Bm Bm/A G G/B Gm/Bb A7 G/A A7 D

hope, like an an - chor, is hold - ing us fast.

Detailed description: This system contains the fourth line of the chorus. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the treble staff is a bass clef staff with a similar key signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

