

- Song 60 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Search for Jehovah, and Keep Living”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Amos.*]
Am 5:4, 6—We must come to know Jehovah and do his will (w04 11/15 24 ¶20)
Am 5:14, 15—We must accept Jehovah’s standards of good and bad and learn to love them (jd 90-91 ¶16-17)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Am 2:12—How can we apply the lesson found in this verse? (w07 10/1 14 ¶8)

Am 8:1, 2—What did “a basket of summer fruit” signify? (w07 10/1 14 ¶6)

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) Am 4:1-13

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.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 58
- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Making a Return Visit”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows two publishers making a return visit.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
kr pp. 220-221, chap. 21 ¶1-7
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 143 and Prayer

AMOS 1-9 | “Search for Jehovah, and Keep Living”

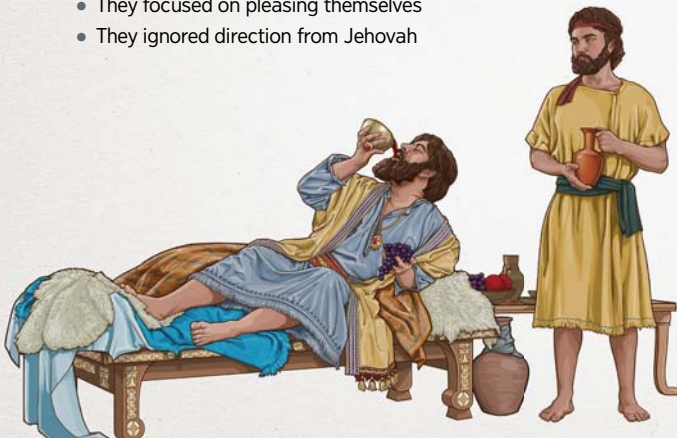
5:6, 14, 15


What does it mean to search for Jehovah?

- It means that we continue to learn about Jehovah and to live according to his standards

What happened to the Israelites when they failed to search for Jehovah?

- They stopped ‘hating what was bad and loving what was good’
- They focused on pleasing themselves
- They ignored direction from Jehovah



 **What has Jehovah provided to help us search for him?**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

1. In this year of goodwill
by our God, all need to hear
That the day of his anger
will come, and it is near.

(CHORUS)

*It means their life, but not just theirs;
It means our own life as well.
It means their life if they obey,
So all the nations we must tell;
We must tell.*

2. There's a message to preach,
so we spread it all abroad.
We invite all to come and
be reconciled to God.

*(Chorus)**(BRIDGE)*

It's urgent, it's important,
That people listen, learn, and live.
We tell them, and we teach them;
Life-giving truth we freely give.

(Chorus)

Amos 1-9

1 The words of A'mos, who was among the sheep raisers from Te-ko'a, which he received in vision concerning Israel in the days of King Uz-zi'ah of Judah and in the days of Jer-o-bo'am son of Jo'ash, the king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. ² He said:

“Jehovah will roar out of Zion,
And he will raise his voice out of Jerusalem.
The pastures of the shepherds will mourn,
And the summit of Car'mel will dry up.”

³ “This is what Jehovah says,
“For three revolts of Damascus, and for four, I
will not reverse it,
Because they threshed Gil'e-ad with iron
threshing sledges.

⁴ So I will send a fire upon the house of Haz'a-el,
And it will consume the fortified towers of Ben-
ha'dad.

⁵ I will break the bars of Damascus;
I will destroy the inhabitants from Bik'ath-a'ven
And the one ruling from Beth-e'den;
And the people of Syria will go as exiles to Kir,”
says Jehovah.’

⁶ This is what Jehovah says,
“For three revolts of Gaz'a, and for four, I will not
reverse it,

Because they took a whole group of exiles to hand them over to E'dom.

⁷ So I will send a fire onto the wall of Gaz'a,
And it will consume her fortified towers.

⁸ I will destroy the inhabitants from Ash'dod,
And the one ruling from Ash'ke-lon;
I will turn my hand against Ek'ron,
And the remaining Phi-lis'tines will perish," says
the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.'

⁹ This is what Jehovah says,
'For three revolts of Tyre, and for four, I will not
reverse it,
Because they handed over a whole group of
exiles to E'dom,
And because they did not remember the
covenant of brothers.

¹⁰ So I will send a fire onto the wall of Tyre,
And it will consume her fortified towers.'

¹¹ This is what Jehovah says,
'For three revolts of E'dom, and for four, I will not
reverse it,
Because he pursued his own brother with the
sword,
And because he refused to show mercy;
In his anger he keeps tearing them apart
relentlessly,

And he remains furious with them continually.

¹² So I will send a fire into Te'man,
And it will consume the fortified towers of
Boz'rah.'

¹³ This is what Jehovah says,
“For three revolts of the Am'mon-ites, and for
four, I will not reverse it,
Because they ripped open the pregnant women
of Gil'e-ad to widen out their own territory.

¹⁴ So I will set fire to the wall of Rab'bah,
And it will consume her fortified towers,
With a war cry in the day of battle,
With a tempest in the day of storm wind.

¹⁵ And their king will go into exile together with his
princes,” says Jehovah.'

2 “This is what Jehovah says,
“For three revolts of Mo'ab, and for four, I will not
reverse it,
Because he burned the bones of the king of
E'dom for lime.

² So I will send a fire into Mo'ab,
And it will consume the fortified towers of
Ke'ri-oth;
Mo'ab will die amid an uproar,
With a war cry, with the sound of a horn.

³ I will remove the ruler from her midst

And kill all her princes along with him,” says
Jehovah.’

⁴ This is what Jehovah says,
‘For three revolts of Judah, and for four, I will not
reverse it,
Because they rejected the law of Jehovah,
And because they did not keep his regulations;
But the same lies their forefathers followed have
led them astray.

⁵ So I will send a fire into Judah,
And it will consume the fortified towers of
Jerusalem.’

⁶ This is what Jehovah says,
‘For three revolts of Israel, and for four, I will not
reverse it,
Because they sell the righteous for silver,
And the poor for a pair of sandals.

⁷ They trample the heads of the lowly into the dust of
the earth,
And they block the path of the meek.
A man and his father have relations with the
same girl,
Profaning my holy name.

⁸ They stretch out next to every altar on garments
they seized as security for a loan;

And the wine they drink at the house of their
gods was obtained from those they fined.'

- ⁹ 'But it was I who annihilated the Am'or-ite before
them,
Who was as tall as the cedars and as strong as
the oaks;
I destroyed his fruit above and his roots below.
- ¹⁰ I brought you up out of the land of Egypt,
And I made you walk through the wilderness 40
years,
To take possession of the land of the Am'or-ite.
- ¹¹ I raised up some of your sons as prophets
And some of your young men as Naz'i-rites.
Is this not so, O people of Israel?' declares
Jehovah.
- ¹² 'But you kept giving the Naz'i-rites wine to drink,
And you commanded the prophets: "You must
not prophesy."
- ¹³ So I will crush you in your place,
Just as a wagon loaded with cut grain crushes
what is under it.
- ¹⁴ The swift one will have no place to flee,
The strong one will not retain his power,
And no warrior will escape with his life.
- ¹⁵ The bowman will not stand his ground,
The swift of foot will not escape,

And the horseman will not escape with his life.

¹⁶ Even the most courageous among the warriors
Will flee naked in that day,' declares Jehovah."

3 "Hear this word that Jehovah has spoken
concerning you, O people of Israel, concerning the
whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

² 'You alone I have known out of all the families of
the earth.

That is why I will call you to account for all your
errors.

³ Will two walk together unless they have agreed to
meet?

⁴ Will a lion roar in the forest when it has no prey?
Will a young lion growl from its lair when it has
caught nothing?

⁵ Will a bird fall into a trap on the ground when there
is no snare for it?

Does a trap spring up from the ground when it
has caught nothing?

⁶ If a horn is blown in a city, do the people not
tremble?

If a calamity occurs in the city, is it not Jehovah
who has acted?

⁷ For the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will not do a thing
Unless he has revealed his confidential matter to
his servants the prophets.

- ⁸ The lion has roared! Who will not be afraid?
The Sovereign Lord Jehovah has spoken! Who
will not prophesy?’
- ⁹ ‘Proclaim it on the fortified towers of Ash'dod
And on the fortified towers in the land of Egypt.
Say: “Gather together against the mountains of
Sa-mar'i-a;
See the turmoil in her midst
And the defrauding within her.
- ¹⁰ For they do not know how to do what is right,”
declares Jehovah,
“Those who are storing up violence and
destruction in their fortified towers.””
- ¹¹ Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah
says,
‘An adversary will surround the land,
He will strip you of your strength,
And your fortified towers will be plundered.’
- ¹² This is what Jehovah says,
‘Just as the shepherd snatches away two legs or
a piece of an ear from the mouth of the lion,
That is how the people of Israel will be snatched
away,
Those now sitting in Sa-mar'i-a on splendid beds
and on fine couches.’

- ¹³ 'Hear and warn the house of Jacob,' declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, the God of armies.
- ¹⁴ 'For in the day I call Israel to account for all his revolts,
I will also call for an accounting against the altars of Beth'el;
The horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the earth.
- ¹⁵ I will strike down the winter house along with the summer house.'
'The houses of ivory will perish,
And the great houses will come to their end,' declares Jehovah."
- 4 "Hear this word, you cows of Ba'shan,
Who are on the mountain of Sa-mar'i-a,
You women who are defrauding the lowly and crushing the poor,
Who say to their husbands, 'Bring us something to drink!'
- ² The Sovereign Lord Jehovah has sworn by his holiness,
"Look! The days are coming upon you when he will lift you up with butcher hooks
And the rest of you with fishhooks.
- ³ You will go out through the breaches in the wall,
each one straight ahead;

And you will be cast out to Har'mon," declares Jehovah.'

- ⁴ 'Come to Beth'el and commit transgression,
To Gil'gal and transgress even more!
Bring your sacrifices in the morning,
And your tithes on the third day.
- ⁵ Burn a thanksgiving sacrifice of leavened bread;
Loudly proclaim your voluntary offerings!
For that is what you love to do, O people of
Israel,' declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.
- ⁶ 'And for my part, I made your teeth clean of food in
all your cities
And caused a lack of bread in all your houses;
But you did not come back to me,' declares
Jehovah.
- ⁷ 'I also withheld rain from you three months before
the harvest;
I made it rain on one city but not on another city.
One plot of land would have rain,
But another plot of land where there was no rain
would dry up.
- ⁸ People of two or three cities staggered to one city
to drink water,
And they would not get satisfied;
But you did not come back to me,' declares
Jehovah.

- ⁹ 'I struck you with scorching heat and mildew.
You multiplied your gardens and vineyards,
But the locust would devour your fig trees and
olive trees;
And you still did not come back to me,' declares
Jehovah.
- ¹⁰ 'I sent among you a pestilence like that of Egypt.
With the sword I killed your young men and
captured your horses.
I made the stench of your camps rise up into
your nostrils;
But you did not come back to me,' declares
Jehovah.
- ¹¹ 'I caused an overthrow among you
Like God's overthrow of Sod'om and Go-mor'rah.
And you were like a log snatched out of the fire;
But you did not come back to me,' declares
Jehovah.
- ¹² So that is what I will do to you, O Israel.
Because this is what I will do to you,
Get ready to meet your God, O Israel.
- ¹³ For look! he is the One who formed the mountains
and created the wind;
He tells man what His thoughts are,
He turns the dawn into darkness,
And he treads on earth's high places;

Jehovah the God of armies is his name.”

5 “Hear this word that I am taking up against you as a dirge, O house of Israel:

2 ‘The virgin, Israel, has fallen;
She cannot get up again.
She has been abandoned on her own ground;
There is no one to raise her up.’

3 “For this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says:
‘The city that marches out with a thousand will
have a hundred left;
And the one that goes out with a hundred will
have ten left, for the house of Israel.’

4 “For this is what Jehovah says to the house of Israel:

‘Search for me and keep living.

5 Do not search for Beth'el,
Do not go to Gil'gal or pass over to Be'er-she'ba,
For Gil'gal will certainly go into exile,
And Beth'el will come to nothing.

6 Search for Jehovah, and keep living,
So that he does not burst out like a fire on the
house of Joseph,
Consuming Beth'el, with no one to extinguish it.

7 You turn justice into wormwood,
And you cast righteousness to the earth.

- ⁸ The One who made the Ki'mah constellation and
the Ke'sil constellation,
The One who turns deep shadow into morning,
The One who makes day as dark as night,
The One who summons the waters of the sea
To pour them out on the surface of the earth
—Jehovah is his name.
- ⁹ He will cause destruction to burst out against the
strong,
Bringing destruction on fortified places.
- ¹⁰ They hate those who give reproof in the city gate,
And they detest those who speak truthfully.
- ¹¹ Because you demand farm rent from the poor
And you take his grain as tribute,
You will not keep dwelling in the houses of hewn
stone that you have built
Nor drink the wine from the choice vineyards that
you have planted.
- ¹² For I know how many your revolts are
And how great your sins are
—You harass the righteous,
You take bribes,
And you deny the rights of the poor in the city
gate.
- ¹³ Therefore, those with insight will keep silent at that
time,

For it will be a time of calamity.

¹⁴ Search for what is good, and not what is bad,
So that you may keep living.
Then Jehovah the God of armies may be with
you,
Just as you say he is.

¹⁵ Hate what is bad, and love what is good,
Let justice prevail in the city gate.
It may be that Jehovah the God of armies
Will show favor to the remaining ones of Joseph.’

¹⁶ “Therefore this is what Jehovah the God of armies,
Jehovah, says:

‘In all the public squares there will be wailing,
And in all the streets they will say, “Alas, alas!”
They will call on the farmers to mourn
And the professional mourners to wail.’

¹⁷ ‘In every vineyard there will be wailing;
For I will pass through your midst,’ says
Jehovah.

¹⁸ ‘Woe to those who yearn for the day of Jehovah!
What, then, will the day of Jehovah mean for
you?
It will be darkness, and not light.

¹⁹ It will be like a man who flees from a lion and is
confronted by a bear,

And when he enters his house and leans his
hand against the wall, a snake bites him.

²⁰ Will not the day of Jehovah be darkness, and not
light;

Will it not have gloom, and not brightness?

²¹ I hate, I despise your festivals,
And I take no pleasure in the aroma of your
solemn assemblies.

²² Even if you offer me whole burnt offerings and gift
offerings,
I will find no pleasure in them;
And I will not look with favor on your communion
sacrifices of fattened animals.

²³ Spare me the din of your songs;
And let me not hear the melodies of your
stringed instruments.

²⁴ Let justice flow down like waters,
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

²⁵ Did you bring me sacrifices and gift offerings
For those 40 years in the wilderness, O house of
Israel?

²⁶ Now you will have to carry away Sak'kuth your king
and Kai'wan,
Your images, the star of your god, whom you
made for yourselves,

- ²⁷ And I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,
says he whose name is Jehovah the God of
armies.”
- 6** “Woe to the self-assured ones in Zion,
To those feeling secure in the mountain of
Sa-mar'i-a,
The prominent men of the foremost of nations,
Those to whom the house of Israel comes!
- ² Cross over to Cal'neh and see.
Go from there to Great Ha'math,
And go down to Gath of the Phi-lis'tines.
Are they better than these kingdoms,
Or is their territory larger than yours?
- ³ Are you putting out of your mind the day of calamity
And bringing in a reign of violence?
- ⁴ They lie on beds of ivory and sprawl out on
couches,
Eating the rams of the flock and the fattened
calves;
- ⁵ They improvise songs to the sound of the harp,
And like David, they invent musical instruments;
- ⁶ They drink wine by the bowlful
And anoint themselves with the choicest oils.
But they are unconcerned about the catastrophe
of Joseph.
- ⁷ So they will go into exile at the head of the exiles,

And the revelry of those sprawled out will come to an end.

⁸ ‘The Sovereign Lord Jehovah has sworn by himself,’ declares Jehovah the God of armies, “‘I detest the pride of Jacob, I hate his fortified towers, And I will hand over the city and what fills it.

⁹ ““And if ten men are left in one house, they will also die. ¹⁰ A relative will come to carry them out and burn them one by one. He will bring their bones out from the house; then he will say to whoever is in the inner rooms of the house, ‘Are there any more with you?’ And he will say, ‘Nobody!’ Then he will say, ‘Keep silent! For it is not the time to make any mention of the name of Jehovah.’”

¹¹ For it is Jehovah giving the command, And he will strike down the great house into rubble, And the small house into debris.

¹² Do horses run on a crag, Or will one plow there with cattle? For you have turned justice into a poisonous plant, And the fruit of righteousness into wormwood.

¹³ You rejoice over what is worthless,

And you say, “Have we not become powerful in our own strength?”

¹⁴ Therefore, O house of Israel, I will bring against you a nation,’ declares Jehovah the God of armies,

‘And they will oppress you from Le'bo-ha'math down to the Wadi of the Ar'a-bah.’”

⁷ This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah showed me: Look! He formed a locust swarm when the late crop was beginning to come up. This was the later crop after the king’s hay had been cut. ² When the swarm finished eating up the vegetation of the land, I said: “O Sovereign Lord Jehovah, please forgive! How can Jacob survive? For he is weak!”

³ So Jehovah reconsidered this. “It will not happen,” Jehovah said.

⁴ This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah showed me: Look! The Sovereign Lord Jehovah called for a punishment by fire. It consumed the vast deep waters, and it consumed a portion of the land. ⁵ Then I said: “O Sovereign Lord Jehovah, please hold this back. How can Jacob survive? For he is weak!”

⁶ So Jehovah reconsidered this. “That too will not happen,” the Sovereign Lord Jehovah said.

⁷ This is what he showed me: Look! Jehovah was standing on a wall made with a plumb line, and there

was a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ Then Jehovah said to me: “What do you see, A'mos?” So I said: “A plumb line.” Jehovah then said: “Here I am putting a plumb line among my people Israel. I will no longer pardon them. ⁹ The high places of Isaac will be desolated, and the sanctuaries of Israel will be devastated; and I will come against the house of Jer·o·bo'am with a sword.”

¹⁰ Am·a·zi'ah the priest of Beth'el sent this message to King Jer·o·bo'am of Israel: “A'mos is conspiring against you right in the midst of the house of Israel. The land cannot put up with all his words. ¹¹ For this is what A'mos says, ‘Jer·o·bo'am will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile from its land.’”

¹² Am·a·zi'ah then said to A'mos: “O visionary, go, run away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and there you may prophesy. ¹³ But you must no longer prophesy at Beth'el, for it is the sanctuary of a king and the house of a kingdom.”

¹⁴ Then A'mos answered Am·a·zi'ah: “I was not a prophet nor the son of a prophet; but I was a herdsman, and I took care of sycamore fig trees. ¹⁵ But Jehovah took me away from following the flock, and Jehovah said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ¹⁶ So now hear the word of Jehovah: ‘You are saying, “Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.” ¹⁷ Therefore this is what Jehovah says: “Your wife will become a prostitute

in the city, and your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword. Your land will be apportioned out with a measuring line, and you yourself will die in an unclean land; and Israel will surely go into exile from its land.”””

8 This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah showed me: Look! There was a basket of summer fruit. ² Then he said, “What do you see, A'mos?” I replied, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then Jehovah said to me: “The end has come for my people Israel. I will no longer pardon them. ³ ‘The songs of the temple will turn into wailing in that day,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. ‘There will be many carcasses thrown everywhere—hush!’

- ⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the poor
And who bring the meek of the land to an end,
⁵ Who say, ‘When will the new moon festival be over,
that we may sell our grain,
And the Sabbath, that we may offer grain for
sale?
So that we may make the e'phah measure
smaller
And the shekel weight greater,
To falsify our scales of deception;
⁶ So that we may buy the needy for silver
And the poor for a pair of sandals,
And sell the worthless part of the grain.’
⁷ Jehovah has sworn by the Pride of Jacob,

‘Never will I forget all their deeds.

⁸ On this account the land will tremble,
And every inhabitant in it will mourn.
Will it not all rise like the Nile,
And surge and sink down like the Nile of Egypt?’

⁹ ‘In that day,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah,
‘I will make the sun go down at high noon,
And I will darken the land on a bright day.

¹⁰ I will turn your festivals into mourning
And all your songs into dirges.
I will put sackcloth on all hips and make every
head bald;
I will make it like the mourning for an only son,
And the end of it like a bitter day.’

¹¹ ‘Look! The days are coming,’ declares the
Sovereign Lord Jehovah,
‘When I will send a famine into the land,
Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water,
But for hearing the words of Jehovah.

¹² They will stagger from sea to sea
And from the north to the east.
They will rove about searching for the word of
Jehovah, but they will not find it.

¹³ In that day beautiful virgins will faint,
Also young men, because of the thirst;

¹⁴ Those who swear by the guilt of Sa-mar'i-a and
who say,
“As surely as your god lives, O Dan!”
And, “As surely as the way of Be'er-she'ba lives!”
They will fall, and they will not rise up again.”

9 I saw Jehovah stationed above the altar, and he
said: “Strike the head of the pillar, and the thresholds
will shake. Cut them off at the head, and I will kill the
last of them with the sword. No one who flees will get
away, and no one trying to escape will succeed.

² If they dig down into the Grave,
From there my hand will take them;
And if they go up to the heavens,
From there I will bring them down.

³ And if they hide themselves on the top of Car'mel,
From there I will search them out and take them.
If they conceal themselves from my eyes on the
bottom of the sea,
There I will command the serpent to bite them.

⁴ If they go into captivity before their enemies,
From there I will command the sword, and it will
kill them;
I will fix my eyes on them for bad, and not for
good.

⁵ For the Sovereign Lord, Jehovah of the armies, is
the One who touches the land,

So that it melts, and all its inhabitants will mourn;
And all of it will rise like the Nile,
And sink down like the Nile of Egypt.

⁶ ‘The one who builds his stairs in the heavens
And establishes his structure over the earth;
The one who summons the waters of the sea,
To pour them out on the surface of the earth
—Jehovah is his name.’

⁷ ‘Are you not like the sons of the Cush'ites to me, O
people of Israel?’ declares Jehovah.
‘Did I not bring Israel up out of the land of Egypt,
The Phi-lis'tines out of Crete, and Syria out of
Kir?’

⁸ ‘Look! The eyes of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah are
on the sinful kingdom,
And he will annihilate it from the surface of the
land.
But I will not completely annihilate the house of
Jacob,’ declares Jehovah.

⁹ ‘For look! I am giving the command,
And I will shake the house of Israel among all the
nations,
Just as one shakes a sieve,
And not a pebble falls to the ground.

¹⁰ They will die by the sword, all the sinners of my
people,

Those who are saying, "The calamity will not come near us or reach us."

- ¹¹ 'In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen,
I will repair the breaches,
And I will restore its ruins;
I will rebuild it as in the days of long ago,
- ¹² So that they may take possession of what is remaining of E'dom,
And all the nations on whom my name has been called,' declares Jehovah, who is doing this.
- ¹³ 'Look! The days are coming,' declares Jehovah,
'When the plowman will overtake the harvester,
And the treader of grapes, the one carrying seed;
And the mountains will drip with sweet wine,
And all the hills will flow with it.
- ¹⁴ I will gather back the captives of my people Israel,
And they will rebuild the desolated cities and inhabit them;
They will plant vineyards and drink their wine,
And make gardens and eat their fruit.'
- ¹⁵ 'I will plant them on their land,
And they will never again be uprooted
From their land that I have given them,' says Jehovah your God."

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- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Am 4:1-13

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.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 58
- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Making a Return Visit”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows two publishers making a return visit.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
kr pp. 220-221, chap. 21 ¶1-7
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 143 and Prayer

AMOS 1-9 | “Search for Jehovah, and Keep Living”

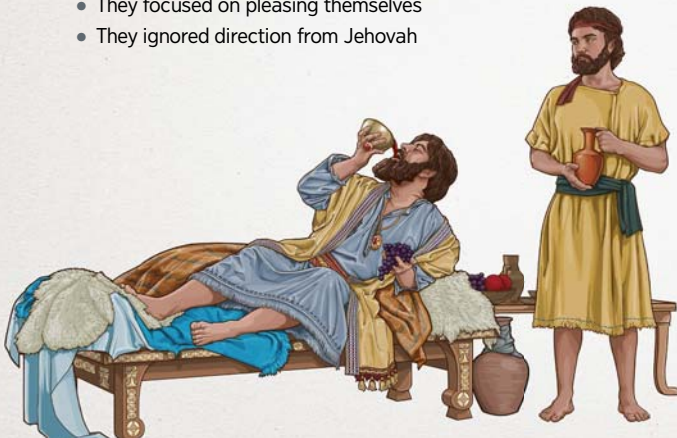
5:6, 14, 15


What does it mean to search for Jehovah?

- It means that we continue to learn about Jehovah and to live according to his standards

What happened to the Israelites when they failed to search for Jehovah?

- They stopped ‘hating what was bad and loving what was good’
- They focused on pleasing themselves
- They ignored direction from Jehovah



 **What has Jehovah provided to help us search for him?**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

November 6-12

Treasures From God's Word

Amos 5:4, 6—We must come to know Jehovah and do his will

Reference: w04 11/15 24 **paragraph 20**.

It must not have been easy for anyone living in Israel in those days to remain faithful to Jehovah. It is difficult to swim against the current, so to speak, as Christians today, young and old, well know. Yet, love for God and a desire to please him did motivate some Israelites to practice true worship. Jehovah extended to them the warm invitation recorded at Amos 5:4: “Search for me, and keep living.” Today, God similarly shows mercy to those who repent and search for him by taking in accurate knowledge of his Word and then doing his will. It is not easy to pursue this course, but doing so leads to everlasting life.—John 17:3.

Amos 5:14, 15—We must accept Jehovah’s standards of good and bad and learn to love them

Reference: jd 90-91 **paragraphs 16-17**.

16 The first man, Adam, made a foolish choice as to whose standards of good and bad were best. Will we choose more wisely? Amos admonished us to have strong feelings about this, urging: “Hate what is bad, and love what is good.” (Amos 5:15) William Rainey Harper, late professor of Semitic languages and literatures at the University of Chicago, noted about this verse: “The standard of good and evil, in [Amos’] mind, is conformity with Yahweh’s will.” This is a central concept that we can learn from the 12 prophets. Are we willing to accept Jehovah’s standards of good and bad? Those high standards are revealed to us in the Bible and explained by mature, experienced Christians who make up “the faithful and discreet slave.” —Matthew 24:45-47.

17 Our hating what is bad helps us to refrain from things that displease God. For example, a man may be aware of the dangers of Internet pornography and try to turn away from viewing it. Yet, how does ‘the man he is inside’ feel about the content of pornographic Web sites? (Ephesians 3:16) By applying the divine exhortation found at Amos 5:15, he will find it easier to cultivate hatred for what is bad. He may thus be victorious in his spiritual struggle.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Amos 2:12—How can we apply the lesson found in this verse?

Reference: w07 10/1 14 **paragraph 8**.

We should not discourage hardworking pioneers, traveling overseers, missionaries, or members of the Bethel family by urging them to give up their full-time service for a so-called normal way of life. On the contrary, we should encourage them to keep up their good work.

Amos 8:1, 2—What did “a basket of summer fruit” signify?

Reference: w07 10/1 14 **paragraph 6**.

It signified that the day of Jehovah was near. Summer fruit is picked toward the end of the harvest season, that is, toward the end of the agricultural year. When Jehovah caused Amos to see “a basket of summer fruit,” it meant that the end was near for Israel. Therefore, God told Amos: “The end has come to my people Israel. I shall no more do any further excusing of them.”

- Song 60 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Search for Jehovah, and Keep Living”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Amos.*]
Am 5:4, 6—We must come to know Jehovah and do his will (w04 11/15 24 ¶20)
Am 5:14, 15—We must accept Jehovah’s standards of good and bad and learn to love them (jd 90-91 ¶16-17)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Am 2:12—How can we apply the lesson found in this verse? (w07 10/1 14 ¶8)

Am 8:1, 2—What did “a basket of summer fruit” signify? (w07 10/1 14 ¶6)

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) Am 4:1-13

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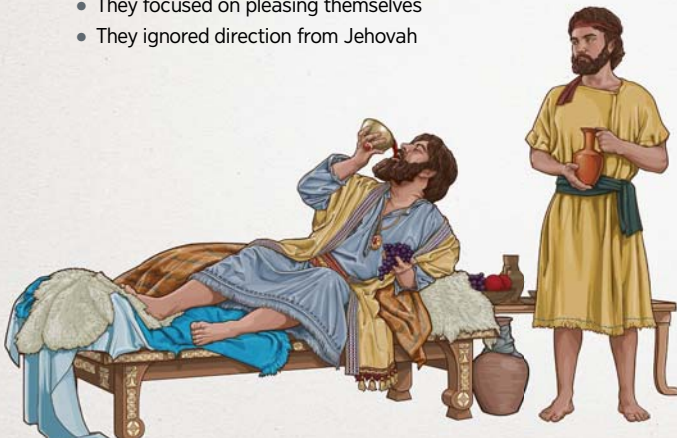
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Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Presentations



THE WATCHTOWER

Question: Who is the greatest gift-giver in the universe?

Scripture: **Jas 1:17**

Offer: This issue of *The Watchtower* helps us to appreciate one gift from God that is the best of all.



TEACH THE TRUTH

Question: What is God's name?

Scripture: **Ps 83:18**

Truth: God's name is Jehovah.



YOUR FAMILY CAN BE HAPPY

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

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

BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

Question:

Scripture:

Offer:

58 *Searching for Friends of Peace*

(Luke 10:6)

1. Jesus commanded: 'Let the truth be heard.'

In summer heat, on dusty roads,

He let all hear Jehovah's word.

He loved God's sheep and called to ev'ryone.

He searched the land from the sunrise

'til the day was done.

From door to door and in the street,

We share with ev'ryone we meet

The news that soon man's troubles all will be gone.

(CHORUS)

Searching the world

For friends of peace in ev'ry nation,

Searching to find

A heart inclined toward salvation,

Wanting to leave

No stone unturned.

2. Time waits for no one, so the search goes on.

A million hearts, a million lives,

We give our all to save just one.

Love is the force that makes us call again.

A wounded heart can be healed,

and broken lives can mend.

We search the towns and city squares,

And when we find someone who cares,

The joy we feel inspires us to go on.

(Chorus)

- Song 60 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

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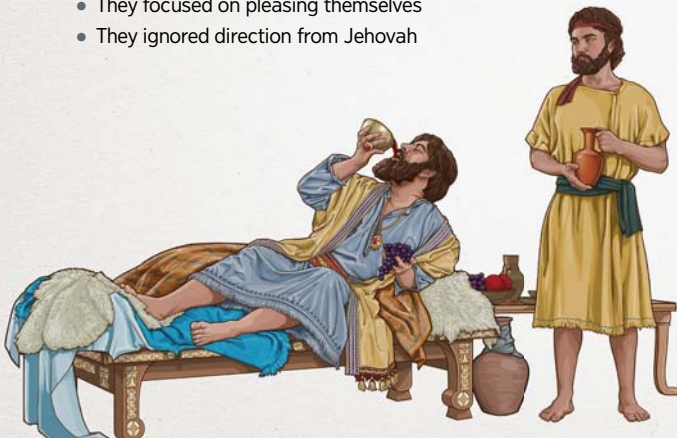
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IMPROVING OUR SKILLS IN THE MINISTRY

Making a Return Visit

WHY IMPORTANT: Many people who show interest in the Kingdom message are searching for the truth about God. (Isa 55:6) In order for us to teach them progressively, we must return again and again. People face different challenges, so the way we cultivate their interest will vary. However, we will be more effective if we prepare well and have an objective for each visit, with the ultimate goal of starting a Bible study.



HOW TO DO IT:



- Endeavor to return promptly, perhaps within a few days.—Mt 13:19
- Be friendly and respectful. Try to relax
- Begin with a warm greeting. Use the person's name. Remind him why you have returned—perhaps to answer a question, bring the latest magazine, show our website, play a video, or demonstrate a Bible study. Adjust your comments if he expresses interest in another subject.—Php 2:4
- Water the seed of truth planted in his heart by sharing a Scriptural thought and perhaps by leaving literature. (1Co 3:6) Try to build a rapport with him
- Lay the groundwork for the next visit

SECTION 7

KINGDOM PROMISES

Making All Things New

YOU pluck a luscious apple from the branch. You take in its aroma before adding it to the growing mound in the basket. You have been working for hours, but you feel fine and ready for a bit more work. Your mother is at a tree nearby, happily working and chatting with other family members and friends who are helping with the harvest. She looks so young—the way you remember her when you were just a child all those years ago. It is hard to believe that you saw her grow old in the world that is now long gone. You saw her waste away with illness, you held her hand as she breathed her last, and you wept at her graveside. Yet, here she is, along with so many others, alive and healthy again!

Such days will come; we know it. We know it because God's promises always come true. In this section, we will consider how some Kingdom promises will be fulfilled in the near future, leading up to the war of Armageddon. We will also review some of the thrilling Kingdom promises that will be fulfilled thereafter. How delighted we will be to see the time when God's Kingdom rules over this whole earth, making all things new!

21 God's Kingdom Removes Its Enemies

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

The events leading up to the war of Armageddon

IT HAS been faith-strengthening to review what God's Kingdom has accomplished in the midst of its enemies. (Ps. 110:2) Our King has raised up an army of willing preachers. He has cleansed and refined his followers spiritually and morally. And despite all efforts of enemies of the Kingdom to divide us, we enjoy worldwide unity today. These and the many other Kingdom accomplishments we have considered provide overwhelming evidence that since 1914, our King has been ruling in the midst of enemies of the Kingdom.

² The Kingdom will do even more amazing things in the near future. It will "come" to "crush and put an end" to its enemies. (Matt. 6:10; Dan. 2:44) But before that time arrives, other significant events will

1, 2. (a) What evidence shows that our King has been ruling since 1914? (b) What will we consider in this chapter?

take place. What are they? Several Bible prophecies address that question. Let us examine some of those prophecies to see what events still lie ahead of us.

Precursor of “Sudden Destruction”

³ Proclaiming peace. In writing to the Thessalonians, the apostle Paul described the first development that we are awaiting. (**Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 2, 3.**) In this letter Paul mentions “Jehovah’s day,” which will begin with the attack on “Babylon the Great.” (Rev. 17:5) However, just before Jehovah’s day begins, nations will be saying, “Peace and security!” This expression may refer to one pronouncement or to a series of notable statements. Will religious leaders be involved? Since they are part of the world, they will possibly join the nations in saying, “There is peace!” (Jer. 6:14; 23:16, 17; Rev. 17:1, 2) This proclaiming of peace and security will signal that the day of Jehovah is about to begin. Enemies of God’s Kingdom “will by no means escape.”

⁴ How do we benefit from understanding the sig-

3. What is the first development that we are awaiting?

4. How do we benefit from understanding the significance of Paul’s prophecy about the proclamation of peace and security?

nificance of this prophecy? Paul states: “You are not in darkness, so that the day should overtake you as it would thieves.” (1 Thess. 5:3, 4) Unlike people in general, we discern where current events are heading. In exactly what manner will this prophecy about peace and security be fulfilled? We must wait and see how the world scene develops. Therefore, “let us stay awake and keep our senses.”—1 Thess. 5:6; Zeph. 3:8.

The Great Tribulation Begins

⁵ **Attack on religion.** Recall that Paul wrote: “Whenever it is that they are saying, ‘Peace and security!’ *then* sudden destruction is to be *instantly* on them.” Just as a flash of lightning is closely followed by the crash of thunder, so the time of saying “Peace and security!” will be instantly followed by “sudden destruction.” What will be destroyed? First, “Babylon the Great,” the world empire of false religion, also known as “the prostitute.” (Rev. 17:5, 6, 15) This destruction of Christendom and all other false religious organizations forms the opening phase of the “great tribulation.” (Matt. 24:21; 2 Thess. 2:8) For many,

5. What will be the opening phase of the “great tribulation”?

this event will come as a surprise. Why? Because up to that point, the prostitute will think of herself as a “queen” who will “never see mourning.” But she will suddenly discover that her confidence is misplaced. She will be removed quickly, as if “in one day.”—Rev. 18:7, 8.

6 Who or what will carry out the attack against “Babylon the Great”? A “wild beast” with “ten horns.” The book of Revelation indicates that this wild beast refers to the United Nations (UN). The ten horns represent all present political powers that support this “scarlet-colored wild beast.” (Rev. 17:3, 5, 11, 12) How devastating will the attack be? The nations of the UN will plunder the prostitute’s wealth, devour her, and “completely burn her.”—**Read Revelation 17:16.***[1]

7 Cutting short the days. Our King revealed what

*[1] It seems reasonable that the destruction of “Babylon the Great” refers mainly to the destruction of the religious institutions, not to a wholesale slaughter of all religious people. Hence, most of Babylon’s former adherents will survive that destruction and, at least openly, will then likely try to distance themselves from religion, as indicated at Zechariah 13:4-6.

6. Who or what will carry out the attack against “Babylon the Great”?
7. How were Jesus’ words at Matthew 24:21, 22 fulfilled in the first century C.E., and what fulfillment will they have in the future?

will occur at this point during the great tribulation. Jesus stated: “On account of the chosen ones those days will be cut short.” (**Read Matthew 24:21, 22.**) Jesus’ words were fulfilled on a small scale in 66 C.E. when Jehovah “cut short” the Roman army’s attack on Jerusalem. (Mark 13:20) That action allowed Christians in Jerusalem and Judea to be saved. What will then happen on a global scale during the coming great tribulation? Jehovah, by means of our King, will “cut short” the United Nations’ attack on religion so that the true religion will not be destroyed with the false. Thus, while all false religious organizations will be torn down, the one true religion will survive. (Ps. 96:5) Let us now consider what events will occur after this part of the great tribulation has passed.

Events Leading Up to Armageddon

⁸ Jesus’ prophecy about the last days indicates that several significant developments will take place during the time leading up to Armageddon. The first two events that we will consider are both mentioned

8, 9. To what phenomena may Jesus have referred, and how will people react to what they observe?

WHAT THE NEAR FUTURE HOLDS

Before the Kingdom comes to put an end to its enemies, several significant events will take place. God's Word reveals what lies ahead of us (See paragraph 2)

Jehovah sends his King to defend all loyal ones (Ezek. 38:18)
(See paragraphs 13, 16-18)

BEGINNING OF A PERIOD OF UNKNOWN LENGTH

Precursor of the Great Tribulation



Pronouncement of peace and security (1 Thess. 5:2, 3)
(See paragraphs 3, 4)

Final sealing of the remnant of anointed Christians (Rev. 7:1-3)
(See paragraph 15)

The Great Tribulation Begins



Attack on religion (Rev. 17:16)
(See paragraphs 5, 6)

Attack cut short (Matt. 24:21, 22)
(See paragraph 7)

Events Leading Up to Armageddon



Celestial phenomena (Matt. 24:29)
(See paragraph 9)



Judgment of sheep and goats (Matt. 25:31-33)
(See paragraph 10)



Attack of Gog of Magog (Ezek. 38:2, 11, 15)
(See paragraphs 12-14)



Gathering to heaven of the remaining anointed ones (Matt. 24:31)
(See paragraph 15)

Finale of the Great Tribulation

ARMAGEDDON

(Matt. 25:46; Rev. 16:16)

(See paragraphs 16, 17)

143 *Keep Working, Watching, and Waiting*

(Romans 8:20-25)

1. The God of times and of seasons,
Whose name alone is Jehovah—
The time for his vindication
Is near by signs we can see.

(CHORUS)

*Keep on working and watching and waiting,
Joyfully anticipating,
Life as God meant it to be.*

2. The time has long been appointed;
His Son is ready to conquer,
Defeating all who oppose him.
His sword will bring victory.

(Chorus)

3. Though all creation is groaning,
In faith we're eagerly waiting.
Jehovah's day is approaching,
The time for setting us free.

(Chorus)

SEPTEMBER 2017

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
OCTOBER 23–NOVEMBER 26, 2017

**LARGE
PRINT
EDITION**



COVER IMAGE:

EL SALVADOR

Two couples share in public witnessing, using carts in front of one of the biggest malls in San Salvador

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 WEEK OF OCTOBER 23-29

Cultivate Self-Control

Jehovah is the supreme example of self-control. How can humans imitate him in exercising this quality? And what practical steps can you take to strengthen your self-control?

16 WEEK OF OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 5

Imitate Jehovah's Compassion

What does it mean to be compassionate? Both Jehovah and Jesus have set perfect examples of exercising this quality. In what practical ways, though, can we imitate their examples? And what good results can we obtain from doing so?

PUBLISHERS

41,084

BIBLE STUDIES

42,813

MEMORIAL
ATTENDANCE (2016)

92,606

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

28 WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6-12

“The Word of Our God Endures Forever”

40 WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13-19

“The Word of God . . . Exerts Power”

Why is it significant that the Bible continues to be available in more and more languages? And how can we show our appreciation for having access to God’s Word in a language we can understand? These articles will deepen our gratitude for the Bible as well as our love for its Author.

53 WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20-26

“Be Courageous . . . and Go to Work”

Courage is essential for Christians. How can we benefit from the example of those who in the past displayed this quality? How can young ones, parents, older sisters, and baptized brothers show that they are courageous and ready to perform good works?

The Light Gets Brighter

(Proverbs 4:18)

1. The prophets of old sought to learn of the Christ,
The hope of all groaning creation.
God's spirit revealed that Messiah would come,
Providing the means of salvation.

The time has arrived, the Messiah now reigns,
The proof of his presence is clear.
How great is the favor of learning such things;
Into these even angels would peer!

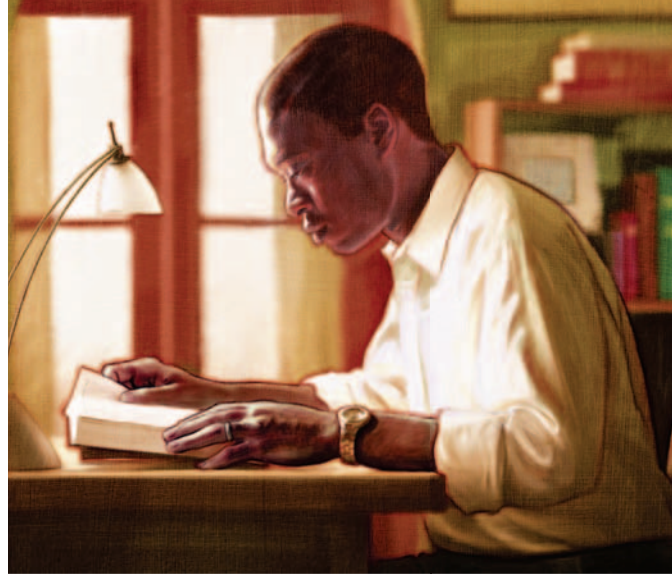
(CHORUS)

*Our path now becomes ever brighter;
We walk in the full light of day.
Behold what our God is revealing;
He guides us each step of the way.*

2. Our Lord has appointed a trustworthy slave,
Through whom He gives food in due season.
The light of the truth has grown brighter with time,
Appealing to heart and to reason.

Our path ever clearer, our steps ever firm,
We walk in the brightness of day.
All thanks to Jehovah, the Source of all truth,
We most gratefully walk in his way.

(Chorus)



SONGS:
95, 97

**HOW HAS GOD'S
WORD ENDURED . . .**

changes in
language?

political
developments?

opposition
to translation?

“The Word of Our God Endures Forever”

“The green grass dries up, the blossom withers, but the word of our God endures forever.”—ISA. 40:8.

CAN you imagine what your life would be like without the Bible? You would have no reliable advice for day-to-day living. You would not have satisfying an-

1, 2. (a) What would life be like without the Bible? (b) We can benefit from God's Word especially if what is true?

swers to questions about God, life, and the future. And you would not know of Jehovah's past dealings with the human family.

² Thankfully, we do not face such a bleak situation. Jehovah has provided us with his Word, the Bible. And he has guaranteed that its message will endure forever. The apostle Peter quoted Isaiah 40:8. That verse does not specifically refer to the Bible as we know it; yet, the inspired words apply by extension to the Bible's message. (Read 1 Peter 1:24, 25.) Of course, we can benefit from the Bible particularly if it is available in a language that we understand well. Those who love God's Word have long recognized that fact. Although it has not always been easy, over the centuries sincere individuals have persevered in translating and distributing the Scriptures. Their desire was in harmony with God's will that "all sorts of people should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth."—1 Tim. 2:3, 4.

³ In this article, we will consider examples of how God's Word has endured (1) changes in language, (2) political developments that influenced the

3. What will we consider in this article? (See opening picture.)

lingua franca, or common language, and (3) opposition to Bible translation. How will we benefit from this review? It will deepen our appreciation for God’s Word. It will also deepen our love for the Author of the Bible, who provided it for our benefit.—Mic. 4:2; Rom. 15:4.

CHANGES IN LANGUAGE

⁴ Over time, languages tend to change. Words and expressions may come to mean something completely different. Perhaps you can think of examples of how a language that you speak has changed. The same is true of Hebrew and Greek, the languages that most of the Bible was written in. Modern Hebrew and Greek are quite different from those languages back in Bible times. So virtually everyone who wants to understand God’s Word must read a translation of it—even those who know modern-day Hebrew or Greek. Some have felt that they should learn ancient Hebrew and Greek so that they could read the Bible in the original languages. That, however, may not be as profitable as

4. (a) How do languages change over time? (b) What shows that our God is not partial toward any language group, and how does that make you feel?

they imagine.* Thankfully, the Bible or portions of it have now been translated into nearly 3,000 languages. Clearly, Jehovah wants people of “every nation and tribe and language” to have the opportunity to benefit from his Word. (Read Revelation 14:6, footnote.) Does that not draw you even closer to our loving and impartial God?—Acts 10:34.

⁵ The reality that languages change over time also applies to the languages into which the Bible has been translated. A Bible translation that was easily understood when first produced may later become less effective. Consider an example involving a Bible translation into English. The *King James Version* was first produced in 1611. It became one of the most popular English Bibles, and it would come to have a significant impact on the English language.[#] Notably, the *King James Version* drew only limited attention to God’s name. It used “Jehovah” in a few verses, and it used the word “LORD” in capital letters in other verses in the Hebrew

* See the article “Do You Need to Learn Hebrew and Greek?” in the November 1, 2009, issue of *The Watchtower*.

[#] A number of English idioms can be traced back to the *King James Version*. Examples include: “fell flat on his face,” “the skin of my teeth,” and “pour out your heart.”— Num. 22:31; Job 19:20; Ps. 62:8.

5. What made the *King James Version* significant?

Scriptures where the divine name originally occurred. Later printings also used the word “LORD” in capital letters in some verses in the Christian Greek Scriptures. In that sense, the *King James Version* acknowledged the rightful place of God’s name in the so-called New Testament.

⁶ Even so, much of the wording in the *King James Version* became archaic over the centuries. The same is true of early Bible translations in other languages. Are we not grateful, then, to have the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*? This translation is available in whole or in part in over 150 languages, thus being available to a vast part of the population today. Its clear wording allows the message of God’s Word to reach our heart. (Ps. 119:97) Significantly, the *New World Translation* restores God’s name to its rightful place in the Scriptures.

COMMON LANGUAGE

⁷ Political developments have sometimes influenced which language was the lingua franca, or

6. Why are we grateful for the *New World Translation*?

7, 8. (a) Why were many Jews in the third century B.C.E. unable to understand the Hebrew Scriptures? (b) What is the Greek *Septuagint*?

common language, at any given time. How has God seen to it that such developments do not make his Word unclear to people? An example from the past helps us to find the answer. The first 39 books of the Bible were written by Israelites, or the Jews. They were the people initially “entrusted with the sacred pronouncements of God.” (Rom. 3:1, 2) However, by the third century B.C.E., many Jews no longer understood Hebrew. Why not? Because Alexander the Great had expanded the Grecian Empire by means of his conquests. (Dan. 8:5-7, 20, 21) As that empire spread, Greek became the common language of many of its subjects, including Jews who were scattered over a vast area. But as many Jews became Greek-speaking, understanding the Hebrew Scriptures became more difficult for most. What was the solution?

⁸ About the middle of the third century B.C.E., the first five books of the Bible were translated from Hebrew into Greek. Translation of the rest of the Hebrew Scriptures was completed in the second century B.C.E. The resulting collection of Bible books came to be known as the Greek *Septuagint*. The *Septuagint* is the first known written translation of the entire Hebrew Scriptures.

⁹ The *Septuagint* did much to make the Hebrew Scriptures readable to Greek-speaking Jews and others. Just think how thrilling it must have been for them to hear or read God's Word in what had become their mother tongue! In time, portions of the Bible were translated into other common languages, such as Syriac, Gothic, and Latin. As readers considered the Holy Writings in a language they could understand, no doubt many came to have a favorite portion, just as we do today. (Read Psalm 119:162-165.) Indeed, God's Word has continued to endure despite changes to the common language.

OPPOSITION TO BIBLE TRANSLATION

¹⁰ At times, very powerful forces have tried to keep the Bible from the common people. However, sincere individuals have stood up to such opposition. For example, consider a 14th-century theologian named John Wycliffe. He strongly believed that everyone should be able to benefit from God's

9. (a) How did the *Septuagint* and other early translations affect readers of God's Word? (b) What is your favorite portion of the Hebrew Scriptures?

10. Why did most people have virtually no access to the Bible in John Wycliffe's time?

Word. But in his time, the common people in England had virtually no access to the Bible. Why not? For one thing, most could not afford to own a Bible, as copies were handwritten and very expensive to produce. Moreover, the majority of people were illiterate. Of course, they may have heard passages read when they went to church. It is doubtful, though, that they would have understood what they heard. Why? Because the official Church Bible (the *Vulgate*) was written in Latin. Yet, in the Middle Ages, Latin was essentially a dead language among the common people! How would the Bible's precious treasures be unlocked for them?—Prov. 2: 1-5.

¹¹ In 1382, the English translation later known as the Wycliffe Bible was produced. It quickly gained popularity among followers of Wycliffe. Desiring to get God's Word into the mind and heart of ordinary people, itinerant preachers, known as the Lollards, traveled on foot from village to village throughout England. Often the Lollards read portions of the Wycliffe Bible to those whom they met, and they left handwritten copies behind. Their efforts marked a real turning point,

11. What was the impact of the Wycliffe Bible?

sparking a renewed interest in God’s Word among the people.

¹² What was the reaction of the clergy? They showed hatred for Wycliffe, his Bible, and his followers. The religious authorities persecuted the Lollards and hunted down and destroyed as many copies of the Wycliffe Bible as they could find. Even

12. How did the clergy react to Wycliffe and his movement?

John Wycliffe and others desired to make God’s Word available to everyone. Do you have such a desire?

(See [paragraph 11](#))



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after his death, Wycliffe was declared a heretic. Of course, it was not possible to punish someone who was no longer alive. Still, the clergy had Wycliffe's bones exhumed and burned and the ashes thrown into the river Swift. But the Church was unable to halt the momentum of God's Word among those who desired to read and understand it. In the centuries that followed, many in Europe and other parts of the world began to promote translation and distribution of the Bible for the benefit of the common people.

“THE ONE TEACHING YOU TO BENEFIT YOURSELF”

¹³ Christians today need not think that the work of translating the *Septuagint*, Wycliffe's Bible, the *King James Version*, or any other translation was inspired by God. Nevertheless, when we review the history of these and many other translations that have been published, it gives support to this fact: Just as Jehovah promised, his Word has endured. Does that not strengthen your faith that all the other promises Jehovah has made will likewise come true?—Josh. 23:14.

13. Of what are we convinced, and how does this strengthen our faith?

¹⁴ Besides strengthening our faith, reviewing how the Bible has endured through the ages deepens our love for Jehovah.* After all, why did he provide his Word in the first place? And why did he guarantee that it would survive? Because he loves us, and he wants to teach us how to benefit ourselves. (Read Isaiah 48:17, 18.) Naturally, it is fitting that we respond to Jehovah's love by loving him in return and by obeying his commandments. —1 John 4:19; 5:3.

¹⁵ It is only sensible to conclude that because we appreciate God's Word, we will want to derive full benefit from it. How can we get the most out of our personal Bible reading? What can help us to direct attention to the Bible in the ministry? How can those who teach from the platform make the Scriptures the focus of their teaching? We will consider the answers to those questions in the next article.

* Note the box "See It for Yourself!"

14. How does God's Word deepen our love for him?

15. What will we consider in the following article?

See It for Yourself!

On April 3, 2017, a Bible museum opened at our world headquarters in Warwick, New York, U.S.A. The permanent gallery of this museum is entitled “The Bible and the Divine Name.” The new museum also includes a rotational gallery that features rare Bibles and Bible-related artifacts. We invite you to visit the Bible museum and the other museums located at headquarters. Please go to www.jw.org to make a reservation for your visit. Look under ABOUT US > OFFICES & TOURS.



97 *Life Depends on God's Word*

(Matthew 4:4)

1. Life depends on Jehovah's Word,
All the things he has said.
We must live not on bread alone;
Live by his Word instead.
Even now we have peace and joy,
Future blessings assured.

(CHORUS)

*Man must live not on bread alone;
Life depends on God's Word.
There we find what we daily need;
Life depends on God's Word.*

2. True accounts in God's written Word
Tell about those of old.
Men and women who walked in faith—
They were loyal and bold.
We're encouraged each time we read
All they did and endured.

(Chorus)

3. Day by day as we read God's Word,
He gives comfort and hope.
When the trials of life arise,
He gives wisdom to cope.
May we treasure within our heart
All we've read and we've heard.

(Chorus)

