

- 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”

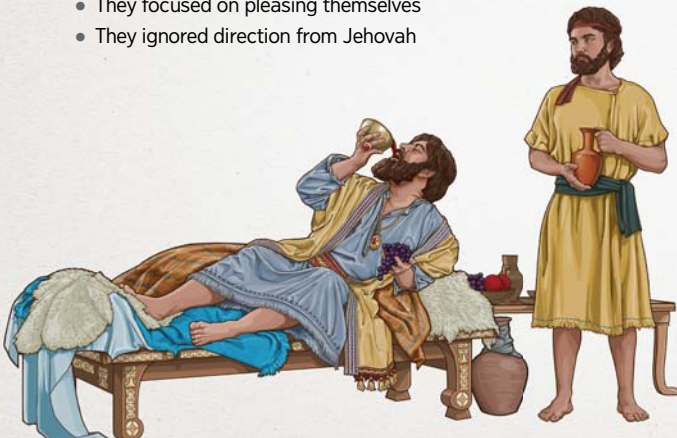
5:6, 14, 15


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. _____

It Means Their Life

(Ezekiel 3:17-19)

Verse 1

B \flat B \flat /A E \flat /G B \flat /F F B \flat E \flat /B \flat

In this year of good-will by our God, all need to hear

B \flat Dm B \flat /D E \flat B \flat /F Cm7/F

That the day of his an-ger will come, and it is

Chorus

B \flat B \flat sus4 B \flat F/A Gm7 Gm7/F

near. It means their life, but not just

E \flat E \flat /D Cm7 F7sus4 F7 B \flat add9 B \flat F/A

theirs; It means our own life as well. It means their

It Means Their Life

Gm Gm/F Eb Bb/D Ebadd9

life if they o - bey, So all the na - tions we must

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. It features a melody with a half note followed by quarter notes, and a bass line with a half note followed by quarter notes. Chord symbols Gm, Gm/F, Eb, Bb/D, and Ebadd9 are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics 'life if they o - bey, So all the na - tions we must' are written below the treble staff.

Bb/F F7sus4 Bb Bbsus4 Bb Verse 2 Bb Bb/A

tell; We must tell. There's a mes - sage to preach, so we

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The treble staff continues the melody with a half note followed by quarter notes. The bass line includes a section labeled 'R.H.' with a dotted line. Chord symbols Bb/F, F7sus4, Bb, Bbsus4, Bb, Verse 2, Bb, and Bb/A are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics 'tell; We must tell. There's a mes - sage to preach, so we' are written below the treble staff.

Eb/G Bb/F F Bb Eb/Bb Bb Dm Bb/D

spread it all a - broad. We in - vite all to come and be

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of music. The treble staff continues the melody with a half note followed by quarter notes. The bass line continues with a half note followed by quarter notes. Chord symbols Eb/G, Bb/F, F, Bb, Eb/Bb, Bb, Dm, and Bb/D are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics 'spread it all a - broad. We in - vite all to come and be' are written below the treble staff.

Eb Bb/F Cm7/F Bb Bbsus4 Bb Chorus F/A

rec - on - ciled to God. It means their

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth lines of music. The treble staff continues the melody with a half note followed by quarter notes. The bass line continues with a half note followed by quarter notes. Chord symbols Eb, Bb/F, Cm7/F, Bb, Bbsus4, Bb, Chorus, and F/A are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics 'rec - on - ciled to God. It means their' are written below the treble staff.

It Means Their Life

Gm7 Gm7/F Eb Eb/D Cm7 F7sus4 F7

life, but not just theirs; It means our own life as

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with a half note G4, quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, followed by a quarter rest, quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, and a half note G5. The bass staff has a bass line with a half note G2, quarter notes A2, Bb2, and C3, followed by a quarter rest, quarter notes D3, E3, and F3, and a half note G3. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff.

Bbadd9 Bb F/A Gm Gm/F Eb

well. It means their life if they o - bey, So all the

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The treble staff continues the melody with a quarter rest, quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note G5, quarter notes A5, Bb5, and C6, and a quarter rest. The bass staff continues the bass line with a half note G2, quarter notes A2, Bb2, and C3, followed by a quarter rest, quarter notes D3, E3, and F3, and a half note G3. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff.

Bb/D Ebadd9 Bb/F F7sus4 Bb Bbsus4 Bb *Bridge*

na - tions we must tell; We must tell. It's

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The treble staff has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, followed by a quarter rest, quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, and a half note G5. The bass staff has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, Bb2, and C3, followed by a quarter rest, quarter notes D3, E3, and F3, and a half note G3. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The word 'Bridge' is written above the final measure of the treble staff.

Ebadd9/Bb Bb Ebadd9/Bb Bb

ur - gent, it's im - por - tant, That peo - ple lis - ten, learn, and live. We

Detailed description: This system contains the final two lines of music. The treble staff has a half note G4, quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, followed by a quarter rest, quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, and a half note G5. The bass staff has a half note G2, quarter notes A2, Bb2, and C3, followed by a quarter rest, quarter notes D3, E3, and F3, and a half note G3. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The text 'R.H.' is written above the first measure of the bass staff.

It Means Their Life

Ebadd9
Cm7 Bb/D
Ebadd9
Cm11

tell them, and we teach them; Life-giv-ing truth we free-ly

Dm7
Chorus F/A
Gm7
Gm7/F
Eb
Eb/D

give. It means their life, but not just theirs; It means our

Cm7
F7sus4 F7
Bbadd9
Bb
F/A
Gm
Gm/F

own life as well. It means their life if they o-

Eb
Bb/D
Ebadd9
Bb/F
F7sus4
Bb

bey, So all the na-tions we must tell; We must tell.

R.H.

AMOS

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Amos receives a message from Jehovah (1, 2) Judgments for repeated revolts (3-15) Syria (3-5), Philistia (6-8), Tyre (9, 10), Edom (11, 12), Ammon (13-15)</p> <p>2 Judgments for repeated revolts (1-16) Moab (1-3), Judah (4, 5), Israel (6-16)</p> <p>3 Proclaiming God's judgment (1-8) God reveals his confidential matter (7) A message against Samaria (9-15)</p> <p>4 A message against the cows of Bashan (1-3) Jehovah scorns Israel's false worship (4, 5) Israel refuses to accept discipline (6-13) "Get ready to meet your God" (12) 'God tells man His thoughts' (13)</p> | <p>5 Israel like a fallen virgin (1-3) Search for God, and keep living (4-17) Hate bad, and love good (15) Jehovah's day, a day of darkness (18-27) Israel's sacrifices rejected (22)</p> <p>6 Woe to the complacent ones! (1-14) Beds of ivory; bowls of wine (4, 6)</p> <p>7 Visions showing Israel's end is near (1-9) Locusts (1-3), fire (4-6), a plumb line (7-9) Amos told to stop prophesying (10-17)</p> <p>8 Vision of a basket of summer fruit (1-3) Oppressors condemned (4-14) A spiritual famine (11)</p> <p>9 God's judgments inescapable (1-10) David's booth to be raised up (11-15)</p> |
|---|---|

1 The words of A'mos,* who was among the sheep raisers from Te-ko'a,^a which he received in vision concerning Israel in the days of King Uz-zi'ah^b of Judah and in the days of Jer-o-bo'am^c son of Jo'ash,^d the king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.^e **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."^f

- 3** "This is what Jehovah says,
"For three revolts* of Damascus, and for four, I will not reverse it,
Because they threshed

1:1 * Meaning "Being a Load" or "Carrying a Load." 1:3 * Or "crimes."

CHAP. 1

- a 2Ch 11:5, 6
b 2Ch 26:1, 3, 4
Isa 1:1
c 2Ki 14:23, 24
Ho 1:1
Am 7:10
d 2Ki 13:10, 11
e Zec 14:5
f Isa 33:9
Na 1:4

Second Col.

- a 2Ki 8:12
2Ki 10:32, 33
2Ki 13:7
b 1Ki 19:15
c Jer 49:27
d Isa 7:8
Isa 8:4
Isa 17:1
e 2Ki 16:9
f Eze 25:15
g 2Ch 21:16, 17
2Ch 28:18
Joe 3:4, 6
h Jer 25:17, 20
Jer 47:1
Zec 9:5

Gil'e-ad with iron threshing sledges.^a

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

- 5** I will break the bars of Damascus;^d
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,"^e says Jehovah.'

- 6** This is what Jehovah says,
"For three revolts of Gaz'a,^f and for four, I will not reverse it,
Because they took a whole group of exiles^g to hand them over to E'dom.

- 7** So I will send a fire onto the wall of Gaz'a,^h

1:5 * Lit., "the one holding the scepter."

And it will consume her fortified towers.

8 I will destroy the inhabitants from Ash'dod,^a

And the one ruling* from Ash'ke-lon;^b

I will turn my hand against Ek'ron,^c

And the remaining Phi-lis-tines will perish,^d says the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.'

9 This is what Jehovah says, 'For three revolts of Tyre,^e

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.^f

10 So I will send a fire onto the wall of Tyre,

And it will consume her fortified towers.^g

11 This is what Jehovah says, 'For three revolts of E'dom,^h

and for four, I will not reverse it,

Because he pursued his own brother with the sword,ⁱ

And because he refused to show mercy;

In his anger he keeps tearing them apart relentlessly,

And he remains furious with them continually.^j

12 So I will send a fire into Te'man,^k

And it will consume the fortified towers of Boz'rah.^l

13 This is what Jehovah says, "For three revolts of the Am'mon-ites,^m 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.ⁿ

14 So I will set fire to the wall of Rab'bah,^o

1:8 *Lit., "the one holding the scepter."

CHAP. 1

- a Isa 20:1
- b Jer 47:5
- c Zep 2:4
- d Isa 14:29
Jer 47:4
Eze 25:16, 17
- e Zep 2:5
Zec 9:6
- e Eze 26:2
- f Joe 3:4, 6
- g Eze 26:12
- h Joe 3:19
- i Eze 25:12
- j 2Ch 28:17
Ob 10
- k Ge 36:10, 11
Ob 9
- l Isa 34:5, 6
Jer 49:13
- m Eze 25:3
Zep 2:8
- n Jg 11:12, 13
Jer 49:1
- o Jer 49:2
Eze 25:5

Second Col.

- a Jer 27:2, 3
Jer 49:3

CHAP. 2

- b Jer 48:29, 30
Eze 25:8, 9
Zep 2:8
- c Jer 48:21, 24
- d Isa 15:1
- e Isa 16:14
Jer 48:7
- f 2Ki 17:19
Jer 2:13
- g Le 26:14-16
2Ch 36:14
- h Jer 9:14
- i 1Sa 12:15
1Ch 28:9
2Ch 36:17, 19
Jer 17:27
Jer 37:8
Jer 52:12-14
Ho 8:14
- j De 28:45
2Ki 17:6, 7
Eze 23:4, 5
Ho 4:1, 2

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,^a says Jehovah.'

2 "This is what Jehovah says,

"For three revolts* of Mo'ab,^b 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;^c

Mo'ab will die amid an uproar,

With a war cry, with the sound of a horn.^d

3 I will remove the ruler* from her midst

And kill all her princes along with him,^e says Jehovah.'

4 This is what Jehovah says, 'For three revolts of Judah,^f

and for four, I will not reverse it,

Because they rejected the law* of Jehovah,

And because they did not keep his regulations;^g

But the same lies their forefathers followed have led them astray.^h

5 So I will send a fire into Judah,

And it will consume the fortified towers of Jerusalem.ⁱ

6 This is what Jehovah says, 'For three revolts of Israel,^j

and for four, I will not reverse it,

Because they sell the righteous for silver,

2:1 *Or "crimes." 2:3 *Lit., "judge."

2:4 *Or "instruction."

And the poor for a pair
of sandals.^a

- 7 They trample the heads of
the lowly into the dust of
the earth,^b

And they block the path of
the meek.^c

A man and his father have
relations with the same
girl,

Profaning my holy name.

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

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

- 9 'But it was I who annihilated
the Am'or-ite before them,^f
Who was as tall as the cedars
and as strong as the oaks;
I destroyed his fruit above
and his roots below.^g

- 10 I brought you up out of the
land of Egypt,^h
And I made you walk through
the wilderness 40 years,ⁱ
To take possession of the
land of the Am'or-ite.

- 11 I raised up some of your sons
as prophets^j
And some of your young men
as Naz'i-rites.^k

Is this not so, O people of
Israel?' declares Jehovah.

- 12 'But you kept giving the
Naz'i-rites wine to drink,^l
And you commanded the
prophets: "You must not
prophesy."^m

- 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,ⁿ
The strong one will not
retain his power,

2:8 *Or "a pledge." [#]Or "temple."

CHAP. 2

a Am 5:11
Am 8:4-6

b Am 4:1

c Isa 10:1, 2
Am 5:12

d Ho 8:11
Ho 10:1

e Ex 22:26
De 24:12

f Nu 21:23-25
Jos 24:8
Ps 135:10, 11

g De 2:31-33

h Ex 12:51

i Nu 14:34
De 2:7

j 1Sa 3:20
1Ki 17:1
1Ki 19:19

k Nu 6:2
Jg 13:5

l Nu 6:3, 4

m Isa 30:10, 11
Am 7:12, 13

n Am 9:1

Second Col.

a De 28:25

CHAP. 3

b Ex 19:5
De 7:6
Ps 147:19, 20

c Da 9:11, 12
Ho 12:2
Am 4:12

d Ge 6:13
Ge 18:17
Ps 25:14
Isa 42:9
Da 9:22
Re 1:1

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,^a
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.^b

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

- 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.^d

2:14, 15 *Or "soul." 2:16 *Or "those
strong of heart." 3:3 *Or "have met
by appointment?" 3:4 *Or "a maned
young lion." 3:5 *Or possibly, "when
there is no bait in it?" 3:7 *Or "his
secret."

- 8** The lion has roared!^a
Who will not be afraid?
The Sovereign Lord Jehovah
has spoken! Who will not
prophesy?^b
- 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;^c
See the turmoil in her midst
And the defrauding within
her."^d
- 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."^e
- 11** Therefore this is what the
Sovereign Lord Jehovah
says,
'An adversary will surround
the land,^e
He will strip you of your
strength,
And your fortified towers
will be plundered.'^f
- 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 Is-
rael will be snatched away,
Those now sitting in Sa-mar'-
i-a on splendid beds and on
fine couches.'^g
- 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,^h
I will also call for an
accounting against the
altars of Beth'el;'

3:12 *Or "Damascene couches." 3:13
*Or "bear witness against." 3:14 *Or
"crimes."

CHAP. 3

- a Am 1:2
b Jer 20:9
Am 7:14, 15
Ac 4:19, 20
c 2Ki 17:22, 23
d Ho 7:1
Am 4:1
e 2Ki 17:6
f Ho 11:6
Am 6:8
g Isa 8:4
Am 6:4
h Ho 4:9
i 1Ki 12:32, 33
Ho 13:2

Second Col.

- a 2Ki 23:15, 16
2Ch 31:1
2Ch 34:1, 7
Ho 10:2
Mic 1:6
b 1Ki 22:39
c Am 6:11

CHAP. 4

- d Am 6:1
e Ho 4:1, 2
Mic 2:2
f 1Ki 12:28, 29
Ho 4:13
Am 3:14
g Ho 4:15
Ho 9:15
Am 5:5
h Ho 8:11, 13
i De 14:28
j Le 7:12

- The horns of the altar will
be cut off and fall to the
earth.^a
- 15** I will strike down the winter
house along with the
summer house.'
'The houses of ivory will
perish,^b
And the great* houses
will come to their end,'^c
declares Jehovah."
- 4** "Hear this word, you cows
of Ba'shan,
Who are on the mountain
of Sa-mar'i-a,^d
You women who are defraud-
ing the lowly^e 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,^{*f}
To Gil'gal and transgress
even more!^g
Bring your sacrifices^h in the
morning,
And your tithes^h on the third
day.
- 5** Burn a thanksgiving sacrifice
of leavened bread;^j
Loudly proclaim your
voluntary offerings!
For that is what you love
to do, O people of Israel,'
declares the Sovereign
Lord Jehovah.

3:15 *Or possibly, "And many." 4:1
*Or "masters." 4:4 *Or "rebel." #Or
"tenth parts."

- 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;^a
But you did not come back to me,^b declares Jehovah.
- 7 'I also withheld rain from you three months before the harvest;^c
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,^d
And they would not get satisfied;
But you did not come back to me,^e declares Jehovah.
- 9 'I struck you with scorching heat and mildew.^f
You multiplied your gardens and vineyards,
But the locust would devour your fig trees and olive trees;^g
And you still did not come back to me,^h declares Jehovah.
- 10 'I sent among you a pestilence like that of Egypt.ⁱ
With the sword I killed your young men/ and captured your horses.^k
I made the stench of your camps rise up into your nostrils;^j
But you did not come back to me,^l declares Jehovah.
- 11 'I caused an overthrow among you
Like God's overthrow of Sod'om and Go-mor'rah.^m
And you were like a log snatched out of the fire;

4:6 *Or "gave you no food to eat."

CHAP. 4

- a Le 26:26
De 28:38
De 32:24
1Ki 18:2
2Ki 4:38
- b Jer 3:6, 7
- c De 28:23, 24
- d 1Ki 18:5
- e Ho 7:10
- f De 28:22
- g De 28:40, 42
- h Isa 42:24
- i Ex 9:3
De 28:27, 60
- j Le 26:23, 25
2Ki 8:12
- k 2Ki 13:7
- l De 28:26
- m Ge 19:24, 25

Second Col.

- a Ho 7:10
- b Isa 40:12
- c Jer 10:13
- d Ex 10:22
Isa 5:30
Am 8:9
- e Mic 1:3

CHAP. 5

- f De 4:27
De 28:62
- g 2Ch 15:2
Isa 55:3, 6
- h 1Ki 12:28, 29
Am 3:14
- i Ho 4:15
Am 4:4
- j Am 8:14
- k 2Ki 17:6
Ho 9:15

- But you did not come back to me,^a 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^b and created the wind;^c
He tells man what His thoughts are,
He turns the dawn into darkness,^d
And he treads on earth's high places;^e
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.'^f
- 4 "For this is what Jehovah says to the house of Israel:
'Search for me and keep living.'^g
- 5 Do not search for Beth'el,^h
Do not go to Gil'gal/ or pass over to Be'er-she'ba,ⁱ
For Gil'gal will certainly go into exile,^k
And Beth'el will come to nothing.*

5:1 *Or "song of mourning." 5:5 *Or possibly, "become something uncanny."

- 6** Search for Jehovah, and keep living,^a
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.^b
- 8** The One who made the Ki'mah constellation^{*} and the Ke'sil constellation,^{#c}
The One who turns deep shadow into morning,
The One who makes day as dark as night,^d
The One who summons the waters of the sea
To pour them out on the surface of the earth^e
—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.^f
- 11** Because you demand farm rent^{*} from the poor
And you take his grain as tribute,^g
You will not keep dwelling in the houses of hewn stone that you have built^h
Nor drink the wine from the choice vineyards that you have planted.ⁱ
- 12** For I know how many your revolts^{*} are
And how great your sins are
—You harass the righteous,
You take bribes,[#]

5:7 *Or "bitterness." 5:8 *Possibly the Pleiades stars in the Taurus constellation. #Possibly the Orion constellation. 5:11 *Or "land tax." 5:12 *Or "crimes." #Or "hush money."

CHAP. 5

- a Eze 33:11
b Am 6:12
c Job 9:9
Job 38:31-33
d Ex 10:21, 22
e Job 36:27, 28
Ec 1:7
f 1Ki 18:17
1Ki 22:8
g Mic 2:2
h Isa 9:9, 10
i De 28:30

Second Col.

- a Isa 10:1, 2
Am 2:6, 7
b Mic 2:3
c Isa 1:16, 17
Mic 6:8
d Le 18:5
De 30:19, 20
e 2Ch 15:2
Mic 3:11
f Ps 34:14
Ps 97:10
Ro 12:9
g 2Ch 19:6
Am 5:24
h Jer 31:7
Zec 10:6
i Ho 9:2
j Isa 5:18, 19
k Am 4:12
l Zep 1:14, 15

- And you deny the rights of the poor in the city gate.^a
- 13** Therefore, those with insight will keep silent at that time,
For it will be a time of calamity.^b
- 14** Search for what is good, and not what is bad,^c
So that you may keep living.^d
Then Jehovah the God of armies may be with you,
Just as you say he is.^e
- 15** Hate what is bad, and love what is good,^f
Let justice prevail in the city gate.^g
It may be that Jehovah the God of armies
Will show favor to the remaining ones of Joseph.^h
- 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;ⁱ
For I will pass through your midst,' says Jehovah.
- 18** 'Woe to those who yearn for the day of Jehovah!^j
What, then, will the day of Jehovah mean for you?^k
It will be darkness, and not light.^l
- 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,^a

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;^b

And I will not look with favor
on your communion sacri-
fices of fattened animals.^c

23 Spare me the din of your
songs;

And let me not hear the
melodies of your stringed
instruments.^d

24 Let justice flow down like
waters,^e

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?^f

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,^g says
he whose name is Jehovah
the God of armies.^h

6 "Woe to the self-assured^{*}
ones in Zion,
To those feeling secure in
the mountain of Sa-mar'i-a,ⁱ
The prominent men of the
foremost of nations,
Those to whom the house of
Israel comes!

5:26 *These deities may both refer
to the planet Saturn, which was wor-
shipped as a god. 6:1 *Or "compla-
cent."

CHAP. 5

a Pr 15:8

b Ps 50:8
Isa 66:3
Ho 6:6

c Isa 1:11

d Am 6:5
Am 8:10

e Mic 6:8

f Ac 7:42, 43

g 2Ki 15:29
2Ki 17:6

h Am 4:13

CHAP. 6

i Am 3:13, 15

Second Col.

a Nu 34:2, 8
2Ki 14:28

b Isa 56:12

c Am 5:12

d 1Ki 22:39

e Am 3:12

f Isa 22:13

g Isa 5:12

h 2Ch 7:6
2Ch 29:25, 26

i Isa 5:11

j 2Ki 15:29
2Ki 17:6

k De 28:41
Am 5:5

l Am 4:2

m Eze 33:28
Ho 5:5

n La 2:5

o Mic 1:6

2 Cross over to Cal'neh and
see.

Go from there to Great
Ha'math,^a

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^b

And bringing in a reign^{*}
of violence?^c

4 They lie on beds of ivory^d
and sprawl out on
couches,^e

Eating the rams of the flock
and the fattened calves;^f

5 They improvise songs to the
sound of the harp,^g

And like David, they invent
musical instruments;^h

6 They drink wine by the
bowlfulⁱ

And anoint themselves with
the choicest oils.

But they are unconcerned
about^{*} the catastrophe
of Joseph.^j

7 So they will go into exile at
the head of the exiles,^k

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

8 "The Sovereign Lord
Jehovah has sworn by him-
self,^l declares Jehovah
the God of armies,

"I detest the pride of Jacob,^m
I hate his fortified towers,ⁿ

And I will hand over the city
and what fills it.^o

9 "And if ten men are left
in one house, they will also die.

10 A relative^{*} will come to carry

6:2 *Evidently referring to the king-
doms of Judah and Israel. 6:3 *Lit.,
"seat." 6:4 *Or "young bulls." 6:5
*Or "stringed instrument." 6:6 *Lit.,
"did not become sick at." 6:8 *Or "his
soul." 6:10 *Lit., "His father's brother."

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,^a
And he will strike down the great house into rubble,
And the small house into debris.^b

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.^{*c}

13 You rejoice over what is worthless,
And you say, "Have we not become powerful* in our own strength?"^d

14 Therefore, O house of Israel,
I will bring against you a nation,^e declares Jehovah the God of armies,
'And they will oppress you from Le'bo-ha'math*^f 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!^g How can Jacob survive?* For he is weak!"^h

6:12 *Or "bitterness." **6:13** *Lit., "taken horns for ourselves." **6:14** *Or "the entrance of Hamath." [#]See Glossary. **7:1** *That is, during January and February. **7:2, 5** *Lit., "rise up?"

CHAP. 6

a Isa 10:5, 6

b Am 3:15

c 1Ki 21:13
Isa 59:13
Ho 10:4
Am 5:7

d De 8:17, 18
Ps 75:5

e De 28:49, 50
2Ki 15:29
2Ki 17:6
Isa 7:20
Isa 8:4
Isa 10:5, 6
Ho 10:6

f Nu 34:2, 8

CHAP. 7

g Jer 14:7
Da 9:19

h Isa 37:4

Second Col.

a De 32:36
Ps 106:44, 45
Ho 11:8

b Ex 32:11

c Isa 1:9
Am 7:2

d Ex 32:14

e Am 8:2

f 1Ki 12:25, 31
1Ki 13:33

g Ho 10:8
Am 5:5
Am 8:14

h 2Ki 15:8, 10
Ho 13:16

i 1Ki 12:32

j 2Ki 14:23

k Jer 26:8, 9
Am 1:1

l Jer 18:18

m Am 5:5
Am 6:7

n Isa 30:10

o Am 2:12

3 So Jehovah reconsidered* this.^a "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.^b How can Jacob survive?* For he is weak!"^c

6 So Jehovah reconsidered* this.^d "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.^e **9** The high places of Isaac^f will be desolated, and the sanctuaries of Israel will be devastated;^g and I will come against the house of Jer-o-bo'am with a sword."^h

10 Am-a-zi'ah the priest of Beth'elⁱ 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.^k The land cannot put up with all his words.^l **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.'"^m

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.ⁿ **13** But you must no longer prophesy at Beth'el,^o for it is the sanctuary

7:3, 6 *Or "felt regret over." **7:7** *Or "a plumbet." **7:12** *Lit., "eat bread."

of a king^a 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,^b 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.'^c **16** So now hear the word of Jehovah: 'You are saying, "Do not prophesy against Israel,^d and do not preach^e 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.""^f

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."^g **3** 'The songs of the temple will turn into wailing in that day,'^h declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. 'There will be many carcasses thrown everywhereⁱ—hush!'

4 Hear this, you who trample on the poor

And who bring the meek of the land to an end,^j

5 Who say, 'When will the new moon festival be over,^k that we may sell our grain, And the Sabbath,^l that we may offer grain for sale? So that we may make the e'phah* measure smaller

CHAP. 7

a 1Ki 12:29, 32
1Ki 13:1

b Am 1:1

c Jer 1:7
Eze 2:3
2Pe 1:21

d Jer 11:21
Am 7:13

e Mic 2:6

f Le 26:33
2Ki 17:6

CHAP. 8

g Am 4:12
Am 7:8

h Ho 10:5
Am 5:23

i Am 6:9, 10

j Am 2:6, 7

k Nu 10:10

l Ex 20:8

Second Col.

a Le 19:35, 36
Ho 12:7
Mic 6:10, 11

b Le 25:39
Am 2:6

c De 33:26
Ps 68:34

d Ho 8:13

e Ho 4:3

f Am 9:5

g Mic 3:6

h Ho 2:11

i Ps 74:9
Eze 7:26
Mt 4:4

And the shekel* weight greater,

To falsify our scales of deception;^a

6 So that we may buy the needy for silver

And the poor for a pair of sandals,^b

And sell the worthless part of the grain.'

7 Jehovah has sworn by the Pride of Jacob,^c

'Never will I forget all their deeds.'^d

8 On this account the land* will tremble,

And every inhabitant in it will mourn.^e

Will it not all rise like the Nile,

And surge and sink down like the Nile of Egypt?'^f

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.'^g

10 I will turn your festivals into mourning^h

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.'ⁱ

12 They will stagger from sea to sea

7:14 *Or "was a nipper of sycamore figs." 8:5 *See App. B14.

8:8 *Or "earth." 8:10 *Or "songs of mourning."

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^a and who say, "As surely as your god lives, O Dan!"^b
And, "As surely as the way of Be'er-she'ba^c lives!"
They will fall, and they will not rise up again."^d

9 I saw Jehovah^e 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."^f

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.^g
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;^h

8:12 *Or "sunrise." 9:2 *Or "Sheol," that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary.

CHAP. 8

a Ho 8:5
Ho 10:5

b 1Ki 12:28-30

c Am 5:5

d 2Ki 18:11
Ho 13:16

CHAP. 9

e Isa 6:1
Eze 1:27, 28

f Am 2:14

g Jer 23:24

h Le 26:33

Second Col.

a De 28:63, 65

b Mic 1:4

c Ho 4:3

d Am 8:8

e Job 36:27, 28
Ps 135:7

f Ex 3:15
Am 4:13
Am 5:8

g Ex 12:51

h Jer 47:4

i 2Ki 16:9

j 1Ki 13:34
2Ki 18:11

k Jer 30:11

l Le 26:33
De 28:64

I will fix my eyes on them for bad, and not for good.^a

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

So that it melts,^b and all its inhabitants will mourn;^c

And all of it will rise like the Nile,
And sink down like the Nile of Egypt.^d

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^e
—Jehovah is his name."^f

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,^g
The Phi-lis'tines out of Crete,^h and Syria out of Kir?"ⁱ

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.^j

But I will not completely annihilate the house of Jacob,^k declares Jehovah.

9 "For look! I am giving the command,
And I will shake the house of Israel among all the nations,^l
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,

9:5 *Or "earth." 9:6 *Or "dome; vault."

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^a 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,^b
- 12** So that they may take possession of what is remaining of E'dom,^c
And all the nations on whom my name has been called,^d declares Jehovah, who is doing this.
- 13** 'Look! The days are coming,' declares Jehovah,
'When the plowman will overtake the harvester,

9:11 *Or "tent; hut." #Or "their."

CHAP. 9

a Isa 9:6, 7
Isa 16:5
Jer 23:5
Eze 37:24, 25
Zec 12:8
Lu 1:31-33
b 2Sa 7:11
Ac 15:16-18
c Nu 24:18
Isa 11:14
Ob 18, 19

Second Col.

a Le 26:5
Ho 2:22
b Joe 3:18
c Isa 35:1
Isa 55:12
d Ezz 3:1
Jer 30:3
Eze 39:25
e Isa 61:4
Eze 36:33
f Isa 65:21, 22
Eze 28:25, 26
g Isa 62:8, 9
Mic 4:4
h Isa 60:21
Eze 34:27, 28
Eze 37:25

And the trader of grapes,
the one carrying seed;^a
And the mountains will drip
with sweet wine,^b
And all the hills will flow
with it.^{*c}

- 14** I will gather back the captives of my people Israel,^d
And they will rebuild
the desolated cities and inhabit them;^e
They will plant vineyards
and drink their wine,^f
And make gardens and eat
their fruit.^g
- 15** 'I will plant them on their land,
And they will never again be uprooted
From their land that I have given them,'^h says Jehovah
your God."

9:13 *Lit., "will melt."

OBADIAH

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

Haughty Edom to be brought low (1-9)
Edom's violence against Jacob (10-14)
Jehovah's day against all the nations (15, 16)

The house of Jacob to be restored (17-21)
Edom to be consumed by Jacob (18)
The kingship will become Jehovah's (21)

- 1** The vision of O-ba-di'ah:
This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says regarding E'dom:^a
'We have heard a report from Jehovah,
An envoy has been sent among the nations:
'Rise up, let us prepare for battle against her.'^b

a Isa 21:11
Eze 25:12-14
Joe 3:19
Am 1:11, 12

b Jer 49:14-16

Second Col.

a Jer 49:8

- 2** "Look! I have made you insignificant among the nations;
You are utterly despised.^a
- 3** The presumptuousness of your heart has deceived you,^b

You who reside in the retreats of the crag,
Dwelling in the height,
saying in your heart,

1 *Meaning "Servant of Jehovah."

b Mal 1:4

- 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”

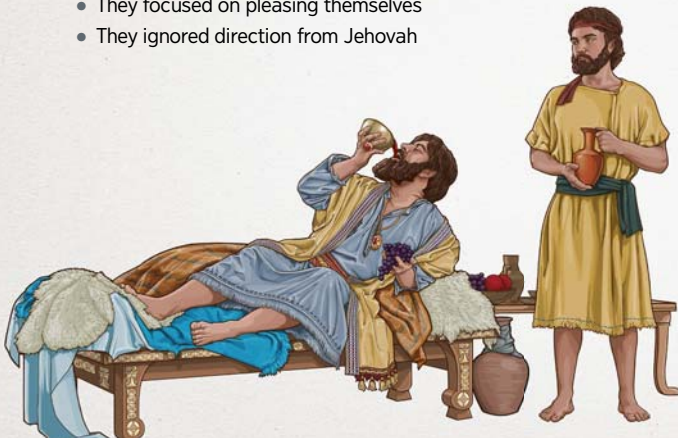
5:6, 14, 15


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. _____

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

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”

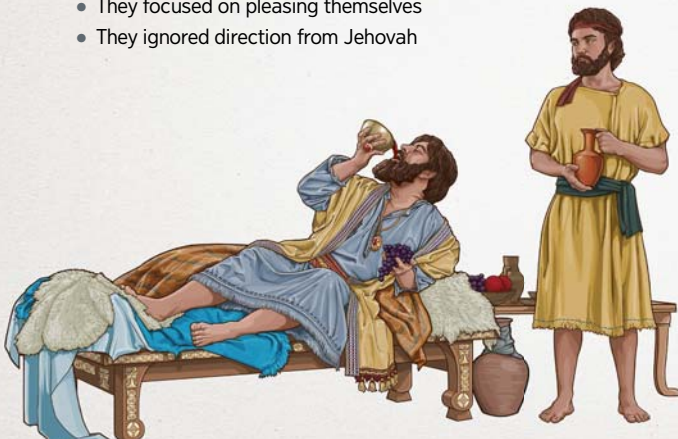
5:6, 14, 15

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. _____



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:

Searching for Friends of Peace

(Luke 10:6)

D Dsus4 D A

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

Bm7 D/G Gadd9

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

D Dsus4 D A

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

Bm7 Em7 D/F# D/G Gadd9

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

Searching for Friends of Peace

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

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

A Bm7 Em11 D/G A Bm7

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

Asus4 A Chorus D

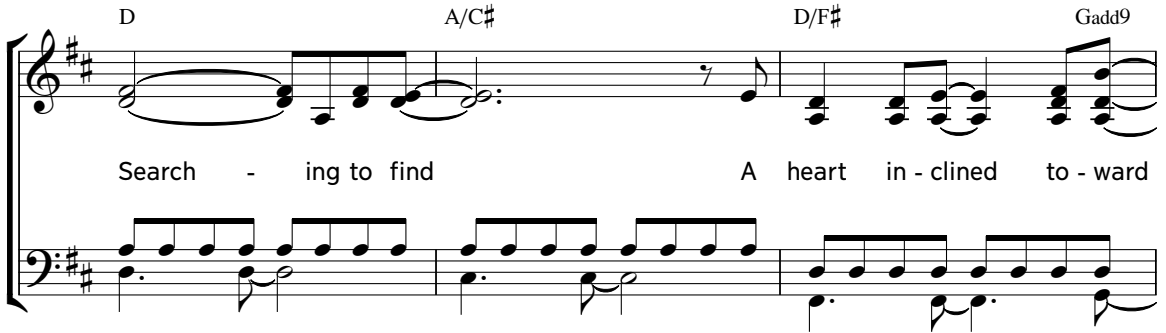
gone.
on. Search - ing the world

A/C# D/F# Gadd9

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

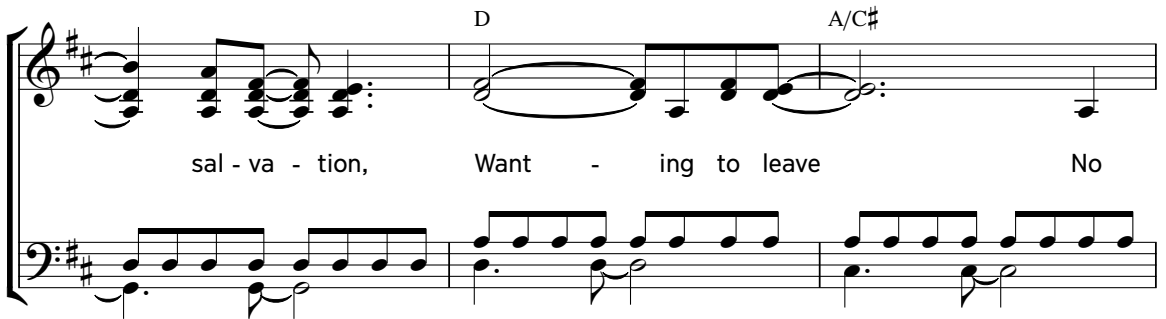
Searching for Friends of Peace

D A/C# D/F# Gadd9



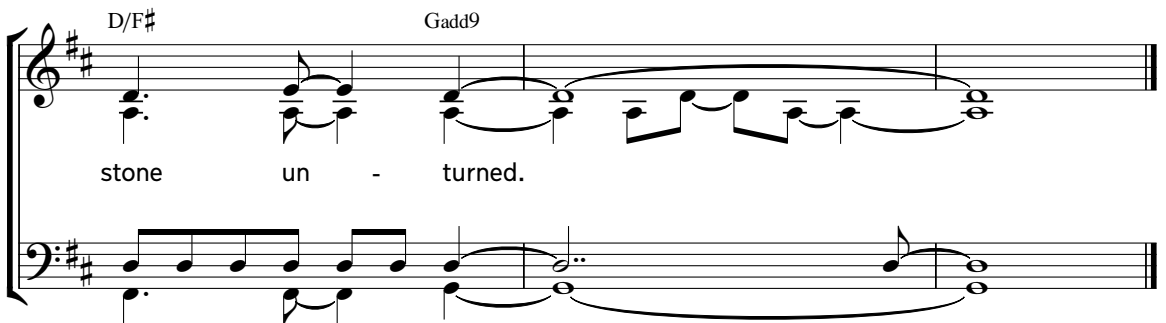
Search - ing to find A heart in - clined to - ward

D A/C#



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

D/F# Gadd9



stone un - turned.

- 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
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- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
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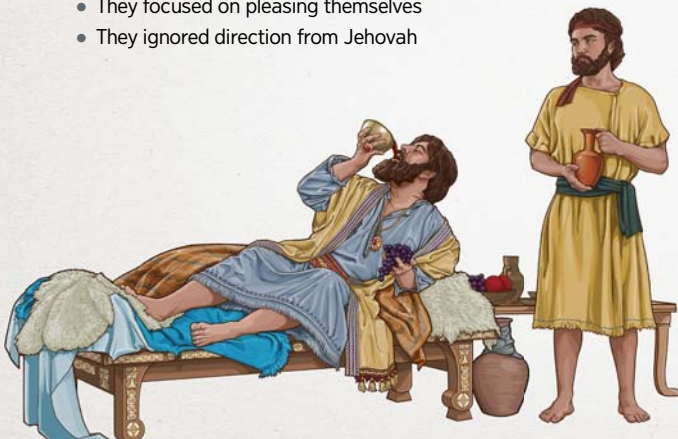
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✎ What has Jehovah provided to help us search for him?

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

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

Do you yearn to
see Kingdom
promises
come true?



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

- 1, 2. (a) What evidence shows that our King has been ruling since 1914? (b) What will we consider in this chapter?
3. What is the first development that we are awaiting?

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 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 significance 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, 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 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,

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

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

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?

FOOTNOTE

[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.

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)

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

10. What judgment will be pronounced by Jesus, and how will supporters and opposers of God's Kingdom react to it?

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 in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.—**Read Matthew 24:29-31**; Mark 13:23-27; Luke 21:25-28.

9 **Celestial phenomena.** Jesus foretells: “The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven.” Certainly the religious leaders will not be looked to for light—they will no longer be identified as such. Was Jesus also referring to a supernatural manifestation in the heavens? Perhaps he was. (Isa. 13:9-11; Joel 2:1, 30, 31) How will people react to what they observe? They will be in “anguish” because of “not knowing the way out.” (Luke 21:25; Zeph. 1:17) Yes, enemies of God’s Kingdom—from ‘kings to slaves’—will grow “faint out of fear and expectation of the things coming” and will run for cover. Yet, they will find no hiding place secure enough for them to escape the wrath of our King.—Luke 21:26; 23:30; Rev. 6:15-17.

10 **Pronouncement of judgment.** All enemies of God’s Kingdom will then be forced to witness an event that will intensify their agony. Jesus states: “They will see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.” (Mark 13:26) This supernatural display of power will signal that Jesus has come to pronounce judgment. In another part of this same prophecy about the last days, Jesus gives more details about the judgment that will be pronounced at this time. We find that information in the parable of the sheep and the goats. (**Read Matthew 25:31-33, 46.**) Loyal supporters of God’s Kingdom will be judged as “sheep” and will “lift up [their] heads,” realizing that their “deliverance is getting near.” (Luke 21:28) However, Kingdom opposers will be judged as “goats” and will “beat themselves in grief,” realizing that “everlasting cutting-off” awaits them.—Matt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7.

Keep Working, Watching, and Waiting

(Romans 8:20-25)

Cm E°/F Fm

The God of times and of sea - sons, Whose
 The time has long been ap - point - ed; His
 Though all cre - a - tion is groan - ing, In

Fm/D G7b5 G7 F°/C Cm Cm9/Bb

name a - lone is Je - ho - vah— The
 Son is read - y to con - quer, De -
 faith we're ea - ger - ly wait - ing. Je -

Ab Fsus4 Fm

time for his vin - di - ca - tion Is
 feat - ing all who op - pose him. His
 ho - vah's day is ap - proach - ing, The

D7sus4 D7 Dm/G Em/G F/G Em/G Dm/G

near by signs we can see.
 sword will bring vic - to - ry.
 time for set - ting us free.

Keep Working, Watching, and Waiting

Chorus
Cma7 Dm/C Em/C Dm/C C F6 Dm7 G13 G7

Keep on work - ing and watch - ing and

Cma7 Dm/C Em/C Dm/C C Dm/B E7b9 E+5 E7b9

wait - ing, Joy - ful - ly an - tic - i -

Am Am/G Fma7 Cadd9/E Dm7 G7

pat - ing, Life as God meant it to

C Cma7 Dm/C C

be.

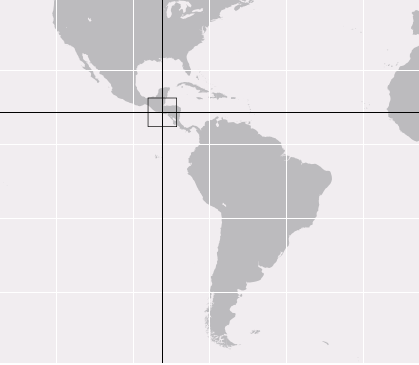
SEPTEMBER 2017

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
OCTOBER 23–NOVEMBER 26, 2017



COVER IMAGE:
EL SALVADOR

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

PUBLISHERS
41,084

BIBLE STUDIES
42,813

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2016)
92,606

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 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?

8 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?

13 LIFE STORY **I Have Been Blessed to Work With Spiritual Men**

18 WEEK OF **NOVEMBER 6-12** **“The Word of Our God Endures Forever”**

23 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.

28 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?

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations.

To make a donation, please visit www.jw.org.



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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 14 September 2017 is published monthly with an additional issue published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2017 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

September 2017
Vol. 138, No. 14 ENGLISH

The Light Gets Brighter

(Proverbs 4:18)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Light Gets Brighter

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

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

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

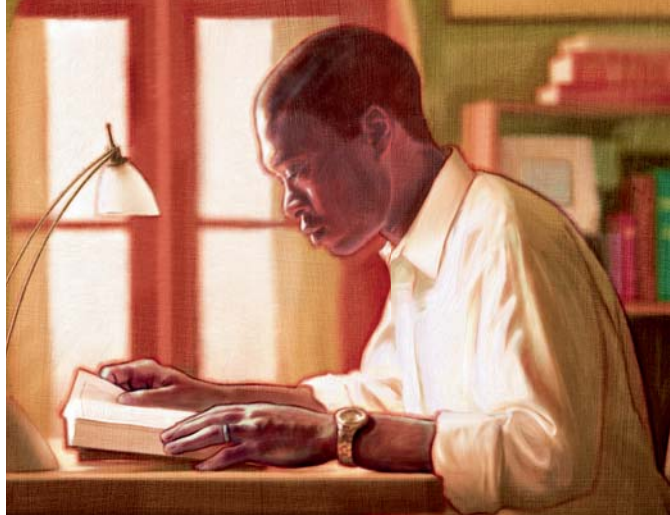
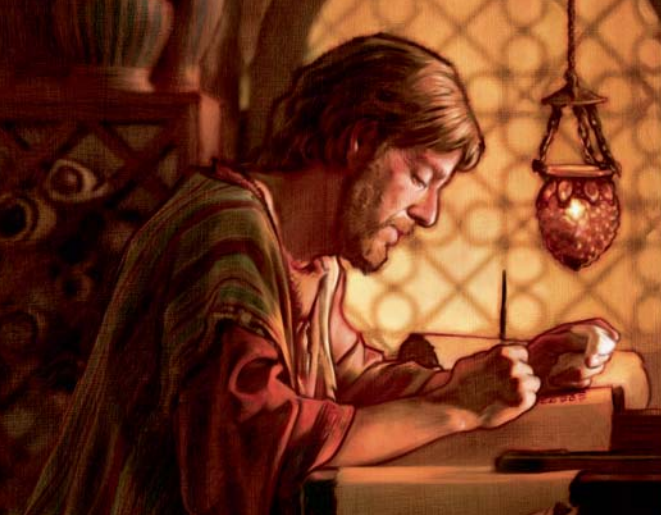
these e - ven an - gels would peer!
grate - ful - ly walk in his way. Our path now be - comes ev - er

Gm7 Bb/F Eb Bb/D C7sus4 F F#°

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

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

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



“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.

SONGS: 95, 97

HOW HAS GOD’S WORD ENDURED . . .

changes in language?

political developments?

opposition to translation?

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 answers 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.

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

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 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 they imagine.* Thankfully, the Bible or portions of it have now been translated into nearly 3,000 languages. Clearly, Jehovah wants peo-

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

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

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?

ple 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 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.

* 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?

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

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 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

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*?

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 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 pro-

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?

duce. 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, sparking a renewed interest in God's Word among the people.

11. What was the impact of the Wycliffe Bible?

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 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*,

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

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



John Wycliffe and others desired to make God's Word available to everyone. Do you have such a desire? (See paragraph 11)

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.

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? Be-

* Note the box "See It for Yourself!"

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

cause 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.

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.

Life Depends on God's Word

(Matthew 4:4)

E \flat B \flat /D A \flat /C B \flat 7 E \flat Cm7

Life de - pends on Je - ho - vah's Word, All the
 True ac - counts in God's writ - ten Word Tell a -
 Day by day as we read God's Word, He gives

F9 B \flat 7sus4 B \flat 7 B \flat 7 \flat 5 A \flat /C D \flat m6

things he has said. We must live not on
 bout those of old. Men and wom - en who
 com - fort and hope. When the tri - als of

B \flat 7/D B \flat 7sus4 B \flat 7 A \flat add9/C B \flat 7/D A \flat /E \flat B \flat 7/F E \flat

bread a - lone; Live by his Word in - stead.
 walked in faith— They were loy - al and bold.
 life a - rise, He gives wis - dom to cope.

B \flat /D A \flat /C B \flat 7 E \flat

E - ven now we have peace and joy,
 We're en - cour - aged each time we read
 May we trea - sure with - in our heart

Life Depends on God's Word

Eb
Ebma7
Eb7
Bbm7/F
Eb7/G
Ab
C/G
Csus4/F
C/E
Fm
Fm7
Chorus

Fu - ture bless - ings as - sured.
 All they did and en - dured. Man must
 All we've read and we've heard.

Abm6/F
Eb/G
G/B
Cm9
Cm Cm/Bb
Fm/Ab
Fm7
Bb7
Bb7/Ab

live not on bread a - lone; Life de - pends on God's

Bbm/G
C7
Bb/D
C7/E
Fm
Fm7
Abm6/F
Eb/G
G/B

Word. There we find what we dai - ly

Cm9
Cm Cm7/Bb
Fm/Ab
Fm7
Bb7
Eb

need; Life de - pends on God's Word.

