

- Song 31 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“What Does Jehovah Require of Us?”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Micah.*]
Mic 6:6, 7—Sacrifices are meaninglessly to Jehovah if we fail to treat our fellow man properly (w08 5/15 6 ¶20)
Mic 6:8—Jehovah’s requirements are reasonable (w12 11/1 22 ¶4-7)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Mic 2:12—How was this prophecy fulfilled? (w07 11/1 15 ¶6)

Mic 7:7—Why should we “show a waiting attitude” for Jehovah? (w03 8/15 24 ¶20)

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) Mic 4:1-10

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Ps 83:18—Teach the Truth. Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Ex 3:14—Teach the Truth. Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 123-124 ¶20-21.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 28
- **Local Needs:** (6 min.)
- **Jehovah Wants Us to Be Generous (Prov. 3:27):** (9 min.) Play the video (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 21 ¶15-20, chart on pp. 224-225, review box on p. 230
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 149 and Prayer

MICAH 1-7 | What Does Jehovah Require of Us?

6:6-8

Jehovah understands our limitations and never requires more of us than we are able to give. From God’s standpoint, our relationship with our brothers is an important part of true worship. If we want Jehovah to accept our sacrifices, we must treat our brothers with love and respect.



Oh, Walk With God!

(Micah 6:8)

1. Oh, walk with God in modesty;
 Show loyal love, and be true.
 Stay close to Jehovah, leaning on him,
 And let his strength sustain you.
 Keep holding tight to his faithful Word;
 You'll never drift away.
 So let God lead you by the hand
 As you listen and obey.
2. Oh, walk with God in holiness;
 Consider things that are pure.
 No matter how great temptations may be,
 He'll help you to endure them.
 Whatever praiseworthy things there are,
 Whatever things are true,
 Continue to consider them,
 And our God will be with you.
3. Oh, walk with God in happiness;
 Rejoice that he is your Friend.
 Be thankful for all the gifts that he gives
 And blessings that are endless.
 Oh, walk with God, let your heart be glad;
 Express your joy in song.
 Your joy will show, and all will know,
 To Jehovah you belong.

Micah 1-7

1 The word of Jehovah that came to Mi'cah of Mo'resh-eth, in the days of Jo'tham, A'haz, and Hez-e-ki'ah, kings of Judah, and that he received in a vision concerning Sa-mar'i-a and Jerusalem:

2 "Hear, all you peoples!

Pay attention, O earth and what fills you,
And let the Sovereign Lord Jehovah serve as a
witness against you
—Jehovah from his holy temple.

3 For look! Jehovah is going out from his place;
He will come down and tread on earth's high
places.

4 The mountains will melt under him,
And the valleys will split apart
Like wax before the fire,
Like waters poured down a steep slope.

5 All of this is because of the revolt of Jacob,
Because of the sins of the house of Israel.
What is the revolt of Jacob?
Is it not Sa-mar'i-a?
And what are the high places of Judah?
Are they not Jerusalem?

6 I will make Sa-mar'i-a a heap of ruins of the field,
A place for planting vineyards;

I will hurl her stones down into the valley,
And I will lay bare her foundations.

⁷ All her graven images will be crushed to pieces,
And all the gifts for which she hired herself out
will be burned in the fire.
I will devastate all her idols.
For she collected them from the wages of
prostitution,
And they will again become the wages of
prostitutes.”

⁸ Because of this I will wail and howl;
I will walk barefoot and naked.
My wailing will be like that of jackals,
And my mourning like that of ostriches.

⁹ For her wound cannot be healed;
It has come as far as Judah.
The plague has spread to the gate of my people,
to Jerusalem.

¹⁰ “Do not announce it in Gath;
You must not weep at all.
In Beth-aph'rah roll in the dust.

¹¹ Cross over in nakedness and shame, O inhabitants
of Sha'phir.
The inhabitants of Za'a-nan have not come out.
There will be wailing in Beth-e'zel, and it will take
its support away from you.

¹² For the inhabitants of Ma'roth have waited for
good,
But what is bad has come down from Jehovah to
the gate of Jerusalem.

¹³ Harness the chariot to the team of horses, O
inhabitants of La'chish.
You were the beginning of sin to the daughter of
Zion,
For in you were found the revolts of Israel.

¹⁴ So you will give parting gifts to Mo'resh-eth-gath.
The houses of Ach'zib were something deceitful
to the kings of Israel.

¹⁵ The conqueror I will yet bring in to you, O
inhabitants of Ma-re'shah.
As far as A-dul'lam the glory of Israel will come.

¹⁶ Make yourselves bald and shear off your hair for
your cherished children.
Make yourselves as bald as an eagle,
For they have been taken away from you into
exile.”

2 “Woe to those who scheme what is harmful,
Who work out evil on their beds!
When morning light comes they carry it out,
Because it is in the power of their hand.

² They desire fields and seize them;

Also houses, and they take them;
They defraud a man of his house,
A man of his inheritance.

³ Therefore this is what Jehovah says:
‘Here I am devising against this family a calamity
from which you will not escape.
You will no longer walk haughtily, for it is a time
of calamity.

⁴ In that day people will recite a proverb concerning
you,
And they will bitterly lament over you.
They will say: “We are completely devastated!
He caused the portion of my people to change
hands—how he removes it from me!
To the unfaithful one he assigns our fields.”

⁵ So you will have no one to stretch the measuring
cord,
To allot the land in the congregation of Jehovah.

⁶ “Stop preaching!” they preach,
“They should not preach these things;
Humiliation will not overtake us!”

⁷ Is it being said, O house of Jacob:
“Has the spirit of Jehovah become impatient?
Are these his deeds?”
Do not my own words bring good to those
walking uprightly?

- ⁸ But lately my own people have risen up as an enemy.
You openly strip off the majestic ornament with the garment
From those passing by confidently, like those returning from war.
- ⁹ You drive the women of my people out from their delightful houses;
From their children you take away my splendor forever.
- ¹⁰ Get up and go, for this is no place of rest.
Because of uncleanness, there is destruction, grievous destruction.
- ¹¹ If a man walks after wind and deception and tells this lie:
“I will preach to you about wine and alcoholic drink,”
Then he would be just the preacher for this people!
- ¹² I will certainly gather all of you, O Jacob;
I will surely collect the remaining ones of Israel together.
In unity I will place them, like sheep in the pen,
Like a flock in its pasture;
It will be noisy with people.’
- ¹³ The one breaking out will go before them;

They will break out and pass through the gate
and go out by it.

Their king will pass through before them,
With Jehovah at their head.”

3 I said: “Hear, please, you heads of Jacob
And you commanders of the house of Israel.
Should you not know what is just?

² But you hate what is good and love what is bad;
You tear off the skin from my people and the
flesh from their bones.

³ You also eat the flesh of my people
And strip off their skin,
Smashing their bones, crushing them to pieces,
Like what is cooked in a pot, like meat in a
cooking pot.

⁴ At that time they will call to Jehovah for help,
But he will not answer them.
He will hide his face from them at that time,
Because of their wicked deeds.

⁵ This is what Jehovah says against the prophets
who are leading my people astray,
Who proclaim ‘Peace!’ while they bite with their
teeth
But who declare war against him who puts
nothing into their mouths:

- ⁶ ‘You will have night; there will be no vision;
There will only be darkness for you, no
divination.
The sun will set on the prophets,
And the day will turn dark for them.
- ⁷ The visionaries will be put to shame,
And the diviners will be disappointed.
All of them will have to cover over the mustache,
For there is no answer from God.’”
- ⁸ As for me, I am filled with power by the spirit of
Jehovah,
And with justice and might,
To tell to Jacob his revolt and to Israel his sin.
- ⁹ Hear this, please, you heads of the house of Jacob
And you commanders of the house of Israel,
Who detest justice and who make crooked all
that is straight,
- ¹⁰ Who build Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with
unrighteousness.
- ¹¹ Her leaders judge for a bribe,
Her priests instruct for a price,
And her prophets practice divination for money.
And yet they lean on Jehovah, saying:
“Is not Jehovah with us?
No calamity will come upon us.”
- ¹² So because of you,

Zion will be plowed up as a field,
Jerusalem will become heaps of ruins,
And the mountain of the House will become like
high places in a forest.

4 In the final part of the days,
The mountain of the house of Jehovah
Will become firmly established above the top of
the mountains,
And it will be raised up above the hills,
And to it peoples will stream.

2 And many nations will go and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah
And to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will instruct us about his ways,
And we will walk in his paths.”
For law will go out of Zion,
And the word of Jehovah out of Jerusalem.

3 He will render judgment among many peoples
And set matters straight respecting mighty
nations far away.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
And their spears into pruning shears.
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
Nor will they learn war anymore.

4 They will sit, each one under his vine and under his
fig tree,

And no one will make them afraid,
For the mouth of Jehovah of armies has spoken.

⁵ For all the peoples will walk, each in the name of its
god,
But we will walk in the name of Jehovah our God
forever and ever.

⁶ “In that day,” declares Jehovah,
“I will gather the one who was limping,
And collect together the dispersed one,
Along with those I treated harshly.

⁷ I will make the one who was limping a remnant,
And the one far removed a mighty nation;
And Jehovah will rule as king over them in Mount
Zion,
From now on and forever.

⁸ As for you, O tower of the flock,
The mound of the daughter of Zion,
To you it will come, yes, the first dominion will
come,
The kingdom belonging to the daughter of
Jerusalem.

⁹ Now why are you shouting loudly?
Have you no king,
Or has your adviser perished,
So that pain has seized you like a woman giving
birth?

- ¹⁰ Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion,
Like a woman giving birth,
For now you will go from the city and reside in
the field.
You will go as far as to Babylon,
And there you will be rescued;
There Jehovah will buy you back from the hand
of your enemies.
- ¹¹ Now many nations will be gathered against you;
They will say, 'Let her be defiled,
And let our eyes see this happen to Zion.'
- ¹² But they do not know the thoughts of Jehovah,
They do not understand his purpose;
For he will gather them like a row of newly cut
grain to the threshing floor.
- ¹³ Get up and thresh, O daughter of Zion;
For I will change your horns into iron,
And I will change your hooves into copper,
And you will pulverize many peoples.
You will devote their dishonest profit to Jehovah,
And their resources to the true Lord of the whole
earth."
- 5** "Now you are slashing yourself,
O daughter under attack;
A siege is laid against us.

With a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

² And you, O Beth'le-hem Eph'ra-thah,
The one too little to be among the thousands of Judah,
From you will come out for me the one to be ruler in Israel,
Whose origin is from ancient times, from the days of long ago.

³ So he will give them up
Until the time that she who is to give birth has given birth.
And the rest of his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

⁴ He will stand up and shepherd in the strength of Jehovah,
In the superiority of the name of Jehovah his God.
And they will dwell in security,
For now his greatness will reach the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will bring peace.
Should the As-syr'i-an invade our land and tread on our fortified towers,
We will raise up against him seven shepherds,
yes, eight princes of mankind.

- ⁶ They will shepherd the land of As·syr'i·a with the sword,
And the land of Nim'rod at its entrances.
And he will rescue us from the As·syr'i·an,
When he invades our land and treads on our territory.
- ⁷ The remaining ones of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples
Like dew from Jehovah,
Like showers of rain on vegetation
That do not put hope in man
Or wait for the sons of men.
- ⁸ The remaining ones of Jacob will be among the nations,
In the midst of many peoples,
Like a lion among the beasts of a forest,
Like a young lion among flocks of sheep,
That passes through and pounces and tears in pieces;
And there is no one to rescue them.
- ⁹ Your hand will be raised over your adversaries,
And all your enemies will be destroyed.”
- ¹⁰ “In that day,” declares Jehovah,
“I will do away with your horses from your midst
and destroy your chariots.
- ¹¹ I will destroy the cities of your land

And tear down all your fortified places.

¹² I will put an end to the sorcery you practice,
And no one practicing magic will remain among
you.

¹³ I will destroy your graven images and your pillars
from your midst,
And you will no longer bow down to the work of
your hands.

¹⁴ I will uproot your sacred poles from your midst
And annihilate your cities.

¹⁵ In anger and wrath I will execute vengeance
On the nations that have not obeyed.”

6 Hear, please, what Jehovah is saying.
Get up, present a legal case before the
mountains,
And may the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, O mountains, the legal case of Jehovah,
You firm foundations of the earth,
For Jehovah has a legal case with his people;
It is against Israel that he will argue:

³ “My people, what have I done to you?
How have I tired you out?
Testify against me.

⁴ For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt,
From the house of slavery I redeemed you;

I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Mir'i-am.

⁵ My people, remember, please, what King Ba'lak of Mo'ab proposed,
And what Ba'laam the son of Be'or answered him—
—What took place from Shit'tim to Gil'gal—
So that you may know the righteous acts of Jehovah.”

⁶ With what will I come before Jehovah?
With what will I bow before God on high?
Will I come before him with whole burnt offerings,
With year-old calves?

⁷ Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams,
With tens of thousands of torrents of oil?
Will I give my firstborn son for my revolt,
The fruit of my body for my sin?

⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good.
And what is Jehovah requiring of you?
Only to exercise justice, to cherish loyalty,
And to walk in modesty with your God!

⁹ The voice of Jehovah calls out to the city;
Those with practical wisdom will fear your name.
Pay attention to the rod and to the one who appointed it.

- ¹⁰ Are there still the treasures of wickedness in the
house of the wicked
And the incomplete e'phah measure that is
detestable?
- ¹¹ Can I be morally clean with wicked scales,
With a bag of fraudulent stone weights?
- ¹² For her rich men are full of violence,
And her inhabitants speak lies;
Their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.
- ¹³ "Therefore, I will wound you by striking you,
Making you desolate because of your sins.
- ¹⁴ You will eat but not be satisfied;
You will be empty inside.
What you remove, you will not carry off safely,
And what you do carry off, I will give to the
sword.
- ¹⁵ You will sow seed, but you will not reap.
You will tread olives, but you will not use the oil;
And you will make new wine, but you will drink
no wine.
- ¹⁶ For you observe the statutes of Om'ri and all the
work of the house of A'hab,
And you walk in accord with their advice.
That is why I will make you an object of horror
And her inhabitants something to be whistled at;

And you will bear the scorn of the peoples.”

- 7 Woe to me! I am like one who,
After the gathering of summer fruit
And the gleaning following a grape harvest,
Finds no cluster of grapes to eat,
No early fig that I crave.
- 2 The loyal one has perished from the earth;
Among men there is no one upright.
All of them lie in ambush for bloodshed.
Each hunts his own brother with a dragnet.
- 3 Their hands are expert at doing what is bad;
The prince is making demands,
The judge asks for a reward,
The prominent one makes known his desires,
And they work it out together.
- 4 Their best one is like thorns,
Their most upright one is worse than a thorn
hedge.
The day of your watchmen and of your reckoning
will come.
Now they will panic.
- 5 Do not put faith in your companion
Or trust a close friend.
Guard what you say to the one who lies in your
embrace.

- ⁶ For a son despises his father,
A daughter rises up against her mother,
And a daughter-in-law is against her mother-in-law;
A man's enemies are the men of his household.
- ⁷ But as for me, I will keep on the lookout for
Jehovah.
I will show a waiting attitude for the God of my
salvation.
My God will hear me.
- ⁸ Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy.
Although I have fallen, I will rise up;
Although I dwell in the darkness, Jehovah will be
my light.
- ⁹ The wrath of Jehovah I will bear
—For I have sinned against him—
Until he pleads my legal case and brings about
justice for me.
He will bring me out to the light;
I will look upon his righteousness.
- ¹⁰ My enemy will also see,
And shame will cover her who said to me:
“Where is Jehovah your God?”
My eyes will look upon her.
Now she will be trampled like mud in the streets.
- ¹¹ It will be a day for building your stone walls;

On that day the boundary will be extended.

¹² On that day they will come to you
All the way from As-syr'i-a and the cities of
Egypt,
From Egypt all the way to the River;
From sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.

¹³ And the land will become desolate because of its
inhabitants,
As a result of what they have done.

¹⁴ Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of
your inheritance,
The one who was living alone in a forest—in the
midst of an orchard.
Let them feed on Ba'shan and Gil'e-ad as in the
days of old.

¹⁵ “As in the days when you came out of the land of
Egypt,
I will show him wonderful things.

¹⁶ Nations will see and be ashamed despite all their
might.
They will put their hand over their mouth;
Their ears will become deaf.

¹⁷ They will lick the dust like serpents;
Like the reptiles of the earth they will come
trembling out of their strongholds.

To Jehovah our God they will come in dread,
And they will be in fear of you.”

¹⁸ Who is a God like you,
Pardoning error and passing over the
transgression of the remnant of his
inheritance?

He will not hold onto his anger forever,
For he delights in loyal love.

¹⁹ He will again show us mercy; he will conquer our
errors.
You will throw all their sins into the depths of the
sea.

²⁰ You will show faithfulness to Jacob,
Loyal love to Abraham,
As you swore to our forefathers from the days of
old.

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November 20-26

Treasures From God's Word

Micah 6:6, 7—Sacrifices are meaningless to Jehovah if we fail to treat our fellow man properly

Reference: w08 5/15 6 **paragraph 20**.

From God's standpoint, our relationship with our brothers is an important part of true worship. Animal sacrifices were meaningless to Jehovah if those offering them did not treat their fellow man properly. (**Micah 6:6-8**) Hence, Jesus urged his disciples to "be about settling matters quickly."

(**Matthew 5:25**) Along similar lines, Paul wrote: "Be wrathful, and yet do not sin; let the sun not set with you in a provoked state, neither allow place for the Devil."

(**Ephesians 4:26, 27**) If we do become justifiably angry, we should act to settle matters quickly so that we do not remain in a provoked state and thus allow the Devil to take advantage of us.—**Luke 17:3, 4**.

Micah 6:8—Jehovah's requirements are reasonable

Reference: w12 11/1 22 **paragraphs 4-7**.

"Exercise justice." The Hebrew word for "justice," according to one reference work, "involves right and fair relationships in the community." God asks us to treat others according to

what is right and fair by his standards. We exercise justice by being impartial, upright, and honest in our dealings with others. (Leviticus 19:15; Isaiah 1:17; Hebrews 13:18) When we act justly toward others, they may be moved to act justly toward us in return.—Matthew 7:12.

“To love kindness.” God asks us not merely to show kindness but to love it. The Hebrew word rendered “kindness” (*che’sedh*) may also be rendered “loving-kindness” or “loyal love.” Says one Bible scholar: “Love, mercy, and kindness are inadequate translations of [*che’sedh*]; it is no one of these virtues, but all of them together.” If we love kindness, we show it willingly; we find pleasure in helping those in need. As a result, we experience the happiness that comes from giving.—Acts 20:35.

“To be modest in walking with your God.” In the Bible, the phrase “to walk” means “to follow a certain course of action.” We walk with God by following the life course he has outlined in the Bible. We need “to be modest” in pursuing such a course. How so? When we are modest before God, we realistically evaluate our position before him and recognize our limitations. Therefore, “to walk modestly with” means to have a realistic view of what he requires and of what we can give.

Thankfully, Jehovah never requires more than we can give. He is pleased with our best efforts to serve him. (Colossians 3:23) He understands our limitations. (Psalm 103:14) When we, with due modesty, learn to accept them as well, we can find joy in walking with him. Why not learn how you can begin walking with God? Such a course brings rich blessings from him.—Proverbs 10:22.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Micah 2:12—How was this prophecy fulfilled?

Reference: w07 11/1 15 **paragraph 6**.

Its first fulfillment was in 537 B.C.E. when a Jewish remnant returned to their homeland from Babylonian exile. In modern times, the prophecy finds its fulfillment in “the Israel of God.” (Galatians 6:16) Since 1919, anointed Christians have been collected together “like a flock in the pen.” Being joined by the “great crowd” of “other sheep,” especially since 1935, they have become “noisy with men.” (Revelation 7:9; John 10:16) Together, they zealously promote true worship.

Micah 7:7—Why should we “show a waiting attitude” for Jehovah?

Reference: w03 8/15 24 **paragraph 20**.

Experiencing Jehovah’s blessing moves us to imitate Micah’s spirit. He declares: “I will show a waiting attitude for the God of my salvation.” (Micah 7:7) How do these words relate to our walking modestly with God? Having a waiting attitude, or patience, helps us to avoid feeling disappointed that Jehovah’s day has not yet come. (Proverbs 13:12)

Frankly, we all long for the end of this wicked world.

However, every week thousands of people are just beginning to walk with God. Knowing that gives us a reason for showing a waiting attitude. One longtime Witness said in this connection: “Looking back over 55 years in the preaching work, I am convinced that I have not lost anything by waiting on Jehovah. On the contrary, I have been spared many heartaches.” Have you had a similar experience?

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MICAH 1-7 | What Does Jehovah Require of Us?

6:6-8

Jehovah understands our limitations and never requires more of us than we are able to give. From God’s standpoint, our relationship with our brothers is an important part of true worship. If we want Jehovah to accept our sacrifices, we must treat our brothers with love and respect.



DEVELOPING GODLY QUALITIES

²⁰ Of course, more is involved in pleasing Jehovah than avoiding things that he hates. You also need to love what he loves. (Romans 12:9) Do you not feel drawn to those who share your views, interests, and values? Jehovah does too. So learn to love the things that Jehovah holds dear. Some of these are described in Psalm 15, where we read about those whom God considers his friends. **(Read Psalm 15:1-5.)** Jehovah's friends display what the Bible calls "the fruitage of the spirit." It includes such qualities as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, mildness, self-control."—Galatians 5:22, 23.

²¹ Reading and studying the Bible regularly will help you to develop godly qualities. And learning what God requires will help you to harmonize your thoughts with God's thinking. (Isaiah 30:20, 21) The more you strengthen your love for Jehovah, the greater will be your desire to live in a way that pleases God.

28 *Gaining Jehovah's Friendship* (Psalm 15)

1. Who is your friend, O God?

Who in your tent may dwell?

Who gains your friendship? Who gains your trust?

Who really knows you well?

All who embrace your Word,

All who have faith in you,

All who are loyal, all who are just,

Living the truth for you.

2. Who is your friend, O God?

Who may approach your throne?

Who brings delight and makes you rejoice?

Whose name to you is known?

All who exalt your name,

All who your Word obey,

All who are faithful, honest in heart,

Truthful in all they say.

3. Throwing our cares on you,

Baring our hearts in prayer,

Drawing us closer, bonding in love,

Feeling your daily care,

We yearn to be your friend.

Long may our friendship grow.

No greater Friend could we ever gain,

No greater Friend we'll know.

- Song 31 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“What Does Jehovah Require of Us?”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Micah.*]
Mic 6:6, 7—Sacrifices are meaninglessly to Jehovah if we fail to treat our fellow man properly (w08 5/15 6 ¶20)
Mic 6:8—Jehovah’s requirements are reasonable (w12 11/1 22 ¶4-7)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Mic 2:12—How was this prophecy fulfilled? (w07 11/1 15 ¶6)

Mic 7:7—Why should we “show a waiting attitude” for Jehovah? (w03 8/15 24 ¶20)

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) Mic 4:1-10

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Ps 83:18—Teach the Truth. Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Ex 3:14—Teach the Truth. Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 123-124 ¶20-21.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 28
- **Local Needs:** (6 min.)
- **Jehovah Wants Us to Be Generous (Prov. 3:27):** (9 min.) Play the video (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 21 ¶15-20, chart on pp. 224-225, review box on p. 230
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 149 and Prayer

MICAH 1-7 | What Does Jehovah Require of Us?

6:6-8

Jehovah understands our limitations and never requires more of us than we are able to give. From God’s standpoint, our relationship with our brothers is an important part of true worship. If we want Jehovah to accept our sacrifices, we must treat our brothers with love and respect.



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)

THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND BEYOND

MODERN FULFILLMENT

United Nations (“disgusting thing”) will attack Christendom (“holy place”) and the rest of false religion (Rev. 17:16-18)



Jehovah will “cut short” the attack on false religion; God’s people will be saved



Jesus will judge people of all nations as sheep or goats (Matt. 25:31-46) (See paragraphs 12, 13)

Jesus will appoint the faithful slave over “all his belongings” (Matt. 24:46, 47) (See paragraph 18)

Destruction of the nations (Rev. 16:16)



THE LAST DAYS

← DESTRUCTION OF FALSE RELIGION

OF UNKNOWN

LENGTH INTERVAL →

ARMAGEDDON →

CHRIST’S MILLENNIAL RULE BEGINS

CORRESPONDING EVENTS IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Roman army (“disgusting thing”) attacked Jerusalem and its temple (“holy place”)

Roman army cut short its attack; Christians in Jerusalem and Judea fled

Jerusalem’s destruction

“The disgusting thing . . . standing in a holy place” (Matt. 24:15, 16) (See paragraph 6)

“On account of the chosen ones those days will be cut short” (Matt. 24:22) (See paragraph 7)

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days . . .” (Matt. 24:29-31) (See paragraph 8)

many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly, a vast army. Like clouds covering the land, you will come against my people.” (Ezek. 38:15, 16) What will be Jehovah’s response to this seemingly unstoppable invasion? “My great rage will flare up,” declares Jehovah. “I will call for a sword.” (Ezek. 38:18, 21; **read Zechariah 2:8.**) Jehovah will intervene in behalf of his servants on earth. That intervention is the war of Armageddon.

¹⁴ Before we move forward in time to consider how Jehovah will defend his people during the war of Armageddon, let us pause for a moment and examine another significant event. This one will occur at some point between the beginning of Satan’s all-out attack and the beginning of Jehovah’s intervention at Armageddon. As noted in paragraph 11, this second event is the gathering of the remaining ones of the anointed remnant.

¹⁵ **Gathering of anointed ones.** Both Matthew and Mark recorded Jesus’ statement about the “chosen ones”—spirit-anointed Christians—as part of a series

14, 15. What other event will occur at some point after the beginning of Satan’s all-out attack?

of events that will occur before the outbreak of Armageddon. (See paragraph 7.) Speaking about himself as King, Jesus prophesies: “Then he will send out the angels and will gather his chosen ones together from the four winds, from earth’s extremity to heaven’s extremity.” (Mark 13:27; Matt. 24:31) To what act of gathering is Jesus here referring? He is not speaking about the final sealing of the remnant of anointed Christians, which will occur just *before* the great tribulation *begins*. (Rev. 7:1-3) Instead, Jesus refers to an event that will take place *during* the coming great tribulation. Thus, apparently at some point after the start of Satan’s all-out attack on God’s people, anointed ones who still remain on earth will be gathered to heaven.

¹⁶ How does this gathering of the anointed remnant relate to the event that will occur next, Armageddon? The timing of the gathering indicates that all anointed ones will be in heaven before God’s war of Armageddon begins. In heaven, the 144,000 co-rulers with Christ will receive authority to share

16. What share will the resurrected anointed ones have in the war of Armageddon?

with Jesus in wielding “an iron rod” of destruction against all enemies of God’s Kingdom. (Rev. 2:26, 27) Then, together with powerful angels, the resurrected anointed ones will follow Christ, the Warrior-King, as he sets out to confront the “vast army” of enemies that is closing in on its prey—Jehovah’s people. (Ezek. 38:15) When that violent confrontation takes place, the war of Armageddon is on!—Rev. 16:16.

The Grand Finale of the Great Tribulation

17 Execution of judgment. The war of Armageddon will be the finale of the great tribulation. At that point, Jesus will take on an added task. Besides being the Judge of “all the nations,” he will also become the Executioner of nations—that is, of all the people whom he had earlier judged as “goats.” (Matt. 25:32, 33) With “a sharp, long sword,” our King will “strike the nations.” Yes, all goatlike ones—from “kings” to “slaves”—“will depart into everlasting cutting-off.”—Rev. 19:15, 18; Matt. 25:46.

18 How the tables will have turned for those whom

17. What will happen to “the goats” during Armageddon?

18. (a) How will the tables turn for “the sheep”? (b) How will Jesus complete his victory?



The war of Armageddon begins!

Jesus judged as “sheep”! Instead of being nearly trampled underfoot by Satan’s vast army of “goats,” “a great crowd” of seemingly defenseless “sheep” will survive the enemy attack and will “come out of the great tribulation.” (Rev. 7:9, 14) Then, after Jesus has conquered and removed all human enemies of God’s Kingdom, he will hurl Satan and his demons into the abyss. There they will be kept in a deathlike, inactive state for a thousand years.—**Read Revelation 6:2; 20:1-3.**

How to Prepare Ourselves

¹⁹ How can we prepare ourselves for the earth-shaking events that are to come? *The Watchtower* stated some years ago: “Survival will depend on obedience.” Why is that so? The answer is found in a warning from Jehovah to the captive Jews living in ancient Babylon. Jehovah foretold that Babylon would be conquered, but what were God’s people to do to prepare themselves for that event? Jehovah stated: “Go, my people, enter your inner rooms, and shut your doors behind you. Hide yourself for a 19, 20. How can we apply the lesson contained in the words found at **Isaiah 26:20 and 30:21?**

brief moment until the wrath has passed by.” (Isa. 26:20) Note the verbs in this verse: “go,” “enter,” “shut,” “hide”—all are in the imperative mood; they are commands. The Jews who heeded those commands would have stayed in their houses, away from the conquering soldiers out in the streets. Hence, their survival depended on obeying Jehovah’s instructions.*[2]

²⁰ What is the lesson for us? As in the case of those ancient servants of God, our survival of coming events will depend on our obedience to Jehovah’s instructions. (Isa. 30:21) Such instructions come to us through the congregation arrangement. Therefore, we want to develop heartfelt obedience to the guidance we are receiving. (1 John 5:3) If we do so today, we will be more inclined to obey willingly in the future and thus receive the protection of our Father, Jehovah, and our King, Jesus. (Zeph. 2:3) That divine protection will allow us to witness firsthand how God’s Kingdom will completely remove its enemies. What an unforgettable event that will be!

*[2] For more information, see *Isaiah’s Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I*, pages 282-283.

How Real Is the Kingdom to You?

- What Kingdom accomplishments considered in this publication have especially strengthened your faith?
- What are some of the events that lie ahead of us?
- How will our King protect us before and during Armageddon?
- How can we prepare ourselves for the events that are to come?

A Victory Song

(Exodus 15:1)

1. Sing to Jehovah. His great name is highly exalted.
His proud Egyptian foes, He has cast into the sea.
Praise Jah Almighty;
Besides him there can be no other.
Jehovah is his name;
He has gained the victory.

(CHORUS)

*Jehovah God, Most High over all,
The one who is forevermore the same,
You soon will cause your enemies to fall
And sanctify your holy name.*

2. See now all nations Opposing the Sov'reign, Jehovah.
Though mightier than Pharaoh,
They too will suffer shame.
Judgment awaits them;
They cannot escape Armageddon.
Soon ev'ryone will know
That Jehovah is God's name.

(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

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, Walkkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower 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, Walkkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2017 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

This publication is not for sale.
It is provided as part of a worldwide
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New World Translation
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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?

He Will Make You Strong

(1 Peter 5:10)

1. There was a reason why God brought the truth to you
And called you from the darkness to the light.
Within your heart, he saw the longing that you had
To search for him and practice what is right.
You promised him in prayer to do his will;
He helped you then, and he will help you still.

(CHORUS)

*With Jesus' blood He bought you,
to God you now belong.*

*So he will make you firm,
and he will make you strong.*

*He'll guide you and protect you,
as he has all along.*

*Yes, he will make you firm,
and he will make you strong.*

2. God gave his own beloved Son in your behalf;
On this account, He wants you to succeed.
If He did not withhold the gift of His dear Son,
Then never doubt He'll give the strength you need.
He won't forget the faith and love you've shown;
He will not fail to care for all His own.

(Chorus)



“Be Courageous . . . and Go to Work”

“Be courageous and strong and go to work. Do not be afraid or be terrified, for Jehovah . . . is with you.”—1 CHRON. 28:20.

SOLOMON was instructed to oversee one of the most important construction projects of all time—that of the temple in Jerusalem. The building was to

1, 2. (a) What important assignment did Solomon receive? (b) Why did David express concern about Solomon?

SONGS:
38, 34

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

How can young ones and their parents show courage?

What courage may be needed on the part of older sisters?

How can baptized brothers show themselves courageous?

be “exceedingly magnificent, so that its fame and beauty [would] be known in all lands.” More important, the temple would be “the house of Jehovah the true God.” Jehovah directed that Solomon be the overseer of this project.—1 Chron. 22:1, 5, 9-11.

² King David was confident of God’s support, but Solomon was “young and inexperienced.” Would he have the courage to take on the task of building the temple? Would his youth and inexperience be an obstacle? To succeed, Solomon would need to be courageous and go to work.

³ Solomon likely learned much about courage from his own father. In his youth, David fought wild animals that carried off his father’s sheep. (1 Sam. 17:34, 35) He displayed tremendous courage when he confronted a battle-hardened giant. Yes, with God’s help and a smooth stone, David defeated Goliath.—1 Sam. 17:45, 49, 50.

⁴ How appropriate it was later for David to urge Solomon to be courageous and construct the temple! (Read 1 Chronicles 28:20.) If Solomon did not prove to be courageous, fear could paralyze him, and inactivity would be worse than failure.

3. What could Solomon learn about courage from his father?

4. Why did Solomon need to be courageous?

⁵ Like Solomon, we need help from Jehovah to be courageous and complete the work. To that end, we can reflect on some past examples of courage. And we can think about how we can show courage and get our work accomplished.

EXAMPLES OF COURAGE

⁶ Consider the courage Joseph showed when Potiphar's wife tempted him to commit sexual immorality. He must have known that he could face severe consequences if he refused her. Even so, rather than give in, he showed courage and took decisive action.—Gen. 39:10, 12.

⁷ Rahab is another example of courage. When Israelite spies went to her home in Jericho, she could have given in to fear and turned them away. But with confidence in Jehovah, she courageously hid the two men and helped them to get away safely. (Josh. 2:4, 5, 9, 12-16) Rahab accepted that Jehovah is the true God, and she trusted that somehow he would give the land to the Israelites. She did not let fear of others, including the king of Jericho and his men, paralyze her. Rather, she acted in a

5. Why do we need courage?

6. What impresses you about Joseph's courage?

7. Describe the courage that Rahab showed. (See opening picture.)

way that in the end preserved her and her family.
—Josh. 6:22, 23.

⁸ Jesus' faithful apostles set a fine example of courage. They had seen the courage Jesus displayed. (Matt. 8:28-32; John 2:13-17; 18:3-5) That example helped them to build courage. When opposed by the Sadducees, the apostles would not stop teaching on the basis of Jesus' name.—Acts 5:17, 18, 27-29.

⁹ Joseph, Rahab, Jesus, and the apostles displayed an inner strength that motivated them to perform good works. Their courage was not overconfidence. It came from reliance on Jehovah. We too face circumstances that require courage. Rather than rely on ourselves, we must rely on Jehovah. (Read 2 Timothy 1:7.) Let us consider two areas of life where we need courage: in our family and in the congregation.

SITUATIONS REQUIRING COURAGE

¹⁰ Christian youths face many situations in which they need to show courage to serve Jehovah. They

-
8. How did Jesus' courage affect the apostles?
 9. How does 2 Timothy 1:7 help us to identify the fundamental source of courage?
 10. Why do Christian youths need courage?

can learn from and follow the basic example of Solomon as he showed courage in making wise decisions to complete the construction of the temple. Though Christian youths can and should receive guidance from their parents, youths themselves have important decisions to make. (Prov. 27:11) The wise decisions they make about good associations, wholesome entertainment, moral cleanness, and baptism all call for courage. That is because such young ones are going against the will of Satan, the one who taunts God.

¹¹ One important decision young ones must make involves their goals. In some lands, young ones are pressured to set goals that center on higher education and a well-paying job. In other lands, economic conditions may make young ones feel that they must focus on helping to provide materially for their families. If you find yourself in either situation, consider the example of Moses. Raised by the daughter of Pharaoh, Moses could have set his goals on attaining prominence or economic security. What pressure he must have felt to do so from his Egyptian family, teachers, and counselors! Rather than give in, Moses courageously took

11, 12. (a) How did Moses set a fine example of courage? (b) How can young ones imitate Moses' example?

a stand for pure worship. Once he left behind the riches of Egypt, Moses put his confidence in Jehovah. (Heb. 11:24-26) That led to Jehovah's blessing at the time, and no doubt more blessings await Moses in the future.

¹² Likewise, Jehovah will bless young ones who courageously work at setting spiritual goals and putting Kingdom interests first in their lives. He will help them provide for the needs of their families. In the first century, the young man Timothy focused on spiritual goals, and you can too.*—Read **Philippians 2:19-22**.

¹³ A Christian sister in Alabama, U.S.A., had to develop courage to set spiritual goals. She writes: "Growing up, I was really shy. I could barely talk to people at the Kingdom Hall, much less knock on the doors of complete strangers." With the help of her parents and others in the congregation, this young Christian achieved her goal of becoming a regular pioneer. She states: "Satan's world promotes higher education, fame, money, and having a lot of ma-

* You will find some practical steps for setting spiritual goals outlined in the article "Use Spiritual Goals to Glorify Your Creator," published in *The Watchtower* of July 15, 2004.

13. How did courage help a young sister reach her goals?

terial things as good goals. Often, those pursuits are unattainable and bring only stress and heartache. Serving Jehovah, though, has brought me the greatest happiness and sense of accomplishment.”

¹⁴ Christian parents also need courage. For example, your employer may regularly ask you to work overtime on evenings and weekends—times that you have set aside for family worship, field service, and Christian meetings. Courage is required to turn down such regular requests and set the right example for your children. Or perhaps a few parents in the congregation allow their children to do things that you do not want your child to do. Those parents may ask why your child does not get involved in such activities. Will you be courageous and tactfully explain the reason for your decision?

¹⁵ We show courage when we help our children to set and reach spiritual goals. For instance, some parents may hesitate to encourage their child to pursue a career of pioneering, to serve where the need is greater, to enter Bethel service, or to work on theocratic construction projects. The parents

14. What are some instances when Christian parents need courage?

15. How can Psalm 37:25 and Hebrews 13:5 help parents?



Are you resolved to be courageous
in all aspects of your life?
(See paragraphs 13-17)



may fear that their child will not be able to care for them when they are old. However, wise parents show courage and put faith in Jehovah's promises. (Read Psalm 37:25; Hebrews 13:5.) Then an added way that you can demonstrate courage and reliance on Jehovah is by helping your child to do the same. —1 Sam. 1:27, 28; 2 Tim. 3:14, 15.

¹⁶ A couple in the United States helped their children set spiritual goals. The husband explains: “Before our children could walk and talk, we would speak to them about the joys of pioneering and serving the congregation. Now this is their goal. Having and achieving spiritual goals helps our children to counteract pressures from Satan’s system and to focus on what is real—Jehovah.” A brother who has two children wrote: “Many parents expend much effort and resources helping their children reach goals in such areas as sports, recreation, and education. It makes so much more sense to expend effort and resources in helping our children reach goals that will help them to maintain a good standing with Jehovah. It has been a great source of satisfaction not only to see our children reach spiritual goals but to share the journey with them.” You

16. How have some parents helped their children to set spiritual goals, and how has this proved beneficial?

can be sure that God will bless parents who help their children to set and reach spiritual goals.

COURAGE IN THE CONGREGATION

¹⁷ There is also a need to show courage in the congregation. For instance, elders need courage when caring for judicial matters or when helping those who face life-threatening medical emergencies. Some elders visit prisons to care for the spiritual needs of inmates. What of single sisters? There are now many opportunities for them to expand their ministry by pioneering, moving to where the need is greater, working with the Local Design/Construction program, and applying for the School for Kingdom Evangelizers. Some are even able to attend Gilead School.

¹⁸ Older women are a blessing to the congregation. How we love these dear sisters! Some may not be able to do as much as they once did in God's service, but they can still show courage and go to work. (Read Titus 2:3-5.) For example, an older sister needs courage if she is asked to talk to a younger sister about modest dress. She will not scold the sister about her choice of clothing, but

17. Give examples of courage in the Christian congregation.

18. How can older sisters show courage?

she may be able to encourage the younger one to consider how her choice of clothing may affect others. (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) Such loving expressions of concern may have a positive effect.

¹⁹ Others who should be courageous and go to work are baptized brothers. Courageous men who are willing to take on more responsibility are a blessing to a congregation. (1 Tim. 3:1) However, some may be reluctant to reach out. Perhaps a brother has made mistakes in the past, and now he feels that he is not worthy of being a ministerial servant or an elder. Another brother might have feelings of inadequacy about fulfilling an assignment. If you feel that way, Jehovah can help you develop courage. (Read **Philippians 2:13; 4:13.**) Remember, at one point, Moses did not feel qualified for an assignment. (Ex. 3:11) Yet, Jehovah helped him, and in time, Moses developed courage to accomplish the work. A baptized brother can develop similar courage by seeking God's help in earnest prayer and by daily reading the Bible. Meditating on accounts of courage will also help. He can humbly ask the elders for training and make himself available to help in whatever way is needed. We

19. (a) How can baptized brothers be courageous? (b) How can Philippians 2:13 and 4:13 help brothers to develop courage?

urge all baptized brothers to be courageous and work hard for the congregation!

“JEHOVAH . . . IS WITH YOU”

²⁰ King David reminded Solomon that Jehovah would be with him until the work of building the temple was finished. (1 Chron. 28:20) With his father’s words impressed on his mind and heart, Solomon did not allow his youth and inexperience to become an obstacle. He showed great courage, went to work, and with Jehovah’s help completed the magnificent temple in seven and a half years.

²¹ As Jehovah helped Solomon, he can help us to be courageous and to accomplish our work, both in our family and in the congregation. (Isa. 41:10, 13) When we show courage in our worship of Jehovah, we can be confident of his blessing now and in the future. Therefore, “be courageous . . . and go to work.”

20, 21. (a) What assurance did David provide Solomon? (b) Of what can we be confident?



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Walking in Integrity

(Psalm 26)

1. Please judge me, Lord, observe my loyalty;
Observe my trust in you and my integrity.
Examine me, and put me to the test;
My mind and heart refine, that my soul might be blessed.

(CHORUS)

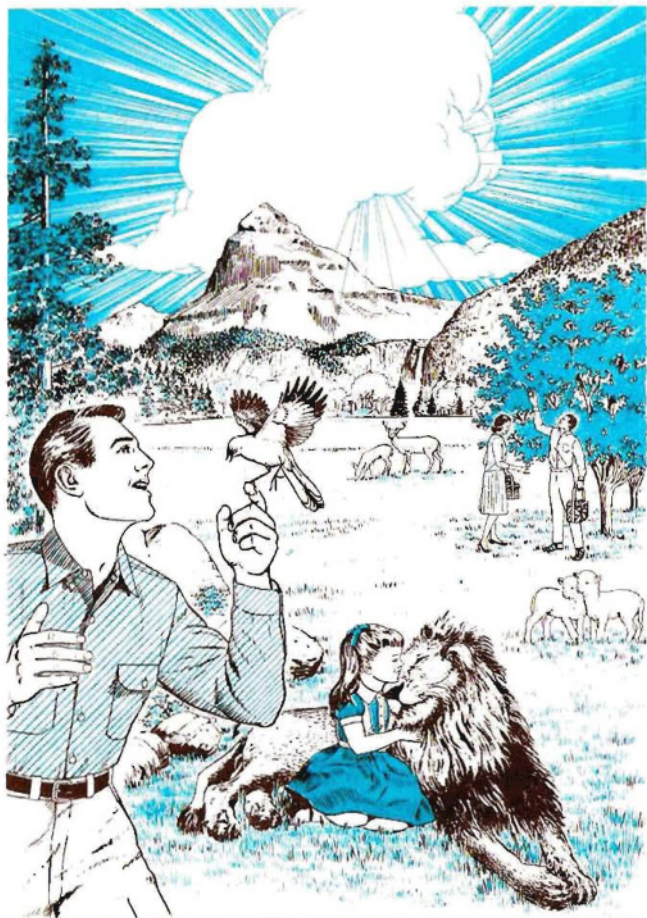
*But as for me, Determined I will be
to walk eternally In my integrity.*

2. I do not sit with wicked men of lies.
I hate the company of those who truth despise.
Jehovah, please, don't take away my life
With men who take delight in bribery and strife.

(Chorus)

3. For I have loved the dwelling of your house.
Your worship, oh, so pure, I daily will espouse.
And I will march around your altar grand,
To make thanksgiving heard aloud throughout the land.

(Chorus)



"God . . . will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be any more."—Rev. 21:3. 4.