

- 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)

C C° C C6 C#° G7/D Dm7 G7

Oh, walk with God in mod - es - ty;
 Oh, walk with God in ho - li - ness;
 Oh, walk with God in hap - pi - ness;

Dm7 G7 C/G G7 C

Show loy - al love, and be true.
 Con - sid - er things that are pure.
 Re - joice that he is your Friend.

F C/E G7/D C

Stay close to Je - ho - vah, lean - ing on him,
 No mat - ter how great temp - ta - tions may be,
 Be thank - ful for all the gifts that he gives

D7/A Bm/D D7 C/G G7

And let his strength sus - tain you.
 He'll help you to en - dure them.
 And bless - ings that are end - less.

Oh, Walk With God!

G7+5 C G7/D C#° G7/D C/E Eb°

Keep hold - ing tight to his faith - ful Word;
 What - ev - er praise - wor - thy things there are,
 Oh, walk with God, let your heart be glad;

C/E D7 Bm/D D7 G G7/F

You'll nev - er drift a - way,
 What - ev - er things are true,
 Ex - press your joy in song.

C/E C G7/B C Fm7/A Dm/F F#° //

So let God lead you by the hand
 Con - tin - ue to show, you con - sider them,
 Your joy will show, and all - er will know, //

C/G G7 C

As you lis - ten and o - bey.
 And our God will be with you.
 To Je - ho - vah you be - long.

life,* for it is better for me to die than to live.”^a

4 Jehovah asked: “Is it right for you to be so angry?”

5 Jo’nah then went out of the city and sat down east of the city. He made a shelter for himself there and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city.^b **6** Jehovah God then provided a bottle-gourd plant* to grow up over Jo’nah, to give him shade for his head and to relieve his misery. And Jo’nah was very pleased with the bottle-gourd plant.

7 But the true God sent a worm at the break of dawn on the next day, and it attacked the bottle-gourd plant, and it withered. **8** When the sun began to shine, God also sent a scorching east wind, and the sun beat

4:3 *Or “soul.” **4:6** *Or possibly, “castor-oil plant.”

CHAP. 4

a Nu 11:11, 15
1Ki 19:2, 4
Job 6:8, 9

b Jon 3:4

Second Col.

a Jon 4:3

b Jon 4:4

c Jon 3:3

d Ps 36:6
Ps 145:9

down on Jo’nah’s head, and he grew faint. He kept asking to die,* and he kept saying, “It is better for me to die than to live.”^a

9 God asked Jo’nah: “Is it right for you to be so angry over the bottle-gourd plant?”^b

At that he said: “I have a right to be angry, so angry that I want to die.” **10** But Jehovah said: “You felt sorry for the bottle-gourd plant, which you did not work for, nor did you make it grow; it grew in one night and perished in one night.

11 Should I not also feel sorry for Nin’e-veh the great city,^c in which there are more than 120,000 men who do not even know right from wrong,* as well as their many animals?”^d

4:8 *Or “that his soul might die.” **4:11** *Or “know their right hand from their left.”

MICAH

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|---|--|

1 The word of Jehovah that came to Mi'cah^{*a} of Mo'resheth, in the days of Jo'tham,^b A'haz,^c and Hez-e-ki'ah,^d kings of Judah,^e 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^f
—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,^g
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.^h
What is the revolt of Jacob?
Is it not Sa-mar'i-a?ⁱ
And what are the high
places of Judah?^j
Are they not Jerusalem?
- 6** I will make Sa-mar'i-a a heap
of ruins of the field,
A place for planting vine-
yards;
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,^k
And all the gifts for which

CHAP. 1

a Jer 26:18

b 2Ki 15:32-34
2Ch 27:1, 2

c 2Ki 16:1, 2

d 2Ki 18:1-3
2Ch 29:1, 2e Isa 1:1
Ho 1:1

f Ps 50:7

g Jg 5:5
Ps 97:5

h 2Ki 17:7, 8

i Ho 7:1

j 2Ki 16:2, 4

k Le 26:30
Ho 8:6

Second Col.

a Ho 2:5
Ho 9:1

b Jer 4:19

c Isa 20:2

d Isa 1:5, 6
Jer 15:18e 2Ki 18:13
Isa 8:7, 8f 2Ch 32:2
Mic 1:12g Jos 15:20, 39
2Ki 18:14h 1Ki 14:16
2Ki 16:2, 3
Jer 3:8

she hired herself out^{*}
will be burned in the fire.^a
I will devastate all her idols.
For she collected them from
the wages of prostitution,
And they will again become
the wages of prostitutes.^b

- 8** Because of this I will wail
and howl;^b
I will walk barefoot and
naked.^c
My wailing will be like that
of jackals,
And my mourning like that
of ostriches.
- 9** For her wound cannot be
healed;^d
It has come as far as Judah.^e
The plague has spread to
the gate of my people,
to Jerusalem.^f
- 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 inhabi-
tants^{*} of La'chish.^g
You were the beginning
of sin to the daughter
of Zion,
For in you were found the
revolts of Israel.^h

1:1 *A shortened form of Michael or Mi-caiah, meaning "Who Is Like Jehovah?"
1:4 *Or "low plains." 1:6 *Lit., "pour."

1:7 *Or "all the wages of her prostitution." 1:10 *Or "In the house of Aphrah." 1:11-13 *Lit., "inhabitantress."

- 14** So you will give parting* gifts to Mo'resh-eth-gath. The houses of Ach'zib^a were something deceitful to the kings of Israel.
- 15** The conqueror* I will yet bring in to you,^b O inhabitants^c of Ma-re'shah.^c As far as A-dul'lam^d 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."^e
- 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.^f
- 2** They desire fields and seize them;^g Also houses, and they take them; They defraud a man of his house,^h A man of his inheritance.
- 3** Therefore this is what Jehovah says: 'Here I am devising against this family a calamityⁱ from which you will not escape.^{*j} You will no longer walk haughtily,^k for it is a time of calamity.^l
- 4** In that day people will recite a proverb concerning you, And they will bitterly lament over you.^m They will say: "We are completely devastated!ⁿ He caused the portion of my people to change

CHAP. 1
a Jos 15:20, 44
b Isa 7:17
c 2Ch 11:5, 8
d Ne 11:25, 30
e De 28:41
2Ki 17:6
Isa 39:7

CHAP. 2
f 1Ki 21:7
g Ex 20:17
1Ki 21:2
Isa 5:8
h Jer 22:17
Eze 22:12, 29
i Jer 18:11
j Am 2:14
k Isa 2:11
l Am 5:13
m Jer 9:10
La 1:1
n Isa 6:11
Jer 25:9
Zep 1:2

Second Col.
a 2Ki 17:23
b Ps 106:38, 39
c Jer 9:19
Jer 10:18
d 1Ki 22:6, 8
Isa 9:15, 16
Jer 6:13, 14
Eze 13:2, 3

- hands—how he removes it from me!^a 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,^b there is destruction, grievous destruction.^c
- 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!^d
- 12** I will certainly gather all of you, O Jacob;

1:14 *Or "farewell." 1:15 *Or "dispossessor." #Lit., "inhabitant." 2:3 *Lit., "you will not remove your necks."

2:8 *Or possibly, "from."

I will surely collect the remaining ones of Israel together.^a

In unity I will place them, like sheep in the pen, Like a flock in its pasture;^b It will be noisy with people.^c

- 13** The one breaking out will go before them; They will break out and pass through the gate and go out by it.^d

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

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

- 2** But you hate what is good^g and love what is bad;^h You tear off the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones.ⁱ

- 3** You also eat the flesh of my people^j And strip off their skin, Smashing their bones, crushing them to pieces,^k 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,^l Because of their wicked deeds.^m

- 5** This is what Jehovah says against the prophets who are leading my people astray,ⁿ Who proclaim ‘Peace!’^o while they bite^{*} with their teeth^p

3:3 *Or “wide-mouthed cooking pot.”
3:5 *Or possibly, “when they have something to chew.”

CHAP. 2

a Isa 11:11
Jer 23:3
Jer 31:7, 8
Mic 4:6
b Eze 34:11
c Eze 36:38
Zec 8:22
d Isa 62:10
e Isa 49:10
Isa 52:12

CHAP. 3

f Mic 3:9
g 1Ki 22:8
Am 5:10
h 2Ch 19:2
i Eze 22:27
Am 8:4
Zep 3:3
j Eze 34:2, 3
k Isa 3:15
l La 3:44
m De 31:17, 18
Isa 1:15
Isa 3:11
n Isa 9:15, 16
Isa 56:10
o Jer 23:16, 17
Eze 13:10
p Eze 13:19
Eze 34:2

Second Col.

a Jer 13:16
b Ps 74:9
Eze 13:23
c Isa 59:9, 10
Am 8:9
d Isa 29:10
e Mic 3:1
f De 27:19
Jer 5:28
g Jer 22:13
h Isa 1:23
Isa 5:20, 23
Eze 22:12
i Jer 6:13
j Isa 56:10, 11
k Isa 48:1, 2
Jer 7:4
l Am 9:10

But who declare^{*} war against him who puts nothing into their mouths:

- 6** ‘You will have night;^a there will be no vision;^b There will only be darkness for you, no divination. The sun will set on the prophets, And the day will turn dark for them.’^c

- 7** The visionaries will be put to shame,^d 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,^e Who detest justice and who make crooked all that is straight,^f

- 10** Who build Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with unrighteousness.^g

- 11** Her leaders^{*} judge for a bribe,^h Her priests instruct for a price,ⁱ

And her prophets practice divination for money.^{#j}

And yet they lean on Jehovah,[^] saying: “Is not Jehovah with us?^k No calamity will come upon us.”^l

- 12** So because of you,

3:5 *Lit., “sanctify.” 3:7 *Or “cover their mouths.” 3:11 *Lit., “heads.”
#Or “silver.” ^Or “they claim to lean on Jehovah.”

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

4 In the final part of the days,*
 The mountain of the house of Jehovah^c

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.^d

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."^e

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^f
 And set matters straight* respecting mighty nations far away.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
 And their spears into pruning shears.^g
 Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
 Nor will they learn war anymore.^h

4 They will sit,* each one under his vine and under his fig tree,ⁱ
 And no one will make them afraid,^j

3:12 *Or "the temple mount." #Or "like a wooded ridge." 4:1 *Or "In the last days." 4:2 *Or "instruction." 4:3 *Or "correct matters." 4:4 *Or "dwell."

CHAP. 3

a Ps 79:1

b Jer 26:18

CHAP. 4

c Isa 11:9

Zec 8:3

d Ps 86:9

Isa 2:2-4

Isa 60:3

Re 15:4

e Jer 31:6

Zec 8:20, 21

f 1Sa 2:10

Ps 96:13

Isa 51:4, 5

g Ho 2:18

Zec 9:10

h Ps 72:7

Isa 9:7

Isa 60:18

i Zec 3:10

j Isa 54:14

Eze 34:25

Eze 39:25, 26

Second Col.

a Zec 10:12

b Ps 147:2

Isa 56:8

Eze 34:12, 16

Eze 37:21

Zep 3:19

c Isa 10:21

Mic 2:12

Mic 7:18

d Isa 60:22

e 2Sa 5:7

f Ob 21

g Zec 9:9

h Jer 30:6

i 2Ki 20:18

2Ch 36:17, 20

j Isa 45:13

Zec 2:7

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,^b

Along with those I treated harshly.

7 I will make the one* who was limping a remnant,^c

And the one far removed a mighty nation;^d

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,^e

To you it will come, yes, the first* dominion will come,^f

The kingdom belonging to the daughter of Jerusalem.^g

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?^h

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,ⁱ

And there you will be rescued;^j

4:6, 7 *Lit., "her." 4:8 *Or "former."

There Jehovah will buy you
back from the hand of
your enemies.^a

- 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;^b
For I will change your horns
into iron,

And I will change your
hooves into copper,
And you will pulverize many
peoples.^c

You will devote their dis-
honest profit to Jehovah,
And their resources to the
true Lord of the whole
earth."^d

- 5** "Now you are slashing
yourself,

O daughter under attack;
A siege is laid against us.^e
With a rod they strike the
judge of Israel on the
cheek.^f

- 2** And you, O Beth'le-hem
Eph'ra-thah,^g
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,^h
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.

CHAP. 4

a Ps 107:2, 3
Isa 48:20
Jer 15:21

b Isa 41:15

c Zec 9:13

d Jos 6:18, 19
Isa 23:17, 18

CHAP. 5

e De 28:52

f Mt 26:67
Joh 18:22
Joh 19:3

g Ge 35:19
Lu 2:4

h Ge 49:10
1Ch 5:2
Isa 9:6
Mt 2:4-6
Lu 1:32, 33
Lu 2:11
Joh 7:42

Second Col.

a Eze 34:23
Eze 37:24

b Jer 23:5, 6

c Zec 9:9, 10

d Isa 9:6

e Isa 8:7

f Isa 33:1

g Ge 10:9-11

h Isa 14:25

And the rest of his brothers
will return to the people
of Israel.

- 4** He will stand up and shep-
herd in the strength of
Jehovah,^a

In the superiority of the
name of Jehovah his God.
And they will dwell in
security,^b

For now his greatness will
reach the ends of the
earth.^c

- 5** And he will bring peace.^d
Should the As-syr'i-an
invade our land and tread
on our fortified towers,^e
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,^f
And the land of Nim'rod^g at
its entrances.

And he will rescue us from
the As-syr'i-an,^h

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;

5:5 *Or "leaders." 5:8 *Or "a maned
young lion."

4:12 *Or "counsel." 5:2 *Or "clans."

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.^a
- 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.^b
- 14** I will uproot your sacred poles*^c 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.^d
- 2** Hear, O mountains, the legal case of Jehovah,
You firm foundations of the earth,^e
For Jehovah has a legal case with his people;
It is against Israel that he will argue:^f
- 3** “My people, what have I done to you?

5:12 *Lit., “from your hand.” 5:14 *See Glossary.

CHAP. 5

a Isa 2:6
Isa 8:19

b Isa 2:8
Eze 36:25
Ho 14:3
Zec 13:2

c Isa 27:9

CHAP. 6

d Isa 5:3

e Ps 50:1, 4
Isa 1:2

f Isa 43:26
Jer 2:35
Ho 4:1

Second Col.

a Jer 2:5

b Ex 12:51
De 4:20

c De 7:8

d Ex 15:20

e Nu 22:5, 6

f Nu 23:7, 8
Nu 24:10
Re 2:14

g Nu 25:1
Nu 33:48, 49

h Jos 4:19

i 1Sa 15:22
Ps 51:16, 17
Isa 1:11

j Ps 50:8-15

k 2Ki 3:26, 27
Eze 16:20

l Pr 21:3
Isa 1:17
Jer 22:3
Eze 45:9
Ho 12:6

m Pr 3:3
Ho 6:6
Zec 7:9

n Pr 8:13

o De 10:12, 13

p Isa 9:13

How have I tired you out?^a
Testify against me.

- 4** For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt,^b
From the house of slavery
I redeemed you;^c
I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Mir'i-am.^d
- 5** My people, remember,
please, what King Ba'lak of Mo'ab proposed,^e
And what Ba'laam the son of Be'or answered him^f
—What took place from Shit'tim^g to Gil'gal^h—
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?ⁱ
- 7** Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams,
With tens of thousands of torrents of oil?^j
Will I give my firstborn son for my revolt,
The fruit of my body for my sin?^k
- 8** He has told you, O man, what is good.
And what is Jehovah requiring* of you?
Only to exercise justice,^l
to cherish loyalty,^{Δm}
And to walk in modestyⁿ with your God!^o
- 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.^p

6:7 *Or “for the sin of my soul?” 6:8 *Or “asking back.” ^ΔOr “to be just; to be fair.” ^ΔOr “to be kind and loyal in your love.” Lit., “to love loyal love.”

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?^a

12 For her rich men are full of violence,

And her inhabitants speak lies;^b

Their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.^c

13 "Therefore, I will wound you by striking you,^d

Making you desolate because of your sins.

14 You will eat but not be satisfied;

You will be empty inside.^e 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.^f

16 For you observe the statutes of Om'ri and all the work of the house of A'hab,^g

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;^h

And you will bear the scorn of the peoples."ⁱ

7 Woe to me! I am like one who, After the gathering of summer fruit

CHAP. 6

a De 25:13
Pr 11:1
Ho 12:7

b Isa 59:3
Mic 7:2

c Jer 9:3

d Isa 1:5

e Le 26:26
Eze 4:16
Ho 4:10

f De 28:38
Jer 12:13
Joe 1:10
Am 5:11

g 1Ki 16:25, 30
2Ki 16:2, 3
2Ki 21:1, 3

h Jer 19:8

i Ps 44:13
Jer 51:51
La 5:1
Da 9:16

Second Col.

CHAP. 7

a Isa 57:1

b Isa 59:7

c Jer 3:5
Jer 4:22
Eze 22:6

d Isa 1:23
Mic 3:11

e 1Ki 21:5, 6

f Isa 10:3
Eze 12:23
Ho 9:7

g Isa 22:5

h Jer 9:4

i Eze 22:7

j Lu 12:53

k Jer 12:6
Mt 10:35, 36

l Ps 123:2
Isa 8:17

And the gleanings 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.^a

All of them lie in ambush for bloodshed.^b

Each hunts his own brother with a dragnet.

3 Their hands are expert at doing what is bad;^c

The prince is making demands,

The judge asks for a reward,^d

The prominent one makes known his desires,^e

And they work it out together.^f

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.^f

Now they will panic.^g

5 Do not put faith in your companion

Or trust a close friend.^h

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,ⁱ

And a daughter-in-law is against her mother-in-law;^j

A man's enemies are the men of his household.^k

7 But as for me, I will keep on the lookout for Jehovah.^l

7:1 *Or "my soul craves." 7:2 *Or "vanished." 7:3 *Or "the craving of his soul." #Lit., "they weave it together."

6:10 *See App. B14. 6:11 *Or "be innocent."

I will show a waiting attitude* for the God of my salvation.^a

My God will hear me.^b

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?”^d

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.^e

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

CHAP. 7

a Ps 25:5
Ps 62:1
La 3:26

b Ps 40:1
Isa 12:2
Isa 25:9

c La 1:18

d Ps 79:10
Ps 115:2
Joe 2:17

e Isa 11:16
Isa 27:13
Ho 11:11

Second Col.

a Isa 40:11

b Jer 50:19
Eze 34:23

c Ps 78:12
Isa 63:11
Jer 23:7, 8

d Ps 126:2
Isa 26:11
Isa 66:18

e Isa 49:23

f Jer 33:9

g Ex 34:6, 7
Isa 1:18
Isa 44:22
Jer 50:20
Da 9:9

h Jer 23:3
Joe 2:32

i Ps 103:9
Isa 57:16
La 3:22

j De 30:3
Ps 103:8, 13
Ho 2:19

k Ps 103:12
Isa 55:7
Jer 31:34

l Ge 22:17
Ps 105:8-11
Lu 1:72, 73
Ac 3:25, 26

14 Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance,^a

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^b 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.^c

16 Nations will see and be ashamed despite all their might.^d

They will put their hand over their mouth;

Their ears will become deaf.

17 They will lick the dust like serpents;^e

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.”^f

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

He will not hold onto his anger forever,

For he delights in loyal love.ⁱ

19 He will again show us mercy; he will conquer* our errors.

You will throw all their sins into the depths of the sea.^k

20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob,

Loyal love to Abraham, As you swore to our forefathers from the days of old.^l

7:7 *Or “I will wait patiently.” 7:8 *In Hebrew, the word for “enemy” is in the feminine gender. 7:11 *Or possibly, “the decree will be far away.” 7:12 *That is, the Euphrates. 7:13 *Lit., “Because of the fruitage of their deeds.”

7:19 *Or “tread down; subdue.”

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

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“What Does Jehovah Require of Us?”:** (10 min.)
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Mic 6:6, 7—Sacrifices are meaninglessly to Jehovah if we fail to treat our fellow man properly (w08 5/15 6 ¶20)
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- 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.



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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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.

20. What godly qualities should you develop, and why are these important?



(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.

²² Effort is required to live in a way that pleases Jehovah. The Bible likens changing your life to stripping off your old personality and clothing yourself with a new one. (Colossians 3:9, 10) But regarding Jehovah's commandments, the psalmist wrote: "In keeping them, there is a large reward." (Psalm 19:11) You too will find that living in a way that pleases God is richly rewarding. By so doing, you will give an answer to Satan's challenge and make Jehovah's heart rejoice!

21. What will help you to develop godly qualities?

22. What will you accomplish if you live in a way that pleases God?

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

- You can become God's friend by obeying him.—James 2:23.
- Satan has challenged the integrity of all humans.—Job 1:8, 10, 11; 2:4; Proverbs 27:11.
- We must shun practices that displease God.—1 Corinthians 6:9, 10.
- We can please Jehovah by hating what he hates and loving what he loves.—Romans 12:9.

Gaining Jehovah's Friendship

(Psalm 15)

C C/E F Am/E Dm7 Dm/G G7 C C/B

Who is your friend, O God? Who in your tent may dwell?
 Who is your friend, O God? Who may ap - proach your throne?
 Throw - ing our cares on you, Bar - ing our hearts in prayer,

Am Cma7/G C/G F C/E Dm7 G7sus4 G7

Who gains your friend - ship? Who gains your trust? Who real - ly knows you well?
 Who brings de - light and makes you re - joice? Whose name to you is known?
 Draw - ing us clos - er, bond - ing in love, Feel - ing your dai - ly care,

C C/E F Am/E Dm7 Dm/G G7 C C/B

All who em - brace your Word, All who have faith in you,
 All who ex - alt your name, All who your Word o - bey,
 We yearn to be your friend. Long may our friend - ship grow.

Am Cma7/G C/G F C/E Dm7 G7sus4 G13 C

All who are loy - al, all who are just, Liv - ing the truth for you.
 All who are faith - ful, hon - est in heart, Truth - ful in all they say.
 No great - er Friend could we ev - er gain, No great - er Friend we'll know.

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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)

¹¹ After Jesus pronounces his judgment on “all the nations,” several significant events are still to occur before the war of Armageddon begins. (Matt. 25:32) We will consider two of those events: the attack of Gog and the gathering of anointed ones. As we examine those two events, we need to keep in mind that God’s Word does not reveal the exact timing of these events. In fact, it seems likely that one will overlap the other to some extent.

¹² **An all-out attack.** Gog of Magog will attack the remaining anointed ones and their other sheep companions. (**Read Ezekiel 38:2, 11.**) This attack against established Kingdom rule will be Satan’s last battle in a war that he has been waging against the anointed remnant since his expulsion from heaven. (Rev. 12:7-9, 17) Especially since the anointed ones began to be gathered into the restored Christian congregation, Satan has tried to destroy their spiritual prosperity—but to no avail. (Matt. 13:30) However, at the time when all false religious organizations are gone and God’s people are seemingly living “unprotected by walls, bars, or gates,” Satan will see a golden opportunity. He will incite his wicked enforcers to move in for an all-out attack on those who are Kingdom supporters.

¹³ Ezekiel describes what will happen. Regarding Gog, the prophecy states: “You will come from your place, from the remotest parts of the north, you and 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 of events

11. What should we keep in mind as we consider coming events?

12. What will be Satan’s all-out battle against the Kingdom?

13. How will Jehovah intervene in behalf of his people?

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

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

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?

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 corulers with Christ will receive authority to share 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 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,



The war of Armageddon begins!

19, 20. How can we apply the lesson contained in the words found at Isaiah 26:20 and 30:21?

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 earthshaking 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 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!

FOOTNOTE

[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)

Em Bm Em Am/C B+5 B

Sing to Je - ho - vah. His great name is high - ly ex -
See now all na - tions Op - pos - ing the Sov - 'reign, Je -

Em Em/G B7/F# Em C Esus4/B Em/B

alt - ed. His proud E - gyp - tian foes, He has
ho - vah. Though might - i - er than Phar - aoh, They

Am C7/Bb B Em Bm Em

cast in - to the sea. Praise Jah Al - might - y; Be -
too will suf - fer shame. Judg - ment a - waits them; They

Am/C B+5 B Em Em/G B7/F# Em

sides him there can be no oth - er. Je - ho - vah is his
can - not es - cape Ar - ma - ged - don. Soon ev - 'ry - one will

A Victory Song

Chorus

C D/C C7 B Em/C# B7/D# E Dadd9/F# E/G#

name; He has gained the vic - to - ry. Je -
 know That Je - ho - vah is God's name.

Am D D7 G C Am B7

ho - vah God, Most High o - ver all, The one who is for -

Em/G B/F# Em B7/D# Em Em/G Am D D7

ev - er - more the same, You soon will cause your

G Em C Em/B Am Em/G B7/F# Em Bsus4 B E

en - e - mies to fall And sanc - ti - fy your ho - ly name.

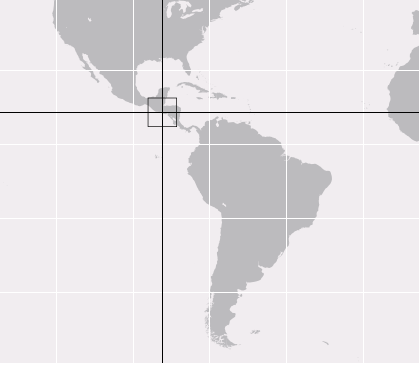
SEPTEMBER 2017

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

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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?

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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?

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He Will Make You Strong

(1 Peter 5:10)

D Bm G A D

There was a rea - son why God brought the truth to you And
God gave his own be - lov - ed Son in your be - half; On

G A Bm Em7 Asus4 A

called you from the dark - ness to the light. With - in your
this ac - count, He wants you to suc - ceed. If He did

D Bm G Em/G F#sus4 F#

heart, he saw the long - ing that you had To
not with - hold the gift of His dear Son, Then

Bm9 Bm Bm9/A Bm/A G

search for him and prac - tice what is right. You
nev - er doubt He'll give the strength you need. He

He Will Make You Strong

G D/F# Em Em/D

prom - ised him in prayer to do his will; He
won't for - get the faith and love you've shown; He

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody starts on G4, moving to A4, B4, C5, then down to B4, A4, G4. The bass staff provides accompaniment with chords G, D/F#, Em, and Em/D. The lyrics are aligned under the treble staff.

Em/C# F#7+5 Bm D/A G Dma7/F# Em11 A7sus4 *Chorus*

helped you then, and he will help you still. With
will not fail to care for all His own.

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The treble staff continues the melody with chords Em/C#, F#7+5, Bm, D/A, G, Dma7/F#, Em11, and A7sus4. The bass staff has chords corresponding to the treble staff, with 'R.H.' written above the final two chords. The lyrics are aligned under the treble staff.

D Em11 D/F# G D/F#

Je - sus' blood He bought you, to God you now be - long. So

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of music. The treble staff has chords D, Em11, D/F#, G, and D/F#. The bass staff provides accompaniment. The lyrics are aligned under the treble staff.

Em/C# F#7 Bm D/E E7 G/A A7

he will make you firm, and he will make you strong. He'll

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth lines of music. The treble staff has chords Em/C#, F#7, Bm, D/E, E7, G/A, and A7. The bass staff provides accompaniment. The lyrics are aligned under the treble staff.

He Will Make You Strong

D A/C# Bm7 D/A A/G G Dadd9/F#

guide you and pro - tect you, as he has all a - long. Yes,

Gadd9/B Gm/Bb D/A A7sus4 A7

he will make you firm, and he will make you

D

strong.



“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.

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?

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 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.

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

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

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.

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, para-

4. Why did Solomon need to be courageous?
5. Why do we need courage?
6. What impresses you about Joseph's courage?
7. Describe the courage that Rahab showed. (See opening picture.)

lyze her. Rather, she acted in a 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 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

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?

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 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

* 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.

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

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

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 material 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

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)

projects. The parents 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

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

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 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

17. Give examples of courage in the Christian congregation.

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 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**

18. How can older sisters show courage?

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

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 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)

Eb/F F7 Bb Eb/F F7

Please judge me, Lord, ob - serve my
I do not sit with wick - ed
For I have loved the dwell - ing

Bbma7 Bb6 Bbma7 Bb6 B° Cm

loy - al - ty; Ob - serve my trust in you
men of lies. I hate the com - pa - ny
of your house. Your wor - ship, oh, so pure,

F7 F7/Eb Bb/D C#° Cm7 F9 F7/Eb

and my in - teg - ri - ty. Ex - am - ine
of those who truth de - spise. Je - ho - vah,
I dai - ly will es - pouse. And I will

Bbma7/D C#° Cm7 F7 Bb6

me, and put me to the test; My
please, march don't take a - way my life With
a - round your al - tar grand, To

R.H.

Walking in Integrity

Cm/A D7 Fm/D G7 Bb/C C7

mind and heart re - fine, that my soul might be
 men who take de - light in brib - er - y and
 make thanks - giv - ing heard a - loud through - out the

F7 Eb/G F/A *Chorus* F Bb/D Bbma7 C#°

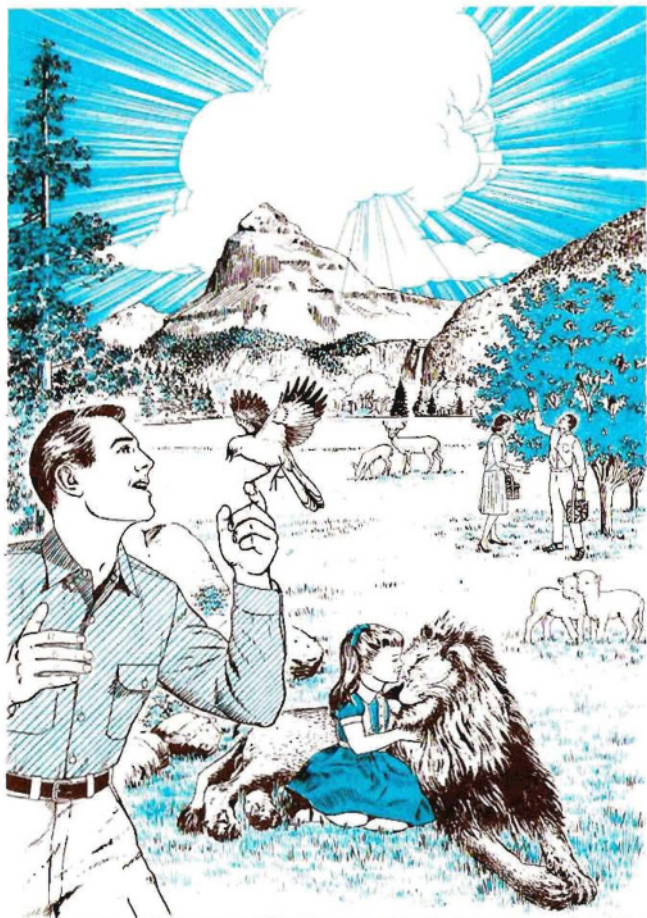
blessed.
 strife.
 land. But as for me, De - ter - mined

Bb/D Fm/Ab G7 Ebm/C

I will be to walk e - ter - nal - ly

Ebm/F F7sus4 F7 Bb

In my in - teg - ri - ty.



"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.