

- Song 129 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Remain Spiritually Alert and Active”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Nahum.*]
[Play the video *Introduction to Habakkuk.*]
Hab 2:1-4—In order to survive the coming day of Jehovah’s judgment, we must “keep in expectation of it” (w07 11/15 10 ¶3-5)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Na 1:8; 2:6—How was Nineveh exterminated?
(w07 11/15 9 ¶2)

Hab 3:17-19—Although we may face hardship before and during Armageddon, what confidence can we have? (w07 11/15 10 ¶10)

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) Hab 2:15–3:6

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) hf—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) hf—The brochure was placed on the preceding visit. Demonstrate a return visit.
- **Talk:** (6 min. or less) w16.03 23-25—Theme: Can You Help in Your Congregation?


LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 21
- **“Remain Spiritually Alert and Active When Your Circumstances Change”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Staying Spiritually Grounded While Moving* (video category THE BIBLE).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
kr chap. 22 ¶1-7
- **Review Followed by Preview of Next Week** (3 min.) Inform the congregation that the offer for December will be the *Awake!* magazine with the cover subject “Is the World Out of Control?” The video presentation that is scheduled to be discussed during the next midweek meeting will be available on *JW Library* beginning November 30. Publishers should endeavor to give this issue wide distribution.
- Song 142 and Prayer

NAHUM 1–HABAKKUK 3 | Remain Spiritually Alert and Active

Hab 1:5, 6

The impending destruction of Judah by the Babylonians may have seemed unlikely. Judah was under the powerful influence of Egypt. The Chaldeans were not stronger than Egypt, were they? In addition, it was unthinkable to many Jews that Jehovah would allow Jerusalem and its temple to be destroyed. Nonetheless, the prophecy would come true, and Habakkuk needed to keep in expectation of it by remaining spiritually alert and active.

 What convinces me that the end of this system of things is very near?

How can I remain spiritually alert and active?



We Will Keep Enduring

(Matthew 24:13)

G C/G Gma7 C/G G/D Bm7

How can we en - dure When tri - als come, as Je - sus
 Though the pass - ing years May bring us sor - row, bring us
 We will not give up Nor see the need for doubt or

C G6/B Am Bm11 Am/C Am/G

said?
 pain;
 fear.

Through his pain he saw The joy of
 There be - yond the tears, We see the
 Faith - ful - ly we'll serve Un - til Je -

Am/F# Am/B B7 Cadd9 C

bet - ter things a - head. God's prom - ise, God's
 life that we can gain. To be there, feel
 ho - vah's day is here. Let's keep on en -

Am11 Am7 C/D D7sus4 D7 Chorus

jus - tice, Were thoughts on which he fed.
 free there, De - ter - mined we re - main. We
 dur - ing. That time is ver - y near.

We Will Keep Enduring

Chords: G, D/F#, Em7, Bm/D, Em/D, C, D7sus4

need to have en - dur - ance. Our faith we must de -

The first system of musical notation features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The bass line is composed of block chords. The lyrics are positioned below the treble staff.

Chords: G, D/F#, Em, D, Cadd9, G/B

fend. His love is our as - sur - ance. So

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics 'fend. His love is our as - sur - ance. So' are placed under the treble staff.

Chords: Am7, G6/B, C, C/D, G

we will keep en - dur - ing to the end.

The third system concludes the piece. The lyrics 'we will keep en - dur - ing to the end.' are placed under the treble staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

NAHUM

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 God's vengeance against his foes (1-7)
God requires exclusive devotion (2)
Jehovah mindful of those seeking refuge in him (7)
Nineveh to be exterminated (8-14)
Distress not to arise a second time (9)
Good news proclaimed for Judah (15)</p> | <p>2 Nineveh to be ruined (1-13)
"The gates of the rivers will be opened" (6)</p> <p>3 "Woe to the city of bloodshed!" (1-19)
Reasons for Nineveh's judgment (1-7)
Nineveh to fall like No-amon (8-12)
Nineveh's fall inevitable (13-19)</p> |
|--|--|

1 A pronouncement against Nin'e-veh:^a The book of the vision of Na'hum* the El'kosh-ite:

2 Jehovah is a God who requires exclusive devotion^b and takes vengeance; Jehovah takes vengeance and is ready to express his wrath.^c

Jehovah takes vengeance against his foes,
And he stores up wrath for his enemies.

3 Jehovah is slow to anger^d and great in power,^e
But by no means will Jehovah hold back due punishment.^f
His path is in destructive wind and storm,
And the clouds are the dust of his feet.^g

4 He rebukes the sea,^h and he dries it up;
And he makes all the rivers run dry.ⁱ
Ba'shan and Car'mel wither,^j
And the blossoms of Leb'a-non wither.

5 Mountains quake because of him,
And the hills melt.^k
The earth will be in an upheaval because of his face,

CHAP. 1

- a Isa 10:12
Na 3:7
Zep 2:13
- b Ex 20:5
- c De 32:35, 41
Isa 59:18
- d Nu 14:18
- e Job 9:4
- f Ex 34:6, 7
- g Job 38:1
- h Job 38:11
Ps 104:6, 7
Ps 107:29
- i Jos 3:16
- j Isa 33:9
Am 1:2
- k 2Sa 22:8
Ps 68:7, 8

Second Col.

- a Ps 97:4, 5
Isa 24:1
- b Jer 10:10
- c De 32:22
- d Ps 136:1
Mt 19:17
- e Ps 46:1
Ps 91:2
Pr 18:10
Isa 25:4
- f Ps 1:6
- g Isa 10:24, 25

Along with the land and all those dwelling in it.^a

6 Who can stand before his indignation?^b

And who can withstand the heat of his anger?^c
His wrath will be poured out like fire,
And the rocks will be shattered because of him.

7 Jehovah is good,^d a strong-hold in the day of distress.^e

He is mindful of* those seeking refuge in him.^f

8 With a sweeping flood he will make a complete extermination of her* place,
And darkness will pursue his enemies.

9 What will you plot against Jehovah?

He is causing a complete extermination.

Distress will not arise a second time.^g

10 For they are interwoven like thorns,
And they are like those drunk with beer;*
But they will be consumed like dry stubble.

1:7 *Or "takes care of." Lit., "knows."

1:8 *That is, Nineveh's. 1:10 *Or "wheat beer."

1:1 *Meaning "Comforter."

- 11 From you will come one who plots evil against Jehovah, Giving worthless advice.
- 12 This is what Jehovah says: "Though they were at full strength and numerous, Even so they will be cut down and will pass away.* I have afflicted you,[#] but I will afflict you no more.
- 13 And now I will break his yoke bar from off you,^a And I will tear your bonds in two.
- 14 Jehovah has commanded concerning you,* 'Your name will not be perpetuated further. I will do away with the carved images and metal statues[#] from the house[^] of your gods. I will make a grave for you, because you are contemptible.'
- 15 Look! On the mountains are the feet of one bringing good news, The one proclaiming peace.^b Celebrate your festivals,^c O Judah, pay your vows, For the worthless one will never pass through you again. He will be utterly destroyed."^d
- 2** One who scatters has come up against you.*^d Guard the fortifications. Keep watch over the road. Brace yourselves[#] and muster all your strength.
- 2 For Jehovah will restore the pride of Jacob, Along with the pride of Israel, For the devastators have devastated them;^e

1:12 *Or possibly, "and he will pass through." [#]That is, Judah. 1:14 *That is, Assyria. [#]Or "molten statues."^e Or "temple." 2:1 *That is, Nineveh. [#]Lit., "Strengthen the hips."

CHAP. 1

a Isa 14:25

b Isa 52:7
Ro 10:15

c De 16:16

CHAP. 2

d Jer 25:9

e 2Ki 17:6

Second Col.

a Ge 10:8, 11

b Zep 2:13

c Zep 2:15

- And they have ruined their shoots.
- 3 The shields of his mighty men are dyed red, His warriors are dressed in crimson. The iron fittings of his war chariots flash like fire In the day he prepares for battle, And the juniper spears are brandished.
- 4 The war chariots race madly through the streets. They rush up and down the public squares. They shine like burning torches and flash like lightning.
- 5 He will summon his officers. They will stumble as they advance. They rush to her wall; They set up the barricade.
- 6 The gates of the rivers will be opened, And the palace will be dissolved.*
- 7 It has been decreed:* She is exposed, She is carried away, and her slave girls moan; They sound like doves as they beat their breasts.[#]
- 8 Throughout her days Nin'e-veh^a was like a pool of waters, But now they are fleeing. "Stand still! Stand still!" But no one is turning back.^b
- 9 Plunder silver, plunder gold! There is no end to the treasures. It is stocked with all sorts of precious things.
- 10 The city is empty, desolate, devastated!^c Their hearts melt in fear, their knees buckle, their hips tremble;

2:6 *Or "will collapse." 2:7 *Or "fixed." [#]Lit., "hearts."

- All their faces are flushed.
- 11** Where is the lair of lions,^a
where the young lions*
feed,
Where the lion goes out
leading its cub,
With no one to make them
afraid?
- 12** The lion tore apart enough
prey for his cubs
And strangled for his
lionesses.
He kept his dens filled with
prey,
His lairs with torn animals.
- 13** "Look! I am against
you," declares Jehovah
of armies,^b
"I will burn up her war
chariots in smoke,^c
And the sword will devour
your young lions.*
I will cut off your prey from
the earth,
And the sound of your
messengers will be heard
no more."^d
- 3** Woe to the city of bloodshed!
She is completely full of
deception and robbery.
She is never without prey!
- 2** There is the crack of the
whip and the rattle of
wheels,
The dashing horse and the
bounding chariot.
- 3** The mounted horseman,
the flashing sword, and
the glittering spear,
The multitude of the slain
and the heaps of carcasses
—There is no end to the dead
bodies.
They keep stumbling over
the dead bodies.
- 4** This is because of the many
acts of prostitution of the
prostitute,
She who is attractive and
charming, a mistress of
sorceries,

2:11, 13 *Or "maned young lions."

CHAP. 2

a Jer 2:14, 15
Jer 50:17

b Isa 10:12

c Ps 46:9
Isa 37:24

d 2Ki 18:17

Second Col.

CHAP. 3

a Na 2:13

b Zep 2:15

c Na 2:8

d Jer 46:25
Eze 30:14

e Isa 19:6

f Ge 10:6

g 2Ch 16:8
Jer 46:8, 9

h Isa 20:4

i Ps 75:8
Jer 25:15

Who ensnares nations by her
prostitution and families
by her sorceries.

- 5** "Look! I am against you,"*
declares Jehovah
of armies,^a
"I will lift your skirts up over
your face;
I will cause nations to see
your nakedness,
And kingdoms your disgrace.
- 6** And I will throw filth on you
And make you despicable;
I will make a spectacle
of you.^b
- 7** Everyone who sees you will
flee from you^c and say,
'Nin'e-veh has been
devastated!
Who will sympathize with
her?'
Where will I find comforters
for you?
- 8** Are you better than
No-a'mon,^{*d} which sat
by the Nile canals?^e
Waters surrounded her;
Her wealth was the sea and
her wall was the sea.
- 9** E-thi-o'pi-a was her source
of boundless strength,
also Egypt.
Put^f and the Lib'y-ans were
your helpers.^g
- 10** But even she became an
exile;
She went into captivity.^h
Her children also were
dashed to pieces on every
street corner.*
They cast lots over her
honored men,
And all her great men have
been bound with fetters.
- 11** You will also become drunk;ⁱ
You will go into hiding.
You will seek refuge from
the enemy.

3:5 *That is, Nineveh. 3:8 *That is, Thebes. 3:10 *Lit., "at the head of all streets."

- 12** All your fortifications are like fig trees with the first ripe fruits;
If they are shaken, they will fall into the mouth of devourers.
- 13** Look! Your troops are like women in your midst.
The gates of your land will be wide open for your enemies.
Fire will consume the bars of your gates.
- 14** Draw water for the siege!^a
Strengthen your fortifications.
Go down into the mire and tread the clay;
Grab hold of the brick mold.
- 15** Even there fire will consume you.
A sword will cut you down.^b
It will devour you as the young locusts do.^c
Make yourself as numerous as the young locusts!
Yes, make yourself as numerous as the locusts!
- 16** You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of the heavens.

CHAP. 3

a 2Ch 32:3, 4

b Zep 2:13

c Ex 10:14, 15

Second Col.

a Na 2:8

b Zep 2:15

c Isa 10:5, 6
Isa 37:18

- The young locust strips off its skin and flies away.
- 17** Your guards are like the locust,
And your officers like a locust swarm.
They camp in the stone pens on a cold day,
But when the sun shines, they fly away;
And no one knows where they are.
- 18** Your shepherds are drowsy,
O king of As-syr'i-a;
Your nobles stay in their residences.
Your people are scattered on the mountains,
And no one is gathering them together.^a
- 19** There is no relief for your catastrophe.
Your wound is beyond healing.
All those hearing the report about you will clap their hands;^b
For who has not suffered from your relentless cruelty?^c

HABAKKUK

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- 1** The prophet's cry for help (1-4)
"How long, O Jehovah?" (2)
"Why do you tolerate oppression?" (3)
The Chaldeans, God's tool for judgment (5-11)
The prophet pleads with Jehovah (12-17)
"My God, you do not die" (12)
"You are too pure to look at evil" (13)
- 2** 'I will keep watch as to what he will speak' (1)

- Jehovah's answer to the prophet (2-20)
'Keep in expectation of the vision' (3)
The righteous will live by faithfulness (4)
Five woes for the Chaldeans (6-20)
Knowledge of Jehovah will fill the earth (14)
- 3** The prophet prays for Jehovah to act (1-19)
God will save his anointed people (13)
Exulting in Jehovah despite distress (17, 18)

1 A pronouncement that Habak'kuk* the prophet received in a vision:

2 How long, O Jehovah, must I cry for help, but you do not hear?^a

How long must I ask for help from violence, but you do not intervene?^{*b}

3 Why do you make me witness wrongdoing?

And why do you tolerate oppression?

Why are destruction and violence before me?

And why do quarreling and conflict abound?

4 So law is paralyzed, and justice is never carried out.

For the wicked surround the righteous;

That is why justice is perverted.^c

5 "Look among the nations and pay attention! Stare in amazement and be astounded;

For something will happen in your days

That you will not believe even if it is told to you.^d

6 For here I am raising up the Chal-de'ans,^e the ruthless and impetuous nation.

They sweep through vast stretches of the earth

To seize homes not theirs.^f

7 They are frightening and fearsome. They establish their own justice and authority.^{*g}

8 Their horses are swifter than leopards, and they are fiercer than wolves in the night.^h Their warhorses gallop forward;

CHAP. 1

a Ps 13:1

b Ps 22:1
Ps 74:10
Re 6:10

c Job 12:6
Ps 12:8
Ec 8:11
Isa 1:21
Ac 7:52, 53

d Isa 28:21
Isa 29:14
La 4:11, 12
Ac 13:40, 41

e Jer 28:7
Jer 46:2

f De 28:49-51
Jer 5:15-17
Jer 6:22, 23
Eze 23:22, 23

g Jer 39:5-7
Da 5:18, 19

h Jer 5:6

Second Col.

a Jer 4:13
La 4:19
Eze 17:3

b Jer 25:9

c Isa 27:8
Eze 17:10

d 2Ki 24:12

e Jer 32:24
Jer 52:7

f Isa 47:5, 6
Jer 51:24
Zec 1:15

g Da 5:1, 4

h Ps 90:2
Ps 93:2
Re 1:8

i 1Ti 1:17
Re 15:3

j De 32:4

k Jer 30:11

l Ps 5:4, 5

m Jer 12:1

n Ps 35:21, 22

Their horses come from far away.

They swoop down like the eagle rushing to feed.^a

9 All of them come bent on violence.^b

The assembling of their faces is like the east wind,^c and they scoop up captives like sand.

10 They scoff at kings and laugh at high officials.^d They laugh at every fortified place;^e

They pile up a dirt ramp and capture it.

11 Then they move forward like the wind and pass through, but they will become guilty,^f because they credit their power to their god.^{*g}

12 Are you not from everlasting, O Jehovah?^h O my God, my Holy One, you do not die.^{*i}

O Jehovah, you appointed them to execute judgment; My Rock,^j you established them for punishment.^{*k}

13 Your eyes are too pure to look on what is evil, and you cannot tolerate wickedness.^l

Why, then, do you tolerate the treacherous?^m And keep silent when a wicked man swallows up someone more righteous than he is?ⁿ

14 Why do you make man like the fish of the sea, like creeping things that have no ruler?

15 All of these he* hauls up with a fishhook. He catches them in his dragnet, and he gathers them in his fishing net.

1:11 *Or possibly, "their power is their god." **1:12** *Or possibly, "we will not die." *Or "for reproving." **1:15** *That is, the Chaldean enemy.

1:1 Possibly meaning "Ardent Embrace." 1:2 *Or "save." 1:7 *Or "divinity."

That is why he rejoices greatly.^a

- 16** That is why he offers sacrifices to his dragnet And makes sacrifices* to his fishing net; For by them his portion is rich,[#] And his food is choice.
- 17** Will he then keep emptying out his dragnet?* Will he go on slaughtering nations without compassion?^b

2 At my guardpost I will keep standing,^c And I will station myself on the rampart. I will keep watch to see what he will speak by means of me And what I will reply when I am reproved.

- 2** Jehovah then answered me: “Write down the vision, and inscribe it clearly on tablets,^d So that the one reading aloud from it may do so easily.^e”

3 For the vision is yet for its appointed time, And it is rushing toward its end,* and it will not lie. Even if it should delay,[#] keep in expectation of it!^{Δf} For it will without fail come true. It will not be late!

4 Look at the one who is proud;* He is not upright within himself. But the righteous one will live by his faithfulness.^{#g}

5 Indeed, because the wine is treacherous,

1:16 *Or “sacrificial smoke.” #Lit., “well-oiled.” **1:17** *Or possibly, “keep drawing his sword?” **2:2** *Or “fluently.” **2:3** *Or “fulfillment.” #Or “if it seems to delay.” ΔOr “wait eagerly for it!” **2:4** *Or “Look! His soul is swelled up.” #Or possibly, “faith; belief.”

CHAP. 1

a Jer 50:11

b 2Ch 36:17
Na 3:7

CHAP. 2

c Isa 21:8
Mic 7:7

d Ex 17:14

e De 31:9, 11

f Mic 7:7

g Joh 3:36
Ro 1:17
Ga 3:11
Heb 10:38

Second Col.

a Isa 14:16, 17

b Isa 14:4

c Jer 51:11

d Isa 13:19
Jer 27:6, 7
Zec 2:7-9

e 2Ch 36:17
Ps 137:8

f Isa 14:20

The arrogant man will not reach his goal.

He makes his appetite* as large as the Grave;[#] He is like death and cannot be satisfied.

He keeps gathering all the nations

And collecting for himself all the peoples.^a

- 6** Will not all of these speak a proverb, an allusion, and riddles against him?^b

They will say:

“Woe to him who accumulates what is not his

—For how long?—

And who makes even greater his own debt!

- 7** Will not your creditors rise up suddenly?

They will wake up and violently shake you,

And you will become something for them to plunder.^c

- 8** Because you plundered many nations, All the rest of the peoples will plunder you,^d

Because of your shedding men’s blood

And your violence to the earth,

To the cities and those living in them.^e

- 9** Woe to the one who makes evil gain for his house, So as to set his nest on the height,

To escape the grasp of calamity!

- 10** You have plotted shame against your house.

By wiping out many peoples you sin against yourself.^{#f}

- 11** For a stone will cry out from the wall, And from the woodwork a rafter will answer it.

2:5 *Or “soul.” #Or “Sheol,” that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary. **2:10** *Or “your soul.”

- 12** Woe to the one who builds a city by bloodshed,
And who establishes a town by unrighteousness!
- 13** Look! Is it not from Jehovah of armies that peoples will work hard to feed the fire,
And that nations tire themselves out for nothing?^a
- 14** For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Jehovah
As the waters cover the sea.^b
- 15** Woe to the one who gives his companions something to drink,
Adding to it rage and anger, to make them drunk,
In order to look on their nakedness!
- 16** You will be glutted with dishonor rather than glory.
You too—drink and expose your uncircumcised condition.*
The cup in the right hand of Jehovah will come around to you,^c
And disgrace will cover over your glory;
- 17** For the violence done to Leb'a-non will cover you,
And the destruction that terrified the beasts will come upon you,
Because of your shedding men's blood
And your violence to the earth,
To the cities and those living in them.^d
- 18** Of what benefit is a carved image
When its maker has carved it?
Of what benefit is a metal statue* and a teacher of lies,
Even though its maker trusts in it,

2:16 *Or possibly, "and stagger." 2:18 *Or "molten statue."

CHAP. 2

a Jer 51:58

b Ps 72:19

Isa 11:9

Zec 14:9

c Ps 75:8

Isa 51:22, 23

Jer 25:28

Jer 51:57

d Ps 137:8

Jer 50:28

Jer 51:24

Second Col.

a Isa 42:17

Isa 44:19, 20

Isa 45:20

b Isa 40:19

Isa 46:6

c Jer 51:17

d Isa 6:1

e Ps 76:8

Ps 115:3

Zec 2:13

CHAP. 3

f La 3:32

g De 33:2

Jg 5:4

Ps 68:7, 8

h Ex 19:16

i Ex 13:21

j Nu 14:11, 12

Nu 16:46

Nu 25:1, 9

k Isa 13:13

Hag 2:21

l Ex 14:25

Ex 23:27

m Ps 114:1, 4

Na 1:5

Making worthless gods that are speechless?^a

- 19** Woe to the one who says to a piece of wood, "Awake!"
Or to a speechless stone, "Wake up! Instruct us!"
Look! It is overlaid in gold and silver,^b
And there is no breath at all within it.^c
- 20** But Jehovah is in his holy temple.^d
Be silent before him, all the earth!"^e
- 3** The prayer of Ha-bak'kuk the prophet, in dirges.*
- 2** O Jehovah, I have heard the report about you.
I am in awe, O Jehovah, of your activity.
In the midst of the years* bring it to life!
In the midst of the years* make it known.
May you remember to show mercy during the turmoil.^f
- 3** God came from Te'man, The Holy One from Mount Pa'ran.^g (*Selah*)*
His majesty covered the heavens;^h
With his praise the earth was filled.
- 4** His brightness was like the light.ⁱ
Two rays flashed from his hand,
Where his strength was hidden.
- 5** Before him went pestilence,^j And burning fever followed at his feet.
- 6** He stood still and shook the earth.^k
With a look, he made nations leap.^l
The eternal mountains were smashed,
And the ancient hills bowed down.^m

3:1 *Or "songs of mourning." 3:2 *Or possibly, "In our time." 3:3 *See Glossary.

The paths of long ago are his.

- 7** I saw trouble in the tents of Cu'shan.
The tent cloths of the land of Mid'i-an trembled.^a
- 8** Is it against the rivers, O Jehovah,
Is it against the rivers that your anger is burning?
Or is your fury against the sea?^b
For you rode on your horses;^c
Your chariots were victorious.^{*d}
- 9** Your bow is uncovered and ready.
The rods* are assigned with an oath.[#] (*Selah*)
You split the earth with rivers.
- 10** Mountains writhed in pain at the sight of you.^e
A downpour of waters swept through.
The deep roared with its voice.^f
It lifted its hands high.
- 11** Sun and moon stood still in their lofty abode.^g
Your arrows went out like the light.^h
The lightning of your spear was brilliant.
- 12** You marched through the earth with indignation.
You trampled* the nations in anger.
- 13** You went out for the salvation of your people, to save your anointed one.
You crushed the leader* of the house of the wicked.
It was exposed from the foundation to the top.[#] (*Selah*)

3:8 *Or "salvation." **3:9** *Or possibly, "arrows." #Or possibly, "The sworn oaths of the tribes are stated." **3:12** *Lit., "threshed." **3:13** *Lit., "head." #Lit., "neck."

CHAP. 3

a Ex 15:14, 15
Nu 22:3, 4

b Ps 114:1, 3
Isa 50:2
Na 1:4

c De 33:26

d Ps 68:17

e Ex 19:18
Ps 114:1, 4

f Ps 77:16

g Jos 10:12

h Ps 77:17, 18

Second Col.

a Ps 119:120
Jer 23:9
Da 8:27

b Ps 42:5
Isa 26:20
La 3:26

c Ex 15:2
1Sa 2:1
Ps 18:2
Ps 27:1
Isa 61:10

d Isa 12:2
Php 4:13

e 2Sa 22:34

- 14** You pierced the head of his warriors with his own weapons*
When they stormed out to scatter me.
They were overjoyed to devour an afflicted one in secret.
- 15** Through the sea you trod with your horses,
Through the surging of vast waters.
- 16** I heard and I trembled within;*
At the sound my lips quivered.
Rottenness entered my bones;^a
My legs beneath me were shaking.
But I quietly wait for the day of distress,^b
For it is coming upon the people who attack us.
- 17** Although the fig tree may not blossom,
And there may be no fruit on the vines;
Although the olive crop may fail,
And the fields* may produce no food;
Although the flock may disappear from the pen,
And there may be no cattle in the stalls;
- 18** Yet, as for me, I will exult in Jehovah;
I will be joyful in the God of my salvation.^c
- 19** The Sovereign Lord Jehovah is my strength;^d
He will make my feet like those of a deer
And cause me to tread on high places.^e
To the director;
with my stringed instruments.

3:14 *Lit., "his rods." **3:16** *Lit., "and my belly trembled." **3:17** *Or "terraces."

- Song 129 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Remain Spiritually Alert and Active”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Nahum.*]
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Hab 2:1-4—In order to survive the coming day of Jehovah’s judgment, we must “keep in expectation of it” (w07 11/15 10 ¶3-5)
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What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Hab 2:15–3:6

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- Song 142 and Prayer

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Hab 1:5, 6

The impending destruction of Judah by the Babylonians may have seemed unlikely. Judah was under the powerful influence of Egypt. The Chaldeans were not stronger than Egypt, were they? In addition, it was unthinkable to many Jews that Jehovah would allow Jerusalem and its temple to be destroyed. Nonetheless, the prophecy would come true, and Habakkuk needed to keep in expectation of it by remaining spiritually alert and active.

 What convinces me that the end of this system of things is very near?

How can I remain spiritually alert and active?



Remain Spiritually Alert and Active When Your Circumstances Change

Changes are unavoidable, especially during these last days. (1Co 7:31) Whether expected or not, good or bad, changes can disrupt our worship and strain our relationship with Jehovah. What will help us to remain spiritually alert and active during times of change? Watch the video *Staying Spiritually Grounded While Moving*, and then answer the following questions:



What advice did one brother give the father?

How did the principle found at Matthew 7:25 apply to the family's situation?

How did the family plan ahead for the move, and how did this help them?

What helped the family to adapt to changes both in the congregation and in the territory?

Major changes that I have experienced recently:

How can I apply the principles found in this video to my situation?

November 27–December 3

Treasures From God's Word

Habakkuk 2:1-4—In order to survive the coming day of Jehovah's judgment, we must "keep in expectation of it"

Reference: w07 11/15 10 **paragraphs 3-5**.

Like Habakkuk, we should remain spiritually alert and active. We should also be ready to adjust our thinking in line with any "reproof," or correction, we may receive.

As we wait in faith for the coming of Jehovah's day, let us not lose the sense of urgency.

To survive the coming day of Jehovah's judgment, we must endure in faithfulness.—Hebrews 10:36-38.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Nahum 1:8; 2:6—How was Nineveh exterminated?

Reference: w07 11/15 9 **paragraph 2**.

What "gates of the rivers" were opened? These gates referred to the opening made in the walls of Nineveh by the waters of the Tigris River. In 632 B.C.E. when the joint forces of the Babylonians and the Medes came up against Nineveh, she did not feel particularly threatened. Secure behind her high walls, she considered herself to be an impenetrable city. However, heavy rains caused the Tigris to overflow. According to historian Diodorus, this "both inundated a portion of the city and broke down the walls for a distance." The river gates were thus opened, and as foretold, Nineveh was taken as quickly as fire devours dry stubble.—Nahum 1:8-10.

Habakkuk 3:17-19—Although we may face hardship before and during Armageddon, what confidence can we have?

Reference: w07 11/15 10 **paragraph 10**.

Even though hardship may befall us before and during Armageddon, we can be confident that Jehovah will supply us with "vital energy" as we joyfully continue serving him.

- Song 129 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

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How can I remain spiritually alert and active?



Your Family Can Be Happy



Your Family Can Be Happy

In these critical times when marriage and family are under attack, is it possible to be happy as a family? This is not a simple matter. But there is help available. Even though this brochure is not a complete marriage manual, it highlights solid Bible principles and practical suggestions. If applied properly, these will contribute to the happiness of your family.



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WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Publishers

WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.
Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A.

January 2014 Printing

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

Your Family Can Be Happy
English (hf-E)

Made in the United States of America

Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

Talk: Can You Help in Your Congregation?

Reference: w16.03 23-25

Can You Help in *Your* Congregation?

Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus told his disciples: “You will be witnesses of me ... to the most distant part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) How was it possible for the early Christians to meet that challenge?

Martin Goodman, professor at Oxford University, observes that the “sense of mission set Christians apart from other religious groups, including Jews, in the early Roman empire.” Jesus had traveled from place to place to carry out his ministry. Following his example, true Christians would have understood that spreading “the good news of the Kingdom of God” would involve finding people who desired to know Bible truth. (Luke 4:43) This is one of the reasons why the first-century Christian congregation had “apostles,” a term that literally refers to those sent forth, envoys. (Mark 3:14) Jesus commanded his followers: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations.” —**Matthew 28:18-20.**

We do not have any of the 12 apostles of Jesus with us on earth today, but many servants of Jehovah manifest a missionary spirit. To the invitation to expand their preaching work, they respond: “Here I am! Send me!” (**Isaiah 6:8**) Some, such as thousands of graduates of Gilead School, have moved to faraway lands. Others have moved to a different area of their native country. Many have learned a new language in order to be part of congregations and groups looking after the needs of those speaking that language. These brothers and sisters who move to where there is a particular need or who learn a new language may not have had the most favorable circumstances and may not have had an easy time. They needed a spirit of self-sacrifice to manifest their love for Jehovah and for their neighbor. Having calculated the cost, they gave of themselves to help. (Luke 14:28-30) Brothers and sisters taking such steps are filling a real need.

However, circumstances differ. Not every Witness is in a position to move to where the need is greater or to take up a new language. So can we show a missionary spirit even in our own congregation?

Be a Missionary in *Your* Congregation

First-century Christians had an evident missionary spirit, but it is likely that most of them stayed in their hometown. Still, the exhortation that was given to Timothy was as valid for them as it is for all of God’s servants: “Do the work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry.” (**2 Timothy 4:5**) The command to preach the Kingdom message and to make disciples applies to all Christians wherever they are. Moreover, many aspects of missionary work can be applied in our home congregation.

For example, a missionary in a foreign land has to adapt to new circumstances. Many things are very different in his or her new assignment. What about us if we cannot move to where the need is greater? Should we conclude that we know everything about our congregation’s territory? Or could we try to find innovative ways to reach people? For example, in 1940, brothers were encouraged to schedule a day each week to do street witnessing. Is that something that you can have a share in doing? Or what about the initiative to use literature display carts? The point is: Have you personally considered such ways of presenting the good news, ways that may be new to you?

Having a positive attitude will help us to be zealous and enthusiastic for the ministry. In many cases, those who make themselves available to move to where the need is greater or to serve in another

language field are very qualified publishers. Thus they can be a blessing to many, such as when they take the lead in the field ministry. Moreover, missionaries often take the lead in the congregation arrangements until qualified local brothers are available. If you are a baptized male Witness, are you “reaching out,” being willing to serve fellow believers in your congregation?—**1 Timothy 3:1**.

Become “a Strengthening Aid”

In addition to participating zealously in the field ministry and being available to take on responsibilities in the congregation, there are other areas in which we can help our congregation. Anybody—young or old, male or female—can become “a strengthening aid” to fellow believers in need.—**Colossians 4:11, footnote**

To be of help to our fellow believers, we need to get to know them well. The Bible exhorts us to “consider one another” when we meet together. (**Hebrews 10:24**) These words suggest that while we do not pry into other people’s affairs, we should seek to know and understand our brothers and their needs. Those needs may be of a practical, emotional, or spiritual nature. Helping fellow believers is not the responsibility of just the elders and ministerial servants. True, there may be occasions when it would be particularly appropriate for one of those brothers to provide assistance. (**Galatians 6:1**) Yet, all of us may be able to assist elderly brothers and sisters, or entire families, who are facing problems.

Pictures, page 23: Seek to understand the practical, emotional, and spiritual needs of your brothers and sisters

For instance, when Salvatore experienced a financial crisis that made it necessary for him to sell his business, his home, and many of the family’s belongings, he wondered how his family could cope. Another family in the congregation saw the need. They provided financial assistance, helped both Salvatore and his wife to find work, and spent many evenings listening to and encouraging the whole family. A friendship was forged that has lasted many years. Despite the real anxiety that marked the earlier period, both families can now look back with happy memories on the time they spent together.

For true Christians, religion is not something private. As demonstrated by Jesus, we need to let everyone know about the wonderful Bible promises. Whether we are in a position to move or not, we can do our best to work what is good toward all. And we certainly can do so in the congregation where we are already serving. (**Galatians 6:10**) By doing this, we will experience the joy of giving and will be helped to “go on bearing fruit in every good work.”—**Colossians 1:10; Acts 20:35**.

Pictures, pages 24-25:

Make good use of your current circumstances to fill a real need

Encourage others to “do the work of an evangelizer”

Give practical assistance

Offer emotional support to those who struggle with the anxieties of life

21

Keep On Seeking First the Kingdom

(Matthew 6:33)

F B♭ B♭/A Cm/G F7 B♭ Eb/F F7 B♭ B♭/A B♭add9/G B♭/F

Some-thing pre - cious to Je - ho - vah, Bring - ing him such keen de -
 Why be anx - ious for to - mor - row, 'Will we hun - ger, will we
 So de - clare the King - dom good news; Help de - serv - ing ones to

E♭ G/D Cm G7 Cm Cm7 Gm7 C7

light, Is his King - dom by Christ Je - sus, Which will set all mat - ters
 thirst?' For our God will make pro - vi - sion If we seek his King - dom
 see That their hope is in Je - ho - vah And in his The - oc - ra -

F7sus4 F7 *Chorus* B♭ Dm7/A Gm B♭ma7/F F/E♭ E♭ G7 Cm7 F7

right.
 first. Keep on seek - ing first the King - dom And Je - ho - vah's righ - teous -
 cy.

F/B♭ B♭ F7 B♭ B♭/D D° Cm/E♭ E° B♭/F Cm7 F B♭

ness. Sing his praise a - mong the na - tions, Serv - ing him in faith - ful - ness.

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- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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[Link to Video](#)

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The Kingdom Carries Out God's Will on Earth

22

A FAITHFUL brother arrives at the meeting, tired after a stressful day. He has faced mistreatment from a demanding boss, stress over the challenges of caring for his family, and anxiety over an illness afflicting his wife. As the music for the opening song begins, he breathes a sigh of relief, glad to be at the Kingdom Hall with his brothers and sisters. The song is about the hope of life in Paradise, and the lyrics ask him to picture that hope, to see himself in that setting. He has always loved this song, and as he sings it along with his family, hope stirs within his troubled heart.

² Have you ever felt that way? Most of us have. Admittedly, though, life in this old system can make it very difficult for us to see the coming Paradise as a reality. These are “critical times hard to deal with,” and the world we live in is anything but paradisaic. (2 Tim. 3:1) What can help us to see our hope as real? Well, how do we really know that soon God's Kingdom will rule all mankind? Let us consider a few of the prophecies from Jehovah that his people saw fulfilled in the ancient past. Then we will review how those and similar prophecies are undergoing a thrilling fulfillment right now. Finally, with our faith thus bolstered, we will focus on what such prophecies mean for our future.

How Jehovah Fulfilled His Promises in the Distant Past

³ Imagine what life was like for the Jews living in exile in Babylon back in the sixth century B.C.E. Many grew up in exile, as did their parents, and life was hard. The Babylonians ridiculed them for their faith in Jehovah. (Ps. 137:1-3) Through the decades, loyal Jews kept clinging to this one bright hope: Jehovah promised to gather his people back to their homeland. Jehovah said that conditions would be wonderful there. He even compared the restored land of Judah to the garden of Eden—a paradise! **(Read Isaiah 51:3.)**

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

The Kingdom fulfills all of God's promises regarding mankind and the earth

- 1, 2. (a) Why may it be difficult at times to see the Paradise as real? (b) What can help us to strengthen our faith in God's promises?
3. What promise comforted the Jews living in exile in Babylon?

4. How did Jehovah assure the Jews regarding security in their homeland?

5. What prophecies helped the returning exiles to be confident that Jehovah would provide abundantly for their needs?

6. God's people had long suffered from what kind of health problems, and of what did Jehovah assure the returning exiles?

Such promises were clearly designed to reassure God's people, addressing doubts that might trouble their hearts. How so? Consider some specific prophecies.

4 Security. Those exiles would return, not to a literal paradise, but to a distant land that had lain desolate for 70 years, a land that few of them had ever seen. Lions were common in Bible lands back then, as were wolves, leopards, and other predators. A family man might wonder, 'How will I keep my wife and children safe? What about the sheep and cattle—how will I protect them?' Such concerns would be only natural. Think, then, of God's promise recorded at **Isaiah 11:6-9** and of how comforting it must have been. **(Read.)** With those lovely poetic words, Jehovah assured the exiles that they and their livestock would be safe. The lion would eat straw in the sense that it would not devour the Jews' cattle. Faithful ones would have nothing to fear from such predators. Jehovah promised that his people would be safe in the restored land of Judah, even in the wilderness and in the forests.—Ezek. 34:25.

5 Abundance. Other concerns might arise. 'Will I be able to feed my family in the restored homeland? Where will we live? Will there be any work, and will it be better than the drudgery of living in exile under the thumb of our conquerors?' Through inspired prophecies, Jehovah considerately addressed those questions too. Jehovah promised that his obedient people would find the rains reliable; as a result, the ground would produce "abundant and rich" bread. (Isa. 30:23) As to shelter and meaningful work, Jehovah promised concerning his people: "They will build houses and live in them, and they will plant vineyards and eat their fruitage. They will not build for someone else to inhabit, nor will they plant for others to eat." (Isa. 65:21, 22) Yes, in many ways life would be wonderful compared with their exile in pagan Babylon. But what about their most serious problems—the ones that led to their exile in the first place?

6 Spiritual health. Long before their exile, God's people had grown spiritually sick. Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah said of his people: "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is diseased." (Isa. 1:5) Spiritually, they were blind and deaf, for they kept stopping up their ears to Jehovah's counsel and closing their eyes to the enlightenment he offered. (Isa. 6:10; Jer. 5:21; Ezek. 12:2) If the same problems were to plague the returning exiles, what security could they have? Would they not simply lose Jehovah's favor again? How reassuring was Jehovah's promise: "In

that day the deaf will hear the words of the book, and out of the gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.” (Isa. 29:18) Yes, Jehovah would bring spiritual healing to his chastened, repentant people. As long as they remained responsive and obedient, he would provide life-giving direction and enlightenment.

⁷ Did Jehovah live up to his promises? The answer is a matter of historical record. The Jews who returned to their homeland were blessed with security, abundance, and spiritual health. For example, Jehovah protected them from neighboring peoples who were stronger and more numerous than they. Predators did not wipe out the Jews’ livestock. True, those Jews saw only a limited fulfillment of the paradisaic prophecies that men such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel wrote down—but the fulfillment that God’s people saw was thrilling and just what they needed at the time. As we reflect on what Jehovah did for his people back then, our faith will grow stronger. If the initial, limited fulfillment of those prophecies was exciting, what would the greater fulfillment be like? Consider what Jehovah has done for us today.

How Jehovah Has Started to Fulfill His Promises in Our Own Time

⁸ Jehovah’s people do not now form a literal nation, nor do they occupy a single, physical land. Rather, anointed Christians make up a spiritual nation, “the Israel of God.” (Gal. 6:16) Their companions of the “other sheep” join them in a spiritual “land,” a realm of activity in which they worship Jehovah God unitedly. That worship is their way of life. (John 10:16; Isa. 66:8) And what kind of a “land” has Jehovah given us? It is a spiritual paradise. Here God’s promises about Edenic conditions have seen a wonderful spiritual fulfillment. Consider some examples.

⁹ **Security.** In the prophecy recorded at Isaiah 11:6-9, we find a delightful picture of harmony and peace—between wild animals on the one hand and humans with their domestic animals on the other. Does that picture find a spiritual fulfillment today? Yes! In verse 9, we learn why it is that such creatures will cause neither harm nor ruin: “Because the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters cover the sea.” Does “knowledge of Jehovah” change the behavior of animals? No, it is people who are transformed by coming to know the Most High God and learning to imitate his peaceful ways. That

7. How were God’s promises to his exiled people fulfilled, and why should we find that fulfillment faith-strengthening?

8. God’s people today enjoy what sort of “land”?

9, 10. (a) How is the prophecy of Isaiah 11:6-9 being fulfilled today?

(b) What evidence of peace do we find among God’s people?

Awake!

No. 6 2017



IS THE WORLD
OUT OF CONTROL?

Holding Fast to Our Hope

(Hebrews 6:18, 19)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bb Gm6/Bb Bb Gm6/Bb Bb6 E7/B B° A/C#

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

Holding Fast to Our Hope

Chorus

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

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

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of the chorus. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords: D, Dma7, G, G/B, Gm/Bb, A, Bm7, A7/C#, and D. The lyrics are: "Sing with good cheer, for God's King - dom is here! His".

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

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

Detailed description: This block contains the second line of the chorus. The treble clef staff continues the melody with quarter notes: B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C#3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with chords: Bm, Bm/A, G, Em7, A7, G/B, A7/C#, and D. The lyrics are: "Son's might - y reign brings us free - dom from fear."

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

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

Detailed description: This block contains the third line of the chorus. The treble clef staff continues the melody with quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with chords: Dma7, G, G/B, Gm/Bb, A, Bm7, A7/C#, and D. The lyrics are: "Through him, at last, e - vil soon will be past; This".

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

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

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth line of the chorus. The treble clef staff continues the melody with quarter notes: B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C#3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with chords: Bm, Bm/A, G, G/B, Gm/Bb, A7, G/A, A7, and D. The lyrics are: "hope, like an an - chor, is hold - ing us fast."

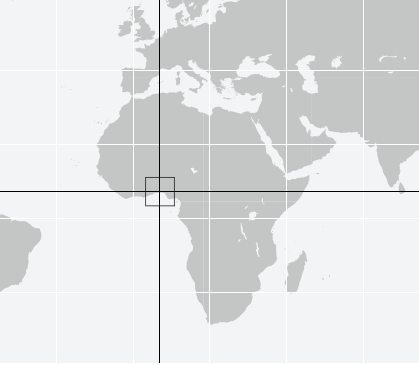
OCTOBER 2017

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
NOVEMBER 27–DECEMBER 24, 2017



COVER IMAGE:
NIGERIA

One of the many metropolitan witnessing stands in Lagos, the most populous city in Africa. At this one location, an average of six Bible studies are requested every month

PUBLISHERS
370,336

BIBLE STUDIES
870,185

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2016)
774,874

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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 15 October 2017 is published monthly with an additional issue published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by 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, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2017 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

October 2017
Vol. 138, No. 15 ENGLISH

Cultivating the Quality of Love

(1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

C7 F C/E F C/Bb Bb D7/A

We hum - bly bow to our God in prayer, That
 Love looks for ways to give gra - cious - ly And

Gm D/F# Gm Gm7/C Am/C C7

all his qual - i - ties we may share. But
 thinks of oth - ers un - self - ish - ly. Love

F/A Gm/Bb D7/A Gm

most im - por - tant of all those things is
 nev - er har - bors a hate - ful thought, For -

C7 Gm7 C Bb/F C7/F F

love, which hav - ing his spir - it brings. We
 gives our broth - ers, as Je - sus taught. Love

Cultivating the Quality of Love

B \flat F/A B \flat /F C C/B \flat B \flat D7/A

may helps be us tal - ent - ed, wise, or bold, But
pa - tient - ly suf - fer wrong, Bears

Gm6 Gm7 C7 B \flat /C C7 E $^{\circ}$ F

we are noth - ing if love grows cold. We
heav - y loads when it's real - ly strong. Through

F/E \flat B \flat /D F/C B \flat B $^{\circ}$ E7/B

pray for love that is warm and true, Re -
ev - 'ry tri - al let love pre - vail; It

F/C C7 B \flat /F C7 B \flat m6/F F

vealed in all that we say and do.
bears all things; it will nev - er fail.



“Love . . . in Deed and Truth”

*“We should love, not in word or with the tongue,
but in deed and truth.”—1 JOHN 3:18.*

LOVE based on right principles (*a-ga’pe*) is a gift from Jehovah. He is its Source. (1 John 4:7) This kind of love is the highest form of love. While it can include affection and warmth, it is primarily identified by unselfish actions for the good of others. According to one reference work, *a-ga’pe* “can be known only from the actions it prompts.” When we show or are shown unselfish love, our lives are enriched, being filled with joy and meaning.

² Jehovah showed love for humans even before he created Adam and Eve. He made the earth to be man’s everlasting home, a place where man does not just survive but enjoys life to the full. Jehovah did this solely for our benefit, not for personal gain. He further showed unselfish love by blessing his children on earth with the prospect of living forever in the Paradise that he had prepared for them.

³ After Adam and Eve rebelled, Jehovah made his greatest

1. What is the highest form of love, and why is that so? (See opening image.)
- 2, 3. How has Jehovah shown unselfish love for humans?

SONGS: 106, 100

CAN YOU RECALL?

What is the highest form of love?

What is “love free from hypocrisy”?

How can we be sure that our love is genuine?

expression of unselfish love. He arranged to ransom the future descendants of those two rebels, certain that some of them would respond favorably to His love. (Gen. 3:15; 1 John 4:10) In fact, from the moment that Jehovah promised a future Savior, He viewed this sacrifice as already made. Then, some 4,000 years later, Jehovah at great personal cost sacrificed his only-begotten Son for the world of mankind. (John 3:16) How grateful we are for Jehovah's unselfish love!

⁴ We are able to show unselfish love because God created us in his image. Inherited sin has made it challenging for us to manifest love, but it has not removed our ability to do so. Abel showed love for God by unselfishly offering the best of what he had. (Gen. 4:3, 4) Noah displayed unselfish love for his fellow man by preaching God's message for decades despite not seeing any response from the people. (2 Pet. 2:5) Abraham put his love for God ahead of his own feelings when he was commanded to offer up his son Isaac. (Jas. 2:21) Like those faithful men, we want to show love, despite the challenges we face.

GENUINE LOVE VERSUS COUNTERFEIT LOVE

⁵ The Bible explains that genuine love is shown, "not in word or with the tongue, but in deed and truth." (1 John 3:18) Does this mean that we cannot express love through our speech? Not at all! (1 Thess. 4:18) Rather, it means that our love must not be limited to words, especially when the circumstances call

4. What indicates that imperfect humans are able to show unselfish love?

5. In what ways can we show genuine love?

for action. For example, when a fellow Christian lacks the basic necessities of life, he needs more than our good wishes. (Jas. 2:15, 16) Similarly, love for Jehovah and our neighbor moves us not only to ask God 'to send out workers into the harvest' but also to have a full share in the preaching work.—Matt. 9:38.

⁶ The apostle John wrote that we must love "in deed *and truth*." Thus, our love must be "without hypocrisy," or "free from hypocrisy." (Rom. 12:9; 2 Cor. 6:6) This means that we cannot show genuine love while pretending to be something that we are not, as if we were wearing a mask. We might wonder, 'Is there such a thing as love *with* hypocrisy?' Not really. This would not be love at all but a worthless imitation.

⁷ Consider some examples of counterfeit love. In the garden of Eden, Satan pretended to be looking out for Eve's best interests, but his actions were actually selfish and hypocritical. (Gen. 3:4, 5) In David's day, Ahithophel proved that his friendship with the king was a fraud. Ahithophel turned traitor when he felt that he would gain an advantage. (2 Sam. 15:31) Likewise today, apostates and others who create divisions in the congregation use "smooth talk and flattering speech" to make themselves appear to be loving, but their true motive is selfish.—Rom. 16:17, 18.

⁸ Hypocritical love is especially shameful because it is a counterfeit of the godly quality of self-sacrificing love. Such hypocrisy might fool men, but not

6, 7. (a) What is "love free from hypocrisy"?
(b) What are some examples of counterfeit love?

8. What question should we ask ourselves?

Jehovah. In fact, Jesus said that those who are like hypocrites would be punished “with the greatest severity.” (Matt. 24:51) Of course, Jehovah’s servants would never want to display hypocritical love. However, we do well to ask ourselves, ‘Is my love always genuine, not tainted by selfishness or deception?’ Let us consider nine ways we can strive to show love that is “free from hypocrisy.”

HOW TO SHOW “LOVE . . . IN DEED AND TRUTH”

⁹ *Be happy to serve in the background.* We should be willing to perform acts of love for our brothers “in secret,” or out of the limelight, when this is possible. **(Read Matthew 6:1-4.)** Ananias and Sapphira failed to do that. Not content to donate anonymously, they blatantly exaggerated their offering and suffered disaster for their hypocrisy. (Acts 5:1-10) In contrast, genuine love moves us to find joy in serving our brothers without fanfare or recognition. For instance, the brothers who support the Governing Body in helping to prepare spiritual food do so anonymously, not drawing attention to themselves or revealing the material they have worked on.

¹⁰ *Take the lead in showing honor to others.* **(Read Romans 12:10.)** Jesus set the pattern in honoring others by performing the lowliest of tasks. (John 13:3-5, 12-15) We may have to work hard to develop the humility needed to show honor to others in this way. Even the apostles could not fully understand Jesus’ actions until they received holy spirit.

(John 13:7) We can show honor to others by not thinking too much of ourselves because of our education, material possessions, or privileges in Jehovah’s service. (Rom. 12:3) And rather than envying those who receive praise, we rejoice with them even if we feel that we deserve equal honor or a share of the credit for what was done.

¹¹ *Commend your brothers sincerely.* We should seize opportunities to commend one another because such expressions are “good for building up.” (Eph. 4:29) However, we must be sincere. Otherwise, we could actually be flattering the person or avoiding our responsibility to provide needed counsel. (Prov. 29:5) To commend someone but then tear him down behind his back is a form of hypocrisy. The apostle Paul avoided that trap and set a fine example in showing genuine love in the way he commended others. For example, he sincerely commended the Christians in Corinth regarding some aspects of their conduct. (1 Cor. 11:2) But when their actions did not deserve commendation, he explained the reason to them kindly and clearly.—1 Cor. 11:20-22.

¹² *Be hospitable.* Jehovah commands us to be generous toward our brothers and sisters. **(Read 1 John 3:17.)** Yet, we must do so with a pure motive, avoiding any trace of selfishness. We can ask ourselves: ‘Do I offer hospitality primarily to close friends, prominent ones, or those who might be able to return a favor somehow? Or do I instead look for ways to be generous toward brothers and sisters whom I do not know well

9. What will genuine love move us to do?

10. How can we take the lead in showing honor to others?

11. Why must our commendation be sincere?

12. How can we show genuine love when we offer hospitality?

or who have nothing with which to repay me?’ (Luke 14:12-14) Or suppose a fellow Christian falls into need because of poor planning or fails to thank us for our hospitality. In such situations, we should apply the counsel: “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.” (1 Pet. 4:9) If you follow this advice, you will gain the reward of happiness that comes from giving with the right motive.—Acts 20:35.

13 *Support those who are weak.* The genuineness of our love can be tested by the Bible’s command to “support the weak, be patient toward all.” (1 Thess. 5:14) Although many who are weak later become strong in the faith, others need our patient, ongoing support. This can include sharing upbuilding Scriptural thoughts, inviting them to join us in the ministry, or just taking time to listen to them. In addition, instead of simply thinking that a brother or a sister is either “strong” or “weak,” we should recognize that we all have strengths and weaknesses. Even the apostle Paul acknowledged his own weaknesses. (2 Cor. 12:9, 10) Thus, we can all benefit from the support of fellow Christians.

14 *Make peace.* We do everything in our power to maintain peace with our brothers, even when we feel that we have been misunderstood or treated unfairly. **(Read Romans 12:17, 18.)** An apology can help to repair hurt feelings, but it must be sincere. For instance, rather than saying, “I’m sorry that you feel that way,” you could admit your role in the

13. (a) When can it be especially challenging to help those who are weak? (b) What practical things can we do to support the weak?

14. How far should we be willing to go to maintain peace with our brothers?



Giving to our brothers in need is one way to show our love and hospitality
(See paragraph 12)

problem by saying, “I’m sorry that I hurt you by what I said.” Peace is especially vital in a marriage. A husband and a wife should not pretend to love each other in public but then use the silent treatment, cruel words, or physical violence to hurt each other in private.

15 *Forgive freely.* We forgive by pardoning someone who has offended us and by letting go of our resentment toward him. By “putting up with one another in love, earnestly endeavoring to maintain the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace,” we can freely forgive those who may not be aware that they offended us. (Eph. 4:2, 3) For our forgiveness to be genuine, we must control our thinking so that we do “not keep account of the injury.” (1 Cor. 13:4, 5) If we were to harbor resentment or hold a grudge, we would risk permanently damaging our relationship not only with our brother or sister but also with Jeho-

15. How can we show that our forgiveness is genuine?



vah. (Matt. 6:14, 15) We can also demonstrate our sincere forgiveness by praying for those who sin against us.—Luke 6: 27, 28.

¹⁶ *Sacrifice personal advantages.* If we receive privileges in Jehovah's service, we should view these as opportunities to show the genuineness of our love by "seeking, not [our] own advantage, but that of the other person." (1 Cor. 10:24) For example, at our assemblies and conventions, attendants are on duty in the seating area before others are scheduled to enter. Instead of viewing their assignment as an opportunity to get the best seats for themselves and their families, many of these brothers choose to sit in less favorable seats within their assigned section. By sacrificing their personal advantage in this way, they demonstrate love that is free of any trace of selfishness. How might you imitate their good example?

16. How should we view privileges in Jehovah's service?

¹⁷ *Confess and abandon secret sins.* Some Christians who have committed a serious sin try to cover it over in order to avoid embarrassing themselves or disappointing others. (Prov. 28:13) Yet, such a course is unloving, for it harms not only the sinner but also others. It can hinder the flow of God's spirit and threaten the peace of the entire congregation. (Eph. 4:30) Genuine love moves Christians who have committed serious sins to speak to the elders so that the elders can provide the needed help.—Jas. 5:14, 15.

¹⁸ *Love is the greatest of all qualities.* (1 Cor. 13:13) It identifies us as Jesus' followers and as imitators of Jehovah, the Source of love. (Eph. 5:1, 2) "If I . . . do not have love," wrote Paul, "I am nothing." (1 Cor. 13:2) May we continue to show our love not just "in word" but also "in deed and truth."

17. What will genuine love move a person to do if he has committed a serious sin?

18. How important is genuine love?

Receive Them With Hospitality

(Acts 17:7)

C Am Dm7 F/G G7

Je - ho - vah shows sin - cere hos - pi - tal - i - ty. He
 We nev - er know the good that may come a - bout When

C Am G C/G F Fma7 Em7

cares for all with - out par - ti - al - i - ty. He
 we see those in need and we help them out. Though

Dm7 F/G Fma7 Em7 Gm6/A A7

gives both rain and sun, with - hold - ing these from none; He
 strang - ers they may be, in hos - pi - tal - i - ty, We

Dm7 Em7 F6 Fma7 F Ebma7 Eb6 Dm11 G7

fills our hearts with food and good cheer. When -
 lend a hand to care for their needs. Like

Receive Them With Hospitality

C Am Dm7 C/E

ev - er we show fa - vor to low - ly ones, We
 Lyd - i - a of old, we say: 'Be my guest.' When

Dm/F E7sus4 E7 Asus4 Am Am/G

im - i - tate our God as be - lov - ed sons. Our
 they come to our home, they find peace and rest. Our

Fma7 Fm6/Ab Cma7/G C6/G Gm6/Bb A

Fa - ther will re - pay the good - ness we dis - play, Our
 Fa - ther is a - ware of all those ev - 'ry - where, Who

Dm7 Em7 Dm/F Fm/G G7b9/G C

kind - ness that is tru - ly sin - cere.
 im - i - tate his mer - ci - ful deeds.

(See also Acts 16:14, 15; Rom. 12:13; 1 Tim. 3:2; Heb. 13:2; 1 Pet. 4:9.)

