

- Song 22 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“The Ride of the Four Horsemen”:** (10 min.)
 Re 6:2—The rider of the white horse “went out conquering” (*wp17.3 4 ¶3, 5*)
 Re 6:4-6—Following are the rider of the red horse and the rider of the black horse (*wp17.3 5 ¶2, 4-5*)
 Re 6:8—Next comes the rider of the pale horse, followed by the Grave (*wp17.3 5 ¶8-10*)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Re 4:4, 6—What do the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures represent? (*re 76-77 ¶8; 80 ¶19*)

Re 5:5—Why is Jesus called “the Lion of the tribe of Judah”? (*cf 36 ¶15-6*)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

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

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Re 4:1-11 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (4)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *lvs 53 ¶15 (2)*

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 46
- **“Jehovah Loves a Cheerful Giver”:** (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Begin by playing the video *Tutorial for Making Donations Electronically* (video category OUR ORGANIZATION). Inform publishers that they can access the donation information by clicking on the Donations button found on *jw.org* and on *JW Library* or by typing *donate.jw.org* into the address bar. Read the letter from the branch expressing appreciation for the donations received during the past service year. Commend the congregation for its generous support.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy chap. 92*
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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REVELATION 4-6 | The Ride of the Four Horsemen



6:2, 4-6, 8

Jesus “went out conquering” by warring with Satan and his demons in heaven and confining them to the earth. Jesus continues to conquer in behalf of his servants by helping and protecting them during these last days. He will “complete his conquest” when he terminates the ride of the other three horsemen at Armageddon and thereafter reverses the effects of their destructive ride.

The Kingdom Is in Place —Let It Come!

(Revelation 11:15; 12:10)

1. Jehovah, you always have been,
And always you will be.
You've given the throne to your Son;
He rules by your decree.
The Kingdom has been brought to birth;
His rulership will fill the earth.

(CHORUS)

*For now have come to pass
Salvation and kingdom and might.
The Kingdom is in place.
We pray: "Let it come, Let it come!"*

2. The time for the Devil is short;
We know what this will mean.
Though living in times of distress,
We see the things unseen.
The Kingdom has been brought to birth;
His rulership will fill the earth.

(Chorus)

3. The angels in heaven rejoice
And sing with joyful cries.
The heavens above are relieved
From Satan and his lies.
The Kingdom has been brought to birth;
His rulership will fill the earth.

(Chorus)

Revelation 4-6

4 After this I saw, and look! an opened door in heaven, and the first voice that I heard speaking with me was like a trumpet, saying: "Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place." ² After this I immediately came to be in the power of the spirit, and look! a throne was in its position in heaven, and someone was seated on the throne. ³ And the One seated had the appearance of a jasper stone and a sardius stone, and all around the throne was a rainbow like an emerald in appearance.

⁴ All around the throne were 24 thrones, and on these thrones I saw seated 24 elders dressed in white garments, and on their heads golden crowns. ⁵ From the throne were coming lightning and voices and thunders; and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, and these mean the seven spirits of God.

⁶ Before the throne was something resembling a glassy sea, like crystal.

In the midst of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures that were full of eyes in front and behind. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, and the second living creature was like a young bull, and the third living creature had a face like a man's, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ As for the four living creatures, each one of them had six wings; they were full of eyes all around and underneath. And continuously, day and night, they say: "Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming."

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanksgiving to the One seated on the throne, the One who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the 24 elders fall down before the One seated on the throne and worship the One who lives forever and ever, and they cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹ "You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the

power, because you created all things, and because of your will they came into existence and were created.”

5 And I saw in the right hand of the One seated on the throne a scroll written on both sides, sealed tight with seven seals. **2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice: “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” **3** But no one in heaven or on earth or underneath the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. **4** I gave way to a great deal of weeping because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. **5** But one of the elders said to me: “Stop weeping. Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered so as to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

6 And I saw standing in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a lamb that seemed to have been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, and the eyes mean the seven spirits of God that have been sent out into the whole earth. **7** At once he came forward and took it out of the right hand of the One seated on the throne. **8** When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb, and each one had a harp and golden bowls that were full of incense. (The incense means the prayers of the holy ones.) **9** And they sing a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, for you were slaughtered and with your blood you bought people for God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, **10** and you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth.”

11 And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders, and the number of them was myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, **12** and they were saying with a loud voice: “The Lamb who was

slaughtered is worthy to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.”

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and underneath the earth and on the sea, and all the things in them, saying: “To the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.” ¹⁴ The four living creatures were saying: “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshipped.

6 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder: “Come!” ² And I saw, and look! a white horse, and the one seated on it had a bow; and a crown was given him, and he went out conquering and to complete his conquest.

³ When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say: “Come!” ⁴ Another came out, a fiery-colored horse, and it was granted to the one seated on it to take peace away from the earth so that they should slaughter one another, and he was given a great sword.

⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say: “Come!” And I saw, and look! a black horse, and the one seated on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ I heard what sounded like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures say: “A quart of wheat for a de-nar'i-us and three quarts of barley for a de-nar'i-us; and do not harm the olive oil and the wine.”

⁷ When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say: “Come!” ⁸ And I saw, and look! a pale horse, and the one seated on it had the name Death. And the Grave was closely following him. And authority was given them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with a long sword and with food shortage and with deadly plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those slaughtered because of the word of God and because of the witness they had given. ¹⁰ They shouted with a loud voice, saying: “Until when, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, are you refraining from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ And a white robe was given to each of them, and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the number was filled of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were about to be killed as they had been.

¹² And I saw when he opened the sixth seal, and a great earthquake occurred; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the entire moon became as blood, ¹³ and the stars of heaven fell to the earth as when a fig tree shaken by a high wind drops its unripe figs. ¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and every island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth, the high officials, the military commanders, the rich, the strong, every slave, and every free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ And they keep saying to the mountains and to the rocks: “Fall over us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

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REVELATION 4-6 | The Ride of the Four Horsemen



6:2, 4-6, 8

Jesus “went out conquering” by warring with Satan and his demons in heaven and confining them to the earth. Jesus continues to conquer in behalf of his servants by helping and protecting them during these last days. He will “complete his conquest” when he terminates the ride of the other three horsemen at Armageddon and thereafter reverses the effects of their destructive ride.

November 25–December 1 / Revelation 4-6

- Song 22 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

Treasures From God's Word

"The Ride of the Four Horsemen": (10 minutes)

The Ride of the Four Horsemen

Revelation 6:2, 4-6, 8

Jesus "went out conquering" by warring with Satan and his demons in heaven and confining them to the earth. Jesus continues to conquer in behalf of his servants by helping and protecting them during these last days. He will "complete his conquest" when he terminates the ride of the other three horsemen at Armageddon and thereafter reverses the effects of their destructive ride.

Revelation 6:2—The rider of the white horse "went out conquering"

Revelation 6:2: And I saw, and look! a white horse, and the one seated on it had a bow; and a crown was given him, and he went out conquering and to complete his conquest.

wp17.3 4 paragraph 3

Who is the rider of the white horse? The key to his identity is found in the same Bible book, Revelation, which later identifies this heavenly rider as "The Word of God." (Revelation 19:11-13) That title, The Word, belongs to Jesus Christ, for he acts as God's spokesman. (John 1:1, 14) In addition, he is called "King of kings and Lord of lords" and is described as "Faithful and True." (Revelation 19:16) Clearly, he has authority to act as a warrior-king, and he does not wield his power in any corrupt or abusive way. Yet, some questions arise.

wp17.3 4 paragraph 5

When did the horsemen begin their ride? Note that the first rider, Jesus, begins his ride when he receives a crown. (Revelation 6:2) When was Jesus crowned as King in heaven? It was not when he returned to heaven after his death. The Bible shows that a period of waiting began back then. (Hebrews 10:12, 13) Jesus gave his followers a means of recognizing the end of that waiting period and the beginning of his reign in heaven. He said that at the beginning of his rule, world conditions would take a decisive turn for the worse. There would be warfare, food shortages, and pestilences. (Matthew 24:3, 7; Luke 21:10, 11) Soon after World War I broke out in 1914, it became apparent that mankind had entered that era, a troubled time on earth that the Bible calls "the last days."—2 Timothy 3:1-5.

Revelation 6:4-6—Following are the rider of the red horse and the rider of the black horse

Revelation 6:4-6: Another came out, a fiery-colored horse, and it was granted to the one seated on it to take peace away from the earth so that they should slaughter one another, and he was given a great sword. When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say: "Come!" And I saw, and look! a black horse, and the one seated on it had a pair of scales in his hand. I heard what sounded like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures say: "A quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the olive oil and the wine."

***wp17.3* 5 paragraph 2**

This rider represents warfare. Notice that he takes peace away from not just a few nations but the whole earth. In 1914, for the first time in history, a global war erupted. It was followed by a second world war, which was even more destructive. Some estimates place the total number of deaths due to wars and armed conflicts since 1914 at more than 100 million! In addition, vast numbers of other individuals suffered debilitating injuries.

***wp17.3* 5 paragraphs 4-5**

"I saw, and look! a black horse, and the one seated on it had a pair of scales in his hand. I heard what sounded like a voice in the midst of

the four living creatures say: 'A quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the olive oil and the wine.'"—Revelation 6:5, 6.

This rider represents famine. We find here a picture of food rationing so severe that a quart (1.08 liters) of wheat would cost one denarius, a whole day's wage in the first century! (Matthew 20:2) The same coin could purchase three quarts (3.24 liters) of barley, a grain viewed as inferior to wheat. How far would that go to feed a large family? People are then warned to be frugal even with daily foodstuffs, aptly pictured by such basic staples of that time and culture as olive oil and wine.

Revelation 6:8—Next comes the rider of the pale horse, followed by the Grave

Revelation 6:8: And I saw, and look! a pale horse, and the one seated on it had the name Death. And the Grave was closely following him. And authority was given them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with a long sword and with food shortage and with deadly plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.

***wp17.3* 5 paragraphs 8-10**

The fourth rider represents death due to plague and other causes. Soon after 1914, the Spanish flu killed tens of millions. Possibly some

500 million people were infected, about 1 out of every 3 humans then alive!

But the Spanish flu was just the beginning. Experts estimate that hundreds of millions died of smallpox during the 20th century. To this day, the lives of millions are cut short by AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, despite intensive medical research.

The result is the same, death—whether due to war, famine, or plague. The Grave relentlessly gathers up the victims, offering no hope.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Revelation 4:4, 6—What do the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures represent?

Revelation 4:4: All around the throne were 24 thrones, and on these thrones I saw seated 24 elders dressed in white garments, and on their heads golden crowns.

Revelation 4:6: Before the throne was something resembling a glassy sea, like crystal. In the midst of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures that were full of eyes in front and behind.

re 76-77 paragraph 8

John knew that priests were appointed to serve in the ancient tabernacle. So he may have been surprised at seeing what he describes next: "And round about the throne there are twenty-four

thrones, and upon these thrones I saw seated twenty-four elders dressed in white outer garments, and upon their heads golden crowns." (Revelation 4:4) Yes, instead of priests, there are 24 elders, enthroned and crowned like kings. Who are these elders? They are none other than anointed ones of the Christian congregation, resurrected and occupying the heavenly position Jehovah promised them. How do we know that?

re 80 paragraph 19

What do these creatures picture? A vision reported by another prophet, Ezekiel, helps us to find the answer. Ezekiel saw Jehovah enthroned on a celestial chariot, which was accompanied by living creatures embodying characteristics similar to those described by John. (Ezekiel 1:5-11, 22-28) Later, Ezekiel again saw that chariot throne accompanied by the living creatures. This time, however, he referred to the living creatures as cherubs. (Ezekiel 10:9-15) The four living creatures that John sees must represent the many cherubs of God—creatures of high rank in His spirit organization. John would not think it unusual to see cherubs positioned so close to Jehovah's person, since in the ancient tabernacle arrangement, two cherubs of gold were displayed upon the lid of the ark of the covenant, which represented Jehovah's throne. From between these cherubs, Jehovah's voice issued commandments to the nation.—Exodus 25:22; Psalm 80:1.

Revelation 5:5—Why is Jesus called “the Lion of the tribe of Judah”?

Revelation 5:5: But one of the elders said to me: “Stop weeping. Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered so as to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

cf 36 paragraphs 5-6 The lion is often linked to courage. Have you ever stood face-to-face with an adult male lion? If you have, most likely you were safely separated from the beast, perhaps by the fence of his enclosure at a zoo. Still, such an experience can be daunting. As you look into the face of this huge and powerful creature and he gazes steadily back at you, you can hardly imagine the lion ever fleeing in fear from anything. The Bible speaks of “the lion, which is the mightiest among the beasts and which does not turn back from before anyone.” (Proverbs 30:30) Such is the courage of Christ.

Let us discuss how Jesus displayed lionlike courage in three ways: in standing up for the truth, in upholding justice, and in facing opposition. We will see, too, that all of us—whether naturally brave or not—can imitate Jesus in showing courage.

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

Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Revelation 4:1-11 (*th* study 5)

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SAMPLE CONVERSATION

(November 2019)

Second Return Visit

Ryan (Publisher): So Ben, when I was here last time I left the question what has got promised for the future? Do you have the book I left you and maybe your copy of the Bible?

Ben (Householder): Yeah, just a second. Let me see if I can find them. (minutes later), Here's the book, and here's my Bible, I use the King James version.

Ryan (Publisher): Great if we turn to page 4 in the book, we find some of God's promises for the future. What's the first point at the top of the page?

Ben (Householder): It says people will no longer feel pain, grow old, or die; Revelation 21:4.

Ryan (Publisher): Thank you, now what does your Bible say at Revelation 21:4, would you read it, please?

Ben (Householder): Okay, it says: (King James Version)

4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

Ben (Householder): Wow, I've never read that before.

Ryan (Publisher): It's very touching, isn't it? It's just as the book says God will do amazing things on the Earth. But what will God's promise that Revelation 21:4 mean for you and your loved ones?

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

(November 2019)

Ben (Householder): Well, I was just thinking of my parents both of them are getting older and they're dealing with all kinds of health problems and I'm not getting any younger either.

Ryan (Publisher): I'm right there with you. It seems like the older we get the more concerns we have about our health. But God promises that aging will be reversed.

Ben (Householder): Oh, that'd be nice.

Ryan (Publisher): Of course with such beautiful promises from God. We want to know how we can experience those blessings? That's part of the purpose of this book. The next time I stopped by I'd like to show you how you can get the most out of it?



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK


Sample Conversations

●○○
INITIAL CALL →

Question: What is the purpose of life?

Scripture: Ge 1:27, 28

Link: Why can we trust that God will fulfill his purpose?




○○●
FIRST RETURN VISIT →

Question: Why can we trust that God will fulfill his purpose?

Scripture: Jos 21:45

Link: What has God promised for the future?




○○●
SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: What has God promised for the future?

Scripture: Re 21:4

Link: How can we experience the blessings that God has promised?



Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

Bible Study: (5 min. or less) *Ivs 53 ¶15 (th study 2)*

RESPECT IN THE CONGREGATION

¹⁵ Jehovah directs us by means of the Christian congregation, and he has given Jesus full authority over it. (Colossians 1:18) In turn, Jesus has given “the faithful and discreet slave” the responsibility to care for God’s people on earth. (Matthew 24:45-47) Today, “the faithful and discreet slave” is the Governing Body. The Governing Body provides what we need at the right time to help keep our faith strong. Elders, ministerial servants, and circuit overseers support congregations around the world and receive direction from the Governing Body. All these brothers have the responsibility to take care of us. They answer to Jehovah for how they handle this responsibility. So when we respect these men, we respect Jehovah.—**Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:17;** see Endnote 14.

Endnote 14—GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body is the group of men with the heavenly hope who are used by God to direct the work of his people. In the first century, Jehovah used a governing body to guide the early Christian congregation in their worship and their preaching work. (Acts 15:2) Today, the group of brothers who serve as the Governing Body take the lead in directing, guiding, and protecting God’s people. When these brothers make decisions, they rely on guidance from God’s Word and his holy spirit. Jesus spoke of this group of anointed men as “the faithful and discreet slave.”—Matthew 24:45-47.

We Thank You, Jehovah

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

1. We thank you, Jehovah, each day and each night,
That you shed upon us your precious light.
We thank you that we have the priv'lege of prayer,
That we can approach you with ev'ry care.
2. We thank you, Jehovah, for your loving Son,
Who conquered the world; by his faith he won.
We thank you for guidance in doing your will.
You lovingly help us our vows fulfill.
3. We thank you, our God, for the honor to preach
About your great name and the truth to teach.
We thank you that soon all earth's woes will be past,
While your Kingdom blessings forever last.

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Jehovah Loves a Cheerful Giver



At 2 Corinthians 9:7, we are told: “Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Today we have convenient options to make *online* donations to support the work of Jehovah’s Witnesses, both locally and worldwide.

WATCH THE VIDEO TUTORIAL FOR MAKING DONATIONS ELECTRONICALLY, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- How can we access the donation information page to find the donation options that are available in our country?



- How have some benefited from making donations electronically?



- What are some donation methods?



- What can we do if we do not understand how to use these new electronic tools?



Tutorial for Making Donations Electronically

Jehovah's people are generous and want to give, doing so with the spirit mentioned at 2 Corinthians 9:7 "let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful Giver."

One of many ways we can display this generous spirit is through our financial donations. We are familiar with placing a contribution in the boxes labeled "Contributions for the worldwide work" at our local Kingdom Hall.

Recently the organization has made some changes to allow for donating online. Some have had questions on how to use these new tools. The donation information page on JW.org can be accessed via the JW library app or on the website. By selecting the country where you live you can see the donation methods available to you. Different types of donation methods are available in different countries.

How have some been able to put this tool to use? In many countries we can give using a credit or some debit cards via JW.org. Anyone can make donations online by creating an account if they don't already have one. This makes donating simpler, both for you and for the organization.

Just as many of us already follow the scriptural pattern at first Corinthians 16:2, "set something aside every week according to our own means," we can do the same with these online tools. You can

set up recurring donations so that this is done automatically every month.

(A sister speaks) My biggest challenge in making donations was remembering to put the donation in the box, but one day I was on the JW website and saw that there was a way to make online donations. And what was even better was that I could program an automatic donation of the same amount every month. So every month I receive a receipt that my donation has gone through, and that makes me very happy because I can help Jehovah every month and this way it's easy.

Or perhaps we'd rather have our donation transferred electronically right from our bank account. In some countries a bank account is provided that will allow you to transfer funds directly to the branch office. Simply use the tools provided by your bank to set up a direct donation to this account.

(A brother speaks) We can easily go to the JW.org website and use the donations page to donate online directly from our account, just as we would make any other money transfers.

Some prefer to contribute by check or money order. The details on where to mail this type of donation can also be found on JW.org.

(A sister speaks) Well each month when I watch JW broadcasting and see all the things that are going around all over the earth I would like to show them my appreciation for this hard work that the brothers do, and now the way I can do that since

I'm no longer able to do much physically is by writing them a check in this letter of appreciation.

Other methods of donating might involve charitable planning. We could arrange to give assets at our death through a will, trust, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. During our life or at our death we could also donate certificates of deposit, stocks and bonds, as well as saleable real estate.

(A couple speak) We are living in the days when unexpected events take place just as the Bible foretold. So we decided to make charitable plans so that our material assets can be used to advance Jehovah's work. Every worthwhile thing we have also comes from Jehovah. I feel privileged to return to Jehovah what I originally received from Him. And I think this deep joy in my heart is the very blessing that I receive from Jehovah.

There are many forms of giving. Go to the donation information page to see what options are available in your country. However some types of donations typically require planning or additional information. If you have any questions you can check with your local branch office. Feel free to submit a request for more information and your local branch office will respond by email within a few days. Or you can call the branch directly using the phone number provided.

But what if we wish to continue giving in the ways we have been or we don't understand how to use these new tools. New tools can be hard to understand at first, but asking for the help of a trusted brother or sister in the congregation can help us take advantage of

these tools. Exodus 35:5 and 21 says: "Take up a contribution for Jehovah from among yourselves. Let everyone with a willing heart bring a contribution for Jehovah: gold, silver, copper. Then everyone whose heart impelled him and everyone whose spirit incited him came and brought their contribution for Jehovah."

Just as the Israelites knew what options they had in giving to Jehovah we want to know the different ways that we can make donations and the tools we can use to do so. Please take time to review these options on the donation information page and use the methods and tools that are best for you. No matter how we choose to donate we can be confident that just as in the days of Moses the donations we make support pure worship. And whether we are giving of our time our energy or our resources we know that Jehovah loves a cheerful Giver. (2Co 9:7)

video source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/AccomplishMinistry/pub-edj_x_VIDEO

92 TEN LEPERS HEALED—ONE SHOWS GRATITUDE

LUKE 17:11-19

- JESUS HEALS TEN LEPERS

Frustrating the Sanhedrin's plans to kill him, Jesus travels to the city of Ephraim, somewhat northeast of Jerusalem. He stays there with his disciples, away from his enemies. (John 11:54) However, the time for the Passover of 33 C.E. is approaching, so Jesus is soon on the move again. He travels northward through Samaria and up into Galilee, his last visit to this area prior to his death.

Early in the trip, while Jesus is traveling from one village to another, he encounters ten men who have leprosy. In some of its forms, this disease can result in gradual loss of body tissue, such as that of the fingers, toes, or ears. (Numbers 12:10-12) God's Law requires that a leper call out "Unclean, unclean!" and that he live in isolation.—Leviticus 13:45, 46.

Accordingly, the ten lepers keep at a distance from Jesus. Yet, they cry out loudly: "Jesus,



Instructor, have mercy on us!” On seeing the lepers, Jesus directs them: “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” (Luke 17:13, 14) He thus shows respect for God’s Law, which authorizes the priests to pronounce as cured lepers who have recovered from their illness. Then they can once again live among healthy people.—Leviticus 13:9-17.

The ten lepers have confidence in Jesus’ miraculous powers. They head off to see the priests, even before they have been healed. While they are on the way, their faith in Jesus is rewarded. They begin to see and feel that they have been restored to health!

Nine of the cleansed lepers continue on their way. One does not. This man, a Samaritan, returns to look for Jesus. Why? The man is deeply grateful to Jesus for what has happened. The former leper is “glorifying God with a loud voice,” realizing that God is actually responsible for his restored health. (Luke 17:15) When he finds Jesus, he falls down before him, thanking him.

To those around him, Jesus says: “All ten were cleansed, were they not? Where, then, are the other

nine? Did no one else turn back to give glory to God except this man of another nation?” Then Jesus tells the Samaritan: “Get up and be on your way; your faith has made you well.”—Luke 17:17-19.

By healing the ten lepers, Jesus shows that he has Jehovah God’s backing. Now one of the ten is not only healed through Jesus’ act but is likely on the way to life. We are not living at a time when God is using Jesus to perform such healings. However, by faith in Jesus, we can be on the way to life—everlasting life. Do we show that we are grateful, as that Samaritan man did?

- ◇ Frustrating plans to kill him, Jesus travels to where?
- ◇ Why do the ten lepers stand at a distance, and why does Jesus tell them to go to the priests?
- ◇ In light of what happened to the Samaritan, what lesson should we reflect on?

A Prayer of Thanks

(Psalm 95:2)

1. Gracious Jehovah, we praise you and thank you.
Father, we make these expressions in prayer.
Trusting in you, we will serve you completely,
Knowing we thrive under your tender care.
Daily our errors reveal imperfection.
For our transgressions forgiveness we seek.
Thankful we are that our lives have been ransomed.
Thankful we are that you know we are weak.
2. Grateful we are that you show love and kindness.
Thank you for drawing us closer to you.
Teach us to know you, and help us to serve you.
Show us the way to be loyal and true.
Thankful we are for your powerful spirit.
Grateful we are for the courage to speak.
May we be humble and happy to serve you;
May we give thanks, for you favor the meek.

SEPTEMBER 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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OCTOBER 28–DECEMBER 1, 2019

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COVER PICTURE:

The apostle John saw “a great crowd” dressed in white robes and with palm branches in their hands (See study article 39, paragraph 2)

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It Means Their Life

(Ezekiel 3:17-19)

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

(Chorus)

(BRIDGE)

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

(Chorus)

“Look! A Great Crowd”

“Look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, . . . standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”—REV. 7:9.

SONG 60

It Means Their Life

PREVIEW

This article will discuss John’s prophetic vision of the gathering of “a great crowd.” No doubt, it will strengthen the faith of all who are part of that blessed group.

AT THE end of the first century C.E., the apostle John was in a distressing situation. He was elderly, confined to the isle of Patmos, and likely the only apostle alive. (Rev. 1:9) He knew that opposers were misleading congregations and causing divisions. It may have seemed that the small flame of Christianity was about to be extinguished.—Jude 4; Rev. 2:15, 20; 3:1, 17.

² Amid these dire circumstances, John received an exciting prophetic vision. In it, angels are told to hold back the destructive winds of the great tribulation until the final sealing of a group of slaves. (Rev. 7:1-3) That group is made up of 144,000 who will rule with Jesus in heaven. (Luke 12:32; Rev. 7:4) Then John mentions another group, so vast that he exclaims: “Look!”—an expression that may indicate his surprise at seeing something unexpected. What does John see? “A great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” (Read Revelation 7:9-14.) Imagine how happy John must have been to learn about myriads of people practicing true worship in the future!

-
1. What was the apostle John’s situation at the end of the first century C.E.?
 2. According to Revelation 7:9-14, what exciting prophetic vision did John receive? (See cover picture.)

³ That vision no doubt strengthened John's faith. How much more should it strengthen our faith, since we live in the time of the fulfillment of the vision! We have seen the gathering of millions whose hope is to survive the great tribulation and live forever on earth. In this article, we will learn how Jehovah revealed the identity of that great crowd to his people more than eight decades ago. Then we will consider two features of that crowd: (1) its size and (2) its diversity. These points should strengthen the faith of all who hope to be part of that blessed group.

WHERE WILL THE GREAT CROWD LIVE?

⁴ Christendom generally does not teach the Scriptural truth that one day obedient humans will live forever on earth. (2 Cor. 4:3, 4) Today, most religions in Christendom teach that all good people go to heaven when they die. It was different, however, with the small group of Bible Students who were publishing the *Watch Tower* in the late 1800's. They understood that God would restore Paradise on earth and that millions of obedient humans would live *here on earth*—not in heaven. However, it took time for

3. (a) Why should John's vision strengthen our faith? (b) What will we learn in this article?

4. What Scriptural truth does Christendom not understand, and how did the Bible Students differ in this regard?

them to discern clearly who these obedient humans would be.—Matt. 6:10.

⁵ Of course, the Bible Students also discerned from the Scriptures that some would be “bought from the earth” to rule with Jesus in heaven. (Rev. 14:3) That group would be made up of 144,000 zealous and dedicated Christians who had served God faithfully while on earth. What about the great crowd?

⁶ In his vision, John saw that group “standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” (Rev. 7:9) Those words led the Bible Students to conclude that, like the 144,000, the great crowd would reside in heaven. If both the 144,000 and the great crowd were to live in heaven, how would one group differ from the other? The Bible Students thought that the great crowd must be made up of Christians who had not been fully obedient to God while on earth. Although leading reasonably clean lives, some of them may have remained in Christendom’s churches. The Bible Students concluded that such ones demonstrated a measure of zeal but not enough to rule with Jesus. Because their love for God had not been sufficiently fervent, the great crowd would qualify to

5. What did the Bible Students believe about the 144,000?

6. What did the Bible Students believe about the great crowd?

be in heaven *before* the throne but not to sit *on* thrones.

⁷ Who, then, would live on earth? The Bible Students believed that after the 144,000 and the great crowd were gathered to heaven, millions of others would be granted life on earth to experience the blessings of Christ’s Millennial Reign. The Bible Students did not expect those millions to serve Jehovah *before* the start of Christ’s Reign. Rather, it was thought that this group would be educated in Jehovah’s ways *during* the Millennium. Thereafter, those who conformed to Jehovah’s standards would be blessed with everlasting life on earth, whereas those who rebelled would be destroyed. The Bible Students also thought that perhaps some who would serve as earthly “princes” during that time—including the resurrected “ancient worthies” (faithful men who died before Christ)—would somehow be rewarded with heavenly life at the end of the Millennium.—Ps. 45:16.

⁸ Thus, the Bible Students felt that there were three groups: (1) the 144,000, who would rule with

7. Who, according to the Bible Students, would live on earth during the Millennium, and what did the Bible Students believe about the faithful men of old?

8. What three groups seemed to have a place in God’s purpose?

Jesus in heaven; (2) the great crowd of less zealous Christians, who would stand before the throne of Jesus in heaven; and (3) millions of people who would be educated in Jehovah's ways on earth during Christ's Thousand Year Reign.* In Jehovah's due time, however, the light of truth began to shine ever brighter on this topic.—Prov. 4:18.

THE LIGHT OF TRUTH SHINES BRIGHTER

⁹ In 1935 the identity of the great crowd in John's vision was clarified. Jehovah's Witnesses came to realize that the great crowd do not literally have to be in heaven to stand "before the throne and before the Lamb." Rather, their position is figurative. Even though they would live on earth, the great crowd could stand "before the throne" by recognizing Jehovah's authority and by submitting to his sovereignty. (Isa. 66:1) They could stand "before the Lamb" by exercising faith in Jesus' ransom sacrifice. Similarly, at Matthew 25:31, 32, "all the nations"—including the wicked—are said to be "gathered before" Jesus on his glorious throne. Clearly, all these nations

* See *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*, pp. 159-163.

9. (a) In what way could the great crowd on earth stand "before the throne and before the Lamb"? (b) Why does this understanding of Revelation 7:9 make sense?



At the 1935 convention, a great many with the earthly hope got baptized
(See paragraph 9)

are, not in heaven, but on earth. This adjusted understanding makes sense. It explains why the Bible does not say that the great crowd is raised to heaven. Only one group is promised everlasting life in heaven—the 144,000, who will “rule as kings over the earth” with Jesus.—Rev. 5:10.

¹⁰ Since 1935, Jehovah’s Witnesses have thus understood that the great crowd of John’s vision is made up of a group of faithful Christians who have the prospect of living forever on earth. In order to survive the great tribulation, the great crowd would have to be educated in Jehovah’s ways before the Millennium begins. They would need to show strong faith in order to “succeed in escaping all these things that must occur” before Christ’s Thousand Year Reign.—Luke 21:34-36.

10. Why would it be necessary for the great crowd to be educated in Jehovah’s ways *before* the Millennium?

¹¹ What about the view that some exemplary ones on earth would be raised to heaven after the Millennium? That possibility was suggested years ago in the February 15, 1913, issue of *The Watch Tower*. One could have reasoned, ‘Why would faithful men of old receive a mere earthly inheritance but Christians who were somewhat negligent be rewarded with life in heaven?’ Of course, that thinking was influenced by two incorrect assumptions: (1) that the great crowd would reside in heaven and (2) that the great crowd would be made up of less zealous Christians.

¹² As we have seen, however, since 1935, Jehovah’s Witnesses have clearly understood that the survivors of Armageddon *are* the great crowd of John’s vision. They will “come out of the great tribulation” right here on earth, and they will “keep shouting with a loud voice, saying: ‘Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.’” (Rev. 7:10, 14) Furthermore, the Scriptures teach that those who are resurrected to heavenly life receive “something better” than do the faithful men of old. (Heb. 11:40) Our brothers accordingly began

11. Why might some Bible Students have thought that some would perhaps be raised to heaven after the Millennium?

12-13. What do both the anointed and the great crowd recognize about their reward?

enthusiastically inviting people to serve Jehovah with the hope of living forever on earth.

¹³ Those of the great crowd rejoice in their hope. They understand that Jehovah determines where his faithful worshippers will serve him, whether in heaven or on earth. Both the anointed and the great crowd recognize that their reward is possible only because of Jehovah's undeserved kindness as expressed through the ransom sacrifice of Jesus Christ.—Rom. 3:24.

GREAT IN SIZE

¹⁴ After the understanding of Jehovah's people was clarified in 1935, many still wondered just how those with an earthly hope could become a crowd great in size. For example, Ronald Parkin was 12 years old when the identity of the great crowd was made clear. "At that time," he recalls, "there were about 56,000 publishers worldwide and many, perhaps most of them, were anointed. So the great crowd did not seem very great."

¹⁵ In the following decades, however, missionaries were sent to many lands, and the number of

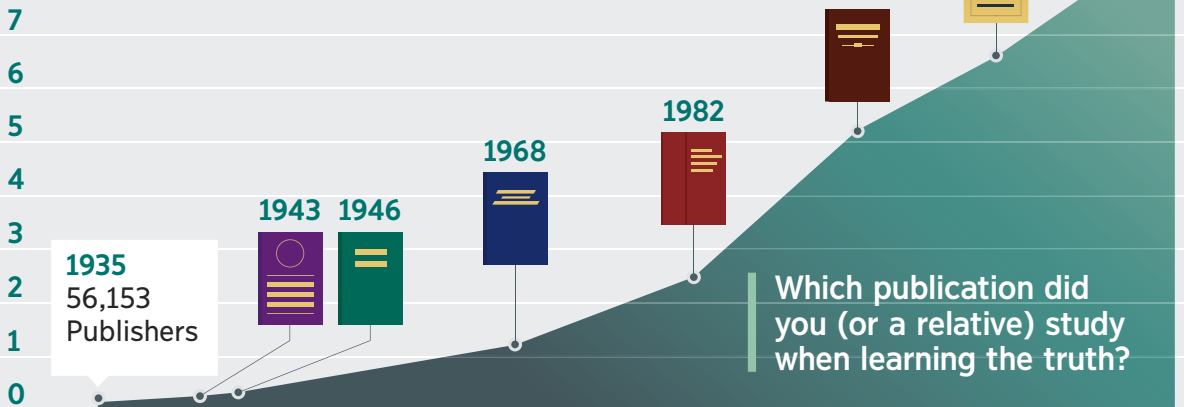
14. After 1935, why did many wonder how the prophecy about a great crowd would be fulfilled?

15. How has the gathering of the great crowd continued to progress?

THE CROWD IS GREAT INDEED!

In 1935 our understanding of the earthly hope was clarified. After studying the publications shown in the chart, millions have become Kingdom publishers. Most are of the great crowd
(See paragraphs 14-15)

8 million publishers



Publications: 1943 *"The Truth Shall Make You Free"*; 1946 *"Let God Be True"*; 1968 *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life*; 1982 *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*; 1995 *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*; 2005 *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*; 2015 *What Can the Bible Teach Us?*

Jehovah's Witnesses steadily increased. Then, in 1968, a Bible study program was started using the book *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life*. Its simple explanation of Bible truth attracted meek people as

never before. Within four years, more than half a million new disciples got baptized. As the Catholic Church began to lose its grip on Latin America and other countries and as restrictions on our work were lifted in Eastern Europe and parts of Africa, millions more got baptized. (Isa. 60:22) In more recent years, Jehovah's organization has produced a number of other effective tools to help people learn what the Bible teaches. There is no doubt that a great crowd—now numbering more than eight million—has been gathered.

A DIVERSE GREAT CROWD

¹⁶ In recording his vision, John noted that the great crowd would come from “all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues.” The prophet Zechariah had earlier foretold something similar. He wrote: “In those days ten men out of all the languages of the nations will take hold, yes, they will take firm hold of the robe of a Jew, saying: ‘We want to go with you, for we have heard that God is with you people.’” —Zech. 8:23.

¹⁷ Jehovah's Witnesses realize that for people of all languages to be gathered, the good news must be preached in many languages. We have been

16. From where is the great crowd being gathered?

17. What is being done to help people of all nations and tongues?

translating Bible study material for over 130 years, but now we are carrying out the greatest translation effort in history in hundreds of languages. Clearly, Jehovah is performing a modern-day miracle—gathering a great crowd from all nations. Thanks to the availability of spiritual food in more and more languages, this diverse group is united in worship. And the Witnesses are well-known for their zealous preaching and their brotherly love. How faith-strengthening that is!—Matt. 24:14; John 13:35.

WHAT DOES THE VISION MEAN FOR US?

¹⁸ We have every reason to be excited about the prophecy of a great crowd! We are not surprised that Jehovah has fulfilled that prophecy in such a marvelous way. (Read Isaiah 46:10, 11.) Those of the great crowd are grateful for the hope Jehovah has given them. They do not feel left out because they are not anointed by God's spirit to serve with Jesus in heaven. Throughout the Scriptures, we read of men and women of faith who were deeply influenced by holy spirit; yet they are not part of the 144,000. John the Baptist is one example. (Matt. 11:11) David is another. (Acts 2:34) They and countless others will

18. (a) In line with Isaiah 46:10, 11, why are we not surprised that Jehovah has fulfilled the prophecy about the great crowd? (b) Why do those who hope to live on earth not feel left out?

be resurrected to life on a paradise earth. All of them—along with the great crowd—will have the opportunity to demonstrate their loyalty to Jehovah and his sovereignty.

¹⁹ Never before in human history has God united millions of people from all nations. Whether our hope is to live in heaven or on earth, we need to help as many as possible to become part of the great crowd of “other sheep.” (John 10:16) Soon, Jehovah will bring the foretold great tribulation that will destroy the governments and religions that have afflicted mankind. What an outstanding privilege lies before all members of the great crowd—to serve Jehovah on earth forever!—Rev. 7:14.

19. How does the fulfillment of John’s vision of a great crowd emphasize the urgency of the times in which we live?

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What misconceptions about the great crowd were corrected in 1935?
- How has the great crowd proved to be truly great in size?
- What evidence do we have that Jehovah is gathering a diversified great crowd?

139 *See Yourself When All Is New*

(Revelation 21:1-5)

1. Just see yourself, just see me too;
 Just see us all in a world that is new.
Think how you'll feel, how it will be,
 To live in peace, to be truly free.
No evil one will then prevail;
 Rule by our God cannot ever fail.
The time will have come for a new earthly start,
 The song of our praises
 will pour out from our heart:

(CHORUS)

*"We thank you, our God, for all you have done.
 All things are new by the rule of your Son.
The fullness of our heart overflows in our song;
 All glory and honor and praise to you belong."*

2. Now see yourself, and see me too;
 And look ahead to a world that is new.
No sight we see, no sound we hear
 Will cause alarm or give rise to fear.
All has come true, just as he said;
 Now over mankind, his tent is spread.
He now will awaken those sleeping in death;
 Their voices will join ours with
 ev'ry grateful breath:

(Chorus)

(See also Ps. 37:10, 11; Isa. 65:17; John 5:28; 2 Pet. 3:13.)

