

- Song 63 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“An Unnumbered Great Crowd Is Blessed by Jehovah”:** (10 min.)  
 Re 7:9—The “great crowd” stands before Jehovah’s throne (*it-1* 997 ¶1)  
 Re 7:14—The great crowd will survive “the great tribulation” (*it-2* 1127 ¶4)  
 Re 7:15-17—The great crowd will receive future blessings on earth (*it-1* 996-997)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
 Re 7:1—What do the “four angels standing on the four corners of the earth” and “the four winds” represent? (*re* 115 ¶4)
- Re 9:11—Who is “the angel of the abyss”? (*it-1* 12)

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 7:1-12 (5)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Warmth and Empathy*, and then discuss study 12 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) *w16.01* 25-26 ¶12-16—Theme: Why should we not be troubled by the increase of Memorial partakers in recent years? (6)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**


- Song 93
- **Local Needs:** (8 min.)
- **Organizational Accomplishments:** (7 min.) Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for December.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *gy* chap. 93
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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REVELATION 7-9 | An Unnumbered Great Crowd Is Blessed by Jehovah

**7:9, 14-17**

Why does Jehovah bless the great crowd?

- They are “standing before [Jehovah’s] throne,” giving their complete support to Jehovah’s sovereignty
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 What must I do to be part of the great crowd?



# 63      *We're Jehovah's Witnesses!*

(Isaiah 43:10-12)

1. Men make gods of wood and stone,  
    But the true God they've not known.  
He is God Almighty,  
    As he's often shown.  
Other gods just cannot see  
    What in future days will be.  
For witnesses they look all in vain,  
    Since none their godship can maintain.

*(CHORUS)*

*We're Jehovah's Witnesses.*

*We speak out in fearlessness.*

*Ours is the God of true prophecy;*

*What he foretells comes to be.*

2. Proudly we declare God's name,  
    Bearing witness to his fame.  
News about his Kingdom,  
    Boldly we proclaim.  
We help others come to see  
    How the truth can set them free.  
As they grow strong, their voices they'll raise,  
    Singing to God this song of praise.

*(Chorus)*

3. Witnessing exalts God's name,  
Lifts therefrom reproach and shame.  
And it warns the wicked,  
Who God's name defame.  
Pardon it holds out to men,  
If they turn to God again.  
Whole-souled devotion brings joy and peace;  
Promise of life that will not cease.

*(CHORUS)*

*We're Jehovah's Witnesses.  
We speak out in fearlessness.  
Ours is the God of true prophecy;  
What he foretells comes to be.*

## Revelation 7-9

<sup>7</sup> After this I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding tight the four winds of the earth, so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. <sup>2</sup> And I saw another angel ascending from the sunrise, having a seal of the living God; and he called with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup> saying: "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until after we have sealed the slaves of our God in their foreheads."

<sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of those who were sealed, 144,000, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel:

<sup>5</sup> Out of the tribe of Judah 12,000 sealed;

out of the tribe of Reu'ben 12,000;

out of the tribe of Gad 12,000;

<sup>6</sup> out of the tribe of Ash'er 12,000;

out of the tribe of Naph'ta-li 12,000;

out of the tribe of Ma·nas'seh 12,000;

<sup>7</sup> out of the tribe of Sim'e-on 12,000;

out of the tribe of Le'vi 12,000;

out of the tribe of Is'sa·char 12,000;

<sup>8</sup> out of the tribe of Zeb'u·lun 12,000;

out of the tribe of Joseph 12,000;

out of the tribe of Benjamin 12,000 sealed.

<sup>9</sup> After this I saw, and look! 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, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And

they keep shouting with a loud voice, saying: "Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb."

<sup>11</sup> All the angels were standing around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup> saying: "Amen! Let the praise and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

<sup>13</sup> In response one of the elders said to me: "These who are dressed in the white robes, who are they and where did they come from?" <sup>14</sup> So right away I said to him: "My lord, you are the one who knows." And he said to me: "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> That is why they are before the throne of God, and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them. <sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat down on them nor any scorching heat, <sup>17</sup> because the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them and will guide them to springs of waters of life. And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes."

**8** When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

<sup>3</sup> Another angel, holding a golden incense vessel, arrived and stood at the altar, and a large quantity of incense was given him to offer it with the prayers of all the holy ones on the golden altar that was before the throne. <sup>4</sup> The smoke of the incense from the hand of the angel ascended with the prayers of the holy ones before God. <sup>5</sup> But right away the angel took the incense vessel, and he filled it with some of the fire of the altar and hurled it to the earth. And there were thunders and voices and flashes of lightning and an

earthquake. <sup>6</sup> And the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

<sup>7</sup> The first one blew his trumpet. And there was hail and fire mingled with blood, and it was hurled to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green vegetation was burned up.

<sup>8</sup> The second angel blew his trumpet. And something like a great mountain burning with fire was hurled into the sea. And a third of the sea became blood; <sup>9</sup> and a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were wrecked.

<sup>10</sup> The third angel blew his trumpet. And a great star burning like a lamp fell from heaven, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. <sup>11</sup> The name of the star is Wormwood. And a third of the waters turned into wormwood, and many of the people died from the waters, because these had been made bitter.

<sup>12</sup> The fourth angel blew his trumpet. And a third of the sun was struck and a third of the moon and a third of the stars, in order that a third of them might be darkened and the day might not have light for a third of it, and the night likewise.

<sup>13</sup> And I saw, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven say with a loud voice: "Woe, woe, woe to those dwelling on the earth because of the rest of the trumpet blasts of the three angels who are about to blow their trumpets!"

**9** The fifth angel blew his trumpet. And I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to the earth, and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him. <sup>2</sup> He opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke ascended out of the shaft like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun was darkened, also the air, by the smoke of the shaft. <sup>3</sup> And locusts came out of the smoke onto the earth, and authority was given to them, the same authority that the scorpions of the earth

have. <sup>4</sup> They were told not to harm the vegetation of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

<sup>5</sup> And it was granted the locusts, not to kill them, but to torment them five months, and their torment was like torment by a scorpion when it strikes a person. <sup>6</sup> In those days people will seek death but will by no means find it, and they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

<sup>7</sup> And in appearance the locusts resembled horses prepared for battle; on their heads were what seemed to be crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces, <sup>8</sup> but they had hair like women's hair. And their teeth were like those of lions, <sup>9</sup> and they had breastplates like iron breastplates. And the sound of their wings was like the sound of horse-drawn chariots rushing into battle.

<sup>10</sup> Also, they have tails with stingers like scorpions, and in their tails is their authority to hurt the people for five months. <sup>11</sup> They have over them a king, the angel of the abyss. In Hebrew his name is A-bad'don, but in Greek he has the name A-pol'lyon.

<sup>12</sup> The one woe is past. Look! Two more woes are coming after these things.

<sup>13</sup> The sixth angel blew his trumpet. And I heard one voice from the horns of the golden altar that is before God <sup>14</sup> say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet: "Untie the four angels who are bound at the great river Eu-phra'tes." <sup>15</sup> And the four angels who have been prepared for the hour and day and month and year were untied to kill a third of the people.

<sup>16</sup> The number of the armies of cavalry was two myriads of myriads; I heard the number of them. <sup>17</sup> And this is how I saw the horses in the vision and those seated on them: They had fire-red and hyacinth-blue and sulfur-yellow breastplates, and the heads of

the horses were like the heads of lions, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. <sup>18</sup> A third of the people were killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the sulfur that came out of their mouths. <sup>19</sup> For the authority of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with these they inflict harm.

<sup>20</sup> But the rest of the people who were not killed by these plagues did not repent of the works of their hands; they did not stop worshipping the demons and the idols of gold and silver and copper and stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

<sup>21</sup> And they did not repent of their murders nor of their spiritistic practices nor of their sexual immorality nor of their thefts.



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 Re 7:9—The “great crowd” stands before Jehovah’s throne (*it-1* 997 ¶1)  
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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
 Re 7:1—What do the “four angels standing on the four corners of the earth” and “the four winds” represent? (*re* 115 ¶4)
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- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) *w16.01* 25-26 ¶12-16—Theme: Why should we not be troubled by the increase of Memorial partakers in recent years? (6)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**


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- **Local Needs:** (8 min.)
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- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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REVELATION 7-9 | An Unnumbered Great Crowd Is Blessed by Jehovah

**7:9, 14-17**

Why does Jehovah bless the great crowd?

- They are “standing before [Jehovah’s] throne,” giving their complete support to Jehovah’s sovereignty
- They wear “white robes,” indicating their clean, righteous standing before Jehovah because of their faith in Christ’s sacrifice
- They render “sacred service day and night,” worshipping Jehovah with consistency and earnest effort

 What must I do to be part of the great crowd?



## **December 2-8 / Revelation 7-9**

- Song 63 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

### **Treasures From God's Word**

**"An Unnumbered Great Crowd Is Blessed by Jehovah":** (10 minutes)

Revelation 7:9, 14-17

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What must I do to be part of the great crowd?

## **Revelation 7:9—The “great crowd” stands before Jehovah’s throne**

**Revelation 7:9:** After this I saw, and look! 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, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands.

### ***it-1* 997 paragraph 1**

This poses the question: If the “great crowd” are persons who gain salvation and remain on earth, how could they be said to be ‘standing before God’s throne and before the Lamb’? (Revelation 7:9) The position of ‘standing’ is sometimes used in the Bible to indicate the holding of a favored or approved position in the eyes of the one in whose presence the individual or group stands. (Psalm 1:5; 5:5; Proverbs 22:29, *AT*; Luke 1:19) In fact, in the previous chapter of Revelation, “the kings of the earth and the top-ranking ones and the military commanders and the rich and the strong ones and every slave and every free person” are depicted as seeking to hide themselves “from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (Revelation 6:15-17; compare Luke 21:36.) It thus appears that the “great crowd” is formed of those persons who have been preserved during that time

of wrath and who have been able to “stand” as approved by God and the Lamb.

### **Revelation 7:14—The great crowd will survive “the great tribulation”**

**Revelation 7:14:** So right away I said to him: “My lord, you are the one who knows.” And he said to me: “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

#### ***it-2 1127* paragraph 4**

About three decades after Jerusalem’s destruction, the apostle John, with reference to a great crowd of persons from all nations, tribes, and peoples, was told: “These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation.” (Revelation 7:13, 14) The fact that a great crowd ‘comes out of the great tribulation’ shows that they survive it. This is confirmed by a similar expression at Acts 7:9, 10: “God was with [Joseph], and he delivered him out of all his tribulations.” Joseph’s being delivered out of all his tribulations meant not only that he was enabled to endure them but also that he survived the afflictions he experienced.

## **Revelation 7:15-17—The great crowd will receive future blessings on earth**

**Revelation 7:15-17:** That is why they are before the throne of God, and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat down on them nor any scorching heat, because the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them and will guide them to springs of waters of life. And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes.”

### ***it-1 996-997***

*Their Identification.* The key to the identification of the “great crowd” is found within the description of them in Revelation chapter 7 and in obviously parallel passages. Revelation 7:15-17 speaks of God as ‘spreading his tent over them,’ of their being guided to “fountains of waters of life,” and of God’s wiping “every tear from their eyes.” At Revelation 21:2-4 we find parallel expressions: ‘God’s tent being with mankind,’ his ‘wiping every tear from their eyes,’ and ‘death being no more.’ The vision there presented is concerning persons not in heaven, from where the ‘New Jerusalem comes down,’ but on earth, among mankind.

## Digging for Spiritual Gems

**Revelation 7:1—What do the “four angels standing on the four corners of the earth” and “the four winds” represent?**

**Revelation 7:1:** After this I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding tight the four winds of the earth, so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

**re 115 paragraph 4**

No doubt, these four angels represent four angelic groups, whom Jehovah uses to hold back the execution of judgment until the appointed time. When the angels release those winds of divine wrath to whirl at one time from north, south, east, and west, the devastation will be tremendous. It will resemble, but on a stupendous scale, Jehovah’s use of the four winds to scatter the ancient Elamites, shattering and exterminating them. (Jeremiah 49:36-38) It will be a gigantic storm wind far more devastating than the “tempest” by which Jehovah annihilated the nation of Ammon. (Amos 1:13-15) No part of Satan’s organization on earth will be able to stand in the day of Jehovah’s fury, when he vindicates his sovereignty for all eternity to come.—Psalm 83:15, 18; Isaiah 29:5, 6.

## **Revelation 9:11—Who is “the angel of the abyss”?**

**Revelation 9:11:** They have over them a king, the angel of the abyss. In Hebrew his name is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

### ***it-1 12***

(A·bad'don) [from Heb., meaning “Destruction”].

Abaddon, the angel of the abyss—who is he?

At Revelation 9:11, however, the word “Abaddon” is used as the name of “the angel of the abyss.” The corresponding Greek name Apollyon means “Destroyer.” In the 19th century there were efforts made to show that this text prophetically applied to individuals such as Emperor Vespasian, Muhammad, and even Napoleon, and the angel was generally regarded as “satanic.” It should be noted, however, that at Revelation 20:1-3 the angel having “the key of the abyss” is shown to be God’s representative from heaven, and rather than being “satanic,” he binds and hurls Satan into the abyss.

Commenting on Revelation 9:11, *The Interpreter’s Bible* says:

“Abaddon, however, is an angel not of Satan but of God, performing his work of destruction at God’s bidding.”

In the Hebrew scriptures just considered, it is evident that ‘*avaddohn*’ is paralleled with Sheol and death. At Revelation 1:18 we

find Christ Jesus stating: "I am living forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and of Hades." His power with regard to the abyss is shown at Luke 8:31. That he has destroying power, including the power of destruction over Satan, is evident from Hebrews 2:14, which says that Jesus partook of blood and flesh in order that "through his death he might bring to nothing the one having the means to cause death, that is, the Devil." At Revelation 19:11-16 he is clearly represented as God's appointed Destroyer or Executioner.—See APOLLYON.

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

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**Bible Reading:** (4 minutes or less) Revelation 7:1-12 (*th* study 5)



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## APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY



## APPLY YOURSELF TO READING AND TEACHING STUDY 12: WARMTH AND EMPATHY

### 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 8

<sup>7</sup> On the contrary, we became gentle in your midst, as when a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. <sup>8</sup> So having tender affection for you, we were determined to impart to you, not only the good news of God but also our very selves, because you became so beloved to us.

#### SUMMARY:

Speak with genuine emotion, and show your listeners you care.

#### HOW TO DO IT:

- Think about your listeners
- Choose your words carefully
- Show your interest

#### VIDEO TRANSCRIPTIOIN

**INSTRUCTOR:** The apostle Paul wrote to Christians in Thessaloniki. We became gentle in your midst as when a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. So having tender affection for you, we were determined to impart to you not only the good news of God. But also our very selves because you became so beloved to us.



## APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**INSTRUCTOR:** Paul cared and his fellow believers could sense that by the way he spoke to them. This made his teaching more effective. Likewise, if our audience feels that we genuinely care for them, that we're not there simply to deliver information or fulfill an assignment, they'll be more likely to listen and respond.

**INSTRUCTOR:** So how can we show genuine warmth and empathy? We need to *“think about our listeners”*. For example, before going into ministry, reflect on specific problems that people in the territory are concerned about. What are their beliefs? Try to imagine how they feel when preparing a talk. Remind yourself of what your brothers and sisters may be facing? and how you can encourage them?

**INSTRUCTOR:** Then use expressions that refresh comfort and invigorates your listeners. Be careful not to speak disparagingly of people or their beliefs when conversing with older people or those in authority. Use words that show respect. Let's watch your brother giving a public talk. Do his word show empathy for his audience.

### PUBLIC TALK SCENE 1:

**SPEAKER:** The evolution theory is very popular today, but it's hard to understand how intelligent people could believe such an illogical theory. Many believe it's simply because so-called educated people do, including many scientists. So how can we help them to examine matters for themselves and see how ridiculous evolution is?



**INSTRUCTOR:** If someone in the audience believed in evolution. How would he feel? Let's watch this speaker try again, but this time with more empathy.

### PUBLIC TALK SCENE 2:

**SPEAKER:** The evolution theory is very popular today, but why too many people believe it? Perhaps they were taught evolution in school and were offered no other plausible explanation. How can we help people to examine the facts for themselves?

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**INSTRUCTOR:** This time, the speaker didn't insult people because of their viewpoint. At the same time, he aroused interest in additional facts that are worthy of consideration. What else can indicate warmth and empathy? Tone, not just what you say, but how you say it. A warm tone of voice along with appropriate gestures and facial expressions.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Show sincere interest. Let's watch a publisher in the house to house ministry. Does she show interest by the way she speaks?

### PUBLISHER SCENE 1:

**HOUSEHOLDER:** I'm sorry, I can't talk to you today. I just lost my mother and I'm meeting with the funeral director this afternoon.



## APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**PUBLISHER:** I'm sorry, it's so painful. When a loved one dies. When I lost my mother a few years ago, I found some Bible verses to be very comforting.

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Although there was nothing wrong with what our sister's said. Her delivery lacked warmth and empathy. Let's give her a second chance.

### PUBLISHER SCENE 2:

**PUBLISHER:** I am sorry, it's so painful, when a loved one dies. When I lost my mother a few years ago, I found some Bible verses to be very comforting. Some of them are in this tract. But maybe we can discuss them briefly, another time.

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Our assistors said exactly the same thing, but this time she spoke with emotion and so her words were more effective. When we speak with genuine emotion, we show our listeners that we care, but be careful not to force or exaggerate emotions. If you're reading a scripture, try to express the feelings indicated in the passage, but don't draw undue attention to yourself.



## APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**INSTRUCTOR:** So by thinking about your listeners, “choosing your words carefully” and “showing your interest”, you'll refresh comfort and invigorate your listeners.

video source:

<https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/LatestVideos/pu-b-thv-12-VIDEO>

# Warmth and Empathy

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**SUMMARY:** Speak with genuine emotion, and show your listeners you care.



1 Thessalonians 2:7, 8

## HOW TO DO IT:

- **Think about your listeners.** Prepare your heart by reminding yourself of the problems they face. Try to imagine how they feel.

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- **Choose your words carefully.** Seek to refresh, comfort, and invigorate your listeners. Avoid expressions that could needlessly offend them, and do not speak disparagingly of unbelievers or their sincerely held beliefs.

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- **Show your interest.** With a kind tone of voice and appropriate gestures, show your listeners that you really care. Be mindful of your facial expressions; smile often.



Do not force or exaggerate emotions. While reading, express the feelings indicated in the passage, but do not draw undue attention to yourself. Since emphasizing consonants can result in a cold, clipped delivery, draw out vowels to warm up the tone of your voice.

brothers” can slip into the congregation. (Gal. 2: 4, 5; 1 John 2:19) These impostors may even claim to be anointed. In addition, some anointed Christians might fall away from the faith. (Matt. 25:10-12; 2 Pet. 2:20, 21) If we avoid the trap of “admiring personalities,” we will not be drawn away from the truth by such ones; nor will our faith suffer a crippling blow if a prominent or long-serving Christian becomes unfaithful.—Jude 16, ftn.

### WHAT ABOUT THE NUMBER OF THOSE PARTAKING AT THE MEMORIAL?

12 In recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of those partaking at the Memorial of Christ’s death. That trend contrasts with the decrease in the number of partakers that we saw for many decades. Should this increase trouble us? No. Let us consider some key factors to keep in mind.

13 *“Jehovah knows those who belong to him.”*  
(2 Tim. 2:19) Those taking the count at the Memo-

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12, 13. Why should we not worry about the number of those who eat the bread and drink the wine at the Memorial?



rial cannot judge who truly have the heavenly hope. The number of partakers includes those who mistakenly think that they are anointed. Some who at one point started to partake of the emblems later stopped. Others may have mental or emotional problems that lead them to believe that they will rule with Christ in heaven. Therefore, the number of partakers does not accurately indicate the number of anointed ones left on earth.

**14** *Anointed ones will be present in many parts of the earth when Jesus comes to gather them to heaven.* Speaking of that time, the Bible says regarding Jesus: “He will send out his angels with a great trumpet sound, and they will gather his chosen ones together from the four winds, from one extremity of the heavens to their other extremity.” (Matt. 24:31) The Scriptures do indicate that only a remnant of the anointed ones will be left on earth during the last days. (Rev. 12:17) However, the

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**14.** What does the Bible say about the number of anointed ones who will be on earth when the great tribulation starts?

Bible does not state how many will be left at the time that the great tribulation begins.

*15 Jehovah chooses when in history he will select anointed ones.* (Rom. 8:28-30) Jehovah began choosing anointed ones after Jesus' death and resurrection, and it seems that all in the first-century Christian congregation were anointed. From the first century until the beginning of the last days, the vast majority of those who claimed to follow Christ were false Christians; Jesus likened them to "weeds." Even so, Jehovah continued to anoint some faithful ones throughout that time, and they proved to be like the "wheat" Jesus described. (Matt. 13:24-30) During the last days, Jehovah has continued to select those who will make up the 144,000.[2] If he chooses to wait until late into that period to select some for that privilege, who are we to question his wisdom? (Isa. 45:9; Dan. 4:35; read **Romans 9:11, 16.**)[3] We must be careful not to

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15, 16. What do we need to understand about the 144,000 chosen by Jehovah?

react like the disgruntled workers who complained about the way their master dealt with the 11th-hour workers.—Read Matthew 20:8-15.

16 *Not all who have the heavenly hope are part of “the faithful and discreet slave.”* (Matt. 24:45-47) As in the first century, Jehovah and Jesus today are feeding many through the hands of a few. Only a few anointed Christians in the first century were used to write the Christian Greek Scriptures. Similarly today, only a few anointed Christians have been appointed to provide spiritual “food at the proper time.”

17 What have we learned from our discussion? Jehovah has chosen to give two separate rewards—heavenly life for spiritual Jews and earthly life for the symbolic ten men. Yet, he requires the same standard of faithfulness from both those with a heavenly calling and those with an earthly hope. Both groups must remain humble. Both groups must be united. Both groups must promote peace

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17. What have you learned from this article?

# 93      *Bless Our Meeting Together*

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. Bless us as we meet together,  
    O Jehovah, we now pray.  
    We are thankful for our meetings;  
    May your spirit with us stay.
2. Help us, Lord, refine our worship;  
    With your Word, oh, do us fill.  
    Train our minds and tongues to witness;  
    Love within our hearts instill.
3. Loving Father, bless our meetings;  
    Grant us peace and unity.  
    May our words and may our actions  
    Magnify your Sov'reignty.

- Song 63 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“An Unnumbered Great Crowd Is Blessed by Jehovah”:** (10 min.)  
 Re 7:9—The “great crowd” stands before Jehovah’s throne (*it-1* 997 ¶1)  
 Re 7:14—The great crowd will survive “the great tribulation” (*it-2* 1127 ¶4)  
 Re 7:15-17—The great crowd will receive future blessings on earth (*it-1* 996-997)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
 Re 7:1—What do the “four angels standing on the four corners of the earth” and “the four winds” represent? (*re* 115 ¶4)
- Re 9:11—Who is “the angel of the abyss”? (*it-1* 12)

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 7:1-12 (5)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Warmth and Empathy*, and then discuss study 12 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) *w16.01* 25-26 ¶12-16—Theme: Why should we not be troubled by the increase of Memorial partakers in recent years? (6)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**


- Song 93
- **Local Needs:** (8 min.)
- **Organizational Accomplishments:** (7 min.) Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for December.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *gy* chap. 93
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 27 and Prayer

REVELATION 7-9 | An Unnumbered Great Crowd Is Blessed by Jehovah

**7:9, 14-17**

Why does Jehovah bless the great crowd?

- They are “standing before [Jehovah’s] throne,” giving their complete support to Jehovah’s sovereignty
- They wear “white robes,” indicating their clean, righteous standing before Jehovah because of their faith in Christ’s sacrifice
- They render “sacred service day and night,” worshipping Jehovah with consistency and earnest effort

 What must I do to be part of the great crowd?



# THE SON OF MAN WILL BE REVEALED

LUKE 17:20-37

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- THE KINGDOM IS IN THEIR MIDST
  - WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE WHEN JESUS IS REVEALED?
- 

Jesus is still either in Samaria or in Galilee. Pharisees now ask him about the arrival of the Kingdom, which they expect to be with pomp and ceremony. However, he says: “The Kingdom of God is not coming with striking observableness; nor will people say, ‘See here!’ or, ‘There!’ For look! the Kingdom of God is in your midst.”—Luke 17:20, 21.

Some may conclude that Jesus is saying that the Kingdom reigns in the hearts of God’s servants. However, that cannot be the case, for the Kingdom is not in the hearts of the Pharisees to whom Jesus is speaking. Yet, it is *in their midst* because the chosen King of God’s Kingdom, Jesus, is right there among them.—Matthew 21:5.

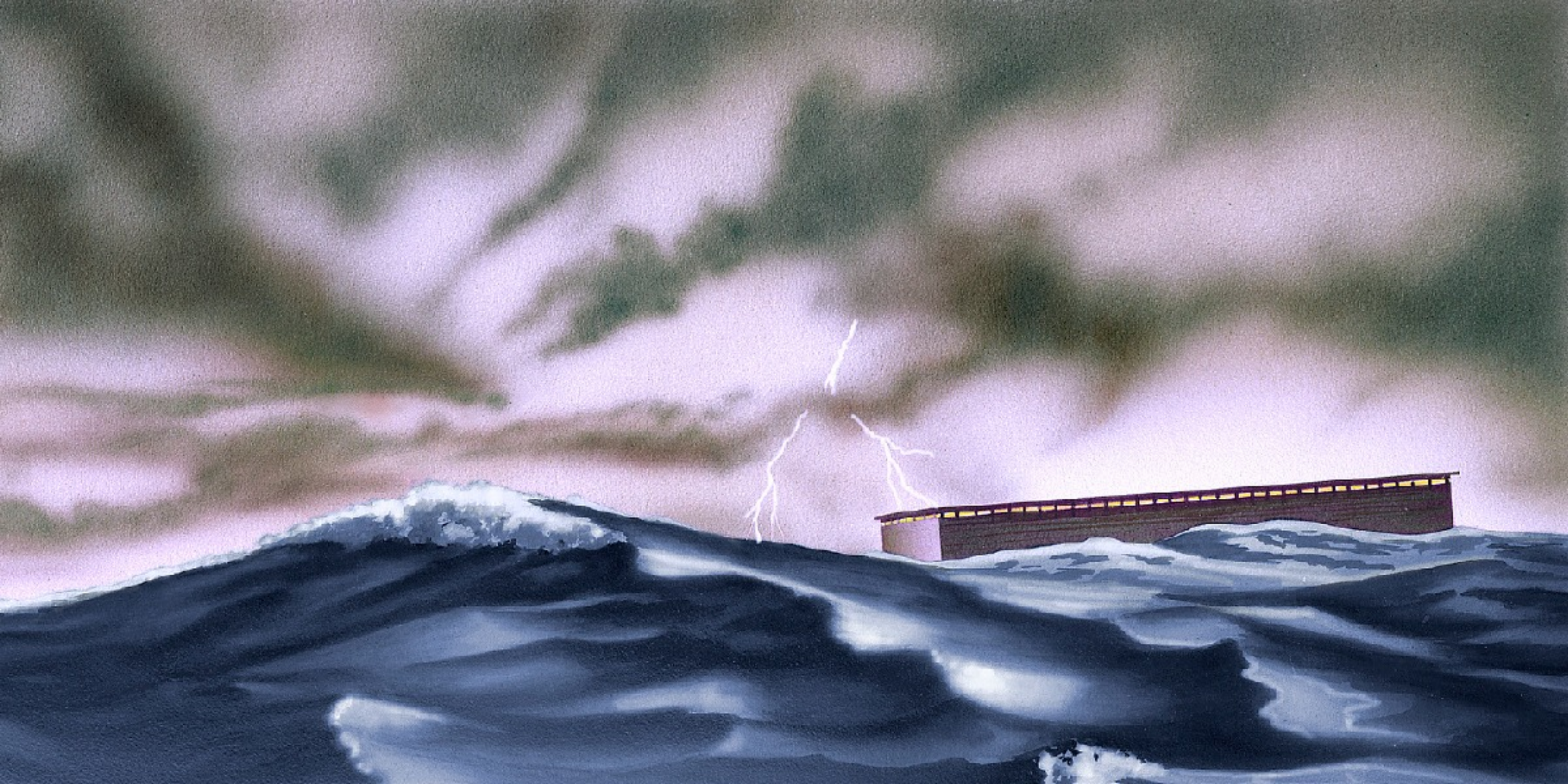
Likely after the Pharisees leave, Jesus provides additional details for his disciples about the coming of

the Kingdom. As to his presence in Kingdom power, he first warns: “Days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, but you will not see it.” (Luke 17:22) Jesus is indicating that the reign of the Son of man in the Kingdom is to be in the future. Before that time arrives, some disciples might anxiously look for it, but they will have to continue waiting until it is God’s appointed time for the Son of man to come.

Jesus continues: “People will say to you, ‘See there!’ or, ‘See here!’ Do not go out or chase after them. For just as lightning flashes from one part of heaven to another part of heaven, so the Son of man will be in his day.” (Luke 17:23, 24) How will Jesus’ disciples be protected against chasing after false messiahs? Jesus says that the coming of the true Messiah will be as lightning seen over a wide area. The evidence of his presence in Kingdom power will be clearly visible to all observant onlookers.

Then Jesus makes comparisons with ancient events to show what the attitudes of people will be during that future period: “Just as it occurred in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of







man . . . Likewise, just as it occurred in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building. But on the day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be the same on that day when the Son of man is revealed.”—Luke 17:26-30.

Jesus is not saying that people in Noah’s day and in Lot’s day were destroyed because they pursued the normal activities of eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building. Noah and Lot and their families did at least some of those things. But the other people were doing so without paying any attention to God’s will and were ignoring the time in which they lived. Hence, Jesus is admonishing his disciples to pay attention to God’s will and to be actively involved in doing it. He is thus showing them the way to be preserved—that is, the way to keep living—when God brings destruction in the future.

The disciples will need to avoid becoming distracted by the things of the world around them, “the things behind.” Jesus says: “On that day let the person who is on the housetop but whose belongings are



in the house not come down to pick these up, and likewise, the person out in the field must not return to the things behind. Remember the wife of Lot.” (Luke 17:31, 32) She became a pillar of salt.

Continuing his description of the situation existing when the Son of man will reign as King, Jesus tells his disciples: “In that night two people will be in one bed; the one will be taken along, but the other will be abandoned.” (Luke 17:34) So some will gain salvation, but others will be abandoned, losing their life.

The disciples ask: “Where, Lord?” Jesus responds: “Where the body is, there also the eagles will be gathered together.” (Luke 17:37) Yes, some will be like farsighted eagles. These disciples will gather to the true Christ, the Son of man. At that future time, Jesus will provide his disciples with lifesaving truth for those having faith.

- ◇ How is the Kingdom in the midst of the Pharisees?
- ◇ In what way will Christ’s presence be like lightning?
- ◇ Why will Jesus’ disciples need to be alert when the Son of man comes?

# 27      *The Revealing of God's Sons* (Romans 8:19)

1. The time is near when God reveals  
His faithful chosen ones.  
In heaven they will rule with Christ  
As mighty spirit sons.

*(CHORUS)*

*The sons of God will be revealed  
Along with Christ, their Lord.  
They'll join him in his victory  
And share in his reward.*

2. And soon the last remaining ones  
Will hear his final call.  
The King of kings and Lord of lords  
Will then collect them all.

*(Chorus)*

*(BRIDGE)*

And then with Christ, these sons of God  
Will wage the final war.  
The joyous marriage to the Lamb  
Will last forevermore.

*(Chorus)*

OCTOBER 2019

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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DECEMBER 2-29, 2019

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## COVER PICTURE:

Jesus and his heavenly army will soon ride into the war of Armageddon to destroy God’s enemies! (See study article 41, paragraph 17)

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# 58      *Searching for Friends of Peace*

(Luke 10:6)

1. Jesus commanded: 'Let the truth be heard.'

In summer heat, on dusty roads,

He let all hear Jehovah's word.

He loved God's sheep and called to ev'ryone.

He searched the land from the sunrise

'til the day was done.

From door to door and in the street,

We share with ev'ryone we meet

The news that soon man's troubles all will be gone.

*(CHORUS)*

*Searching the world*

*For friends of peace in ev'ry nation,*

*Searching to find*

*A heart inclined toward salvation,*

*Wanting to leave*

*No stone unturned.*

2. Time waits for no one, so the search goes on.

A million hearts, a million lives,

We give our all to save just one.

Love is the force that makes us call again.

A wounded heart can be healed,

and broken lives can mend.

We search the towns and city squares,

And when we find someone who cares,

The joy we feel inspires us to go on.

*(Chorus)*

# Keep Busy During the Last of “the Last Days”

*“Be steadfast, immovable, always having plenty to do in the work of the Lord.”—1 COR. 15:58.*

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## SONG 58

Searching for Friends of Peace

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## PREVIEW

Soon we expect to hear the nations claim that they have achieved “peace and security!” That will be the signal that the great tribulation is about to begin. What does Jehovah expect us to do between now and then? This article will help us find the answer.



WERE you born after the year 1914? If so, you have lived your entire life during “the last days” of the present system of things. (2 Tim. 3:1) All of us have heard about the events that Jesus foretold for this time. These include wars, food shortages, earthquakes, pestilences, an increasing of lawlessness, and the persecution of Jehovah’s people. (Matt. 24:3, 7-9, 12; Luke 21:10-12) We have also seen people behave in the way foretold by the apostle Paul. (See the box “The Way People Are Now.”) As worshippers of Jehovah, we are convinced that we are living during “the final part of the days.”—Mic. 4:1.

<sup>2</sup> Because so much time has passed since 1914, we must now be living in the *last* of “the last days.” Since the end is so near, we need to know the answers to some important questions: What events will occur at the end of “the last days”? And what does Jehovah expect us to do while we wait for those events?

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE END OF “THE LAST DAYS”?

<sup>3</sup> Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3. Paul mentions “Jehovah’s day.” As used in this context, this refers

- 
1. What convinces us that we are living in “the last days”?
  2. What questions do we need answered?
  3. According to the prophecy at 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, what proclamation will the nations make?

to the time period that begins with the attack on “Babylon the Great,” the world empire of false religion, and ends with Armageddon. (Rev. 16:14, 16; 17:5) Just before that “day” begins, the nations will be proclaiming “Peace and security!” (Some translations say: “Peace and safety.”) World leaders sometimes use similar expressions when they talk about stabilizing relationships between nations.\* However, the announcement of “peace and security” that the Bible describes will be different. Why? When this happens, people may think that world leaders have succeeded in making the world a safer, more secure place. But in reality, “sudden destruction” will follow as the “great tribulation” unfolds.—Matt. 24:21.

<sup>4</sup> We know some things about the declaration of “peace and security.” However, other things we do not know. We do not know what will lead up to it or how the declaration will be made. And we do not know whether it will involve just one proclamation or a series of announcements. Whatever happens, we do know this: We should not be fooled into thinking that world leaders can actually achieve world peace. Rath-

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\* For example, on its website the United Nations claims to “maintain international peace and security.”

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4. (a) What must we wait to see about the declaration of “peace and security”? (b) What do we already know about it?

er, it is that declaration that we have been told to watch for. It is the signal that “Jehovah’s day” is about to begin!

<sup>5</sup> **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6.** Paul’s exhortation tells us how we can make sure that we are ready for “Jehovah’s day.” We should “not sleep on as the rest do.” We must “stay awake” and remain alert. For example, we need to be alert to the danger of compromising our neutrality by getting drawn into the world’s political issues. If we were to get involved, we could become “part of the world.” (John 15:19) We know that God’s Kingdom is the only hope for world peace.

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5. How does 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 help us to be ready for “Jehovah’s day”?

## **The Way People Are Now**

“Lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, having an appearance of godliness but proving false to its power.”

—2 Tim. 3:1-5.

<sup>6</sup> Besides staying awake ourselves, we also want to help others wake up to what the Bible foretold would happen in the world. Let us remember that once the great tribulation begins, it will be too late for people to turn to Jehovah. That is why our preaching work is so urgent!\*

## KEEP BUSY PREACHING

<sup>7</sup> In the short time remaining before his “day” begins, Jehovah expects us to keep busy in the preaching work. We need to make sure that we are “having plenty to do in the work of the Lord.” (1 Cor. 15:58) Jesus foretold what we would do. When he spoke about all the significant things that would happen during the last days, he added: “Also, in all the nations, the good news has to be preached first.” (Mark 13:4, 8, 10; Matt. 24:14) Just think: Every time you go in the ministry, you are having a share in fulfilling that Bible prophecy!

<sup>8</sup> What can we say about the progress of the Kingdom-preaching work? Year by year, this work is

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\* See the article “God’s Judgments—Does He Always Give Enough Warning?” in the regular print of the study edition.

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6. What do we want to help others do, and why?
7. What does Jehovah expect us to do now?
8. How is the Kingdom-preaching work continuing to progress?



**PEACE AND  
SECURITY  
PROCLAIMED!**

**Do not be fooled by the nations'  
false claim of "peace and security"**  
(See paragraphs 3-6)

moving ahead. For example, think about the increase in the number of Kingdom proclaimers worldwide during the last days. In 1914, there were 5,155 publishers in 43 lands. Today, there are some 8.5 million publishers in 240 lands! Even so, our work is not yet over. We must keep proclaiming God's Kingdom as the only solution to all mankind's problems.—Ps. 145:11-13.

**<sup>9</sup> Our Kingdom-preaching work will not be finished until Jehovah says it is over. How much time is left**

---

**9. Why must we keep preaching the Kingdom message?**



As we preach today,  
we show that only God's  
Kingdom can make the  
world truly safe and secure  
(See paragraphs 7-9)

---

for people to come to know Jehovah God and Jesus Christ? (John 17:3) We cannot say. We do know that until the great tribulation begins, any who are “rightly disposed for everlasting life” can still respond to the good news. (Acts 13:48) How can we help these people before it is too late?

<sup>10</sup> Through his organization, Jehovah is giving us all that we need to teach people the truth. For example, we receive training each week at *the midweek meeting*. This meeting helps us know what to say on initial calls and return visits. And it teaches us how to conduct Bible studies. Jehovah's organization has

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10. What help is Jehovah giving us to teach people the truth?

also provided the items in our *Teaching Toolbox*. These items help us to . . .

- start conversations,
- stimulate interest,
- motivate people to want to learn more,
- teach the truth on Bible studies, and
- invite interested ones to visit our website and our Kingdom Halls.

Of course, it is not enough simply to have these tools. We must use them.\* For example, if after a refreshing conversation with an interested person, you leave him a tract or magazine, he will be able to do further reading until you are able to contact him again. It is our personal responsibility to keep busy every month in the Kingdom-preaching work.

<sup>11</sup> As another example of how Jehovah is helping people learn the truth, consider the *Online Bible Study Lessons* on [jw.org](http://jw.org)<sup>®</sup>. (Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > ONLINE LESSONS.) Why were these lessons created? Each month, tens of thousands of

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\* For details on how to use the items in the Teaching Toolbox, see the article “Teaching the Truth” in the October 2018 issue of *The Watchtower*.

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11. Why were Online Bible Study Lessons created?



people around the world search the Internet for Bible lessons. The lessons on our website can introduce these people to the truth of God’s Word. Some of the people you talk to may be hesitant to accept a personal Bible study. If so, show them this feature on our website or send them a link to the lessons.\*

<sup>12</sup> Our Online Bible Study Lessons cover these subjects: “The Bible and Its Author,” “The Bible’s Main Characters,” and “The Bible’s Message of Hope.” Within those subjects, they teach:

- How the Bible can help a person
- Who Jehovah, Jesus, and the angels are
- Why God created humans
- Why suffering and evil exist

The lessons also discuss how Jehovah will . . .

- end suffering and death,
- bring the dead back to life, and
- replace failed human governments with God’s Kingdom.

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\* The lessons are currently available in English and Portuguese, with more languages to come.

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**12.** What can a person learn from the Online Bible Study Lessons?

<sup>13</sup> The online lessons do not replace the Bible study arrangement. Jesus has given us the privilege of making disciples. We hope that interested ones will go through the online lessons, appreciate what they learn, and want to learn more. If so, perhaps they will accept a Bible study. At the end of each lesson, the reader is invited to submit a request for a personal instructor to study the Bible with him. Through our website, on average worldwide, we are receiving over 230 Bible study requests each day! That personal one-on-one instruction is vital!

## KEEP TRYING TO MAKE DISCIPLES

<sup>14</sup> Read Matthew 28:19, 20. As we conduct Bible studies, we have to try our best to “*make disciples . . .*, teaching them to observe all the things [Jesus has] commanded.” We need to help people understand how important it is for them to take their stand for Jehovah and his Kingdom. This means trying to motivate people to make the truth their own by applying what they learn, dedicating their life

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13. Do the online lessons replace the Bible study arrangement? Explain.

14. According to Jesus’ instructions recorded at Matthew 28:19, 20, what do we try our best to do, and why?

to Jehovah, and getting baptized. Only then will they survive Jehovah's day.—1 Pet. 3:21.

<sup>15</sup> As mentioned earlier, there is very little time between now and the end of this system of things. For this reason, we cannot afford to keep studying the Bible with people who have no clear intention of becoming Christ's disciples. (1 Cor. 9:26) Our work is urgent! There are many people who have yet to hear the Kingdom message before it is too late.

## **KEEP CLEAR OF ALL FALSE RELIGION**

<sup>16</sup> **Read Revelation 18:2, 4, 5, 8.** These verses identify something else that Jehovah expects of his worshippers. All true Christians must maintain a clear distinction between themselves and Babylon the Great. Before learning the truth, a Bible student may have been a member of a false religion. He may have attended its religious services and shared in its activities. Or he may have contributed money to such an organization. Before a Bible student can be approved as an unbaptized publisher, he must break all ties with false religion. He should submit a letter of resignation or otherwise completely sever his member-

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15. What can we not afford to do, and why?

16. According to Revelation 18:2, 4, 5, 8, what must we all do? (See also footnote.)

ship in his former church and in any other organization that has ties to Babylon the Great.\*

<sup>17</sup> A true Christian must make sure that his secular employment has nothing to do with Babylon the Great. (2 Cor. 6:14-17) For example, he would not be an employee of a church. Furthermore, a Christian who is employed by some other business would not want to do extensive work at a facility that promotes false worship. And if he owns a business, he would certainly not bid on a job or do contract work for any part of Babylon the Great. Why do we take such a firm stand? Because we do not want to share in the works and sins of religious organizations that are unclean in God's eyes.—Isa. 52:11.<sup>#</sup>

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\* We also need to avoid such organizations as youth camps or recreational facilities that have ties to false religion. For example, regarding membership in the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), see "Questions From Readers" in the January 1, 1979, issue of *The Watchtower*. The same stand must be taken toward the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association). Even though some local affiliates try to downplay the religious aspects of their activities, these are, in fact, organizations with religious roots and objectives.

<sup>#</sup> For a more thorough discussion of the Scriptural view of employment involving religious organizations, see "Questions From Readers" in the April 15, 1999, issue of *The Watchtower*.

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**17.** What sort of secular employment must a Christian avoid, and why?

**18** Years ago, a self-employed elder was asked by a contractor to accept a small carpentry job at a church in the town where the brother lived. The contractor knew that the brother had always said he would not work on churches. But this time the contractor was desperate to find someone for the job. Even so, the brother stuck to Bible principles and declined the work. The next week, the local newspaper showed a photograph of another carpenter attaching a cross to the church. If our brother had compromised his stand, it could have been his picture in the paper. Think of how damaging that would have been to his reputation among his fellow Christians! Think, too, of how Jehovah would have felt.

## **WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?**

**19** According to Bible prophecy, the next major event that will soon take place on the world scene is the nations' proclamation of "peace and security." Thanks to what Jehovah has taught us, we know that the nations will not achieve real and lasting peace. What should we do before that event occurs and sudden destruction follows? Jehovah expects us to keep

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**18.** How did one brother stick to Bible principles regarding his secular work?

**19-20.** (a) What have we learned so far? (b) What more do we need to learn?

busy preaching the Kingdom message and trying to make more disciples. At the same time, we need to keep separate from all false religion. That includes withdrawing from any memberships and avoiding employment associated with Babylon the Great.

<sup>20</sup> There are other events to follow during the last of “the last days.” There are also other things that Jehovah expects us to do. What are these, and how can we prepare ourselves for everything that is coming in the near future? We will see in the next article.

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 7:** Patrons at a coffee shop react to “Breaking News” on television about a proclamation of “peace and security.” A Witness couple, taking a break from field service, are not fooled by this report.

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#### WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT . . .

- the proclamation of “peace and security”?
- the urgency of the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work?
- how to stay clear of false religious organizations?

# We Are Jehovah's Army!

(Joel 2:7)

1. We are Jehovah's army,  
Under Christ, his Son.  
Though we're opposed by Satan,  
We are marching as one.  
We keep serving faithfully,  
Preaching far and near;  
We remain determined  
With no hint of fear.

*(CHORUS)*

*We are Jehovah's army;  
With his Christ we're one,  
Joyfully declaring,  
"God's rule has begun."*

2. We are Jehovah's servants,  
Searching for his sheep,  
Those who are lost and scattered,  
Those who sigh and who weep.  
These we try to find and feed  
With repeated calls;  
These we keep inviting  
To our Kingdom Halls.

*(Chorus)*



3. We are Jehovah's army,  
Under Christ's command,  
Fully equipped for battle,  
Each one firmly will stand.  
Cautious though we need to be,  
Upright we remain.  
In the face of danger,  
Truth we will maintain.

*(CHORUS)*

*We are Jehovah's army;  
With his Christ we're one,  
Joyfully declaring,  
"God's rule has begun."*

