

- Song 55 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Do Not Fear the Fearsome Beasts”:** (10 min.)
 Re 13:1, 2—The dragon gives authority to a seven-headed, ten-horned wild beast (w12 6/15 8 ¶6)
 Re 13:11, 15—A two-horned wild beast gives life to the image of the first wild beast (re 194 ¶26; 195 ¶30-31)
 Re 13:16, 17—Do not accept the mark of the wild beast (w09 2/15 4 ¶2)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Re 16:13, 14—How will the nations be gathered for “the war of the great day of God the Almighty”? (w09 2/15 4 ¶5)

Re 16:21—What message will we no doubt declare just prior to the end of Satan’s world? (w15 7/15 16 ¶9)

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 16:1-16 (10)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **First Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (2)
- **First Return Visit:** (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video *What Happens at a Bible Study?* (11)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 21
- **Maintain Your Neutrality:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Neutrality in Thought and Action* (video category THE BIBLE). Then ask the question, How can you remain neutral regarding social issues or governmental policies? Next play the video *Maintain Neutrality at Public Events* (video category THE BIBLE). Then ask the question, How can you prepare for situations that may test your neutral stand?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 95
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 131 and Prayer

REVELATION 13-16 | Do Not Fear the Fearsome Beasts

13:1, 2, 11, 15-17

Understanding the identity of the beasts of Revelation chapter 13 helps us to avoid fearing them or following them with admiration as mankind in general does.

MATCH EACH BEAST WITH WHAT IT REPRESENTS

The dragon.
—Re 13:1, fn.



A wild beast with ten horns and seven heads.—Re 13:1, 2



A wild beast with two horns like a lamb.—Re 13:11



The image of the wild beast.—Re 13:15



- The Anglo-American World Power
- The League of Nations and its successor, the United Nations
- Satan the Devil
- All governments opposed to God

Fear Them Not!

(Matthew 10:28)

G/D D7 G Am11 D7/A G/B E+5 E/D Am/C E7/B Am

Ev - er on - ward, O my peo - ple, Let the King - dom tid - ings go.
E - ven though your foes are man - y, Though they threat - en and re - vile,
Nev - er fear you are for - got - ten; I am still your strength and shield.

D7 D° D7 G G° G

Trem - ble not be - fore our foe. Let all lov - ers of truth know
Though they flat - ter and they smile, To mis - lead and to be - guile.
Though you die up - on the field, E - ven death to me will yield.

G/D D7 G Am11 D7/A G/B E+5 E/D A/C# D A7/E D/F#

That my reign - ing Son, Christ Je - sus, To the earth has cast the foe,
Fear them not, my faith - ful peo - ple, Nor their per - se - cu - tion's heat,
Fear them not who kill the bod - y But can - not de - stroy the soul.

F° D/F# Am6/C B7 D/E E9 G/A A7 D D7

Soon to bind the Dev - il, Sa - tan, Let - ting all his vic - tims go.
For I will pre - serve the faith - ful Till the vic - t'ry is com - plete.
To the end may you be faith - ful; I will bring you to your goal!

Fear Them Not!

Chorus

G Bm/D D/C G/B G/D D7 C/G G

Fear them not, O my be - lov - ed,

R.H.

D7 C/D D7 D+5 G G#° D7/A D7

Though their boast - ing threats may fly.

G Bm/D D/C G/B B7 D/C C Am7 A#°

I will keep my faith - ful ser - vant

G/B Bb° D7/A G G/D D7 G G/B Am11 G

As the ap - ple of my eye.

(See also Deut. 32:10; Neh. 4:14; Ps. 59:1; 83:2, 3.)

cause of the blood of the Lamb^a and because of the word of their witnessing,^b and they did not love their souls^c even in the face of death. **12** On this account be glad, you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea,^d because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing that he has a short period of time.”^e

13 Now when the dragon saw that it had been hurled down to the earth,^f it persecuted the woman^g who gave birth to the male child. **14** But the two wings of the great eagle^h were given to the woman, so that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is to be fed for a time and times and half a time^h away from the face of the serpent.^j

15 And the serpent spewed out water like a river from its mouth after the woman, to cause her to be drowned by the river. **16** But the earth came to the woman's help, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon spewed out from its mouth. **17** So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went off to wage war with the remaining ones of her offspring,^k who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness concerning Jesus.^l

13 And it^{*} stood still on the sand of the sea.

And I saw a wild beast^m ascending out of the sea,ⁿ with ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns ten diadems,^o but on its heads blasphemous names. **2** Now the wild beast that I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were like those of a bear, and

12:11 *Or “lives.” See Glossary. 12:14 *That is, three and a half times. 12:17 *Lit., “seed.” 13:1 *That is, the dragon. ^aOr “royal headbands.”

CHAP. 12

- a 1Pe 1:18, 19
b Ac 1:8
2Ti 1:8
Re 1:9
c Mt 16:25
Lu 14:26
Ac 20:24
d Isa 57:20
Isa 60:2
Re 17:15
e Mt 24:34
Ro 16:20
2Ti 3:1
2Pe 3:3
f Lu 10:18
g Ge 3:15
Re 12:1
h Ex 19:4
Isa 40:31
i Re 12:6
j Ge 3:1
2Co 11:3
k Ge 3:15
l Mt 24:9
Ac 1:8
Re 1:9
Re 6:9

CHAP. 13

- m Re 11:7
Re 13:18
n Isa 57:20
Re 21:1

Second Col.

- a Re 12:9
b Lu 4:6
c Re 13:14
d Re 11:2, 3
e Da 7:25
f Re 12:12
g Re 12:17
h Re 3:5
Re 21:27
i Isa 53:7
Mt 27:50
Re 5:6, 12
j Mt 11:15
k Mt 26:52
l Mt 24:13
Heb 10:36
Heb 12:3
m Re 2:10
n Da 7:18
1Co 6:2
Re 20:6
o Re 16:13
Re 20:2
p Re 13:1

its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon^a gave to the beast its power and its throne and great authority.^b

3 I saw that one of its heads seemed to have been fatally wounded, but its mortal wound had been healed,^c and all the earth followed the wild beast with admiration. **4** And they worshipped the dragon because it gave the authority to the wild beast, and they worshipped the wild beast with the words: “Who is like the wild beast, and who can do battle with it?” **5** It was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and it was given authority to act for 42 months.^d **6** And it opened its mouth in blasphemies^e against God to blaspheme his name and his dwelling place, even those residing in heaven.^f **7** It was permitted to wage war with the holy ones and conquer them,^g and it was given authority over every tribe and people and tongue^{*} and nation. **8** And all those who dwell on the earth will worship it. From the founding of the world, not one of their names has been written in the scroll of life^h of the Lamb who was slaughtered.ⁱ

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.^j **10** If anyone is meant for captivity, he will go into captivity, if anyone will kill with the sword,^k he must be killed with the sword.^k This is where it calls for endurance^l and faith^m on the part of the holy ones.ⁿ

11 Then I saw another wild beast ascending out of the earth, and it had two horns like a lamb, but it began speaking like a dragon.^o **12** It exercises all the authority of the first wild beast^p in its sight. And it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first wild beast, whose mortal

13:7 *Or “language.” 13:10 *Or possibly, “if anyone is to be killed with the sword.”

wound was healed.^a **13** And it performs great signs, even making fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the sight of mankind.

14 It misleads those who dwell on the earth, because of the signs that it was permitted to perform in the sight of the wild beast, while it tells those who dwell on the earth to make an image^b to the wild beast that had the sword-stroke and yet revived.^c **15** And it was permitted to give breath* to the image of the wild beast, so that the image of the wild beast should both speak and cause to be killed all those who refuse to worship the image of the wild beast.

16 It puts under compulsion all people—the small and the great, the rich and the poor, the free and the slaves—that these should be marked on their right hand or on their forehead,^d **17** and that nobody can buy or sell except a person having the mark, the name^e of the wild beast or the number of its name.^f **18** This is where it calls for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the number of the wild beast, for it is a man's number,* and its number is 666.^g

14 Then I saw, and look! the Lamb^h standing on Mount Zion,ⁱ and with him 144,000^j who have his name and the name of his Father^k written on their foreheads. **2** I heard a sound coming out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the sound that I heard was like singers who accompany themselves by playing on their harps. **3** And they are singing what seems to be a new song^l before the throne and before the four living creatures^m and the

13:15 *Or "spirit." 13:18 *Or "a human number."

CHAP. 13

- a Re 13:3
- b Re 19:20
- c Re 20:4
- d Re 13:3
- e Re 14:9, 10
- f Re 16:2
- g Re 19:20
- h Re 14:11
- i Re 15:2
- j Da 3:1

CHAP. 14

- h Joh 1:29
- Re 5:6
- Re 22:3
- i Ps 2:6
- Heb 12:22
- 1Pe 2:6
- j Re 7:4
- k Re 3:12
- l Ps 33:3
- Ps 98:1
- Ps 149:1
- Re 5:9
- m Re 4:6

Second Col.

- a Re 4:4
- Re 19:4
- b Re 7:4
- c 2Co 11:2
- Jas 1:27
- Jas 4:4
- d 1Pe 2:21
- e 1Co 6:20
- 1Co 7:23
- Re 5:9
- f Jas 1:18
- g Eph 5:25-27
- Jude 24
- h Mt 24:14
- Mr 13:10
- Ac 1:8
- i 2Pe 2:9
- j Ex 20:11
- Ps 146:6
- k Re 17:18
- l Isa 21:9
- Re 18:21
- m Jer 51:7, 8
- Re 17:1, 2
- Re 18:2, 3
- n Re 13:1
- o Re 13:15, 16
- p Ps 75:8
- Re 11:18
- Re 16:19
- q Re 21:8
- r Mt 25:46
- 2Th 1:9
- Re 19:3

elders,^a and no one was able to master that song except the 144,000,^b who have been bought from the earth. **4** These are the ones who did not defile themselves with women; in fact, they are virgins.^c These are the ones who keep following the Lamb no matter where he goes.^d These were bought^e from among mankind as firstfruits^f to God and to the Lamb, **5** and no deceit was found in their mouths; they are without blemish.^g

6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven,^h and he had everlasting good news to declare to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation and tribe and tongueⁱ and people.^h **7** He was saying in a loud voice: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of judgment by him has arrived,^j so worship the One who made the heaven and the earth and the sea^k and the springs* of water."

8 Another, a second angel, followed, saying: "She has fallen! Babylon the Great^k has fallen,^l she who made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion* of her sexual immorality!"^m

9 Another angel, a third, followed them, saying in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the wild beastⁿ and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,^o **10** he will also drink of the wine of the anger of God that is poured out undiluted into the cup of His wrath,^p and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur^q in the sight of the holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb. **11** And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever,^r and day and night they have no rest, those who worship the wild beast and its image and whoever

14:6 *Or "in midair; overhead." #Or "language." 14:7 *Or "fountains." 14:8 *Or "anger." #Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary.

receives the mark of its name.^a

12 Here is where it calls for endurance on the part of the holy ones,^b those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith^c of Jesus.”

13 And I heard a voice out of heaven say, “Write: Happy are the dead who die in union with the Lord^d from this time onward. Yes, says the spirit, let them rest from their labors, for the things they did go right* with them.”

14 Then I saw, and look! a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was someone like a son of man,^e with a golden crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

15 Another angel emerged from the temple sanctuary, calling with a loud voice to the one seated on the cloud: “Put your sickle in and reap, because the hour has come to reap, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”^f

16 And the one seated on the cloud thrust his sickle into the earth, and the earth was reaped.

17 And still another angel emerged from the temple sanctuary that is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle.

18 And still another angel emerged from the altar, and he had authority over the fire. And he called out with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying: “Put your sharp sickle in and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes have become ripe.”^g **19** The angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and he hurled it into the great winepress of God’s anger.^h **20** The winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress as high up as the bridles of the horses for a distance of 1,600 stadia.*

14:13 *Or “along.” **14:20** *About 296 km (184 mi). A stadium equaled 185 m (606.95 ft). See App. B14.

CHAP. 14

- a Re 13:16-18
- Re 16:2
- Re 20:4
- b Re 13:10
- c Heb 10:38
- d 1Co 15:51, 52
- 1Th 4:16, 17
- e Da 7:13
- f Mt 13:30
- g Joe 3:13
- h Re 19:11, 15

Second Col.

CHAP. 15

- a Re 16:1
- b Re 16:17
- c 1Ki 7:23
- Re 4:6
- d Re 2:7
- e Re 13:15
- f Re 13:18
- g Ex 15:1
- De 31:30
- h Joh 1:29
- i Ex 15:11
- Ps 111:2
- Ps 139:14
- j Ex 6:3
- k De 32:4
- Ps 145:17
- l Jer 10:10
- 1Ti 1:17
- m Jer 10:6, 7
- n Ps 86:9
- Mal 1:11
- o Ac 7:44
- Heb 8:1, 2
- Heb 9:11
- p Re 11:19
- q Re 15:1
- r Ps 75:8
- Jer 25:15
- Re 14:9, 10
- s Ex 40:34, 35
- 1Ki 8:10, 11
- Isa 6:4
- Eze 44:4
- t Re 15:1

CHAP. 16

- u Re 16:17
- v Ps 69:24
- Zep 3:8

15 And I saw in heaven another sign, great and wonderful, seven angels^a with seven plagues. These are the last ones, because by means of them the anger of God is brought to a finish.^b

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass^c mingled with fire, and those who are victorious^d over the wild beast and its image^e and the number of its name^f were standing by the sea of glass, holding harps of God. **3** They were singing the song of Moses^g the slave of God and the song of the Lamb,^h saying:

“Great and wonderful are your works,ⁱ Jehovah* God, the Almighty.^j Righteous and true are your ways,^k King of eternity.^l **4** Who will not really fear you, Jehovah,* and glorify your name, for you alone are loyal?^m For all the nations will come and worship before you,ⁿ because your righteous decrees have been revealed.”

5 After this I saw, and the sanctuary of the tent of the witness^o was opened in heaven,^p **6** and the seven angels with the seven plagues^q emerged from the sanctuary, clothed with clean, bright linen and with golden sashes wrapped around their chests.

7 One of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls that were full of the anger of God,^r who lives forever and ever. **8** And the sanctuary became filled with smoke because of the glory of God^s and because of his power, and no one was able to enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues^t of the seven angels were finished.

16 And I heard a loud voice out of the sanctuary^u say to the seven angels: “Go and pour out the seven bowls of the anger of God on the earth.”^v

15:3, 4 *See App. A5.

2 The first one went off and poured out his bowl on the earth.^a And a hurtful and malignant ulcer^b afflicted the people who had the mark of the wild beast^c and who were worshipping its image.^d

3 The second one poured out his bowl into the sea.^e And it became blood^f like that of a dead man, and every living creature* died, yes, the things in the sea.^g

4 The third one poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs* of water.^h And they became blood.ⁱ 5 I heard the angel over the waters say: "You, the One who is and who was,^j the loyal One,^k are righteous, for you have issued these judgments,^l 6 because they poured out the blood of holy ones and of prophets,^m and you have given them blood to drink;ⁿ they deserve it."^o 7 And I heard the altar say: "Yes, Jehovah* God, the Almighty,^p true and righteous are your judgments."^q

8 The fourth one poured out his bowl on the sun,^r and to the sun it was granted to scorch the people with fire. 9 And the people were scorched by the great heat, but they blasphemed the name of God, who has the authority over these plagues, and they did not repent and give glory to him.

10 The fifth one poured out his bowl on the throne of the wild beast. And its kingdom became darkened,^s and they began to gnaw their tongues because of their pain, 11 but they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their ulcers, and they did not repent of their works.

12 The sixth one poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates,^t and its water was dried

16:3 *Or "soul." 16:4 *Or "fountains." 16:7 *See App. A5. #Or "judicial decisions."

CHAP. 16

- a Re 8:7
b Ex 9:10
c Re 13:16, 18
d Re 13:15
Re 19:20
e Re 8:8
f Ex 7:20
g Isa 57:20
h Re 8:10
i Ex 7:20
Ps 78:44
j Re 1:4
k Ps 145:17
Re 15:4
l De 32:4
Ps 119:137
m Ps 79:3
n Isa 49:26
o Re 18:20
p Ex 6:3
q Ps 19:9
Ps 119:137
Re 19:1, 2
r Re 8:12
s Ex 10:21
Isa 8:22
t Re 9:13, 14

Second Col.

- a Jer 50:38
b Isa 44:27, 28
c Re 12:3
d Re 13:11, 13
e Re 19:19
f Isa 13:6
Jer 25:33
Eze 30:3
Joe 1:15
Joe 2:1, 11
Zep 1:15
2Pe 3:11, 12
g 1Th 5:2
2Pe 3:10
h Lu 21:36
i Re 3:18
j 2Ch 35:22
Zec 12:11
Re 19:19
k Re 16:1
l Eze 38:19
Da 12:1
Heb 12:26
m Re 17:18
n Re 18:2
o Jer 25:15
Re 15:7
p Re 6:14
q Job 38:22, 23

up^a to prepare the way for the kings^b from the rising of the sun.*

13 And I saw three unclean inspired expressions* that looked like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon^c and out of the mouth of the wild beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and they perform signs,^d and they go out to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war^e of the great day of God the Almighty.^f

15 "Look! I am coming as a thief.^g Happy is the one who stays awake^h and keeps his outer garments, so that he may not walk naked and people look upon his shamefulness."ⁱ

16 And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Armageddon.*^j

17 The seventh one poured out his bowl on the air. At this a loud voice came out of the sanctuary^k from the throne, saying: "It has come to pass!" 18 And there were flashes of lightning and voices and thunders, and there was a great earthquake unlike any that had occurred since men came to be on the earth,^l so extensive and so great was the earthquake. 19 The great city^m split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell; and Babylon the Greatⁿ was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.^o

20 Also, every island fled, and mountains were not found.^p

21 Then great hailstones, each about the weight of a talent,^q fell from heaven on the people,^q and the people blasphemed God be-

16:12 *Or "from the east." 16:13 *Lit., "unclean spirits." 16:16 *Greek, *Har Ma-ge-don*, from a Hebrew term meaning "Mountain of Megiddo." 16:21 *A Greek talent equaled 20.4 kg (654 oz t). See App. B14.

cause of the plague of hail,^a for the plague was unusually great.

17 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls^b came and said to me: "Come, I will show you the judgment on the great prostitute who sits on many waters,^c **2** with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality,^{*d} and earth's inhabitants were made drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality."^e

3 And he carried me away in the power of the spirit into a wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet-colored wild beast that was full of blasphemous names and that had seven heads and ten horns. **4** The woman was clothed in purple^f and scarlet, and she was adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,^g and she had in her hand a golden cup that was full of disgusting things and the unclean things of her sexual immorality.^h **5** On her forehead was written a name, a mystery: "Babylon the Great, the mother of the prostitutes^h and of the disgusting things of the earth."ⁱ **6** And I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the holy ones and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.^j

Well, on seeing her I was greatly amazed. **7** So the angel said to me: "Why is it that you were amazed? I will tell you the mystery of the woman^k and of the wild beast that is carrying her and that has the seven heads and the ten horns:^l **8** The wild beast that you saw was, but is not, and yet is about to ascend out of the abyss,^m and it is to go off into destruction. And the inhabitants of the earth—those whose names have not been written in the scroll of lifeⁿ from the found-

17:2 *See Glossary. 17:2, 4 ^aGreek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary.

CHAP. 16

a Ex 9:24

CHAP. 17

b Re 16:1

c Jer 51:13

Re 17:15

Re 19:2

d Jas 4:4

Re 18:9

e Jer 51:7

Re 14:8

Re 18:3

f Lu 16:19

g Re 18:11, 12

Re 18:19

h Re 19:2

i Re 18:5

j Re 6:9

Re 18:24

Re 19:2

k Re 17:5

l Re 17:3

m Re 20:1

n Ex 32:32

Ps 69:28

Php 4:3

Second Col.

a Re 17:7

b Re 17:8

c Joh 1:29

Re 5:6

d Mt 28:18

Ac 2:36

ITi 6:15

e Re 19:11, 15

f Ro 16:20

g Isa 57:20

Jer 51:13

h Re 17:12

i Re 17:8

j Re 17:7

k Le 21:9

Re 18:8

l Jos 11:19, 20

Pr 21:1

m Re 17:12

n Re 17:5

ing of the world—will be amazed when they see how the wild beast was, but is not, and yet will be present.

9 "This calls for a mind^{*} that has wisdom: The seven heads^a mean seven mountains, where the woman sits on top. **10** And there are seven kings: Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet arrived; but when he does arrive, he must remain a short while. **11** And the wild beast that was but is not,^b it is also an eighth king, but it springs from the seven, and it goes off into destruction.

12 "The ten horns that you saw mean ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they do receive authority as kings for one hour with the wild beast. **13** These have one thought, so they give their power and authority to the wild beast. **14** These will battle with the Lamb,^c but because he is Lord of lords and King of kings,^d the Lamb will conquer them.^e Also, those with him who are called and chosen and faithful will do so."^f

15 He said to me: "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is sitting, mean peoples and crowds and nations and tongues.^{*g} **16** And the ten horns^h that you saw and the wild beast,ⁱ these will hate the prostitute^j and will make her devastated and naked, and they will eat up her flesh and completely burn her with fire.^k **17** For God put it into their hearts to carry out his thought,^l yes, to carry out their one thought by giving their kingdom to the wild beast,^m until the words of God will have been accomplished. **18** And the womanⁿ whom you saw means the great city that has a kingdom over the kings of the earth."

17:9 *Or "for intelligence." 17:15 *Or "languages."

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 21
- **Maintain Your Neutrality:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Neutrality in Thought and Action* (video category THE BIBLE). Then ask the question, How can you remain neutral regarding social issues or governmental policies? Next play the video *Maintain Neutrality at Public Events* (video category THE BIBLE). Then ask the question, How can you prepare for situations that may test your neutral stand?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 95
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 131 and Prayer

REVELATION 13-16 | Do Not Fear the Fearsome Beasts

13:1, 2, 11, 15-17

Understanding the identity of the beasts of Revelation chapter 13 helps us to avoid fearing them or following them with admiration as mankind in general does.

MATCH EACH BEAST WITH WHAT IT REPRESENTS

The dragon.
—Re 13:1, fn.



A wild beast with ten horns and seven heads.—Re 13:1, 2



A wild beast with two horns like a lamb.—Re 13:11



The image of the wild beast.—Re 13:15



- The Anglo-American World Power
- The League of Nations and its successor, the United Nations
- Satan the Devil
- All governments opposed to God

December 16-22 / Revelation 13-16

Treasures From God's Word

"Do Not Fear the Fearsome Beasts": (10 minutes)

Revelation 13:1, 2—The dragon gives authority to a seven-headed, ten-horned wild beast

Revelation 13:1, 2: And it stood still on the sand of the sea. And I saw a wild beast ascending out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns ten diadems, but on its heads blasphemous names. Now the wild beast that I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were like those of a bear, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave to the beast its power and its throne and great authority.

w12 6/15 8 paragraph 6

At the close of the first century C.E., the resurrected Jesus gave the apostle John a series of stunning visions. (Revelation 1:1) In one of them, John saw the Devil, represented as a dragon, standing on the shore of a vast sea. (Read Revelation 13:1, 2.) John also saw a strange beast rise from that sea and receive great authority from the Devil. An angel later indicates to John that the seven heads of a scarlet beast, which is an image of the beast of Revelation 13:1, represent "seven kings," or governments. (Revelation 13:14, 15; 17:3, 9, 10) At the time of John's writing, five of those had fallen, one was currently in power, and one had "not yet arrived." What is the identity of those kingdoms, or world powers? Let us consider each of the heads of the beast described in Revelation. We will also see how the writings of Daniel added detailed insights into many of these kingdoms, sometimes centuries before they came into existence.

Revelation 13:11, 15—A two-horned wild beast gives life to the image of the first wild beast

Revelation 13:11: Then I saw another wild beast ascending out of the earth, and it had two horns like a lamb, but it began speaking like a dragon.

Revelation 13:15: And it was permitted to give breath to the image of the wild beast, so that the image of the wild beast should both speak and cause to be killed all those who refuse to worship the image of the wild beast.

re 194 paragraph 26

What can it be? The Anglo-American World Power—the same as the seventh head of the first wild beast but in a special role! Isolating it in the vision as a separate wild beast helps us to see more clearly how it acts independently on the world stage. This figurative two-horned wild beast is made up of two coexisting, independent, but cooperating political powers. Its two horns “like a lamb” suggest that it makes itself out to be mild and inoffensive, with an enlightened form of government to which all the world should turn. But it speaks “as a dragon” in that it uses pressure and threats and even outright violence wherever its version of rulership is not accepted. It has not encouraged submission to God’s Kingdom under the rule of the Lamb of God but, rather, to the interests of Satan, the great dragon. It has promoted nationalistic divisions and hatreds that add up to worshipping the first wild beast.

re 195 paragraphs 30-31

30 The outworking of history identifies this image as the organization proposed, promoted, and supported by Britain and the United States and known initially as the League of Nations. Later, in Revelation chapter 17, it will appear under a different symbol, that of a living, breathing scarlet-colored wild beast having an independent existence. This international body ‘speaks,’ in that it makes boastful claims to be the only one able to bring peace and security to mankind. But in reality it has become a forum for member nations to exchange verbal tirades and insults. It has threatened with ostracism, or a living death, any nation or people that does not bow to its authority. The League of Nations actually expelled nations that failed to abide by its ideologies. At the onset of the great tribulation, militaristic “horns” of this image of the wild beast will fulfill a devastating role.—Revelation 7:14; 17:8, 16.

31 Since World War II, the image of the wild beast—now manifested as the United Nations organization—has already killed in a literal way. For example, in 1950 a UN force took the field in the war between North Korea and South Korea. The UN force, along with the South Koreans, killed an estimated 1,420,000 North Koreans and Chinese. Similarly, from 1960 to 1964, United Nations armies were active in the Congo (Kinshasa). Moreover, world leaders, including popes Paul VI and John Paul II, have continued to affirm that this image is man’s last and best hope for peace. If mankind fails to serve it, they insist, the human race will destroy itself. They thus figuratively cause to be killed all humans who refuse to go along with the image and worship it.—Deuteronomy 5:8, 9.

Revelation 13:16, 17—Do not accept the mark of the wild beast

Revelation 13:16, 17: It puts under compulsion all people—the small and the great, the rich and the poor, the free and the slaves—that these should be marked on their right hand or on their forehead, and that nobody can buy or sell except a person having the mark, the name of the wild beast or the number of its name.

w09 2/15 4 paragraph 2

Despite the hardships we may encounter in carrying out such everyday activities as ‘buying or selling,’ we should not allow ourselves to be pressured into letting the wild beast rule our lives. Accepting ‘the mark of the wild beast in our hand or upon our forehead’ would amount to permitting the wild beast to control our actions or affect our thinking.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Revelation 16:13, 14—How will the nations be gathered for “the war of the great day of God the Almighty”?

Revelation 16:13, 14: And I saw three unclean inspired expressions that looked like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the wild beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and they perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty.

w09 2/15 4 paragraph 5

Revelation 16:13-16. “Unclean inspired expressions” symbolize demonic propaganda intended to ensure that the kings of the earth are not swayed by the pouring out of the seven bowls of God’s anger but instead are maneuvered into opposition to Jehovah.—Matthew 24:42, 44.

Revelation 16:21—What message will we no doubt declare just prior to the end of Satan’s world?

Revelation 16:21: Then great hailstones, each about the weight of a talent, fell from heaven on the people, and the people blasphemed God because of the plague of hail, for the plague was unusually great.

w15 7/15 16 paragraph 9

This will *not* be the time to preach the “good news of the Kingdom.” That time will have passed. The time for “the end” will have come! (Matthew 24:14) No doubt God’s people will proclaim a hard-hitting judgment message. This may well involve a declaration announcing that Satan’s wicked world is about to come to its complete end. The Bible likens this message to hailstones when it says: “Great hailstones, each about the weight of a talent, fell from heaven on the people, and the people blasphemed God because of the plague of hail, for the plague was unusually great.”—Revelation 16:21.

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 minutes or less) Revelation 16:1-16 (*th* study 10)

- Song 55 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Do Not Fear the Fearsome Beasts”:** (10 min.)
 Re 13:1, 2—The dragon gives authority to a seven-headed, ten-horned wild beast (w12 6/15 8 ¶6)
 Re 13:11, 15—A two-horned wild beast gives life to the image of the first wild beast (re 194 ¶26; 195 ¶30-31)
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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Re 16:1-16 (10)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **First Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (2)
- **First Return Visit:** (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video *What Happens at a Bible Study?* (11)

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- Song 21
- **Maintain Your Neutrality:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Neutrality in Thought and Action* (video category THE BIBLE). Then ask the question, How can you remain neutral regarding social issues or governmental policies? Next play the video *Maintain Neutrality at Public Events* (video category THE BIBLE). Then ask the question, How can you prepare for situations that may test your neutral stand?
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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

- **Question:** What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?
- **Scripture:** 1 Ti 6:9, 10
- **Link:** What are the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude?

FIRST RETURN VISIT

Tony (Publisher 1): Hi Todd. It's good to find your home again, my name is Tony, the last time I was here I shared a Bible verse with you.

Todd (Householder): Oh yeah, I remember.

Tony (Publisher 1): How's everything going?

Todd (Householder): Not bad, just busy working to pay the bills.

(Video Pulse):

"What would you next?"

Tony (Publisher 1): It's definitely a challenge to make ends meet these days. When we spoke previously, I left the question, what effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness? I'll be very brief. Since you're busy, I'd like to share just one scriptural thought regarding that question. Notice please what the Bible says here at 1 Timothy 6:9, 10:

⁹ But those who are determined to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and many senseless and harmful desires that plunge men into destruction and ruin. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of injurious things, and by reaching out for this love some have been led astray from the faith and have stabbed themselves all over with many pains.

Tony (Publisher 1): So what can the love of money and possessions lead to?

Todd (Householder): Pain, destruction and ruin.

Tony (Publisher 1): Exactly, have you ever seen that happen to someone?

Todd (Householder): My boss is that way. I don't think the man even sleeps. He's definitely a workaholic and he never has time for his family, that's really sad.

Tony (Publisher 1): It's not easy to stay balanced, that's for sure. Do you think all those hours of working lead to happiness?

Todd (Householder): Not really.

Tony (Publisher 1): True, and there it is, right in the Bible written thousands of years ago. The Bible also describes some of the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude. Let's talk about that next time. Will you be around next Saturday?

video source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/LatestVideos/pub-mwbv_201912_2_VIDEO



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations



INITIAL CALL

Question: Where can we find solid advice on how to live a happy life?

Scripture: Ps 1:1, 2

Link: What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?



FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?

Scripture: 1Ti 6:9, 10

Link: What are the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude?



SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: What are the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude?

Scripture: Pr 17:22

Link: How can a family prosper despite difficulties?



21

Keep On Seeking First the Kingdom

(Matthew 6:33)

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

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

E♭ G/D Cm G7 Cm Cm7 Gm7 C7

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

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

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

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

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

- Song 55 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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Neutrality in Thought and Action

(A young brother reads the daily text for the family at breakfast)

“They are no part of the world.”—John 17:16.

“We must remain neutral in order to be loyal subjects of God’s Kingdom. “Otherwise, how could we have a clean conscience “when we preach the good news “that only God’s Kingdom can solve mankind’s problems? “. . . As Satan’s system nears its end, we can expect the issue of neutrality to become more prominent.”

(At school, the teacher speaks.)

OK, people, we’re ready to go. Dawn, Jordan, can I get you to grab the blinds please?

(A video is played in the class showing a hurricane and how man is polluting the world.)

(Teacher)

In your work groups this week, you’ll outline the policies you feel world governments should implement. Remember, it’s young people like you, each of you, who must take action to solve the problems that threaten our planet.

(On his way home the young brother sees protestors against war. He hears a protester speaking with an onlooker.)

When war comes, they’ll look for you and me to do the fighting. Will you speak up and tell them, ‘No, no, we won’t?’

(The onlooker signs a petition.)

(While in field service, a house holder asks the young brother a political question.)

But I’m more worried about the elections, especially for your generation. I mean, who do you think is going to win?

(Young brother)

Uhm, well, we believe that—uhm . . .

(His mother, who is in field service with him, steps in to help respond to the house holder.)

That’s actually a very interesting question. And as Jehovah’s Witnesses, we believe that it’s God’s Kingdom that’s going to bring about all the solutions that we need for all of our problems. For example, . . .

(The young brother is buying food at a deli...)

That's £7.50, please. Thank you.

(...he hears 2 patrons talking)

1) But you know, this new government policy—I really think it's going to work. 2) You're crazy. With their policies, we'll be bankrupt within three years. 1) But if it works, though, it's going to make people rich. 2) Those who are rich already. No, I'm fed up. They say the same thing...

(At home, the young brother turns on the TV.)

We've invited a panel of experts to explore these issues, namely, can the opposition party win? Will they keep their promises to lower-income people? And what changes could we expect on required military service? You'll want to hear the answers. Let's begin by speaking to John McGarthy, the minister of education.

(Soliloquy by the young brother.)

If put to the test, I do want to take my stand for Jehovah. But the outcome of all these things can affect me now—my family, my goals. How can I stay neutral, even in my heart?

John 17:14 "I have given your word to them, but the world has hated them, because they are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world. I do not request that you take them out of the world, but that you watch over them because of the wicked one. They are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world. Sanctify them by means of the truth; your word is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I also sent them into the world. And I am sanctifying myself in their behalf, so that they also may be sanctified by means of truth."

No part of the world, like Jesus, both in thought and action.

(Young brother, back in field service)

(House holder)

Sure, but in our lifetime?

(Young brother)

Yes! And I have found something that has helped me to be sure of this. Can I share it with you? It's here at Matthew 24:33. Jesus said: "Likewise also you, when you see all these things, know that he is near at the doors."

Maintain Neutrality at Public Events

(Husband)

Collette, I'm home.

(Wife)

In the kitchen, Curtis. How was your day?

(Husband)

Oh, it was a long day, but it's nice being home. That smells amazing! I can't wait.

(Wife)

Oh, well, it will be ready in a few minutes. But I have a surprise; my job gave us tickets to the game this weekend—enough for all of us to go. So it's downtown at the . . .

(Husband, soliloquy)

That sounded like fun. It was a sport we could enjoy watching. Collette and I hadn't been in years, and I don't think the kids had ever gone. We were all looking forward to a family night out.

(At the dinner table)

(Son)

But, Dad, what exactly do we do during the national anthem?

(Husband, soliloquy)

Honestly, I wasn't sure.

(The husband pictures a scene where he and his family remain standing while the other attendees stand for the national anthem at the sporting event.)

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please stand for the singing of our national anthem?

(Daughter)

Dad, I have a question too. Will they salute the flag at my new school?

(Husband, soliloquy)

That's right. The conference with her teachers was next week, and we didn't know what they'd do there.

(The husband pictures a scene at his daughter's new school where she remains seated while the other students stand to salute the flag.)

OK, class. Now that everyone is here, let's all stand for the pledge of allegiance. Elizabeth, is everything all right?

(Wife)

What do you think, Honey?

(Husband)

Well, tomorrow night is our Family Worship evening. So why don't we do a study project as a family on Christian neutrality at public events?

(Son)

That sounds like a good idea.

(Daughter)

Yeah.

(Husband)

I think this will be great. We'll all get a chance to do our research.

(Husband, soliloquy)

I asked Daniel to research Christian principles on neutrality. Collette and Elizabeth would find examples of ones who proved loyal under pressure. And for me, my job was to call Elizabeth's new school to find out if they saluted the flag or sang the anthem.

(School representative)

Hello. Hi, Mr. Johnson? This is Curtis, Elizabeth's dad.

(Husband, soliloquy)

We'd studied this topic when the kids were younger, but we needed reminders for these new challenges. The kids found some great information. Several Bible principles applied. But what Jesus said at Matthew 4:10 was an essential foundation: "It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service." If we participate in a nationalistic ceremony, we're sharing in worship of something or someone other than Jehovah God. But what would help us know what to do? Elizabeth found some good examples to imitate. The account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was one of our favorites. When King Nebuchadnezzar ordered them to worship the gold image, they bravely stood while others bowed down. They were determined to worship only

Jehovah, and He rescued them from the furnace. And there are modern-day examples of courage like the three Hebrews. Some children have had to take a stand when governments tried to force them to take part in patriotic events during wartime, when feelings of national pride ran strong. And despite legal victories in some countries, young ones today are still put to the test. We learned there was no one answer on what to do. Situations are different depending on where we live or what a person does to show he's participating. But in every case, Christians in some way make it evident that they are respectful observers, not participants.

(The daughter is seen standing respectfully while her classmates salute the flag.)

We felt good because we had decided what we would do to be respectful but neutral and show Jehovah that our family worships him alone.

TEACHING ABOUT DIVORCE AND LOVE FOR CHILDREN

MATTHEW 19:1-15 MARK 10:1-16 LUKE 18:15-17

From Galilee, Jesus and his disciples cross the Jordan River and take the route southward through Perea. When Jesus was last in Perea, he had stated for the Pharisees the divine standard on divorce. (Luke 16:18) Now they raise that subject to test Jesus.

Moses wrote that a woman could be divorced over “something indecent” on her part. (Deuteronomy 24:1) There are differing views as to what constitutes grounds for divorce. Some believe that rather minor issues are included. So the Pharisees ask: “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on every sort of grounds?”—Matthew 19:3.

Rather than appeal to human opinion, Jesus masterfully refers to God’s design of marriage. “Have you not read that the one who created them from the beginning made them male and female and said: ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh’? So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has yoked together, let no man put apart.” (Matthew 19:4-6) When God instituted marriage between Adam and Eve, he did not make provision for dissolving their marriage.

The Pharisees take issue with Jesus, saying: “Why, then, did Moses direct giving a certificate of dismissal and divorcing her?” (Matthew 19:7) Jesus tells them: “Out of regard for your hard-heartedness, Moses made the concession to you of divorcing your wives, but that has not been the case from the beginning.” (Matthew 19:8) That “beginning” was not in Moses’ day; it was when God originated marriage in Eden.

Then Jesus presents an important truth: “I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, ex-

cept on the grounds of sexual immorality [Greek, *por-nei’á*], and marries another commits adultery.” (Matthew 19:9) Sexual immorality is thus the only Scriptural grounds for divorce.

The disciples are moved to say: “If that is the situation of a man with his wife, it is not advisable to marry.” (Matthew 19:10) Clearly, one contemplating marriage should consider it to be permanent!

Regarding singleness, Jesus explains that some are born eunuchs, being incapable of marital relations. Others are made eunuchs, becoming disabled sexually. Yet, some suppress their desire to enjoy sexual relations. They do so in order to focus more fully on matters relating to the Kingdom. “Let the one who can make room for [singleness] make room for it,” Jesus urges his listeners.—Matthew 19:12.

People now begin to bring their young children to Jesus. However, the disciples scold the people, likely wanting to keep Jesus from being bothered. On seeing this, Jesus becomes indignant and says to them: “Let the young children come to me; do not try to stop them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such ones. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a young child will by no means enter into it.”—Mark 10:14, 15; Luke 18:15.

What a fine lesson! To receive God’s Kingdom, we must be meek and teachable, like young children. Jesus now shows his love for little ones by taking them into his arms and blessing them. And he has such tender love for all who “receive the Kingdom of God like a young child.”—Luke 18:17.



- ◇ How do the Pharisees test Jesus on the subject of divorce?
- ◇ According to Jesus, what is the divine standard regarding divorce?
- ◇ Why might some disciples choose to remain single?
- ◇ Jesus teaches what lesson through his dealings with young children?

“What God Has Yoked Together”

(Matthew 19:5, 6)

C F/C Cma7 C F F/E Dm7 Fma7/C G/B

With dig - ni - ty and joy, A three - fold cord is bound.
They both have searched God's Word To learn to do his will,

G E/G# G#+5 E7/G# Am G/B Bb/C C7

With God and men to wit - ness, These sa - cred vows re - sound.
And now they seek his bless - ing, Their prom - ise to ful - fill.

Chorus
C7/E F G/F C/E C Am7 Dm7 G Am

He vowed be - fore Je - ho - vah To love her from the heart.
She vowed be - fore Je - ho - vah To love him from the heart.

R.H.

C/G F G/F C/E Am7 Dm7 Dm/G F/G C

“What God has yoked to - geth - er, Let no man put a - part.”

R.H.

OCTOBER 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
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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God's Gift of Holy Spirit

(Luke 11:13)

B \flat F/A Dm7/A Gm Dm/F Dm

Sov - 'reign, Je - ho - vah, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
 Fa - ther, we all fall short of your glo - ry;
 When we are wea - ry, weak, or dis - cour - aged,

E \flat Fsus4 F7 B \flat Gm E \flat m7 Cm11 F7sus4 F7

Great - er you are than our sin - ful hearts.
 Times there have been when we've lost our way.
 Your ac - tive force will our hearts re - new.

B \flat Dm7 F6 Gm Dm/F Dm

Light - en our bur - den, soft - en our an - guish,
 God, we im - plore you: Hear our pe - ti - tion.
 Give us the strength to soar like the ea - gles;

G \flat 7 B \flat /F Cm7 Dm E \flat 6 E \flat /F F7 B \flat

Give us the com - fort your spir - it im - parts.
 Give us your spir - it to guide us each day.
 May we re - ceive ho - ly spir - it from you.

(See also Ps. 51:11; John 14:26; Acts 9:31.)

SONG 104

God's Gift of Holy Spirit

PREVIEW

Do you feel limited in your service to Jehovah? Do you wonder if you are still useful to him? Or do you fail to see the need to make yourself available to serve Jehovah however he wants? This article will consider various ways that Jehovah can give you the desire and the power to become whatever is necessary to fulfill his purpose.

What Will Jehovah Cause You to Become?

“God . . . energizes you, giving you both the desire and the power to act.”—PHIL. 2:13.

JEHOVAH can become whatever is necessary in order to accomplish his purpose. For instance, Jehovah has become a Teacher, a Comforter, and an Evangelizer, just to name a few of his many roles. (Isa. 48:17; 2 Cor. 7:6; Gal. 3:8) Still, he often uses humans to carry out his purposes. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20; 2 Cor. 1:3, 4) Jehovah can also give any of us the wisdom and strength we need in order to become whatever is necessary to fulfill his will. This is all part of the meaning of Jehovah's name, as it is suggested by a number of scholars.

² All of us want to be useful to Jehovah, but some may doubt that Jehovah is using them. Why? Because they feel limited by their age, circumstances, or abilities. On the other hand, others may be quite satisfied with what they are already doing and fail to see the need to make further progress. In this article, we will discuss how Jehovah can equip any one of us to fulfill his purpose. Then, we will examine Bible accounts of how Jehovah gave his servants—both men and women—the desire and the power to act. Finally, we will consider how we can allow Jehovah to use us.

1. What can Jehovah do in order to accomplish his purpose?
2. (a) Why may we at times doubt that Jehovah is using us? (b) What will we consider in this article?

HOW JEHOVAH EQUIPS US

³ **Read Philippians 2:13.*** Jehovah can give us the *desire* to act. How may he do this? Perhaps we learn of a particular need in the congregation. Or the elders read a letter from the branch office telling us of a need outside our congregation territory. In response, we might ask ourselves, ‘How can I help to fill this need?’ Or maybe we have been invited to accept a challenging assignment, but we wonder if we can do it justice. Or after reading a portion of God’s Word, we may wonder, ‘How can I apply this Bible passage to help others?’ Jehovah will not force us to do anything. But when he sees that we are willing to examine ourselves, Jehovah can give us the desire to follow through and act.

⁴ Jehovah can also give us the *power* to act. (Isa. 40:29) He can enhance our natural abilities with his holy spirit. (Ex. 35:30-35) Through his organization, Jehovah may teach us how to perform certain tasks. If you are ever unsure about how to carry out an assignment, ask for help. Also, feel free to ask our generous heavenly Father for “power beyond what is normal.” (2 Cor. 4:7; Luke 11:13) The Bible contains many examples of how Jehovah equipped men and women by giving them the desire and the power to act. As we consider some of these accounts,

* Although Paul wrote his letter to Christians living in the first century, in principle, his words apply to all servants of Jehovah.

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3. In view of what is stated at Philippians 2:13, how may Jehovah give us the *desire* to act?
 4. How may Jehovah give us the *power* to act?

try to think of ways that Jehovah can use you in a similar manner.

WHAT MEN BECAME

⁵ Jehovah caused Moses to become a deliverer of the Israelites. But when did Jehovah use him? Was it when Moses felt qualified after being “instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians”? (Acts 7:22-25) No, Jehovah used Moses only after He had shaped him into a humble, mild-tempered man. (Acts 7:30, 34-36) Jehovah gave Moses the courage to stand before the most powerful ruler in Egypt. (Ex. 9:13-19) What do we learn from how and when Jehovah used Moses? Jehovah uses those who display godly qualities and who rely on him for strength.—Phil. 4:13.

⁶ Centuries later, Jehovah used Barzillai to provide for King David. David and the people were “hungry and tired and thirsty” while fleeing from David’s son, Absalom. Along with others, Barzillai, an old man at this point, risked his life to provide for David and those with him. Barzillai did not conclude that because of his advanced age, he was no longer useful to Jehovah. Rather, he generously used what he had to help God’s servants in need. (2 Sam. 17:27-29) What is the lesson for us? Regardless of our age, Jehovah can use us to fill the needs of fellow believers, either locally or in another land, who lack basic provisions. (Prov. 3:27, 28; 19:17) Even if we cannot care for them directly, we may be able to

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5. What do we learn from how and when Jehovah used Moses to deliver His people?
 6. What do we learn from the way Jehovah used Barzillai to help King David?

contribute to the worldwide work so that funds are available to offer relief when and where it is needed.—2 Cor. 8:14, 15; 9:11.

⁷ Jehovah promised Simeon, a loyal older man in Jerusalem, that he would not see death before he laid eyes on the Messiah. That promise must have encouraged Simeon greatly, since he had been waiting many years for the Messiah. His faith and endurance were rewarded. One day, “under the power of the spirit,” he came into the temple. There he saw the infant Jesus, and Jehovah used Simeon to deliver a prophecy about this child who would become the Christ. (Luke 2: 25-35) Although Simeon likely did not live long enough to see Jesus carry out his earthly ministry, Simeon was grateful for the privilege he had, and the best is yet to come for him! In the new world, that faithful man will see how Jesus’ rulership will be a blessing to all the families of the earth. (Gen. 22:18) We too can be grateful for any privilege Jehovah gives us in his service.

⁸ In the first century C.E., a generous man named Joseph made himself available to be used by Jehovah. (Acts 4: 36, 37) Likely because Joseph excelled at comforting others, the apostles called him Barnabas, meaning “Son of Comfort.” For example, after Saul became a believer, many of the brothers were afraid to approach him because of his reputation as a persecutor of the congregations. However, warmhearted Barnabas came to Saul’s aid, and Saul must

have greatly appreciated his kindness. (Acts 9:21, 26-28) Later, the elders in Jerusalem saw the need to provide encouragement to the brothers as far as Antioch of Syria. Whom did they send? Barnabas! They chose well. We are told that Barnabas “began to encourage them all to continue in the Lord with heartfelt resolve.” (Acts 11:22-24) Likewise today, Jehovah can help us to become a “son of comfort” to fellow Christians. For example, he might use us to comfort those who have lost loved ones in death. Or he may move us to visit or make a phone call to someone who is sick or depressed to share a few kind words. Will you allow Jehovah to use you as he did Barnabas? —1 Thess. 5:14.

⁹ Jehovah helped a brother named Vasily to become a capable spiritual shepherd. When Vasily was appointed to serve as an elder at age 26, he was afraid that he was not qualified to help the congregation spiritually, especially those who were going through hard times. However, he received valuable training from experienced elders and by attending the Kingdom Ministry School. Vasily worked hard to improve. For instance, he made a list of small goals. As he reached each one, he gradually overcame his fears. He now says: “What scared me back then now brings me much joy. When Jehovah helps me to find the right scripture to comfort a brother or a sister in the congregation, it brings me great satisfaction.” Brothers, if like Vasily you make yourself available to be used by

7. How did Jehovah use Simeon, and how might knowing that encourage us?

8. How may Jehovah use us as he did Barnabas?

9. What do we learn from the way Jehovah helped a brother named Vasily to become a capable spiritual shepherd?

Jehovah, he can give you the ability to care for greater responsibility in the congregation.

WHAT WOMEN BECAME

¹⁰ David and those loyal to him were being chased by King Saul, and they needed help. David's men asked a wealthy Israelite named Nabal for a little food, whatever the man had on hand. They felt free to ask because they had been protecting Nabal's flocks in the wilderness. But selfish Nabal refused to give them anything. David became furious and intended to wipe out Nabal and every male of his household. (1 Sam. 25:3-13, 22) However, Nabal's wife, Abigail, was as discerning as she was beautiful. Showing great courage, she fell at David's feet and urged him not to incur blood-guilt by taking revenge. She tactfully advised him to leave matters in Jehovah's hands. Abigail's humble words and discreet actions touched David's heart. He rightly concluded that Jehovah had sent her. (1 Sam. 25:23-28, 32-34) Abigail had cultivated qualities that made her useful to Jehovah. Similarly, Christian sisters who develop tact and discernment can be used by Jehovah to build up their families and others in the congregation.—Prov. 24:3; Titus 2:3-5.

¹¹ Many centuries later, the daughters of Shallum were among those whom Jehovah used to share in repairing the walls of Jerusalem. (Neh. 2:20; 3:12) Although their father was a prince, Shallum's daughters were willing to do that

difficult and dangerous work. (Neh. 4:15-18) What a contrast to the prominent men of the Tekoites, who "would not lower themselves to share" in the work! (Neh. 3:5) Just imagine the joy that Shallum's daughters felt when the project was completed in just 52 days! (Neh. 6:15) In our day, willing sisters are happy to help perform a special form of sacred service—the construction and maintenance of buildings that are dedicated to Jehovah. Their skill, enthusiasm, and loyalty are vital to the success of this work.

¹² Jehovah motivated Tabitha to abound in "good deeds and gifts of mercy," particularly in behalf of widows. (Acts 9:36) Because of her outstanding generosity and kindness, many mourned when she died. But they were overjoyed when the apostle Peter resurrected her. (Acts 9:39-41) What do we learn from Tabitha? Whether young or old, male or female, we can all do practical things to help our brothers and sisters.—Heb. 13:16.

¹³ A shy sister named Ruth wanted to become a missionary. As a young girl, she rushed from house to house, distributing printed tracts. "I really enjoyed this work," she stated. Yet, talking at the doors and personally telling others about God's Kingdom was a challenge for her. Despite being shy, Ruth became a regular pioneer at age 18. In 1946, she attended the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead and later served in Hawaii and

10. What did Abigail do, and what lesson do you learn from her example?

11. What did the daughters of Shallum do, and who today are imitating them?

12. How might Jehovah use us as he did Tabitha?

13. How was a shy sister named Ruth used by Jehovah, and what did she conclude?

JEHOVAH WILL GIVE YOU “THE DESIRE AND THE POWER TO ACT”

PHILIPPIANS 2:13

If you make yourself available, Jehovah can cause you to become a zealous evangelizer, an effective teacher, a capable comforter, a skilled worker, a supportive friend, or whatever else he needs to accomplish his will

(See paragraphs 14-16)



Japan. Jehovah used her in a powerful way to spread the good news in those lands. After nearly 80 years of sharing in the ministry, Ruth concluded: “Jehovah has been a strengthening aid to me. He has helped me to overcome my shyness. I firmly believe that Jehovah can use anyone who puts trust in him.”

ALLOW JEHOVAH TO USE YOU

¹⁴ Throughout history, Jehovah has caused his servants to fulfill many different roles. What will he cause you to become? Much depends on how willing you are to exert yourself. **(Read Colossians 1:29.)** If you make yourself available, Jehovah can cause you to become a zealous evangelizer, an effective teacher, a capable comforter, a skilled worker, a supportive friend, or whatever else he needs to accomplish his will.

¹⁵ What about you young brothers who are approaching adulthood? There is a great need for energetic men to take on

14. According to Colossians 1:29, what must we do if we are to be used by Jehovah?

15. Just as instructed at 1 Timothy 4:12, 15, what should young brothers today beg Jehovah to help them to do?

added responsibility as ministerial servants. In many congregations the elders outnumber the ministerial servants. Could some of you young brothers cultivate the desire to shoulder additional responsibilities in the congregation? At times some brothers say, “I am happy just to serve as a regular publisher.” If that is the way you feel, beg Jehovah to help you to cultivate the desire to qualify as a ministerial servant and to give you the power to do all you can in loving service to him. (Eccl. 12:1) We need your help!—**Read 1 Timothy 4:12, 15.**

¹⁶ Jehovah can cause you to become whatever he needs to accomplish his will. So ask him for the *desire* to do his work, and then ask him to give you the *power* you need. Whether young or old, use your time, energy, and assets to honor Jehovah now. (Eccl. 9:10) Never allow fear or feelings of inadequacy to make you pass up precious opportunities to do all you can in Jehovah’s service. What a privilege we all have in playing even a small part in bringing our loving Father the honor he deserves!

16. What should we ask Jehovah for, and why?

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- How does Jehovah equip us to serve him?
- Which person’s example described in this article especially appeals to you, and why?
- What desire are young brothers encouraged to develop?

The Sort of Person I Should Be

(2 Peter 3:11)

Db Bbm7 Gb Ebm7

How can I re-pay you, what gift can I give To

Gb/Ab Ab/Gb Db/F F7b9b13/A Bbm7 Eb13sus4 Eb7

thank you, Je-ho - vah, for the life that I live? I

Ebm Ab7/Eb Db/F Gb Ab Bbm9/11 Bbm

look in my heart with your Word as my mir - ror; The

Bridge

Gb Db/F Ebm11 Gb/Ab Ab7 Dbsus4 Db

per - son I see, may you help me see clear - er. My

The Sort of Person I Should Be

Chords: G \flat ma7, Ab/G \flat , G \flat ma7, Ab/G \flat , Fm7, C \flat /D \flat

life I have prom - ised in ser - vice to you, But

Chords: G \flat ma7, Ab/G \flat , G \flat ma7, B \flat m/G, C7sus4, C7, Fm

not from mere du - ty will I do what I do. Whole -

Chords: D $^{\circ}$, E \flat m11, E \flat m, G \flat m/A

souled and whole - heart - ed I serve you by

Chords: D \flat /A \flat , B \flat m/G, G \flat /A \flat , Fm/A \flat

choice; May I be one more who makes you re - joice.

The Sort of Person I Should Be

Ebm7/Ab Ab7 Db Bbm7 Gb Ebm7

Help me to ex - am - ine, and help me to see Just

Gb/Ab Ab/Gb Db/F F7b9b13/A Bbm7 Eb13sus4 Eb7

what sort of per - son you de - sire me to be. Those

Ebm Ab7/Eb Db/F Gb Ab Bbm9/11 Bbm

loy - al to you, you will loy - al - ly trea - sure; May

Gb Db/F Ebm11 Gb/Ab Ab7 Dbsus4 Db

I be a - mong those who bring your heart plea - sure.

