

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“God’s War to End All Wars”:** (10 min.)
 Re 19:11, 14-16—Christ Jesus will execute God’s righteous judgment (*w08 4/1 8 ¶3-4; it-1 1146 ¶1*)
 Re 19:19, 20—The wild beast and the false prophet will be destroyed (*re 286 ¶24*)
 Re 19:21—All humans who oppose God’s sovereignty will be destroyed (*re 286 ¶25*)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Re 17:8—Explain how “the wild beast was, but is not, and yet will be present.” (*re 247-248 ¶5-6*)

Re 17:16, 17—How do we know that false religion will not simply fade away? (*w12 6/15 18 ¶17*)

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 17:1-11 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (8)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *jl* lesson 8 (13)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 150
- **Give Me Courage:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the original song video *Give Me Courage* (video category MUSIC). Then discuss the following questions: What situations in life require courage? Which Bible accounts fill you with courage? Who is with us? Conclude the part by inviting all to stand and sing “Give Me Courage” (meetings version).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jj* chap. 96
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 136 and Prayer


REVELATION 17-19 | God’s War to End All Wars



19:11, 14-16, 19-21

Why did Jehovah, “the God of love and of peace,” assign his Son, the “Prince of Peace,” to fight a war?—2Co 13:11; Isa 9:6.

- Jehovah and Jesus love righteousness and hate wickedness
- Lasting peace and justice will come only when the wicked are removed
- God’s heavenly army “carries on war in righteousness,” as pictured by the white horses and the white, clean, fine linen

 How can we assure our deliverance through this decisive conflict?—Zep 2:3

A Victory Song

(Exodus 15:1)

Em Bm Em Am/C B+5 B

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

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

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

Am C7/Bb B Em Bm Em

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

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

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

A Victory Song

Chorus

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

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

Am D D7 G C Am B7

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

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

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

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

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

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."

18 After this I saw another angel descending from heaven with great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his glory. **2** And he cried out with a strong voice, saying: "She has fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen,^a and she has become a dwelling place of demons and a place where every unclean spirit* and every unclean and hated bird lurks!^b **3** For because of the wine of the passion* of her sexual immorality,^c all the nations have fallen victim,^c and the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her,^d and the merchants^a of the earth became rich owing to the power of her shameless luxury."

4 And I heard another voice out of heaven say: "Get out of her, my people,^e if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues.^f **5** For her sins have massed together clear up to heaven,^g and God has called her acts of injustice* to mind.^h **6** Repay her in the way she treated others,ⁱ yes, pay her back double for the things she has done;^j in the cup^k she has mixed, mix a double portion for her.^l **7** To the extent that she glorified herself and lived in shameless luxury, to that extent give her torment and mourning. For she keeps saying in her heart: 'I sit as queen, and I am not a widow, and I will never see mourning.'^m **8** That is why in one day her plagues will come, death and mourning and famine, and she will be completely burned with fire,ⁿ because Jehovah* God, who judged her, is strong.^o

9 "And the kings of the earth who committed sexual immorali-

18:2 *Or possibly, "breath; exhalation; inspired statement." **18:3** *Or "anger." ^aGreek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary. ^bOr "traveling merchants." **18:5** *Or "her crimes." **18:8** *See App. A5.

CHAP. 18

- a Isa 21:9
Jer 51:8
Re 14:8
- b Isa 13:21
Jer 50:39
- c Jer 51:7
- d Re 17:1, 2
- e Isa 48:20
Isa 52:11
Jer 50:8
- f Jer 51:6, 45
2Co 6:17
- g Jer 51:9
- h Re 16:19
- i Jer 50:29
2Th 1:6
- j Ps 137:8
Jer 50:15
- k Ps 75:8
- l Re 16:19
- m Isa 47:7-9
- n Le 21:9
- o Jer 50:34

Second Col.

- a Da 4:30
- b Re 17:4

ty* with her and lived with her in shameless luxury will weep and beat themselves in grief over her when they see the smoke from her burning. **10** They will stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and say: 'Too bad, too bad, you great city,^a Babylon you strong city, because in one hour your judgment has arrived!'

11 "Also, the merchants of the earth are weeping and mourning over her, because there is no one to buy their full cargo anymore, **12** a full cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, and scarlet cloth; and everything made from scented wood; and every sort of object made from ivory, and from precious wood, copper, iron, and marble; **13** also cinnamon, Indian spice, incense, perfumed oil, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, carriages, slaves, and human lives.* **14** Yes, the fine fruit that you* desired has left you, and all the delicacies and the splendid things have vanished from you, never to be found again.

15 "The merchants who sold these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and will weep and mourn, **16** saying: 'Too bad, too bad, the great city, clothed with fine linen, purple, and scarlet and richly adorned with gold ornaments, precious stones, and pearls,^b **17** because in one hour such great riches have been devastated!'

"And every ship captain and every seafaring person and sailors and all those who make a living by the sea stood at a distance **18** and cried out as they looked at the smoke from her burning

18:9 *See Glossary. **18:13** *Or "souls." **18:14** *Or "your soul."

and said: 'What city is like the great city?' **19** They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and mourning, and said: 'Too bad, too bad, the great city, in which all those who had ships at sea became rich from her wealth, because in one hour she has been devastated!'^a

20 "Be glad over her, O heaven,^b also you holy ones^c and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced his judgment on her in your behalf!"^d

21 And a strong angel lifted up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into the sea, saying: "Thus with a swift pitch will Babylon the great city be hurled down, and she will never be found again."^e **22** And the sound of singers who accompany themselves on the harp, of musicians, of flutists, and of trumpeters will never be heard in you again. And no craftsman who practices any trade will ever be found in you again, and no sound of a millstone will ever be heard in you again. **23** No light of a lamp will ever shine in you again, and no voice of a bridegroom and of a bride will ever be heard in you again; for your merchants were the top-ranking men of the earth, and by your spiritistic practices^f all the nations were misled. **24** Yes, in her was found the blood of prophets and of holy ones^g and of all those who have been slaughtered on the earth."^h

19 After this I heard what seemed to be a loud voice of a great crowd in heaven. They said: "Praise Jah!"ⁱ The salvation and the glory and the power belong to our God, **2** because his judgments are true and righteous.^j For he has executed judgment on the great prostitute who

19:1, 3, 4, 6 *Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah.

CHAP. 18

- a Isa 47:11
- b Jer 51:48
- c Re 14:12
- d De 32:43
- Ro 12:19
- Re 6:9, 10
- Re 19:1, 2
- e Jer 51:63, 64
- f Isa 47:9
- Ga 5:19, 20
- g Re 6:9, 10
- Re 16:5, 6
- h Ge 9:6
- Jer 51:49

CHAP. 19

- i Ps 150:6
- j De 32:4
- Ps 19:9
- Re 15:3

Second Col.

- a De 32:43
- 2Ki 9:7
- Ps 79:10
- Re 18:20, 24
- b Ps 117:1
- c Isa 34:10
- d Re 4:4
- e Re 4:6
- f Ps 106:48
- g Ps 134:1
- Ps 135:1
- h Ps 115:13
- i Ps 113:1
- j Ex 6:3
- k Ps 97:1
- Isa 52:7
- Re 11:15
- l Isa 61:10
- Eph 5:25-27
- Re 14:4
- m Mt 22:2
- Mt 25:10
- n Ac 10:25, 26
- Re 22:8, 9
- o Mt 28:19, 20
- Ac 1:8
- p Mt 4:10
- Joh 4:23
- q Lu 24:27
- Ac 10:43
- 1Pe 1:10, 11
- r Re 6:2

corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality,^{*} and he has avenged the blood of his slaves that is on her hands."^{#a} **3** And right away for the second time they said: "Praise Jah!"^b And the smoke from her goes on ascending forever and ever."^c

4 And the 24 elders^d and the four living creatures^e fell down and worshipped God who sits on the throne and said: "Amen! Praise Jah!"^f

5 Also, a voice came from the throne and said: "Be praising our God, all you his slaves,^g who fear him, the small ones and the great."^h

6 And I heard what sounded like a voice of a great crowd and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of heavy thunders. They said: "Praise Jah,"ⁱ because Jehovah[#] our God, the Almighty,^j has begun to rule as king!^k **7** Let us rejoice and be overjoyed and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has arrived and his wife has prepared herself. **8** Yes, it has been granted to her to be clothed with bright, clean, fine linen—for the fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the holy ones."^l

9 And he tells me, "Write: Happy are those invited to the evening meal of the Lamb's marriage."^m Also, he tells me: "These are the true sayings of God."ⁿ **10** At that I fell down before his feet to worship him. But he tells me: "Be careful! Do not do that!"ⁿ I am only a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who have the work of witnessing concerning Jesus.^o Worship God!^p For the witness concerning Jesus is what inspires prophecy."^q

11 I saw heaven opened, and look! a white horse.^r And the

19:2 *Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary. #Lit., "from her hand." **19:6** #See App. A5.

one seated on it is called Faithful^a and True,^b and he judges and carries on war in righteousness.^c **12** His eyes are a fiery flame,^d and on his head are many diadems.* He has a name written that no one knows but he himself, **13** and he is clothed with an outer garment stained* with blood, and he is called by the name The Word^e of God. **14** Also, the armies in heaven were following him on white horses, and they were clothed in white, clean, fine linen. **15** And out of his mouth protrudes a sharp, long sword^f with which to strike the nations, and he will shepherd them with a rod of iron.^g Moreover, he treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty,^h **16** On his outer garment, yes, on his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.ⁱ

17 I saw also an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice and said to all the birds that fly in midheaven:* "Come here, be gathered together to the great evening meal of God,^j **18** so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of military commanders and the flesh of strong men^k and the flesh of horses and of those seated on them,^l and the flesh of all, of freemen as well as of slaves and of small ones and great."

19 And I saw the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the one seated on the horse and against his army.^m **20** And the wild beast was caught, and along with it the false prophetⁿ that performed in front of it the signs with which he misled those who received the mark of the wild beast^o and those who worship its image.^p While

19:12 *Or "royal headbands." 19:13 *Or possibly, "sprinkled." 19:17 *Or "in midair; overhead."

CHAP. 19

- a Re 1:5
- b Joh 1:14
- c Re 3:14
- d Isa 11:4, 5
Heb 1:8, 9
- e Re 1:13, 14
- f Eze 1:1
- f 2Th 2:8
- Re 1:13, 16
- g Ps 2:9
- Re 2:26, 27
- h Joe 3:13
- Re 14:19, 20
- i Mt 28:18
- Php 2:9-11
- 1Ti 6:15
- Re 17:14
- j Eze 39:4, 17
- k Eze 39:18
- l Eze 39:20
- m Re 16:14, 16
- n Re 16:13
- o Re 13:16, 17
- p Re 13:15

Second Col.

- a Mt 10:28
- 2Pe 2:6
- Jude 7
- Re 20:14
- b Re 2:16
- Re 6:2
- c Eze 39:4

CHAP. 20

- d Re 9:1
- e Re 12:3
- f Ge 3:1
- g Joh 8:44
- h Zec 3:1
- Re 12:9
- i Re 9:11
- j Re 20:7
- k Re 13:15-17
- l Mt 19:28
- Lu 22:28-30
- 2Ti 2:12
- Re 1:6
- m Ac 24:15
- n 1Co 15:23, 52
- Php 3:10, 11
- 1Th 4:16
- o Re 14:13
- p Re 2:11
- Re 20:14
- q 1Co 15:54
- r 1Pe 2:9
- s Re 1:6
- Re 5:9, 10

still alive, they both were hurled into the fiery lake that burns with sulfur.^a **21** But the rest were killed off with the long sword that proceeded out of the mouth of the one seated on the horse.^b And all the birds were filled with their flesh.^c

20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the key of the abyss^d and a great chain in his hand. **2** He seized the dragon,^e the original serpent,^f who is the Devil^g and Satan,^h and bound him for 1,000 years. **3** And he hurled him into the abyssⁱ and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not mislead the nations anymore until the 1,000 years were ended. After this he must be released for a little while.^j

4 And I saw thrones, and those who sat on them were given authority to judge. Yes, I saw the souls* of those executed^k for the witness they gave about Jesus and for speaking about God, and those who had not worshipped the wild beast or its image and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand.^k And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ^l for 1,000 years. **5** (The rest of the dead^m did not come to life until the 1,000 years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.ⁿ **6** Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection;^o over these the second death^p has no authority,^q but they will be priests^r of God and of the Christ, and they will rule as kings with him for the 1,000 years.^s

7 Now as soon as the 1,000 years have ended, Satan will be released from his prison, **8** and he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Ma'gog, to gather

20:4 *See Glossary and Re 6:9 fn. ^aLit., "executed with the ax."

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Re 17:16, 17—How do we know that false religion will not simply fade away? (*w12 6/15 18 ¶17*)

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 How can we assure our deliverance through this decisive conflict?—Zep 2:3

December 23-29 / Revelation 17-19

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Treasures From God's Word

“God's War to End All Wars”: (10 minutes)

Revelation 19:11, 14-16—Christ Jesus will execute God's righteous judgment

Revelation 19:11: I saw heaven opened, and look! a white horse. And the one seated on it is called Faithful and True, and he judges and carries on war in righteousness.

Revelation 19:14-16: Also, the armies in heaven were following him on white horses, and they were clothed in white, clean, fine linen. And out of his mouth protrudes a sharp, long sword with which to strike the nations, and he will shepherd them with a rod of iron. Moreover, he treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his outer garment, yes, on his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

w08 4/1 8 paragraphs 3-4

As long as wicked people hold power, righteous people will not enjoy peace and security. (Proverbs 29:2; Ecclesiastes 8:9) Realistically, we cannot divorce corruption and wickedness from the people who practice them. Thus, lasting peace and justice come at a price—the removal of the wicked ones. “The wicked is a ransom for the righteous one,” Solomon wrote.—Proverbs 21:18.

Since God is the Judge, we can be sure that in every case the judgments against the wicked will be righteous. “Is the Judge of all the earth not going to do what is right?” asked Abraham. The answer, Abraham learned, is that Jehovah is *always* right! (Genesis 18:25) Furthermore, the Bible assures us that Jehovah finds no delight in destroying the wicked; he does so only as a last resort.—Ezekiel 18:32; 2 Peter 3:9.

it-1 1146 paragraph 1

In the apostle John's symbolic vision, the glorified Jesus Christ is depicted as riding a white horse and as being accompanied by an army, all of whose members are seated on white horses. This vision was revealed to John as representing the righteousness and justice of the war that Christ will wage against all enemies on behalf of his God and Father, Jehovah. (Revelation 19:11, 14) Earlier, Christ's taking kingly action and the calamities that follow are represented by different horsemen and their mounts.—Revelation 6:2-8.

Revelation 19:19, 20—The wild beast and the false prophet will be destroyed

Revelation 19:19, 20: And I saw the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the one seated on the horse and against his army. And the wild beast was caught, and along with it the false prophet that performed in front of it the signs with which he misled those who received the mark of the wild beast and those who worship its image. While still alive, they both were hurled into the fiery lake that burns with sulfur.

re 286 paragraph 24

The seven-headed, ten-horned wild beast out of the sea, representing Satan's political organization, is tumbled into oblivion, and along with it goes the false prophet, the seventh world power. (Revelation 13:1, 11-13; 16:13) While still "alive," or still functioning in their united opposition to God's people on earth, they are cast into "the lake of fire." Is this a literal lake of fire? No, not any more than the wild beast and the false prophet are literal animals. Rather, it is a symbol of complete, final destruction, a place of no return. Here is where, later, death and Hades, as well as the Devil himself, will be hurled. (Revelation 20:10, 14) It is certainly not an inferno of eternal torture for the wicked, since the very idea of such a place is detestable to Jehovah.—Jeremiah 19:5; 32:35; 1 John 4:8, 16.

Revelation 19:21—All humans who oppose God's sovereignty will be destroyed

Revelation 19:21: But the rest were killed off with the long sword that proceeded out of the mouth of the one seated on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

re 286 paragraph 25

All others who were not directly part of government but who were nevertheless an irreformable part of this corrupt world of mankind are likewise "killed off with the long sword of the one seated on the horse." Jesus will pronounce them deserving of death. Since in their case the lake of fire is not mentioned, are we to expect that they will have a resurrection? Nowhere are we told that those executed by Jehovah's Judge at that time are to be resurrected. As Jesus himself stated, all those who are not "sheep" go off "into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels," that is, "into everlasting cutting-off." (Matthew 25:33, 41, 46) This climaxes "the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly men."—2 Peter 3:7; Nahum 1:2, 7-9; Malachi 4:1.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Revelation 17:8—Explain how “the wild beast was, but is not, and yet will be present.”

Revelation 17:8: The wild beast that you saw was, but is not, and yet is about to ascend out of the abyss, 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 life from the founding of the world—will be amazed when they see how the wild beast was, but is not, and yet will be present.

re 247-248 paragraphs 5-6

5 “The wild beast . . . was.” Yes, it had existed as the League of Nations from January 10, 1920, onward, with 63 nations participating at one time or another. But, in turn, Japan, Germany, and Italy withdrew, and the former Soviet Union was dropped from the League. In September 1939 the Nazi dictator of Germany launched World War II. Having failed to keep peace in the world, the League of Nations virtually plunged into an abyss of inactivity. By 1942 it had become a has-been. Neither before this nor at some later date—but right at that critical time—did Jehovah interpret to his people the full depth of meaning of the vision! At the New World Theocratic Assembly, N. H. Knorr could declare, in line with the prophecy, that “the wild beast . . . *is not.*” He then asked the question, “Will the League remain in the pit?” Quoting Revelation 17:8, he answered: “The association of worldly nations will rise again.” That is just how it proved to be—in vindication of Jehovah’s prophetic Word!

Ascending out of the Abyss

6 The scarlet-colored wild beast did indeed climb out of the abyss. On June 26, 1945, with noisy fanfare in San Francisco, U.S.A., 50 nations voted to accept the Charter of the United Nations organization. This body was “to maintain international peace and security.” There were many similarities between the League and the UN. *The World Book Encyclopedia* notes: “In some ways, the UN resembles the League of Nations, which was organized after World War I . . . Many of the nations that founded the UN had also founded the League. Like the League, the UN was established to help keep peace between nations. The main organs of the UN are much like those of the League.” The UN, then, is actually a revival of the scarlet-colored wild beast. Its membership of some 190 nations far exceeds that of the League’s 63; it has also taken on broader responsibilities than its predecessor.

Revelation 17:16, 17—How do we know that false religion will not simply fade away?

Revelation 17:16, 17: And the ten horns that you saw and the wild beast, these will hate the prostitute and will make her devastated and naked, and they will eat up her flesh and completely burn her with fire. For God put it into their hearts to carry out his thought, yes, to carry out their one thought by giving their kingdom to the wild beast, until the words of God will have been accomplished.

w12 6/15 18 paragraph 17

False religion, however, will not just fade away. The harlot will remain a potent force, attempting to bend kings to her will until God plants an idea in the hearts of those in power. (Read Revelation 17:16, 17.) Soon Jehovah will cause the political elements of Satan's system, as represented by the United Nations, to attack false religion. They will destroy her influence and devastate her riches. Such an event may have seemed unlikely just decades ago. Today, the harlot teeters on the back of the scarlet-colored beast. Even so, she will not slip slowly from her seat. Her tumble will be sudden and violent.—Revelation 18:7, 8, 15-19.

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 17:1-11 (*th* study 5)

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“God’s War to End All Wars”:** (10 min.)
 Re 19:11, 14-16—Christ Jesus will execute God’s righteous judgment (*w08 4/1 8 ¶3-4; it-1 1146 ¶1*)
 Re 19:19, 20—The wild beast and the false prophet will be destroyed (*re 286 ¶24*)
 Re 19:21—All humans who oppose God’s sovereignty will be destroyed (*re 286 ¶25*)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Re 17:8—Explain how “the wild beast was, but is not, and yet will be present.” (*re 247-248 ¶5-6*)

Re 17:16, 17—How do we know that false religion will not simply fade away? (*w12 6/15 18 ¶17*)

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 17:1-11 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (8)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *jl* lesson 8 (13)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 150
- **Give Me Courage:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the original song video *Give Me Courage* (video category MUSIC). Then discuss the following questions: What situations in life require courage? Which Bible accounts fill you with courage? Who is with us? Conclude the part by inviting all to stand and sing “Give Me Courage” (meetings version).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jj* chap. 96
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 136 and Prayer


REVELATION 17-19 | God’s War to End All Wars



19:11, 14-16, 19-21

Why did Jehovah, “the God of love and of peace,” assign his Son, the “Prince of Peace,” to fight a war?—2Co 13:11; Isa 9:6.

- Jehovah and Jesus love righteousness and hate wickedness
- Lasting peace and justice will come only when the wicked are removed
- God’s heavenly army “carries on war in righteousness,” as pictured by the white horses and the white, clean, fine linen

 How can we assure our deliverance through this decisive conflict?—Zep 2:3



APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS



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

Scripture: Ps 17:22

Link: How can a family prosper despite difficulties?

SECOND RETURN VISIT

Tony (Publisher 1): So what are the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude? The Bible provides one answer at Proverbs, 17:22 Tim, would you please read that for us?

Tim (Publisher 2): Sure, It says:

²² A joyful heart is good medicine, But a crushed spirit saps one's strength.

Tony (Publisher 1): Thanks, so based on that verse, what's one benefit of maintaining a positive attitude or joy in our life?

Todd (Householder): It says it's good medicine.

Tony (Publisher 1): That's right, a positive attitude is good for our health. Did you know that the Bible is so practical?

Todd (Householder): I know it's valuable, but you show me things in it that I've never seen before.

(Video Pulse):

"Which publication from our Teaching Toolbox might you introduce here, and how?"

video source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/LatestVideos/pub-mwbv_201912_3_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?



Why Do We Dress Up for Our Meetings?

Have you noticed in the pictures in this brochure how well-dressed Jehovah's Witnesses are when attending their congregation meetings? Why do we pay such attention to our dress and grooming?

To show respect for our God. It is true that God looks beyond our outward appearance. (1 Samuel 16:7) However, when we gather to worship him, our heartfelt desire is to show respect both for him and for our fellow worshippers. If we were to stand before a judge in court, we would likely give attention to our appearance out of regard for his position. Likewise, the way we appear at meetings shows our esteem for “the Judge of all the earth,” Jehovah God, and for the place where we worship him. —Genesis 18:25.

To reflect the values that we live by. The Bible encourages Christians to dress “with modesty and soundness of mind.” (1 Timothy 2:9, 10) Dressing “with modesty” means avoiding clothing that might draw attention to us by being showy, provocative, or revealing. Also, having “soundness of mind” helps us to choose attractive clothing that is not sloppy or extreme. These principles still leave room for a great variety of personal choices. Without our saying a word, our attractive and tasteful appearance can “adorn the teaching of our Savior” and “glorify God.” (Titus 2:10; 1 Peter 2:12) By dressing up for the meetings, we thus influence how others view the worship of Jehovah.

Do not let your clothing hold you back from attending the Kingdom Hall. Our clothes do not need to be expensive or fancy to be appropriate, clean, and presentable.

- How important is the way we dress when we worship God?
- What principles guide our choices in dress and grooming?



Iceland



Mexico



Guinea-Bissau

Philippines



Seek God for Your Deliverance

(Zephaniah 2:3)

Bm Gm6 Bm/F# Gm/E Bm/D Em Bm/D F#7/C# Bm Gm6/Bb D/A Gm6

Na - tions a - lign as one, Op - pos - ing Je - ho - vah's
 Peo - ple on earth now choose, Re - spond - ing to this good

R.H. R.H.

D/F# F#/E Bm/D C/E Bm/F# Em/G C#/G# C#

Son. Their time of hu - man rul - er - ship By God's de - cree now is
 news. We of - fer to all men the choice To hear or proud - ly re -

F# /E /D /C# Bm Gm6 Bm/F# Gm/E Bm/D C#m11 Bm A D Gm/Bb D/A Gm6

done. Rul - ers have had their day; God's King - dom is here to
 fuse. Tri - als, al - though se - vere, Need not fill our hearts with

R.H. R.H.

D/F# A7/E D C° Em/B A° Em/G F#m11 Em /D /C# Em7/B

stay. Soon Christ will crush earth - ly en - e - mies. No
 fear. Je - ho - vah cares for his loy - al ones; Our

Seek God for Your Deliverance

Chorus

F#/A# G#m11 C#7/G# F# A7/E A7 D A/C# Bm7 D/A

more will there be de - lay. Seek God for your de -
cries for help he will hear.

G Em7 A Bm D/A G D/F# Em7 A A/G F#m G A7 Bm A7

liv-er-ance, Yes, look to him with con-fi-dence. Seek his righ - teous-ness, Show your

G B7/F# Em Em/D C# B/D# C#/E# F# E/G# F#/A# Bm Gm/Bb

faith - ful - ness, For his sov - 'reign - ty, take your stand. Then

D/A A/G D/F#Bm7 G Em7 D/A A7sus4 A7 D

see our God de - liv-er you By his might - y hand.

R.H.

(See also 1 Sam. 2:9; Ps. 2:2, 3, 9; Prov. 2:8; Matt. 6:33.)

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“God’s War to End All Wars”:** (10 min.)
 Re 19:11, 14-16—Christ Jesus will execute God’s righteous judgment (*w08 4/1 8 ¶3-4; it-1 1146 ¶1*)
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- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (8)
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- Song 150
- **Give Me Courage:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the original song video *Give Me Courage* (video category MUSIC). Then discuss the following questions: What situations in life require courage? Which Bible accounts fill you with courage? Who is with us? Conclude the part by inviting all to stand and sing “Give Me Courage” (meetings version).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jj* chap. 96
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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REVELATION 17-19 | God’s War to End All Wars



19:11, 14-16, 19-21

Why did Jehovah, “the God of love and of peace,” assign his Son, the “Prince of Peace,” to fight a war?—2Co 13:11; Isa 9:6.

- Jehovah and Jesus love righteousness and hate wickedness
- Lasting peace and justice will come only when the wicked are removed
- God’s heavenly army “carries on war in righteousness,” as pictured by the white horses and the white, clean, fine linen

 How can we assure our deliverance through this decisive conflict?—Zep 2:3

Give Me Courage

(2 Kings 6:16)

Capo fret 5 Am
Dm

Em/G
Am/C

F
Bb

Doubt and fear sur - round me— The way a - head not
Feel - ing fear is hu - man. In my own strength, I'm

C/E
F/A

F
Bb

C/E
F/A

clear. Through un - cer - tain - ty you guide me; I
frail. You have been my rock and ref - uge; Your

Dm7 B/D# Esus4 E Am Em/G
Gm7 E/G# Asus4 A Dm Am/C

know you're al - ways near. Life may not be eas - y, But
pow - er nev - er fails. Help me be cou - ra - geous, And

F Bb C/E F/A F Bb C/E F/A

this I know is true: You're the God who's ev - er loy - al; My
let my heart be brave. Last - ing harm can nev - er hold me— No

Dm7 G7sus4 Chorus C C/B
Gm7 C7sus4 F F/E

life is safe with you. Je - ho - vah, give me eyes of faith And
pris - on, gate, or grave.

F/A Bb/D C/G F/A F Bb C/E F/A

help me al - ways see There are more with us than a - gainst us. Cou -

Dm7 G7sus4 G7 C C/E
Gm7 C7sus4 C7 F F/A

ra - geous let me be. Cour - age, give me cour - age; With

F Gsus4 G E7/G# Am Dm7 C/G F C/E F Dm7
Bb Csus4 C A7/C# Dm Gm7 F/C Bb F/A Bb Gm7

cour - age, I'll en - dure. Je - ho - vah, give me cour - age; Your

Give Me Courage

C/G G7sus4 1. C Em/G
F/C C7sus4 F Dm Am/C

vic - to - ry is sure. sure.

F C/E F C/E Dm Dm/C
Bb F/A Bb F/A Gm Gm/F

Chorus

G/B F/A G C C/B F/A
C/E Bb/D C F F/E Bb/D

Je - ho - vah, give me eyes of faith And help me al - ways

C/G F C/E
F/C F Bb F/A

see There are more with us than a - gainst us. Cou -

Dm7 G7sus4 G7 C C/E
Gm7 C7sus4 C7 F F/A

ra - geous let me be. Cour - age, give me cour - age; With

F Gsus4 G E7/G# Am Dm7 C/G F C/E F Dm7
Bb Csus4 C A7/C# Dm Gm7 F/C Bb F/A Bb Gm7

cour - age, I'll en - dure. Je - ho - vah, give me cour - age; Your

C/G G7sus4 Am Dm7 C/G F
F/C C7sus4 Dm Gm7 F/C Bb

vic - to - ry is sure. Je - ho - vah, give me

C/E F Dm7 C/G G7sus4 C
F/A Bb Gm7 F/C C7sus4 F

cour - age; Your vic - to - ry is sure.

JESUS ANSWERS A RICH YOUNG RULER

MATTHEW 19:16-30 MARK 10:17-31 LUKE 18:18-30

Jesus is still traveling through Perea toward Jerusalem. A rich young man runs up to him and falls down on his knees before him. The man is “one of the rulers,” perhaps serving as a presiding officer in a synagogue or as a member of the Sanhedrin. “Good Teacher,” he inquires, “what must I do to inherit everlasting life?”—Luke 8:41; 18:18; 24:20.

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus replies. “Nobody is good except one, God.” Likely the young man uses “good” as a formalistic title, which is what the rabbis do. Although Jesus is good at teaching, he lets the man know that as a title, “Good” belongs only to God.

“If, though, you want to enter into life, observe the commandments continually,” Jesus advises him. So the young man asks: “Which ones?” Jesus cites five of the Ten Commandments—about murder, adultery, stealing, bearing false witness, and honoring one’s parents. Then he adds a more important commandment: “You must love your neighbor as yourself.”—Matthew 19:17-19.

“I have kept all of these,” the man answers. “What am I still lacking?” (Matthew 19:20) He may feel that he is lacking some good, heroic act that will qualify him for everlasting life. Sensing the earnestness of his request, Jesus ‘feels love for him.’ (Mark 10:21) However, the man has an obstacle before him.

The man is attached to his possessions, so Jesus says: “One thing is missing about you: Go, sell what things you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come be my follower.” Yes, the man could distribute his money to the poor, who cannot repay him, and become a disciple of Jesus. But likely with pity, Jesus sees him rise and turn



away sad. The man's attachment to wealth, to his "many possessions," blinds him to true treasure. (Mark 10:21, 22) Jesus says: "How difficult it will be for those having money to make their way into the Kingdom of God!"—Luke 18:24.

The disciples are astounded by these words and by what Jesus next states: "It is easier, in fact, for a camel to get through the eye of a sewing needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." That moves the disciples to ask: "Who possibly can be saved?" Is being saved so challenging that it is beyond a man's reach? Jesus looks straight at them and replies: "The things impossible with men are possible with God."—Luke 18:25-27.

Peter points out that they have made a choice different from that of the rich man, saying: "Look! We have left all things and followed you; what, then, will there be for us?" Jesus mentions the final outcome of their right choice: "In the re-creation, when the Son of man sits down on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel."—Matthew 19:27, 28.

Clearly, Jesus has in mind the future time on earth when there will be a re-creation of conditions that existed in the garden of Eden. Peter and the other disciples will be rewarded by ruling with Jesus over that earthly Paradise, a reward truly worth any sacrifice they may make!

Yet the rewards are not all future. His disciples experience some right now. "There is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God," Jesus states, "who will not get many times more in this period of time, and in the coming system of things, everlasting life."—Luke 18:29, 30.

Yes, wherever his disciples go, they can enjoy a brotherhood with fellow worshippers that is closer and more precious than that enjoyed with natural family members. Sadly, it seems that the rich young ruler is going to lose out on that blessing as well as the reward of life in God's heavenly Kingdom.

Jesus adds: "But many who are first will be last and the last first." (Matthew 19:30) What does he mean?

The rich young ruler is among the "first," being among the leaders of the Jews. As an observer of God's commandments, he shows much promise and much might be expected of him. Yet he is putting riches and possessions ahead of all else in life. In contrast, the common people of the land see in Jesus' teaching the truth and the way to life. They have been "last," so to speak, but they are now coming to be "first." They can look forward to sitting on thrones in heaven with Jesus and ruling over the Paradise earth.

-
- ◇ What kind of man approaches Jesus?
 - ◇ Why does Jesus object to being called "good"?
 - ◇ What rewards does Jesus promise his followers?
 - ◇ How do the "first" become "last" and the "last," "first"?

"A Perfect Wage" From Jehovah

(Ruth 2:12)

G C/G Gma7 Cadd9/G D7 G C/G D7/G

Je - ho - vah is faith - ful and ful - ly a - ware Of all those who serve him whole -
At times we may feel that our lot in this life Has bur - dened us more than our

G Bm Cadd9 Bm Cadd9

souled. He knows there are times their de - vo - tion and zeal Re -
share. And some - times it seems that the cares of the day Are

G/D Cm/D# B7/D# Em G/D Cma7 D/C Bm7 G6/B

sult in their loss as fore - told. If you have left hous - es or
more than we're a - ble to bear. The God of all com - fort takes

Am7 D7/A G Dm/F E7sus4 E7 Am

fam - 'ly or friends, Be sure that our God knows the sum. He
note of your need; You know he's the Hear - er of prayer. His

"A Perfect Wage" From Jehovah

Em/C# F#7+5 F#7 Bm D#° Em G/A A9

makes it up now with our dear broth-er - hood And life in the new world to
Word and his spir - it and true, lov-ing friends Will bring to you com - fort and

Chorus
Am C/D D G Am11 D7/A Gadd9/B C Bm Am7

come. care. May Je - ho - vah re - ward what you have done. May he pro -

G/D Cm/D# B7/D# Em D/F# Em/G Am7 Gma7/B

vide a per - fect wage for you. May you find ref - uge be - neath his

C Cm/Eb G/D C/D D7 G

wings. Je - ho - vah is faith - ful; Je - ho - vah is true.

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)

Visit the jw.org[®] website, or scan code



To God We Are Dedicated!

(Matthew 16:24)

D Dma7/F# G A/C# D/F# Dma7/F#

To Christ, by our God, Je - ho - vah, we have been
In prayer we have come be - fore Je - ho - vah to

G6 A7 Bm F#m/A Gma7 Em7 A7 D Em/D

drawn To be his dis - ci - ples from now on.
say We'll serve him for - ev - er and o - bey.

Em/D D F/C G/C C

From Je - ho - vah's loft - y throne, How the
It's a joy be - yond com - pare, One that

F/C G/C C Eb/Bb F/Bb

light of truth has shone. In our hearts, our faith has
we are glad to share, As Je - ho - vah's name we

To God We Are Dedicated!

B \flat D/A E7/A Asus4 A Chorus

grown; Our lives we vow to dis - own.
bear, And King - dom truth we de - clare. To

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time. The first line of music has a B-flat chord, followed by D/A, E7/A, Asus4, and A. The lyrics are: 'grown; Our lives we vow to dis - own. bear, And King - dom truth we de - clare. To'. The second line of music continues the bass line with various chords and a melodic line.

D Dma7/F# G A/G D/F# Bm7 D/A G Em7

God we are ded - i - cat - ed; This is our choice. In

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The top staff continues the melody with chords D, Dma7/F#, G, A/G, D/F#, Bm7, D/A, G, and Em7. The lyrics are: 'God we are ded - i - cat - ed; This is our choice. In'. The bottom staff continues the bass line with a melodic line and a 'R.H.' marking above the final measure.

F#m7 Bm7 Em9 G/A A7 D

him and in Je - sus we now re - jice.

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of music. The top staff continues the melody with chords F#m7, Bm7, Em9, G/A, A7, and D. The lyrics are: 'him and in Je - sus we now re - jice.'. The bottom staff continues the bass line with a melodic line.

SONG 51

To God We Are
Dedicated!

PREVIEW

We are devoted to serving Jehovah. But are we exclusively devoted to him? The answer is revealed by the decisions we make. Let us consider two specific areas of our life that can help us measure the extent of our devotion to Jehovah.

Give Jehovah Exclusive Devotion

“Jehovah is a God who requires exclusive devotion.”—NAH. 1:2.

JEHOVAH deserves our exclusive devotion because he is our Creator and Life-Giver. (Rev. 4:11) However, we face a challenge. Even though we love and respect Jehovah, we might be lured away from giving him the exclusive devotion he deserves. We need to understand how that can happen. First, though, let us consider some aspects of what exclusive devotion involves.

² In the Bible, being devoted to God implies having a deep love for him. When we are *exclusively* devoted to Jehovah, we will worship only him. We will not allow anyone or anything to take his place in our heart.—**Read Exodus 34:14.**

³ Our devotion to Jehovah is not blind. Why not? Because it is based on the facts we have learned about him. We have come to admire his beautiful qualities. We know and agree with his likes and dislikes. We understand and support his purpose for us. We feel honored that he allows us the opportunity to be his friend. (Ps. 25:14) Every detail we learn about our Creator draws us closer to him.—Jas. 4:8.

1. Why does Jehovah deserve our exclusive devotion?
2. According to Exodus 34:14, what will we do if we are exclusively devoted to Jehovah?
3. Why is our devotion to Jehovah not blind?

⁴ The Devil controls this system of things, and he uses it to appeal to our natural human desires and fleshly weaknesses. (Eph. 2:1-3; 1 John 5:19) His goal is to divide our affections so that we are not exclusively devoted to Jehovah. Let us consider two ways in which he might have a measure of success. First, he tempts us to pursue riches, and second, he tries to influence us to make poor choices of entertainment.

GUARD AGAINST LOVING MONEY

⁵ We naturally want to have enough to eat, suitable clothes to wear, and a decent place to live. However, we must

4. (a) What does the Devil use to weaken our devotion to Jehovah? (b) What will we consider in this article?

5. Why must we guard against developing a love of money?

guard against developing a love of money. Many who are part of Satan's world are "lovers of money" and of the things that money can buy. (2 Tim. 3:2) Jesus knew that his followers might be tempted to develop this love. "No one can slave for two masters," Jesus said, "for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stick to the one and despise the other. You cannot slave for God and for Riches." (Matt. 6:24) A person who worships Jehovah while also spending excessive time and effort trying to gain this world's riches would, in a sense, be trying to serve two masters. He would not be giving Jehovah exclusive devotion.

⁶ Near the end of the first century C.E., members of the congregation in the city

6. What lesson can we learn from Jesus' words to the congregation in Laodicea?



HOW SOME LAODICEANS
SAW THEMSELVES . . .

. . . AND HOW JEHOVAH AND
JESUS SAW THEM

(See paragraph 6)





of Laodicea boasted: “I am rich and have acquired riches and do not need anything at all.” But in the eyes of Jehovah and Jesus, they were “miserable and pitiful and poor and blind and naked.” Jesus counseled them, not because they were wealthy, but because their love of riches was damaging their relationship with Jehovah. (Rev. 3:14-17) If we detect that a desire to pursue riches is growing in our heart, we must act quickly to correct our thinking. (1 Tim. 6:7, 8) If we do not, our heart will be divided and Jehovah will not accept our worship. He “requires exclusive devotion.” (Deut. 4:24) How might we lose our balance regarding our view of money?

⁷ Consider the example of David, a

7-9. What do you learn from the experience of an elder named David?

hardworking elder who lives in the United States. He describes himself as having been a dedicated employee. He was promoted within the company he worked for and even received national recognition in his field of work. “At the time, I thought that these rewards were evidence of Jehovah’s blessing,” David said. But were they?

⁸ David began to see warning signs that his work was having a negative effect on his friendship with Jehovah. “At congregation meetings and even in the ministry, I found myself thinking about problems at work,” he says. “I was making a lot of money, but I became increasingly stressed, and my marriage was suffering.”

⁹ David realized that he needed to review his priorities. “I made a firm deci-



sion to correct my situation,” he says. David wanted to reorganize his work schedule, and he presented his plan to his employer. The result? David lost his job! How did he respond? “The very next day, I applied to serve as a continuous auxiliary pioneer,” he said. To support themselves, David and his wife started doing janitorial work. After a while, he began regular pioneering, and his wife eventually joined him in the pioneer work. This couple chose to do secular work that is looked down on by many, but the type of work they are doing is not the most important thing for them. Even though their income has dropped to a tenth of what they were earning before, each month they have just what they need to cover their expenses. They want to give Jehovah priority, and they

Who is preparing your entertainment?

(See paragraphs 11-14)

have learned firsthand that he cares for those who put Kingdom interests first. —Matt. 6:31-33.

¹⁰ Whether we have little or much materially, we need to guard our heart. How? Do not develop a love for riches. And do not allow your secular work to take priority over your service to Jehovah. How can you know if that is happening to you? Some questions you could ask yourself are: ‘Do I often think about my secular work when I am at meetings or in the ministry? Do I constantly worry about being financially secure in the future? Are money and material possessions causing problems for me and my mate? Would I be willing to do secular work that others look down on if it allowed me to spend more time serving Jehovah?’ (1 Tim. 6:9-12) When considering those questions, let us remember that Jehovah loves us and makes this promise to those who are devoted to him: “I will never leave you, and I will never abandon you.” That is why the apostle Paul wrote: “Let your way of life be free of the love of money.”—Heb. 13:5, 6.

CHOOSE YOUR ENTERTAINMENT CAREFULLY

¹¹ Jehovah wants us to enjoy life, and entertainment can help us to do that. In fact, God’s Word says that “there is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and find enjoyment in his

10. How can we guard our heart?

11. What can entertainment do to a person?

hard work.” (Eccl. 2:24) However, much of the entertainment in the world can have a bad effect on us. It degrades people’s moral standards, encouraging them to tolerate—or even to love—things that God’s Word condemns.

¹² We want to give Jehovah exclusive devotion, so we cannot eat from “the table of Jehovah” and “the table of demons.” (Read 1 Corinthians 10:21, 22.) Eating a meal with someone is often a sign of friendship. If we choose entertainment that promotes violence, spiritism, immorality, or other fleshly desires and attitudes, we are, in effect, sharing a meal prepared by enemies of God. As a result, we not only harm ourselves but also damage our friendship with Jehovah.

¹³ Consider some specific ways in which entertainment is like literal food. When we eat, we can control what we put in our mouth. But once we swallow the food, automatic processes take over and the nutrients in the food eventually become part of our bodies. A good diet can make us healthier; a poor diet will make us unhealthy. The results may not become evident overnight, but they will become evident in time.

¹⁴ Similarly, when we choose our entertainment, we have control over what we put into our mind. After that, automatic processes take over and our mind and heart are affected. Good entertainment can refresh us; unwholesome entertainment will harm us. (Read James

1:14, 15.) The effects of bad entertainment may not be immediately evident, but they will eventually become obvious. That is why the Bible warns us: “Do not be misled: God is not one to be mocked. For whatever a person is sowing, this he will also reap; because the one sowing with a view to his flesh will reap corruption from his flesh.” (Gal. 6:7, 8) How important it is for us to reject all entertainment that promotes things that Jehovah hates!—Ps. 97:10.

¹⁵ Many of Jehovah’s people enjoy watching JW Broadcasting®, our wholesome Internet television station. A sister named Marilyn said: “JW Broadcasting has helped me to be more positive, and I don’t have to filter the content. When I get lonely or discouraged, I find an encouraging talk or Morning Worship program to watch. That makes me feel closer to Jehovah and to his organization. The provision of JW Broadcasting has completely changed my life.” Are you benefiting from Jehovah’s gift? In addition to a new program each month, JW Broadcasting features numerous audio and video programs as well as uplifting songs that are available on demand.

¹⁶ We must carefully control not only the *type* of entertainment we enjoy but also the *amount* of time we spend enjoying it. If we do not, we may spend more time on entertaining ourselves than we do on serving Jehovah. Many find it a challenge to control the amount of

15. What gift has Jehovah provided for us to enjoy?

16-17. Why must we carefully control the amount of time we spend on entertainment, and how can we do so?

12. According to 1 Corinthians 10:21, 22, why should we choose our entertainment carefully?

13-14. Based on James 1:14, 15, why must we be concerned about feeding wrong desires? Illustrate.

time they spend on entertainment. An 18-year-old sister named Abigail says: “Watching TV helps me to unwind at the end of a busy day. But if I’m not careful, I can spend hours in front of the screen.” A young brother named Samuel says: “I have found myself watching an endless amount of short videos on the Internet. I start out watching just one, and before I know it, three or four hours have gone by.”

¹⁷ How can you control the amount of time you spend on entertainment? The first step is to find out how much time you are actually spending on it. Why not keep a record for one week? Write on a calendar how many hours you spend watching television, surfing the Internet, and playing games on your mobile device. If you feel that you are spending an excessive amount of time, try making a schedule. Assign time to the more important things first, and then allot time for entertainment. Next, ask Jehovah to help you stick to your schedule. That way you will have the time and energy you need for personal Bible study, family worship, congregation meetings, and serving Jehovah in the preaching and teaching work. You may also be less like-

ly to feel guilty about the time you spend on entertainment.

REMAIN EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO JEHOVAH

¹⁸ After writing about the end of Satan’s world and the new world to come, the apostle Peter stated: “Beloved ones, since you are awaiting these things, do your utmost to be found finally by him spotless and unblemished and in peace.” (2 Pet. 3:14) When we obey that counsel and do our best to remain morally and spiritually clean, we prove that we are exclusively devoted to Jehovah.

¹⁹ Satan and his system will continue to tempt us to change our priorities. (Luke 4:13) But despite any challenges we face, we will not allow anyone or anything to take Jehovah’s place in our heart. We are determined to give Jehovah what he alone deserves—our exclusive devotion!

18-19. How can we prove that we are exclusively devoted to Jehovah?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Pages 28-29: We would not want to eat food contaminated in an unsanitary kitchen. Why would we want to watch entertainment contaminated with violence, spiritism, or immorality?

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What does it mean to give Jehovah exclusive devotion?
- How is our devotion to God affected by our attitude toward riches?
- How is our devotion to God affected by our choice of entertainment?

My Father, My God and Friend

(Hebrews 6:10)

C Fma7/C G7/C C Am Em/G

Life in this world can be hard. Life in this world can bring
Gone are the days of my youth; Days of ca - lam - i - ty

F Dm Dm/C Dm/B E7

tears and pain. Still ev - 'ry day I will say, "My
now are here. Still through the eyes of my faith, My

Am7 D9 F/G Chorus G7 C

life is not in vain." For God is not un -
hope is bright and clear.

Em F Am

right - teous, And he re - mem - bers the love I've shown. So

My Father, My God and Friend

Dm7 Em F

he is ev - er near me; With Je - ho - vah, I'm not a -

G7 C Em

lone. Yes, God is my pro - vid - er and my pro -

F Fm/D

tec - tor down to the end. Yes, Je -

C/G G7sus4 G7 G7/C C

ho - vah is my Fa - ther, My God and Friend.

