

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“He Did Just So”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 6:9, 13—Righteous Noah was surrounded by wickedness (w18.02 4 ¶4)
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GENESIS 6-8 | “He Did Just So”

6:9, 13-16, 22

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89 *Listen, Obey, and Be Blessed*

(Luke 11:28)

1. If we have listened to Christ, will we show it?
His teaching shines as it shows us the way.
It makes us happy to hear and to know it,
But we'll be blessed if we know and obey.

(CHORUS)

*Listen, obey, and be blessed
When you hear God's will expressed.
If you'd be happy and enter his rest,
Listen, obey, and be blessed.*

2. Our way of life, like a house, gives protection
When it is built on the rock, not on sand.
If we apply Jesus' loving direction,
We'll build a life which on bedrock will stand.

(Chorus)

3. Just as a tree rooted deep by the waters
Gives of its fruit when each season arrives,
If we obey as God's own sons and daughters,
We'll all be blessed and enjoy endless lives.

(Chorus)

Genesis 6-8

6 Now when men started to grow in number on the surface of the ground and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of the true God began to notice that the daughters of men were beautiful. So they began taking as wives all whom they chose. ³ Then Jehovah said: "My spirit will not tolerate man indefinitely, because he is only flesh. Accordingly, his days will amount to 120 years."

⁴ The Neph'i-lim were on the earth in those days and afterward. During that time the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men, and these bore sons to them. They were the mighty ones of old times, the men of fame.

⁵ Consequently, Jehovah saw that man's wickedness was great on the earth and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only bad all the time. ⁶ Jehovah regretted that he had made men on the earth, and his heart was saddened. ⁷ So Jehovah said: "I am going to wipe men whom I have created off the surface of the ground, man together with domestic animals, creeping animals, and flying creatures of the heavens, for I regret that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah.

⁹ This is the history of Noah.

Noah was a righteous man. He proved himself faultless among his contemporaries. Noah walked with the true God. ¹⁰ In time Noah became father to three sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth. ¹¹ But the earth had become ruined in the sight

of the true God, and the earth was filled with violence.

¹² Yes, God looked upon the earth, and it was ruined; all flesh had ruined its way on the earth.

¹³ After that God said to Noah: “I have decided to put an end to all flesh, because the earth is full of violence on account of them, so I am bringing them to ruin together with the earth. ¹⁴ Make for yourself an ark from resinous wood. You will make compartments in the ark and cover it with tar inside and outside. ¹⁵ This is how you will make it: The ark should be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. ¹⁶ You will make a window for light for the ark, one cubit from the top. You should put the entrance of the ark in its side and make it with a lower deck, a second deck, and a third deck.

¹⁷ “As for me, I am going to bring floodwaters upon the earth to destroy from under the heavens all flesh that has the breath of life. Everything on the earth will perish. ¹⁸ And I am establishing my covenant with you, and you must go into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹ And bring into the ark two of every sort of living creature in order to preserve them alive with you, a male and a female; ²⁰ of the flying creatures according to their kinds, the domestic animals according to their kinds, and all creeping animals of the ground according to their kinds, two of each will go in there to you to preserve them alive. ²¹ For your part, you are to collect and take with you every kind of food to eat, to serve as food for you and for the animals.”

²² And Noah did according to all that God had commanded him. He did just so.

⁷ After that Jehovah said to Noah: “Go into the ark, you and all your household, because you are the one I have found to be righteous before me among this generation. ² You must take with you every kind of clean animal by sevens, the male and its mate; and of every animal that is not clean just two, the male and its mate; ³ also of the flying creatures of the sky by sevens, male and female, to preserve their offspring alive over all the earth. ⁴ For in just seven days, I will make it rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights, and I will wipe from the surface of the ground every living thing that I have made.” ⁵ Then Noah did everything that Jehovah had commanded him.

⁶ Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters came upon the earth. ⁷ So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, went into the ark ahead of the floodwaters. ⁸ Of every clean animal and of every animal that is not clean and of the flying creatures and of everything that moves on the ground, ⁹ they went inside the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And seven days later the floodwaters came upon the earth.

¹¹ In the 600th year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the 17th day of the month, on that day all the springs of the vast watery deep burst open and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And the rain poured down on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. ¹³ On that very day, Noah went into the ark along with his sons, Shem, Ham, and

Ja'pheth, and his wife and the three wives of his sons.

¹⁴ They went in with every wild animal according to its kind, and every domestic animal according to its kind, and every creeping animal of the earth according to its kind, and every flying creature according to its kind, every bird, every winged creature. ¹⁵ They kept going to Noah inside the ark, two by two, of every sort of flesh that has the breath of life. ¹⁶ So they went in, male and female of every sort of flesh, just as God had commanded him. After that Jehovah shut the door behind him.

¹⁷ The flooding continued for 40 days on the earth, and the waters kept increasing and began carrying the ark, and it was floating high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters became overwhelming and kept increasing greatly upon the earth, but the ark floated on the surface of the waters. ¹⁹ The waters overwhelmed the earth so greatly that all the tall mountains under the whole heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters rose up to 15 cubits above the mountains.

²¹ So all living creatures that were moving on the earth perished—the flying creatures, the domestic animals, the wild animals, the swarming creatures, and all mankind.

²² Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³ So He wiped every living thing from the surface of the earth, including man, animals, creeping animals, and the flying creatures of the sky. They were all wiped off the earth; only Noah and those with him in the ark survived. ²⁴ And the waters continued overwhelming the earth for 150 days.

8 But God gave attention to Noah and to all the wild animals and domestic animals that were with him in the ark, and God caused a wind to blow over the earth, and the waters began to subside. ² The springs of the watery deep and the floodgates of the heavens were stopped up, so the rain from the heavens stopped falling. ³ Then the waters began to recede progressively from the earth. By the end of 150 days, the waters had subsided. ⁴ In the seventh month, on the 17th day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ar'a-rat. ⁵ And the waters were steadily decreasing until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

⁶ So at the end of 40 days, Noah opened the window that he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven; it continued flying outside and returning, until the waters dried off the earth.

⁸ Later he sent out a dove to see whether the waters had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ The dove did not find any resting-place to perch, so it returned to him into the ark because the waters were still covering the surface of the whole earth. So he reached his hand out and brought it inside the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days, and once again he sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove came to him toward evening, he saw that there was a freshly plucked olive leaf in its bill! So Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited still another seven days. Then he sent out the dove, but it did not return to him anymore.

¹³ Now in the 601st year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters had drained from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴ In the second month, on the 27th day of the month, the earth had dried off.

¹⁵ God now said to Noah: ¹⁶ “Go out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons’ wives. ¹⁷ Bring out with you all the living creatures of every sort of flesh, of the flying creatures and of the animals and of all the creeping animals of the earth, that they may multiply on the earth and be fruitful and become many on the earth.”

¹⁸ So Noah went out, together with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives. ¹⁹ Every living creature, every creeping animal and every flying creature, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families. ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to Jehovah and took some of all the clean animals and of all the clean flying creatures and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And Jehovah began to smell a pleasing aroma. So Jehovah said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground on man’s account, for the inclination of the heart of man is bad from his youth up; and never again will I strike down every living thing as I have done. ²² From now on, the earth will never cease to have seed-sowing and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night.”

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6:9, 13-16, 22

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- The project likely took 40 to 50 years to complete

 **How can this account encourage us when we find it difficult to do what Jehovah asks of us?**



January 20-26 / Genesis 6-8

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minutes)

Treasures From God's Word

"He Did Just So": (10 minutes)

Genesis 6:9, 13-16, 22

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Genesis 6:9, 13—Righteous Noah was surrounded by wickedness

Genesis 6:9: This is the history of Noah. Noah was a righteous man. He proved himself faultless among his contemporaries. Noah walked with the true God.

Genesis 6:13: After that God said to Noah: “I have decided to put an end to all flesh, because the earth is full of violence on account of them, so I am bringing them to ruin together with the earth.

w18.02 4 paragraph 4

Challenges that Noah faced. By the time of Noah’s great-grandfather Enoch, people had become very ungodly. They were even saying “shocking things” against Jehovah. (Jude 14, 15) Violence was increasing. In fact, in Noah’s day, “the earth was filled with violence.” Wicked angels materialized as humans, took wives, and produced brutal, hybrid offspring. (Genesis 6:2-4, 11, 12) But Noah stood out as different. “Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah. . . . He proved himself faultless among his contemporaries. Noah walked with the true God.”—Genesis 6:8, 9.

Genesis 6:14-16—Noah was given a challenging assignment

Genesis 6:14-16: Make for yourself an ark from resinous wood. You will make compartments in the ark and cover it with tar inside and outside. This is how you will make it: The ark should be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. You will make a window for light for the ark, one cubit from the top. You should put the entrance of the ark in its side and make it with a lower deck, a second deck, and a third deck.

w13 4/1 14 paragraph 1

The work took decades, perhaps 40 to 50 years. There were trees to fell, logs to haul, and beams to hew, shape, and join. The ark was to have three stories, or decks, a number of compartments, and a door in the side. Evidently, there were windows along the top, as well as a roof that likely peaked in the middle with a slight pitch so that water would run off.—Genesis 6:14-16.

Genesis 6:22—Noah demonstrated faith in Jehovah

Genesis 6:22: And Noah did according to all that God had commanded him. He did just so.

w11 9/15 18 paragraph 13

What enabled these servants of Jehovah to endure and succeed in the race? Note what Paul wrote about Noah. (Read Hebrews 11:7.) “The deluge of waters upon the earth [that would] bring to ruin all flesh” was something that Noah had “not yet beheld.” (Genesis 6:17) It was something that had never taken place before, something totally unprecedented. Still, Noah did not dismiss it as impossible or even improbable. Why? Because he had faith that whatever Jehovah said, Jehovah would do. Noah did not feel that what he was asked to do was too difficult. Rather, “he did just so.” (Genesis 6:22) Considering all that Noah had to do—building the ark, gathering the animals, stocking the ark with food for humans and animals, preaching a warning message, and keeping his family spiritually strong—it was no small task to do “just so.” Yet, Noah’s faith and endurance resulted in life and blessings for him and for his family.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Genesis 7:2—What evidently was the basis for the distinction between clean and unclean animals?

Genesis 7:2: You must take with you every kind of clean animal by sevens, the male and its mate; and of every animal that is not clean just two, the male and its mate;

w04 1/1 29 paragraph 7

The basis of distinction evidently pertained to the use of sacrifices in worship and not to what could and could not be eaten. Animal flesh was not a part of man's diet prior to the Flood. The designations "clean" and "unclean" for food came into existence only with the Mosaic Law, and they ended when it was abolished. (Acts 10:9-16; Ephesians 2:15) Apparently, Noah knew what was suitable for sacrifice in the worship of Jehovah. As soon as he left the ark, he "began to build an altar to Jehovah and to take some of all the clean beasts and of all the clean flying creatures and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar."—Genesis 8:20.

Genesis 7:11—Where apparently did the water that caused the global Flood come from?

Genesis 7:11: In the 600th year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the 17th day of the month, on that day all the springs of the vast watery deep burst open and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.

w04 1/1 30 paragraph 1

Where did the water causing the global Flood come from? During the second creative period, or "day," when the earth's atmospheric

“expanse” was formed, there were waters “beneath the expanse” and waters “above the expanse.” (Genesis 1:6, 7) The waters “beneath” were those already on earth. The waters “above” were huge quantities of moisture suspended high above the earth, forming a “vast watery deep.” These waters fell upon the earth in Noah’s day.

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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

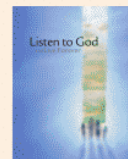
○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

○ Question: What is Jehovah's main quality?

Scripture: **1Jo 4:8**

Link: How can you become God's friend?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 11 ¶13

• // 29

VIDEO TRANSCRIPTION

Kim (Publisher 1): Hi Lisa, how was your day?

Lisa (Householder): Great, and yours?

Kim (Publisher 1): Pretty good, thanks, this is my friend Gwen.

Gwen (Publisher 2): Hi.

Lisa (Householder): Hi, nice to meet you.

Kim (Publisher 1): Yesterday we showed you God's name in the Bible and said that we would come back to talk about Jehovah's dominant quality, the one that stands out above all the others. What do you think God's main quality is?

Lisa (Householder): Well, the first quality I think of is power.

Gwen (Publisher 2): Jehovah's certainly is powerful, he's the almighty.



Kim (Publisher 1): But the Bible tells us about another quality one that really draws us close to him. It's mentioned here at 1 John 4:8, Gwen, would you please read that for us?

Gwen (Publisher 2): Sure:

⁸ *“Whoever does not love has not come to know God, because God is love.”*

Kim (Publisher 1): So what's another quality of Jehovah?

Lisa (Householder): Love?

Kim (Publisher 1): Yes, and the wording is interesting. Does the Bible say that God has love?

Lisa (Householder): No, God is love.

Kim (Publisher 1): Yes, and although God displeased other qualities such as power, wisdom, and justice. The Bible doesn't say that God is power, wisdom, or justice, but it does say that God is love. So of all his qualities, which would you say is the main one?

Lisa (Householder): Love, I can agree with that.

Kim (Publisher 1): Naturally, we're drawn to such a loving person. So here's the question for next time. How can you become God's friend?



Lisa (Householder): Sounds good, Can you come back, when my husband's home?, I was telling him about what we discussed and I think he'd like to talk to you too.

Kim (Publisher 1): That's great, I'll come back with my husband, When will you both be home.



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

▲ Noah and his family prepare to enter the ark

INITIAL CALL

Question: What is God's name?

Scripture: **Ps 83:18**

Link: What is Jehovah's main quality?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



- *bhs 12 ¶14*
- *fg lesson 2*

FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: What is Jehovah's main quality?

Scripture: **1Jo 4:8**

Link: How can you become God's friend?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



- *bhs 11 ¶13*
- *ll 29*

SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: How can you become God's friend?

Scripture: **Joh 17:3**

Link: Does Jehovah reveal what the future holds?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



- *bhs 15 ¶19*
- *fg lesson 3*

Oh, Walk With God!

(Micah 6:8)

1. Oh, walk with God in modesty;
 Show loyal love, and be true.
 Stay close to Jehovah, leaning on him,
 And let his strength sustain you.
 Keep holding tight to his faithful Word;
 You'll never drift away.
 So let God lead you by the hand
 As you listen and obey.

2. Oh, walk with God in holiness;
 Consider things that are pure.
 No matter how great temptations may be,
 He'll help you to endure them.
 Whatever praiseworthy things there are,
 Whatever things are true,
 Continue to consider them,
 And our God will be with you.

3. Oh, walk with God in happiness;
 Rejoice that he is your Friend.
 Be thankful for all the gifts that he gives
 And blessings that are endless.
 Oh, walk with God, let your heart be glad;
 Express your joy in song.
 Your joy will show, and all will know,
 To Jehovah you belong.

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HIS ILLUSTRATION OF TEN MINAS

LUKE 19:11-28

- JESUS' ILLUSTRATION OF THE TEN MINAS

Though Jerusalem is Jesus' destination, he may still be at the home of Zacchaeus with his disciples. They believe that "the Kingdom of God" is soon to be set up with Jesus as King. (Luke 19:11) They misunderstand this matter, just as they fail to grasp that Jesus must die. So he gives an illustration to help them to see that the Kingdom is yet a long way off.

He says: "A man of noble birth traveled to a distant land to secure kingly power for himself and to return." (Luke 19:12) Such a trip would take time. Clearly Jesus is the "man of noble birth" who travels to a "distant land," to heaven, where his Father will give him kingly power.

In the illustration, before the "man of noble birth" departs, he calls ten slaves and gives each a



silver mina, telling them: “Do business with these until I come.” (Luke 19:13) Literal silver minas are valuable pieces of money. A mina amounts to the wages that an agricultural worker earns in over three months.

The disciples may discern that they are like the ten slaves in the illustration, for Jesus has already likened them to harvest workers. (Matthew 9:35-38) Of course, he has not asked them to bring in a harvest of grain. Rather, the harvest consists of other disciples who can find a place in the Kingdom of God. The disciples use what assets they have to produce more heirs of the Kingdom.

What more does Jesus reveal in this illustration? He says that citizens “hated [the man of noble birth] and sent out a body of ambassadors after him to say, ‘We do not want this man to become king over us.’” (Luke 19:14) The disciples know that the Jews do not accept Jesus—some even want to kill him. After Jesus’ death and departure to heaven, the Jews in general show their view of him by persecuting his disciples. These opposers make it clear that

they do not want Jesus as King.—John 19:15, 16; Acts 4:13-18; 5:40.

As for the ten slaves, how do they use their minas until the “man of noble birth” receives “kingly power” and returns? Jesus relates: “When he eventually got back after having secured the kingly power, he summoned the slaves to whom he had given the money, in order to ascertain what they had gained by their business activity. So the first one came forward and said, ‘Lord, your mina gained ten minas.’ He said to him, ‘Well done, good slave! Because in a very small matter you have proved yourself faithful, hold authority over ten cities.’ Now the second came, saying, ‘Your mina, Lord, made five minas.’ He said to this one as well, ‘You too be in charge of five cities.’”—Luke 19:15-19.

If the disciples perceive that they are like the slaves who use their assets to the full to make more disciples, they can rest assured that Jesus will be pleased. And they can trust that he will reward such diligence. Of course, not all of Jesus’ disciples have the same circumstances in life nor the same oppor-

tunities or abilities. Yet Jesus, who receives “kingly power,” will recognize and bless their loyal efforts at disciple-making.—Matthew 28:19, 20.

Note a contrast, though, as Jesus concludes his illustration: “But another [slave] came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina that I kept hidden away in a cloth. You see, I was in fear of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and you reap what you did not sow.’ He said to him, ‘By your own words I judge you, wicked slave. You knew, did you, that I am a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? So why did you not put my money in a bank? Then on my coming, I would have collected it with interest.’ With that he said to those standing by, ‘Take the mina from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’”—Luke 19:20-24.

For failing to work to increase the wealth of his master’s kingdom, this slave experiences loss. The apostles are anticipating Jesus’ reigning in the Kingdom of God. So from what he says about this last slave, they likely perceive that if they are not diligent, they will not find a place in that Kingdom.

Jesus' words must stimulate the loyal disciples to increased efforts. He concludes: "I say to you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away." He adds that his enemies, who do not want him "to become king over them," will experience execution. Then Jesus resumes his trip up to Jerusalem.—Luke 19:26-28.

- ◇ What prompts Jesus' illustration of the minas?
- ◇ Who is the "man of noble birth," and what is the land to which he goes?
- ◇ Who are the slaves, and who are the citizens who show hatred?
- ◇ What is the difference between the slaves who are rewarded and the slave whose mina is taken away?

37 *Serving Jehovah Whole-Souled* (Matthew 22:37)

1. O Jehovah, Sov'reign Ruler,
You are the one I love and obey.
You deserve my full devotion;
You are my God; I'll serve you each day.
Your commands I loyally follow;
How I love reminders from you!

(CHORUS)

*O Jehovah, you are worthy;
Whole-souled devotion I give to you.*

2. Father, all your works exalt you.
Earth, moon, and stars your glory proclaim.
May I also be as faithful,
Using my strength to make known your name.
May I use my whole life to serve you,
Proving to be loyal and true.

(Chorus)

NOVEMBER 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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COVER PICTURE:

On Atonement Day, the Israelite high priest entered the Most Holy with incense and fiery coals to fill the room with a sweet-smelling aroma. Later, he reentered the Most Holy with the blood of the sin offerings (See study article 47, paragraph 4)

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98 *The Scriptures—Inspired of God*

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

1. God's Word shines like a brilliant light,
 Guides our feet through earth's dark night.
If we follow it faithfully,
 Surely its truth will set us free.
2. He provides us with words inspired,
 Helps us learn what is required.
Holy writings can motivate,
 Show how to teach and set things straight.
3. By these words from our God above,
 We have come to know his love.
As we read in it ev'ry day,
 God's Word will keep us on the way.

Lessons We Can Learn From the Book of Leviticus

“All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial.”—2 TIM. 3:16.

SONG 98

The Scriptures—Inspired of God

PREVIEW

The book of Leviticus contains laws that Jehovah gave to ancient Israel. As Christians, we are not under those laws, but we can benefit from them. In this article, we will discuss valuable lessons we can learn from the book of Leviticus.

THE apostle Paul reminded his young friend Timothy that “all Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial.” (2 Tim. 3:16) That includes the book of Leviticus. How do you view that Bible book? Some may see it as a book that contains a list of rules that do not apply to our day, but true Christians have a different view.

² Leviticus was written some 3,500 years ago, yet Jehovah had it preserved “for our instruction.” (Rom. 15:4) Because Leviticus sheds light on Jehovah’s thinking, we should be eager to examine it. Actually, there are a number of lessons we can learn from that inspired book. Let us consider four of them.

HOW WE OBTAIN JEHOVAH’S APPROVAL

³ *First lesson: We need to have Jehovah’s approval for our sacrifices to be accepted.* On the yearly Day of Atonement, the nation of Israel came together and animal sacrifices were offered up. Those sacrifices helped to remind the Israelites that they needed to be cleansed of sin! But before the high

1-2. Why should Christians today be interested in the book of Leviticus?

3. Why were sacrifices offered on the yearly Day of Atonement?

priest brought any sacrificial blood into the Most Holy on that day, he first had to carry out another task, one that actually was more important than the forgiveness of the nation's sins.

⁴ Read Leviticus 16:12, 13. Visualize the scene on Atonement Day: The high priest enters the tabernacle. This is the first of three times he must enter the Most Holy on that day. In one hand, he holds a container filled with perfumed incense, and in the other, he balances a golden fire holder full of burning coals. He pauses before the curtain that covers the entrance to the Most Holy. With deep respect, he enters the Most Holy and stands before the ark of the covenant. In a symbolic sense, he is in the very presence of Jehovah God! Now the priest carefully pours the holy incense onto the fiery coals, and the room fills with a sweet-smelling aroma.* Later he will reenter the Most Holy with the blood of the sin offerings.

* The incense burned at the tabernacle was considered sacred, and in ancient Israel it was used only in the worship of Jehovah. (Ex. 30:34-38) There is no record that the first-century Christians burned incense for religious purposes.

4. As mentioned at Leviticus 16:12, 13, what did the high priest do during his first entry into the Most Holy on Atonement Day? (See cover picture.)

Notice that he burns the incense *before* he presents the blood of the sin offerings.

⁵ What can we learn from the use of incense on Atonement Day? The Bible indicates that the acceptable prayers of Jehovah's faithful worshippers are like incense. (Ps. 141:2; Rev. 5:8) Recall that it was with great respect that the high priest brought the incense into the presence of Jehovah. Similarly, when we approach Jehovah in prayer, we do so with deep respect. We are in awe of him. We deeply appreciate that the Creator of the universe allows us to approach him and draw close to him, as a child to a father. (Jas. 4:8) He accepts us as his friends! (Ps. 25:14) We appreciate this privilege so much that we would never want to disappoint him.

⁶ Remember that the high priest had to burn the incense *before* he could offer up the sacrifices. In that way, he made sure that he would have God's approval when offering up the sacrifices. What can we learn from that? While on earth, Jesus had to do something important—something more important than providing salvation for mankind—before

5. What can we learn from the use of incense on Atonement Day?

6. What can we learn from the fact that the high priest burned the incense *before* he offered up the sacrifices?

he could offer up his life in sacrifice. What was that? By living a life of integrity and loyalty, Jesus had to prepare the way for Jehovah to accept his sacrifice. In that way, Jesus would prove that doing things Jehovah's way is the right way to live. Jesus would vindicate—or prove right and just—his Father's sovereignty, or way of ruling.

⁷ Throughout his earthly life, Jesus maintained perfect obedience to Jehovah's righteous standards. No temptation or trial—not even the prospect of an agonizing death—could weaken his desire to defend his Father's way of ruling. (Phil. 2:8) When faced with tests, Jesus prayed “with strong outcries and tears.” (Heb. 5:7) His fervent prayers flowed from a loyal heart and strengthened his desire to remain obedient. To Jehovah, Jesus' prayers were like the aroma of sweet-smelling incense. Jesus' entire life course deeply pleased his Father and vindicated His sovereignty.

⁸ We can imitate Jesus by doing our best to live a life of integrity and of loyalty to Jehovah's ways and laws. When faced with tests, we pray fervently for Jehovah's help because we want to please him.

7. Why was Jesus' entire life course on earth pleasing to his Father?

8. How can we imitate Jesus' life course?

In such ways, we show our support of Jehovah's way of ruling. We realize that Jehovah will not accept our prayers if we are involved in conduct that he condemns. However, if we live according to Jehovah's standards, we can be confident that our heartfelt prayers will be like sweet-smelling incense to Jehovah. And we can be sure that our integrity and loyal obedience please our heavenly Father.—Prov. 27:11.

OUR SERVICE IS MOTIVATED BY GRATITUDE AND LOVE

⁹ *Second lesson: We serve Jehovah because we are grateful to him.* To highlight this, let us consider the communion offerings, another important aspect of true worship in ancient Israel.* In the book of Leviticus, we learn that an Israelite could offer a communion sacrifice “as an expression of thanksgiving.” (Lev. 7:11-13, 16-18) He made this offering, not because he had to, but because he wanted to. So this was a voluntary offering that the individual made because he loved his God, Jehovah.

* For more information about communion offerings, see *Insight on the Scriptures*, Volume 2, p. 526.

9. Why were communion sacrifices offered?



Love for Jehovah moves us to give him our best
(See paragraphs 9-12)

The person making the offering, his family, and the priests would eat the meat of the sacrificed animal. But certain parts of the animal sacrifice were offered up exclusively to Jehovah. Which parts?

¹⁰ *Third lesson: Out of love, we give Jehovah our best. Jehovah viewed the fat as the best part of an*

10. What do the communion sacrifices described at Leviticus 3:6, 12, 14-16 teach us about Jesus' motivation for doing his Father's will?

animal. He also specified that vital organs, including the kidneys, were of special value. (Read **Leviticus 3:6, 12, 14-16.**) So Jehovah was especially pleased when an Israelite voluntarily offered vital organs and the fat to him. The Israelite who made such an offering demonstrated his deep desire to offer the very best to God. In a similar way, Jesus willingly offered up to Jehovah his very best by serving Him whole-souled out of love for Him. (John 14:31) For Jesus, doing God's will was a delight; he had a deep love for God's law. (Ps. 40:8) How pleasing it must have been for Jehovah to see Jesus serve him so willingly!

¹¹ Like those communion sacrifices, our service to Jehovah is a voluntary expression of how we feel about him. We give Jehovah our best, and we do so because we love him with all our heart. How pleased Jehovah must be to see millions of willing worshippers serve him out of deep love for him and his ways! We can be comforted by remembering that Jehovah sees and values not only our actions but also our motives. For example, if you are elderly and can no longer do as much as you would

11. How is our service like those communion sacrifices, and how can that be comforting to us?

like, be assured that Jehovah sees beyond your limitations. You may feel that you have little to offer, but Jehovah sees the love deep within you that motivates you to do what you *can* do. He is pleased to accept the best that you can give.

¹² What can we learn from the communion sacrifices? As the fire consumed the best parts of the animal, smoke drifted upward and Jehovah was pleased. Be assured, then, that Jehovah is pleased with your willing, whole-souled service. (Col. 3:23) Imagine his smile of approval. He views your loving efforts in his service, large and small, as treasures that he will remember and value forever.—Matt. 6:20; Heb. 6:10.

JEHOVAH BLESSES HIS ORGANIZATION

¹³ *Fourth lesson: Jehovah is blessing the earthly part of his organization.* Consider what happened in 1512 B.C.E. when the tabernacle was set up at the foot of Mount Sinai. (Ex. 40:17) Moses presided over a ceremony to install Aaron and his sons as priests. The nation of Israel assembled to witness

12. What assurance can we draw from Jehovah's reaction to communion sacrifices?

13. According to Leviticus 9:23, 24, how did Jehovah show his approval of the priesthood?

the priests presenting their first animal sacrifices. (Lev. 9:1-5) How did Jehovah show his approval of the newly installed priesthood? As Aaron and Moses blessed the people, Jehovah caused fire to consume the remainder of the sacrifice on the altar.—Read Leviticus 9:23, 24.

¹⁴ What was accomplished by the awesome display at the installation of the high priest? Jehovah thereby showed his full support of the Aaronic priesthood. When the Israelites saw this clear evidence of Jehovah’s backing of the priests, they had good reason to give them full support. Is that relevant to us? Yes! The priesthood in Israel was just a shadow of a much greater priesthood. Christ, the greater High Priest, has a royal priesthood of 144,000, who will serve alongside him in heaven.—Heb. 4:14; 8:3-5; 10:1.

¹⁵ In 1919, Jesus appointed a small group of anointed brothers as “the faithful and discreet slave.” That slave takes the lead in the preaching work and gives Christ’s followers “food at the proper time.” (Matt. 24:45) Do we see clear evi-

14. Why is Jehovah’s approval of the Aaronic priesthood of interest to us today?

15-16. How has Jehovah shown his approval of “the faithful and discreet slave”?



Jehovah is blessing and guiding his organization.
We give it our wholehearted support
(See paragraphs 15-17)

dence of God's approval of the faithful and discreet slave?

¹⁶ Satan and his world have done much to make the work of that faithful slave challenging, even impossible, to carry out from a human standpoint. Despite two world wars, relentless persecution, global economic crises, and unjust treatment, the faithful and discreet slave has continued to provide spiritual food for Christ's followers on earth. Think of the abundance of spiritual food available today, free of charge, in more than 900 languages!

It is undeniable evidence of divine backing. Consider further proof of Jehovah's blessing: the preaching work. The good news truly is being preached "in *all* the inhabited earth." (Matt. 24: 14) Without a doubt, Jehovah is guiding and generously blessing his organization today.

¹⁷ We do well to ask ourselves, 'Am I grateful to be associated with the earthly part of Jehovah's organization?' Jehovah has given us evidence that is as convincing as the literal fire from heaven back in the days of Moses and Aaron. We truly have much to be thankful for. (1 Thess. 5:18, 19) How can we show our support for the organization that Jehovah is using? By following the Bible-based direction we are given in our publications and at our meetings, assemblies, and conventions. In addition, we can show our support by sharing as fully as possible in the preaching and teaching work. —1 Cor. 15:58.

¹⁸ Let us be determined to apply the lessons we learned from the book of Leviticus. May we obtain Jehovah's approval for our sacrifices to be accept-

17. How can we show our support for the organization that Jehovah is using?

18. What are you determined to do?

ed. May we serve Jehovah because we are grateful to him. May we continue to give our best to Jehovah because we love him with all our heart. And may we wholeheartedly support the organization that he is blessing today. In all such ways, we can show Jehovah that we cherish the privilege we have to serve him as his Witnesses!

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 45: An Israelite hands a sheep to a priest as a communion sacrifice to express his family's gratitude to Jehovah. During his ministry on earth, Jesus showed his deep love for Jehovah by keeping God's commandments and by helping his followers to keep them as well. An elderly sister, despite her physical limitations, gives her best to Jehovah by witnessing through letter writing. **Page 49:** In February 2019, Brother Gerrit Lösch of the Governing Body released the revised *New World Translation* in German to a grateful and enthusiastic audience. Today, publishers in Germany, like these two sisters, gladly use the newly released Bible in the ministry.

WHAT LESSONS CAN WE LEARN FROM . . .

- the use of incense on Atonement Day? (Lev. 16:12, 13)
- the communion sacrifices offered under the Law? (Lev. 3:6, 12, 14-16)
- the fire seen when the priesthood was installed? (Lev. 9:23, 24)

96 *God's Own Book—A Treasure*

(Proverbs 2:1)

1. There is a book that by its many pages,
 Brings peace and joy and hope to humankind.
Its wondrous thoughts are charged with such great power;
 It brings life to the “dead,” sight to the “blind.”
That precious book is God's own Holy Bible.
 Its words were penned by men whom God inspired,
By men who truly loved their God Jehovah,
 And by his holy spirit they were fired.

2. They wrote a record true of God's creations,
 How by his might this universe appeared.
They also told how man at first was sinless
 But how his Paradise then disappeared.
They further told about a certain angel
 Who challenged God and spurned his sov'reignty.
That challenge led to sin and man's great sorrow,
 But soon will come Jehovah's victory.

3. The time has come with reason for rejoicing:
 Jehovah rules by his anointed King.
So now we preach the good news of the Kingdom
 And share the hope of blessings it will bring.
Within his book are found these cheerful tidings;
 A sacred banquet feast on which to feed.
It offers peace beyond all human thinking;
 This Living Treasure beckons all to read.

(See also 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.)