

- Song 10 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Jacob Obtains His Rightful Blessing”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 27:6-10—Rebekah helped Jacob to obtain his rightful blessing (w04 4/15 11 ¶4-5)
 Ge 27:18, 19—Jacob presented himself to his father as Esau (w07 10/1 31 ¶2-3)
 Ge 27:27-29—Isaac gave Jacob the firstborn’s blessing (it-1 341 ¶6)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 27:46–28:2—What lessons can married couples learn from this account? (w06 4/15 6 ¶3-4)

Ge 28:12, 13—What was the significance of Jacob’s dream involving “a stairway”? (w04 1/15 28 ¶6)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah God, the field ministry, or something else?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ge 27:1-23 (2)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience the following questions: How did the publisher show that he was listening to the householder express himself? How did the publisher make good use of the Teaching Toolbox?
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (6)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *jl* lesson 17 (11)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 34
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 109
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 28 and Prayer

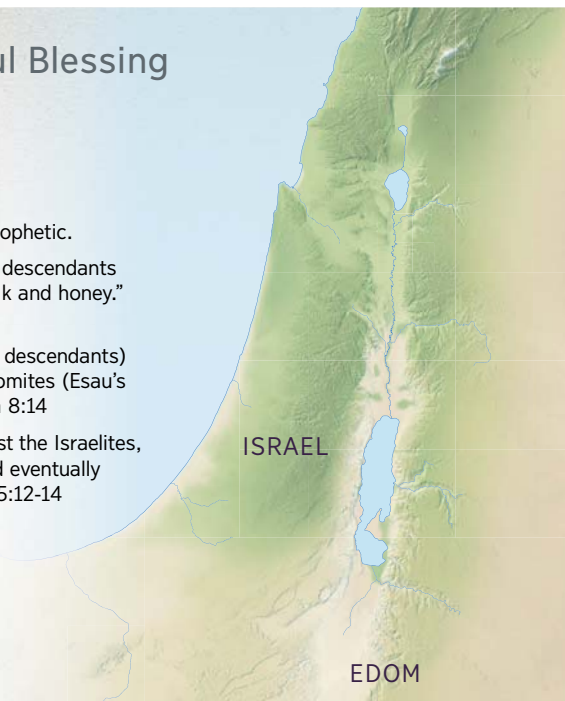
GENESIS 27-28 | Jacob Obtains His Rightful Blessing



27:6-10, 18, 19, 27-29

Isaac’s blessing of Jacob was prophetic.

- **27:28**—Jehovah gave Jacob’s descendants a fertile land “flowing with milk and honey.” —De 26:15
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- **27:29**—For their hatred against the Israelites, the Edomites were cursed and eventually destroyed as a nation.—Eze 25:12-14



10 *Praise Jehovah Our God!*

(Psalm 145:12)

1. Praise our God! Praise Jehovah God!
 Make his glorious name known to all!
 Sound alarm, For his day is near,
 Help all people hear his warning call.
 Jehovah decreed that now is the time
 For his Firstborn to rule as King.
 Reach out to all people, tell them the news,
 Tell what blessings our God will bring!

(CHORUS)

*Praise our God! Praise Jehovah God!
 Make his greatness known in all the earth!*

2. Praise our God! Sing it loud and clear!
 With a joyful song, laud his name!
 From the heart, From a grateful heart,
 All his glory boldly we proclaim.
 Though grand is our God and great are his works,
 He is humble and good to all.
 Our merciful Father knows what we need;
 He responds when he hears our call.

(Chorus)

Genesis 27-28

27 Now when Isaac was old and his eyes were too weak to see, he called E'sau his older son to him and said: "My son!" He replied: "Here I am!" ² And he went on to say: "I have now grown old. I do not know the day of my death. ³ So at this time take, please, your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt some wild game for me. ⁴ Then make the kind of tasty dish that I am fond of and bring it to me. Then I will eat it so that I may bless you before I die."

⁵ However, Re-bek'ah was listening while Isaac spoke to E'sau his son. And E'sau went out into the field to hunt game and to bring it in. ⁶ And Re-bek'ah said to Jacob her son: "I just heard your father speaking to your brother E'sau, saying, ⁷ 'Bring me some game and make me a tasty dish. Then let me eat so that I may bless you before Jehovah before my death.' ⁸ And now, my son, listen carefully and do what I am instructing you. ⁹ Go, please, to the herd and get me two of the best young goats from there so that I may prepare from them a tasty dish for your father, just the way he likes it. ¹⁰ Then take it to your father to eat, in order that he may bless you before his death."

¹¹ Jacob said to his mother Re-bek'ah: "But E'sau my brother is a hairy man, and my skin is smooth. ¹² What if my father feels me? Then I will certainly appear to be mocking him, and I will bring upon myself a curse rather than a blessing." ¹³ At this his mother said to him: "Upon me be the

curse meant for you, my son. Just do as I say and go, get them for me.” ¹⁴ So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made a tasty dish, just the way his father liked it. ¹⁵ After that Re-bek'ah took her older son E'sau's finest garments, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ She also put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the hairless part of his neck. ¹⁷ Then she handed the tasty dish and the bread that she had made to her son Jacob.

¹⁸ So he went in to his father and said: “My father!” to which he said: “Here I am! Who are you, my son?” ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father: “I am E'sau your firstborn. I have done just as you told me. Sit up, please, and eat some of my game, so that you may bless me.” ²⁰ At that Isaac said to his son: “How were you so quick in finding it, my son?” He replied: “Because Jehovah your God brought it to me.” ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob: “Come near, please, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son E'sau or not.” ²² So Jacob came near to his father Isaac, and he felt him, after which he said: “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of E'sau.” ²³ He did not recognize him because his hands were hairy like the hands of his brother E'sau. So he blessed him.

²⁴ After that he asked: “Are you really my son E'sau?” to which he replied: “I am.” ²⁵ Then he said: “Bring me some of the wild game for me to eat, my son, then I will bless you.” With that he brought it to him and he ate, and he brought him wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then Isaac his father said to him:

“Come near, please, and kiss me, my son.” ²⁷ So he came near and kissed him, and he could smell the scent of his garments. Then he blessed him and said:

“See, the scent of my son is like the scent of the field that Jehovah has blessed. ²⁸ May the true God give you the dews of the heavens and the fertile soils of the earth and an abundance of grain and new wine. ²⁹ Let peoples serve you, and let nations bow low to you. Be master over your brothers, and let the sons of your mother bow low to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you.”

³⁰ Now Isaac had just finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had barely left the presence of his father Isaac when his brother E'sau came back from his hunting. ³¹ He too prepared a tasty dish and brought it to his father, and he said to his father: “Let my father get up and eat some of his son’s game, in order that you may bless me.” ³² At this his father Isaac said to him: “Who are you?” to which he said: “I am your son, your firstborn, E'sau.” ³³ And Isaac began to tremble violently, so he said: “Who was it, then, who hunted for game and brought it to me? I already ate it before you arrived, and I blessed him—and he will surely be blessed!”

³⁴ On hearing his father’s words, E'sau began to cry out in an extremely loud and bitter manner and to say to his father: “Bless me, yes, me too, my father!” ³⁵ But he said: “Your brother came deceitfully so that he might get the blessing meant for you.” ³⁶ At this he said: “Is he not rightly named Jacob, that he might supplant me these two times? My

birthright he has already taken, and now he has taken my blessing!" Then he added: "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" ³⁷ But Isaac answered E'sau: "Here I have appointed him master over you, and I have given him all his brothers as servants, and I have bestowed grain and new wine for his support. What is left that I can do for you, my son?"

³⁸ E'sau said to his father: "Is there just one blessing that you have, my father? Bless me, yes, me too, my father!" With that E'sau cried loudly and burst into tears. ³⁹ So his father Isaac answered him:

"See, away from the fertile soils of the earth your dwelling will be, and away from the dew of the heavens above. ⁴⁰ And by your sword you will live, and you will serve your brother. But when you grow restless, you will indeed break his yoke off your neck."

⁴¹ However, E'sau harbored animosity against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him, and E'sau kept saying in his heart: "The days of mourning for my father are getting closer. After that I am going to kill Jacob my brother." ⁴² When the words of her older son E'sau were told to Re-bek'ah, she at once sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him: "Look! Your brother E'sau is planning to take revenge by killing you. ⁴³ Now, my son, do as I say. Get up and run away to my brother La'ban at Ha'ran. ⁴⁴ Dwell with him for a while until your brother's rage calms down, ⁴⁵ until your brother's anger toward you subsides and he

forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send for you from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?”

⁴⁶ After that Re-bek'ah kept saying to Isaac: “I am disgusted with my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob ever takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these daughters of the land, what good is my life?”

28 So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and commanded him, saying: “You must not take a wife from the daughters of Ca'naan. ² Go away to Pad'dan-a'ram to the house of Be-thu'el, your mother's father, and from there take for yourself a wife from the daughters of La'ban, your mother's brother. ³ God Almighty will bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and you will certainly become a congregation of peoples. ⁴ And he will give to you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your offspring with you, so that you may take possession of the land where you have been living as a foreigner, which God has given to Abraham.”

⁵ So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he departed for Pad'dan-a'ram, to La'ban the son of Be-thu'el the A-ra-mae'an, the brother of Re-bek'ah, the mother of Jacob and E'sau.

⁶ E'sau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him away to Pad'dan-a'ram to take a wife from there and that when he blessed him, he commanded him, “Do not take a wife from the daughters of Ca'naan,” ⁷ and that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother and departed for Pad'dan-a'ram. ⁸ E'sau then realized that the daughters of Ca'naan

were displeasing to his father Isaac, ⁹ so E'sau went to Ish'ma-el and took as wife Ma'ha-lath the daughter of Abraham's son Ish'ma-el, the sister of Ne-ba'ioth, in addition to the other wives he already had.

¹⁰ Jacob departed from Be'er-she'ba and kept going toward Ha'ran. ¹¹ In time he came to a place and prepared to spend the night there because the sun had set. So he took one of the stones of that place and set it to rest his head on and lay down there. ¹² Then he had a dream, and look! there was a stairway set on the earth, and its top reached up to the heavens; and there were God's angels ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And look! there was Jehovah stationed above it, and he said:

“I am Jehovah the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are lying, to you I am going to give it and to your offspring. ¹⁴ And your offspring will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your offspring all the families of the ground will certainly be blessed. ¹⁵ I am with you, and I will safeguard you wherever you go, and I will return you to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said: “Truly Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it.” ¹⁷ And he grew fearful and added: “How awe-inspiring this place is! This can only be the house of God, and this is the gate of the heavens.” ¹⁸ So Jacob got up early in the morning and took

the stone on which he had rested his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ So he named that place Beth'el, but previously the city's name was Luz.

²⁰ Jacob then made a vow, saying: "If God will continue with me and will protect me on my journey and will give me bread to eat and garments to wear ²¹ and I return in peace to the house of my father, then Jehovah will certainly have proved to be my God. ²² And this stone that I have set up as a pillar will become a house of God, and without fail I will give you a tenth of everything you give to me."

- Song 10 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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- **“Jacob Obtains His Rightful Blessing”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 27:6-10—Rebekah helped Jacob to obtain his rightful blessing (w04 4/15 11 ¶4-5)
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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ge 27:1-23 (2)

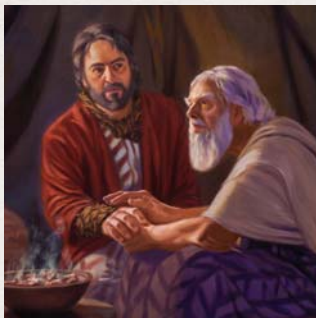
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- Song 34
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.)
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- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 28 and Prayer

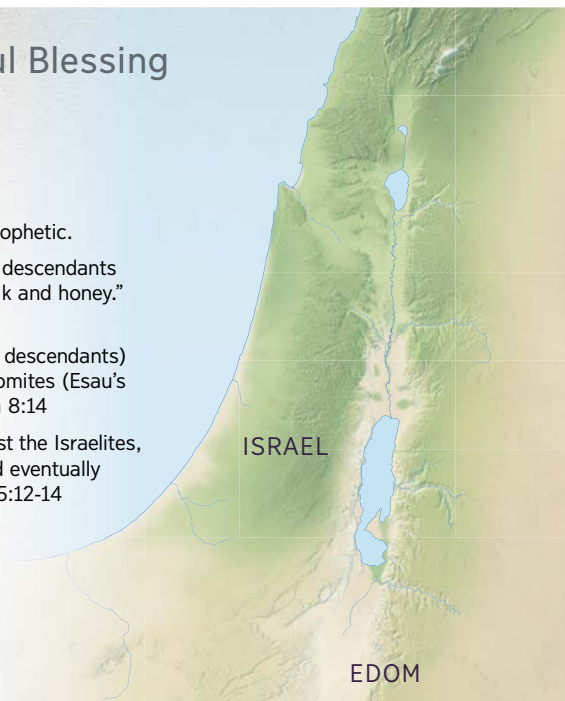
GENESIS 27-28 | Jacob Obtains His Rightful Blessing



27:6-10, 18, 19, 27-29

Isaac’s blessing of Jacob was prophetic.

- **27:28**—Jehovah gave Jacob’s descendants a fertile land “flowing with milk and honey.” —De 26:15
- **27:29**—The Israelites (Jacob’s descendants) became stronger than the Edomites (Esau’s descendants).—Ge 25:23; 2Sa 8:14
- **27:29**—For their hatred against the Israelites, the Edomites were cursed and eventually destroyed as a nation.—Eze 25:12-14



March 23-29 / Genesis 27-28

- Song 10 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minutes)

Treasures From God's Word

"Jacob Obtains His Rightful Blessing": (10 minutes)

Genesis 27:6-10,18,19,27-29

Isaac's blessing of Jacob was prophetic.

- Genesis 27:28—Jehovah gave Jacob's descendants a fertile land "flowing with milk and honey."—Deuteronomy 26:15
- Genesis 27:29—The Israelites (Jacob's descendants) became stronger than the Edomites (Esau's descendants).—Genesis 25:23; 2 Samuel 8:14
- Genesis 27:29—For their hatred against the Israelites, the Edomites were cursed and eventually destroyed as a nation.—Ezekiel 25:12-14

Genesis 27:6-10—Rebekah helped Jacob to obtain his rightful blessing

Genesis 27:6-10: And Rebekah said to Jacob her son: "I just heard your father speaking to your brother Esau, saying, 'Bring me some game and make me a tasty dish. Then let me eat so that I may bless you before Jehovah before my death.' And now, my son, listen carefully and do what I am instructing you. Go, please, to the herd and get me two of the best young goats from there so that I may prepare from them a tasty dish for your father, just the way he likes it. Then take it to your father to eat, in order that he may bless you before his death."

w04 4/15 11 paragraphs 4-5

The Bible does not say whether Isaac knows that Esau must serve Jacob. In any case, both Rebekah and Jacob know that the blessing belongs to him. Rebekah springs into action on hearing that Isaac intends to bless Esau when he takes his father a dish of game. The decisiveness and zeal that characterized her in her youth have not deserted her. She 'commands' Jacob to bring her two kids of goats. She will

prepare a dish her husband is fond of. Then Jacob must impersonate Esau to obtain the blessing. Jacob objects. His father is bound to become aware of the ruse and curse him! Rebekah insists. "Upon me be the malediction meant for you, my son," she says. Then she makes the dish, disguises Jacob, and sends him to her husband.—Genesis 27:1-17.

Why Rebekah acts this way is not stated. Many condemn her action, but the Bible does not, nor does Isaac on discovering that Jacob has received the blessing. Rather, Isaac amplifies it. (Genesis 27:29; 28:3,4) Rebekah knows what Jehovah foretold about her sons. So she acts to see that Jacob secures the blessing that is rightfully his. This is clearly in harmony with Jehovah's will.—Romans 9:6-13.

Genesis 27:18,19—Jacob presented himself to his father as Esau

Genesis 27:18,19: So he went in to his father and said: "My father!" to which he said: "Here I am! Who are you, my son?" Jacob said to his father: "I am Esau your firstborn. I have

done just as you told me. Sit up, please, and eat some of my game, so that you may bless me.”

w07 10/1 31 paragraphs 2-3

The Bible does not give all the details as to why Rebekah and Jacob acted as they did, though it does indicate that the situation arose suddenly. We should note that God’s Word neither justifies nor condemns what Rebekah and Jacob did, establishing no precedent for lies and deception. The Bible does, however, shed light on the situation.

First, the account makes clear that Jacob was entitled to his father’s blessing; Esau was not. Earlier, Jacob had legally purchased the birthright from his unappreciative twin brother, who sold it for a meal to satisfy his hunger. Esau “despised the birthright.” (Genesis 25:29-34) So in approaching his father, Jacob was seeking a blessing that rightfully belonged to him.

Genesis 27:27-29—Isaac gave Jacob the firstborn's blessing

Genesis 27:27-29: So he came near and kissed him, and he could smell the scent of his garments. Then he blessed him and said: "See, the scent of my son is like the scent of the field that Jehovah has blessed. May the true God give you the dews of the heavens and the fertile soils of the earth and an abundance of grain and new wine. Let peoples serve you, and let nations bow low to you. Be master over your brothers, and let the sons of your mother bow low to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you."

***it-1* 341 paragraph 6**

In a patriarchal society a father often blessed his sons shortly before his death. This was a matter of great importance and was highly valued. Thus Isaac blessed Jacob, thinking he was the firstborn Esau. Isaac pronounced favor and prosperity for Jacob ahead of his brother Esau, undoubtedly petitioning Jehovah to carry out the blessing, as Isaac himself was blind and old. (Genesis 27:1-4,23-29; 28:1,6; Hebrews 11:20;

12:16,17) Later Isaac knowingly confirmed and enlarged on the blessing. (Genesis 28:1-4) Before dying, Jacob blessed first Joseph's two sons, then his own sons. (Genesis 48:9,20; 49:1-28; Hebrews 11:21) Similarly, Moses, before his death, blessed the whole nation of Israel. (Deuteronomy 33:1) In all these cases the results prove that they spoke prophetically. In some instances, when pronouncing such blessings, the hand of the one blessing was placed upon the head of the one being blessed.—Genesis 48:13,14.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Genesis 27:46–28:2—What lessons can married couples learn from this account?

Genesis 27:46–28:2: After that Rebekah kept saying to Isaac: "I am disgusted with my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob ever takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these daughters of the land, what good is my life?" So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and commanded him, saying: "You must not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. Go away to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father, and from there take for yourself a wife

from the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother.

w06 4/15 6 paragraphs 3-4

Did Isaac and Rebekah develop good communication skills? After their son Esau married two daughters of Heth, a serious family problem arose. Rebekah "kept saying" to Isaac: "I have come to abhor this life of mine because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob [their younger son] ever takes a wife from the daughters of Heth . . . , of what good is life to me?" (Genesis 26:34; 27:46) Clearly, she communicated her concern in no uncertain terms.

Isaac told Jacob, Esau's twin brother, not to take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. (Genesis 28:1,2) Rebekah had made her point. This couple had successfully communicated about a most sensitive family subject, providing a good example for us today. What, though, if mates cannot come to an agreement? What can be done?

Genesis 28:12,13—What was the significance of Jacob’s dream involving “a stairway”?

Genesis 28:12,13: Then he had a dream, and look! there was a stairway set on the earth, and its top reached up to the heavens; and there were God’s angels ascending and descending on it. And look! there was Jehovah stationed above it, and he said: “I am Jehovah the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are lying, to you I am going to give it and to your offspring.

w04 1/15 28 paragraph 6

What was the significance of Jacob’s dream involving “a ladder”? This “ladder,” which may have looked like a rising flight of stones, indicated that there is communication between earth and heaven. God’s angels ascending and descending on it showed that angels minister in some important way between Jehovah and humans who have his approval.—John 1:51.

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Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Genesis 27:1-23 (*th*
study 2)

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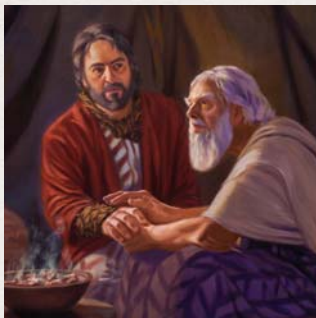
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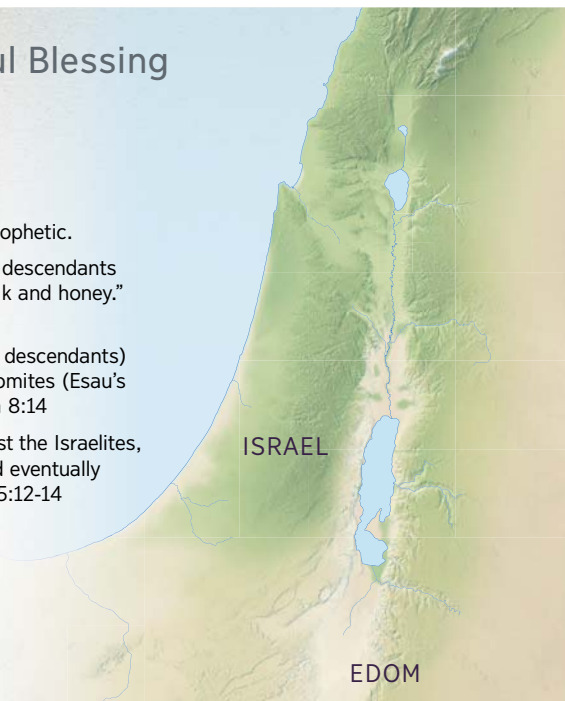
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Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

INITIAL CALL

- Question: Who was Jesus?
- Scripture: **Mt 16:16**
- Link: Why did Jesus die?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 41 ¶5

FIRST RETURN VISIT

- Question: Why did Jesus die?
- Scripture: **Mt 20:28**
- Link: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 52 ¶2

SECOND RETURN VISIT

- Question: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?
- Scripture: **Joh 17:3**
- Link: What happens at meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 58 ¶19

MEMORIAL INVITATION CAMPAIGN

(March 14–April 7):

“We’re here to invite you to a special event that will be attended by millions of people. It’s the anniversary of Jesus’ death.” Hand the person an invitation. “This invitation shows the time and location of the event in our area. We also invite you to a special talk the weekend before.”

Link When Interest Is Shown: Why did Jesus die?

LESSON 17

How Do Circuit Overseers Help Us?

The Christian Greek Scriptures make frequent mention of Barnabas and the apostle Paul. These men served as traveling overseers, visiting the early congregations. Why? They were genuinely concerned about the welfare of their spiritual brothers. Paul said that he wanted to “return and visit the brothers” to see how they were. He was willing to cover hundreds of miles (or kilometers) in order to go and strengthen them. (Acts 15:36) That is the desire that our traveling overseers have today.

They come to encourage us. Each circuit overseer makes the rounds of 20 or so congregations, spending a week with each one twice a year. We can benefit greatly from the experience of these brothers and if they are married, that of their wives. They endeavor to get to know young and old alike, and they are eager to accompany us in the field ministry and on our Bible studies. These overseers make shepherding calls with the elders, and to strengthen us, they give encouraging talks at meetings and assemblies.—Acts 15:35.

They show an interest in all. Circuit overseers are keenly interested in the spiritual condition of the congregations. They meet with the elders and

ministerial servants to review the progress made and to give them practical advice in handling their responsibilities. They help the pioneers to make a success of their ministry, and they enjoy getting to know newly associated ones and hearing about their spiritual progress. Each of these brothers freely gives of himself as “a fellow worker for [our] interests.” (2 Corinthians 8:23) We should imitate their faith and devotion to God.—Hebrews 13:7.

- For what purpose do circuit overseers visit the congregations?
- How can you benefit from their visits?

[Box/Picture on page 20]

FIND OUT MORE

Mark on your calendar the dates of the circuit overseer's next visit to the congregation so that you will not miss his talks at the Kingdom Hall. If you would like him or his wife to attend your Bible study that week so that you can get acquainted, let your teacher know.

Walking in Integrity

(Psalm 26)

1. Please judge me, Lord, observe my loyalty;
Observe my trust in you and my integrity.
Examine me, and put me to the test;
My mind and heart refine, that my soul might be blessed.

(CHORUS)

*But as for me, Determined I will be
to walk eternally In my integrity.*

2. I do not sit with wicked men of lies.
I hate the company of those who truth despise.
Jehovah, please, don't take away my life
With men who take delight in bribery and strife.

(Chorus)

3. For I have loved the dwelling of your house.
Your worship, oh, so pure, I daily will espouse.
And I will march around your altar grand,
To make thanksgiving heard aloud throughout the land.

(Chorus)

- Song 10 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Jacob Obtains His Rightful Blessing”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 27:6-10—Rebekah helped Jacob to obtain his rightful blessing (w04 4/15 11 ¶4-5)
 Ge 27:18, 19—Jacob presented himself to his father as Esau (w07 10/1 31 ¶2-3)
 Ge 27:27-29—Isaac gave Jacob the firstborn’s blessing (it-1 341 ¶6)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 27:46–28:2—What lessons can married couples learn from this account? (w06 4/15 6 ¶3-4)

Ge 28:12, 13—What was the significance of Jacob’s dream involving “a stairway”? (w04 1/15 28 ¶6)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah God, the field ministry, or something else?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ge 27:1-23 (2)

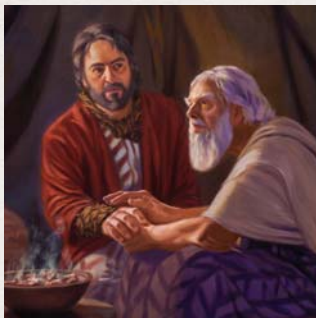
APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience the following questions: How did the publisher show that he was listening to the householder express himself? How did the publisher make good use of the Teaching Toolbox?
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (6)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *jl* lesson 17 (11)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 34
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 109
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 28 and Prayer

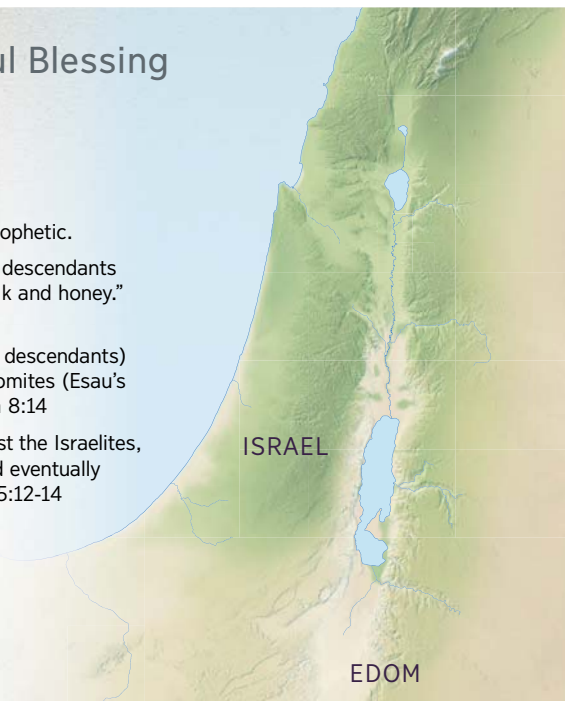
GENESIS 27-28 | Jacob Obtains His Rightful Blessing



27:6-10, 18, 19, 27-29

Isaac’s blessing of Jacob was prophetic.

- **27:28**—Jehovah gave Jacob’s descendants a fertile land “flowing with milk and honey.” —De 26:15
- **27:29**—The Israelites (Jacob’s descendants) became stronger than the Edomites (Esau’s descendants).—Ge 25:23; 2Sa 8:14
- **27:29**—For their hatred against the Israelites, the Edomites were cursed and eventually destroyed as a nation.—Eze 25:12-14



DENOUNCING RELIGIOUS OPPOSERS

MATTHEW 22:41–23:24 MARK 12:35-40
LUKE 20:41-47

- WHOSE SON IS THE CHRIST?
 - JESUS EXPOSES HYPOCRITICAL OPPOSERS
-

Religious opposers fail to discredit Jesus or to entrap him and turn him over to the Romans. (Luke 20:20) Now, while still at the temple on Nisan 11, Jesus turns the tables on them and shows his true identity. Taking the initiative, he asks them: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” (Matthew 22:42) It is well-known that the Christ, or Messiah, is to be in David’s line. That is the answer that they give.—Matthew 9:27; 12:23; John 7:42.

Jesus asks: “How is it, then, that David under inspiration calls him Lord, saying, ‘Jehovah said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies beneath your feet”’? If, then, David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”—Matthew 22:43-45.

The Pharisees remain silent, for they are hoping for a human descendant of David who might liberate



them from Roman domination. But drawing on David's words recorded at Psalm 110:1, 2, Jesus establishes that the Messiah is to be more than a human ruler. He is David's Lord, and after sitting at God's right hand, he will exercise power. Jesus' reply silences his opposers.

The disciples and many others have been listening. Now Jesus addresses them, warning about the scribes and the Pharisees. Those men have "seated themselves in the seat of Moses" to teach God's Law. Jesus instructs his listeners: "All the things they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds, for they say but they do not practice what they say."—Matthew 23:2, 3.

Jesus then gives examples of their hypocrisy, saying: "They broaden the scripture-containing cases that they wear as safeguards." Some Jews wore on the forehead or on the arm these relatively small cases containing short passages from the Law. The Pharisees enlarge theirs to give the impression that they are zealous about the Law. Also, they "lengthen the fringes of their garments." The Israelites were to make fringes on their garments, but the Pharisees

make sure that their fringes are quite long. (Numbers 15:38-40) They do all of this “to be seen by men.” —Matthew 23:5.

Even Jesus’ disciples could be affected by a desire for prominence, so he counsels them: “Do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your Teacher, and all of you are brothers. Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One. Neither be called leaders, for your Leader is one, the Christ.” How, then, should the disciples view themselves and act? Jesus tells them: “The greatest one among you must be your minister. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”—Matthew 23:8-12.

Next, Jesus pronounces a series of woes on the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut up the Kingdom of the heavens before men; for you yourselves do not go in, neither do you permit those on their way in to go in.”—Matthew 23:13.

Jesus condemns the Pharisees’ lack of spiritual values, as shown by the arbitrary distinctions they make. For example, they say: “If anyone swears by the

temple, it is nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is under obligation.” They thus show their moral blindness, for they put more emphasis on the gold of the temple than on the spiritual value of Jehovah’s place of worship. And they “have disregarded the weightier matters of the Law, namely, justice and mercy and faithfulness.”—Matthew 23:16, 23; Luke 11:42.

Jesus calls these Pharisees “blind guides, who strain out the gnat but gulp down the camel!” (Matthew 23:24) They strain a gnat from their wine because that insect is ceremonially unclean. Yet, the way they disregard weightier matters of the Law is like swallowing a camel, also a ceremonially unclean animal, only far larger.—Leviticus 11:4, 21-24.

- ◇ When Jesus questions the Pharisees about what David said as recorded in Psalm 110, why are they silent?
- ◇ Why do the Pharisees enlarge their scripture-containing cases and lengthen the fringes on their garments?
- ◇ What counsel does Jesus give his disciples?

28 *Gaining Jehovah's Friendship* (Psalm 15)

1. Who is your friend, O God?

Who in your tent may dwell?

Who gains your friendship? Who gains your trust?

Who really knows you well?

All who embrace your Word,

All who have faith in you,

All who are loyal, all who are just,

Living the truth for you.

2. Who is your friend, O God?

Who may approach your throne?

Who brings delight and makes you rejoice?

Whose name to you is known?

All who exalt your name,

All who your Word obey,

All who are faithful, honest in heart,

Truthful in all they say.

3. Throwing our cares on you,

Baring our hearts in prayer,

Drawing us closer, bonding in love,

Feeling your daily care,

We yearn to be your friend.

Long may our friendship grow.

No greater Friend could we ever gain,

No greater Friend we'll know.

JANUARY 2020

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



OUR YEARETEXT FOR 2020:

**“Go, therefore, and make disciples . . . ,
baptizing them.”—MATT. 28:19.**



**STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
MARCH 2–APRIL 5, 2020**

Study Article 1: March 2-8	2
“Go, Therefore, and Make Disciples”	
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Study Article 2: March 9-15	16
You Can Be “a Source of Great Comfort”	
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Study Article 3: March 16-22	28
Jehovah Your God Values You!	
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Study Article 4: March 23-29	40
“The Spirit Itself Bears Witness”	
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Study Article 5: March 30–April 5	52
We Will Go With You	

COVER PICTURE:

When Jesus met with the apostles and others in Galilee after his resurrection, he instructed them to “go . . . and make disciples” (See study article 1, paragraphs 3-4)

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A Special Possession

(1 Peter 2:9)

1. God has a new creation,
His spirit-anointed sons.
He has bought them from mankind;
His approval they've won.

(CHORUS)

*A special possession,
They're a people for your name.
They love you. They praise you.
As one they declare abroad your fame.*

2. They are a holy nation,
Who handle the truth aright.
God has called them from darkness
To his wonderful light.

(Chorus)

3. Faithful to their commission,
They gather the other sheep.
To the Lamb they are loyal.
His commandments they keep.

(Chorus)

“The Spirit Itself Bears Witness”

“The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children.”—ROM. 8:16.

SONG 25

A Special Possession

PREVIEW

Ever since Pentecost 33 C.E., Jehovah has given some Christians an amazing hope—the hope of ruling with his Son in heaven. How, though, do these Christians know that they have been selected for this wonderful privilege? What happens when someone receives this invitation? This article is based on one that appeared in the January 2016 *Watchtower*. It will answer those intriguing questions.



Jehovah poured out his holy spirit in a spectacular way
at Pentecost on a group of about 120 Christians
(See paragraphs 1-2)

IT IS Sunday morning in Jerusalem. The year is 33 C.E., and it is the day of Pentecost. A group of about 120 disciples are gathered together in the upper room of a house. (Acts 1:13-15; 2:1) A few days earlier, Jesus had instructed them to remain in Jerusalem because they were to receive a special gift. (Acts 1:4, 5) What happens next?

² “Suddenly there [is] a noise from heaven, just like that of a rushing, stiff breeze.” The sound fills the

1-2. What spectacular event occurs on the day of Pentecost in 33 C.E.?

whole house. Then, “tongues as if of fire” appear above the disciples’ heads, and they all become “filled with holy spirit.” (Acts 2:2-4) In this spectacular way, Jehovah pours out his holy spirit on that group. (Acts 1:8) They become the first to be anointed by holy spirit* and given the hope of ruling with Jesus in heaven.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE IS ANOINTED?

³ If you were one of those disciples gathered in the upper room that day, you would never forget it. Something that looked like a tongue of fire came to rest on your head, and you began to speak in tongues! (Acts 2:5-12) There would be no question in your mind that you were anointed by holy spirit. But do all those who are anointed by holy spirit receive their anointing in some spectacular manner and at the same time in their life? No. How do we know?

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED: Anointed by holy spirit:** Jehovah uses his holy spirit to select a person to rule with Jesus in heaven. By means of his spirit, God gives that person a promise for the future, or “a token in advance.” (Eph. 1:13, 14) These Christians can say that the holy spirit “bears witness,” or makes clear, to them that their reward is in heaven.—Rom. 8:16.

3. Why did those at Pentecost have no doubt that they were anointed by holy spirit?

⁴ Let us consider the matter of *timing*. That group of about 120 Christians were not the only ones anointed by holy spirit at Pentecost, 33 C.E. Later that day, about 3,000 others also received the promised holy spirit. Their anointing occurred when they got baptized. (Acts 2:37, 38, 41) But in the years that followed, not all anointed Christians received their anointing at their baptism. The Samaritans received their anointing sometime after their baptism. (Acts 8:14-17) And in what certainly was an exceptional instance, Cornelius and his household were anointed even before they got baptized.—Acts 10:44-48.

⁵ Let us also consider *what happens* when a person is anointed by holy spirit. Some who are anointed may at first find it hard to accept that Jehovah has chosen them. They may wonder, ‘Why did God choose me?’ Others may not have that reaction. Whatever the case, the apostle Paul explains what happens to all who are anointed: “After you believed, you were sealed* by

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED: Seal.** This sealing is not made permanent until sometime before the person dies faithful or sometime before the outbreak of the great tribulation.—Eph. 4:30; Rev. 7:2-4; see “Questions From Readers” in the April 2016 *Watchtower*.

4. Did all anointed ones in the first century receive their calling at the same time in their life? Explain.

5. According to 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22, what happens when someone is anointed by holy spirit?

means of him with the promised holy spirit, which is a token in advance of our inheritance.” (Eph. 1:13, 14; ftn.) So Jehovah uses his holy spirit to make it absolutely clear to these Christians that he has chosen them. In this way, the holy spirit is “a token [a pledge or promise]” given to assure them that in the future they will live forever in heaven and not on earth.—Read 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22.

⁶ If a Christian is anointed, will he automatically receive his heavenly reward? No. He is sure that he has been chosen to go to heaven. However, he must remember this admonition: “Brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and choosing sure for yourselves, for *if you keep on doing these things*, you will by no means ever fail.” (2 Pet. 1:10) So even though an anointed Christian has been chosen, or called, to go to heaven, he will get his reward only if he remains faithful.—Phil. 3:12-14; Heb. 3:1; Rev. 2:10.

HOW DOES SOMEONE KNOW IF HE IS ANOINTED?

⁷ But how does a person know that he or she has the heavenly calling? The answer is clearly seen in Paul’s

6. What must an anointed Christian do to receive his heavenly reward?

7. How do anointed ones know that they have the heavenly calling?

words to those in Rome who were “called to be holy ones.” He told them: “You did not receive a spirit of slavery causing fear again, but you received a spirit of adoption as sons, by which spirit we cry out: ‘Abba, Father!’ *The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children.*” (Rom. 1:7; 8:15, 16) So by means of his holy spirit, God makes it clear to anointed ones that they have this heavenly calling.—1 Thess. 2:12.

⁸ Jehovah leaves no doubt whatsoever in the minds and hearts of those who receive his invitation to go to heaven. (Read 1 John 2:20, 27.) Of course, anointed Christians need to be taught by Jehovah through the congregation just like everyone else. But they do not need anyone to confirm that they are anointed. Jehovah has used the most powerful force in the universe, his holy spirit, to make it absolutely clear to them that they are anointed!

THEY ARE “BORN AGAIN”

⁹ Most of God’s servants today may find it difficult to understand what happens to someone when God anoints him. This is normal because they themselves

8. How does 1 John 2:20, 27 show that anointed Christians do not need confirmation from others about their anointing?

9. When someone is anointed, what change does that person experience, as described at Ephesians 1:18?

have not been anointed. God created humans to live forever on earth, not in heaven. (Gen. 1:28; Ps. 37:29) But Jehovah has chosen some to live in heaven. So when he anoints them, he changes their hope and way of thinking drastically, so that they look forward to life in heaven.—Read Ephesians 1:18.

¹⁰ When Christians are anointed by holy spirit, they are “born again,” or “born from above.”* Jesus also indicated that it is impossible to explain exactly to someone who has not been anointed how it feels to be “born again,” or to be “born from the spirit.”—John 3:3-8; ftn.

¹¹ What change in thinking takes place when Christians are anointed? Before Jehovah anointed these Christians, they treasured the hope of living forever on earth. They looked forward with great eagerness to the time when Jehovah would remove all wickedness and make the earth a paradise. Perhaps they imagined themselves welcoming back a family member or a friend who had died. But after they were anointed, they started to think differently. Why is that? They did

* For further explanation of what it means to be “born again,” see *The Watchtower*, April 1, 2009, pp. 3-12.

10. What does it mean to be “born again”? (See also footnote.)

11. Explain the change in thinking that occurs when someone is anointed.

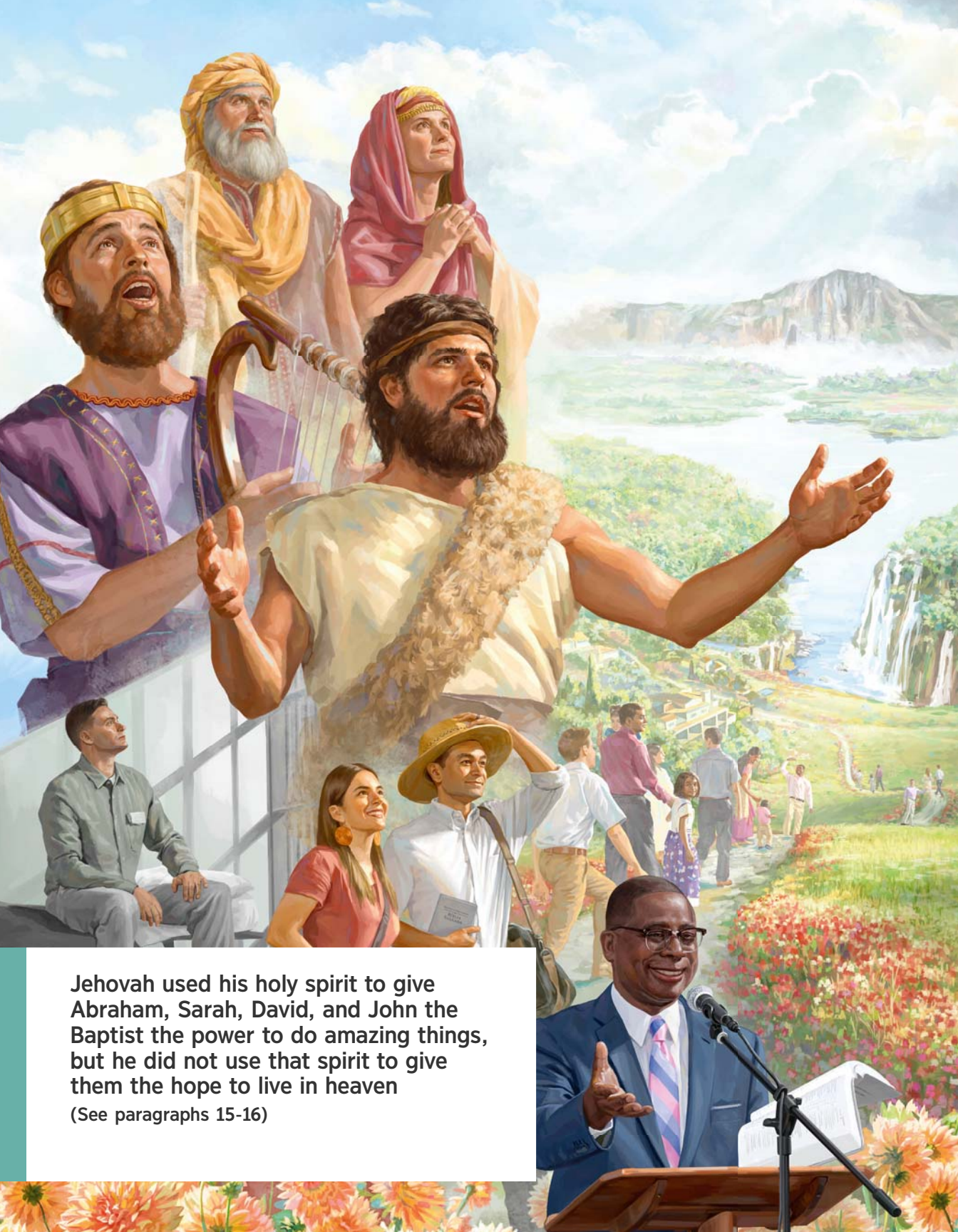
not become dissatisfied with that earthly hope. They did not change their mind because of emotional stress or turmoil. They did not suddenly feel that they would find living forever on earth to be boring. Instead, Jehovah used his holy spirit to change the way that they think and the hope that they cherish.

¹² Someone who has been anointed may feel unworthy of this precious privilege. But he does not for one minute doubt that Jehovah has chosen him. His heart bursts with joy and appreciation when he thinks of his future prospects.—Read 1 Peter 1:3, 4.

¹³ So does this mean that anointed ones want to die? The apostle Paul answers that question. He compared their human body to a tent and said: “In fact, we who are in this tent groan, being weighed down, because *we do not want to put this one off*, but we want to put the other on, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.” (2 Cor. 5:4) These Christians have not lost interest in this life, wanting it to end quickly. On the contrary, they enjoy life and want to use each day to serve Jehovah with their family and friends. Yet, no matter what they are doing, they always remember the glorious hope that they have for the future.—1 Cor. 15:53; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 John 3:2, 3; Rev. 20:6.

12. According to 1 Peter 1:3, 4, how do anointed Christians feel about their hope?

13. How do anointed ones feel about their life here on earth?



Jehovah used his holy spirit to give Abraham, Sarah, David, and John the Baptist the power to do amazing things, but he did not use that spirit to give them the hope to live in heaven
(See paragraphs 15-16)

HAS JEHOVAH ANOINTED YOU?

¹⁴ Perhaps you are wondering if you have been anointed by holy spirit. If so, think about these important questions: Do you have a burning desire to do Jehovah's will? Do you feel that you are especially zealous in the preaching work? Are you a keen student of God's Word who loves to learn about "the deep things of God"? (1 Cor. 2:10) Do you feel that Jehovah has given you wonderful results in the preaching work? Do you have a deep inner feeling of responsibility to help others spiritually? Have you seen proof that Jehovah has helped you in many specific ways in your life? If you answer these questions with a resounding yes, does this prove that you now have the heavenly calling? No, it does not. Why not? Because *all* of God's servants can feel this way, whether they are anointed or not. And by means of his holy spirit, Jehovah can give the same power to any of his servants, no matter what their hope is. In fact, if you are wondering whether you have been anointed by holy spirit, such doubt in itself would mean that you have *not* been. Those called by Jehovah do not wonder whether they have been anointed or not! They know!

14. What does not prove that a person has been anointed by holy spirit?

¹⁵ Throughout the Bible, there are many examples of men of faith who received holy spirit; yet, they did not have the hope of living in heaven. David was guided by holy spirit. (1 Sam. 16:13) Holy spirit helped him to understand the deep things about Jehovah and also directed him to write parts of the Bible. (Mark 12:36) Even so, the apostle Peter said that David “did not ascend to the heavens.” (Acts 2:34) John the Baptist was “filled with holy spirit.” (Luke 1:13-16) Jesus said that there was no man greater than John, but then he said that John would not be included in the heavenly Kingdom. (Matt. 11:10, 11) Jehovah used his holy spirit to give these men the power to do amazing things, but he did not use that spirit to choose them to live in heaven. Does this mean that they were less faithful than those chosen to rule in heaven? No. It simply means that Jehovah will bring them back to life in Paradise on earth.—John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15.

¹⁶ The vast majority of God’s servants on earth today do not have the hope of living in heaven. Like Abraham, Sarah, David, John the Baptist, and many other men and women in Bible times, they look forward to living on earth when God’s Kingdom will rule over them.—Heb. 11:10.

15. How do we know that not all those who have received God’s spirit have been chosen to go to heaven?

16. What reward do most of God’s servants look forward to today?

¹⁷ Because some anointed ones are still among God's people today, certain questions naturally arise. (Rev. 12:17) For example, how should anointed ones view themselves? If someone in your congregation starts to partake of the emblems at the Memorial, how should you treat that person? And what if the number of those who say that they are anointed keeps on growing? Should you be concerned about it? We will answer these questions in the next article.

17. What questions will we consider in the next article?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 48: Whether we are imprisoned for our faith or we are free to preach and to teach the truth, we can look forward to living on earth when God's Kingdom will rule over us.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- How does someone know that he or she is anointed?
- What changes take place when a person is anointed?
- How do anointed ones feel about life here on earth?

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

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

(Chorus)

(BRIDGE)

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

(Chorus)