

- Song 12 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Proud Pharaoh Unwittingly Serves God’s Purpose”:** (10 min.)  
 Ex 8:15—Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to listen to Moses and Aaron (*it-2* 1040-1041)  
 Ex 8:18, 19—Pharaoh did not give in even when his own magic-practicing priests acknowledged defeat  
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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)  
 Ex 8:21—What was the gadfly? (*it-1* 878)

Ex 8:25-27—Why did Moses say that Israel’s sacrifices would be “detestable to the Egyptians”? (*w04* 3/15 25 ¶9)

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) Ex 8:1-19 (12)

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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 74
- **“Be Humble—Avoid Self-Praise”:** (7 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Become Jehovah’s Friend—Be Humble* (video category CHILDREN). Afterward, invite selected young children, if available, to the stage, and ask them the questions about the video.
- **“Be Humble When Praised by Others”:** (8 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Be Loyal, as Jesus Was—When Praised*.
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EXODUS 8-9 | Proud Pharaoh Unwittingly Serves God’s Purpose

**8:15, 18, 19; 9:15-17**

Egyptian pharaohs viewed themselves as gods. This helps us understand why Pharaoh was too proud to listen to Moses and Aaron and even to his own magic-practicing priests.

Do you listen when others make suggestions? Do you appreciate it when someone counsels you? Or do you feel that you are always right? “Pride is before a crash.” (Pr 16:18) How important it is to guard against pride!



# 12

## *Great God, Jehovah*

(Exodus 34:6, 7)

1. Great God, Jehovah, you are deserving,  
Worthy of the highest praise,  
Good and just in all your ways.  
You have such power, deep love, and wisdom.  
You are God to endless days.
2. Father, we feel your tender compassion.  
We are dust, and still you care;  
Graciously you hear our prayer.  
How you sustain us, teach us, and guide us!  
Help from you is always there.
3. Heaven and earth now sing of your glory.  
Joyfully with voices raised,  
We exalt you all our days.  
Great God, Jehovah, you are deserving.  
Please accept our heartfelt praise.

## Exodus 8-9

**8** Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Go in to Phar'aoh and say to him, ‘This is what Jehovah says: “Send my people away so that they may serve me. <sup>2</sup> If you keep refusing to send them away, I will plague all your territory with frogs. <sup>3</sup> And the Nile River will swarm with frogs, and they will come up and enter into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants and on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading troughs. <sup>4</sup> On you, on your people, and on all your servants, the frogs will come up.””

<sup>5</sup> Jehovah later said to Moses: “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, the Nile canals, and the marshes, and make the frogs come up over the land of Egypt.’” <sup>6</sup> So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs began to come up and to cover the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> However, the magic-practicing priests did the same thing by their secret arts, and they too made the frogs come up over the land of Egypt. <sup>8</sup> Phar'aoh then called Moses and Aaron and said: “Plead with Jehovah to remove the frogs from me and my people, as I want to send the people away so that they may sacrifice to Jehovah.” <sup>9</sup> Then Moses said to Phar'aoh: “I leave to you the honor of telling me when I should plead to have the frogs removed from you, your servants, your people, and your houses. Only in the Nile River will they be left.” <sup>10</sup> To this he said: “Tomorrow.” So he said: “It will be according to your word so that you may know that there is no one else like Jehovah our God. <sup>11</sup> The

frogs will depart from you, your houses, your servants, and your people. They will be left only in the Nile.”

<sup>12</sup> So Moses and Aaron went out from Phar'aoh, and Moses pleaded with Jehovah about the frogs that He had brought upon Phar'aoh. <sup>13</sup> Then Jehovah did as Moses asked, and the frogs began to die in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields. <sup>14</sup> They were piling them up in countless heaps, and the land began to stink. <sup>15</sup> When Phar'aoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and he refused to listen to them, just as Jehovah had said.

<sup>16</sup> Jehovah now said to Moses: “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod and strike the dust of the earth, and it must become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” <sup>17</sup> And they did this. Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and the gnats came on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. <sup>18</sup> The magic-practicing priests tried to do the same and produce gnats by their secret arts, but they could not. And the gnats came on man and beast. <sup>19</sup> So the magic-practicing priests said to Phar'aoh: “It is the finger of God!” But Phar'aoh’s heart continued to be obstinate, and he did not listen to them, just as Jehovah had said.

<sup>20</sup> Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Get up early in the morning and station yourself in front of Phar'aoh. Look! He is coming out to the water! And you must say to him, ‘This is what Jehovah has said: “Send my people away so that they may serve me. <sup>21</sup> But if you do not send my people away, I

will send on you, your servants, and your people and into your houses the gadfly; and the houses of Egypt will be full of gadflies, and they will even cover the ground they stand on. <sup>22</sup> On that day I will certainly set apart the land of Go'shen, where my people are dwelling. No gadflies will exist there, and by this you will know that I, Jehovah, am here in the land. <sup>23</sup> And I will make a distinction between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will take place.”””

<sup>24</sup> And Jehovah did so, and heavy swarms of gadflies began to invade the house of Phar'aoh and the houses of his servants and all the land of Egypt. The land was ruined by the gadflies. <sup>25</sup> Finally, Phar'aoh called Moses and Aaron and said: “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.” <sup>26</sup> But Moses said: “It is not proper to do so, because what we would sacrifice to Jehovah our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. If we would make a sacrifice that was detestable to the Egyptians right before their eyes, would they not stone us? <sup>27</sup> We will make a three-day journey into the wilderness, and there we will sacrifice to Jehovah our God, just as he has said to us.”

<sup>28</sup> Phar'aoh now said: “I will send you away to sacrifice to Jehovah your God in the wilderness. Only, you must not go so far away. Plead in my behalf.” <sup>29</sup> Then Moses said: “Now I am going away from you, and I will plead with Jehovah, and the gadflies will depart from Phar'aoh, his servants, and his people tomorrow. But Phar'aoh must stop trifling with us by refusing to send the people away to sacrifice to Jehovah.”

<sup>30</sup> Moses then went out from Phar'aoh and pleaded with Jehovah. <sup>31</sup> So Jehovah did according to Moses' word, and the gadflies departed from Phar'aoh, his servants, and his people. Not one was left. <sup>32</sup> However, Phar'aoh again hardened his heart and did not send the people away.

**9** So Jehovah said to Moses: "Go in to Phar'aoh and say to him, 'This is what Jehovah the God of the Hebrews has said: "Send my people away so that they may serve me. <sup>2</sup> But if you refuse to send them away and you keep holding them, <sup>3</sup> look! Jehovah's hand will come against your livestock in the field. On the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herd, and the flock, there will be a devastating plague. <sup>4</sup> And Jehovah will certainly make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, and nothing that belongs to the Israelites will die.'"" <sup>5</sup> Moreover, Jehovah set an appointed time, saying: "Tomorrow Jehovah will do this in the land."

<sup>6</sup> And Jehovah did this on the very next day, and all sorts of livestock of Egypt began to die, but not one of Israel's livestock died. <sup>7</sup> When Phar'aoh inquired, look! not so much as one of Israel's livestock had died. Nevertheless, Phar'aoh's heart continued to be unresponsive, and he did not send the people away.

<sup>8</sup> Jehovah then said to Moses and Aaron: "Fill both of your hands with soot from a kiln, and Moses must throw it into the air in front of Phar'aoh. <sup>9</sup> And it will become a fine dust on all

the land of Egypt, and it will become festering boils on man and beast in all the land of Egypt.”

<sup>10</sup> So they took soot from a kiln and stood before Phar'aoh, and Moses tossed it into the air, and it became festering boils breaking out on man and beast. <sup>11</sup> The magic-practicing priests were unable to stand before Moses because of the boils, for they had developed on the magic-practicing priests and on all the Egyptians. <sup>12</sup> But Jehovah allowed Phar'aoh's heart to become obstinate, and he did not listen to them, just as Jehovah had told Moses.

<sup>13</sup> Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Get up early in the morning and station yourself in front of Phar'aoh, and say to him, ‘This is what Jehovah the God of the Hebrews has said: “Send my people away so that they may serve me. <sup>14</sup> For now I am directing all my blows to strike your heart, your servants, and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. <sup>15</sup> For by now I could have thrust my hand out to strike you and your people with a devastating plague, and you would have been wiped out from the earth. <sup>16</sup> But for this very reason I have kept you in existence: to show you my power and to have my name declared in all the earth. <sup>17</sup> Are you still behaving arrogantly against my people by not sending them away? <sup>18</sup> Here I will cause a very great hail to rain down tomorrow about this time, such as has never occurred in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, send word to bring all your livestock and all that is yours in the field under shelter.

Every man and beast caught in the field and not brought into the house will die when the hail comes down on them.”””

<sup>20</sup> Anyone among Phar'aoh's servants who feared Jehovah's word quickly brought his own servants and his livestock into the houses, <sup>21</sup> but whoever did not take Jehovah's word to heart left his servants and his livestock in the field.

<sup>22</sup> Jehovah now said to Moses: “Stretch out your hand toward the heavens, so that hail may come down on all the land of Egypt, on man and beast and all the vegetation of the field in the land of Egypt.” <sup>23</sup> So Moses stretched out his rod toward the heavens, and Jehovah sent thunder and hail, and fire fell down to the earth, and Jehovah kept making it rain down hail on the land of Egypt. <sup>24</sup> There was hail, and there was fire flashing in the midst of the hail. It was very heavy; there had never been any like it in the land since Egypt had become a nation. <sup>25</sup> The hail struck everything in the field throughout the land of Egypt, from man to beast, and it struck down all the vegetation and shattered all the trees of the field. <sup>26</sup> Only in the land of Go'shen, where the Israelites were, there was no hail.

<sup>27</sup> So Phar'aoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said to them: “I have sinned this time. Jehovah is righteous, and I and my people are in the wrong. <sup>28</sup> Plead with Jehovah that there may be an end to God's thunder and hail. Then I will be willing to send you away, and you will not stay any longer.” <sup>29</sup> So Moses said to him: “As soon as I go out of the



city, I will spread out my hands before Jehovah. The thunder will stop and the hail will not continue any longer, so that you may know that the earth belongs to Jehovah.<sup>30</sup> But as for you and your servants, I know already that even then, you will not fear Jehovah God.”

<sup>31</sup> Now the flax and the barley had been struck down, because the barley was in the ear and the flax had flower buds.<sup>32</sup> But the wheat and the spelt had not been struck down, because they were later crops.<sup>33</sup> Moses now went out of the city from Phar'aoh and spread out his hands before Jehovah, and the thunder and the hail stopped and the rain quit pouring down on the earth.<sup>34</sup> When Phar'aoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had stopped, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he as well as his servants.<sup>35</sup> And Phar'aoh's heart continued obstinate, and he did not send the Israelites away, just as Jehovah had stated through Moses.

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- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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Egyptian pharaohs viewed themselves as gods. This helps us understand why Pharaoh was too proud to listen to Moses and Aaron and even to his own magic-practicing priests.

Do you listen when others make suggestions? Do you appreciate it when someone counsels you? Or do you feel that you are always right? “Pride is before a crash.” (Pr 16:18) How important it is to guard against pride!



## **July 13-19 / Exodus 8-9**

- Song 12 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

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

#### **"Proud Pharaoh Unwittingly Serves God's Purpose": (10 minutes)**

Exodus 8:15, 18, 19; 9:15-17

Egyptian pharaohs viewed themselves as gods. This helps us understand why Pharaoh was too proud to listen to Moses and Aaron and even to his own magic-practicing priests.

Do you listen when others make suggestions? Do you appreciate it when someone counsels you? Or do you feel that you are always right? "Pride is before a crash." (Proverbs 16:18) How important it is to guard against pride!

Picture: Pharaoh holding up his hand and turning away as Moses and Aaron try to talk to him.

## **Exodus 8:15—Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to listen to Moses and Aaron**

**Exodus 8:15:** When Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and he refused to listen to them, just as Jehovah had said.

### **it-2 1040-1041**

In his dealings with humankind, Jehovah God has patiently allowed individuals and nations, although deserving of death, to continue in existence. (Genesis 15:16; 2 Peter 3:9) Whereas some have responded favorably to this by putting themselves in line for receiving mercy (Joshua 2:8-14; 6:22, 23; 9:3-15), others have hardened themselves to an even greater degree against Jehovah and against his people. (Deuteronomy 2:30-33; Joshua 11:19, 20) Since Jehovah does not prevent persons from becoming stubborn, he is spoken of as 'letting them become obstinate' or 'making their hearts hard.' When he finally does execute vengeance upon the stubborn ones, this results in a demonstration of his great power and causes his name to be declared.—Compare Exodus 4:21; John 12:40; Romans 9:14-18.

## **Exodus 8:18, 19—Pharaoh did not give in even when his own magic-practicing priests acknowledged defeat**

**Exodus 8:18, 19:** The magic-practicing priests tried to do the same and produce gnats by their secret arts, but they could not. And the gnats came on man and beast. So the magic-practicing priests said to Pharaoh: “It is the finger of God!” But Pharaoh’s heart continued to be obstinate, and he did not listen to them, just as Jehovah had said.

## **Exodus 9:15-17—Jehovah magnified his own name by keeping Pharaoh in existence**

**Exodus 9:15-17:** For by now I could have thrust my hand out to strike you and your people with a devastating plague, and you would have been wiped out from the earth. But for this very reason I have kept you in existence: to show you my power and to have my name declared in all the earth. Are you still behaving arrogantly against my people by not sending them away?

## **it-2 1181 paragraphs 3-5**

Additionally, Jehovah God makes use of circumstances in such a way that the wicked themselves unwittingly serve his purpose. Though they oppose God, he can restrain them to the extent necessary for the preserving of his servants in their integrity, and can cause the actions even of such persons to bring his righteousness to the fore. (Romans 3:3-5, 23-26; 8:35-39; Psalm 76:10) This thought is expressed at Proverbs 16:4: "Everything Jehovah has made for his purpose, yes, even the wicked one for the evil day."

A case in point is the Pharaoh on whom Jehovah, through Moses and Aaron, served notice for the release of the enslaved Israelites. God did not make this Egyptian ruler wicked, but he did allow him to continue living and also brought about circumstances that caused Pharaoh to manifest himself as being wicked and deserving of death. Jehovah's purpose in doing this is revealed at Exodus 9:16: "For this cause I have kept you in existence, for the sake of showing you my power and in order to have my name declared in all the earth."

The Ten Plagues visited upon Egypt, climaxed by the destruction of Pharaoh and his military forces in the Red Sea, were an impressive demonstration of Jehovah's power. (Exodus 7:14–12:30; Psalm 78:43-51; 136:15) For years afterward the nations round about were still talking about it, and God's name was thus being declared throughout the earth. (Joshua 2:10, 11; 1 Samuel 4:8) Had Jehovah killed Pharaoh immediately, this grand display of God's power to His glory and for the deliverance of His people would not have been possible.

## **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

### **Exodus 8:21—What was the gadfly?**

**Exodus 8:21:** But if you do not send my people away, I will send on you, your servants, and your people and into your houses the gadfly; and the houses of Egypt will be full of gadflies, and they will even cover the ground they stand on.

**it-1 878**

*Gadfly*

There is some uncertainty as to the particular insect

designated by the original Hebrew word appearing in the Scriptures with reference to the fourth plague upon Egypt, the first from which the Israelites in Goshen were spared. (Exodus 8:21, 22, 24, 29, 31; Psalm 78:45; 105:31) `; *Ps* has been variously rendered "gadfly" (JB, NW, Ro), "beetle" (Yg), "flies" (AS, KJ, RS), "gnats" (AT), and "dog fly" (LXX).

The English designation "gadfly" includes the various kinds of horseflies and botflies. Female horseflies pierce the skin of animals as well as man and then suck their blood. In the larval stage botflies live as parasites in the bodies of animals and man; those that infest humans are found in the tropics. A plague of gadflies would, therefore, have brought great suffering to the Egyptians and their livestock and, in certain cases, even death.

### **Exodus 8:25-27—Why did Moses say that Israel's sacrifices would be "detestable to the Egyptians"?**

**Exodus 8:25-27:** Finally, Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said: "Go, sacrifice to your God in the land." But Moses said: "It is not proper to do so, because what we would



sacrifice to Jehovah our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. If we would make a sacrifice that was detestable to the Egyptians right before their eyes, would they not stone us? We will make a three-day journey into the wilderness, and there we will sacrifice to Jehovah our God, just as he has said to us.”

### **w04 3/15 25 paragraph 9**

Many different animals were venerated in Egypt. The mention of sacrifices thus added force and persuasiveness to Moses’ insistence that Israel be allowed to go away to sacrifice to Jehovah.

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

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(th study 12)

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# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Conversations

#### INITIAL CALL

**Question:** How do we know that our suffering is not punishment from God?

**Scripture:** **Jas 1:13**

**Link:** Why do we suffer?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• **bhs 9 ¶7**

#### RETURN VISIT

**Question:** Why do we suffer?

**Scripture:** **1Jo 5:19**

**Link:** How does God feel about our suffering?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• **bhs 117 ¶7**

## Join in the Kingdom Song!

(Psalm 98:1)

1. This is a song, a happy song of vict'ry;  
It magnifies the One who is supreme.  
The words give hope and prompt all to be loyal.  
Come sing with us; enjoy its Kingdom theme:

### *(CHORUS)*

*'Come worship God Before his throne.  
His Son is King; Let's make it known!  
Come learn this song, this song about the Kingdom;  
Bow down to God, and praise his holy name.'*

2. With this new song, we advertise the Kingdom.  
Christ Jesus rules; the earth is his domain.  
And as foretold, there is a newborn nation:  
The Kingdom heirs, who welcome Jesus' reign:

### *(Chorus)*

3. This Kingdom song, all humble ones can master.  
The words are clear, their message warm and bright.  
In all the earth, a multitude have learned it,  
And they in turn still others now invite:

### *(Chorus)*

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- Song 44 and Prayer

EXODUS 8-9 | Proud Pharaoh Unwittingly Serves God’s Purpose

**8:15, 18, 19; 9:15-17**

Egyptian pharaohs viewed themselves as gods. This helps us understand why Pharaoh was too proud to listen to Moses and Aaron and even to his own magic-practicing priests.

Do you listen when others make suggestions? Do you appreciate it when someone counsels you? Or do you feel that you are always right? “Pride is before a crash.” (Pr 16:18) How important it is to guard against pride!





## Be Humble—Avoid Self-Praise



WATCH THE VIDEO *BECOME JEHOVAH'S FRIEND—BE HUMBLE, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:*

- What are some common things that people brag about?

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- What was Caleb bragging about to his friend?

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- How did Caleb's father reason with him?

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- How can 1 Peter 5:5 help us to be humble?

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Self-praise and bragging give evidence of pride and are not upbuilding to those listening. Therefore, the Bible says: "Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth."—Pr 27:2.

## Be Humble When Praised by Others



WATCH THE VIDEO *BE LOYAL, AS JESUS WAS—WHEN PRAISED, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:*

- What are some things that we may be praised for?

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- How did the brothers praise Sergei?

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- How did their praise go beyond what was appropriate?

---

- What lessons do you learn from the humble way that Sergei responded?

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At times, others may praise, or commend, us. This can be encouraging to us if it is given sincerely and with proper motive. (Pr 15:23; 31:10, 28) But we must be careful that it does not cause us to develop feelings of superiority and pride.



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## Become Jehovah's Friend

### Lesson 29: Be Humble

**Caleb:** She thought that she could win, but there was no way. Next year, I'll be the fastest kid in the entire school!

**Caleb's Friend at the Congregation:** That's 'cause I'm not in your school.

**Caleb:** Oh, please! Remember last time when I beat you in front of the whole congregation?

**Caleb's Father:** Caleb, do you remember this story?

**Caleb:** Oh, yeah, that's the Tower of Babel.

**Caleb's Father:** That's right! Why were these people trying to build this tower?

**Caleb:** So they could live there?

**Caleb's Father:** Actually, it was because they thought they were awesome and wanted to show off. But what did Jehovah think of that?

**Caleb:** Oh, he didn't like it.

**Caleb's Father:** That's right. He even confused their languages so they would stop bragging.

**Caleb:** But at school everyone brags!

**Caleb's Father:** I know. Lots of people brag. I have bragged too. But that's wrong. When we brag or show off, it's like [we are building a tower for ourselves, just like the Tower of Babel.

**[Caleb's elevated thinking:** - *If I wanted to, I could set a new world record—no problem! If you say so. But I'm better at basketball than you. I was just messing around, but they say I'm a natural.*

**Caleb's Father:** The higher up we try to put ourselves, the more dangerous it gets. Do you know why?

**Caleb:** Because we'll eventually fall? Whoa, whoa. Whoa! Ooph!

**Caleb's Father:** Yes! Also, 1 Peter 5:5 means that Jehovah doesn't want us acting like we are better than everyone else. Humble people don't need to brag, because Jehovah will make them feel good about themselves on the inside.

## PRAYING WHEN DEEPLY GRIEVED

MATTHEW 26:30, 36-46    MARK 14:26, 32-42  
LUKE 22:39-46    JOHN 18:1

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- JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
  - HIS SWEAT IS AS DROPS OF BLOOD
- 

Jesus finishes praying with his faithful apostles. Then, ‘after singing praises, they go out to the Mount of Olives.’ (Mark 14:26) They head eastward to a garden called Gethsemane, where Jesus is accustomed to going.

Once they arrive at this pleasant spot among the olive trees, Jesus leaves eight of the apostles behind. Perhaps they remain near the garden’s entrance, for he tells them: “Sit down here while I go over there and pray.” Taking along three apostles—Peter, James, and John—Jesus goes farther into the garden. He becomes greatly troubled and tells the three: “I am deeply grieved, even to death. Stay here and keep on the watch with me.”—Matthew 26:36-38.





## HIS SWEAT IS AS DROPS OF BLOOD

Physician Luke does not explain how Jesus' sweat "became as drops of blood." (Luke 22:44) Luke may have been speaking illustratively, that the sweat resembled blood dripping from a wound. An alternate idea was offered by Dr. William D. Edwards in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA): "Although this is a very rare phenomenon, bloody sweat (hematidrosis . . .) may occur in highly emotional states . . . As a result of hemorrhage into the sweat glands, the skin becomes fragile and tender."

Going some distance away from them, Jesus 'falls to the ground and begins praying.' What is he praying to God about at this intense moment? He prays: "Father, all things are possible for you; remove this cup from me. Yet, not what I want, but what you want." (Mark 14:35, 36) What does he mean? Is he backing away from his role as Ransomer? No!

Jesus has observed from heaven the extreme suffering of others put to death by the Romans. Now as a human, who has tender feelings and who can feel pain, Jesus is not looking forward to what awaits him. More important, though, he is in agony because he senses that his dying like a despicable criminal might bring reproach on his Father's

name. In a few hours, he will be hanged on a stake as if he were a blasphemer against God.

After praying at length, Jesus returns and finds the three apostles sleeping. He says to Peter: “Could you not so much as keep on the watch for one hour with me? Keep on the watch and pray continually, so that you may not enter into temptation.” Jesus realizes that the apostles too have been under stress, and it is late. He adds: “The spirit, of course, is eager, but the flesh is weak.”—Matthew 26:40, 41.

Then Jesus goes off a second time and asks that God remove from him “this cup.” On returning, he once again finds the three apostles asleep, when they should have been praying that they not enter into temptation. When Jesus speaks to them, they do “not know what to answer him.” (Mark 14:40) A third time Jesus goes off, and he bends down on his knees to pray.

Jesus is deeply concerned about the reproach that his death as a criminal will bring on his Father’s name. Jehovah is hearing his Son’s prayers, though, and at one point God sends an angel to strengthen

him. Even so, Jesus does not stop supplicating his Father, but he keeps “praying more earnestly.” The emotional stress is enormous. What a weight is on Jesus’ shoulders! His own eternal life and that of believing humans is at stake. In fact, his ‘sweat becomes as drops of blood falling to the ground.’ —Luke 22:44.

When Jesus returns the third time to his apostles, he again finds them sleeping. “At such a time as this,” he says, “you are sleeping and resting! Look! The hour has drawn near for the Son of man to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us go. Look! My betrayer has drawn near.”—Matthew 26:45, 46.

- ◇ After leaving the upper room, where does Jesus lead the apostles?
- ◇ What are three apostles doing while Jesus prays?
- ◇ That Jesus’ sweat becomes as drops of blood indicates what about his feelings?

# 44      *A Prayer of the Lowly One* (Psalm 4:1)

1. Jehovah God, I call to you and ask you:

“Hear my prayer.”

My wounds are deep and slow to heal;  
my load is hard to bear.

Despondent thoughts and disappointed hopes  
have left me weak.

O God of comfort, care for me;  
your favor I do seek.

*(CHORUS)*

*Do raise me up; help me endure.*

*When I'm in doubt, make my hope sure.*

*From deep despair, I turn to you.*

*Jehovah God, my strength renew.*

2. Your Word has been my comfort and  
a refuge when I'm weak,

Expressing feelings dear to me  
in words I cannot speak.

Please build in me the faith and trust  
that your Word does impart.

And help me always know your love  
is greater than my heart.

*(Chorus)*

MAY 2020

THE  **WATCHTOWER**  
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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JULY 6–AUGUST 2, 2020



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### COVER PICTURE:

At Armageddon, God’s Kingdom, which is likened to a stone, will put an end to human rule, here represented by a giant image (See study article 20, paragraph 11)

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

*The Watchtower* (ISSN 0043-1087) May 2020 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2020 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

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## *The Light Gets Brighter*

(Proverbs 4:18)

1. The prophets of old sought to learn of the Christ,  
The hope of all groaning creation.  
God's spirit revealed that Messiah would come,  
Providing the means of salvation.  
  
The time has arrived, the Messiah now reigns,  
The proof of his presence is clear.  
How great is the favor of learning such things;  
Into these even angels would peer!

*(CHORUS)*

*Our path now becomes ever brighter;  
We walk in the full light of day.  
Behold what our God is revealing;  
He guides us each step of the way.*

2. Our Lord has appointed a trustworthy slave,  
Through whom He gives food in due season.  
The light of the truth has grown brighter with time,  
Appealing to heart and to reason.  
  
Our path ever clearer, our steps ever firm,  
We walk in the brightness of day.  
All thanks to Jehovah, the Source of all truth,  
We most gratefully walk in his way.

*(Chorus)*



# Who Is “the King of the North” Today?

*“He will come all the way to his end, and there will be no helper for him.”—DAN. 11:45.*

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## SONG 95

The Light Gets Brighter

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## PREVIEW

Who is “the king of the north” today, and how will he come to his end? Knowing the answers to these questions can strengthen our faith and help prepare us for the trials we will face in the near future.

**WE HAVE** more evidence than ever before that we are living at the end of the last days of this system of things. Soon, Jehovah and Jesus Christ will destroy all governments that oppose the Kingdom. Before that event occurs, the king of the north and the king of the south will continue their conflict with each other and with God’s people.

<sup>2</sup> In this article, we will consider the prophecy recorded at Daniel 11:40–12:1. We will identify the current king of the north and discuss why we can face with confidence the challenges that lie ahead.

## **A NEW KING OF THE NORTH EMERGES**

<sup>3</sup> After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, God’s people in that vast region enjoyed “a little help”—a period of freedom. (Dan. 11:34) As a result, they were able to preach freely, and before long the number of publishers in the former Communist bloc rose to hundreds of thousands. Gradually, Russia and its allies emerged as the king of the north. As discussed in the preceding article, for a government to fill the role of the king of the north or the king of the south, it must do three things:

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1-2. What will we consider in this article?

3-4. Who has emerged as the king of the north? Explain.

(1) interact directly with God’s people, (2) show by its actions that it is an enemy of Jehovah and his people, and (3) compete with the rival king.

<sup>4</sup> Note why we can say that today the king of the north is Russia and its allies. (1) They have had a direct impact on God’s people, banning the preaching work and persecuting hundreds of thousands of brothers and sisters who live in areas under their control. (2) Those actions show that they hate Jehovah and his people. (3) They have been competing with the king of the south, the Anglo-American World Power. Let us see how Russia and its allies have filled the role of the king of the north.

## THE KING OF THE NORTH AND THE KING OF THE SOUTH CONTINUE PUSHING

<sup>5</sup> **Read Daniel 11:40-43.** This part of the prophecy provides an overview of the time of the end. The passage highlights the rivalry between the king of the north and the king of the south. As foretold by Daniel, in the time of the end, the king of the south would engage with the king of the north “in a pushing,” or he would “lock horns with him.”—Dan. 11:40; ftn.

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5. What time period is described at Daniel 11:40-43, and what happens during that time?

<sup>6</sup> The king of the north and the king of the south continue to compete for world domination. For example, consider what happened after World War II when the Soviet Union and its allies gained influence over much of Europe. The actions of the king of the north forced the king of the south to form an international military alliance, known as NATO. The king of the north continues to compete with the king of the south in an expensive arms race. The king of the north fought his rival in proxy wars and insurgencies in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In recent years, Russia and its allies have spread their influence across the globe. They have also engaged with the king of the south in cyber warfare. The kings have accused each other of using destructive computer programs in an effort to damage their economies and political systems. And as foretold by Daniel, the king of the north continues his attack on God’s people.—Dan. 11:41.

## **THE KING OF THE NORTH ENTERS “THE LAND OF THE DECORATION”**

<sup>7</sup> Daniel 11:41 says that the king of the north will

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6. What evidence is there that the two kings have been pushing each other?

7. What is “the land of the Decoration”?

enter into “the land of the Decoration.” What is that land? In ancient times, the literal land of Israel was considered to be “the most beautiful of all the lands.” (Ezek. 20:6) But what made that land especially precious was that it was the location where true worship was practiced. Since Pentecost 33 C.E., that “land” is not a single, literal geographic location; it cannot be, for Jehovah’s people are spread throughout the earth. Rather, “the land of the Decoration” today is the realm of activity of Jehovah’s people that includes such things as their worship of Jehovah through meetings and the field ministry.

<sup>8</sup> During the last days, the king of the north has repeatedly entered into “the land of the Decoration.” For example, when Nazi Germany filled the role of the king of the north, particularly during the second world war, that king entered into “the land of the Decoration” by persecuting and killing God’s people. After World War II when the Soviet Union took on the role of the king of the north, that king entered into “the land of the Decoration” by persecuting God’s people, exiling them.

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8. How has the king of the north entered into “the land of the Decoration”?

<sup>9</sup> In recent years, Russia and its allies have also entered into “the land of the Decoration.” How? In 2017, this current king of the north banned the work of Jehovah’s people and threw some of our brothers and sisters into prison. He also banned our publications, including the *New World Translation*. Further, he confiscated our branch office in Russia as well as Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls. After these actions, in 2018 the Governing Body identified Russia and its allies as the king of the north. However, even when Jehovah’s people are severely persecuted, they refuse to participate in any action to subvert or change human governments. Rather, they follow the Bible’s counsel to pray for “all those who are in high positions,” especially when such ones are making decisions that could affect freedom of worship.—1 Tim. 2:1, 2.

## WILL THE KING OF THE NORTH CONQUER THE KING OF THE SOUTH?

<sup>10</sup> The prophecy recorded at Daniel 11:40-45 focuses mainly on the activity of the king of the

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9. In recent years, how have Russia and its allies entered into “the land of the Decoration”?

10. Will the king of the north conquer the king of the south? Explain.

north. Does this mean that he will conquer the king of the south? No. The king of the south will still be “alive” when Jehovah and Jesus destroy all human governments at the war of Armageddon. (Rev. 19:20) Why can we be so sure? Consider what the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation indicate.

<sup>11</sup> **Read Daniel 2:43-45.** The prophet Daniel describes a series of human governments that have had an impact on God’s people. They are described as the various parts of a giant metal image. The last human government in that series is depicted as the feet of the image that are made of iron mixed with clay. The feet represent the Anglo-American World Power. That prophecy indicates that the Anglo-American World Power will still be functioning when God’s Kingdom strikes and destroys human governments.

<sup>12</sup> The apostle John also describes a series of world powers that have had an effect on Jehovah’s people. John depicts these governments as being like a seven-headed wild beast. The seventh head of that beast represents the Anglo-American World

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11. What does Daniel 2:43-45 indicate? (See cover picture.)

12. What does the seventh head of the wild beast represent, and why is that significant?

Power. This is significant because the beast is not shown as growing any other heads. The seventh head of this beast is still dominant when Christ and his heavenly forces destroy it along with the rest of the beast.\*—Rev. 13:1, 2; 17:13, 14.

## WHAT WILL THE KING OF THE NORTH DO IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

<sup>13</sup> A prophecy recorded by Ezekiel gives some insight into what may happen during the last days of the king of the north and the king of the south. If we view the prophecies of Ezekiel 38:10-23; Daniel 2:43-45; 11:44-12:1; and Revelation 16:13-16, 21 as speaking about the same time period and events, it appears that we can expect the following developments.

<sup>14</sup> Sometime after the start of the great tribulation, “the kings of the entire inhabited earth” will form a coalition of nations. (Rev. 16:13, 14; 19:19) That coalition becomes what the Scriptures call “Gog of the land of Magog.” (Ezek. 38:2) That

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\* For a detailed discussion of Daniel 2:36-45 and Revelation 13:1, 2, see the June 15, 2012, issue of *The Watchtower*, pp. 7-19.

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**13-14.** Who is “Gog of the land of Magog,” and what may provoke him to attack God’s people?



coalition of nations will make one final all-out assault on God’s people. What will provoke the attack? Speaking of this time, the apostle John saw a storm of unusually large hailstones raining down on God’s enemies. That symbolic hailstorm may take the form of a hard-hitting judgment message delivered by Jehovah’s people. It could be that this message provokes Gog of Magog into attacking God’s people with the intention of wiping them off the earth.—Rev. 16:21.

<sup>15</sup> This hard-hitting message and the final attack by God’s enemies may be the same events referred to at **Daniel 11:44, 45. (Read.)** There, Daniel says that “reports out of the east and out of the north” disturb the king of the north, who goes off in “a great rage.” The king of the north intends “to devote many to destruction.” The “many” referred to seem to be Jehovah’s people.\* Daniel may here be describing the final all-out assault on God’s people.

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\* For more information, see the May 15, 2015, issue of *The Watchtower*, pp. 29-30.

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**15-16.** (a) To what event may Daniel 11:44, 45 be referring?  
(b) What happens to the king of the north and the rest of Gog of Magog?



At the war of Armageddon, Jesus Christ and his heavenly armies will destroy Satan's wicked world and deliver God's people  
(See paragraph 17)

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**<sup>16</sup> This attack by the king of the north, acting along with the rest of the world's governments, provokes the Almighty and brings on the war of Armageddon. (Rev. 16:14, 16) At that time, the king of the north, along with the rest of the nations that make up Gog of Magog, comes to his end, and there will be "no helper for him".—Dan. 11:45.**

**<sup>17</sup> The very next verse in Daniel's account gives more details about how the king of the north and**

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**17. Who is Michael "the great prince" mentioned at Daniel 12:1, and what does he do?**

his allies will come to their end and how we will be saved. (Read Daniel 12:1.) What does this verse mean? Michael is another name for our ruling King, Christ Jesus. He has been “standing in behalf” of God’s people since 1914 when his Kingdom was established in the heavens. In the near future, he will “stand up,” or take significant action, at the war of Armageddon. That battle will be the final event in what Daniel calls the greatest “time of distress” in history. John’s prophecy recorded in Revelation refers to the time leading up to this battle as “the great tribulation.”—Rev. 6:2; 7:14.

### **WILL YOUR NAME BE “WRITTEN DOWN IN THE BOOK”?**

<sup>18</sup> We can face the future with confidence because both Daniel and John confirm that those who serve Jehovah and Jesus will survive this unparalleled time of distress. Daniel says that the survivors will have their names “written down in the book.” (Dan. 12:1) How do we get our names in that book? We must give clear evidence that we have faith in Jesus, the Lamb of God. (John 1:29) We need to get baptized in symbol of our dedica-

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18. Why can we face the future with confidence?

tion to God. (1 Pet. 3:21) And we must show our support for God’s Kingdom by doing what we can to help others learn about Jehovah.

<sup>19</sup> Now is the time to build trust in Jehovah and his organization of loyal servants. Now is the time to support God’s Kingdom. If we do, we will be saved when the king of the north and the king of the south are destroyed by God’s Kingdom.

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19. What should we do now, and why?

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#### HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- Who is “the king of the north” today?
- How has the king of the north entered into “the land of the Decoration”?
- What will happen to the king of the north and the king of the south?

## A Victory Song

(Exodus 15:1)

1. Sing to Jehovah. His great name is highly exalted.  
His proud Egyptian foes, He has cast into the sea.  
Praise Jah Almighty;  
Besides him there can be no other.  
Jehovah is his name;  
He has gained the victory.

*(CHORUS)*

*Jehovah God, Most High over all,  
The one who is forevermore the same,  
You soon will cause your enemies to fall  
And sanctify your holy name.*

2. See now all nations Opposing the Sov'reign, Jehovah.  
Though mightier than Pharaoh,  
They too will suffer shame.  
Judgment awaits them;  
They cannot escape Armageddon.  
Soon ev'ryone will know  
That Jehovah is God's name.

*(Chorus)*