

- Song 65 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Moses and Aaron Demonstrate Great Courage”:** (10 min.)

Ex 10:3-6—Moses and Aaron boldly announced the eighth plague to Pharaoh (*w09 7/15 20 ¶6*)

Ex 10:24-26—Moses and Aaron did not give in to pressure from Pharaoh to compromise

Ex 10:28; 11:4-8—Moses and Aaron fearlessly announced the tenth plague (*it-2 436 ¶4*)

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Ex 11:7—What did Jehovah mean when he said that “not even a dog will bark at the Israelites”? (*it-1 783 ¶5*)

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 55
- **“What Does Creation Teach Us About Courage?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Learn Courage From Creation* (video category THE BIBLE).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jj* chap. 124
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 113 and Prayer

EXODUS 10-11 | Moses and Aaron Demonstrate Great Courage



10:3-6, 24-26, 28; 11:4-8

Moses and Aaron demonstrated great courage and boldness when speaking to Pharaoh, the most powerful man in the world at that time. What enabled them to do it? Regarding Moses, the Bible says: “By faith he left Egypt, but not fearing the anger of the king, for he continued steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible.” (Heb 11:27) Moses and Aaron had strong faith in Jehovah and relied on him.

 **What situations require courage to express your faith to someone in authority?**



Move Ahead!

(Hebrews 6:1)

1. Move ahead, move ahead to maturity!
Shine the light of the truth so that all may plainly see.
Try your best to improve in your ministry;
Trust in God for true success.
There's a place in the service for all.
It's the work Jesus did, you'll recall.
Look to God for support that you may not fall,
Standing firm for righteousness.
2. Move ahead, move ahead, boldly witnessing!
Everlasting good news to all sorts of people bring.
Join in praise to Jehovah, our God and King,
As we preach from door to door.
Though opposers would like us to fear,
Don't hold back, but let ev'ryone hear.
Tell the news that the Kingdom of God is here.
Teach the truth yet more and more.
3. Move ahead, move ahead, always follow through,
And improve in your skills,
for there's so much work to do.
Let the spirit of God keep on leading you.
Find the joy that is divine.
Love the people you work hard to find.
Keep returning to reach heart and mind.
And assist them to grow and to be refined,
So the light of truth will shine.

Exodus 10-11

10 Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Go in to Phar'aoh, for I have allowed his heart and the hearts of his servants to become unresponsive, so that I may display these signs of mine right before him, ² and in order that you may declare to your sons and your grandsons how severely I have dealt with Egypt and what signs I have performed among them; and you will certainly know that I am Jehovah.”

³ So Moses and Aaron went in to Phar'aoh and said to him: “This is what Jehovah the God of the Hebrews has said, ‘How long will you refuse to submit to me? Send my people away so that they may serve me. ⁴ For if you keep refusing to send my people away, here I am bringing locusts within your boundaries tomorrow. ⁵ And they will cover the surface of the earth, and it will not be possible to see the ground. They will eat up what escaped the hail and was left for you, and they will eat all your trees that are growing in the field. ⁶ They will fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all Egypt to an extent that your fathers and your grandfathers never saw from the time they have been in this land until today.’” With that he turned and went out from Phar'aoh.

⁷ Then Phar'aoth's servants said to him: "How long will this man continue to menace us? Send the men away so that they may serve Jehovah their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt has been ruined?" ⁸ So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Phar'aoth, and he said to them: "Go, serve Jehovah your God. But just who will be going?" ⁹ Then Moses said: "We will go with our young people, our old people, our sons, our daughters, our sheep, and our cattle, because we will hold a festival to Jehovah." ¹⁰ He said to them: "If I ever send you and your children away, then Jehovah is indeed with you! It is clear that you intend to do something evil. ¹¹ No! Only your men may go and serve Jehovah, for that is what you requested." With that they were driven out from before Phar'aoth.

¹² Jehovah now said to Moses: "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come up over the land of Egypt and eat up all the vegetation of the land, everything that the hail has let remain." ¹³ At once Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and Jehovah caused an east wind to blow on the land all that day and all night. The morning came, and the east wind brought the locusts. ¹⁴ And the locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled down on the whole territory of Egypt. It was extremely severe; never before had there been so many

locusts, nor would there ever be so many again. ¹⁵ They covered the surface of the entire land, and the land grew dark with them; they devoured all the vegetation of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left; nothing green was left on the trees or on the vegetation of the field in all the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ So Phar'aoh quickly called Moses and Aaron and said: "I have sinned against Jehovah your God and against you.

¹⁷ Now, please, pardon my sin just this once, and plead with Jehovah your God that he just remove this deadly plague from upon me." ¹⁸ So he went out from Phar'aoh and pleaded with Jehovah. ¹⁹ Then Jehovah caused the wind to shift, and it became a very stiff west wind, and it carried the locusts away and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust remained in all the territory of Egypt. ²⁰ However, Jehovah allowed Phar'aoh's heart to become obstinate, and he did not send the Israelites away.

²¹ Jehovah then said to Moses: "Stretch out your hand toward the heavens so that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness so thick that it can be felt."

²² Moses immediately stretched out his hand toward the heavens, and there was a dense darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. ²³ They did not see one another, and none of them got up from where they were for three days;

but all the Israelites had light in their dwellings. ²⁴ Phar'aoh then called Moses and said: "Go, serve Jehovah. Only your sheep and your cattle will remain behind. Even your children may go with you." ²⁵ But Moses said: "You yourself will also provide us with sacrifices and burnt offerings, and we will offer them to Jehovah our God. ²⁶ Our livestock will also go with us. Not an animal will be allowed to remain, because we will be using some of them to worship Jehovah our God, and we do not know what we will offer in worship to Jehovah until we arrive there." ²⁷ So Jehovah allowed Phar'aoh's heart to become obstinate, and he did not consent to send them away. ²⁸ Phar'aoh said to him: "Get out of my sight! Make sure that you do not try to see my face again, for on the day you see my face, you will die." ²⁹ To this Moses said: "Just as you have spoken, I will not try to see your face again."

11 Then Jehovah said to Moses: "One more plague I am going to bring upon Phar'aoh and Egypt. After that he will send you away from here. When he does send you away, he will literally drive you out of here. ² Now tell the people that all the men and women should ask their neighbor for articles of silver and of gold." ³ And Jehovah gave the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. Moreover, Moses himself had become highly esteemed in the land of Egypt among Phar'aoh's servants and among the people.

⁴ Moses then said: “This is what Jehovah has said, ‘About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt, ⁵ and every firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Phar'aoh who is sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the slave girl who is working at the hand mill, and every firstborn of the livestock. ⁶ Throughout all the land of Egypt, there will be a great outcry such as has never occurred nor will ever occur again. ⁷ But not even a dog will bark at the Israelites, at the men or their livestock, so that you may know that Jehovah can make a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.’ ⁸ And all your servants will certainly come down to me and prostrate themselves to me, saying, ‘Go, you and all the people who follow you.’ And after that I will go out.” With that he went out from Phar'aoh in the heat of anger.

⁹ Jehovah then said to Moses: “Phar'aoh will not listen to you, in order for my miracles to be multiplied in the land of Egypt.” ¹⁰ Moses and Aaron performed all these miracles before Phar'aoh, but Jehovah allowed Phar'aoh's heart to become obstinate, so that he did not send the Israelites away from his land.

- Song 65 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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Ex 10:24-26—Moses and Aaron did not give in to pressure from Pharaoh to compromise

Ex 10:28; 11:4-8—Moses and Aaron fearlessly announced the tenth plague (*it-2 436 ¶4*)

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Moses and Aaron demonstrated great courage and boldness when speaking to Pharaoh, the most powerful man in the world at that time. What enabled them to do it? Regarding Moses, the Bible says: “By faith he left Egypt, but not fearing the anger of the king, for he continued steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible.” (Heb 11:27) Moses and Aaron had strong faith in Jehovah and relied on him.

 **What situations require courage to express your faith to someone in authority?**



July 20-26 / Exodus 10-11

- Song 65 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Moses and Aaron Demonstrate Great Courage": (10 minutes)

Exodus 10:3-6, 24-26, 28; 11:4-8

Moses and Aaron demonstrated great courage and boldness when speaking to Pharaoh, the most powerful man in the world at that time. What enabled them to do it? Regarding Moses, the Bible says: "By faith he left Egypt, but not fearing the anger of the king, for he continued steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible." (Hebrews 11:27) Moses and Aaron had strong faith in Jehovah and relied on him.

Picture: Moses and Aaron appearing before Pharaoh, who is seated on his throne.

What situations require courage to express your faith to someone in authority?

Pictures: [Image:] Collage: Situations where we can be courageous. 1. A boy at school quietly stands as others salute the flag. 2. A brother stands before court officials. 3. A young brother offers a tract to a householder in the field ministry as a policeman watches from nearby.

Exodus 10:3-6—Moses and Aaron boldly announced the eighth plague to Pharaoh

Exodus 10:3-6: So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him: "This is what Jehovah the God of the Hebrews has said, 'How long will you refuse to submit to me? Send my people away so that they may serve me. For if you keep refusing to send my people away, here I am bringing locusts within your boundaries tomorrow. And they will cover the surface of the earth, and it will not be possible to see the ground. They will eat up what escaped the hail and was left for you, and they will eat all your trees that are growing in the field. They will fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all Egypt to an extent that your fathers and your grandfathers never saw from the time they

have been in this land until today.'" With that he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

w09 7/15 20 paragraph 6

Think, too, of the boldness that Moses showed in speaking to Pharaoh, a ruler who was viewed, not as a mere representative of the gods, but as a god himself, the son of the sun god Ra. It may be that he, like other Pharaohs, worshipped his own image. Pharaoh's word was law; he ruled by decree. Powerful, arrogant, and stubborn, Pharaoh was not accustomed to having others tell him what to do. It was before this man that Moses, a meek shepherd, appeared repeatedly—unbidden and unwelcome. And what did Moses foretell? Devastating plagues. And what did he demand? Permission for several million of Pharaoh's slaves to leave the country! Did Moses need boldness? Absolutely!—Numbers 12:3; Hebrews 11:27.

Exodus 10:24-26—Moses and Aaron did not give in to pressure from Pharaoh to compromise

Exodus 10:24-26: Pharaoh then called Moses and said: "Go, serve Jehovah. Only your sheep and your cattle will remain behind. Even your children may go with you." But Moses said: "You yourself will also provide us with sacrifices and burnt offerings, and we will offer them to Jehovah our God. Our livestock will also go with us. Not an animal will be allowed to remain, because we will be using some of them to worship Jehovah our God, and we do not know what we will offer in worship to Jehovah until we arrive there."

Exodus 10:28; 11:4-8—Moses and Aaron fearlessly announced the tenth plague

Exodus 10:28: Pharaoh said to him: "Get out of my sight! Make sure that you do not try to see my face again, for on the day you see my face, you will die."

Exodus 11:4-8: Moses then said: "This is what Jehovah has said, 'About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt,

and every firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who is sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the slave girl who is working at the hand mill, and every firstborn of the livestock. Throughout all the land of Egypt, there will be a great outcry such as has never occurred nor will ever occur again. But not even a dog will bark at the Israelites, at the men or their livestock, so that you may know that Jehovah can make a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.' And all your servants will certainly come down to me and prostrate themselves to me, saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you.' And after that I will go out." With that he went out from Pharaoh in the heat of anger.

it-2 436 paragraph 4

Courage and faith required to face Pharaoh. It was only in the strength of Jehovah and due to the operation of his spirit upon them that Moses and Aaron proved equal to the task set before them. Picture the court of Pharaoh, the king of the undisputed world power of that time. Here was unparalleled splendor, the haughty Pharaoh, supposed to be a god

himself, surrounded by his advisers, military commanders, guards, and slaves. Moreover, there were the religious leaders, the magic-practicing priests, chief among Moses' opposers. These men were, aside from Pharaoh himself, the most powerful men in the realm. All this impressive array was aligned to back up Pharaoh in support of the gods of Egypt. And Moses and Aaron came before Pharaoh, not once, but many times, Pharaoh's heart getting harder each time, because he was determined to keep his valuable Hebrew slaves under his domination. In fact, after announcing the eighth plague, Moses and Aaron were driven out from before Pharaoh, and after the ninth plague they were ordered not to try to see Pharaoh's face again on pain of death.—Exodus 10:11, 28.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Exodus 10:1, 2—What lesson can parents take from these verses?

Exodus 10:1, 2: Then Jehovah said to Moses: "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have allowed his heart and the hearts of his servants to become unresponsive, so that I may display these

signs of mine right before him, and in order that you may declare to your sons and your grandsons how severely I have dealt with Egypt and what signs I have performed among them; and you will certainly know that I am Jehovah.”

w95 9/1 11 paragraph 11

While the Israelites were still in Egypt, Jehovah sent Moses to Pharaoh and said: “Go in to Pharaoh, because I—I have let his heart and the hearts of his servants become unresponsive, in order that I may set these signs of mine right before him, and in order that you may declare in the ears of your son and your son’s son how severely I have dealt with Egypt and my signs that I have established among them; and you will certainly know that I am Jehovah.”

(Exodus 10:1, 2) Obedient Israelites would tell their children of Jehovah’s mighty acts. Their children, in turn, would tell of them to their children, and so it would be done from generation to generation. Thus, Jehovah’s powerful deeds would be remembered. Likewise today, parents have the responsibility of witnessing to their children.—Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Proverbs 22:6.

Exodus 11:7—What did Jehovah mean when he said that “not even a dog will bark at the Israelites”?

Exodus 11:7: But not even a dog will bark at the Israelites, at the men or their livestock, so that you may know that Jehovah can make a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.'

it-1 783 paragraph 5

So by a spectacular display of power Jehovah exalted his name and delivered Israel. Safe on the East shore of the Red Sea, Moses led the sons of Israel in a song, while his sister Miriam, the prophetess, took a tambourine in her hand and led all the women with tambourines and in dances, responding in song to the men. (Exodus 15:1, 20, 21) A complete separation of Israel from their foes had been effected. When they went out from Egypt they were not allowed to suffer harm from man or beast; no dog even snarled at the Israelites or moved its tongue against them. (Exodus 11:7) While the Exodus narrative does not mention that Pharaoh personally went into the sea with his military forces and was destroyed, Psalm 136:15 does state that

Jehovah “shook off Pharaoh and his military force into the Red Sea.”

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 minutes or less) Exodus 10:1-15
(th study 10)

- Song 65 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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2020-07 Return Visit - 1 John 5:19

1 John 5:19: *“We know that we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one.”*

1st Pub: Hi Ian. It's good to find you home. In case you don't recall, my name is Francisco.

2nd Pub: And I'm Shane.

HH: Hello. Good to see you.

1st Pub: You, too, Ian. The last time we were here, we left the question, why do we suffer? Notice the answer that the Bible gives here at first John 5:19. Shane, will you please read that?

2nd Pub: Sure. It says, “We know that we originate with God but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one.”

1st Pub: Thank you. So, according to this verse, who controls the world? Is it God, or someone else?

HH: Hmm. it says the wicked one.

1st Pub: Does that mean the devil?

HH: Yes, he's the real ruler of the world.

1st Pub: Do you think we're seeing evidence of his rule and the world around us?

HH: For sure. All of the crime and hatred that exists.

1st Pub: Exactly. And in other parts of the Bible it shows that Satan's influence has led to sin and death for all mankind.

HH: I've never heard that before but it makes a lot of sense.

1st Pub: You're right, it does. So, God doesn't cause us suffering, but he does care about us. Maybe, the next time, we can discuss how God feels about our suffering. You may find that the answer addresses some of those nagging questions you've had about God.

HH: I'd like that.



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**

1. Ever onward, O my people,
Let the Kingdom tidings go.
Tremble not before our foe.
Let all lovers of truth know
That my reigning Son, Christ Jesus,
To the earth has cast the foe,
Soon to bind the Devil, Satan,
Letting all his victims go.

(CHORUS)

*Fear them not, O my beloved,
Though their boasting threats may fly.
I will keep my faithful servant
As the apple of my eye.*

2. Even though your foes are many,
Though they threaten and revile,
Though they flatter and they smile,
To mislead and to beguile.
Fear them not, my faithful people,
Nor their persecution's heat,
For I will preserve the faithful
Till the vict'ry is complete.

(Chorus)

3. Never fear you are forgotten;
I am still your strength and shield.
Though you die upon the field,
Even death to me will yield.
Fear them not who kill the body
But cannot destroy the soul.
To the end may you be faithful;
I will bring you to your goal!

(CHORUS)

*Fear them not, O my beloved,
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I will keep my faithful servant
As the apple of my eye.*

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What Does Creation Teach Us About Courage?



Jehovah teaches us how to display godly qualities by means of men and women in the Bible. However, his creation also provides us with important lessons. (Job 12:7, 8) What can we learn about courage from the lion, the horse, the mongoose, the hummingbird, and the elephant?

WATCH THE VIDEO *LEARN COURAGE FROM CREATION*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- How do female lions display courage when protecting their cubs?



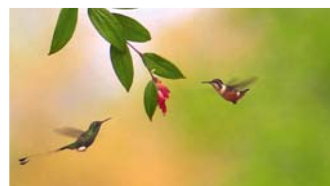
- How are horses trained to be courageous in battle?



- Why is the mongoose not afraid of venomous snakes?



- How do tiny hummingbirds show courage?



- How do elephants courageously come to the defense of other elephants in the herd?



- What do these animals teach you about courage?

Photo Credits: Lions: Image © Satvchannel/Shutterstock; horses: Image © PTITSA/Shutterstock; cobra: Warner Bros. Studios/Warner Bros. Entertainment/Getty Images; hummingbirds and elephants: Buff Corsi Focus On Nature, Inc/Photodisc/Getty Images

Learn Courage From Creation

(Raw Transcript)

The lion's fearless reputation is well-founded. Lions are Africa's largest native cat. A full-grown male can weigh up to 230 kilograms, or about 500 pounds. Females are smaller but can still weigh up to 180 kilograms, or nearly 400 pounds. Lions successfully hunt animals as large as buffalo and hippos! Lions are the only cats that live together in social groups. These groups, called prides, normally consist of related females and their cubs along with a small number of resident males. Healthy adult lions have no natural predators. However, lions face a threat from a surprising source. What is it? Other lions. Lions are territorial. They will attack and kill other lions in an attempt to take over their hunting territory. Lion cubs face another danger. Groups of rival males will attempt to drive off the resident males and take over the pride. If the invading males are successful, they will try to kill the cubs that were fathered by other lions. The invading males can then father cubs of their own. On their own, the tiny cubs would be defenseless. But lions vigorously defend their cubs. Both males and females protect the pride from other lions. A mother lion will defend her cubs even though she may be injured or killed by

a larger invading male. Several mothers may defend their cubs collectively, giving the cubs a better chance of survival. Horses were often used in ancient battles. A charging horse was a powerful weapon. The mere presence of cavalry or chariots on the battlefield was intimidating to opposing armies. However, horses needed training to be effective in battle. Horses are not naturally courageous. Without proper training, a horse could be a liability on the battlefield. Why? Because of their keen eyesight and hearing, horses easily become startled. Horses have a nearly 360-degree range of vision. Ancient battlefields were filled with sights that tended to terrify horses. For this reason, ancient warriors sometimes put blinders on horses. Horses have 16 muscles that control each of their ears. They can move their ears to hear sounds more clearly. A horse can hear the sound of danger before a human. The possibility of horses panicking in battle was a constant danger. Ancient armies would deliberately try to frighten their enemy's horses to induce chaos. How was a horse trained for battle? Their trainers exposed the horse to sights and sounds similar to those encountered on the battlefield. Gradually, the horse would overcome its fear. When trained properly, instead of fleeing at the sound of battle, a courageous warhorse would excitedly run towards it. Across southern Asia lives a small mammal that is

surprisingly fearless—the Indian gray mongoose. This furry creature is relatively small, typically measuring less than a meter, or three feet, in length from head to tail. Despite its small size, the mongoose is, in fact, a bold predator. It feeds on various small creatures, but the most famous of its prey are venomous snakes, such as the king cobra. Several species of mongoose, including the Indian gray mongoose, are known for their ability to kill venomous snakes. What protects the mongoose as it fights a venomous snake? The Indian gray mongoose's thick fur is composed of stiff hairs that stand erect when the mongoose is excited or angry. This fur serves as a protective layer to prevent a snake from biting into its flesh. However, if it is bitten, the mongoose has an internal defense mechanism—a tolerance to snake venom. The mongoose is amazingly fast and agile. When the snake strikes, the mongoose swiftly moves out of the way and avoids the bite. The mongoose also possesses incredible stamina. It can keep fighting until the snake tires out. When the mongoose makes its final attack, it strikes the snake at just the right location to kill it. The mongoose is endowed with defenses and abilities that enable it to fearlessly fight and defeat the snake. Found only in North and South America, hummingbirds are among the smallest of all birds. Although the more than 300 species of

hummingbirds vary in size, most species are between 6 and 12 centimeters, or 2.4 and 4.7 inches, in length. To the human eye, the beating of a hummingbird's wings is just a blur. Because its wingbeat is so rapid, this tiny bird generates a humming noise as it flies. The smaller the hummingbird, the faster its wingbeat. Larger hummingbirds beat their wings around 10 to 20 times per second; smaller hummingbirds may beat their wings 70 to 80 times per second in normal flight. Hummingbirds can fly forward and backward, sideways, straight up and down, and, for brief periods, even upside down. They hover in place as they feed on flower nectar. But these beautiful little birds do not have charming temperaments. Hummingbirds aggressively defend desirable sources of nectar, attempting to drive off other hummingbirds that invade their feeding territory. Females defend their nests. Especially during mating season, males of most hummingbird species defend their breeding territory. Because of their agility in flight, hummingbirds can chase away much larger birds, such as crows and hawks. They will even dive at humans. Despite their tiny size, hummingbirds are ready to defend themselves and the things that are essential for their survival. A herd of African elephants is an impressive sight. An elephant family group consists of related adult females and their young. The close-knit family

group provides support to its members. Elephants have an excellent memory, and this strengthens their social bonds. They recognize and remember one another, even after long periods of separation. When a young elephant is in distress, older elephants reassure and comfort the young one by coming near and touching it with their body or trunk. If an elephant is weak or injured, other elephants may attempt to help it to its feet and assist it to stand. From the older members of the family group, young elephants learn vital survival skills, including how to find food and water. To find water in times of drought, the herd may need to travel great distances. The older elephants lead the way, helping younger ones make the trip. How do the elephants know where to go? Older elephants remember for decades where water can be found, even in locations hundreds of miles away. They teach these locations to the younger generation. The family group also provides protection from predators. An elephant may charge an attacker and use its tusks, trunk, and feet as weapons. To protect the calves, adults encircle them, standing between them and the predators. If a member of the herd is seriously wounded, other elephants, including young ones, may courageously come to its defense.

CHRIST IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED

**MATTHEW 26:47-56 MARK 14:43-52
LUKE 22:47-53 JOHN 18:2-12**

- **JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS IN THE GARDEN**
 - **PETER CUTS OFF A MAN'S EAR**
 - **JESUS IS ARRESTED**
-

It is well past midnight. The priests have agreed to pay Judas 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus. So Judas leads a large crowd of chief priests and Pharisees, seeking to find Jesus. They are accompanied by a detachment of armed Roman soldiers with a military commander.

Evidently, when Jesus dismissed him from the Passover meal, Judas went directly to the chief priests. (John 13:27) They assembled their own officers as well as a band of soldiers. Judas may have led them first to the room where Jesus and his apostles had celebrated the Passover. But now the mob has crossed the Kidron Valley and is headed for the

garden. In addition to weapons, they are carrying lamps and torches, determined to find Jesus.

As Judas leads the procession up the Mount of Olives, he feels sure that he knows where to find Jesus. During the past week, as Jesus and the apostles traveled back and forth between Bethany and Jerusalem, they often stopped in the garden of Gethsemane. But now it is night, and Jesus may be in the shadows of the olive trees in the garden. So how will the soldiers, who may not have seen Jesus before, be able to identify him? To help them, Judas will provide a sign. He says: “Whoever it is I kiss, he is the one; take him into custody, and lead him away under guard.”—Mark 14:44.

Leading the crowd into the garden, Judas sees Jesus with his apostles and goes straight up to him. “Greetings, Rabbi!” Judas says, and he kisses Jesus very tenderly. “Fellow, for what purpose are you present?” Jesus responds. (Matthew 26:49, 50) Answering his own question, Jesus says: “Judas, are you betraying the Son of man with a kiss?” (Luke 22:48) But that is enough of his betrayer!

Jesus now steps into the light of the torches and lamps and asks: “Whom are you looking for?” From the mob comes the answer: “Jesus the Nazarene.” Jesus courageously says: “I am he.” (John 18:4, 5) Not knowing what to expect, the men fall to the ground.

Rather than seizing that moment to flee into the night, Jesus again asks whom they are seeking. When they again say, “Jesus the Nazarene,” he calmly continues: “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” Even at this crucial moment, Jesus recalls what he said earlier, that he would not lose a single one. (John 6:39; 17:12) Jesus has kept his faithful apostles and not one has been lost “except the son of destruction”—Judas. (John 18:7-9) Thus he now asks that his loyal followers be let go.

As the soldiers stand and move toward Jesus, the apostles realize what is happening. “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” they ask. (Luke 22:49) Before Jesus can reply, Peter wields one of the two swords that the apostles have at hand. He attacks



Malchus, a slave of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

Jesus touches the ear of Malchus, healing the wound. He then teaches an important lesson, commanding Peter: “Return your sword to its place, for all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword.” Jesus is willing to be arrested, for he explains: “How would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must take place this way?” (Matthew 26:52, 54) He adds: “Should I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?” (John 18:11) Jesus agrees with God’s will for him, even to the point of dying.

Jesus asks the crowd: “Did you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as against a robber? Day after day I used to sit in the temple teaching, and yet you did not take me into custody. But all of this has taken place for the writings of the prophets to be fulfilled.”—Matthew 26:55, 56.

The soldier band, the military commander, and the officers of the Jews seize Jesus and bind him. Seeing this, the apostles flee. However, “a certain young man”—perhaps the disciple Mark—remains

among the crowd so as to follow Jesus. (Mark 14: 51) This young man is recognized, and the crowd attempts to seize him, which forces him to leave behind his linen garment as he gets away.

- ◇ Why does Judas look for Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane?
- ◇ Trying to defend Jesus, what does Peter do, but what does Jesus say about this?
- ◇ How does Jesus reveal that he is in agreement with God's will for him?
- ◇ When the apostles abandon Jesus, who remains, and what happens then?

113 *Our Possession of Peace*

(John 14:27)

1. Praise Jehovah, God of peace,
 God of unity.
 He will make all wars to cease,
 Bring in harmony.
Prince of Peace is Christ his Son,
 Tender, calm, and kind.
When the fight for right he's won,
 Perfect peace we'll find.

2. We have left off angry words,
 Making quarrels cease.
 We have made from spears and swords,
 Implements of peace.
If this peace we want to keep,
 Then we must forgive.
 Peacefully as Jesus' sheep,
 May we learn and live.

3. Peace from God gives proof to all;
 He has blessed our way.
 His commands we gladly keep,
 Ready to obey.
We would recommend our way,
 Show our peaceful care
 Till the Kingdom's perfect day
 Brings peace ev'rywhere.

MAY 2020

THE  **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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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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5

God's Wondrous Works

(Psalm 139)

1. O God, you know my rest and waking,
When I lie down and when I rise anew.
You search my thoughts, my inmost inclination,
The words I speak, the ways I walk,
you know them too.
You saw when I was made in secret,
My very bones not hidden from your sight.
You saw my form; its parts were down in writing.
I love the wonder of your ways
and praise your might.
Your knowledge, God, is wondrous, awe-inspiring;
Of this my soul is very well-aware.
If I should fear that darkness might enfold me,
Your spirit, God, would find me, even there.
Where could I hide from you, Jehovah,
Or be concealed, be hidden from your face?
Not in the Grave nor in the highest heaven,
Not in the dark nor in the sea;
there is no place.

Do You Appreciate God-Given Gifts?

“How many things you have done, O Jehovah my God, your wonderful works and your thoughts toward us.”—PS. 40:5.

SONG 5

God’s Wondrous Works

PREVIEW

This article will build our appreciation for Jehovah and for three of the gifts that he has given us. It will also help us to reason with those who doubt that God exists.

JEHOVAH is a generous God. Think of some of the gifts he has given us: our beautiful and unique home, the earth; our marvelously designed brain; and his precious Word, the Bible. By means of these three gifts, Jehovah has given us a place to live, he has granted us the ability to think and communicate, and he has answered the most important questions we could ask.—Read Psalm 40:5.

² In this article, we will briefly consider those three gifts. The more we meditate on them, the more we will appreciate them and the stronger our desire will be to please our loving Creator, Jehovah. (Rev. 4:11) We will also be better equipped to help those who have been misled by the false doctrine of evolution.

OUR UNIQUE PLANET

³ God's wisdom is clearly seen in the way he constructed our home, the earth. (Rom. 1:20; Heb. 3:4) Ours is not the only planet to orbit the sun, but the earth is unique because it has all the right conditions to sustain human life.

1-2. According to Psalm 40:5, what gifts has Jehovah given us, and why will we consider them?

3. Why is the earth unique?

⁴ In some respects, the earth is like a boat floating in the vast ocean of space. But there are key differences between a man-made boat, full of people, and our earth. For example, how long would the occupants of a literal boat survive if they had to produce their own oxygen, food, and water and if they could not throw any waste products overboard? The people in that boat would soon die. In contrast, the earth supports billions of living creatures. It produces all the oxygen, food, and water we need, and we do not run out of those vital supplies. Its waste products are not ejected into space; yet, the earth remains beautiful and habitable. How is that possible? Jehovah designed the earth with the ability to recycle resources. We will briefly look at two of these brilliantly designed cycles, the oxygen cycle and the water cycle.

⁵ *Oxygen* is a life-sustaining gas that is used by some living things, including us. It has been estimated that living creatures breathe in a hundred billion tons of oxygen in a year. These same creatures breathe out a waste product called carbon dioxide. Yet, these living creatures never con-

4. Why can we say that the earth is better than any man-made boat?

5. What is the oxygen cycle, and what does it confirm?

sume all the oxygen, and the atmosphere never becomes choked with the “waste” gas, carbon dioxide. Why not? Because Jehovah also created organisms—from large trees to tiny algae—that take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. In a very literal way, the oxygen cycle confirms the words recorded at Acts 17:24, 25: “God . . . gives to all people life and breath.”

⁶ *Water* in liquid form exists on earth because our planet is located at the perfect distance from the sun. If it were just a little closer, all the water would boil off, leaving a hot, lifeless rock. If the earth were just a little farther from the sun, all the water would freeze, turning the earth into a giant ball of ice. Because Jehovah placed the earth at this ideal location, the earth’s water cycle can sustain life. The sun heats water in the oceans and on the earth’s surface and evaporates the water to form clouds. Each year, the sun evaporates nearly 120,000 cubic miles (500,000 cu km) of water. This water stays in the atmosphere for about ten days before falling as rain or snow. The water eventually makes its way back to the oceans or other bodies of water, and the cycle is repeated. This

6. What is the water cycle, and what does it prove? (See also the box “Jehovah’s Gift of the Water Cycle.”)



Jehovah's Gift of the Water Cycle

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND FLOWERS

Rain makes plants grow, giving us food to eat. Most plants also produce flowers for our enjoyment

OTHER BENEFITS

The water cycle has other benefits. For instance, the evaporation of seawater produces salt

BEAUTY AND ENJOYMENT

Rivers, lakes, and waterfalls beautify the earth and bring us enjoyment

DAILY USE

We drink water and use it to make other drinks, such as lemonade, coffee, and tea. We also use water for cooking, cleaning, and bathing

efficient, sustainable cycle proves that Jehovah is both wise and powerful.—Job 36:27, 28; Eccl. 1:7.

⁷ How can we develop appreciation for our amazing planet and all that it supplies? (Read Psalm 115:16.) One way is by meditating on the things Jehovah has made. That will motivate us to thank Jehovah each day for the good things he gives us. And we show that we appreciate the earth by keeping the part of it where we live as clean as possible.

7. What are some ways that we can show appreciation for the gift described at Psalm 115:16?

OUR UNIQUE BRAIN

⁸ The human brain is a marvel of engineering. When you were in your mother's womb, your brain was built according to a preset plan, and thousands of new brain cells were constructed every minute! Researchers estimate that an adult's brain contains close to 100 billion special cells called neurons. These cells have been efficiently assembled into a package that weighs about 3.3 pounds (1.5 kg). Consider just a few of the brain's amazing abilities.

⁹ *Our ability to speak* is a miracle. Think for a moment about the mechanics of speaking. With each word you say, your brain has to coordinate the movement of some 100 muscles in your tongue, throat, lips, jaw, and chest. All those muscles have to move according to precise timing if the words are to be understood. Regarding the ability to speak languages, a study published in 2019 showed that newborn babies can pick out individual words. This finding reinforces what many researchers believe—that we are born with the ability to recognize and learn languages. Certainly, our ability to speak is a gift from God.—Ex. 4:11.

8. Why can we say that our brain is a marvel of engineering?

9. What proves to you that our ability to speak is a gift from God?

¹⁰ One way we can show that we appreciate our gift of speech is by explaining our belief in God to those who wonder why we do not accept the teaching of evolution. (Ps. 9:1; 1 Pet. 3:15) Those who promote that doctrine would have us believe that the earth and all life on it came about by accident. Using the Bible and some of the points we discussed in this article, we can defend our heavenly Father and explain to those who are willing to listen why we are convinced that Jehovah is the Creator of heaven and earth.—Ps. 102:25; Isa. 40:25, 26.

¹¹ *Our capacity to remember* is amazing. In the past, one author estimated that the human brain has the ability to remember information that would fill the equivalent of 20 million books. Now, however, it is thought that our memory capacity is much larger. What unique ability do humans have?

¹² Among all the creatures on earth, only humans have *the ability to learn moral lessons* by

10. How can we show that we appreciate the God-given gift of speech?

11. What is one reason why our brain is amazing?

12. How does our ability to learn moral lessons separate us from the animals?

remembering and analyzing past events. As a result, we can adopt better values and change our way of thinking and living. (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Col. 3:9, 10) In fact, we can train our conscience to recognize the difference between right and wrong. (Heb. 5:14) We can learn to show love, compassion, and mercy. And we can develop a healthy sense of justice.

¹³ One way we prove that we appreciate the gift of memory is by choosing to remember all the times that Jehovah has helped and comforted us in the past. This will build our confidence that he will also help us in the future. (Read Psalm 77:11, 12; 78:4, 7) Another way is by remembering the good things that other people do for us and being grateful for what they do. Researchers have found that people who are grateful are more likely to be happy. We also do well to imitate Jehovah regarding the things he chooses to forget. For example, Jehovah has a perfect memory, but if we are repentant, he chooses to forgive and forget the mistakes we make. (Ps. 25:7; 130:3, 4) And he wants us to do the same for others when they are sorry

13. In line with Psalm 77:11, 12, how should we use our gift of memory?



We show appreciation for the gift of our brain
by using it to honor Jehovah
(See paragraph 14)

for mistakes they make that hurt us.—Matt. 6:14;
Luke 17:3, 4.

¹⁴ We can show appreciation for the marvelous gift of our brain by using it to honor the One who gave it to us. Some choose to use their brain for

14. How can we show appreciation for the marvelous gift of our brain?

Making the Bible Available in African Languages

By the year 1800, printed copies of the Bible in whole or in part were available in some 70 languages, but very few of those languages were spoken in Africa. At the time, the African Bantu languages did not have a written form. Things changed when individuals, such as William Boyce from England, went to Africa and lived with people who spoke unwritten languages. Boyce helped to develop a written form of Xhosa, and he, along with others, translated the Gospel of Luke into that language. Published in 1833, this Gospel contained God's name in all the same places that it now appears in the *New World Translation*. Boyce also discovered the key to the complex grammatical rules that govern not only the Xhosa language but also the complete Bantu-language family. This opened the way for translators to produce the Bible in many other African languages. Today, the Bible or portions of it are available in over 1,000 African languages. Clearly, Jehovah wants people from every nation to have this gift!—Acts 10:35.



In 2019 the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* was released in Xhosa—one of the over 180 languages in which this translation is now available in whole or in part

selfish purposes—to set their own standards of right and wrong. But because Jehovah created us, it is only reasonable to expect that his standards are better than any standards we could set for ourselves. (Rom. 12:1, 2) When we live by his standards, our life is peaceful. (Isa. 48:17, 18) And we gain a clear purpose for living—to bring honor to our Creator and Father and make him proud of us.—Prov. 27:11.

THE BIBLE—A UNIQUE GIFT

¹⁵ The Bible is a loving gift from God. Our heavenly Father inspired men to write it because he cares greatly for his earthly children. By means of the Bible, Jehovah *answers the most important questions* we could ask, such as: Where did we come from? What is the purpose of life? And what does the future hold? Jehovah wants all his children to learn the answers to those questions, so throughout the centuries he has moved men to translate the Bible into many languages. Today, the whole Bible or portions of it are available in over 3,000 languages! The Bible is the most widely translated and distributed book in history. No matter where people live or what language they speak, most have the opportunity to learn the Bible's message in their mother tongue.—See the box “Making the Bible Available in African Languages.”

¹⁶ We can prove that we appreciate the Bible by reading it each day, meditating on what it teaches,

15. How does the gift of the Bible reflect Jehovah's love for mankind?

16. Based on Matthew 28:19, 20, how can we prove that we appreciate the Bible?

and doing our best to apply what we learn. In addition, we show our gratitude to God by doing all we can to share its message with as many people as possible.—Ps. 1:1-3; Matt. 24:14; read Matthew 28:19, 20.

¹⁷ So far we have considered such God-given gifts as our home, the earth; our amazingly designed brain; and God’s inspired Word, the Bible. But there are other gifts that Jehovah has given us that are invisible to our eyes. These unseen treasures will be discussed in the next article.

17. What kind of gifts have we considered in this article, and what will be discussed in the next article?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 45: A sister is learning a foreign language in order to teach immigrants the truths of God’s Word.

HOW CAN WE SHOW THAT WE APPRECIATE . . .

- the earth? ■ our brain? ■ the Bible?

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.