

- Song 20 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“The Passover—Its Significance for Christians”:** (10 min.)  
 Ex 12:5-7—The significance of the Passover lamb (w07 1/1 20 ¶4)  
 Ex 12:12, 13—The significance of the blood on the doorposts (it-2 583 ¶6)  
 Ex 12:24-27—A practical lesson taught by the Passover (w13 12/15 20 ¶13-14)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)  
 Ex 12:12—How were the plagues on the Egyptians, especially the tenth one, a judgment against their false gods? (it-2 582 ¶2)  
  
 Ex 12:14-16—The Festival of Unfermented Cakes, as with other holy conventions, had what unique feature, and how did it benefit the Israelites? (it-1 504 ¶1)

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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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 38
- **“Jehovah Protects His People”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Warwick Museum Tours: “A People for Jehovah’s Name”* (video category OUR ORGANIZATION).
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EXODUS 12 | The Passover—Its Significance for Christians

**12:5-7, 12, 13, 24-27**

In order for the Israelites to avoid being harmed by the tenth plague, it was vital for them to obey instructions. (Ex 12:28) On the night of Nisan 14, families were to assemble in their own home. They were to kill a sound one-year-old male lamb or goat. Its blood was to be sprinkled on the doorposts and on the upper part of the doorway. Then they were to roast the entire animal and eat it in a hurry. No one was to go out of the house until morning. —Ex 12:9-11, 22.

 **What are some specific ways that obedience protects us today?**



# 20      *You Gave Your Precious Son* (1 John 4:9)

1. Jehovah, dear Father,  
    There seemed no hope for us.  
The ransom has given  
    Hope to ev'ryone!  
We give our lives to you,  
    Our best in all we do.  
And we'll tell others too,  
    That your will might be done.

*(CHORUS)*

*You gave your precious Son,  
And now we sing as one,  
A song we'll sing forever,  
for giving us your precious Son.*

2. Your kindness, your mercy,  
    They draw us close to you.  
Your great name, your friendship,  
    These we've come to love.  
But something more than this  
    Is your most precious gift.  
He died that we might live.  
    You sent him from above.

*(Chorus)*

*(ENDING)*

Jehovah, dear Father, we pray in gratitude.  
    We offer our thanks for giving us your precious Son.

## Exodus 12

**12** Jehovah now said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup> “This month will be the beginning of the months for you. It will be the first of the months of the year for you.

<sup>3</sup> Speak to the entire assembly of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth day of this month, they should each take for themselves a sheep for their father’s house, a sheep to a house. <sup>4</sup> But if the household is too small for the sheep, they and their nearest neighbor should share it between themselves in their house according to the number of people. When making the calculation, determine how much of the sheep each one will eat. <sup>5</sup> Your sheep should be a sound, one-year-old male. You may choose from the young rams or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> You must care for it until the 14th day of this month, and the whole congregation of the assembly of Israel must slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup> They must take some of the blood and splash it on the two doorposts and the upper part of the doorway of the houses in which they eat it.

<sup>8</sup> “They must eat the meat on this night. They should roast it over the fire and eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter greens. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled, cooked in water, but roast it over the fire, its head together with its shanks and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup> You must not save any of it until morning, but any of it left over until morning you should burn with fire. <sup>11</sup> And this is how you should eat it, with your belt fastened, sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you should eat it in a hurry. It is Jehovah’s

Passover. <sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt on this night and strike every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from man to beast; and I will execute judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am Jehovah. <sup>13</sup> The blood will serve as your sign on the houses where you are; and I will see the blood and pass over you, and the plague will not come on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> “This day will serve as a memorial for you, and you must celebrate it as a festival to Jehovah throughout your generations. As a lasting statute, you should celebrate it.

<sup>15</sup> Seven days you are to eat unleavened bread. Yes, on the first day you are to remove the sourdough from your houses, because anyone eating what is leavened from the first day down to the seventh, that person must be cut off from Israel.

<sup>16</sup> On the first day you will hold a holy convention, and on the seventh day, another holy convention. No work is to be done on these days. Only what every person needs to eat, that alone may be prepared for you.

<sup>17</sup> “You must keep the Festival of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day, I will bring your multitudes out of the land of Egypt. And you must keep this day throughout your generations as a lasting statute. <sup>18</sup> In the first month, on the 14th day of the month, in the evening, you are to eat unleavened bread until the 21st day of the month, in the evening. <sup>19</sup> No sourdough is to be found in your houses for seven days, because if anyone eats what is leavened, whether he is a foreigner or a native of the land, that person must be cut off from the assembly of Israel. <sup>20</sup> You should

not eat anything leavened. In all your homes, you are to eat unleavened bread.”

<sup>21</sup> Moses promptly called all the elders of Israel and said to them: “Go and select young animals for each of your families, and slaughter the Passover sacrifice. <sup>22</sup> Then you must dip a bunch of hyssop into the blood that is in a basin and strike the upper part of the doorway and the two doorposts with the blood; and none of you should go out of the entrance of his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> Then when Jehovah passes through to plague the Egyptians and sees the blood on the upper part of the doorway and on the two doorposts, Jehovah will certainly pass over the entrance, and he will not allow the plague of death to enter into your houses.

<sup>24</sup> “You must observe this event as a lasting regulation for you and your sons. <sup>25</sup> And when you come into the land that Jehovah will give you just as he has stated, you must keep this observance. <sup>26</sup> And when your sons ask you, ‘What does this observance mean to you?’ <sup>27</sup> you must say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Passover to Jehovah, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he plagued the Egyptians, but he spared our houses.’”

Then the people bowed low and prostrated themselves. <sup>28</sup> So the Israelites went and did just as Jehovah had commanded Moses and Aaron. They did just so.

<sup>29</sup> Then at midnight, Jehovah struck down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Phar'aoh who was

sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the prison, and every firstborn of the animals. <sup>30</sup> Phar'aoh got up that night along with all his servants and all the other Egyptians, and there was a great outcry among the Egyptians, because there was not a house where someone was not dead. <sup>31</sup> At once he called Moses and Aaron by night and said: "Get up, get out from among my people, both you and the other Israelites. Go and serve Jehovah, just as you have said. <sup>32</sup> Take also your flocks and your herds and go, just as you have said. But you must also bless me."

<sup>33</sup> And the Egyptians began to urge the people to depart quickly out of the land "because," as they said, "we are all as good as dead!" <sup>34</sup> So the people carried their flour dough before it was leavened, with their kneading troughs wrapped up in their clothing on their shoulder. <sup>35</sup> The Israelites did what Moses had told them and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and of gold as well as clothing. <sup>36</sup> Jehovah gave the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, so that they gave them what they asked for, and they plundered the Egyptians.

<sup>37</sup> Then the Israelites departed from Ram'e-ses for Suc'coth, about 600,000 men on foot, besides children.

<sup>38</sup> And a vast mixed company also went with them, as well as flocks and herds, a great number of livestock. <sup>39</sup> They began to bake the dough that they brought from Egypt into round loaves of unleavened bread. It was not leavened, because they had been driven out of Egypt so suddenly that they had not prepared any provisions for themselves.

<sup>40</sup> The dwelling of the Israelites, who had dwelled in Egypt, was 430 years. <sup>41</sup> At the end of the 430 years, on this very day, all the multitudes of Jehovah went out of the land of Egypt. <sup>42</sup> It is a night on which they will celebrate Jehovah's bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This night is to be observed to Jehovah by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

<sup>43</sup> Then Jehovah said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: No foreigner may eat of it. <sup>44</sup> But if someone has a slave man who was purchased with money, you should circumcise him. Only then may he share in eating it. <sup>45</sup> A settler and a hired worker may not eat of it. <sup>46</sup> In one house it is to be eaten. You must not take any of the meat outside of the house, and you must not break any of its bones. <sup>47</sup> All the assembly of Israel are to celebrate it. <sup>48</sup> If a foreigner resides with you and he wants to celebrate the Passover to Jehovah, every male of his must be circumcised. Then he may come near to celebrate it, and he will become like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised man may eat of it. <sup>49</sup> One law will apply for the native and for the foreigner who is residing among you."

<sup>50</sup> So all the Israelites did just as Jehovah had commanded Moses and Aaron. They did just so. <sup>51</sup> On this very day, Jehovah brought the Israelites along with their multitudes out of the land of Egypt.

- Song 20 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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- **“The Passover—Its Significance for Christians”:** (10 min.)  
 Ex 12:5-7—The significance of the Passover lamb (w07 1/1 20 ¶4)  
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 **What are some specific ways that obedience protects us today?**





## **July 27–August 2 / Exodus 12**

- Song 20 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

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

#### **“The Passover—Its Significance for Christians”: (10 minutes)**

In order for the Israelites to avoid being harmed by the tenth plague, it was vital for them to obey instructions. (Exodus 12:28) On the night of Nisan 14, families were to assemble in their own home. They were to kill a sound one year old male lamb or goat. Its blood was to be sprinkled on the doorposts and on the upper part of the doorway. Then they were to roast the entire animal and eat it in a hurry. No one was to go out of the house until morning.—Exodus 12:9-11, 22.

Picture: An Israelite family standing and eating the Passover meal before leaving Egypt.

*What are some specific ways that obedience protects us today?*

## **Exodus 12:5-7—The significance of the Passover lamb**

**Exodus 12:5-7:** Your sheep should be a sound, one year old male. You may choose from the young rams or from the goats. You must care for it until the 14<sup>th</sup> day of this month, and the whole congregation of the assembly of Israel must slaughter it at twilight. They must take some of the blood and splash it on the two doorposts and the upper part of the doorway of the houses in which they eat it.

### **w07 1/1 20 paragraph 4**

Jesus died on Nisan 14, 33 C.E. In Israel, Nisan 14 was the joyous day of the Passover celebration. Each year on that day, families shared a meal that included a young, unblemished lamb. In this way, they remembered the role that the blood of a lamb played in the deliverance of the Israelite firstborn when the angel of death slew the firstborn of the Egyptians on Nisan 14, 1513 B.C.E. (Exodus 12:1-14) The Passover lamb foreshadowed Jesus, of whom the apostle Paul said: "Christ our passover has been sacrificed." (1 Corinthians 5:7) Like the blood of the Passover lamb, Jesus' shed blood provides salvation for many.—John 3:16, 36.

## **Exodus 12:12, 13—The significance of the blood on the doorposts**

**Exodus 12:12, 13:** For I will pass through the land of Egypt on this night and strike every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from man to beast; and I will execute judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am Jehovah. The blood will serve as your sign on the houses where you are; and I will see the blood and pass over you, and the plague will not come on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

### **it-2 583 paragraph 6**

Certain features of the Passover observance were fulfilled by Jesus. One fulfillment lies in the fact that the blood on the houses in Egypt delivered the firstborn from destruction at the hands of the destroying angel. Paul speaks of anointed Christians as the congregation of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23), and of Christ as their deliverer through his blood. (1 Thessalonians 1:10; Ephesians 1:7) No bones were to be broken in the Passover lamb. It had been prophesied that none of Jesus' bones would be broken, and this was fulfilled at his death. (Psalm 34:20; John 19:3) Thus the Passover kept

by the Jews for centuries was one of those things in which the Law provided a shadow of the things to come and pointed to Jesus Christ, "the Lamb of God."—Hebrews 10:1; John 1:29.

### **Exodus 12:24-27—A practical lesson taught by the Passover**

**Exodus 12:24-27:** "You must observe this event as a lasting regulation for you and your sons. And when you come into the land that Jehovah will give you just as he has stated, you must keep this observance. And when your sons ask you, 'What does this observance mean to you?' you must say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Passover to Jehovah, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he plagued the Egyptians, but he spared our houses.'" Then the people bowed low and prostrated themselves.

### **w13 12/15 20 paragraphs 13-14**

13 As new generations grew up, important lessons would be emphasized, passed on by father to son. One was that

Jehovah could protect his worshippers. The children learned that he is not some vague, abstract deity. Jehovah is a real, living God who is interested in his people and who acts in their behalf. He proved this at the time he protected the Israelite firstborn “when he plagued the Egyptians.” He kept the firstborn alive.

14 Christian parents do not each year recount to their sons and daughters the meaning of that Passover. Do you, however, teach your children this same lesson—that God protects his people? Do you convey to them your deep conviction that Jehovah is still a real Protector of his people? (Psalm 27:11; Isaiah 12:2) And do you do that, not in the form of a cold lecture, but in an enjoyable conversation between you and your children? Make an effort to include that lesson to stimulate your family’s spiritual growth.

## **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**Exodus 12:12—How were the plagues on the Egyptians, especially the tenth one, a judgment against their false gods?**

**Exodus 12:12:** For I will pass through the land of Egypt on this night and strike every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from man to beast; and I will execute judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am Jehovah.

### **it-2 582 paragraph 2**

The Ten Plagues upon Egypt all proved to be a judgment against the gods of Egypt, especially the tenth, the death of the firstborn. (Exodus 12:12) For the ram (male sheep) was sacred to the god Ra, so that splashing the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorways would be blasphemy in the eyes of the Egyptians. Also, the bull was sacred, and the destruction of the firstborn of the bulls would be a blow to the god Osiris. Pharaoh himself was venerated as a son of Ra. The death of Pharaoh's own firstborn would thus show the impotence of both Ra and Pharaoh

**Exodus 12:14-16—The Festival of Unfermented Cakes, as with other holy conventions, had what unique feature, and how did it benefit the Israelites?**

**Exodus 12:14-16:** "This day will serve as a memorial for you, and you must celebrate it as a festival to Jehovah throughout your generations. As a lasting statute, you should celebrate it. Seven days you are to eat unleavened bread. Yes, on the first day you are to remove the sourdough from your houses, because anyone eating what is leavened from the first day down to the seventh, that person must be cut off from Israel. On the first day you will hold a holy convention, and on the seventh day, another holy convention. No work is to be done on these days. Only what every person needs to eat, that alone may be prepared for you.

**it-1 504 paragraph 1**

A unique feature of all of these "holy conventions" was that during them the people were to do no laborious work. For instance, the first and seventh days of the Festival of Unfermented Cakes were "holy conventions," concerning which Jehovah stated: "No work is to be done on them. Only

what every soul needs to eat, that alone may be done for you.” (Exodus 12:15, 16) However, during “holy conventions” the priests were busy offering sacrifices to Jehovah (Leviticus 23:37, 38), certainly no violation of any command against doing normal daily work. These occasions were not periods of idleness for the people in general either but were times of great spiritual benefit. On the weekly Sabbath day, the people met together for public worship and instruction. They were then edified by the public reading and explanation of God’s written Word, as in the later synagogues. (Acts 15:21) Therefore, while the people did not do laborious work during the Sabbath day or the other “holy conventions,” they would then devote themselves to prayer and meditation on the Creator and his purposes.—See ASSEMBLY.

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 5)



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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



him? (John 1:18; 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17) When you read about Jehovah in the Bible, you get to know him as a real Person. (Psalm 27:4; Romans 1:20) As you learn more about Jehovah, you will love him more and more and you will feel closer to him.

**21** You will understand that Jehovah is our Father. (Matthew 6:9) He gave us life, and he also wants us to have the best life possible. That is what a loving father would want for his children. (Psalm 36:9) Yes, the Bible teaches that you can become Jehovah's friend. (James 2:23) Imagine that. Jehovah, the Creator of the universe, wants you to be his friend!

**22** Some people may want you to stop studying the Bible. They may fear that you will change your religion. But don't let anyone stop you from becoming Jehovah's friend. He is the best Friend you could ever have.

**23** As you study the Bible, there will be things that you don't understand. Don't be ashamed to ask questions or to ask for help. Jesus said that we should be humble, like little children. (Matthew 18:2-4) And children ask lots of questions. God wants you to find the answers. So study the Bible carefully to make sure that what you learn is the truth.—**Read Acts 17:11.**

**24** The best way to learn about Jehovah is to study the Bible. In the next chapter, we will find out why the Bible is different from every other book.

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23, 24. (a) Why should you keep asking questions? (b) What will we discuss in the next chapter?

## *He Will Make You Strong*

(1 Peter 5:10)

1. There was a reason why God brought the truth to you  
And called you from the darkness to the light.  
Within your heart, he saw the longing that you had  
To search for him and practice what is right.  
You promised him in prayer to do his will;  
He helped you then, and he will help you still.

### *(CHORUS)*

*With Jesus' blood He bought you,  
to God you now belong.*

*So he will make you firm,  
and he will make you strong.*

*He'll guide you and protect you,  
as he has all along.*

*Yes, he will make you firm,  
and he will make you strong.*

2. God gave his own beloved Son in your behalf;  
On this account, He wants you to succeed.  
If He did not withhold the gift of His dear Son,  
Then never doubt He'll give the strength you need.  
He won't forget the faith and love you've shown;  
He will not fail to care for all His own.

### *(Chorus)*

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 **What are some specific ways that obedience protects us today?**



## Jehovah Protects His People



The first Passover was a momentous event. On that night, after Pharaoh discovered that his firstborn was dead, he told Moses: “Get up, get out from among my people, both you and the other Israelites. Go and serve Jehovah, just as you have said.” (Ex 12:31) Jehovah had demonstrated that he protects his people.

As we look back on the modern-day history of Jehovah’s people, there is clear evidence that Jehovah continues to guide and protect them. This is highlighted in a museum at world headquarters entitled “A People for Jehovah’s Name.”

**WATCH THE VIDEO WARWICK MUSEUM TOURS: “A PEOPLE FOR JEHOVAH’S NAME,” AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- What innovative tool did the Bible Students use beginning in 1914 to build faith in the Bible, and how successful was it?

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- What tests occurred in 1916 and 1918, and what evidence was there that Jehovah was directing the organization?

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- How have Jehovah’s people stood firm for their faith despite opposition?

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- What new understanding did Jehovah’s people receive in 1935, and how did this affect them?

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- If you have toured this museum, what did you see that built your faith that Jehovah is guiding and protecting his people?

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To find out how you can visit this museum, go to [jw.org](http://jw.org)® and click on the About Us tab

## Warwick Museum Tours—A People for Jehovah’s Name

(Raw Transcript)

Do you enjoy a good story? If so, you’re in for a special treat. “A People for Jehovah’s Name” at world headquarters in Warwick is more than a history museum. It’s the modern-day story of a people seeking to know the true God and to do his will. But this isn’t just any story—it’s our story. So let’s take a thrilling journey back in time. The story unfolds on the narrative wall and in several galleries along the way. We begin in the 1870’s, when a small group in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, decided to reexamine the Bible. As C. T. Russell reasoned: All the creeds of Christendom claim to be founded on the Bible; and these are conflicting. Is it possible that the Bible has been misrepresented? The more they learned, the more they wanted to share. So in 1879, they began publishing Zion’s Watch Tower. Readers were soon taking a stand for the truths that they were learning. Listen. What I want to tell you is this, I am free! The truth has made me free! To-day I was excluded from the Baptist church . . . So I am all alone in the ‘flesh,’ but not in the ‘spirit.’ They became known as the Bible Students, and they soon realized that people everywhere should hear the good news. But how could this small group preach the Bible’s message earthwide? Transcontinental and international

tours helped them to see how they could expand their preaching work even further. In just one tour beginning in December 1911, C. T. Russell and his associates traveled completely around the world. Let's imagine what it was like to live in those exciting times. In this gallery, you can experience what life was like for a pilgrim, or what we today call a circuit overseer. Here's a pilgrim's formal jacket that he'd wear when giving a public talk. The Bible Students offered the Studies in the Scriptures series in the ministry. And they carried lists to locate and visit Watch Tower subscribers. Then in 1914, they presented the exciting "Photo-Drama of Creation." Its purpose was to build faith in the Bible as God's inspired Word. It was an innovative combination of moving pictures, sound recordings, and beautiful, hand-colored glass slides. Hundreds of people reenacted Bible scenes, some with live animals! Was this enormous work worth all the effort? DEAR

BROTHER RUSSELL, I want to thank you; oh, . . . so much, for the privilege of seeing the PHOTO-DRAMA OF CREATION! I had never thought to live to see the everlasting Gospel preached to those who dwell on the earth . . . ! Yet so it is. Words cannot tell you how my heart rejoices!—Your sister, F. E. Riley. By the end of 1914, over nine million had viewed it. But with such success, the Bible Students didn't realize what tests lay ahead. The Gentile



Times have ended; their kings have had their day! So we know not what awaits us. World War I broke out in 1914. Then in 1916, the death of C. T. Russell left the Bible Students in shock. It was a unique time of testing. Inside the organization, some struggled over who should take the lead. Outside, governments tried to force them to take sides in the war. Then in 1918, J. F. Rutherford and seven of his close associates were imprisoned. Was this the end for the Bible Students? Or would they prove to be a people for Jehovah's name? The joy that came with the release of our brothers from the Atlanta Federal Prison on Tuesday, March 25, 1919, knew no bounds. Their further devotion to Jehovah was shown in the fact that they immediately set to work to herald forth to the people of God everywhere the knowledge of Jehovah's deliverance.—Thomas Sullivan. The Bible Students moved forward with renewed zeal. But the opposition didn't end there. In this gallery, you will see how our brothers and sisters have stood firm for their faith. In Russia, a father imprisoned for ten years encouraged his young daughters with hand-drawn postcards. In Greece, a son used the same blanket in prison that his father used when imprisoned before him. It was an encouraging reminder of his father's integrity. In Korea, Witnesses were locked in tiny cells for up to 30 days at a time. When you stand in the lighted outline, you get a sense of what it was

like. All of these brothers and sisters looked beyond the prison bars to their firm hope for the future. As light from God's Word increased, the Bible Students humbly let go of cherished but unscriptural traditions. Songs used in worship were examined in the light of what the Bible taught. The people for Jehovah's name were becoming even more evident. So in 1931, they were thrilled to take on their new name—Jehovah's Witnesses. Then in 1935, Brother Rutherford identified the great multitude of other sheep, who served alongside the anointed. At the climax of his talk, he asked: Will all those who have the hope of living forever on the earth please stand? With this new understanding, they saw the true scope of Jesus' commission to make disciples. New and innovative methods were needed. Our third gallery shows the preaching methods used in the 1930's and 1940's. Radio was a powerful way to spread the Kingdom message to large audiences. They also used large phonographs, called portable transcription machines, with loudspeakers mounted on sound cars. Brothers played recorded talks wherever people gathered. Lighter phonographs were also designed and produced so publishers could take the recorded message directly to people at home. These methods helped bring unity to the message, but the time had come to train each one of Jehovah's people to be an effective Witness.

Schools were started. The Course in Theocratic Ministry trained publishers in the congregation. And the Bible School of Gilead began training missionaries for global expansion. We had entered into a new era of divine education. And we were about to receive an amazing tool. In 1950, we received the New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures. And by 1961, the complete Bible was released. Since then, we've seen our tools continue to improve with the wise use of modern technology. From high-speed printing to the Internet and video, these methods help us to stay unified, to reach millions with the good news, and to glorify God. Yes, this museum's story is about people, but not just any people. We are "a people for Jehovah's name." Only one question remains: What will you contribute to this wonderful story?

videos source: [https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODOrgBethel/pub-wmt\\_2\\_VIDEO](https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODOrgBethel/pub-wmt_2_VIDEO)

# JESUS IS TAKEN TO ANNAS, THEN TO CAIAPHAS

MATTHEW 26:57-68    MARK 14:53-65  
LUKE 22:54, 63-65    JOHN 18:13, 14, 19-24

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- JESUS IS TAKEN TO FORMER HIGH PRIEST ANNAS
  - AN ILLEGAL TRIAL BY THE SANHEDRIN
- 

Once Jesus is bound like a common criminal, he is led to Annas, who was the high priest when young Jesus amazed the teachers at the temple. (Luke 2: 42, 47) Some of Annas' sons later served as high priest, and now his son-in-law Caiaphas holds that position.

While Jesus is at the home of Annas, Caiaphas has time to assemble the Sanhedrin. That court of 71 members includes the high priest and others who had held that office.

Annas questions Jesus “about his disciples and about his teaching.” Jesus replies simply: “I have spoken to the world publicly. I always taught in a synagogue and in the temple, where all the Jews

come together, and I said nothing in secret. Why do you question me? Question those who have heard what I told them.”—John 18:19-21.

An officer standing there slaps Jesus in the face and says reprovingly: “Is that the way you answer the chief priest?” But Jesus, knowing that he has done no wrong, responds: “If I said something wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said was right, why do you hit me?” (John 18:22, 23) Annas then has Jesus taken away to his son-in-law Caiaphas.

By now those composing the whole Sanhedrin—the current high priest, the elders of the people, and the scribes—have assembled. They meet at the home of Caiaphas. It is illegal to hold such a trial on the night of Passover, but this does not deter them from pursuing their wicked purpose.

This is hardly an unbiased group. After Jesus resurrected Lazarus, the Sanhedrin decided that Jesus should die. (John 11:47-53) And just days ago the religious authorities conspired to seize Jesus and kill him. (Matthew 26:3, 4) Yes, even before his trial begins, Jesus is as good as condemned to death!

In addition to meeting illegally, the chief priests and others of the Sanhedrin are attempting to find witnesses who will give false evidence to build the case against Jesus. They find many, but these cannot agree as to their testimony. Finally, two come forward and claim: “We heard him say, ‘I will throw down this temple that was made with hands, and in three days I will build another not made with hands.’” (Mark 14:58) Yet even these men do not fully agree.

Caiaphas asks Jesus: “Do you say nothing in reply? What is it these men are testifying against you?” (Mark 14:60) Jesus remains silent in the face of this false charge made by witnesses whose stories disagree. So High Priest Caiaphas switches to a different tactic.

Caiaphas knows that the Jews are sensitive about anyone claiming to be the Son of God. Earlier, when Jesus had called God his Father, the Jews wanted to kill him because they claimed that he was “making himself equal to God.” (John 5:17, 18; 10:31-39) Aware of such sentiments, Caiaphas now



craftily demands of Jesus: “I put you under oath by the living God to tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God!” (Matthew 26:63) Of course, Jesus has acknowledged being the Son of God. (John 3:18; 5:25; 11:4) If he does not do so now, that could be construed as denying that he is God’s Son and the Christ. So Jesus says: “I am; and you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”—Mark 14:62.

At this, Caiaphas with great drama rips his garments and exclaims: “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? See! Now you have heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?” The Sanhedrin hand down the unjust judgment: “He deserves to die.”—Matthew 26:65, 66.

Then they begin to mock Jesus and hit him with their fists. Others slap his face and spit into it. After they cover his whole face and slap him, they say sarcastically: “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” (Luke 22:64) Here is the Son of God being treated abusively at an illegal nighttime trial!



- ◇ Where is Jesus led first, and what happens to him there?
- ◇ Where is Jesus next taken, and how is Caiaphas able to get the Sanhedrin to proclaim that Jesus deserves to die?
- ◇ What abusive behavior occurs during the trial?

# *We Will Keep Enduring*

(Matthew 24:13)

## 1. How can we endure

When trials come, as Jesus said?  
Through his pain he saw  
The joy of better things ahead.  
God's promise, God's justice,  
Were thoughts on which he fed.

*(CHORUS)*

*We need to have endurance.  
Our faith we must defend.  
His love is our assurance.  
So we will keep enduring to the end.*

## 2. Though the passing years

May bring us sorrow, bring us pain;  
There beyond the tears,  
We see the life that we can gain.  
To be there, feel free there,  
Determined we remain.

*(Chorus)*

## 3. We will not give up

Nor see the need for doubt or fear.  
Faithfully we'll serve  
Until Jehovah's day is here.  
Let's keep on enduring.  
That time is very near.

*(Chorus)*

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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# 45      *The Meditation of My Heart*

(Psalm 19:14)

1. The meditation of my heart,  
    The thoughts I ponder through the day—  
    May they be pleasing to you, Lord,  
    And keep me steadfast in your way.  
When worries weigh upon my mind  
    And make me restless in the night,  
Then may I meditate on you  
    And things I know to be upright.
2. Whatever things are chaste and true,  
    Whatever virtue there may be,  
Whatever things well-spoken-of—  
    May thoughts of these bring peace to me.  
How precious are your thoughts, O God!  
    Beyond all counting is their sum.  
So may I ponder your own words,  
    Absorbed in them may I become.

# Show Your Appreciation for Unseen Treasures

*“Keep [your] eyes . . . on the things unseen. For the things seen are temporary, but the things unseen are everlasting.”*

—2 COR. 4:18.

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## SONG 45

The Meditation of My Heart

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## PREVIEW

In the preceding article, we considered several treasures from God that can be seen. This article will focus on treasures that we cannot see and how we can show our appreciation for them. It will also deepen our appreciation for the Source of such treasures, Jehovah God.

NOT all treasures can be seen. In fact, the greatest treasures are unseen. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus mentioned heavenly treasures that are vastly superior to material possessions. Then he added this truth: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt. 6:19-21) Our heart will move us to pursue the things we treasure, or value highly. We store up “treasures in heaven” by gaining a good name, or standing, with God. Such treasures, Jesus explained, can never be destroyed or stolen.

<sup>2</sup> The apostle Paul urges us to “keep our eyes . . . on the things unseen.” (Read **2 Corinthians 4:17, 18.**) These unseen things are treasures that include the blessings we will enjoy in God’s new world. In this article, we will examine four unseen treasures that we can benefit from right now—friendship with God, the gift of prayer, the help of God’s holy spirit, and heavenly support we have in our ministry. We will also consider how we can show that we appreciate these unseen treasures.

- 
1. What did Jesus say about heavenly treasures?
  2. (a) According to 2 Corinthians 4:17, 18, what does Paul urge us to focus on? (b) What will we discuss in this article?

## FRIENDSHIP WITH JEHOVAH

<sup>3</sup> The greatest unseen treasure is *friendship with Jehovah God*. (Ps. 25:14) How is it possible for God to make friends with sinful humans and remain completely holy? He can do so because the ransom sacrifice of Jesus “takes away the sin of the world” of mankind. (John 1:29) Jehovah knew in advance that his purpose to provide a Savior for mankind would not fail. That is why God could befriend humans who lived before Christ died.—Rom. 3:25.

<sup>4</sup> Consider some pre-Christian men who became friends of God. *Abraham* was a man who showed outstanding faith. Over 1,000 years after Abraham’s death, Jehovah called him “my friend.” (Isa. 41:8) So not even death can separate Jehovah from his close friends. Abraham is alive in Jehovah’s memory. (Luke 20:37, 38) Another example is *Job*. Before an assembly of the angels in heaven, Jehovah spoke confidently about Job. Jehovah called him “an upright

- 
3. What is the greatest unseen treasure, and how is it possible?
  4. Give some examples of pre-Christian men who became friends of God.



man of integrity, fearing God and shunning what is bad.” (Job 1:6-8) And how did Jehovah feel about *Daniel*, who served God faithfully in a pagan land for about 80 years? Three times angels assured that aged man that he was “very precious” to God. (Dan. 9:23; 10:11, 19) We can be certain that Jehovah longs for the day when he will resurrect his beloved friends who have died. —Job 14:15.

<sup>5</sup> How many imperfect humans today enjoy a close friendship with Jehovah? There are millions. We know this because so many men, women, and children earth wide are proving by their conduct that they want to be God’s friends. Jehovah’s “close friendship is with the upright.” (Prov. 3:32) This friendship is possible because of their faith in Jesus’ ransom sacrifice. On that basis, Jehovah kindly allows us to dedicate ourselves to him and get baptized. When we take these important steps, we join the millions of dedicated, baptized Christians who are enjoying “close friendship” with the greatest Person in the universe!

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5. What is required to enjoy close friendship with Jehovah?

<sup>6</sup> How can we show that we treasure God's friendship? Like Abraham and Job, who remained faithful to God for well over a hundred years, we must remain faithful—no matter how long we have been serving Jehovah in this old system. Like Daniel, we must value our friendship with God more than life. (Dan. 6:7, 10, 16, 22) With Jehovah's help, we can endure any trials we face and thus keep our close bond with him.—Phil. 4:13.

## THE GIFT OF PRAYER

<sup>7</sup> Another unseen treasure is prayer. Close friends enjoy sharing thoughts and feelings with each other. Is that true of our friendship with Jehovah? Yes! Jehovah speaks to us through his Word, and in it he reveals to us his thoughts and feelings. We communicate with him in prayer, and we can share with him our deepest thoughts and innermost feelings. Jehovah finds pleasure in listening to our prayers. (Read Proverbs 15:8.) As a loving Friend, Jehovah not only listens to

- 
6. How can we show our appreciation for God's friendship?
7. (a) According to Proverbs 15:8, how does Jehovah feel about our prayers? (b) How does Jehovah answer our prayers?

our prayers but also answers them. Sometimes the answer comes quickly. At other times we may have to keep praying about a matter. Still, we can be confident that the answer will come at the right time and in the best way. Of course, God’s answer may be different from what we expect. For example, rather than remove a trial, he might give us the wisdom and strength “to endure it.” —1 Cor. 10:13.

<sup>8</sup> How can we show our appreciation for this priceless gift of prayer? One way is by heeding the divine counsel to “pray constantly.” (1 Thess. 5:17) Jehovah does not force us to pray. Instead, he respects our free will and urges us to “persevere in prayer.” (Rom. 12:12) So we can show our appreciation by praying often throughout each day. Of course, we should include in our prayers expressions of thanks and praise to Jehovah. —Ps. 145:2, 3.

<sup>9</sup> The longer we serve Jehovah and experience the ways he answers our requests, the deeper

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8. How can we show our appreciation for the gift of prayer?

9. How does one brother feel about prayer, and how do you feel about it?

our appreciation for prayer should become. Take, for example, Chris, a brother who has been in full-time service for the past 47 years. “How pleasurable it is to have a time slot early in the morning to linger in prayer to Jehovah,” he says. “What a refreshing experience it is to talk to Jehovah as the first rays of the sun cause the dewdrops to sparkle! This moves me to thank him for all his gifts, including the privilege of prayer. Then after praying at the end of the day, what a pleasure it is to go to sleep with a clean conscience.”

## THE GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT

<sup>10</sup> God’s active force is another unseen gift we should treasure. Jesus urged us to keep praying for holy spirit. (Luke 11:9, 13) By means of his spirit, Jehovah gives us power—even “power beyond what is normal.” (2 Cor. 4:7; Acts 1:8) With the help of God’s spirit, we can endure any trial we may be facing.

<sup>11</sup> Holy spirit can help us handle our assign-

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10. Why should we treasure God’s holy spirit?

11. In what way can holy spirit help us?

ments in God's service. God's spirit can enhance our talents and abilities. It enables us to carry out our Christian responsibilities. We can honestly attribute the good results of our efforts, not to ourselves, but to the help of God's spirit.

<sup>12</sup> Another way to show that we value God's holy spirit is by praying that it will help us detect any wrong thoughts or desires in our heart. (Read Psalm 139:23, 24.) If we make such a request, Jehovah, through his spirit, can make us aware of wrong thinking or inclinations. And if we become aware of a wrong thought or desire, we should pray for God's spirit to give us the strength to resist such a thought or desire. Thus we will show that we are determined to avoid doing anything that would cause Jehovah to stop helping us with his holy spirit.—Eph. 4:30.

<sup>13</sup> We can deepen our appreciation for holy spirit by reflecting on what that spirit has accomplished in our day. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he told his disciples: "You will receive

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12. According to Psalm 139:23, 24, we can pray for holy spirit to help us do what?

13. How can we deepen our appreciation for holy spirit?



power when the holy spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses of me . . . to the most distant part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) These words are being fulfilled in a wonderful way. With the backing of holy spirit, some eight and a half million worshippers of Jehovah have been gathered from every corner of the earth. Also, we enjoy a spiritual paradise because God’s spirit helps us to cultivate beautiful qualities, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, mildness, and self-control. These qualities make up “the fruitage of the spirit.” (Gal. 5:22, 23) What a precious gift holy spirit is!



What are some ways in which we can show our appreciation for unseen treasures?  
(See paragraphs 5, 8, 11, 18)

## HEAVENLY SUPPORT IN OUR MINISTRY

**<sup>14</sup> We have the unseen treasure of “working together” with Jehovah and the heavenly part of his organization. (2 Cor. 6:1) We do so whenever we share in the disciple-making work. Paul said of himself and those who share in this work: “We are God’s fellow workers.” (1 Cor. 3:9) When we participate in the Christian ministry, we are also Jesus’ fellow workers. Recall that after commanding his followers to “make disciples of people of all**

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**14.** What unseen support do we have when we share in the ministry?

the nations,” Jesus said: “I am with you.” (Matt. 28:19, 20) And what about the angels? What a blessing it is to be directed by angels as we declare “everlasting good news . . . to those who dwell on the earth”—Rev. 14:6.

<sup>15</sup> With such heavenly support, what is being accomplished? As we sow the Kingdom message, some seeds fall on receptive hearts and grow. (Matt. 13:18, 23) Who causes those seeds of truth to grow and become fruitful? Jesus explains that no man can become his follower unless “the Father . . . draws him.” (John 6:44) The Bible gives a specific example of this. Recall the occasion when Paul witnessed to a group of women outside the city of Philippi. Note what the Bible says about one of them, a woman named Lydia: “Jehovah opened her heart wide to pay attention to the things Paul was saying.” (Acts 16:13-15) Like Lydia, millions of others have been drawn by Jehovah.

<sup>16</sup> Who really is responsible for any success we

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15. Relate a Bible example that shows the important part Jehovah plays in our ministry.

16. Who should get the credit for any success we experience in the ministry?



have in the ministry? Paul answered that question when he wrote these words about the Corinthian congregation: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God kept making it grow, so that neither is the one who plants anything nor is the one who waters, but God who makes it grow.” (1 Cor. 3:6, 7) Like Paul, we should always give credit to Jehovah for any success enjoyed in the ministry.

<sup>17</sup> How can we show our appreciation for the privilege of “working together” with God, Christ, and the angels? We can do so by zealously seeking opportunities to share the good news with others. There are numerous ways to do this, such as by witnessing “publicly and from house to house.” (Acts 20:20) Many also enjoy informal witnessing. When they meet a stranger, they greet him in a friendly manner and try to start a conversation. If the person responds favorably, they tactfully introduce the Kingdom message.

<sup>18</sup> As “God’s fellow workers,” we must not only plant seeds of truth but also water them. When

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17. How can we show our appreciation for “working together” with God, Christ, and the angels?

18-19. (a) How do we water seeds of truth? (b) Relate an experience that shows how Jehovah helped one Bible student.

an individual shows interest, we want to do our best to follow up on it or to arrange for someone else to contact that person with a view to starting a Bible study. As the study progresses, we rejoice when we see how Jehovah works on the heart and mind of a potential disciple.

<sup>19</sup> Consider the example of Raphalalani, a traditional healer in South Africa. He loved what he learned from his Bible study. But he faced a big challenge when he read what God’s Word says about communicating with dead ancestors. (Deut. 18:10-12) Gradually, he allowed God to mold his thinking. And in time, he quit his practice as a witch doctor, though this meant the loss of his livelihood. Raphalalani, who is now 60 years old, says: “I am very thankful to Jehovah’s Witnesses for assisting me in so many ways, such as helping me to find employment. Most of all, I am thankful to Jehovah for helping me to clean up my life, so that now I can share in the ministry as one of his baptized Witnesses.”

<sup>20</sup> In this article, we have considered four unseen treasures. The greatest one of all is the priv-

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20. What are you determined to do?

ilege of having Jehovah as our closest Friend. That enables us to benefit from the other unseen treasures—approaching him in prayer, experiencing the help of his holy spirit, and receiving heavenly support in our ministry. May we be determined to deepen our appreciation for these unseen treasures. And may we never stop thanking Jehovah for being such a wonderful Friend.

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Pages 58-59:** (1) While enjoying Jehovah’s creation, a sister meditates on her friendship with Jehovah. (2) The same sister asks Jehovah for strength to give a witness. (3) Holy spirit helps the sister to have the courage to share the Kingdom message informally. (4) The sister conducts a Bible study with the person to whom she witnessed informally. The sister carries out the preaching and disciple-making work with the support of the angels.

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### **HOW CAN WE SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING UNSEEN TREASURES?**

- The privilege of prayer
- The help of God’s holy spirit
- Heavenly support in our ministry

# 145      *God's Promise of Paradise*

(Luke 23:43)

1. A paradise our God has promised,  
    By means of Christ's Millennial Reign,  
When he'll blot out all sin and error,  
    Removing death and tears and pain.

*(CHORUS)*

*A paradise, the earth will be.  
With eyes of faith, this we can see.  
This promise Christ will soon fulfill,  
For he delights to do God's will.*

2. Soon here on earth, as God has purposed,  
    His Son will cause the dead to rise.  
Then it will be as Jesus promised:  
    'You'll be with me in Paradise.'

*(Chorus)*

3. The Paradise, our Lord has promised,  
    And he is now our reigning King.  
We daily thank our loving Father,  
    And from our hearts, his praises sing.

*(Chorus)*