

- Song 32 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“A Contribution to Jehovah”:** (10 min.)
Ex 30:11, 12—Jehovah told Moses to take a census (*it-2* 764-765)
Ex 30:13-15—Everyone who was registered gave a contribution to Jehovah (*it-1* 502)
Ex 30:16—The contribution was used “in behalf of the service of the tent of meeting” (*w11* 11/1 12 ¶1-2)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ex 29:10—What is the significance of the expression “lay their hands on the bull’s head”? (*it-1* 1029 ¶4)

Ex 30:31-33—Why was it a capital offense to make holy anointing oil and to put it on an unauthorized person? (*it-1* 114 ¶1)

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

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ex 29:31-46 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation, and demonstrate witnessing through a camera or an intercom. (If your territory has no cameras or intercoms, demonstrate witnessing to a householder behind a closed door.) (2)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *bhs* 113 ¶18 (13)
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) *km* 1/11 4 ¶5-7; 6, box —Theme: Some Ideas for Family Worship. (20)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 84
- **“Can You Contribute Your Time and Energy?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *A New Construction Project Is Being Planned* —Excerpt.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min. or less) *ky* chap. 134
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 137 and Prayer

EXODUS 29-30 | A Contribution to Jehovah



30:11-16

When the tabernacle was constructed, individuals had the privilege of contributing financially to support Jehovah’s worship, regardless of whether they were rich or poor. How can we make a contribution to Jehovah today? One way is by financially supporting Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, remote translation offices, and Bethel complexes, as well as other buildings that are dedicated to the worship of Jehovah.

What do we learn from the following scriptures about making financial contributions to support true worship?

- 1Ch 29:5
- Mr 12:43, 44
- 1Co 16:2

Take Sides With Jehovah!

(Exodus 32:26)

B \flat B \flat B \flat

Once with con - fu - sion our sad hearts were filled,
 Shoul - der to shoul - der we stand on God's side,
 We will not fear what the Dev - il can do.

F7 F $^{\circ}$ 7 F7 Cm7 Dm/F F7 B \flat

Drink - ing the cup false re - li - gion dis - tilled;
 Preach - ing the news of his King - dom earth wide.
 Trust - ing Je - ho - vah will car - ry us through.

C \sharp $^{\circ}$ B \flat /D D \flat 7

But with what hap - pi - ness our hearts were thrilled
 Now is the time for each one to de - cide,
 Though they are man - y and though we are few,

F/C C7 F \sharp $^{\circ}$ Gm7 Am/C C7 F B \flat /F F7

When of God's King - dom we heard.
 Time to take sides with our God.
 God is our strength and our might.

Take Sides With Jehovah!

Chorus

B \flat B \flat /D C \sharp Cm7 F F7/C F7 E \flat /F F/E \flat

Take sides with Je - ho - vah; Make him your de -

B \flat 6/D F9/C B \flat 6 D7/A Gm B \flat /C C7

light. He'll nev - er for - sake you;

Gm E \flat 7/G C7 Am/C C7 F B \flat /F F7 B \flat B \flat /D C \sharp

Walk on in his light. Tell, tell the glad

Cm7 F Cm/E \flat D7 E \flat 6 E $^{\circ}$

tid - ings Of free - dom and peace. His rule by Christ

B \flat /F B $^{\circ}$ Cm7 F B \flat /D E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 B \flat

Je - sus Will ev - er in - crease.

(See also Ps. 94:14; Prov. 3:5, 6; Heb. 13:5.)

the two shoulder pieces, close to where it is joined, above the woven belt* of the eph'od.^a **28** The breastpiece should be held in place by a blue cord, tying its rings to the rings of the eph'od. This will keep the breastpiece in place on the eph'od, above the woven belt.*

29 "Aaron must carry the names of the sons of Israel on the breastpiece of judgment over his heart when he comes into the Holy as a constant memorial before Jehovah. **30** You will put the U'rim and the Thum'mim^b into the breastpiece of judgment, and they must be over Aaron's heart when he comes in before Jehovah, and Aaron must carry the means for making judgments of the Israelites over his heart before Jehovah constantly.

31 "You are to make the sleeveless coat of the eph'od entirely of blue thread.^c **32** There will be an opening at the top* in the middle of it. Its opening should have a border woven all around it by a loom worker. It should be like the opening of a coat of mail, so that it will not be torn. **33** You should make pomegranates of blue thread, purple wool, and scarlet material all around its hem, along with bells of gold in between them. **34** You should alternate a bell of gold and a pomegranate, all around the hem of the sleeveless coat. **35** It must be worn by Aaron so that he may minister, and the sound from it must be heard when he goes into the sanctuary before Jehovah and when he comes out, so that he will not die.^d

36 "You are to make a shining plate of pure gold and engrave on it as one would en-

CHAP. 28

a Ex 28:8
Le 8:7

b Le 8:8
Nu 27:21
De 33:8
1Sa 28:6
Ezr 2:62, 63

c Ex 39:22-26
Le 8:7

d Le 16:2
Nu 18:7

Second Col.

a Ex 39:30, 31
Le 8:9
1Ch 16:29
Ps 93:5
1Pe 1:16

b Ex 29:6

c Le 22:9
Nu 18:1

d Ex 28:4
Ex 39:27-29

e Le 8:13

f Ex 28:2

g Ex 29:4, 7
Ex 30:30
Ac 10:38
2Co 1:21

h Ex 29:8, 9
Le 8:33
Nu 3:2, 3

i Le 6:10

CHAP. 29

j Le 8:2
De 17:1

k Le 6:20

l Le 8:26

grave a seal: 'Holiness belongs to Jehovah.'^a **37** You must fasten it to the turban^b with a blue cord; it is to remain on the front of the turban. **38** It will be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron will bear responsibility when someone commits an error against the holy things,^c which the Israelites sanctify when they offer them as holy gifts. It must always remain on his forehead, so that they may gain approval before Jehovah.

39 "You are to weave the checkered robe of fine linen, make a turban of fine linen, and make a woven sash.^d

40 "You will also make robes, sashes, and headgear for Aaron's sons,^e for glory and beauty.^f **41** You will clothe your brother Aaron and his sons with him, and you are to anoint them^g and install them^h and sanctify them, and they will serve as priests to me. **42** Also make linen shorts* for them to cover their naked flesh.ⁱ These are to extend from the hips to the thighs. **43** These must be worn by Aaron and his sons when they come into the tent of meeting or when they approach the altar to minister in the holy place, so that they may not incur guilt and die. It is a permanent statute for him and his offspring* after him.

29 "This is what you are to do to sanctify them to serve as priests to me: Take a young bull, two unblemished rams,^j 2 unleavened bread, unleavened ring-shaped loaves mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil.^k You are to make them with fine wheat flour **3** and put them in a basket and present them in the basket,^l along with the bull and the two rams.

28:41 *Lit., "and fill their hand." **28:42** *Or "undergarments." **28:43** *Lit., "seed."

28:27, 28 *Or "waistband." **28:30** *See Glossary. **28:32** *Or "for the head."

4 "You will present Aaron and his sons at the entrance of the tent of meeting^a and wash them with water.^b 5 Then you are to take the garments^c and clothe Aaron with the robe, the sleeveless coat of the eph'od, the eph'od, and the breastpiece, and you are to tie the woven belt* of the eph'od securely around his waist.^d 6 You will put the turban on his head and put the holy sign of dedication* on the turban;^e 7 and take the anointing oil^f and pour it on his head and anoint him.^g

8 "Then bring his sons forward and clothe them with the robes^h 9 and wrap the sashes around them, Aaron as well as his sons, and put on their headgear; and the priesthood will become theirs as a permanent statute.ⁱ This is how you should install Aaron and his sons to serve as priests.^j

10 "You are now to present the bull before the tent of meeting, and Aaron and his sons will lay their hands on the bull's head.^k 11 Slaughter the bull before Jehovah, at the entrance of the tent of meeting.^l 12 Take some of the bull's blood on your finger and put it on the horns of the altar,^m and pour out all the rest of the blood at the base of the altar.ⁿ 13 Then take all the fat^o that covers the intestines, the appendage on the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, and burn them so that they smoke on the altar.^p 14 But the bull's flesh and its skin and its dung, you will burn with fire outside the camp. It is a sin offering.

15 "Then take the one ram, and Aaron and his sons are to lay their hands on the ram's

CHAP. 29

a Ex 26:36
Ex 40:28
Le 8:2, 3

b Le 8:6
Heb 10:22

c Ex 28:4
Le 8:7
Le 16:4

d Ex 28:8

e Ex 28:36
Ex 39:30
Le 8:9

f Ex 30:23-25

g Le 8:12
Ps 133:2
Isa 61:1
Ac 10:38

h Ex 28:40
Le 8:13

i Ex 28:1-3
Ex 28:40, 43
Ex 40:15

j Ex 28:41

k Le 8:14-17

l Le 4:3

m Ex 27:2

n Le 4:7

o Le 3:17

p Le 4:8-10

Second Col.

a Le 1:4
Le 8:18-21

b Heb 9:22

c Le 1:13

d Ge 8:21

e Le 8:22-24

f Ex 30:23-25

g Le 8:30

h Le 3:9, 10

i Le 8:22
Le 8:25-28

head.^a 16 Slaughter the ram and take its blood and sprinkle it on all sides of the altar.^b 17 Cut the ram into its pieces, and wash its intestines^c and its shanks, and arrange the pieces together with its head. 18 You must burn the entire ram, making it smoke on the altar. It is a burnt offering to Jehovah, a pleasing* aroma.^d It is an offering made by fire to Jehovah.

19 "Next you are to take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons are to lay their hands on the ram's head.^e 20 Slaughter the ram and take some of its blood and put it on Aaron's right earlobe and on his sons' right earlobe and on the thumb of their right hand and the big toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood on all sides of the altar. 21 Then take some of the blood that is on the altar and some of the anointing oil^f and spatter it on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and his sons' garments, so that he and his garments and his sons and their garments may be holy.^g

22 "Then take from the ram the fat, the fat tail, the fat that covers the intestines, the appendage of the liver, the two kidneys and the fat that is on them,^h and the right leg, for it is a ram of installation.ⁱ 23 Take also a round loaf of bread and a ring-shaped loaf of oiled bread and a wafer out of the basket of unleavened bread that is before Jehovah. 24 You must place them all in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons, and you are to wave them back and forth as a wave offering before Jehovah. 25 Then you will take them out of their hands and burn them on the altar, on top of the burnt offering, as a pleas-

29:18 *Or "appeasing; soothing." Lit., "restful."

29:5 *Or "waistband." 29:6 *Or "the holy diadem." 29:9 *Lit., "fill the hand of Aaron and the hand of his sons."

ing[#] aroma before Jehovah. It is an offering made by fire to Jehovah.

26 "Then take the breast of the ram of installation,^a which is offered in behalf of Aaron, and wave it back and forth as a wave offering before Jehovah, and it will become your portion. **27** You are to sanctify the breast of the wave offering and the leg of the sacred portion that was waved and that was taken from the ram of installation,^b from what was offered for Aaron and for his sons. **28** It is to become Aaron's and his sons' by a permanent regulation to be carried out by the Israelites, for it is a sacred portion, and it will become a sacred portion to be given by the Israelites.^c It is their sacred portion for Jehovah from their communion sacrifices.^d

29 "The holy garments^e that belong to Aaron will be used by his sons^f after him when they are anointed and installed as priests. **30** The priest from among his sons who succeeds him and who comes into the tent of meeting to minister in the holy place will wear them for seven days.^g

31 "You will take the ram of installation and boil its flesh in a holy place.^h **32** Aaron and his sons will eatⁱ the flesh of the ram and the bread that is in the basket at the entrance of the tent of meeting. **33** They are to eat the things with which atonement was made to install them as priests* and to sanctify them. But an unauthorized person[#] may not eat them, for they are something holy.^j **34** If any of the flesh of the installation sacrifice and of the bread is left over until the morning, then you must

29:25, 41 *Or "appeasing; soothing." Lit., "restful." **29:33, 35** *Lit., "to fill their hand." **29:33** #Lit., "a stranger," that is, a man not of Aaron's family.

CHAP. 29

a Le 8:29
Ps 99:6

b Ex 29:22

c Le 7:34
Le 10:14

d Le 7:11, 14

e Ex 28:4

f Nu 20:26

g Le 8:35

h Le 8:31

i 1Co 9:13

j Le 22:10
Nu 3:10

Second Col.

a Le 8:32

b Le 8:4, 33

c Ex 30:26, 28
Le 8:11
Nu 7:1

d Ex 40:10

e 2Ch 2:4
Heb 7:27
Heb 10:11

f Nu 28:4-6

g Ex 25:22
Le 1:1
Nu 17:4

h Ex 40:34

Nu 12:5
1Kl 8:11

i Le 22:9

burn what is left with fire.^a It must not be eaten, for it is something holy.

35 "You are to do this way to Aaron and his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. You will take seven days to install them as priests.^{*b} **36** You will offer the bull of the sin offering daily for an atonement, and you are to purify the altar from sin by making atonement for it, and you must anoint it to sanctify it.^c **37** You will take seven days to make atonement for the altar, and you must sanctify it so that it may become a most holy altar.^d Anyone who touches the altar is to be holy.

38 "This is what you will offer on the altar: two one-year-old rams each day, continually.^e

39 Offer the one young ram in the morning and the other ram at twilight.^{*f} **40** A tenth part of an e'phah measure* of fine flour mixed with a fourth of a hin[#] of beaten oil, and a drink offering of a fourth of a hin of wine, will go for the first young ram. **41** You will offer the second young ram at twilight,* along with the same grain and drink offerings as in the morning. You will render it as a pleasing[#] aroma, an offering made by fire to Jehovah. **42** It is to be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before Jehovah, where I will present myself to you to speak to you there.^g

43 "I will present myself there to the Israelites, and it will be sanctified by my glory.^h

44 I will sanctify the tent of meeting and the altar, and I will sanctify Aaron and his sonsⁱ so

29:39, 41 *Lit., "between the two evenings." **29:40** *An ephah equaled 22 L (20 dry qt). See App. B14. #A hin equaled 3.67 L (7.75 pt). See App. B14.

that they may serve as priests to me. **45** I will reside* among the people of Israel, and I will be their God.^a **46** And they will certainly know that I am Jehovah their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt so that I may reside among them.^b I am Jehovah their God.

30 "You are to make an altar as a place for burning incense;^c you will make it of acacia wood.^d **2** It should be square, one cubit* long, one cubit wide, and two cubits high. Its horns will be one piece with it.^e **3** You are to overlay it with pure gold: its top surface, its sides all around, and its horns; and you are to make a gold border* around it. **4** You will also make two rings of gold for it below its border* on two opposite sides, and these will hold the poles used to carry it. **5** Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. **6** You are to put it before the curtain that is near the ark of the Testimony,^f before the cover that is over the Testimony, where I will present myself to you.^g

7 "Aaron^h will burn perfumed incenseⁱ on it,^j making it smoke on the altar when he maintains the lamps^k each morning. **8** Also, when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight,* he will burn the incense. It is a regular incense offering before Jehovah throughout your generations. **9** You must not offer on it unauthorized incense^l or a burnt offering or a grain offering, and you must not pour a drink offering on it. **10** Aaron must make atonement on its horns once a year.^m With some of the blood of the sin offering of the atonement,ⁿ he will make atonement

29:45 *Or "tabernacle." **30:2** *About 44.5 cm (17.5 in.). See App. B14. **30:3, 4** *Or "molding." **30:8** *Lit., "between the two evenings."

CHAP. 29

a Ex 25:8
Le 26:12
Zec 2:11
2Co 6:16

b Ex 20:2

CHAP. 30

c Ex 40:5

d Ex 37:25-28

e Ex 27:1, 2
Le 4:7

f Ex 26:33
Heb 9:3

g Ex 25:22

h 1Ch 23:13

i Ex 30:34, 35

j Nu 16:39, 40
1Sa 2:27, 28
Lu 1:9

k Ex 27:20

l Le 10:1
2Ch 26:18
Eze 8:11, 12

m Le 23:27
Heb 9:7

n Le 16:5, 6
Le 16:18, 19

Second Col.

a Ex 38:25
Nu 1:2
2Sa 24:10, 15

b Le 27:25

c 2Ch 24:9
Mt 17:24

d Ex 38:26
Nu 1:3
Nu 26:1, 2

e Ex 38:8
Le 8:11
1Ki 7:38

f Ex 40:7

g Ex 40:30, 31
Heb 10:22

for it once a year throughout your generations. It is most holy to Jehovah."

11 Then Jehovah said to Moses: **12** "Whenever you take a census and count the sons of Israel,^a each one must give a ransom for his life* to Jehovah at the time of the census. This is so that no plague may be brought upon them when they are registered. **13** This is what all those who are registered will give: a half shekel* by the standard shekel of the holy place.^{#b} Twenty ge'rahs^a equal a shekel. A half shekel is the contribution to Jehovah.^c **14** Everyone registered who is 20 years old and up will give Jehovah's contribution.^d **15** The rich should not give more and the poor should not give less than the half shekel* as a contribution to Jehovah to make atonement for your lives.[#] **16** You are to take the silver money of the atonement from the Israelites and give it in behalf of the service of the tent of meeting, that it may serve as a remembrance before Jehovah for the Israelites, to make atonement for your lives."[#]

17 Jehovah spoke further to Moses, saying: **18** "Make a copper basin and its stand for washing;^e then place it between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water into it.^f **19** Aaron and his sons will wash their hands and their feet there.^g **20** When they go into the tent of meeting or when they approach the altar to minister and to make offerings of fire and smoke to Jehovah, they will wash with water so that they do not die. **21** They must wash their hands

30:12 *Or "soul." **30:13, 15** *A shekel equaled 11.4 g (0.367 oz t). See App. B14. **30:13** [#]Or "by the holy shekel." ^aA gerah equaled 0.57 g (0.01835 oz t). See App. B14. **30:15, 16** [#]Or "souls."

and their feet so that they may not die, and it must serve as a permanent regulation for them, for him and his offspring, throughout their generations.”^a

22 Jehovah continued to speak to Moses: **23** “Next, take the choicest perfumes: 500 units of solidified myrrh, and half that amount, 250 units, of sweet cinnamon, 250 units of sweet calamus, **24** and 500 units of cassia, measured by the standard shekel of the holy place,^{*b} along with a hin[#] of olive oil. **25** Then make out of it a holy anointing oil; it should be skillfully blended together.^{*c} It is to be a holy anointing oil.

26 “You are to anoint the tent of meeting^d and the ark of the Testimony with it, **27** as well as the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, the altar of incense, **28** the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin and its stand. **29** You must sanctify them that they may become most holy.^e Anyone touching them is to be holy.^f **30** And you will anoint Aaron^g and his sons^h and sanctify them to serve as priests to me.ⁱ

31 “You will speak to the Israelites, saying, “This is to continue as a holy anointing oil to me during your generations.^j **32** It is not to be applied to the flesh of mankind, and you must not make anything with a composition like it. It is something holy. It is to continue as something holy for you. **33** Anyone who makes an ointment like it and who puts some of it on an unauthorized person^{*} must be cut off[#] from his people.”^k

30:24 *Or “by the holy shekel.” [#]A hin equaled 3.67 L (7.75 pt). See App. B14. **30:25, 35** *Or “like the work of an ointment maker.” **30:33** *Lit., “a stranger,” that is, a man not of Aaron’s family. **30:33, 38** [#]Or “put to death.”

CHAP. 30

a 2Ch 4:6

b Nu 3:47

c Ex 37:29

d Ex 40:9
Nu 7:1

e Le 8:10

f Ex 29:37

g Le 8:12

h Nu 3:2, 3

i Ex 40:15

j Ex 37:29
1Ki 1:39
Ps 89:20

k Ex 30:37, 38

Second Col.

a Ex 25:3, 6

b Ex 37:29
Ps 141:2
Re 5:8

c Le 2:13

d Ex 30:31, 32

CHAP. 31

e Ex 37:1

f Ex 35:30-34
1Ch 2:20

g Ex 28:9-11

h 2Ch 2:13, 14

i Ex 38:23

j Ex 36:1

k Ex 36:8

l Ex 37:1

m Ex 37:6

n Ex 37:10

o Ex 37:17, 24

p Ex 37:25

q Ex 38:1
Ex 40:6

34 Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Take equal portions of these perfumes:^a stacte drops, onycha, perfumed galbanum, and pure frankincense.

35 Make it into an incense;^b the spice mixture should be skillfully blended,^{*} salted,^c pure, and holy. **36** You are to pound some of it into fine powder and put some of it before the Testimony in the tent of meeting, where I will present myself to you. It should be most holy to you. **37** You must not make for your own use the incense that you make with this composition.^d You are to regard it as something holy to Jehovah. **38** Whoever makes any like it to enjoy its smell must be cut off[#] from his people.”

31 Jehovah continued to speak to Moses, saying: **2** “See, I have chosen^{*} Bez’alel^e the son of U’ri the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah.^f **3** I will fill him with the spirit of God, giving him wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of every kind of craftsmanship, **4** for making artistic designs, for working with gold, silver, and copper, **5** for cutting and setting stones,^g and for making every kind of wood product.^h **6** Moreover, to assist him I have appointed O-ho’li-abⁱ the son of A-his’a-mach of the tribe of Dan, and I am putting wisdom into the heart of all those who are skillful,^{*} so that they may make everything I have commanded you:^j **7** the tent of meeting,^k the ark of the Testimony^l and the cover^m that is on it, all the utensils of the tent, **8** the tableⁿ and its utensils, the lampstand of pure gold and all its utensils,^o the altar of incense,^p **9** the altar of burnt offering^q and all its

31:2 *Lit., “called by name.” **31:6** *Lit., “wise of heart.”

- Song 32 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

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Ex 30:11, 12—Jehovah told Moses to take a census (*it-2* 764-765)
Ex 30:13-15—Everyone who was registered gave a contribution to Jehovah (*it-1* 502)
Ex 30:16—The contribution was used “in behalf of the service of the tent of meeting” (*w11* 11/1 12 ¶1-2)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ex 29:10—What is the significance of the expression “lay their hands on the bull’s head”? (*it-1* 1029 ¶4)

Ex 30:31-33—Why was it a capital offense to make holy anointing oil and to put it on an unauthorized person? (*it-1* 114 ¶1)

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

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ex 29:31-46 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation, and demonstrate witnessing through a camera or an intercom. (If your territory has no cameras or intercoms, demonstrate witnessing to a householder behind a closed door.) (2)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *bhs* 113 ¶18 (13)
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) *km* 1/11 4 ¶5-7; 6, box —Theme: Some Ideas for Family Worship. (20)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 84
- **“Can You Contribute Your Time and Energy?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *A New Construction Project Is Being Planned* —Excerpt.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min. or less) *ky* chap. 134
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EXODUS 29-30 | A Contribution to Jehovah



30:11-16

When the tabernacle was constructed, individuals had the privilege of contributing financially to support Jehovah’s worship, regardless of whether they were rich or poor. How can we make a contribution to Jehovah today? One way is by financially supporting Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, remote translation offices, and Bethel complexes, as well as other buildings that are dedicated to the worship of Jehovah.

What do we learn from the following scriptures about making financial contributions to support true worship?

- 1Ch 29:5
- Mr 12:43, 44
- 1Co 16:2

September 28–October 4 / Exodus 29-30

Treasures From God's Word

"A Contribution to Jehovah": (10 minutes)

Exodus 30:11-16

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Picture: A brother putting a donation into a contribution box.

What do we learn from the following scriptures about making financial contributions to support true worship?

- 1 Chronicles 29:5

1 Chronicles 29:5: the gold for the goldwork and the silver for the silverwork, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now who volunteers to come forward today with a gift in hand for Jehovah?"

- Mark 12:43, 44

Mark 12:43, 44: So he called his disciples to him and said to them: "Truly I say to you that this poor widow put in more than all the others who put money into the treasury chests. For they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her want, put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

- 1 Corinthians 16:2

1 Corinthians 16:2: On the first day of every week, each of you should set something aside according to his own means, so that collections will not take place when I arrive.

Exodus 30:11, 12—Jehovah told Moses to take a census

Exodus 30:11, 12: Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Whenever you take a census and count the sons of Israel, each one must give a ransom for his life to Jehovah at the time of the census. This is so that no plague may be brought upon them when they are registered.

it-2 764-765

At Sinai. At Jehovah’s command the first registration took place during the encampment at Sinai in the second month of the second year following the Exodus from Egypt. To assist Moses in this undertaking, a chieftain was selected out of each tribe to take the responsibility and oversight of the registration in his tribe. Not only were all males listed who were 20 years old and upward—eligible for service in the army—but the Law also placed on the registered ones a head tax of half a shekel (1 dollar 10 cents) for the service of the tabernacle. (Exodus 30:11-16; Numbers 1:1-16, 18, 19) The total number listed amounted to 603,550, excluding the Levites, who would have no inheritance in the land. These paid no tabernacle tax and were not required to serve in the army.—Numbers 1:44-47; 2:32, 33; 18:20, 24.

Exodus 30:13-15—Everyone who was registered gave a contribution to Jehovah

Exodus 30:13-15: This is what all those who are registered will give: a half shekel by the standard shekel of the holy place. Twenty gerahs equal a shekel. A half shekel is the contribution to Jehovah. Everyone registered who is 20 years old and up will give Jehovah’s contribution. The rich should not give more and the poor should not give less than the half shekel as a contribution to Jehovah to make atonement for your lives.

it-1 502

Some contributions were required under the Law. When Moses took a census of the Israelites, each male 20 years old and upward was to give a ransom for his soul, “a half shekel [probably 1 dollar 10 cents] by the shekel of the holy place.” It was “Jehovah’s contribution” in order to make atonement for their souls and “in behalf of the service of the tent of meeting.” (Exodus 30:11-16) According to the Jewish historian Josephus (*The Jewish War*, VII, 218 [vi, 6]), this “sacred tax” was thereafter paid annually.—2 Chronicles 24:6-10; Matthew 17:24; see TAXATION.

Exodus 30:16—The contribution was used “in behalf of the service of the tent of meeting”

Exodus 30:16: You are to take the silver money of the atonement from the Israelites and give it in behalf of the service of the tent of meeting, that it may serve as a remembrance before Jehovah for the Israelites, to make atonement for your lives.”

w11 11/1 12 paragraphs 1-2

How were the services at Jehovah’s temple in Jerusalem financed?

The various temple services were maintained through taxation, mainly obligatory tithing. But other forms of taxation were also used. For example, at the time of the construction of the tabernacle, Jehovah instructed Moses to collect half a silver shekel from every registered Israelite, as a “contribution to Jehovah.”—Exodus 30:12-16.

Apparently, it became customary for each Jew to contribute this fixed amount as an annual temple tax. It was this tax that Jesus instructed Peter to pay with a coin taken from a fish’s mouth.—Matthew 17:24-27.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Exodus 29:10—What is the significance of the expression “lay their hands on the bull’s head”?

Exodus 29:10: “You are now to present the bull before the tent of meeting, and Aaron and his sons will lay their hands on the bull’s head.

it-1 1029 paragraph 4

Laying On of Hands. Aside from mere handling, *hands were laid on* a person or object for various purposes. The general meaning of the act, however, was that of a designation, a pointing out of the person or thing as being acknowledged, or recognized, in a certain way. During the ceremony at the installation of the priesthood, Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull and the two rams to be sacrificed, thereby acknowledging that these animals were being sacrificed for them for the sake of their becoming priests of Jehovah God. (Exodus 29:10, 15, 19; Leviticus 8:14, 18, 22) When appointing Joshua as his successor at God’s command, Moses laid his hand on Joshua, who consequently was “full of the spirit of wisdom” and so was able to lead Israel properly. (Deuteronomy 34:9) Hands were laid on persons when

designating them as receivers of a blessing. (Genesis 48:14; Mark 10:16) Jesus Christ touched, or laid his hands on, some persons he healed. (Matthew 8:3; Mark 6:5; Luke 13:13) The gift of the holy spirit was granted in some instances through the laying on of the hands of the apostles.—Acts 8:14-20; 19:6.

Exodus 30:31-33—Why was it a capital offense to make holy anointing oil and to put it on an unauthorized person?

Exodus 30:31-33: “You will speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘This is to continue as a holy anointing oil to me during your generations. It is not to be applied to the flesh of mankind, and you must not make anything with a composition like it. It is something holy. It is to continue as something holy for you. Anyone who makes an ointment like it and who puts some of it on an unauthorized person must be cut off from his people.’

it-1 114 paragraph 1

In the Law Jehovah gave to Moses, he prescribed a formula for the anointing oil. It was of a special composition of the choicest ingredients—myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calamus, cassia, and olive oil. (Exodus 30:22-25) It was a capital offense for anyone to compound this mixture and to use it for any common or unauthorized purpose. (Exodus 30:31-33) This figuratively demonstrated the importance and sacredness of an appointment to office that had been confirmed by anointing with sacred oil.

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

Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Exodus 29:31-46 (*th study 5*)

- Song 32 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“A Contribution to Jehovah”:** (10 min.)
Ex 30:11, 12—Jehovah told Moses to take a census (*it-2* 764-765)
Ex 30:13-15—Everyone who was registered gave a contribution to Jehovah (*it-1* 502)
Ex 30:16—The contribution was used “in behalf of the service of the tent of meeting” (*w11* 11/1 12 ¶1-2)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ex 29:10—What is the significance of the expression “lay their hands on the bull’s head”? (*it-1* 1029 ¶4)

Ex 30:31-33—Why was it a capital offense to make holy anointing oil and to put it on an unauthorized person? (*it-1* 114 ¶1)

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

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ex 29:31-46 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation, and demonstrate witnessing through a camera or an intercom. (If your territory has no cameras or intercoms, demonstrate witnessing to a householder behind a closed door.) (2)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *bhs* 113 ¶18 (13)
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) *km* 1/11 4 ¶5-7; 6, box —Theme: Some Ideas for Family Worship. (20)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 84
- **“Can You Contribute Your Time and Energy?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *A New Construction Project Is Being Planned* —Excerpt.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min. or less) *ky* chap. 134
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 137 and Prayer

EXODUS 29-30 | A Contribution to Jehovah



30:11-16

When the tabernacle was constructed, individuals had the privilege of contributing financially to support Jehovah’s worship, regardless of whether they were rich or poor. How can we make a contribution to Jehovah today? One way is by financially supporting Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, remote translation offices, and Bethel complexes, as well as other buildings that are dedicated to the worship of Jehovah.

What do we learn from the following scriptures about making financial contributions to support true worship?

- 1Ch 29:5
- Mr 12:43, 44
- 1Co 16:2



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

▲ The high priest enters the Most Holy

● INITIAL CALL

Question: How does God feel about those who sincerely seek him?

Scripture: 1Pe 5:6, 7

Link: To what extent does God pay attention to us as individuals?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



● wp20.3 16;
bhs 116 ¶4

● RETURN VISIT

Question: To what extent does God pay attention to us as individuals?

Scripture: Mt 10:29-31

Link: How do we know that God understands us?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



● wp18.3 4

on him to protect us. If we have strong confidence in Jehovah, Satan and the demons will not be able to harm us.—1 John 5:5.

17 What else did the Christians in Ephesus need to do? They lived in a city full of demonism. So Paul told them: “Carry on prayer on every occasion.” (Ephesians 6:18) They needed to ask Jehovah for his protection at all times. What about us? We also live in a world that is full of demonism. So we too need to ask Jehovah for his protection, and we need to use his name when we pray. (**Read Proverbs 18:10.**) If we keep on asking Jehovah to deliver us from Satan, Jehovah will answer our prayers.—Psalm 145:19; Matthew 6:13.

18 If we get rid of everything in our life that has to do with demonism and rely on Jehovah to protect us, we can resist Satan and the demons. We do not need to be afraid of them. (**Read James 4:7, 8.**) Jehovah is far more powerful than the demons. He punished them in Noah’s day, and in the future he will destroy them. (Jude 6) Remember, we are not alone in our fight. Jehovah is using his angels to protect us. (2 Kings 6:15-17) We can be confident that with Jehovah’s help, we can win our fight against Satan and the demons.—1 Peter 5:6, 7; 2 Peter 2:9.

19 But if Satan and the demons are causing so much suffering, why hasn’t God destroyed them yet? This question will be answered in the next chapter.

17. What else will protect us from the demons?

18, 19. (a) How can we win our fight against Satan and the demons? (b) What question will be answered in the next chapter?

schedule, we now have this evening to worship Jehovah as a family. Therefore, we need not limit our Family Worship evening to just one hour. Rather, we should think about the needs and limitations of our family and set the time period accordingly.

⁵ Must the Entire Time Be Spent in Group Discussion? When married couples and families with children discuss Scriptural topics together, they encourage one another. (Rom. 1:12) The family draws closer together. Therefore, Scriptural discussions should be the centerpiece of the Family Worship evening. However, each family member could also spend time in personal study. For example, after the group discussion, the family might remain together while each individual continues to study separately, perhaps finishing his preparation for the meetings or reading the magazines. Some families choose to keep the television off the entire evening.

⁶ How May the Discussion Be Conducted? The format need not always be a question-and-answer discussion. In order to make the Family Worship evening lively and interesting, many families have a program that is similar to our midweek meeting. They divide their discussion into several parts and handle them in a variety of ways. For example, they might read the Bible together, prepare for a portion of the meetings, and have practice sessions for the ministry. Page 6 provides some suggestions.

5. Must the entire time be spent in group discussion? Explain.

6. How may the discussion be conducted?

⁷ What Atmosphere Should Parents Strive For? Your family will learn best in a loving, relaxed atmosphere. You might sometimes study outdoors if the weather is favorable. Feel free to take breaks when needed. Some families include refreshments after the program. While parents will avoid using the Family Worship evening to scold or discipline, they may need to devote some of the time to address a specific trend or problem that has come to their attention. However, it may be best to discuss sensitive personal issues privately with a child at another time during the week so as to avoid embarrassing him in front of his siblings. The Family Worship evening should not be a dry, somber occasion but should reflect the happy God whom we worship. —1 Tim. 1:11.

⁸ How Can the Family Head Prepare? The family will benefit most if the family head prepares in advance for each Family Worship evening by determining what should be discussed and how best to consider it. (Prov. 21:5) A husband does well to consult with his wife regarding this. (Prov. 15:22) Family heads, why not also occasionally ask your children for their recommendations? If you do, you will gain valuable insight into their interests and concerns.

⁹ On most weeks the family head will not have to spend extensive time preparing. Likely, the family will enjoy having certain regular features each week, and the family head will not

7. What atmosphere should parents strive for?

8, 9. What preparation is required of family heads?

Some Ideas for the Family Worship Evening

Bible:

- Read a portion of the weekly Bible reading together. If the material lends itself to doing so, one person can read the narration, and others can read the words of the different characters.
- Reenact a portion of the Bible reading.
- Assign each member of the family to read the designated Bible chapters in advance and to make note of one or two questions that he has on the material. Then research everyone's questions together.
- Each week prepare a flash card with a Bible verse on it and try to memorize and explain it. Build up a collection of cards, and review them weekly to see how many scriptures you remember.
- Listen to an audio recording of the Bible reading while following along in the Bible.

Meetings:

- Prepare together for a portion of the meetings.
- Practice the Kingdom songs scheduled for the coming week.
- If someone has a talk on the Theocratic Ministry School or a demonstration on the Service Meeting, discuss ideas for presenting it or rehearse it in front of the family.

Needs of the Family:

- Consider material from the *Young People Ask* or *Learn From the Great Teacher* books.
- Have a practice session on how to handle a situation that is likely to arise at school.
- Have a practice session where the parents and children reverse roles. The

children research a subject and then reason with the parents.

Ministry:

- Have practice sessions to prepare presentations for the weekend.
- Discuss realistic goals the family can set to expand their share in the ministry during the Memorial season or vacation time.
- Allow each family member a few minutes to research how to answer different questions that may arise in the ministry, and then have practice sessions.

Additional Suggestions:

- Read together an article from the current magazines.
- Have each family member read in advance an article that intrigues him from the current magazines, and then have him give a report on it.
- Occasionally invite a publisher or couple to join you for your Family Worship evening, and perhaps interview them.
- Watch and discuss one of our videos.
- Discuss together "Young People Ask" or "For Family Review" from *Awake!*
- Discuss together "Teach Your Children" or "For Young People" from *The Watchtower*.
- Read and discuss a portion of the current *Yearbook* or a release from the last district convention.
- After attending a convention or assembly, review the highlights.
- Observe Jehovah's creation firsthand, and discuss what it teaches us about Jehovah.
- Work on a project together, such as a model, a map, or a chart.

Reaching Out

(Matthew 9:37, 38)

E_b

Je - ho - vah knows just what we
 There's work to do in ev - 'ry
 And here at home, in towns near -

A_badd9 *Cm7*

need To bring us joy and to suc -
 land. Where there's a need, we lend a
 by, We plan, we build, new skills we

D_badd9 *E_b*

ceed. So he pro - vides so man - y
 hand. By reach - ing out, we show we
 try. We learn to speak a for - eign

A_badd9 *Cm*

ways In which to serve and spend our
 care. We want to help and want to
 tongue And bring good news to ev - 'ry -

Reaching Out

Chorus

Bbsus4 Bb Ab Bb Eb Cm7 Eb/Bb Ab

days. share. one. Reach - ing out, giv - ing all,

Eb/G Ab Fm7 Cm7 Bbsus4 Bb Gm7

for our God a - bove. And where the

Ab Bb Eb Cm7 Eb/Bb Ab

need is great, there we'll be,

Eb/G Ab Fm7 Bb13 Ab Eb

reach - ing out in love.

(See also John 4:35; Acts 2:8; Rom. 10:14.)

- Song 32 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“A Contribution to Jehovah”:** (10 min.)
Ex 30:11, 12—Jehovah told Moses to take a census (*it-2* 764-765)
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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ex 29:10—What is the significance of the expression “lay their hands on the bull’s head”? (*it-1* 1029 ¶4)

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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ex 29:31-46 (5)

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- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *bhs* 113 ¶18 (13)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

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- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min. or less) *ky* chap. 134
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
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EXODUS 29-30 | A Contribution to Jehovah



30:11-16

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What do we learn from the following scriptures about making financial contributions to support true worship?

- 1Ch 29:5
- Mr 12:43, 44
- 1Co 16:2

Can You Contribute Your Time and Energy?



As foretold by Isaiah, we are seeing unprecedented growth in the earthly part of Jehovah’s organization. (Isa 54:2) This requires the construction of new Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and branch facilities. After their construction, such buildings need maintenance, and some must eventually be renovated. What opportunities does this give us to contribute our time and energy to Jehovah?

- We can participate when our field service group is scheduled to clean the Kingdom Hall
- We can volunteer to receive training to maintain our Kingdom Hall
- We can fill out a *Local Design/Construction Volunteer Application* (DC-50) to assist periodically with construction and maintenance projects close to home
- We can fill out an *Application for Volunteer Program* (A-19) and volunteer to assist for a week or more in our branch territory at Bethel or another branch facility

WATCH THE VIDEO *A NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IS BEING PLANNED—EXCERPT*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What dramatic increase in the use of videos has occurred since 2014?

● To keep up with the increasing need for video production, what project is being planned, and what is the time period for construction?

-
- How can volunteers help with this project?

-
- If we wish to help with construction at Ramapo, why should we fill out an application (DC-50) and assist with Local Design/Construction projects close to home?

-
- What evidence has there been that Jehovah is steering this project?

-
- How can we support this project even if we are unable to help personally with construction?
-

AN EMPTY TOMB—JESUS IS ALIVE!

MATTHEW 28:3-15 MARK 16:5-8 LUKE 24:4-12 JOHN 20:2-18

What a shock it is for the women to discover what appears to be an empty burial place! Mary Magdalene runs off to “Simon Peter and to the other disciple, for whom Jesus had affection”—the apostle John. (John 20:2) However, the other women at the tomb see an angel. And inside the memorial tomb is another angel, who is “clothed in a white robe.”—Mark 16:5.

One of the angels tells them: “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was executed on the stake. He is not here, for he was raised up, just as he said. Come, see the place where he was lying. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he was raised up from the dead, for look! he is going ahead of you into Galilee.” (Matthew 28:5-7) So “trembling and overwhelmed with emotion,” the women run to report to the disciples.—Mark 16:8.

By now, Mary has found Peter and John. Breathlessly, she reports: “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” (John 20:2) Peter and John take off running. John is faster and reaches the tomb first. He peers into it and sees the bandages, but he remains outside.

When Peter arrives, he goes right in. He sees the linen cloths and the cloth used to wrap Jesus’ head. John now enters, and he believes Mary’s report. Despite what Jesus said earlier, neither of them understands that he has been raised up. (Matthew 16:21) Puzzled, they head home. But Mary, who has come back to the tomb, remains there.

Meanwhile, the other women are on their way to tell the disciples that Jesus has been raised. While they are running to do so, Jesus meets



them and says: "Good day!" They fall at his feet and 'do obeisance to him.' Then Jesus says: "Have no fear! Go, report to my brothers so that they may go to Galilee, and there they will see me."—Matthew 28:9, 10.

Earlier, when the earthquake occurred and the angels appeared, the soldiers at the tomb "trembled and became as dead men." After recovering, they entered the city and "reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened." The priests then consulted with elders of the Jews. The decision was made to bribe the soldiers to hide the matter and to claim: "His disciples came in the night and stole him while we were sleeping."—Matthew 28:4, 11, 13.

Roman soldiers can be put to death if they fall asleep at their post, so the priests promise: "If this [their lie about having been asleep] gets to the governor's ears, we will explain the matter to him and you will not need to worry." (Matthew 28:14) The soldiers take the bribe and do what the priests say. Thus the false story of Jesus' body being stolen spreads widely among the Jews.

Mary Magdalene is still grieving at the tomb. Stooping forward to look into it, she sees two angels in white! One sits at the head of where Jesus' body had been lying and the other at the

foot. "Woman, why are you weeping?" they ask. Mary answers: "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have laid him." Turning around, Mary sees someone else. He repeats the angels' question and adds: "Whom are you looking for?" Thinking that he is the gardener, she says: "Sir, if you have carried him off, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."—John 20:13-15.

Actually, Mary is speaking to the resurrected Jesus, but at the moment she does not recognize him. However, when he says, "Mary!" she knows that it is Jesus, recognizing him by the familiar way he speaks to her. "*Rabboni!*" (meaning, "Teacher!"), Mary exclaims joyfully. Yet, afraid that he is about to ascend to heaven, she grabs hold of him. Hence, Jesus urges her: "Stop clinging to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father and to my God and your God.'" —John 20:16, 17.

Mary runs to the place where the apostles and other disciples are gathered. She tells them: "I have seen the Lord!" adding her account to what they have heard from the other women. (John 20:18) Yet, the reports 'seem like nonsense to them.'—Luke 24:11.

-
- ◇ After Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty, what experiences do she and the other women have?
 - ◇ How do Peter and John react at finding the tomb empty?
 - ◇ Whom do the other women encounter on their way to the disciples, and what happens when Mary Magdalene is again at the tomb?
 - ◇ How do the disciples respond to the reports they get?

Faithful Women, Christian Sisters

(Romans 16:2)

D A/C# G/B D/A G

Sa - rah and Es - ther, Mar - y, Ruth, and oth - ers—
 Good - ness and cour - age, loy - al love and kind - ness—
 Moth - ers and daugh - ters, sis - ters, wives, and wid - ows,

Em D/F# Em/G

All these were ca - pa - ble wom - en, loy - al
 Lov - a - ble qual - i - ties in all hu - man -
 Will - ing - ly la - bor - ing, glad to do your

A D A/C#

wives.
 kind,
 part.

God - ly de - vo - tion was
 Vir - tues these ex - cel - lent
 Mod - est your bear - ing, sub -

Bm D/A G

fore - most in their lives. They were
 wom - en bring to mind. They were
 mis - sive is your heart, Hav - ing

AUGUST 2020

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
SEPTEMBER 28–NOVEMBER 1, 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

-
- Study Article 31: September 28–October 4 2
Are You Awaiting “the City Having Real Foundations”?
-
- Study Article 32: October 5-11 8
Walk Humbly and Modestly With Your God
-
- Study Article 33: October 12-18 14
The Resurrection Reveals God’s Love, Wisdom, and Patience
-
- Study Article 34: October 19-25 20
You Have a Place in Jehovah’s Congregation!
-
- Study Article 35: October 26–November 1 26
Respect the Place of Others in Jehovah’s Congregation

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COVER PICTURE:

Jesus is depicted in the heavens. Next to him stand some of his coulers. Together they look at a vast number of angels. Some angels are going toward the earth to carry out their assignments. Jehovah delegated authority to all shown in this picture (See study article 32, paragraph 5)

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22 The Kingdom Is in Place—Let It Come!

(Revelation 11:15; 12:10)

A D/A Fma7 G

Je - ho - vah, you al - ways have been, And al - ways you will
 The time for the Dev - il is short; We know what this will
 The an - gels in heav - en re - joice And sing with joy - ful

A F#m C#m Em

be. You've giv - en the throne to your Son; He
 mean. Though liv - ing in times of dis - tress, We
 cries. The heav - ens a - bove are re - lieved From

Bm7 A/C# E D/E C#m/E Bm/E A/E

rules by your de - cree. The King - dom has been
 see the things un - seen. The King - dom has been
 Sa - tan and his lies. The King - dom has been

R.H.

The Kingdom Is in Place—Let It Come!

Bm/E C#m/E D/E F#m/E E D/E C#m/E D/E

brought to birth; His ru - ler - ship will
 brought to birth; His ru - ler - ship will
 brought to birth; His ru - ler - ship will

E D/E E *Chorus* A E A

fill the earth.
 fill the earth. For now have come to pass Sal -
 fill the earth.

D A/C# E A E/G#

va - tion and king - dom and might. The King - dom is in

F#m Bm Bm/D A/E E7 A

place. We pray: "Let it come, Let it come!"

SONG 22

The Kingdom Is in Place
—Let It Come!

PREVIEW

Waiting for the fulfillment of a promise can test our patience—and in some cases, our faith. What lessons can we learn from Abraham that will strengthen our determination to wait patiently for the fulfillment of Jehovah's promises? And what good example have some modern-day servants of Jehovah set?

Are You Awaiting “the City Having Real Foundations”?

“He was awaiting the city having real foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”—HEB. 11:10.

MILLIONS of God's people today have made sacrifices. Many brothers and sisters have chosen to remain single. Married couples have postponed having children. Families have kept their lives simple. All have made these decisions for one important reason—they want to serve Jehovah as fully as possible. They are content and trust that Jehovah will provide all the things they truly need. Will they be disappointed? No! Why can we be certain of that fact? One reason is that Jehovah blessed Abraham, “the father of all those having faith.”—Rom. 4:11.

² Abraham willingly left the comfortable lifestyle available to him in the city of Ur. Why? Because he was awaiting “the city having real foundations.” (**Read Hebrews 11:8-10, 16.**) What is that “city”? What challenges did Abraham face while he waited for that city to be built? And how can we be like Abraham and those in our day who have followed his example?

WHAT IS “THE CITY HAVING REAL FOUNDATIONS”?

³ The city that Abraham awaited is God's Kingdom. That Kingdom is made up of Jesus Christ and 144,000 anointed Christians. Paul refers to the Kingdom as “a city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem.” (Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:8-10; 14:1) Jesus taught his disciples to pray for this same Kingdom, asking that it come so that God's will

1. What sacrifices have many made, and why did they make them?
2. (a) According to Hebrews 11:8-10, 16, why was Abraham willing to leave Ur? (b) What will we discuss in this article?
3. What is the city that Abraham awaited?



How did Abraham show his faith in Jehovah's promises? (See paragraph 5)

can take place on earth as it does in heaven.—Matt. 6:10.

4 Did Abraham know the details of how God's Kingdom would be structured? No. For many centuries, those details were a "sacred secret." (Eph. 1: 8-10; Col. 1:26, 27) But Abraham did know that some of his offspring would become kings. Jehovah had specifically made that promise to him. **(Read Genesis 17:1, 2, 6.)** Abraham had such strong faith in God's promises that it was as if he could see the Anointed One, or Messiah, who would be King of God's Kingdom. For this reason, Jesus could tell the Jews in his day: "Abraham your father rejoiced greatly at the prospect of seeing my day, and he saw it and rejoiced." (John 8:56) Clearly, Abraham knew that his descendants would form a Kingdom that had Jehovah's backing, and he was willing to wait for Jehovah to fulfill that promise.

4. According to Genesis 17:1, 2, 6, how much did Abraham know about the city, or Kingdom, that God promised?

5 How did Abraham show that he was waiting for the city, or Kingdom, designed by God? First, Abraham did not join himself to any earthly kingdom. He remained a nomad, choosing not to settle down and give his support to a human king. In addition, Abraham did not try to set up his own kingdom. Instead, he kept obeying Jehovah and waited for Him to fulfill His promise. In doing so, Abraham showed extraordinary faith in Jehovah. Let us examine some of the challenges he faced and see what we can learn from his example.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID ABRAHAM FACE?

6 The city Abraham left was relatively safe, sophisticated, and comfortable. It was protected by massive fortifications and a moat on three sides. People in Ur were proficient in both writing and arithmetic. And the city apparently was a center for business; many business

5. How do we know that Abraham was waiting for the city designed by God?

6. What kind of city was Ur?

documents have been found at the site. Private houses were made of brick; the walls were coated with plaster and then whitewashed. Some of these homes had 13 or 14 rooms surrounding a paved courtyard.

⁷ Abraham had to trust that Jehovah would protect him and his family. Why? Recall that Abraham and Sarah left the safety and comfort of living in a house in the city of Ur to dwell in tents in the open fields of Canaan. No longer were he and his family protected by thick walls and deep moats. Instead, they were now vulnerable to attack by enemy forces.

⁸ Abraham did God's will, but at one time he struggled to feed his family. He had to deal with a severe famine that struck the very land to which Jehovah had sent him. That famine was so bad that Abraham decided to move his family to Egypt temporarily. However, while he was in Egypt, Pharaoh, the ruler of the country, took his wife from him. Imagine the anxiety that Abraham must have felt until Jehovah persuaded Pharaoh to return Sarah to Abraham.—Gen. 12:10-19.

⁹ Abraham's family life was difficult. His beloved wife, Sarah, could not have children. For decades they had to deal with that bitter disappointment. Eventually, Sarah gave her servant girl, Hagar, to Abraham so that she could bear children for Abraham and Sarah. But when

7. Why did Abraham have to trust that Jehovah would protect him and his family?

8. At one time, what did Abraham have to deal with?

9. What family difficulties did Abraham have to cope with?

Hagar became pregnant with Ishmael, she began to despise Sarah. The situation became so difficult that Sarah chased Hagar away from home.—Gen. 16:1-6.

¹⁰ Sarah finally became pregnant and gave Abraham a son whom he named Isaac. Abraham loved both of his sons, Ishmael and Isaac. But because of the bad way that Ishmael treated Isaac, Abraham was forced to send Ishmael and Hagar away. (Gen. 21:9-14) Later, Jehovah asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. (Gen. 22:1, 2; Heb. 11:17-19) In both cases, Abraham had to trust that Jehovah would eventually make things turn out well for his sons.

¹¹ Throughout this time, Abraham had to learn to wait patiently on Jehovah. He was likely over 70 when he and his family left Ur. (Gen. 11:31-12:4) And for some one hundred years, he lived in tents, roaming the land of Canaan. Abraham died when he was 175. (Gen. 25:7) But he did not see Jehovah fulfill His promise to give the land he walked on to his descendants. And he did not live to see the city, God's Kingdom, established. Even so, Abraham is described as dying "old and satisfied." (Gen. 25:8) Despite all the challenges he had to deal with, Abraham maintained strong faith and was content to wait on Jehovah. Why was he able to endure? Because throughout Abraham's life, Jehovah protected him and treated him as a friend.—Gen. 15:1; Isa. 41:8; Jas. 2:22, 23.

10. What incidents involving Ishmael and Isaac tested Abraham's trust in Jehovah?

11. Why did Abraham have to wait patiently on Jehovah?



Like Abraham and Sarah, how do God's servants show faith and patience?
(See paragraph 12)

¹² Like Abraham, we are awaiting the city having real foundations. We are not waiting for it to be built, however. God's Kingdom was established in 1914 and has already taken complete control of heaven. (Rev. 12:7-10) But we are waiting for it to take complete control of the earth. While we wait for that to happen, there are many situations that we must deal with that are similar to those that Abraham and Sarah faced. Have Jehovah's modern-day servants been able to imitate Abraham's example? The life stories published in *The Watchtower* show that, like Abraham and Sarah, many today have had faith and patience. Let us consider just a few of those stories and see what we can learn.

IMITATING ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE

¹³ ***Be willing to make sacrifices.*** If we are

12. What are we waiting for, and what will we consider?

13. What do you learn from the experience of Brother Walden?

to put God's city, the Kingdom, first in our lives, we must be like Abraham, who willingly made sacrifices to please God. (Matt. 6:33; Mark 10:28-30) Note the example of a brother named Bill Walden.* In 1942, Bill was about to graduate from a U.S. university with a degree in architectural engineering when he started studying with Jehovah's Witnesses. Bill's professor had arranged for Bill to have a job after graduation, but Bill declined. He explained that he had decided to give up the promise of a secular career in order to serve God more fully. Shortly afterward, Bill was drafted for military service. He respectfully refused and as a result was fined \$10,000 and sentenced to five years in prison. He was released after three years. Later, he was invited to attend Gilead School and served as a missionary in Africa. Then Bill married Eva, and they served together in Africa, which

* Brother Walden's life story is published in the December 1, 2013, issue of *The Watchtower*, pp. 8-10.

called for sacrifices. Eventually they returned to the United States to care for Bill's mother. Summarizing his life story, Bill says: "Tears come to my eyes when I think of the awesome privilege of having been used by Jehovah for more than 70 years in his service. I often thank him for guiding me toward making his service my career." Are you able to make the full-time ministry your career?

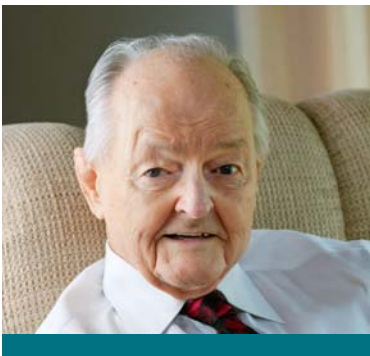
14 Do not expect your life to be trouble-free. From Abraham's example we learn that even those who devote their entire life to serving Jehovah must still deal with problems. (Jas. 1:2; 1 Pet. 5:9) Consider how this proved true in the experience of Aristotelis Apostolidis.* He got baptized in 1946 in Greece, and in 1952 he got engaged to a sister named Eleni, who had the same goals as he did. How-

* Brother Apostolidis' life story is published in the February 1, 2002, issue of *The Watchtower*, pp. 24-28.

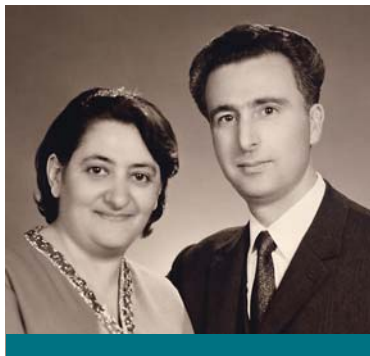
14-15. What do you learn from the experience of Brother and Sister Apostolidis?

ever, Eleni fell ill and was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The tumor was removed, but just a few years after the couple got married, the tumor came back. The doctors operated again, but Eleni was left partially paralyzed, and her speech was impaired. She remained a zealous minister despite her illness and despite the government persecution at the time.

15 For 30 years, Aristotelis cared for his wife. During this time he served as an elder, worked on assembly committees, and helped to build an Assembly Hall. Then, in 1987, Eleni was hurt in an accident while she was preaching. She was in a coma for three years, and then she died. Aristotelis sums up his experience by saying: "Over the years, trying circumstances, difficult challenges, and unforeseen occurrences have called for an inordinate amount of tenacity and perseverance. Yet, Jehovah has always given me the needed strength to overcome these problems." (Ps. 94:18, 19) How Jehovah loves those who do all



Bill Walden was willing to make sacrifices and experienced Jehovah's blessings



Eleni and Aristotelis Apostolidis felt that Jehovah strengthened them



Audrey Hyde kept a positive outlook by focusing on the future

they can for him despite dealing with trials!

¹⁶ **Focus on the future.** Abraham focused on the future rewards that Jehovah would give him, and this helped him to overcome his immediate challenges. Sister Audrey Hyde tried to keep this positive outlook, even though her first husband, Nathan H. Knorr, died of cancer and her second husband, Glenn Hyde, became afflicted with Alzheimer’s disease.* She says that she was helped by something Brother Knorr told her just a few weeks before his death. She says: “Nathan reminded me: ‘After death, our hope is sure, and we will never have to suffer pain again.’ Then he urged me: ‘Look ahead, for there is where your reward is.’ . . . He added: ‘Keep busy—try to use your life doing something for others. This will help you to find joy.’” What practical advice it is to stay busy in doing good for others and to “rejoice in the hope”—Rom. 12:12.

* Sister Hyde’s life story is published in the July 1, 2004, issue of *The Watchtower*, pp. 23-29.

16. What good advice did Brother Knorr give his wife?

¹⁷ Today, we have more reason than ever to focus on the future. World events clearly show that we are in the final part of the last days of this system of things. Soon we will no longer need to wait for the city having real foundations to take full control of all the earth. Among the many blessings we will enjoy will be that of seeing our loved ones raised from the dead. At that time, Jehovah will reward Abraham for his faith and patience by bringing him and his family back to life on earth. Will you be there to welcome them? You can be if you, like Abraham, are willing to make sacrifices for God’s Kingdom, if you keep your faith despite problems, and if you learn to wait patiently on Jehovah.—**Read Micah 7:7.**

17. (a) Why do we have good reason to focus on the future? (b) How will following the example recorded at Micah 7:7 help us to enjoy future blessings?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 5: An elderly couple continue faithfully serving Jehovah despite challenges. They keep their faith strong by focusing on Jehovah’s promises for the future.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- What is “the city” that Abraham awaited?
- What challenges did Abraham face?
- How can we imitate Abraham’s example?

Join in the Kingdom Song!

(Psalm 98:1)

Ab/Bb Bb7 Ebma7 E° Fm11

This is a song, a hap - py song of vic - t'ry;
 With this new song, we ad - ver - tise the King - dom.
 This King - dom song, all hum - ble ones can mas - ter.

Bb7 E° Fm7 Ab/Bb Bb7 Ebma7

It mag - ni - fies the One who is su - preme.
 Christ Je - sus rules; the earth is his do - main.
 The words are clear, their mes - sage warm and bright.

Eb6 Bb/D Bbm6/Db Bbm6/C C7b9b13 Bb° Abma7 Ab6

The words give hope and prompt all to be loy - al.
 And as fore - told, there is a new - born na - tion:
 In all the earth, a mul - ti - tude have learned it,

Db7 Eb/Bb C° Bb7sus4 Ab/Bb Gm/Bb Bb7 Eb Chorus Eb/G

Come sing with us; en - joy its King - dom theme:
 The King - dom heirs, who wel - come Je - sus' reign: 'Come
 And they in turn still oth - ers now in - vite:

Join in the Kingdom Song!

Bb7/F Eb Bb7sus4 Bb7 Ebma7/Bb

wor - ship God Be - fore his throne.

Eb6/Bb Cm6/A D7sus4 D7 Gm

His Son is King; Let's make it known!

Fm7 Ab/Bb Bb7 Eb Eb/Db Ab/C

Come learn this song, this song a - bout the King - dom;

Abm/Cb Eb/Bb C° Bb7sus4 Ab/Bb Gm/Bb Bb7 Eb

Bow down to God, and praise his ho - ly name.'