

- Song 115 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah’s Endearing Qualities”:** (10 min.)
Ex 34:5—Knowing God’s name means knowing his purposes, activities, and qualities (*it-2* 466-467)
Ex 34:6—Jehovah’s qualities draw us to him (*w09* 5/1 18 ¶3-5)
Ex 34:7—Jehovah forgives repentant sinners (*w09* 5/1 18 ¶6)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ex 33:11, 20—How did God speak to Moses “face-to-face”? (*w04* 3/15 27 ¶5)

Ex 34:23, 24—Why did Israelite men need faith to attend the three annual festivals? (*w98* 9/1 20 ¶5)

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

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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 80
- **“Young Ones—Is Jehovah Your Best Friend?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Youths—“Taste and See That Jehovah Is Good”* (video category TEENAGERS).
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EXODUS 33-34 | Jehovah’s Endearing Qualities

34:5-7

Appreciation for Jehovah’s qualities helped Moses to deal patiently with the Israelites. Similarly, if we deepen our understanding of Jehovah’s qualities, we can deal mercifully with fellow believers.

- **“Merciful and compassionate”:** Jehovah looks after his worshippers with tender love and deep concern, just as parents look after their children
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- **“Abundant in loyal love”:** Jehovah forges an unflinching bond of loyal love with his people

ASK YOURSELF, ‘How can I imitate Jehovah’s mercy and compassion?’



115 *Gratitude for Divine Patience*

(2 Peter 3:15)

1. Great God, Jehovah, boundless in might,
 You have made known your love of right.
 Badness prevails on earth below,
 Causing us pain, as you well know.
 You are not slow, as men may contend;
 Your time is near for patience to end.

(CHORUS)

*We look ahead with hope renewed,
 Praising your name in deep gratitude.*

2. One thousand years, from your point of view,
 Are like a day when they are through.
 Time now proceeds to your great day;
 It will arrive without delay.
 Though all transgression you do resent,
 Your heart is glad when sinners repent.

(Chorus)

Exodus 33-34

33 Jehovah said further to Moses: “Go on your way from here with the people whom you led up out of the land of Egypt. Journey to the land about which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give it.’ ² I will send an angel ahead of you and drive out the Ca'naan-ites, the Am'or-ites, the Hit'tites, the Per'iz-zites, the Hi'vites, and the Jeb'u-sites. ³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go in the midst of you, for you are an obstinate people, and I might exterminate you on the way.”

⁴ When the people heard this harsh word, they began to mourn, and not one of them put on his ornaments. ⁵ Jehovah said to Moses: “Say to the Israelites, ‘You are an obstinate people. In one moment I could go through the midst of you and exterminate you. So now keep your ornaments off while I consider what to do to you.’” ⁶ So from Mount Hor'eb onward, the Israelites refrained from wearing their ornaments.

⁷ Now Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, at some distance from the camp, and he called it a tent of meeting. Everyone inquiring of Jehovah would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. ⁸ As soon as Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand at the entrance of their own tents, and they would gaze after Moses until he entered into the tent. ⁹ As soon as Moses would go into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come

down and stand at the entrance of the tent while God spoke with Moses. ¹⁰ When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, each of them rose and bowed down at the entrance of his own tent. ¹¹ Jehovah spoke to Moses face-to-face, just as one man would speak to another man. When he returned to the camp, Joshua the son of Nun, his minister and attendant, would not depart from the tent.

¹² Now Moses said to Jehovah: “See, you are saying to me, ‘Lead this people up,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Moreover, you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my eyes.’” ¹³ Please, if I have found favor in your eyes, make me know your ways, so that I may know you and continue to find favor in your eyes. Consider, too, that this nation is your people.” ¹⁴ So he said: “I myself will go with you, and I will give you rest.” ¹⁵ Then Moses said to him: “If you yourself are not going along, do not lead us up from here. ¹⁶ How will it be known that I have found favor in your eyes, I and your people? Is it not by your going along with us, so that I and your people will be distinguished from every other people on the face of the earth?”

¹⁷ Jehovah went on to say to Moses: “I will also do this thing that you request, because you have found favor in my eyes and I know you by name.” ¹⁸ Then he said: “Please show me your glory.” ¹⁹ But he said: “I will make all my goodness pass before your face, and I will declare before

you the name of Jehovah; and I will favor the one whom I favor, and I will show mercy to the one to whom I show mercy.”²⁰ But he added: “You cannot see my face, for no man can see me and live.”

²¹ Jehovah said further: “Here is a place near me. Station yourself on the rock. ²² When my glory is passing by, I will place you in a crevice of the rock, and I will shield you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ After that I will take my hand away, and you will see my back. But my face may not be seen.”

34 Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Carve out for yourself two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that appeared on the first tablets, which you shattered. ² Get ready for the morning, as you will go up in the morning to Mount Si'nai and station yourself before me there on the top of the mountain. ³ But nobody may go up with you, and nobody else should be seen anywhere on the mountain. Not even the flocks or herds should graze in front of that mountain.”

⁴ So Moses carved out two tablets of stone like the first ones and got up early in the morning and went up Mount Si'nai, just as Jehovah had commanded him, and he took the two tablets of stone in his hand. ⁵ Then Jehovah came down in the cloud and stationed himself with him there and declared the name of Jehovah. ⁶ Jehovah was passing before him and declaring: “Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and abundant in

loyal love and truth, ⁷ showing loyal love to thousands, pardoning error and transgression and sin, but he will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons and upon grandsons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation.”

⁸ Moses hurried to bow low to the earth and prostrate himself. ⁹ Then he said: “If, now, I have found favor in your eyes, O Jehovah, then please, Jehovah, go along with us in our midst, although we are an obstinate people, and forgive our error and our sin, and take us as your own possession.”

¹⁰ In turn he said: “Here I am making a covenant: Before all your people, I will do wonderful things that have never been done in all the earth or among all the nations, and all the people among whom you live will see the work of Jehovah, for it is an awe-inspiring thing that I am doing with you.

¹¹ “Pay attention to what I am commanding you today. Here I am driving out from before you the Am'or-ites, the Ca'naan-ites, the Hit'tites, the Per'iz-zites, the Hi'vites, and the Jeb'u-sites. ¹² Be careful that you do not make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you are going, or it may prove to be a snare among you. ¹³ But you are to pull down their altars, you are to shatter their sacred pillars, and their sacred poles you are to cut down. ¹⁴ You must not bow down to another god, for Jehovah is known for requiring exclusive devotion. Yes, he is a God who requires exclusive devotion. ¹⁵ Be careful not to make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, because when they prostitute

themselves to their gods and sacrifice to their gods, someone will invite you and you will eat from his sacrifice. ¹⁶ Then you will surely take some of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters will prostitute themselves to their gods and cause your sons to prostitute themselves to their gods.

¹⁷ “You must not make gods of cast metal.

¹⁸ “You are to observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread. You will eat unleavened bread, just as I have commanded you; do this for seven days at the appointed time in the month of A'bib, because it was in the month of A'bib that you came out of Egypt.

¹⁹ “Every firstborn male is mine, including all your livestock, whether the first male bull or sheep. ²⁰ The firstling of a donkey you are to redeem with a sheep. But if you do not redeem it, then you must break its neck. You are to redeem every firstborn of your sons. No one may appear before me empty-handed.

²¹ “Six days you are to work, but on the seventh day you will rest. Even during plowing time and in harvest, you will rest.

²² “And you will celebrate your Festival of Weeks with the first ripe fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Festival of Ingathering at the turn of the year.

²³ “Three times a year, all your men are to appear before the true Lord, Jehovah, the God of Israel. ²⁴ For I will drive

the nations away from before you, and I will enlarge your territory, and nobody will desire your land while you are going up to see the face of Jehovah your God three times a year.

²⁵ “You must not offer the blood of my sacrifice along with anything leavened. The sacrifice of the festival of the Passover should not be kept overnight until the morning.

²⁶ “The best of the first ripe fruits of your soil you are to bring to the house of Jehovah your God.

“You must not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.”

²⁷ Jehovah went on to say to Moses: “You are to write down these words, because in accordance with these words, I am making a covenant with you and with Israel.” ²⁸ And he remained there with Jehovah 40 days and 40 nights. He ate no bread and drank no water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

²⁹ Moses then came down from Mount Si'nai, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. When he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face was emitting rays because he had been speaking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, they noticed that the skin of his face emitted rays and they were afraid to go near him.

³¹ But Moses called to them, so Aaron and all the chieftains of the assembly came to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² After that all the Israelites came near to him,

and he gave them all the commands that Jehovah had given him on Mount Si'nai. ³³ When Moses would finish speaking with them, he would put a veil over his face. ³⁴ But when Moses would go in before Jehovah to speak with him, he would take off the veil until he went out. Then he went out and revealed to the Israelites the commands he had received. ³⁵ And the Israelites saw that the skin of Moses' face emitted rays; then Moses put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with God.

- Song 115 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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Ex 34:5—Knowing God’s name means knowing his purposes, activities, and qualities (*it-2* 466-467)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

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- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 103 and Prayer

EXODUS 33-34 | Jehovah’s Endearing Qualities

34:5-7

Appreciation for Jehovah’s qualities helped Moses to deal patiently with the Israelites. Similarly, if we deepen our understanding of Jehovah’s qualities, we can deal mercifully with fellow believers.

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- **“Abundant in loyal love”:** Jehovah forges an unending bond of loyal love with his people

ASK YOURSELF, ‘How can I imitate Jehovah’s mercy and compassion?’



October 12-18 / Exodus 33-34

- Song 115 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Jehovah's Endearing Qualities": (10 minutes)

Exodus 34:5-7

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Pictures: Collage: Jehovah's Witnesses imitating Jehovah's qualities. 1. Two elders visit a family at their home and share Bible-based encouragement with them. 2. A sister comforts a sister who is crying.

Ask yourself, 'How can I imitate Jehovah's mercy and compassion?'

Exodus 34:5—Knowing God's name means knowing his purposes, activities, and qualities

Exodus 34:5: Then Jehovah came down in the cloud and stationed himself with him there and declared the name of Jehovah.

it-2 466-467

The material creation testifies to God's existence, but it does not reveal God's name. (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20) For an individual to know God's name signifies more than a mere acquaintance with the word. (2 Chronicles 6:33) It means actually knowing the Person—his purposes, activities, and qualities as revealed in his Word. (Compare 1 Kings 8:41-43;

9:3, 7; Nehemiah 9:10.) This is illustrated in the case of Moses, a man whom Jehovah 'knew by name,' that is, knew intimately. (Exodus 33:12) Moses was privileged to see a manifestation of Jehovah's glory and also to 'hear the name of Jehovah declared.' (Exodus 34:5) That declaration was not simply the repetition of the name Jehovah but was a statement about God's attributes and activities. "Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and truth, preserving loving-kindness for thousands, pardoning error and transgression and sin, but by no means will he give exemption from punishment, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons and upon grandsons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation." (Exodus 34:6, 7) Similarly, the song of Moses, containing the words "for I shall declare the name of Jehovah," recounts God's dealings with Israel and describes his personality.—Deuteronomy 32:3-44.

Exodus 34:6—Jehovah’s qualities draw us to him

Exodus 34:6: Jehovah was passing before him and declaring: “Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and abundant in loyal love and truth,

w09 5/1 18 paragraphs 3-5

The first thing Jehovah reveals about himself is that he is “a God merciful and gracious.” (Verse 6) According to one scholar, the Hebrew word rendered “merciful” bespeaks God’s “tender compassion, like that of a father to his children.” The word rendered “gracious” is related to a verb that “depicts a heartfelt response by someone who has something to give to one who has a need.” Clearly, Jehovah wants us to know that he looks after his worshippers as parents look after their children—with tender love and deep concern for their needs.—Psalm 103:8, 13.

Next, Jehovah says that he is “slow to anger.” (Verse 6) He is not prone to become angry with his earthly servants. Rather, he is patient with them, putting up with their shortcomings while giving them time to change their sinful ways.—2 Peter 3:9.

God continues, saying he is “abundant in loving-kindness and truth.” (Verse 6) Loving-kindness, or loyal love, is a precious quality by which Jehovah forges between himself and his people a bond that is steadfast, unflinching. (Deuteronomy 7:9) Jehovah is also a wellspring of truth. He can neither deceive nor be deceived. Since he is “the God of truth,” we can have complete faith in everything he says, including his promises for the future.—Psalm 31:5.

Exodus 34:7—Jehovah forgives repentant sinners

Exodus 34:7: showing loyal love to thousands, pardoning error and transgression and sin, but he will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons and upon grandsons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation.”

w09 5/1 18 paragraph 6

Another great truth that Jehovah wants us to know about himself is that he pardons “error and transgression and sin.” (Verse 7) He is “ready to forgive” repentant sinners. (Psalm

86:5) At the same time, Jehovah never condones badness. He explains that “by no means will he give exemption from punishment.” (Verse 7) The holy and just God will not leave willful sinners unpunished. Sooner or later the consequences of their sinful behavior will catch up with them.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Exodus 33:11, 20—How did God speak to Moses “face-to-face”?

Exodus 33:11: Jehovah spoke to Moses face-to-face, just as one man would speak to another man. When he returned to the camp, Joshua the son of Nun, his minister and attendant, would not depart from the tent.

Exodus 33:20: But he added: “You cannot see my face, for no man can see me and live.”

w04 3/15 27 paragraph 5

This expression denotes intimate two-way conversation. Moses talked with God’s representative and orally received instruction from Jehovah through him. But Moses did not see Jehovah, since ‘no man can see God and yet live.’ In fact,

Jehovah did not personally speak to Moses. The Law “was transmitted through angels by the hand of a mediator,” states Galatians 3:19.

Exodus 34:23, 24—Why did Israelite men need faith to attend the three annual festivals?

Exodus 34:23, 24: “Three times a year, all your men are to appear before the true Lord, Jehovah, the God of Israel. For I will drive the nations away from before you, and I will enlarge your territory, and nobody will desire your land while you are going up to see the face of Jehovah your God three times a year.

w98 9/1 20 paragraph 5

Three times a year every male Israelite and proselyte in the land was commanded to appear before Jehovah. Realizing that the entire family would benefit spiritually from such occasions, many family heads arranged for their wife and children to accompany them. But who would protect their homes and their fields from enemy attack while the family

was away? Jehovah promised: "Nobody will desire your land while you are going up to see the face of Jehovah your God three times in the year." (Exodus 34:24) It took faith for the Israelites to believe that if they put spiritual interests first, they would not lose out materially. Did Jehovah prove true to his word? He certainly did!

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Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Exodus 33:1-16 (th study 10)

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Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

INITIAL CALL

Question: Is the Bible still relevant today?

Scripture: **2Ti 3:16**

Link: Is the Bible compatible with science?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

• *fg* lesson 11 ¶1



RETURN VISIT

Question: Is the Bible compatible with science?

Scripture: **Job 26:7**

Link: Is the Bible's advice practical?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

• *bhs* 21 ¶8



*“Taste and See That
Jehovah Is Good”*
(Psalm 34:8)

1. Our service to God we cherish;
We value our priv’lege to preach.
We buy out the time and give God our best,
For many we still need to reach.

(CHORUS)

*God’s Word invites us: ‘Come taste and see—
See that Jehovah is good.’
Godly devotion brings greatest gain,
We know we’ve done all we could.*

2. For those in the full-time service,
Rich blessings and treasures abound.
By trusting in God to care for our needs,
In all things contentment is found.

(Chorus)

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Young Ones—Is Jehovah Your Best Friend?



What qualities do you look for in a friend? You probably value loyalty, kindness, and generosity. Jehovah displays them all. (Ex 34:6; Ac 14:17) He listens when you pray to him. He gives you a helping hand whenever you need it. (Ps 18:19, 35) He forgives your mistakes. (1Jo 1:9) What a wonderful Friend Jehovah is!

How can you be a friend to Jehovah? Learn about him by reading his Word. Confide in him. (Ps 62:8; 142:2) Show that you value things that are important to Jehovah, such as his Son, his Kingdom, and his promises for the future. Tell others about him. (De 32:3) If you cultivate a close friendship with Jehovah, he will be your Friend forever.—Ps 73:25, 26, 28.

WATCH THE VIDEO *YOUTHS—“TASTE AND SEE THAT JEHOVAH IS GOOD,”* AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- How can you prepare for dedication and baptism?

- How can others in the congregation help you to serve Jehovah?

- How does the ministry strengthen your relationship with Jehovah?

- What avenues of service are available to you?

- What do you appreciate about Jehovah?



Friendship with Jehovah can last forever!

ON THE SHORE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE

JOHN 21:1-25

- JESUS APPEARS AT THE SEA OF GALILEE
 - PETER AND OTHERS ARE TO FEED THE SHEEP
-

On his final evening with the apostles, Jesus had told them: “After I have been raised up, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” (Matthew 26:32; 28:7, 10) Now many of his followers make that trip, but what should they do in Galilee?

At one point, Peter tells six of the apostles: “I am going fishing.” All six respond: “We are coming with you.” (John 21:3) The whole night, they do not catch anything. As it is getting light, Jesus appears on the beach, but they do not realize who it is. Jesus calls out: “Children, you do not have anything to eat, do you?” They answer: “No!” Jesus tells them: “Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” (John 21:5, 6) They catch so many fish that they cannot even draw in their net.

“It is the Lord!” John tells Peter. (John 21:7) Quickly, Peter girds on his outer garment, which he was not wearing while fishing. He plunges into the sea and swims about a hundred yards to shore. The others in the boat follow slowly, dragging the net full of fish.

Getting to shore, they see “a charcoal fire with fish lying on it and bread.” Jesus says: “Bring some of the fish you just now caught.” Peter pulls in the net, which contains 153 large fish! “Come, have your breakfast,” Jesus says. None of them have the courage to ask, “Who are you?” because they realize that it is Jesus. (John 21:10-12) This is his third appearance to the disciples as a group.

Jesus gives each of them some bread and fish to eat. Then, likely looking toward the catch of fish, he asks: “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” Is Peter more attached to the fishing business than to the work that Jesus wants him to do? Peter replies: “Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you.” So Jesus urges him: “Feed my lambs.” —John 21:15.



Again, Jesus asks: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Perhaps puzzled, Peter answers earnestly: “Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you.” Jesus’ response is similar: “Shepherd my little sheep.” —John 21:16.

The third time, Jesus asks: “Simon son of John, do you have affection for me?” Now Peter may be wondering whether Jesus doubts his loyalty. Peter says emphatically: “Lord, you are aware of all things; you know that I have affection for you.” Once again Jesus highlights what Peter must do: “Feed my little sheep.” (John 21:17) Yes, those taking the lead need to minister to those drawn into God’s sheepfold.

Jesus was bound and executed because he did the work that God commissioned him to do. He now reveals that Peter will have a similar end. “When you were younger,” Jesus says, “you used to clothe yourself and walk about where you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another man will clothe you and carry you where you do not wish.” Yet Jesus urges him: “Continue following me.”—John 21:18, 19.

Peter sees the apostle John and asks: “Lord, what about this man?” Yes, what does the future hold for the apostle for whom Jesus has special affection? Jesus answers: “If it is my will for him to remain until I come, of what concern is that to you?” (John 21:21-23) Peter needs to follow Jesus without worrying about what others do. Still, Jesus is indicating that John will outlive the other apostles and will be given a vision of Jesus’ coming in Kingdom power.

Of course, there are other things that Jesus did, more than many scrolls can contain.

- ◇ What shows that the apostles are uncertain about what to do in Galilee?
- ◇ How are the apostles able to recognize Jesus at the Sea of Galilee?
- ◇ Jesus emphasizes that those taking the lead need to do what?
- ◇ How does Jesus indicate the manner in which Peter will die?

103 *Shepherds—Gifts in Men*

(Ephesians 4:8)

1. Help in our lives, Jehovah provides,
 Shepherds to tend his flock.
 By their example they serve as guides,
 Showing us how to walk.

(CHORUS)

*God gives us men who have earned our trust,
Men who are loyal and true.
They show concern for his precious sheep;
Love them for all that they do.*

2. Shepherds who love us care how we feel;
 Gently they guide the way.
 When we are hurt, they help us to heal,
 Kind in the words they say.

(Chorus)

3. Godly advice and counsel they give,
 That we may never stray.
 Thus they assist us, God's way to live,
 Serving him ev'ry day.

(Chorus)

AUGUST 2020

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
SEPTEMBER 28–NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Study Article 31: September 28–October 4	2
Are You Awaiting “the City Having Real Foundations”?	

Study Article 32: October 5-11	14
Walk Humbly and Modestly With Your God	

Study Article 33: October 12-18	26
The Resurrection Reveals God’s Love, Wisdom, and Patience	

Study Article 34: October 19-25	39
You Have a Place in Jehovah’s Congregation!	

Study Article 35: October 26–November 1	51
Respect the Place of Others in Jehovah’s Congregation	

COVER PICTURE:

Jesus is depicted in the heavens. Next to him stand some of his corulers. 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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1. Life, like a mist, appears for just a day,
Then disappears tomorrow.
All that we are can quickly fade away,
Replaced with tears and sorrow.
If a man should die, can he live again?
Hear the promise God has made:

*(CHORUS)**He will call; The dead will answer.**They will live at his command.**For he will have a longing**For the work of his own hand.**So have faith, and do not wonder,**For our God can make us stand.**And we will live forever,**As the work of his own hand.*

2. Friends of our God, though they may pass away,
Will never be forsaken.
All those asleep who in God's mem'ry stay,
From death he will awaken.
Then we'll come to see all that life can be:
Paradise eternally.

(Chorus)

The Resurrection Reveals God’s Love, Wisdom, and Patience

“There is going to be a resurrection.”—ACTS 24:15.

SONG 151

He Will Call

PREVIEW

Jehovah is a loving, wise, and patient Father. We can see those qualities both in the way he created all things and in his purpose to restore life during the resurrection. This article will discuss some questions we might have about the resurrection and will highlight how we can show appreciation for Jehovah’s love, wisdom, and patience.

THERE was a time when Jehovah was alone. But he was not lonely. He was complete in every way. Nevertheless, God wanted others to enjoy life. Motivated by love, Jehovah began creating.—Ps. 36:9; 1 John 4:19.

² First, Jehovah created a fellow worker. Then, by means of this first Son, “all other things were created,” including millions of intelligent spirit creatures. (Col. 1:16) Jesus rejoiced at the opportunity to work with his Father. (Prov. 8:30) And the angelic sons of God also had reason to rejoice. They had front-row seats, as it were, when Jehovah and his Master Worker, Jesus, made the heavens and the earth. How did the angels respond? They “began shouting in applause” when the earth was formed, and they no doubt continued to applaud each of Jehovah’s creative works, including his final masterpiece, humans. (Job 38:7; Prov. 8:31, ftn.) Each of these creations revealed Jehovah’s love and wisdom.—Ps. 104:24; Rom. 1:20.

³ Jehovah intended for the human family to enjoy everlasting life on the beautiful planet that he had

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1. Why did Jehovah create life?
 2. How did Jesus and the angels feel about Jehovah’s creative works?
 3. As indicated at 1 Corinthians 15:21, 22, what does Jesus’ ransom sacrifice make possible?

created. But when Adam and Eve rebelled against their loving Father, sin and death cast a shadow over the earth. (Rom. 5:12) How did Jehovah respond? Immediately, he stated how he would rescue mankind. (Gen. 3:15) Jehovah purposed to provide a ransom that would make it possible for Adam and Eve's children to be freed from sin and death. He could then allow each person to choose to serve Him and to receive everlasting life.—John 3:16; Rom. 6:23; read 1 Corinthians 15:21, 22.

⁴ God's promise to resurrect the dead raises a number of questions. For example, how will the resurrection likely take place? Will we be able to recognize our loved ones when they are brought back to life? In what ways will the resurrection bring us joy? And how can meditating on the resurrection build our appreciation for Jehovah's love, wisdom, and patience? Let us consider each of those questions.

HOW WILL THE RESURRECTION LIKELY TAKE PLACE?

⁵ When Jehovah through his Son resurrects countless millions, we may assume that not all of them will come back to life at the same time. Why not? Because

4. What questions will we consider in this article?

5. Why is it reasonable to believe that people will be resurrected in an orderly, gradual manner?

an explosion in the earth's population would likely cause chaos. And Jehovah never does anything in a disorganized, chaotic way. He knows that for peace to last, order must be maintained. (1 Cor. 14: 33) Jehovah God was wise and patient when he worked with Jesus to prepare the earth in a gradual manner before creating mankind. In turn, Jesus will display those same qualities during the Thousand Year Reign when he works with Armageddon survivors as they prepare the earth to receive resurrected ones.

⁶ Most important of all, those who survive Armageddon will need to teach resurrected ones about God's Kingdom and about Jehovah's requirements. Why? Because the majority of those who return to life will be among "the unrighteous." (Read Acts 24: 15.) They will have to make many changes in order to benefit from Christ's ransom. Just think of the work involved in teaching the truth about God to millions of people who have no knowledge of Jehovah. Will each person receive individual instruction, similar to the way we conduct Bible studies today? Will these new ones be assigned to congregations and be trained to teach those who are resurrected after them? We will have to wait and see. We do know,

6. According to Acts 24:15, who will be among those resurrected by Jehovah?

however, that by the end of Christ's Thousand Year Reign, "the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah." (Isa. 11:9) What a busy but enjoyable thousand years that will be!

⁷ During the Thousand Year Rule of Christ, all of Jehovah's earthly children will have to make changes to please him. So all of them will have true fellow feeling as they help the resurrected ones to combat sinful tendencies and to live by Jehovah's standards. (1 Pet. 3:8) No doubt those who come back to life will

7. Why will God's people have fellow feeling when teaching resurrected ones?



Those who survive Armageddon will teach resurrected ones about God's Kingdom and about Jehovah's requirements
(See paragraph 6)

be drawn to Jehovah’s humble people, who will also be “working out [their] own salvation.”—Phil. 2:12.

WILL WE BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO ARE RESURRECTED?

⁸ For a number of reasons, we can assume that those greeting resurrected individuals will be able to recognize their loved ones. For instance, based on resurrections that have already occurred, it seems that Jehovah will re-create people so that they look, speak, and think in the same way as they did shortly before they died. Remember that Jesus likened death to sleep and the resurrection to being awakened from sleep. (Matt. 9:18, 24; John 11:11-13) When people awaken from sleep, they look and sound the same as when they went to sleep, and they retain their memory. Consider the example of Lazarus. He had been dead for four days, so his body had begun to decay. Yet, when Jesus resurrected him, his sisters immediately recognized him, and Lazarus obviously remembered them.—John 11:38-44; 12:1, 2.

⁹ Jehovah promises that no one living under Christ’s rule will say: “I am sick.” (Isa. 33:24; Rom.

8. Why is it reasonable to assume that those greeting resurrected individuals will be able to recognize their loved ones?

9. Why will resurrected ones not come back with a perfect mind and body?

6:7) Thus, those who are raised from the dead will be re-created with healthy bodies. However, they will not immediately be perfect. If they were, they might seem unfamiliar to their loved ones. It seems that all mankind will gradually grow to perfection during the Thousand Year Reign of Christ. It is only at the end of the thousand years that Jesus will hand the Kingdom back to his Father. Then the Kingdom will have accomplished its work completely, including the raising of mankind to a perfect state.—1 Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 20:1-3.

IN WHAT WAYS WILL THE RESURRECTION BRING US JOY?

¹⁰ Imagine what it will be like to greet your loved ones again. Will the joy you feel make you laugh or cry? Will you fill the air with songs of praise to Jehovah? One thing is certain, you will feel intense love for your caring Father and his unselfish Son because of the wonderful gift of the resurrection.

¹¹ Imagine the joy that those who are resurrected will feel as they strip off their old personality and live according to God's righteous standards. Those who

10. How will the resurrection affect you?

11. According to Jesus' words recorded at John 5:28, 29, what will those who live by God's righteous standards experience?

make these changes will experience a resurrection of life. On the other hand, those who rebel against God will not be allowed to disrupt the peace of Paradise.—Isa. 65:20; read John 5:28, 29.

¹² Under Kingdom rule, all of God’s people will experience the truthfulness of what Proverbs 10:22 says: “It is the blessing of Jehovah that makes one rich, and He adds no pain with it.” With Jehovah’s spirit at work on them, God’s people will become spiritually rich, that is, they will become more and more like Christ and will grow toward perfection. (John 13:15-17; Eph. 4:23, 24) Each day they will become stronger, better people. What a joy life will be then! (Job 33:25) How, though, can meditating on the resurrection help you now?

APPRECIATE JEHOVAH’S LOVE

¹³ As we discussed earlier, when Jehovah resurrects people, he will restore their memories and the personality traits that made them who they were. Just think of what that implies. Jehovah loves you so much that he is keeping track of all that you think, feel, say, and do. So if he had to resurrect you, he

12. In what way will all those on earth be blessed by Jehovah?

13. In line with Psalm 139:1-4, how will the resurrection show just how much Jehovah knows about us?

would easily be able to restore your memories, attitude, and personality traits. King David was aware of just how interested Jehovah is in each one of us. (Read Psalm 139:1-4.) In what way can understanding how well Jehovah knows us affect us now?

¹⁴ When we meditate on how well Jehovah knows us, we should not feel worried. Why not? Remember that Jehovah deeply cares for us. He cherishes the traits that make each one of us unique. He carefully notes the experiences in our life that make us who we are. What a comforting thought! Never should we feel that we are alone. Each minute of every day, Jehovah is right beside us, looking for opportunities to help us.—2 Chron. 16:9.

APPRECIATE JEHOVAH'S WISDOM

¹⁵ The threat of death is a powerful weapon. Those under Satan's control use it to force people to betray their friends or to give up their convictions. But that threat is powerless against us. We know that if our enemies kill us, Jehovah will restore us to life. (Rev. 2:10) We are convinced that nothing they do can sever our attachment to Jehovah. (Rom. 8:35-39) What

14. In what way should we be affected when meditating on how well Jehovah knows us?

15. How does the resurrection give evidence of Jehovah's wisdom?



Do our decisions show that we trust in
Jehovah's promise to care for our material needs?
(See paragraph 16)

remarkable wisdom Jehovah has shown by giving us the resurrection hope! By means of it, he disarms Satan of one of his most effective weapons and at the same time arms us with unbreakable courage.

¹⁶ If enemies of Jehovah threaten you with death, will you be willing to entrust him with your life? How can you know? One way is to ask yourself, 'Do the small decisions I make each day give evidence that I trust in Jehovah?' (Luke 16:10) Another question could be, 'Does my lifestyle prove that I trust in Jehovah's promise to care for my material needs if I

16. What questions do you need to ask yourself, and how can the answers help you to know how much you trust in Jehovah?

seek his Kingdom first?’ (Matt. 6:31-33) If the answer to those questions is yes, then you prove that you trust in Jehovah, and you will be prepared for any trial that comes your way.—Prov. 3:5, 6.

APPRECIATE JEHOVAH’S PATIENCE

¹⁷ Jehovah has a fixed day and hour when he will bring an end to this old system. (Matt. 24:36) He will not become impatient and act before that time. He has a longing to resurrect the dead, but he is patient. (Job 14:14, 15) He is waiting until the right time arrives to raise them to life. (John 5:28) We have good reasons to appreciate Jehovah’s patience. Just think: Because Jehovah is patient, many people, including us, have had time “to attain to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9) Jehovah wants as many people as possible to have the opportunity to gain everlasting life. So let us show that we appreciate his patience. How? By earnestly looking for those who are “rightly disposed for everlasting life” and helping them to love Jehovah and serve him. (Acts 13:48) Then they will benefit from Jehovah’s patience, just as we have.

¹⁸ Jehovah will patiently wait until the end of the thousand years before he expects us to be perfect.

17. (a) How does the resurrection show that Jehovah is patient?

(b) How can we show our appreciation for Jehovah’s patience?

18. Why should we be patient with others?

Until that time, Jehovah is willing to overlook our sins. Surely, then, we have reason to look for the good in others and to be patient with them. Consider the example of one sister whose husband began suffering from severe anxiety attacks and stopped attending meetings. “This was very painful for me,” she says. “Our plans for our future as a family were turned upside down.” Yet through it all, this loving wife was patient with her husband. She relied on Jehovah and never gave up. Like Jehovah, she looked past the problem and focused on the good things about her husband. She says, “My husband has wonderful qualities, and he is working to recover, little by little.” How important it is that we are patient with those in our family or congregation who are trying to overcome difficult challenges!

¹⁹ Jesus and the angels were joyful when the earth was first created. But imagine how happy they will be to see the earth full of perfect people, who love and serve Jehovah. Imagine the joy that those who were brought from the earth to heaven to rule with Christ will feel as they see mankind benefiting from their work. (Rev. 4:4, 9-11; 5:9, 10) And imagine living when tears of joy replace tears of pain, when sickness, sorrow, and death are gone forever. (Rev. 21:4)

19. What should we be determined to do?

Until then, be determined to imitate your loving, wise, and patient Father. If you do, you will maintain your joy, no matter what trials you face. (Jas. 1:2-4)
How thankful we can be for Jehovah’s promise that “there is going to be a resurrection”—Acts 24:15.

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 30: A native American man who died hundreds of years ago is resurrected during the Thousand Year Rule of Christ. A brother who survived Armageddon gladly teaches the resurrected man what he needs to do to benefit from Christ’s ransom.

Page 35: A brother tells his employer that there are several days in the workweek that he cannot work overtime. He explains that on those days he reserves his evenings for activities related to his worship of Jehovah. However, when he is urgently needed at other times, he is willing to work extra.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- Why did Jehovah create life?
- How does the resurrection reveal Jehovah’s love, wisdom, and patience?
- How can you show that you appreciate the resurrection hope?

1. Ev'ry newborn child, Ev'ry drop of rain,
Ev'ry golden ray of sun, Each head of grain—
All are gifts from God; They reveal his way.
Miracles performed by him sustain us each day.

(CHORUS)

*So, what are we to do with a gift so rare
But to love the One who gave it and show him we care.
No matter what we do, We never can earn it.
This gift is still a gift—The miracle of life.*

2. Others may give up, Lose their will to try,
Echoing the wife of Job: “Curse God and die.”
We are not that way; Praise to God we give,
Thanking him for ev'ry precious moment we live.

(CHORUS)

*So, what are we to do with a gift so rare
But to love the ones around us and show them we care.
No matter what we do, We never can earn it.
This gift is still a gift—The miracle of life.*