

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Moses Carefully Followed Instructions”:** (10 min.)  
 Ex 39:32—Moses carefully followed Jehovah’s instructions in the construction of the tabernacle (w11 9/15 27 ¶13)  
 Ex 39:43—Moses personally inspected the completed tabernacle  
 Ex 40:1, 2, 16—Moses set up the tabernacle according to Jehovah’s direction (w05 7/15 27 ¶3)
  - **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)  
 Ex 39:34—What may explain how the Israelites were able to obtain sealskins for the tabernacle? (it-2 884 ¶3)  
  
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- 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 39:1-21 (5)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video. Discuss how to remain neutral if the householder wants to discuss political or social issues.
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Respond to a question from the householder about your view of a political candidate or issue. (12)
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w16.04 29 ¶8-10—Theme: How Can We Maintain Christian Neutrality in Our Conversations and Thinking? (14)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 123
- **Listen With Understanding (Mt 13:16):** (15 min.)  
 Play the video (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS). Then ask the following questions: Why do we need to listen with understanding? What is the meaning of Mark 4:23, 24? How can Hebrews 2:1 be illustrated? How do we show that we are listening with understanding?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min. or less) jy chap. 139
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 139 and Prayer

EXODUS 39-40 | Moses Carefully Followed Instructions

**39:32, 43; 40:1, 2, 16**

Moses conscientiously followed Jehovah’s detailed instructions for the construction and setting up of the tabernacle. We should likewise listen to any instructions we receive from Jehovah’s organization and obey promptly and wholeheartedly. This is true even if it does not seem important to follow them or we do not understand the reason for the instructions.—Lu 16:10.

**Why should we listen to and carefully follow instructions . . .**

- during meetings for field service?
- regarding preparing for medical emergencies?
- about disaster preparedness?



# 89 *Listen, Obey, and Be Blessed*

(Luke 11:28)

1. If we have listened to Christ, will we show it?  
His teaching shines as it shows us the way.  
It makes us happy to hear and to know it,  
But we'll be blessed if we know and obey.

*(CHORUS)*

*Listen, obey, and be blessed  
When you hear God's will expressed.  
If you'd be happy and enter his rest,  
Listen, obey, and be blessed.*

2. Our way of life, like a house, gives protection  
When it is built on the rock, not on sand.  
If we apply Jesus' loving direction,  
We'll build a life which on bedrock will stand.

*(Chorus)*

3. Just as a tree rooted deep by the waters  
Gives of its fruit when each season arrives,  
If we obey as God's own sons and daughters,  
We'll all be blessed and enjoy endless lives.

*(Chorus)*

## Exodus 39-40

**39** From the blue thread, the purple wool, and the scarlet material, they made finely woven garments for ministering in the holy place. They made the holy garments that were for Aaron, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>2</sup> He made the eph'od of gold, blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine twisted linen. <sup>3</sup> They hammered plates of gold into thin sheets, and he cut it into threads to work in with the blue thread, the purple wool, the scarlet material, and the fine linen, and it was embroidered. <sup>4</sup> They made shoulder pieces for it that were attached, and it was joined to them at its two edges. <sup>5</sup> And the woven belt, which was attached to the eph'od for tying it securely in position, was made of the same material, of gold, blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine twisted linen, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>6</sup> Then they mounted the onyx stones in gold settings, and they engraved them with the names of the sons of Israel, as they would engrave a seal. <sup>7</sup> He placed them on the shoulder pieces of the eph'od as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses. <sup>8</sup> Then he made the breastpiece with the workmanship of an embroiderer, like the workmanship of the eph'od, out of gold, blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine twisted linen. <sup>9</sup> It was square when doubled. They made the breastpiece, which, when doubled, was as long and as wide as the span of the hand. <sup>10</sup> They set four rows of stones in it.

The first row was ruby, topaz, and emerald.<sup>11</sup> The second row was turquoise, sapphire, and jasper.<sup>12</sup> The third row was *lesh'em* stone, agate, and amethyst.<sup>13</sup> And the fourth row was chrys'olite, onyx, and jade. They were mounted in settings of gold.<sup>14</sup> The stones corresponded to the names of the 12 sons of Israel, and the names were engraved like a seal, each name representing one of the 12 tribes.

<sup>15</sup> Then they made wreathed chains on the breastpiece, like cords of pure gold.<sup>16</sup> And they made two settings of gold and two rings of gold and attached the two rings to the two corners of the breastpiece.<sup>17</sup> After that they put the two cords of gold through the two rings at the corners of the breastpiece.<sup>18</sup> Then they put the two ends of the two cords through the two settings and attached them to the shoulder pieces on the front of the eph'od.<sup>19</sup> Next they made two rings of gold and set them at the two ends on the inside edge of the breastpiece, facing the eph'od.<sup>20</sup> Then they made two more rings of gold and put them on the front of the eph'od, below the two shoulder pieces, close to where it is joined, above the woven belt of the eph'od.<sup>21</sup> Finally, they tied the breastpiece with a blue cord from its rings to the rings of the eph'od, in order to keep the breastpiece in its place on the eph'od, above the woven belt, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>22</sup> Then he made the sleeveless coat of the eph'od, woven by a loom worker, all of blue thread.<sup>23</sup> The opening of the sleeveless coat was in the middle of it, like the opening of a coat of mail. Its opening had a border around it, so that it

would not be torn. <sup>24</sup> Next they made on the hem of the sleeveless coat pomegranates of blue thread, purple wool, and scarlet material, twisted together. <sup>25</sup> And they made bells of pure gold and put the bells in between the pomegranates all around the hem of the sleeveless coat, in between the pomegranates; <sup>26</sup> they alternated a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, all around the hem of the sleeveless coat, which was used for ministering, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>27</sup> And they made the robes of fine linen, woven by a loom worker, for Aaron and his sons, <sup>28</sup> and the turban of fine linen, the ornamental headgear of fine linen, the linen shorts of fine twisted linen, <sup>29</sup> and the sash of fine twisted linen, blue thread, purple wool, and scarlet material woven together, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>30</sup> Finally, they made the shining plate, the holy sign of dedication, out of pure gold and inscribed on it an inscription as one would engrave a seal: "Holiness belongs to Jehovah." <sup>31</sup> They attached to it a cord made from blue thread in order to put it on the turban, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>32</sup> So all the work for the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, was completed, and the Israelites did everything that Jehovah had commanded Moses. They did just so.

<sup>33</sup> Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its equipment: its clasps, its panel frames, its bars and its pillars and its socket pedestals; <sup>34</sup> its covering of ram skins

dyed red, its covering of sealskins, the curtain for the screen; <sup>35</sup> the ark of the Testimony and its poles and the cover; <sup>36</sup> the table, all its utensils and the showbread; <sup>37</sup> the lampstand of pure gold, its lamps, the row of lamps, and all its utensils and the oil for lighting; <sup>38</sup> the altar of gold, the anointing oil, the perfumed incense, the screen for the entrance of the tent; <sup>39</sup> the altar of copper and its grating of copper, its poles, all its utensils, the basin and its stand; <sup>40</sup> the hanging curtains of the courtyard, its pillars and its socket pedestals, the screen for the entrance of the courtyard, its tent cords and its tent pins and all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting; <sup>41</sup> the finely woven garments for ministering in the sanctuary, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons for serving as priests.

<sup>42</sup> According to all that Jehovah had commanded Moses, that was how the Israelites did all the work. <sup>43</sup> When Moses inspected all their work, he saw that they had done it just as Jehovah had commanded; and Moses blessed them.

**40** Then Jehovah said to Moses: <sup>2</sup> “On the first day of the first month, you are to set up the tabernacle, the tent of meeting. <sup>3</sup> Place the ark of the Testimony in it, and screen off the Ark with the curtain. <sup>4</sup> You are to bring the table in and arrange the things that belong on it and bring in the lampstand and light its lamps. <sup>5</sup> Then put the golden altar for incense before the ark of the Testimony and put the screen for the entrance of the tabernacle in place.

<sup>6</sup> “You are to put the altar of burnt offering before the entrance of the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, <sup>7</sup> and place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it. <sup>8</sup> Then set up the courtyard around it and put up the screen for the entrance of the courtyard. <sup>9</sup> Next you are to take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and sanctify it and all its utensils, so that it will become something holy. <sup>10</sup> You are to anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils and sanctify the altar, so that it will become a most holy altar. <sup>11</sup> And anoint the basin and its stand and sanctify it.

<sup>12</sup> “Then bring Aaron and his sons near to the entrance of the tent of meeting, and wash them with water. <sup>13</sup> And you are to clothe Aaron with the holy garments and anoint him and sanctify him, and he will serve as priest to me. <sup>14</sup> After that bring his sons near, and clothe them with robes. <sup>15</sup> You are to anoint them just as you anointed their father, so that they will serve as priests to me, and their anointing will serve continually for them as a lasting priesthood during their generations.”

<sup>16</sup> Moses did according to all that Jehovah had commanded him. He did just so.

<sup>17</sup> In the first month, in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was set up. <sup>18</sup> When Moses set up the tabernacle, he put its socket pedestals down, set up the panel frames, put its bars in, and set up its pillars. <sup>19</sup> He spread out the tent over the tabernacle and placed the

covering of the tent over it, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>20</sup> After that he took the Testimony and put it into the Ark and placed the poles on the Ark and put the cover on the Ark. <sup>21</sup> He brought the Ark into the tabernacle and put the curtain of the screen in place and screened off the ark of the Testimony, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>22</sup> Next he put the table in the tent of meeting on the north side of the tabernacle outside the curtain, <sup>23</sup> and he arranged the row of bread on it before Jehovah, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>24</sup> He placed the lampstand in the tent of meeting in front of the table, on the south side of the tabernacle. <sup>25</sup> He lit the lamps before Jehovah, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>26</sup> He next placed the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the curtain, <sup>27</sup> in order to make perfumed incense smoke on it, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>28</sup> Then he put the screen for the entrance of the tabernacle in place.

<sup>29</sup> He placed the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, so that he might offer up the burnt offering and the grain offering on it, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>30</sup> He then placed the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing. <sup>31</sup> Moses and



Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet at it.  
<sup>32</sup> Whenever they went into the tent of meeting or approached the altar, they would wash, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

<sup>33</sup> Finally he set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and the altar and put up the screen for the entrance of the courtyard.

So Moses finished the work. <sup>34</sup> And the cloud began to cover the tent of meeting, and Jehovah's glory filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup> Moses was not able to go into the tent of meeting because the cloud remained over it, and Jehovah's glory filled the tabernacle.

<sup>36</sup> And when the cloud lifted from the tabernacle, the Israelites would break camp during all stages of their journey. <sup>37</sup> However, if the cloud did not lift up, then they would not break camp until the day it lifted. <sup>38</sup> For Jehovah's cloud was over the tabernacle by day, and a fire remained over it by night in the sight of all the house of Israel during all stages of their journey.

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Moses Carefully Followed Instructions”:** (10 min.)  
 Ex 39:32—Moses carefully followed Jehovah’s instructions in the construction of the tabernacle (w11 9/15 27 ¶13)  
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- **Listen With Understanding (Mt 13:16):** (15 min.)  
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- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min. or less) jy chap. 139
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EXODUS 39-40 | Moses Carefully Followed Instructions

**39:32, 43; 40:1, 2, 16**

Moses conscientiously followed Jehovah’s detailed instructions for the construction and setting up of the tabernacle. We should likewise listen to any instructions we receive from Jehovah’s organization and obey promptly and wholeheartedly. This is true even if it does not seem important to follow them or we do not understand the reason for the instructions.—Lu 16:10.

**Why should we listen to and carefully follow instructions . . .**

- during meetings for field service?
- regarding preparing for medical emergencies?
- about disaster preparedness?



## **November 2-8 / Exodus 39-40**

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

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

**"Moses Carefully Followed Instructions":** (10 minutes)

Exodus 39:32, 43; 40:1, 2, 16

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Pictures: Collage: Brothers and sisters following instructions they have received. 1. A group meets for field service outside on a porch. 2. A sister records her medical decisions on a legal document. 3. A family puts emergency supplies into a go bag.

### **Exodus 39:32—Moses carefully followed Jehovah’s instructions in the construction of the tabernacle**

**Exodus 39:32:** So all the work for the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, was completed, and the Israelites did everything that Jehovah had commanded Moses. They did just so.

### **w11 9/15 27 paragraph 13**

In contrast, Moses was “by far the meekest of all the men who were upon the surface of the ground.” (Numbers 12:3) He manifested his meekness and humility by his determination to follow Jehovah’s direction. (Exodus 7:6; 40:16) There is no indication that Moses often questioned Jehovah’s way of doing things or got annoyed at having to follow procedures that Jehovah set out. For example,

Jehovah gave commands regarding the tabernacle construction down to the smallest detail, such as the color of the thread and the number of loops to be used in making the tent cloths. (Exodus 26:1-6) If a human overseer in God's organization provides you with instructions that seem extremely detailed, you might at times feel frustrated. Jehovah, however, is a perfect overseer, who delegates generously and trusts his servants. When he gives many details, he does so for good reason. Take note, though, that Moses did not become irritated with Jehovah for giving that level of detail, as if Jehovah were demeaning him or stifling his creativity or freedom. Rather, Moses made sure that the workers "did just so" in following God's directions. (Exodus 39:32) What a humble course! Moses recognized that it was Jehovah's work and that he was just a tool being used to get that work done.

## **Exodus 39:43—Moses personally inspected the completed tabernacle**

**Exodus 39:43:** When Moses inspected all their work, he saw that they had done it just as Jehovah had commanded; and Moses blessed them.

## **Exodus 40:1, 2, 16—Moses set up the tabernacle according to Jehovah's direction**

**Exodus 40:1, 2:** Then Jehovah said to Moses: "On the first day of the first month, you are to set up the tabernacle, the tent of meeting.

**Exodus 40:16:** Moses did according to all that Jehovah had commanded him. He did just so.

### **w05 7/15 27 paragraph 3**

"Moses as an attendant was faithful," states Hebrews 3:5. What made the prophet Moses faithful? In the construction and setting up of the tabernacle, "Moses proceeded to do according to all that Jehovah had commanded him. He did just so." (Exodus 40:16) As worshippers of Jehovah, we show

faithfulness by obediently serving him. This certainly includes our remaining loyal to Jehovah while facing difficult tests or severe trials. However, success in dealing with big tests is not the sole factor that determines our faithfulness. "The person faithful in what is least is faithful also in much," stated Jesus, "and the person unrighteous in what is least is unrighteous also in much." (Luke 16:10) We must remain faithful even in seemingly small matters.

### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**Exodus 39:34—What may explain how the Israelites were able to obtain sealskins for the tabernacle?**

**Exodus 39:34:** its covering of ram skins dyed red, its covering of sealskins, the curtain for the screen;

#### **it-2 884 paragraph 3**

*How Obtainable by Israelites.* If the *ta'chash* of the Bible does designate a kind of seal, then a question may arise as to how it was possible for the Israelites to obtain sealskins. While seals are generally associated with Arctic and Antarctic regions, some seals favor warmer climates. Today a few

monk seals still inhabit part of the Mediterranean Sea, as well as other warmer waters. Over the centuries man has greatly reduced the number of seals, and in Bible times these animals may have been abundant in the Mediterranean and in the Red Sea. As late as 1832 an English edition of Calmet's *Dictionary of the Holy Bible* (page 139) observed: "On many of the small islands of the Red sea, around the peninsula of Sinai, are found seals."—See also *The Tabernacle's Typical Teaching*, by A. J. Pollock, London, page 47.

### **Exodus 40:34—When the cloud began to cover the tent of meeting, what did this indicate?**

**Exodus 40:34:** And the cloud began to cover the tent of meeting, and Jehovah's glory filled the tabernacle.

### **w15 7/15 21 paragraph 1**

When the tabernacle was completed, a cloud "began to cover the tent of meeting, and Jehovah's glory filled the tabernacle." (Exodus 40:34) What a clear indication of Jehovah's approval! How do you think Bezalel and Oholiab



felt at that moment? Although their names were not engraved on their handiwork, they must have felt satisfaction in knowing that God's blessing was on all their efforts.

(Proverbs 10:22) In the years that followed, it surely warmed their hearts to see that their handiwork continued to be used in Jehovah's service. When they come back to life in the new world, Bezalel and Oholiab will no doubt be thrilled to learn that the tabernacle was used in true worship for some 500 years!

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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# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Conversations

#### INITIAL CALL

**Question:** What is God's Kingdom?

**Scripture:** Mt 6:9, 10 or Isa 9:6, 7

**Link:** What will God's Kingdom accomplish?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• wp20.2 4, 6

#### RETURN VISIT

**Question:** What will God's Kingdom accomplish?

**Scripture:** Mt 14:19, 20 or Ps 72:16

**Link:** When will God's Kingdom rule the earth?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• bhs 35 ¶19

## BE “CAUTIOUS” YET “INNOCENT”

<sup>8</sup> A second key to maintaining our neutrality is to be “cautious as serpents and yet innocent as doves” when facing challenges. **(Read Matthew 10:16, 17.)** We show caution by recognizing dangers early, and we remain innocent by not letting them lead us into compromise. Consider some potential challenges and how we can deal with them.

<sup>9</sup> *Conversations.* We must exercise caution when political issues are brought up. For example, when presenting the Kingdom message, avoid either praising or criticizing the policies of a political party or leader. Try to establish common ground with the householder by focusing on the underlying problem rather than on any proposed political solution. Then, show from the Bible how God’s government will solve the problem completely and permanently. If such volatile issues as same-sex marriage or abortion come up, defend God’s standards and explain how we follow these in our own lives. During the discussion, remain strictly neutral on the political aspects of these topics. We take no position regarding what laws should be enacted, repealed, or changed, and we do not pressure others to agree with our view.

<sup>10</sup> *The media.* Information broadcast as “news” is often presented in a biased and opinionated way. The media sometimes functions as a tool of the political system. News reports might be blatantly slanted in lands with State-controlled media, yet even Christians living in so-called free countries must be careful not to adopt the bias of a commentator. Ask yourself, ‘Do I enjoy listening to someone in the media because I agree with his political leaning?’ If so, you might look for a more objective source of information. In any case, it is wise to limit your intake from media sources that promote a political agenda and to test what you hear against “the standard of wholesome words” found in the Bible.—2 Tim. 1:13.

*Loyally Submitting  
to Theocratic Order*  
(1 Corinthians 14:33)

1. As Jehovah's people sound throughout the earth  
Truths about the Kingdom and its priceless worth,  
Theocratic order they must all obey  
And remain united, loyalty display.

*(CHORUS)*

*Loyal submission in recognition,  
This to our God we owe.  
He gives protection, tender affection,  
Loyalty to him we show.*

2. God provides his steward and his active force.  
These will ever guide us in our Christian course.  
So may we be steadfast, seeking God to please,  
Loyally proclaiming all his wise decrees!

*(Chorus)*

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- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video. Discuss how to remain neutral if the householder wants to discuss political or social issues.
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Respond to a question from the householder about your view of a political candidate or issue. (12)
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w16.04 29 ¶8-10—Theme: How Can We Maintain Christian Neutrality in Our Conversations and Thinking? (14)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 123
- **Listen With Understanding (Mt 13:16):** (15 min.)  
 Play the video (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS). Then ask the following questions: Why do we need to listen with understanding? What is the meaning of Mark 4:23, 24? How can Hebrews 2:1 be illustrated? How do we show that we are listening with understanding?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min. or less) jy chap. 139
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 139 and Prayer

EXODUS 39-40 | Moses Carefully Followed Instructions

**39:32, 43; 40:1, 2, 16**

Moses conscientiously followed Jehovah’s detailed instructions for the construction and setting up of the tabernacle. We should likewise listen to any instructions we receive from Jehovah’s organization and obey promptly and wholeheartedly. This is true even if it does not seem important to follow them or we do not understand the reason for the instructions.—Lu 16:10.

**Why should we listen to and carefully follow instructions . . .**

- during meetings for field service?
- regarding preparing for medical emergencies?
- about disaster preparedness?



# JESUS BRINGS PARADISE AND FINISHES HIS ASSIGNMENT

1 CORINTHIANS 15:24-28

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- THE OUTCOME FOR THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS
  - MANY WILL ENJOY PARADISE ON EARTH
  - JESUS PROVES TO BE THE WAY, THE TRUTH,  
THE LIFE
- 

Soon after Jesus' baptism, he faced an enemy who was determined to cause him to fail even before he began his ministry. Yes, the Devil tried repeatedly to tempt Jesus. Later, Jesus said about that evil one: "The ruler of the world is coming, and he has no hold on me."—John 14:30.

The apostle John foresaw in vision what lay ahead for 'the great dragon, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan.' That vicious enemy of mankind would be cast out of heaven, "having great anger, knowing that he has a short period of time." (Revelation 12:9, 12) Christians have good reason to believe that they are living during that "short



period of time” and that soon “the dragon, the original serpent,” will be abysed and inactive for 1,000 years while Jesus rules in God’s Kingdom.—Revelation 20:1, 2.

During that period, what will occur on earth, our home? Who will live here, and under what conditions? Jesus himself pointed to the answers. In his illustration of the sheep and the goats, he showed what future awaits righteous humans who are like sheep, who cooperate with and do good toward Jesus’ brothers. He also made clear what lies ahead for those who do the opposite, those who are like goats. Jesus said: “These [the goats] will depart into everlasting cutting-off, but the righteous ones [the sheep] into everlasting life.”—Matthew 25:46.

This helps us to understand Jesus’ words to the criminal who was on the stake beside him. Jesus did not hold out to that man the reward that was promised to his faithful apostles, that of being part of the Kingdom of the heavens. Rather, Jesus promised the repentant evildoer: “Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43) Thus

that man gained the prospect of living in Paradise—a beautiful park, or parklike garden. Logically, those today who prove to be like sheep and who enter “into everlasting life” will also be in that Paradise.

This harmonizes with the description that the apostle John gave of conditions that will then prevail on earth. He said: “The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”—Revelation 21:3, 4.

In order for that criminal to enjoy life in Paradise, he will have to be raised from the dead. And he will not be alone in experiencing a resurrection. Jesus made that clear when he said: “The hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, and those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment.”—John 5:28, 29.



But what of the faithful apostles and the limited number of others who will be with Jesus in heaven? The Bible says: “They will be priests of God and of the Christ, and they will rule as kings with him for the 1,000 years.” (Revelation 20:6) These who become corulers with Christ will have been men and women on earth. So they will certainly be compassionate and understanding heavenly rulers over those on earth.—Revelation 5:10.

Jesus will apply his ransom sacrifice to humans on earth and lift from them the curse of inherited sin. He and his corulers will raise faithful mankind to perfection. Yes, humans will then enjoy the life that God originally purposed for them when he told Adam and Eve to multiply and fill the earth. Even death that resulted from Adam’s sin will be no more!

Thus, Jesus will have accomplished all that Jehovah asked of him. At the end of his Thousand Year Rule, Jesus will hand over the Kingdom and the perfected human family to his Father. Regarding this marvelous act of humility on Jesus’ part, the

apostle Paul wrote: “When all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.”  
—1 Corinthians 15:28.

Clearly, Jesus plays a vital role in accomplishing God’s glorious purposes. And as those purposes continue to unfold throughout eternity, he will live up completely to the description he gave of himself: “I am the way and the truth and the life.”  
—John 14:6.

- ◇ What does the future hold for mankind’s great enemy, the Devil?
- ◇ Who will be able to enjoy Paradise, and under what conditions?
- ◇ By the end of the thousand years, what will Jesus have accomplished, and what will he then do?

# 139      *See Yourself When All Is New*

(Revelation 21:1-5)

1. Just see yourself, just see me too;  
    Just see us all in a world that is new.  
Think how you'll feel, how it will be,  
    To live in peace, to be truly free.  
No evil one will then prevail;  
    Rule by our God cannot ever fail.  
The time will have come for a new earthly start,  
    The song of our praises  
        will pour out from our heart:

## *(CHORUS)*

*"We thank you, our God, for all you have done.  
All things are new by the rule of your Son.  
The fullness of our heart overflows in our song;  
All glory and honor and praise to you belong."*

2. Now see yourself, and see me too;  
    And look ahead to a world that is new.  
No sight we see, no sound we hear  
    Will cause alarm or give rise to fear.  
All has come true, just as he said;  
    Now over mankind, his tent is spread.  
He now will awaken those sleeping in death;  
    Their voices will join ours with  
        ev'ry grateful breath:

## *(Chorus)*

(See also Ps. 37:10, 11; Isa. 65:17; John 5:28; 2 Pet. 3:13.)

SEPTEMBER 2020

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
NOVEMBER 2–DECEMBER 6, 2020

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### COVER PICTURE:

Our busy, zealous sisters participate at the meetings, share in the ministry, help maintain the Kingdom Hall, and show interest in fellow worshippers (See study article 39, paragraph 1)

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*Grant Us Boldness*

(Acts 4:29)

1. As we tell about the Kingdom,  
 As we witness for your name,  
 There are many who oppose us  
 And who try to bring us shame.  
 But instead of fearing men,  
 It's really you we must obey.  
 So we beg you now for your spirit;  
 O Jehovah, hear what we pray.

*(CHORUS)*

*Grant us boldness as we witness;  
 Help us overcome our fear.  
 Give us confidence and courage  
 So that all the world may hear.  
 Armageddon draws ever near,  
 But until that great day is here,  
 Grant us boldness as we witness.  
 This is our prayer.*

2. Even though we may be fearful,  
 You remember we are dust.  
 Your assurance to support us  
 Is a promise we can trust.  
 Give attention to the threats  
 Of those who persecute and blame.  
 May you help us all to continue  
 As we boldly speak in your name.

*(Chorus)*

# Are You Ready to Become a Fisher of Men?

*“Stop being afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive.”*—LUKE 5:10.

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## SONG 73

Grant Us Boldness

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## PREVIEW

Jesus invited humble, hardworking fishermen to be his disciples. Today, Jesus continues to invite people with those qualities to be fishers of men. This article will discuss what Bible students who hesitate to accept Jesus' invitation need to do.

THE disciples Peter, Andrew, James, and John were commercial fishermen. Imagine how surprised they were to hear Jesus' invitation: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."\* What was the response? The Bible says: "At once they abandoned their nets and followed him." (Matt. 4:18-22) That decision would change their lives forever. Instead of catching literal fish, they would be "catching people alive." (Luke 5:10, ftn.) Today, Jesus extends that same invitation to honesthearted ones who love the truth. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Have you accepted Jesus' invitation to become a fisher of men?

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps you have progressed in your Bible study and are at the point of deciding whether you want to become a publisher of the good news. If you are unsure about accepting Jesus' invitation, do not be discouraged. Your hesitation likely means that you know just how important this decision is. True, the Bible says that Peter and his companions

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\* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** The phrase "fishers of men" refers to all those who preach the good news and teach others to become disciples of Christ.

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1. What invitation did Jesus extend to four fishermen, and how did they respond?
2. Why should we take seriously the decision to become fishers of men, and what will help us to take that step?

abandoned their literal nets “at once.” However, Peter and his brother did not make that decision hastily. They had come to know and accept Jesus as the Messiah more than six months earlier. (John 1: 35-42) Similarly, you probably have already learned much about Jehovah and Jesus, and you want to continue to progress spiritually. But you should not make this decision without counting the cost. What helped Peter, Andrew, and others to make their decision?

<sup>3</sup> Jesus’ first disciples were motivated, knowledgeable, courageous, and self-disciplined. These same qualities no doubt helped them to become effective fishers of men. This article will discuss how you can develop those qualities so that you can be an effective disciple of Christ.

## **STRENGTHEN YOUR MOTIVATION**

<sup>4</sup> Peter caught fish to support his family, but it was more than just a job for him. Peter apparently loved fishing. (John 21:3, 9-15) He also learned to love being a fisher of men. And with Jehovah’s

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3. What qualities will strengthen your desire to accept Jesus’ invitation?

4. What motivated Peter to be a fisherman?

backing, Peter became very good at that work.  
—Acts 2:14, 41.

<sup>5</sup> We preach because we love Jehovah; that is our primary motivation for doing this work. Our love for Jehovah can help us to overcome any feelings of inadequacy. When Jesus invited Peter to become a fisher of men, he told him: “Stop being afraid.” (Read Luke 5:8-11.) Peter was not gripped by fear of what might happen if he became a disciple. Rather, he was astonished at the miraculous catch of fish that Jesus had just given the men, and Peter felt

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5. Based on Luke 5:8-11, why was Peter afraid, and what can help us to overcome similar feelings?



Peter and others became fishers of men. This vital work is continuing in our day  
(See paragraphs 4-5)

unworthy of being asked to work with Jesus. On the other hand, you may feel overwhelmed when you realize what is involved in being a disciple of Christ. If so, strengthen your love for Jehovah, Jesus, and your neighbor, and you will be motivated to accept Jesus' invitation to become a fisher of men.—Matt. 22:37, 39; John 14:15.

<sup>6</sup> Consider some other reasons why we are motivated to preach. We want to obey Jesus' command: "Go . . . and make disciples." (Matt. 28:19, 20) We also preach because people are "skinned and thrown about" and are in dire need of learning the truth about the Kingdom. (Matt. 9:36) Jehovah wants all sorts of people to come to an accurate knowledge of the truth and be saved.—1 Tim. 2:4.

<sup>7</sup> We will be moved to take up this lifesaving work when we think about the effect our preaching can have. Unlike a commercial fisherman who sells or eats the fish he catches, we "catch" people in order to save their lives.—Read Romans 10:13-15; 1 Tim. 4:16.

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6. What else motivates us to preach?

7. How does Romans 10:13-15 show that the preaching work is important?

## DEEPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE

<sup>8</sup> In Jesus' day, an Israelite fisherman had to know what type of sea creature he could catch. (Lev. 11: 9-12) He also had to know where the fish could be found. Fish usually stay in an area where the water conditions suit them and where there is plenty of food. Does it matter at what time a fisherman does his work? Regarding the best time to catch literal fish, note what a local Witness on a Pacific island said when he invited a missionary to go fishing. The missionary said, "I'll meet you at nine o'clock tomorrow morning." The brother replied, "You do not understand. We go when it is the right time for the fish, not when it is the right time for us."

<sup>9</sup> Likewise, fishers of men in the first century went to places where the "fish" would be and at a time when they were likely to be there. For example, Jesus' followers preached at the temple and in the synagogues, from house to house, and in the marketplace. (Acts 5:42; 17:17; 18:4) We too need to be familiar with the habits of people who live in our assigned territory. We need to be flexible and preach where and when we are most likely to find people.—1 Cor. 9:19-23.

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**8-9.** What must a fisherman know, and why?

<sup>10</sup> A fisherman needs the right equipment and must know how to use it. We too need to be properly equipped for our work. And we need to know how to use that equipment. Jesus gave clear instructions to his disciples on how to fish for men. He told them what to carry, where to preach, and what to say. (Matt. 10:5-7; Luke 10:1-11) Today, Jehovah’s organization provides a Teaching Toolbox that contains tools that have proved to be effective.\* And we are taught how to use those tools. That training helps us to gain the confidence and skill we need to be effective in our work.—2 Tim. 2:15.

## BUILD COURAGE

<sup>11</sup> Commercial fishermen need to be courageous. They sometimes face unpredictable conditions at sea. They often work at night and on waters that may be subject to sudden storms. Fishers of men also need courage. When we start to preach and identify ourselves as Jehovah’s Witnesses, we may face “storms” of family opposition, ridicule from

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\* See the article “Teaching the Truth” in *The Watchtower*, October 2018, pp. 11-16.

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10. What tools does Jehovah’s organization supply for us?
  11. Why must fishers of men be courageous?



## SKILLED FISHERMEN . . .



1. work when and where they are most likely to find fish  
(See paragraphs 8-9)
2. are trained to use the right equipment  
(See paragraph 10)
3. courageously work in changing conditions  
(See paragraphs 11-12)

acquaintances, and resistance to our message. But this does not surprise us. Jesus warned that he would send his followers into a hostile environment.—Matt. 10:16.

<sup>12</sup> How can you build your courage? First, be convinced that Jesus continues to direct this work from heaven. (John 16:33; Rev. 14:14-16) Next, strengthen your faith in Jehovah’s promise to care for you. (Matt. 6:32-34) The stronger your faith becomes, the more courageous you will be. Peter and his companions showed great faith when they abandoned their livelihood to follow Jesus. Likewise, you showed great faith when you informed acquaintances and members of your family that you had begun to study the Bible with Jehovah’s Witnesses and to attend their meetings! No doubt you have made significant changes in your conduct and lifestyle in order to live by Jehovah’s righteous standards. That too took faith and courage. As you continue to build courage, you can be confident that “Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go.”—Read Joshua 1:7-9.

<sup>13</sup> How else can you build courage? Pray for courage and boldness. (Acts 4:29, 31) Jehovah will answer your prayers and never abandon you. He is always there to give you support. Also, you can meditate on how Jehovah has saved others in the past. Think, too, about how he has helped you over-

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12. In line with Joshua 1:7-9, what can help us to build courage?

13. How can meditation and prayer help you to build courage?

come challenges and given you the strength to make changes in your lifestyle. Certainly the One who led his people through the Red Sea can help you to be a disciple of Christ. (Ex. 14:13) Maintain the same conviction as did the psalmist who said: “Jehovah is on my side; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”—Ps. 118:6.

<sup>14</sup> Another way to build courage is by learning how Jehovah has helped people who are naturally timid but who have learned to be bold. Consider the experience of a sister named Masae. She was shy and felt that she could never speak out publicly about her faith. The very thought of talking to strangers loomed like a high wall that she believed she could never scale. So she made a special effort to deepen her love for God and for her neighbors. She reflected on the urgency of the times we live in and prayed for help to heighten her desire to preach. She overcame her fears and even served as a regular pioneer. Jehovah can also help new publishers to “be courageous.” Note the experience of a sister named Tomoyo. When she started to preach from house to house, the first householder she met shouted: “I don’t want anything to do with Jehovah’s Witnesses!” and slammed the door. Tomoyo

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14. What do you learn from the experiences of Masae and Tomoyo?

courageously told her companion: “Did you hear that? I didn’t have to say a word, and she recognized me as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses. I’m so happy!” Tomoyo now serves as a regular pioneer.

## **CULTIVATE SELF-DISCIPLINE**

<sup>15</sup> Successful fishermen are self-disciplined. Self-discipline has been described as “the ability to make yourself do things that should be done.” Commercial fishermen must discipline themselves to get up early, stay until the work is done, and persist despite bad weather. We too need self-discipline if we are to endure and complete our work.—Matt. 10:22.

<sup>16</sup> We do not inherit self-discipline. On the contrary, our natural inclination often is to follow the course of least resistance. It takes self-control to be self-disciplined. Therefore, we need help to train ourselves to do the things that may be difficult for us to do. Jehovah gives us that help through his holy spirit.—Gal. 5:22, 23.

<sup>17</sup> The apostle Paul was self-disciplined. But he admitted that he had to “pummel” his body in or-

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15. What is self-discipline, and why is it important for Christians?

16. How can we develop self-discipline?

17. As recorded at 1 Corinthians 9:25-27, how does the apostle Paul describe his efforts to cultivate self-discipline?

der to do what was right. (Read 1 Corinthians 9: 25-27.) He urged others to discipline themselves and to do all things “decently and by arrangement.” (1 Cor. 14:40) We must exercise self-discipline to maintain a good spiritual routine that includes a regular share in the symbolic fishing work.—Acts 2:46.

## DO NOT DELAY

<sup>18</sup> A commercial fisherman judges his success by how many fish he catches. On the contrary, we do not judge our success by the number of people we bring into God’s organization. (Luke 8:11-15) As long as we endure in preaching the good news and teaching others, Jehovah will view us as being successful. Why? Because we are being obedient to him and his Son.—Mark 13:10; Acts 5:28, 29.

<sup>19</sup> In some countries, fishing is permitted only during certain months. In such lands, a fisherman’s sense of urgency may intensify as the fishing season draws to a close. As fishers of men, we have this additional incentive to preach now: The end of this system is fast approaching! The time left to share in this lifesaving work is greatly reduced. Do not

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18. What will make Jehovah view us as successful?

19-20. What special incentive do we have to preach now?

delay or feel that you have to wait for the perfect circumstances to take part in this vital activity. —Eccl. 11:4.

<sup>20</sup> Act now to strengthen your motivation, deepen your knowledge of the Bible, build your courage, and cultivate self-discipline. Join the more than eight million fishers of men, and you will experience the joy of Jehovah. (Neh. 8:10) Be determined to have a full share in this work and to see it through to completion. The next article will discuss three ways in which we can strengthen our resolve to continue in the Kingdom-preaching work as fishers of men.

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#### HOW CAN YOU DO THE FOLLOWING?

- Strengthen your motivation
- Build your courage
- Cultivate self-discipline

## *Declare the Good News*

(Revelation 14:6, 7)

1. The fullness of the Kingdom truth was long concealed.  
The truth about the promised King is now revealed.  
Jehovah in his mercy and his love of right  
Considered man's condition in his sinful plight.  
He formed his purpose that his Son should rule the earth;  
In God's due time the Kingdom rule  
would be brought to birth.  
And that he might arrange to bring his Son a bride,  
A little flock of chosen ones is glorified.
2. The good news that we now declare was long foreknown.  
Jehovah wills that in this time it would be shown.  
Along with us, his angels take delight to share,  
To aid us as the Kingdom truth we now declare.  
We have the duty and the honor in these days  
To sanctify his name  
and give him his rightful praise.  
We're honored as his Witnesses that name to bear  
With everlasting good news that we now declare.