

- Song 84 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Give Jehovah Your Best”:** (10 min.)
 Le 5:5, 6—Those who committed certain sins were to offer a guilt offering—a lamb or a goat (*it-2* 527 ¶9)
 Le 5:7—Those who were too poor to offer a lamb or goat could offer two turtledoves or two pigeons (*w09* 6/1 26 ¶3)
 Le 5:11—Those who were too poor to offer turtledoves or pigeons could offer a tenth of an ephah of fine flour (*w09* 6/1 26 ¶4)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Le 5:1—How does this verse apply to Christians? (*w16.02* 30 ¶14)

Le 5:15, 16—How might someone have ‘behaved unfaithfully by unintentionally sinning against the holy things of Jehovah’? (*it-1* 1130 ¶2)

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) Le 4:27–5:4 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation, but use Isaiah 9:6, 7. (12)
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation, but use Psalm 72:16. (4)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *Ivs* 209 ¶22-23 (19)

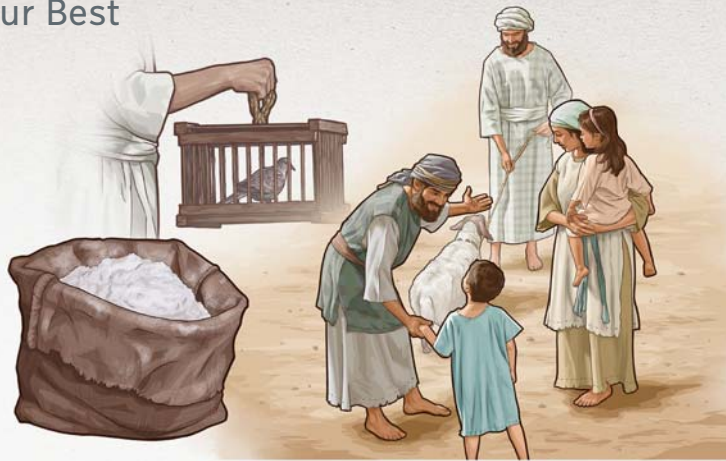
LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 81
- **Pioneering Together for 60 Years—Only With Jehovah’s Help:** (15 min.) Play the video (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES). Then ask the following questions: What privileges and joys have Takako and Hisako enjoyed in their assignment? What health challenges has Takako faced, and what has helped her? What has brought them real joy and contentment? How does their experience illustrate the thoughts expressed in the following scriptures: Proverbs 25:11; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Hebrews 6:10?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min. or less) *rr* “A Letter From the Governing Body” and boxes on p. 5
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- Song 95 and Prayer

LEVITICUS 4-5 | Give Jehovah Your Best

5:5-7, 11

Poverty denied no one in Israel the privilege of making peace with Jehovah. Even the poorest Israelites could give Jehovah an acceptable offering, as long as it was their best. They could offer flour, but Jehovah still expected it to be “fine,” the kind used for honored guests. (*Ge* 18:6) Today, Jehovah accepts our best “sacrifice of praise,” regardless of how much our personal circumstances may limit what we can give.—*Heb* 13:15.



 **How can this encourage you if you cannot do all that you did before, perhaps because of declining health or stamina?**



Reaching Out

(Matthew 9:37, 38)

1. Jehovah knows just what we need
To bring us joy and to succeed.
So he provides so many ways
In which to serve and spend our days.

(CHORUS)

*Reaching out, giving all,
for our God above.*

*And where the need is great, there we'll be,
reaching out in love.*

2. There's work to do in ev'ry land.
Where there's a need, we lend a hand.
By reaching out, we show we care.
We want to help and want to share.

(Chorus)

3. And here at home, in towns nearby,
We plan, we build, new skills we try.
We learn to speak a foreign tongue
And bring good news to ev'ryone.

(Chorus)

Leviticus 4-5

4 Jehovah went on to say to Moses: ² “Tell the Israelites, ‘If someone sins unintentionally by doing any of the things that Jehovah commanded should not be done:

³ “‘If the anointed priest sins and brings guilt on the people, then he must present a sound young bull to Jehovah as a sin offering for the sin he committed. ⁴ He will bring the bull to the entrance of the tent of meeting before Jehovah and lay his hand on the bull’s head, and he is to slaughter the bull before Jehovah. ⁵ Then the anointed priest will take some of the bull’s blood and bring it into the tent of meeting; ⁶ and the priest will dip his finger in the blood and spatter some of the blood seven times before Jehovah in front of the curtain of the holy place. ⁷ The priest will also put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of perfumed incense, which is before Jehovah in the tent of meeting; and he will pour all the rest of the bull’s blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering, which is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

⁸ “‘He will then remove all the fat of the bull of the sin offering, including the fat that covers the intestines and the fat that surrounds the intestines, ⁹ and the two kidneys with the fat on them that is near the loins. And he will remove the appendage of the liver along with the kidneys. ¹⁰ It will be the same as what is removed from a bull of the communion sacrifice. And the priest will make them smoke on the altar of burnt offering.

¹¹ ““But as for the skin of the bull and all its flesh along with its head, its shanks, its intestines, and its dung— ¹² all the rest of the bull—he will have it taken to the outskirts of the camp to a clean place where the ashes are discarded, and he will burn it on wood in the fire. It should be burned where the ashes are discarded.

¹³ ““Now if the entire assembly of Israel has become guilty by committing a sin unintentionally, but the congregation was unaware that they had done something that Jehovah commanded them not to do, ¹⁴ and then the sin becomes known, the congregation must present a young bull for a sin offering and bring it before the tent of meeting. ¹⁵ The elders of the assembly will lay their hands on the bull’s head before Jehovah, and the bull will be slaughtered before Jehovah.

¹⁶ ““Then the anointed priest will bring some of the bull’s blood into the tent of meeting. ¹⁷ The priest is to dip his finger into the blood and spatter some of it seven times before Jehovah in front of the curtain. ¹⁸ He will then put some of the blood on the horns of the altar that is before Jehovah, which is in the tent of meeting; and he will pour all the rest of the blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering, which is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ¹⁹ He will remove all its fat and make it smoke on the altar. ²⁰ He is to do to the bull just as he did to the other bull of the sin offering. That is how he will do it, and the priest will make atonement for them, and they will be forgiven. ²¹ He will have the bull taken to the

outskirts of the camp and will burn it, just as he burned the first bull. It is a sin offering for the congregation.

²² “When a chieftain unintentionally sins by doing one of all the things that Jehovah his God commands should not be done and has become guilty, ²³ or if he becomes aware of a sin that he has committed against the commandment, then he must bring a sound young male goat as his offering. ²⁴ He will lay his hand on the head of the young goat and slaughter it in the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered before Jehovah. It is a sin offering. ²⁵ The priest will take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and he will pour the rest of its blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering. ²⁶ He will make all its fat smoke on the altar like the fat of the communion sacrifice; and the priest will make atonement for him for his sin, and it will be forgiven him.

²⁷ “If any one of the people of the land sins unintentionally and becomes guilty by doing one of the things that Jehovah commands should not be done, ²⁸ or if he becomes aware of a sin that he has committed, then he should bring a sound young female goat as his offering for the sin he has committed. ²⁹ He will lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter the sin offering in the same place as the burnt offering. ³⁰ The priest will take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and he will pour all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar. ³¹ He will remove all its fat, just as the fat is

removed from the communion sacrifice, and the priest will make it smoke on the altar as a pleasing aroma to Jehovah; and the priest will make atonement for him, and it will be forgiven him.

³² ““But if he offers a lamb as his sin offering, he should bring a sound female lamb. ³³ He will lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it as a sin offering in the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered. ³⁴ The priest will take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and he will pour all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar. ³⁵ He will remove all its fat the same way that the fat of the young ram of the communion sacrifice is removed, and the priest will make them smoke on the altar on top of Jehovah’s offerings made by fire; and the priest will make atonement for him for the sin that he has committed, and it will be forgiven him.

5 ““If someone sins because he has heard a public call to testify and he is a witness or has seen or learned about it and he does not report it, then he will answer for his error.

² ““Or when a person touches anything unclean, whether the dead body of an unclean wild animal, an unclean domestic animal, or an unclean swarming creature, he is unclean and has become guilty even if he does not realize it. ³ Or in case someone without being aware of it touches human uncleanness—anything unclean that may make him unclean—and he comes to know it, then he becomes guilty.

⁴ “Or if someone rashly swears to do something—whether it is to do good or to do evil, no matter what it may be—and he was unaware of it, but then he realizes that he has sworn rashly, he becomes guilty.

⁵ “If he becomes guilty as respects one of these things, then he must confess in what way he has sinned. ⁶ He will also bring his guilt offering to Jehovah for the sin that he committed, namely, a female from the flock, either a female lamb or a young female goat, for a sin offering. Then the priest will make atonement for him for his sin.

⁷ “If, though, he cannot afford a sheep, he must bring to Jehovah two turtledoves or two young pigeons as his guilt offering for the sin, one for a sin offering and one for a burnt offering. ⁸ He is to bring them to the priest, who will present first the one for the sin offering and nip off its head at the front of its neck, without severing it. ⁹ He will spatter some of the blood of the sin offering on the side of the altar, but the remainder of the blood will be drained out at the base of the altar. It is a sin offering. ¹⁰ He will handle the other one as a burnt offering according to the regular procedure; and the priest will make atonement for him for the sin that he has committed, and it will be forgiven him.

¹¹ “Now if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he must bring as his offering for his sin a tenth of an e'phah of fine flour for a sin offering. He should not add oil to it or place frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering. ¹² He will bring it to the priest, and the priest will take from it his

handful as a token offering and make it smoke on the altar on top of Jehovah's offerings made by fire. It is a sin offering. ¹³ The priest will make atonement for him for the sin that he has committed, any one of these sins, and it will be forgiven him. The remainder of the offering will become the priest's, just like the grain offering."

¹⁴ Jehovah continued to speak to Moses, saying: ¹⁵ "If someone behaves unfaithfully by unintentionally sinning against the holy things of Jehovah, he is to bring to Jehovah a sound ram from the flock as a guilt offering; its value in silver shekels is set according to the standard shekel of the holy place. ¹⁶ And he will make compensation for the sin he has committed against the holy place and he will also add a fifth of its value. He will give it to the priest, so that the priest may make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and it will be forgiven him.

¹⁷ "If someone sins by doing any of the things that Jehovah commands should not be done, even if he is not aware of it, he is still guilty and will answer for his error. ¹⁸ He should bring to the priest a sound ram from the flock according to the estimated value, for a guilt offering. Then the priest will make atonement for him for the unintentional mistake that he unknowingly committed, and it will be forgiven him. ¹⁹ It is a guilt offering. He has certainly become guilty of sinning against Jehovah."

- Song 84 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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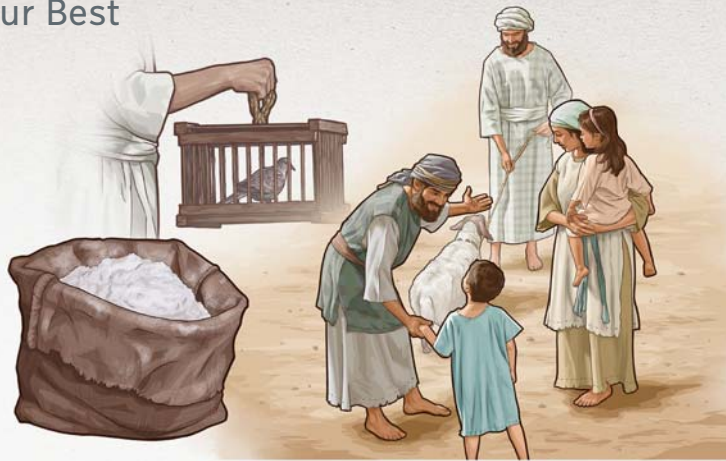
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- Song 81
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LEVITICUS 4-5 | Give Jehovah Your Best

5:5-7, 11

Poverty denied no one in Israel the privilege of making peace with Jehovah. Even the poorest Israelites could give Jehovah an acceptable offering, as long as it was their best. They could offer flour, but Jehovah still expected it to be “fine,” the kind used for honored guests. (*Ge* 18:6) Today, Jehovah accepts our best “sacrifice of praise,” regardless of how much our personal circumstances may limit what we can give.—*Heb* 13:15.



 **How can this encourage you if you cannot do all that you did before, perhaps because of declining health or stamina?**



November 16-22 / Leviticus 4-5

- Song 84 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Give Jehovah Your Best": (10 minutes)

Leviticus 5:5-7, 11

Poverty denied no one in Israel the privilege of making peace with Jehovah. Even the poorest Israelites could give Jehovah an acceptable offering, as long as it was their best. They could offer flour, but Jehovah still expected it to be "fine," the kind used for honored guests. (Genesis 18:6) Today, Jehovah accepts our best "sacrifice of praise," regardless of how much our personal circumstances may limit what we can give.—Hebrews 13:15.

[Image:] Collage: Jehovah accepts various types of offerings from the Israelites. 1. Fine flour. 2. A dove. 3. A sheep is brought by a family to a priest.

[Image:] Collage: Two sisters giving their best 'sacrifice of

praise' to Jehovah. 1. A sister serving in a foreign-language field talks to a woman at the market. 2. An older sister writes letters from her home.

How can this encourage you if you cannot do all that you did before, perhaps because of declining health or stamina?

Leviticus 5:5, 6—Those who committed certain sins were to offer a guilt offering—a lamb or a goat

Leviticus 5:5, 6: "If he becomes guilty as respects one of these things, then he must confess in what way he has sinned. He will also bring his guilt offering to Jehovah for the sin that he committed, namely, a female from the flock, either a female lamb or a young female goat, for a sin offering. Then the priest will make atonement for him for his sin.

it-2 527 paragraph 9

Guilt offerings. Guilt offerings were also offerings because of sin, for guilt of any sort involves sin. They were for special

sins by which a person had contracted guilt, and they differed slightly from other sin offerings in that they appear to have been to satisfy or restore a right. Either a right of Jehovah or a right of his holy nation had been violated. The guilt offering was to satisfy Jehovah on the right that had been violated, or to restore or recover certain covenant rights for the repentant wrongdoer and to get relief from the penalty for his sin.—Compare Isaiah 53:10.

Leviticus 5:7—Those who were too poor to offer a lamb or goat could offer two turtledoves or two pigeons

Leviticus 5:7: “If, though, he cannot afford a sheep, he must bring to Jehovah two turtledoves or two young pigeons as his guilt offering for the sin, one for a sin offering and one for a burnt offering.

w09 6/1 26 paragraph 3

Reflecting Jehovah’s tender consideration, the Law said: “If, though, he cannot afford enough for a sheep, then he must bring as his guilt offering for the sin that he has committed

two turtledoves or two young pigeons to Jehovah.” (Verse 7) The phrase “if . . . he cannot afford” may also be rendered “if . . . his hand cannot reach.” If an Israelite was too poor to afford a sheep, then God was pleased to accept something that was within the offerer’s reach—two turtledoves or two pigeons.

Leviticus 5:11—Those who were too poor to offer turtledoves or pigeons could offer a tenth of an ephah of fine flour

Leviticus 5:11: “Now if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he must bring as his offering for his sin a tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering. He should not add oil to it or place frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering.

w09 6/1 26 paragraph 4

What if the individual did not have the means even for the two birds? “Then he must bring as his offering for the sin he has committed the tenth of an ephah [eight or nine cups] of

fine flour for a sin offering," the Law stated. (Verse 11) For the very poor, Jehovah chose to make an exception and allow a sin offering without blood. In Israel, poverty denied no one the blessing of atonement or the privilege of making peace with God.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Leviticus 5:1—How does this verse apply to Christians?

Leviticus 5:1: "If someone sins because he has heard a public call to testify and he is a witness or has seen or learned about it and he does not report it, then he will answer for his error.

w16.02 30 paragraph 14

Kindness can help you to deal with a conflict of loyalties. For example, you may have definite knowledge that a certain fellow believer is guilty of serious misconduct. You may feel loyal to him, especially if he is a close friend or a relative. But if you were to cover up the wrongdoing, you would be disloyal to God. Of course, your loyalty to Jehovah should come first. So like Nathan, be kind yet firm. Urge your friend

or relative to seek the help of the elders. If he or she does not do so within a reasonable period of time, loyalty to God should move you to report the matter to the elders. In doing this, you are being loyal to Jehovah and kind to your friend or relative, for Christian elders will try to readjust such an individual with mildness.—Read Leviticus 5:1; Galatians 6:1.

Leviticus 5:15, 16—How might someone have ‘behaved unfaithfully by unintentionally sinning against the holy things of Jehovah’?

Leviticus 5:15, 16: “If someone behaves unfaithfully by unintentionally sinning against the holy things of Jehovah, he is to bring to Jehovah a sound ram from the flock as a guilt offering; its value in silver shekels is set according to the standard shekel of the holy place. And he will make compensation for the sin he has committed against the holy place and he will also add a fifth of its value. He will give it to the priest, so that the priest may make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and it will be forgiven him.

it-1 1130 paragraph 2

Animals and Produce. The firstborn males of cattle, sheep, and goats were counted as holy to Jehovah and were not to be redeemed. They were to be sacrificed, and a portion went to the sanctified priests. (Numbers 18:17-19) The firstfruits and the tithe were holy, as were all sacrifices and all gifts sanctified to the service of the sanctuary. (Exodus 28:38) All things holy to Jehovah were sacred and could not be considered lightly or used in a common, or profane, way. An example is the law regarding the tithe. If a man set aside the portion to be tithed, say, of his wheat crop, and then he or one of his household unintentionally took some of it for home use, such as cooking, the man was guilty of violating God's law respecting holy things. The Law required that he make compensation to the sanctuary of an equal amount plus 20 percent, besides offering up a sound ram of the flock as a sacrifice. Thus, great respect was engendered for the holy things belonging to Jehovah.—Leviticus 5:14-16

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(th study 5)

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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

not careful, less important things, such as education or money, will take up our precious time. Jesus said: “Keep on . . . seeking first the Kingdom.” (Matthew 6:33) The choices we make, our habits, our daily routine, and our goals all reveal what has first place in our hearts.

THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK WE CAN DO

22 The most important work we have is serving Jehovah and preaching the good news to others. (Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20) Like Jesus, we want to do all we can in this work. Some have moved to serve where there is a greater need for preachers. Others are learning a foreign language so that they can preach to people who speak that language. Talk with those who have done these things, and ask them about it. They will tell you that their lives have become happier and more meaningful.—**Read Proverbs 10:22.**

23 Today, many of us have to spend long hours at a job or even at several jobs simply to provide for our family’s basic needs. Jehovah knows this, and he appreciates everything we do to care for our family. So let us all continue to imitate Jehovah and Jesus by working hard, no matter what kind of work we do. And may we remember that our most important work is serving Jehovah and preaching the good news of God’s Kingdom. This will bring us true joy.

22, 23. (a) What is the most important work we can have as Christians? (b) What will help us to enjoy our work?

81

The Life of a Pioneer

(Ecclesiastes 11:6)

1. At the start of the day, with the sun yet to rise,
We are making our way
with the sleep in our eyes, and we pray.
We are there with a smile for the people we meet.
Some may stop for a while,
some pass by on the street, but we stay.

(CHORUS)

It's the life that we choose;

For Jehovah we live.

And whatever he asks, we will do.

In the work we endure,

Whether sunshine or rain.

It's a way we can say ev'ry day: "I love you."

2. At the end of the day, with the sun sinking low,
Feeling happy and tired,
in our heart there's a glow, and we pray.
It's a life that we love, always giving our best.
And Jehovah we thank,
for by him we are blessed ev'ry day.

(Chorus)

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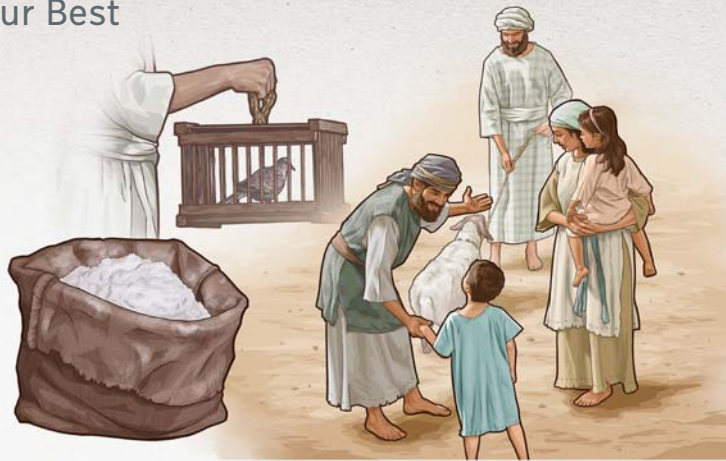
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LEVITICUS 4-5 | Give Jehovah Your Best

5:5-7, 11

Poverty denied no one in Israel the privilege of making peace with Jehovah. Even the poorest Israelites could give Jehovah an acceptable offering, as long as it was their best. They could offer flour, but Jehovah still expected it to be “fine,” the kind used for honored guests. (*Ge 18:6*) Today, Jehovah accepts our best “sacrifice of praise,” regardless of how much our personal circumstances may limit what we can give.—*Heb 13:15*.



 **How can this encourage you if you cannot do all that you did before, perhaps because of declining health or stamina?**



Takako and Hisako:

Pioneering Together for 60 Years—Only With Jehovah's Help

Raw Transcript

Yes, true friends who share our love for Jehovah are invaluable. We'll see that in this story from Japan. Sisters Takako Sato and Hisako Wakui have worked together as pioneers since 1957. Let's learn how their friendship has helped them serve Jehovah with joy. We are pioneer partners. We've been working together for over 60 years. In 1956, I was the only Jehovah's Witness in Nagano prefecture. It was lonesome, but I applied for regular pioneer service. Surprisingly, I was appointed as a special pioneer. I was so happy that I found myself rolling around on the tatami-mat floor with the appointment letter in my hand. That was the way I expressed my joy and appreciation. When I was invited to serve as a special pioneer, I was sent to Nagano, and that's where I met Hisako. Takako and I focused on our ministry. When an isolated group was established, since there were no brothers, I would wear a head covering and conduct the meetings. Sometimes the outlines were in English. We didn't understand anything. But people were delighted to hear even just the scriptures and went home satisfied, and that strongly impressed on me the power of God's Word. We were assigned to a territory in the city after that. We found so many not-at-homes, but we were

determined to meet people. So we changed the times we preached, and we talked to people on the street who were going to work. We cherished even small opportunities. When we had a chance to meet a householder, we always tried to have a conversation that we could link to the next visit. Before long, I had ten Bible studies. Takako acts like she's cheerful, but she's been fighting various illnesses. At times, it was so bad that I could not even go out in service. I had a serious skin condition. I could not bear to look at the illustration of Job in the magazine, and I covered it up with paper. But Jehovah helped me to look to Job's example. I learned that our endurance under trial would become praise to God. I have often had health problems. Just at one of those times, I received a letter from the branch. It said: "What you can accomplish now may be limited. "However, think about all that you have done up to now "to give praise to Jehovah "and about the people you were able to help learn the truth, and be joyful knowing that you have been used by Jehovah fully." I couldn't stop crying because I really felt the care and concern from the organization and from Jehovah. Hisako also took really good care of me and prayed with me. Our thinking and personalities are different, but we made efforts to talk things out. Our heartfelt desire to want to serve Jehovah full-time has always been the same. For 60 years, we've enjoyed a truly wonderful life of service to Jehovah. Jehovah has supported us in difficult times through the Bible, the organization, and friends. I have tasted the truthfulness of the words: "When I am weak, then I

am powerful.” ‘When I said: “My foot is slipping,” your kindness, O Jehovah, has supported me.’ I can say that too. Although we don’t have energy or ability, we’ve been able to enjoy full-time service together up until now. I’m really content now. It’s all thanks to Jehovah. Like the apostle Paul, our sisters cultivated singleness and focused on full-time service to Jehovah for more than 60 years. Yes, they face everyday challenges and the extra ones that come with age, but their heartfelt desire to serve Jehovah whole-souled brings Takako and Hisako real joy and contentment.

video source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODIntExpBlessings/pub-jwb_201905_7_VIDEO

A LETTER FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Dear Lovers of Jehovah:

The year was 1971. Those who attended the “Divine Name” District Assembly held that year were thrilled to receive several new publications. The publications were described as “just beyond anyone’s imagination.” Concerning one of those new releases, a brother said: “It’s the most exciting preview of things to come that we have ever had!” What was he referring to? It was the book entitled “*The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah*”—*How?* But why did this book create such excitement? Because it contained updated explanations of the prophecies found in the Bible book of Ezekiel—prophecies that affect the future of all mankind.

In the years since the release of the ‘*Know Jehovah*’ book, the number of God’s people has mushroomed—from some 1.5 million to well over 8 million. (Isa. 60:22) These millions of servants of Jehovah collectively speak over 900 different languages. (Zech. 8:23) Many have never had an opportunity to study a book that explains in detail the inspired prophecies recorded by the prophet Ezekiel.

Additionally, in the decades since 1971, our understanding of many Bible truths has been greatly enhanced as the light has continued to grow brighter. (Prov. 4:18) In 1985 we started to see clearly how the “other sheep” are declared righteous as friends of God. (John 10:16; Rom. 5:18; Jas. 2:23) Then in 1995 we understood for the first time that the final judging of “the sheep” and “the goats” would take place during the coming “great tribulation.” (Matt. 24:21; 25:31, 32) All these adjustments have had an impact on our understanding of the book of Ezekiel.

In recent years, the light has continued to grow brighter still. Consider the lessons learned from Jesus’ illustrations. Many of those lessons have now become crystal clear in our minds and hearts. A number of those illustrations refer to events that will soon take place during the fast-approaching great tribulation. In a similar way, our understanding of certain prophecies found in the book of Ezekiel has been clarified. Included among these are the prophecies concerning Gog of Magog (chapters 38 and 39), the work of the man with the secretary’s inkhorn (chapter 9), and the valley of dry bones and the symbolic joining of the two sticks (chapter 37). All these clarifications

likewise update what was written years ago in the *'Know Jehovah'* book.

No wonder, then, that many of Jehovah's people have asked, "When will we get a book that provides an updated explanation of Ezekiel's prophecies?" The book *Pure Worship of Jehovah—Restored At Last!* is such a publication. As you read through its 22 chapters and meditate on the beautiful illustrations found therein, you will be amazed at all the careful research that has gone into its preparation. Much prayerful thought was given to ascertaining why Jehovah provided the fascinating Bible book of Ezekiel. Careful consideration was given to such questions as: What lessons were provided in the book of Ezekiel for those who lived in Ezekiel's day as well as for us today? Which prophecies speak about events that are still in the future? Should we look for any types and antitypes in Ezekiel's prophecies? The answers to these questions provide the clearest understanding yet of this long-cherished Bible book.

As you read the book of Ezekiel from start to finish, you cannot help but be in awe of the heavenly part of Jehovah's organization. No doubt you are also amazed at the lofty standards Jehovah has put in

place for both those in heaven and those on earth who wish to worship him acceptably. The *Pure Worship* book will help to enhance your appreciation for what Jehovah has already done for his people as well as for what he will do for them in the near future. You will notice that this book emphasizes two themes over and over again. First, in order to please Jehovah, we must know and acknowledge him as the Universal Sovereign. Second, we must worship Jehovah in the way that he approves, bringing our lives into harmony with his lofty standards.

It is our heartfelt desire that this publication will strengthen your resolve to worship Jehovah in a way that honors his great and holy name. At the same time, may it encourage you to keep in expectation of the time when all the nations will have to know that he is Jehovah.—Ezek. 36:23; 38:23.

May our loving Father, Jehovah, richly bless your efforts to understand the book that he inspired the prophet Ezekiel to write.

Your brothers,

Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses

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the Stream Goes” 318

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21 “The Name of the City . . . Will Be Jehovah
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TEACHING BOXES

Teaching boxes in this publication are labeled with a chapter number and a sequential letter. For example, the three boxes in Chapter 10 are labeled 10A, 10B, and 10C. In electronic formats, readers have the option to browse all the boxes at once in the “Teaching Boxes” section. Some additional features of this publication are available in electronic formats only.

TIME LINES

Many teaching boxes contain time lines. Folds, as shown in the example, indicate that a span of time has been compressed to fit within the artwork. (For an example, see box 8B.) In some cases, these folds indicate an unknown length of time.—See box 9E.

**Abbreviations used in this publication:****B.C.E.**—before the Common Era**C.E.**—Common Era**c.**—circa (about)

The Light Gets Brighter

(Proverbs 4:18)

1. The prophets of old sought to learn of the Christ,
The hope of all groaning creation.
God's spirit revealed that Messiah would come,
Providing the means of salvation.

The time has arrived, the Messiah now reigns,
The proof of his presence is clear.
How great is the favor of learning such things;
Into these even angels would peer!

(CHORUS)

*Our path now becomes ever brighter;
We walk in the full light of day.
Behold what our God is revealing;
He guides us each step of the way.*

2. Our Lord has appointed a trustworthy slave,
Through whom He gives food in due season.
The light of the truth has grown brighter with time,
Appealing to heart and to reason.

Our path ever clearer, our steps ever firm,
We walk in the brightness of day.
All thanks to Jehovah, the Source of all truth,
We most gratefully walk in his way.

(Chorus)

SEPTEMBER 2020

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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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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1. In this year of goodwill
by our God, all need to hear
That the day of his anger
will come, and it is near.

(CHORUS)

*It means their life, but not just theirs;
It means our own life as well.
It means their life if they obey,
So all the nations we must tell;
We must tell.*

2. There's a message to preach,
so we spread it all abroad.
We invite all to come and
be reconciled to God.

*(Chorus)**(BRIDGE)*

It's urgent, it's important,
That people listen, learn, and live.
We tell them, and we teach them;
Life-giving truth we freely give.

(Chorus)

Act Wisely During a Time of Peace

“The land had no disturbance and there was no war against him during these years, for Jehovah gave him rest.”

—2 CHRON. 14:6.

SONG 60

It Means Their Life

PREVIEW

Do you live in a country where you can worship Jehovah freely? If so, how are you using this period of peace? This article will help you consider how you can imitate King Asa of Judah and the first-century Christians. They made wise use of time when there was no disturbance.

WHEN, do you think, might it be most challenging to serve Jehovah—when you are dealing with difficult problems or when your life is relatively peaceful? When we face challenges, we readily rely on Jehovah. But what do we do when our lives are peaceful? Might we become distracted from serving God? Jehovah warned the Israelites about this very possibility.—Deut. 6:10-12.

² King Asa is an excellent example of a man who acted wisely by relying completely on Jehovah. He served Jehovah not only in bad times but also during times of peace. From early on, “Asa’s heart was completely devoted to Jehovah.” (1 Ki. 15:14, ftn.) One way Asa demonstrated his devotion was by clearing out false worship from Judah. The Bible says that “he removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the sacred poles.” (2 Chron. 14:3, 5) He even removed Maacah, his grandmother, from being a sort of first lady in the kingdom. Why? Because she promoted false worship of an idol.—1 Ki. 15:11-13.

³ Asa did more than clear away false worship. He promoted pure worship, helping the kingdom of Ju-

-
- 1. When might it be a challenge to serve Jehovah?**
 - 2. What example did King Asa set?**
 - 3. What will we consider in this article?**

dah return to Jehovah. Jehovah blessed Asa and the Israelites with a time of peace.* For a period of ten years during Asa’s rulership, “the land had no disturbance.” (2 Chron. 14:1, 4, 6) In this article, we will discuss how Asa used that time of peace. Then we will consider the example of first-century Christians who, like Asa, took advantage of a peaceful time. Finally, we will answer this question: If you live in a

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** The term “peace” implies more than just an absence of war. The Hebrew word also conveys the thought of good health, safety, and welfare.

King Asa acted decisively against false worship
(See paragraph 2)



land that grants freedom of worship, how can you make wise use of that time of peace?

HOW ASA USED A TIME OF PEACE

⁴ Read 2 Chronicles 14:2, 6, 7. Asa told the people that it was Jehovah who had “given [them] rest all around.” Asa did not feel that this period of peace was a time to relax. On the contrary, he set out to build cities, walls, towers, and gates. He told the people of Judah: “The land is still at our disposal.” What did Asa mean? He meant that the people could move about freely in their God-given land and build without opposition from enemies. He urged the people to take advantage of this time of peace.

⁵ Asa also used the time of peace to strengthen his military force. (2 Chron. 14:8) Does this mean that he did not trust in Jehovah? No. Rather, Asa knew that it was his duty as king to prepare the people for the troubles they might face in the future. Asa knew that the period of peace that Judah enjoyed likely would not last indefinitely, and this proved true.

4. According to 2 Chronicles 14:2, 6, 7, how did Asa use a time of peace?

5. Why did Asa build up his military force?

HOW FIRST-CENTURY CHRISTIANS USED A TIME OF PEACE

⁶ Although the first-century Christians were often persecuted, they also enjoyed periods of peace. How did the disciples use those opportunities? Those faithful men and women preached the good news without letup. The account in Acts says that they “walked in the fear of Jehovah.” They kept on preaching the good news, and as a result, they “kept on multiplying.” Jehovah obviously blessed their zealous preaching during times of peace.—Acts 9: 26-31.

⁷ The first-century disciples took every opportunity to spread the good news. As one example, when the apostle Paul recognized that a large door was opened to him while in Ephesus, he took advantage of the opportunity to preach and to make disciples in that city.—1 Cor. 16:8, 9.

⁸ Another opportunity presented itself to Paul and other Christians when the issue of circumcision was settled in 49 C.E. (Acts 15:23-29) After the decision was communicated to the congregations, the disciples put forth great effort to declare “the good news

6. How did first-century Christians use a time of peace?

7-8. What did Paul and others do when they had the opportunity? Explain.

of the word of Jehovah.” (Acts 15:30-35) What resulted? The Bible says that “the congregations continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number day by day.”—Acts 16:4, 5.

USING TIMES OF PEACE TODAY

⁹ In many lands today, we can preach without disturbance. Do you live in a country that grants freedom of worship? If so, ask yourself, ‘How am I using this freedom?’ During these exciting last days, Jehovah’s organization has spearheaded the greatest preaching and teaching campaign the world has ever known. (Mark 13:10) Many possibilities are open to Jehovah’s people.

¹⁰ How can you take advantage of a time of peace? (Read 2 Timothy 4:2.) Why not examine your circumstances and see if you or a member of your family could have an increased share in the preaching work, perhaps even serving as a pioneer? Now is not the time to amass riches and material possessions—things that will not survive with us through the great tribulation.—Prov. 11:4; Matt. 6:31-33; 1 John 2:15-17.

9. What is the situation in many lands today, and what can we ask ourselves?

10. What does 2 Timothy 4:2 encourage us to do?



Many have enjoyed rich blessings by engaging in the ministry in another land or by witnessing to those who speak another language
(See paragraphs 10-12)

¹¹ Many publishers have learned a new language so that they can use it in preaching and teaching. God’s organization supports them by producing Bible-based material in an increasing number of languages. For example, in 2010, our literature was available in some 500 languages. Today, that number has increased to over 1,000 languages!

¹² What impact does it have on people when they are able to hear the truth from God’s Word in their

11. What have some done to reach as many people as possible with the good news?

12. How do people benefit by hearing the Kingdom message in their native tongue? Give an example.

native tongue? Consider the experience of a sister who benefited from a regional convention in Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.A. The convention was presented in Kinyarwanda, a language that is primarily spoken in Rwanda, Congo (Kinshasa), and Uganda. After the convention, the Kinyarwanda-speaking sister said: “This is the first time I have been able to understand a spiritual program fully since moving to the United States 17 years ago.” Clearly, this sister was deeply touched when she heard the program in her native tongue. If your circumstances permit, can you learn another language to help some in your territory? Might it be especially appealing because in your congregation’s territory, there are some who are most comfortable speaking another language? The rewards are worth the effort.

¹³ Not all our brothers enjoy freedom to preach openly. At times, governmental restrictions have severely limited how we accomplish our ministry. For example, consider our brothers in Russia. Following decades of persecution, they received official recognition in March 1991. At that time, there were about 16,000 Kingdom proclaimers in Russia. Twenty years later, that number had grown to over 160,000 publishers! Clearly, our brothers acted wisely when they

13. How did our brothers in Russia use a time of peace?

had the opportunity to preach freely. That time of peace did not last. But a change in circumstances has not dampened their zeal to advance pure worship. They continue to serve Jehovah, using every means at their disposal.

THE TIME OF PEACE WILL NOT LAST

¹⁴ In Asa's day, the time of peace eventually came to an end. A huge military force—one million strong—came from Ethiopia. Its commander, Zerah, was confident that he and his army could defeat Judah. However, King Asa trusted, not in numbers, but in his God, Jehovah. Asa prayed: "Help us, O Jehovah our God, for we are relying on you, and in your

14-15. How did Jehovah show his power in behalf of Asa?

After King Asa prayed fervently, Jehovah gave Judah victory over a vast enemy force
(See paragraphs 14-15)



name we have come against this crowd.”—2 Chron. 14:11.

¹⁵ Although the Ethiopian army had almost double the number of soldiers, Asa acknowledged Jehovah’s power and ability to act in behalf of His people. And Jehovah did not disappoint him; the Ethiopian army suffered a humiliating defeat.—2 Chron. 14:8-13.

¹⁶ Although we do not know in detail what the future holds for us as individuals, we do know that any time of peace God’s people enjoy will be temporary. In fact, Jesus foretold that in the last days, his disciples would “be hated by all the nations.” (Matt. 24:9) Likewise, the apostle Paul said that “all those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted.” (2 Tim. 3:12) Satan has “great anger,” and we would be fooling ourselves if we were to imagine that we could somehow avoid his wrath.—Rev. 12:12.

¹⁷ In the near future, all of us will face tests of our integrity. Soon, the world will experience “great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world’s beginning until now.” (Matt. 24:21) During that time, family members may turn against us and our work may be banned. (Matt. 10:35, 36) Will we

16. How do we know that the time of peace will end?

17. In what ways may our faith be tested?

personally, like Asa, trust in Jehovah for help and protection?

¹⁸ Jehovah has been preparing us spiritually for what lies ahead. He is guiding “the faithful and discreet slave” to provide nourishing spiritual “food at the proper time” to help us remain steadfast in our worship. (Matt. 24:45) But we must do our part and build unshakable faith in Jehovah.—Read Hebrews 10:38, 39.

¹⁹ Like King Asa, we need to “search for Jehovah.” (2 Chron. 14:4; 15:1, 2) We begin that search by coming to know Jehovah and getting baptized. We take every opportunity to strengthen our love for Jehovah. To test how we are doing in this regard, we might ask ourselves, ‘Do I regularly attend congregation meetings?’ When we attend the meetings provided by Jehovah’s organization, we receive true spiritual refreshment along with upbuilding association. (Matt. 11:28) We might also ask ourselves, ‘Do I have good personal study habits?’ If you live with your family, do you set aside time every week for family worship? Or if you live alone, do you still set aside

18. According to Hebrews 10:38, 39, what will help us to prepare for the end of peace?

19-20. In view of 1 Chronicles 28:9, what questions should we ask ourselves, and why should we ask them?

time just as if you were part of a family? Also, do you share as fully as possible in the preaching and disciple-making work?

²⁰ Why should we ask those questions? The Bible tells us that Jehovah examines our thoughts and what is in our hearts, so we should do the same. (Read 1 Chronicles 28:9.) If we see that we need to make some changes in our goals, attitude, or thinking, we should ask Jehovah to help us make those changes. Now is the time to prepare ourselves for the tests that lie ahead. Let nothing stop you from making wise use of a time of peace!

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 29: King Asa had his grandmother removed from her position because she promoted false worship.

Asa's loyal supporters followed his lead and destroyed idols.

Page 33: A zealous couple are simplifying their life so that they can serve where there is a need for more publishers.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ■ How did King Asa and first-century Christians make good use of times of peace? | ■ How can Christians today make good use of times of peace? | ■ What can we expect in the near future? |
|--|---|--|

The New Song

(Psalm 98)

1. Sing to God a song, A song of praise that's bold and new.
Tell of all the great things He's done and yet will do.
Praise his mighty arm; He is the God of victory.
In the cause of justice,
He judges righteously.

(CHORUS)

Sing, sing, sing!

The new song, let it ring!

Sing, sing, sing!

Jehovah is our King.

2. Make a joyful shout, A joyful cry to God, our King!
Laud his name, give honor; A joyful anthem sing.
Join the mighty crowd, And sing aloud before the Lord.
Harp and horn and trumpet
Sound praise in full accord.

(Chorus)

3. Let the mighty sea And all that fills it give him praise.
Join with earth's creation, And joyful voices raise.
Let the land rejoice, And let the rivers clap their hands.
Mountains, hills, and valleys
Sing praise in all the lands.

(Chorus)