

Song 4 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Lessons From the Camp of Israel”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Nu 8:17—How did Jehovah consider the firstborn males in Israel? (*it-1* 835)

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.) Nu 7:1-17 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Memorial Invitation: (2 min.) Use the sample conversation. (11)

Return Visit: (3 min.) Make a return visit on someone who showed interest and accepted the Memorial invitation. (6)

Return Visit: (3 min.) Invite a former Bible student to the Memorial. (12)

Return Visit: (3 min.) Invite to the Memorial a relative to whom you have witnessed in the past. (17)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 54

Organizational Accomplishments: (5 min.)  
Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for March.

Local Needs: (10 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)  
*rr* chap. 5 ¶¶17-22, box 5A

 Lessons From the Camp of Israel

Appointed men take the lead in sacred service (Nu 7:10; *it-1* 497 ¶3)

God’s servants should be well-organized and orderly (Nu 7:11; *it-2* 796 ¶1)

Jehovah considers the limitations of individuals (Nu 8:25, 26; *w04* 8/1 25 ¶1)

Just as Jehovah organized Israel, he has organized his people today. However, he still sees each one of us and takes note of our individual efforts to serve him.



# 4 “Jehovah Is My Shepherd”

(Psalm 23)

1. Jehovah God is my Shepherd;  
I'll follow where he will lead.  
He knows my hopes and my heart's desire;  
He knows what I truly need.  
To watered pastures he leads me,  
To places secure and blessed.  
And he guides me always with loyal love  
To where I find peace and rest.  
He guides me always with loyal love  
To where I find peace and rest.
2. Refreshing are all your pathways,  
The ways of your righteousness.  
For your name's sake never let me stray  
From walking in faithfulness.  
In valleys deep in the shadows,  
Assured by your staff and rod,  
I will fear no danger of lasting harm,  
For you are my Friend and God.  
I fear no danger of lasting harm,  
For you are my Friend and God.
3. Jehovah, you are my Shepherd;  
I follow where you will lead.  
You strengthen me, and you give me rest;  
You give all I truly need.  
As you most surely are living,  
So sure is my hope in you.  
May your loyal love and your care for me  
Pursue me my whole life through.  
Your loyal love and your care for me  
Pursue me my whole life through.

## Numbers 7-8

**7** On the day that Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed it and sanctified it, together with all its furnishings, the altar, and all its utensils. When he had anointed and sanctified these things, <sup>2</sup> the chieftains of Israel, the heads of their paternal houses, made an offering. These chieftains of the tribes who presided over the registration <sup>3</sup> brought before Jehovah their offering of six covered wagons and 12 oxen, a wagon for two chieftains and a bull for each one; and they presented them before the tabernacle. <sup>4</sup> Jehovah said to Moses: <sup>5</sup> “Accept these things from them, as they will be used for the service of the tent of meeting, and you should give them to the Levites, to each one as needed for his duties.”

<sup>6</sup> So Moses accepted the wagons and the cattle and gave them to the Levites. <sup>7</sup> He gave two wagons and four oxen to the sons of Ger'shon, according to what was needed for their duties; <sup>8</sup> and he gave four wagons and eight oxen to the sons of Me-rar'i, according to what was needed for their duties, under the direction of Ith'a-mar the son of Aaron the priest. <sup>9</sup> But he did not give any to the sons of Ko'hath because their duties involved the service of the holy place, and they carried the holy things on their shoulders.

<sup>10</sup> Now the chieftains made their presentation at the inauguration of the altar on the day it was anointed. When the chieftains presented their offering before the altar, <sup>11</sup> Jehovah said to Moses: “One chieftain each day, on

successive days, will present his offering for the inauguration of the altar.”

<sup>12</sup> The one who presented his offering on the first day was Nah'shon the son of Am-min'a-dab of the tribe of Judah.

<sup>13</sup> His offering was one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>14</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>15</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>16</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>17</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of Nah'shon the son of Am-min'a-dab.

<sup>18</sup> On the second day, Ne-than'el the son of Zu'ar, the chieftain of Is'sa-char, made a presentation. <sup>19</sup> He presented as his offering one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>20</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>21</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>22</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>23</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of Ne-than'el the son of Zu'ar.

<sup>24</sup> On the third day, the chieftain for the sons of Zeb'u-lun, E-li'ab the son of He'lon, <sup>25</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of

them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>26</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>27</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>28</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>29</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of E-li'ab the son of He'lon.

<sup>30</sup> On the fourth day, the chieftain for the sons of Reu'ben, E-li'zur the son of Shed'e-ur, <sup>31</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>32</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>33</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>34</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>35</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of E-li'zur the son of Shed'e-ur.

<sup>36</sup> On the fifth day, the chieftain for the sons of Sim'e-on, She-lu'mi-el the son of Zu-ri-shad'dai, <sup>37</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>38</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>39</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>40</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>41</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five

male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of She-lu'mi-el the son of Zu-ri-shad'dai.

<sup>42</sup> On the sixth day, the chieftain for the sons of Gad, E-li'a-saph the son of Deu'el, <sup>43</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>44</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>45</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>46</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>47</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of E-li'a-saph the son of Deu'el.

<sup>48</sup> On the seventh day, the chieftain for the sons of E'phra-im, E-lish'a-ma the son of Am-mi'hud, <sup>49</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>50</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>51</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>52</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>53</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of E-lish'a-ma the son of Am-mi'hud.

<sup>54</sup> On the eighth day, the chieftain for the sons of Ma-nas'seh, Ga-ma'li-el the son of Pe-dah'zur, <sup>55</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of

the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>56</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>57</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>58</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>59</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of Ga·ma'li·el the son of Pe·dah'zur.

<sup>60</sup> On the ninth day, the chieftain for the sons of Benjamin, Ab'i·dan the son of Gid·e·o'ni, <sup>61</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>62</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>63</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>64</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>65</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of Ab'i·dan the son of Gid·e·o'ni.

<sup>66</sup> On the tenth day, the chieftain for the sons of Dan, A·hi·e'zer the son of Am·mi·shad'dai, <sup>67</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>68</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>69</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>70</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>71</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five

male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of A·hi·e'zer the son of Am·mi·shad'dai.

<sup>72</sup> On the 11th day, the chieftain for the sons of Ash'er, Pa'gi-el the son of Och'ran, <sup>73</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>74</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>75</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>76</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>77</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of Pa'gi-el the son of Och'ran.

<sup>78</sup> On the 12th day, the chieftain for the sons of Naph'ta-li, A·hi'ra the son of E'nan, <sup>79</sup> made his offering of one silver dish weighing 130 shekels and one silver bowl weighing 70 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; <sup>80</sup> one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; <sup>81</sup> one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering; <sup>82</sup> one young goat for a sin offering; <sup>83</sup> and for a communion sacrifice, two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of A·hi'ra the son of E'nan.

<sup>84</sup> This was the inauguration offering of the altar from the chieftains of Israel when it was anointed: 12 silver dishes, 12 silver bowls, 12 gold cups; <sup>85</sup> each silver dish weighing 130 shekels and each bowl weighing 70 shekels, all the silver of

the vessels amounting to 2,400 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place; <sup>86</sup> the 12 gold cups full of incense each weighed 10 shekels by the standard shekel of the holy place, all the gold of the cups amounting to 120 shekels.

<sup>87</sup> All the cattle for the burnt offering were 12 bulls, 12 rams, 12 male lambs each a year old and their grain offerings, and 12 young goats for a sin offering; <sup>88</sup> and all the cattle of the communion sacrifice amounted to 24 bulls, 60 rams, 60 male goats, and 60 male lambs each a year old. This was the inauguration offering of the altar after it was anointed.

<sup>89</sup> Whenever Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with God, he would hear the voice conversing with him from above the cover of the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubs; and God would speak to him.

**8** Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>2</sup> “Speak to Aaron and tell him, ‘When you light up the lamps, the seven lamps should shine on the area in front of the lampstand.’” <sup>3</sup> So Aaron did this: He lit up its lamps for the area in front of the lampstand, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses. <sup>4</sup> This is how the lampstand was made: It was hammered work of gold; from its stem to its blossoms, it was hammered work. The lampstand was made according to the vision that Jehovah had shown Moses.

<sup>5</sup> Jehovah spoke again to Moses, saying: <sup>6</sup> “Take the Levites from among the Israelites, and cleanse them. <sup>7</sup> This is how you should cleanse them: Sprinkle sin-cleansing water on them, and they must shave their whole body with a razor, wash their garments, and cleanse themselves. <sup>8</sup> Then

they will take a young bull and its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you will take another young bull for a sin offering. <sup>9</sup> And you are to present the Levites before the tent of meeting and gather all the assembly of the Israelites.

<sup>10</sup> When you present the Levites before Jehovah, the Israelites are to lay their hands on the Levites. <sup>11</sup> And Aaron must offer the Levites before Jehovah as a wave offering from the Israelites, and they will carry out the service of Jehovah.

<sup>12</sup> “Then the Levites will lay their hands on the heads of the bulls. After that, offer the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to Jehovah to make atonement for the Levites. <sup>13</sup> And you will have the Levites stand before Aaron and his sons and offer them as a wave offering to Jehovah.

<sup>14</sup> You must separate the Levites from among the Israelites, and the Levites will become mine. <sup>15</sup> Afterward, the Levites will come in to serve at the tent of meeting. This is how you should cleanse them and offer them as a wave offering.

<sup>16</sup> For they are given ones, given to me from among the Israelites. In place of all those who are firstborn of the Israelites, I will take them for myself. <sup>17</sup> For every firstborn among the Israelites is mine, both man and animal. I sanctified them to myself on the day I struck down every firstborn in the land of Egypt. <sup>18</sup> I will take the Levites in place of all the firstborn among the Israelites. <sup>19</sup> I will give the Levites as given ones to Aaron and his sons from among the Israelites, to carry out the service in behalf of the Israelites at the tent of meeting and to make atonement for the Israelites,

so that no plague may occur among the Israelites because the people of Israel come near the holy place.”

<sup>20</sup> Moses and Aaron and all the assembly of the Israelites did this with the Levites. In accord with all that Jehovah had commanded Moses regarding the Levites, that is what the Israelites did with them. <sup>21</sup> So the Levites purified themselves and washed their garments, after which Aaron offered them as a wave offering before Jehovah. Then Aaron made atonement for them to cleanse them. <sup>22</sup> Thereafter, the Levites went in to carry out their service at the tent of meeting before Aaron and his sons. Just as Jehovah had commanded Moses respecting the Levites, so they did with them.

<sup>23</sup> Jehovah now spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>24</sup> “This applies to the Levites: From 25 years old and up, a man will join the company of those in the service of the tent of meeting. <sup>25</sup> But after the age of 50 years, he will retire from the service company and not serve any longer. <sup>26</sup> He may minister to his brothers who are taking care of the responsibilities at the tent of meeting, but he must not perform the service there. This is what you are to do regarding the Levites and their responsibilities.”

Song 4 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Lessons From the Camp of Israel”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Nu 8:17—How did Jehovah consider the firstborn males in Israel? (*it-1* 835)

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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Song 54

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Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for March.

Local Needs: (10 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)  
*rr* chap. 5 ¶¶17-22, box 5A

 Lessons From the Camp of Israel

Appointed men take the lead in sacred service (Nu 7:10; *it-1* 497 ¶3)

God’s servants should be well-organized and orderly (Nu 7:11; *it-2* 796 ¶1)

Jehovah considers the limitations of individuals (Nu 8:25, 26; *w04* 8/1 25 ¶1)

Just as Jehovah organized Israel, he has organized his people today. However, he still sees each one of us and takes note of our individual efforts to serve him.



## **March 1-7 / Numbers 7-8**

### **Song 4 and Prayer**

### **Opening Comments** (1 minute)

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

### **"Lessons From the Camp of Israel":** (10 minutes)

### **Appointed men take the lead in sacred service**

**Numbers 7:10:** Now the chieftains made their presentation at the inauguration of the altar on the day it was anointed. When the chieftains presented their offering before the altar,

### ***it-1 497* paragraph 3**

In Israel responsible representatives often acted in behalf of the people. (Ezra 10:14) Thus, "chieftains of the tribes" made presentations after the setting up of the tabernacle.

(Numbers 7:1-11) Also, representatively attesting by seal the "trustworthy arrangement" of Nehemiah's day were priests, Levites, and "the heads of the people." (Nehemiah 9:38–10:27) During Israel's wilderness trek, there were "chieftains of the assembly, summoned ones of the meeting, men of

fame," 250 of whom joined Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On in congregating themselves against Moses and Aaron.

(Numbers 16:1-3) In keeping with divine direction, Moses selected 70 of the older men of Israel who were officers to help him carry "the load of the people" that he was unable to bear alone. (Numbers 11:16, 17, 24, 25) Leviticus 4:15 mentions "the older men of the assembly," and it appears that the representatives of the people were the nation's older men, its heads, its judges, and its officers.—Numbers 1:4, 16; Joshua 23:2; 24:1.

## **God's servants should be well-organized and orderly**

**Numbers 7:11:** Jehovah said to Moses: "One chieftain each day, on successive days, will present his offering for the inauguration of the altar."

### ***it-2* 796 paragraph 1**

In the camp of Israel the Reubenites, flanked by the descendants of Simeon and Gad, were situated on the South side of the tabernacle. When on the march this three-tribe

division headed by Reuben followed the three-tribe division of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. (Numbers 2:10-16; 10:14-20) This was also the order in which the tribes made their presentation offerings on the day the tabernacle was inaugurated.—Numbers 7:1, 2, 10-47.

## **Jehovah considers the limitations of individuals**

**Numbers 8:25, 26:** But after the age of 50 years, he will retire from the service company and not serve any longer. He may minister to his brothers who are taking care of the responsibilities at the tent of meeting, but he must not perform the service there. This is what you are to do regarding the Levites and their responsibilities.”

### **w04 8/1 25 paragraph 1**

To fill the positions of the Levite service properly, and out of consideration for their age, older men were commanded to retire from compulsory service. However, they could volunteer to assist other Levites. While there is no retirement from being a Kingdom proclaimer today, the principle of this

law teaches a valuable lesson. If because of advanced age a Christian cannot fulfill certain obligations, he may engage in a form of service that is within his power to perform.

Just as Jehovah organized Israel, he has organized his people today. However, he still sees each one of us and takes note of our individual efforts to serve him.

Pictures: [Image:] Collage: Appointed men taking the lead in congregation activities. 1. An elder and a young brother clean Kingdom Hall chairs. 2. An elder leads a group in the house-to-house ministry. 3. An elder prays at an elders' meeting.

## **Spiritual Gems**

**Numbers 8:17—How did Jehovah consider the firstborn males in Israel?**

**Numbers 8:17:** For every firstborn among the Israelites is mine, both man and animal. I sanctified them to myself on the day I struck down every firstborn in the land of Egypt.

## ***it-1 835***

Since the firstborn sons among the Israelites were those in line to become the heads of the various households, they represented the entire nation. Jehovah, in fact, referred to the whole nation as his "firstborn," it being his firstborn nation because of the Abrahamic covenant. (Exodus 4:22) In view of his having preserved their lives, Jehovah commanded that "every male firstborn that opens each womb among the sons of Israel, among men and beasts," be sanctified to him. (Exodus 13:2) Thus, the firstborn sons were devoted to God.

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

**Bible Reading:** (4 minutes) Numbers 7:1-17 (*th* study 5)

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 Lessons From the Camp of Israel

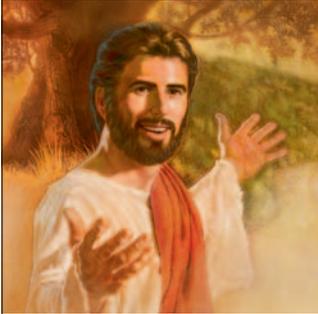
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**You Are  
Welcome  
to Attend!**

## Memorial Invitation Campaign

(February 27–March 27)

“We’re here [or calling or writing] to invite you to a special event that will be attended by millions of people. It’s the anniversary of Jesus’ death.” Hand [or text or mail] the person an invitation. “This invitation shows the time and location of the event in our area [or how you can attend online]. We also invite you to a special talk the weekend before.”

**When Interest Is Shown:** Play [or text or e-mail] the video *Remember Jesus’ Death*.

**Link:** Why did Jesus die?

## Initial Call

**Question:** Who was Jesus?

**Scripture:** **Mt 16:16**

**Link:** Why did Jesus die?

► FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 41 ¶5

## Return Visit

**Question:** Why did Jesus die?

**Scripture:** **Mt 20:28**

**Link:** How can we show our appreciation for Jesus’ ransom sacrifice?

► FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 52 ¶2



# “This Is the Way”

(Isaiah 30:20, 21)

1. There is a way of peace,  
The way you've come to know.  
It is the way you learned,  
The way of long ago,  
The way that Jesus taught you  
When his voice you heard.  
This is the way of peace,  
Found in Jehovah's Word.

*(CHORUS)*

*This is the way to life; This is the way.  
Don't look aside; Not for a moment stray!  
God's voice is calling: 'This is the way;  
Do not look back, for yes, this is the way.'*

2. There is a way of love,  
No need to look around.  
God's voice has shown the way  
He lets himself be found.  
His love is full and good;  
His love is warm and true.  
This is the way of love;  
It touches all we do.

*(Chorus)*

3. There is a way of life,  
No need to look behind.  
Our God has promised us:  
No better way we'll find,  
No higher way to peace,  
No finer way to love.  
This is the way to life,  
Thanks to our God above.

**(CHORUS)**

*This is the way to life; This is the way.  
Don't look aside; Not for a moment stray!  
God's voice is calling: 'This is the way;  
Do not look back, for yes, this is the way.'*

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 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Memorial Invitation: (2 min.) Use the sample conversation. (11)

Return Visit: (3 min.) Make a return visit on someone who showed interest and accepted the Memorial invitation. (6)

Return Visit: (3 min.) Invite a former Bible student to the Memorial. (12)

Return Visit: (3 min.) Invite to the Memorial a relative to whom you have witnessed in the past. (17)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 54

Organizational Accomplishments: (5 min.)  
Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for March.

Local Needs: (10 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)  
*rr* chap. 5 ¶¶17-22, box 5A

 Lessons From the Camp of Israel

Appointed men take the lead in sacred service (Nu 7:10; *it-1* 497 ¶3)

God’s servants should be well-organized and orderly (Nu 7:11; *it-2* 796 ¶1)

Jehovah considers the limitations of individuals (Nu 8:25, 26; *w04* 8/1 25 ¶1)

Just as Jehovah organized Israel, he has organized his people today. However, he still sees each one of us and takes note of our individual efforts to serve him.



temple would be facing west, with their backs to the rising sun in the east. But the 25 men in the vision turned their “backs to the temple” and faced east so that they could worship the sun. In so doing, they turned their backs on Jehovah, for that temple was “the house of Jehovah.” (1 Ki. 8:10-13) Those 25 men were apostates. They ignored Jehovah, and they violated the command recorded at Deuteronomy 4:15-19. How they offended the God who rightly deserves exclusive devotion!

<sup>17</sup> What can we learn from the account of those sun worshippers? To keep our worship pure, we must look to Jehovah for spiritual enlightenment. Remember, “Jehovah God is a sun,” and his Word is “a light” for our path. (Ps. 84:11; 119:105) Through his Word and Bible-based publications from his organization, he illuminates our hearts and minds, showing us how to follow a course that leads to a satisfying life now and to everlasting life in the future. If we were to look instead to this world for enlightenment on how to

**17, 18. (a) What lesson can we learn from the account of the sun worshippers in the temple? (b) The apostate Israelites damaged what relationships, and how?**

live, we would be turning our backs on Jehovah. Such a course would deeply offend him, causing him much pain of heart. We would never want to do that to our God! Ezekiel's vision is also a warning for us to avoid those who turn their backs on the truth, namely, apostates.—Prov. 11:9.

<sup>18</sup> As we have seen thus far, Ezekiel witnessed four shocking scenes of idolatry and false worship that revealed the depth of apostate Judah's spiritual defilement. By becoming spiritually unclean, those Israelites damaged the relationship between the nation and God. But spiritual uncleanness and moral defilement go hand in hand. Not surprisingly, then, the apostate Israelites committed all manner of moral wrongs that undermined not just their relationship with God but also their relationship with fellow humans. Let us now see how the prophet Ezekiel, under inspiration, described the moral decay of apostate Judah.

### **Moral Uncleanness** —“Obscene Conduct in Your Midst”

<sup>19</sup> **Read Ezekiel 22:3-12.** The nation was morally cor-  
**19. How did Ezekiel describe the moral bankruptcy of Jehovah's covenant people?**

rupt from the rulers on down. “The chieftains,” or leaders, used their authority to shed innocent blood. The people in general evidently followed their leaders in disregarding God’s Law. Within the family, children treated parents “with contempt,” and incest was commonplace. Within the land, the rebellious Israelites defrauded the foreign resident and mistreated the fatherless child and the widow. Israelite men violated their neighbors’ wives. The people gave way to unrestrained greed by practicing bribery, extortion, and usury. How it must have pained Jehovah to see his covenant people trampling on his Law and ignoring the loving spirit behind it! Jehovah took their moral bankruptcy personally. He directed Ezekiel to tell the immoral people: “You have entirely forgotten me.”

<sup>20</sup> Why do Ezekiel’s words about the moral uncleanness of Judah have meaning for our day? The corruption in apostate Judah reminds us of the morally bankrupt world we live in today.

**20. Why do Ezekiel’s words about the moral uncleanness of Judah have meaning for our day?**

rulers have abused their power and oppressed the common people. Religious leaders—in particular, the clergy of Christendom—have blessed the wars of the nations that have caused the loss of countless millions of lives. The clergy have watered down the Bible’s pure and clear standards regarding sexual morality. As a result, the moral standards of the world around us keep sinking ever lower. Surely Jehovah would say to Christendom what he said to apostate Judah: “You have entirely forgotten me.”

<sup>21</sup> What can we as Jehovah’s people learn from the moral uncleanness of ancient Judah? To worship Jehovah acceptably, we must keep our conduct clean in all respects. That is no small challenge in this morally corrupt world. (2 Tim. 3:1-5) However, we know how Jehovah feels about moral corruption in all its ugly forms. (1 Cor. 6:9, 10) We obey Jehovah’s moral standards because we love him and his laws. (Ps. 119:97; 1 John 5:3) To become morally unclean would be unloving toward our holy and clean God. We would never want to give Jehovah just cause to say to us: “You have entirely forgotten me.”

**21. What can we learn from the moral uncleanness of ancient Judah?**

<sup>22</sup> We have learned some valuable lessons from reviewing Jehovah’s exposé of the spiritual and moral decline of ancient Judah. Surely we are strengthened in our resolve to give Jehovah the exclusive devotion that he so richly deserves. To that end, we must guard against all forms of idolatry and keep morally clean. What, though, did Jehovah do about his unfaithful people? At the conclusion of Ezekiel’s temple tour, Jehovah plainly told his prophet: “I will act in rage.” (Ezek. 8:17, 18) We want to know what action Jehovah took toward unfaithful Judah, for a similar judgment will be executed on this wicked world. The next chapter will discuss how Jehovah’s judgments against Judah were fulfilled.

**22. (a) After reviewing Jehovah’s exposé of ancient Judah, what are you resolved to do? (b) What will be discussed in the next chapter?**

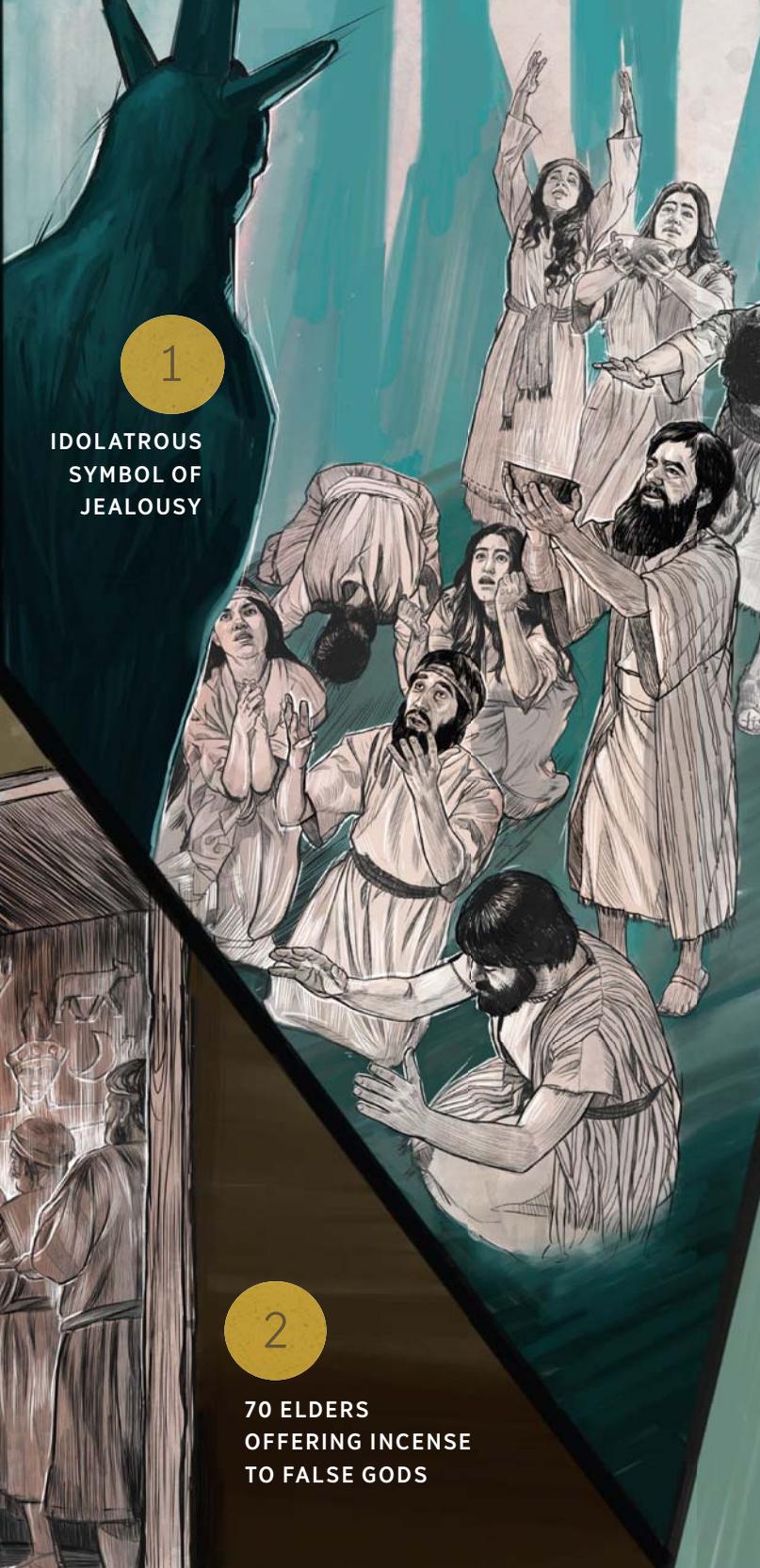
## **YOUR PLACE IN PURE WORSHIP**

- 1** What does Jehovah rightly expect of his worshippers, and how can you live up to his expectation?
- 2** In what ways did the Israelites become spiritually unclean, but how can you keep spiritually clean?
- 3** Why are you determined to stay morally clean?

# “SON OF MAN, DO YOU SEE THIS?”

SEE PARAGRAPHS 7-18

The four disgusting things that Ezekiel saw in the courtyard and the temple. (Ezek. 8:5-16)

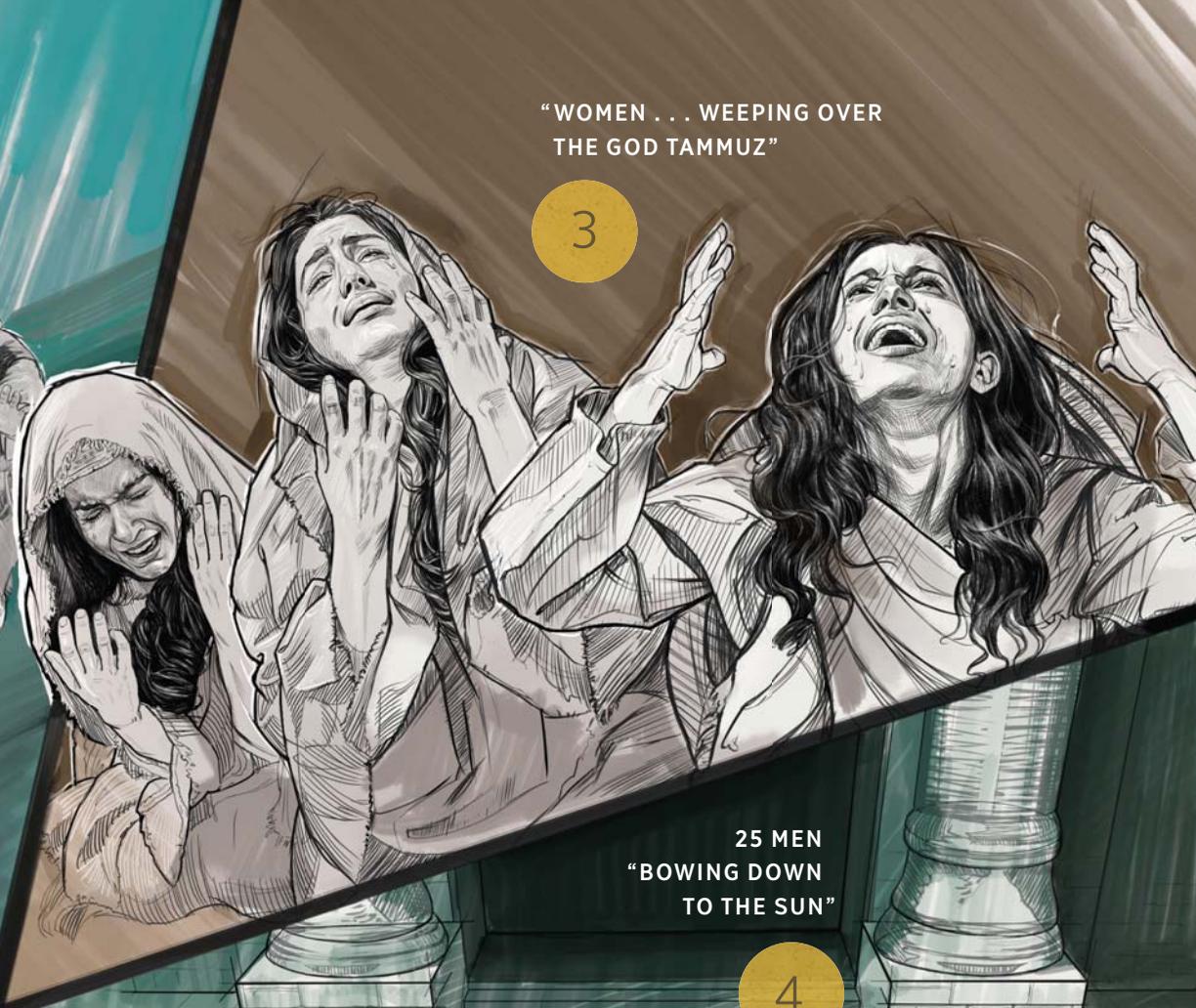


**1**  
IDOLATROUS  
SYMBOL OF  
JEALOUSY



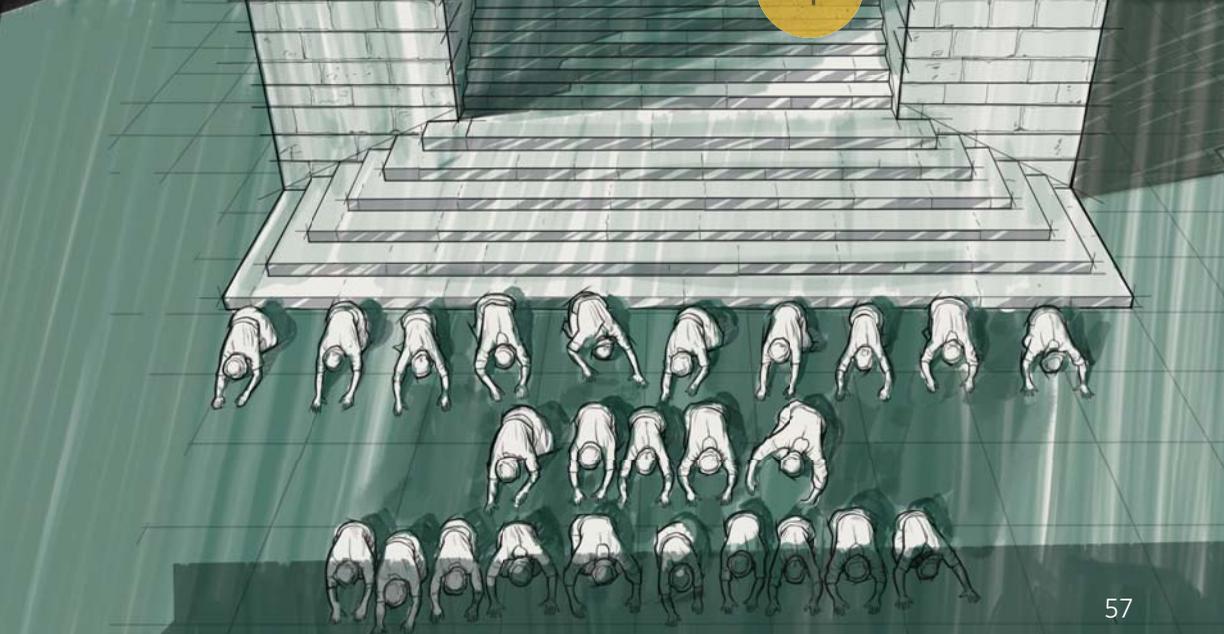
**2**

**70 ELDERS  
OFFERING INCENSE  
TO FALSE GODS**



**“WOMEN . . . WEEPING OVER  
THE GOD TAMMUZ”**

**3**



**25 MEN  
“BOWING DOWN  
TO THE SUN”**

**4**

# 127 *The Sort of Person I Should Be*

(2 Peter 3:11)

1. How can I repay you, what gift can I give  
To thank you, Jehovah, for the life that I live?  
I look in my heart with your Word as my mirror;  
The person I see, may you help me see clearer.

*(BRIDGE)*

My life I have promised in service to you,  
But not from mere duty will I do what I do.  
Whole-souled and wholehearted I serve you by choice;  
May I be one more who makes you rejoice.

Help me to examine, and help me to see  
Just what sort of person you desire me to be.  
Those loyal to you, you will loyally treasure;  
May I be among those who bring your heart pleasure.

JANUARY 2021

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
MARCH 1–APRIL 4, 2021

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<b>We Learned Never to Say No to Jehovah</b>	

### COVER PICTURE:

The great crowd dressed in white robes and with palm branches in their hands, standing before the brilliance of the throne of God and before the Lamb (See study article 3, paragraph 7)

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# 3

## *Our Strength, Our Hope, Our Confidence*

(Proverbs 14:26)

1. O Jehovah, you have given us  
a hope that we hold dear.  
It's a hope we find so thrilling  
we want the world to hear.  
But at times this life's anxieties  
are the cause of fears within,  
And the hope that burned so brightly  
has suddenly grown dim.

*(CHORUS)*

*You're our strength, you're our hope,  
you're our confidence.*

*Whatever we lack, you supply.*

*When we preach, when we teach,  
we have confidence*

*because it's on you we rely.*

2. So Jehovah, please instill in us  
a heart that won't forget,  
For you've always been our comfort  
when troubled times we've met.  
And these thoughts that lift and strengthen us  
can revive that dying flame,  
For they fill our hearts with courage  
to speak about your name.

*(Chorus)*

# Keep Calm and Trust in Jehovah

## OUR YEARTEXT FOR 2021:

*“Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust.”*

—ISA. 30:15.

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## SONG 3

Our Strength, Our Hope, Our Confidence

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## PREVIEW

Our yeartext for 2021 highlights the importance of trusting in Jehovah as we deal with stressful situations now and in the future. This article will discuss practical ways that we can apply the counsel found in our yeartext.

**WE ALL** want to lead a calm and peaceful life. No one enjoys feeling anxious. At times, however, we may struggle with anxieties. In fact, some of Jehovah’s servants may ask the same question King David asked Jehovah: “How long will I have anxious concern, with grief in my heart each day?”—Ps. 13:2.

<sup>2</sup> Although we cannot be completely free from feelings of anxiety, we can do much to control such feelings. In this article, we will first identify some of the things that may cause us to feel anxious. Then we will discuss six practical ways that we can remain calm as we deal with our problems.

## **WHAT MAY CAUSE US TO FEEL ANXIOUS?**

<sup>3</sup> We may have little or no control over some things that could cause us to feel anxious. For example, we cannot regulate how much the cost of food, clothing, and shelter will rise each year; nor can we control how frequently our workmates or schoolmates will try to tempt us to be dishonest or immoral. And we cannot stop the crime that happens in our

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1. Like King David, what may some of us ask?
  2. What will we discuss in this article?
  3. What pressures do we face, and how much control do we have over them?

neighborhood. We face these challenges because we live in a world where most people's thinking is not based on Bible principles. Satan, the god of this world, knows that some people will allow "the anxiety of this system of things" to keep them from serving Jehovah. (Matt. 13:22; 1 John 5:19) No wonder that the world is so full of stressful situations!

<sup>4</sup> We might respond to intense pressures by becoming consumed with anxiety. For instance, we may worry that we will not earn enough money to care for our needs or that we will get sick and miss work or even lose our job. We may also be concerned that we will be unfaithful when tempted to break God's law. Soon Satan will cause those whom he controls to attack God's people, so we may worry about how we will react to that attack. We may wonder, 'Is it wrong for me to feel some concern about such issues?'

<sup>5</sup> We know that Jesus told his followers: "Stop being anxious." (Matt. 6:25) Does this mean that he expects us to feel no anxiety whatsoever? Certainly not! After all, in the past some of Jehovah's loyal servants struggled with anxiety, but they did not lose

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4. How might we respond to intense pressures?

5. What did Jesus mean when he said: "Stop being anxious"?

Jehovah's approval.\* (1 Ki. 19:4; Ps. 6:3) Jesus was actually reassuring us. He did not want us to become so anxious about the cares of this life that our service to God would be negatively affected. What, then, are ways that we can control feelings of anxiety?—See the box “How to Do It.”

## SIX THINGS THAT WILL HELP US KEEP CALM

<sup>6</sup> (1) *Pray often.* Christians who are under pressure can find relief when they turn to Jehovah in earnest prayer. (1 Pet. 5:7) In answer to your prayers, you can receive “the peace of God that surpasses all [human] understanding.” (Read **Philippians 4:6, 7.**) Jehovah calms our anxious thoughts by means of his powerful holy spirit.—Gal. 5:22.

<sup>7</sup> When approaching Jehovah in prayer, open your heart to him. Be specific. Tell him what the problem is, and explain to him how you feel about it. If there is a possible solution, ask him for the wisdom to find it and the strength to implement it. If the answer to

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\* Some faithful brothers and sisters suffer from an overwhelming feeling of anxiety or panic. Such a disorder is a serious health condition and should not be confused with the type of anxiety that Jesus was discussing.

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6. According to Philippians 4:6, 7, what can calm our anxieties?

7. What should we keep in mind when praying to God?

your problem is beyond your control, ask Jehovah to help you not to be unduly worried about it. When you are specific in your prayers, in time you will see more clearly how Jehovah has answered them. If the answer does not come immediately after you have been praying, do not give up. Jehovah wants you to be not only specific but also persistent in your prayers.—Luke 11:8-10.

<sup>8</sup> As you throw your anxiety on Jehovah in prayer, be sure to include words of thanks. It is good for us to count our blessings, even when our circumstances are especially difficult. If at times you are unable to find the right words to express your intense emotions, remember that Jehovah answers prayers as simple as ‘Please help!’—2 Chron. 18:31; Rom. 8:26.

<sup>9</sup> (2) *Rely on Jehovah’s wisdom, not your own.* Back in the eighth century B.C.E., the people of Judah felt threatened by the Assyrians. In a desperate effort to avoid coming under the Assyrian yoke, they turned to pagan Egypt. (Isa. 30:1, 2) Jehovah warned them that their wayward course would end in disaster. (Isa. 30:7, 12, 13) Through Isaiah, Jehovah told the people how they could find real security. He said:

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8. What should we include in our prayers?

9. How can real security be found?

“Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust” in Jehovah.—Isa. 30:15b.

<sup>10</sup> How might we show our trust in Jehovah? Consider some examples. Suppose you are offered a better-paying job that will require a substantial amount of your time and will interfere with your spiritual routine. Or suppose that someone in the workplace expresses a romantic interest in you, but the person is not a baptized servant of God. Or imagine that a beloved family member gives you an ultimatum: “It’s either me or your God.” In each of these cases, you will have a difficult decision to make, but in each instance, Jehovah will give you the direction you need. (Matt. 6:33; 10:37; 1 Cor. 7:39) The question is, Will you trust that direction enough to apply it?

<sup>11</sup> **(3) *Learn from good examples and bad ones.*** The Bible contains many accounts that highlight the value of keeping calm and putting our trust in Jehovah. As you study these accounts, notice what helped God’s servants to remain calm in the face of extreme opposition. For example, when the Jewish supreme court ordered the apostles to stop preaching, they

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**10.** What are some circumstances in which we can show our trust in Jehovah?

**11.** Which Bible accounts could we study in order to keep calm in the face of opposition?

were not intimidated. Instead, they boldly declared: “We must obey God as ruler rather than men.” (Acts 5:29) Even after being flogged, the apostles did not panic. Why? Because they knew that Jehovah was on their side. He was pleased with them. Thus, they continued preaching the good news. (Acts 5:40-42) Likewise, when the disciple Stephen faced death, he remained so peaceful and serene that his face looked “like an angel’s face.” (Acts 6:12-15) Why? Because he was assured of Jehovah’s approval.

<sup>12</sup> The apostles had direct evidence that Jehovah was with them. He had given them the power to perform miracles. (Acts 5:12-16; 6:8) That is not the case with us today. Even so, through his Word, Jehovah lovingly assures us that when we suffer for the sake of righteousness, he is pleased with us and his spirit is with us. (Read 1 Peter 3:14; 4:14.) So rather than dwell on how we might react to severe persecution in the future, we need to focus on what we can do now to build our confidence in Jehovah’s ability to sustain and deliver us. Just as those early disciples did, we must trust Jesus’ promise: “I will give you words and wisdom that all your opposers together will not be able to resist or dispute.” We have the

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12. According to 1 Peter 3:14 and 4:14, why can we be happy when we are persecuted?



**“Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust.”—ISA. 30:15**

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## **HOW TO DO IT**

1. Pray often
2. Rely on Jehovah’s wisdom
3. Learn from past examples
4. Memorize Bible passages
5. Associate with God’s people
6. Keep your hope strong

guarantee: “By your endurance you will preserve your lives.” (Luke 21:12-19) And never forget that Jehovah keeps in his memory the smallest details about his servants who die faithful to him. With that knowledge, he will resurrect them.

<sup>13</sup> We can also learn from the experiences of those who failed to keep calm and trust in Jehovah. Studying those bad examples will help us to avoid making the same mistakes they made. For instance, early in his reign, King Asa of Judah relied on Jehovah when confronted by a massive army, and Jehovah blessed him with victory. (2 Chron. 14:9-12) Later, though, when the much smaller army of King Baasha of Israel came against him, Asa paid the Syrians for military help instead of looking to Jehovah for salvation, as he had in the past. (2 Chron. 16:1-3) And near the end of his life when he developed a severe ailment, he did not rely on Jehovah to help him. —2 Chron. 16:12.

<sup>14</sup> In the beginning, Asa looked to Jehovah when faced with problems. But later he failed to turn to his God for help, preferring to handle matters on his own. On the surface, Asa’s plan to turn to the Syri-

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13. How can we benefit from considering the experiences of those who failed to keep calm and trust in Jehovah?

14. What can we learn from Asa’s mistakes?

ans for help against Israel may have appeared to be very practical. But his success was short-lived. Jehovah told him through a prophet: “Because you relied on the king of Syria and did not rely on Jehovah your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand.” (2 Chron. 16:7) We must be careful not to feel so confident about handling matters on our own that we fail to look to Jehovah for guidance through his Word. Even when we are faced with an urgent situation, we should calmly rely on Jehovah, and he will help us to succeed.

<sup>15</sup> **(4) Memorize Bible passages.** As you come across Bible passages showing that strength comes from keeping calm and trusting in Jehovah, try to commit a few key verses to memory. You may find it helpful to read them aloud or to write them down and review them often. Joshua was commanded to read the book of the Law regularly in an undertone in order to act wisely. These reminders would also help him overcome the fear that he might otherwise have felt in his circumstances. (Josh. 1:8, 9) Many expressions found in God’s Word can give you peace of mind and heart in situations that would normally lead to feelings of anxiety or dread.—Ps. 27:1-3; Prov. 3:25, 26.

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15. What might we do when reading the Bible?

<sup>16</sup> **(5) Associate with God’s people.** Jehovah uses our brothers and sisters to help us to keep calm and trust in him. At our meetings, we benefit from the instruction presented from the platform, the comments made by the audience, and the upbuilding conversations we have with our brothers and sisters. (Heb. 10:24, 25) We can also be greatly encouraged when we share our feelings with trusted friends in the congregation. “A good word” from a friend can go a long way in helping to lift the weight of our anxiety.—Prov. 12:25.

<sup>17</sup> **(6) Keep your hope strong.** Our Kingdom hope serves “as an anchor for the soul,” giving us stability despite challenging circumstances or anxious thoughts. (Read Hebrews 6:19.) Meditate on Jehovah’s promise of a future in which negative thoughts will be gone. (Isa. 65:17) Picture yourself in the peaceful new world, where distressing situations will no longer exist. (Mic. 4:4) You will also strengthen your hope as you share it with others. Do all you can in the preaching and disciple-making work. If you do, you can “have the full assurance of the hope down to the end.”—Heb. 6:11.

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**16.** How does Jehovah use the congregation to help us to keep calm and trust in him?

**17.** According to Hebrews 6:19, how can our Kingdom hope give us stability despite challenging circumstances?

**18** As this system of things comes to its end, we will experience more challenges that could produce anxious thoughts. Our yeartext for 2021 can help us to face those challenges and remain calm, not in our own strength, but through our trust in Jehovah. During the coming year, let us show by our actions that we have faith in Jehovah’s promise: *“Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust.”*—Isa. 30:15.

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**18.** What challenges can we expect in the future, and how can we face them successfully?

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 9:** (1) Throughout the day, a sister prays intensely about her anxieties. (2) During her lunch break at work, she looks to God’s Word for wisdom. (3) She meditates on good examples and bad ones found in the Bible. (4) She puts on her refrigerator an encouraging scripture that she wants to memorize. (5) She enjoys good companionship while in the ministry. (6) She strengthens her hope by thinking about the future.

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#### **HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?**

- Why is it not wrong to feel some anxiety?
- What are six things that we can do to help us keep calm?
- Why is our 2021 yeartext so timely?

# 8

## *Jehovah Is Our Refuge*

(Psalm 91)

1. Jehovah is our refuge,  
Our God in whom we trust.  
His shadow is our shelter;  
Remain in it we must.  
His faithful ones he will defend,  
On this we know we can depend.  
Jehovah is a stronghold,  
Ever faithful, loyal, and just.
2. Though thousands will have fallen  
And many at our side,  
The righteous and the meek ones  
Will never be denied.  
So in our hearts we need not fear;  
Calamity will not come near.  
From danger he will shield us,  
For beneath God's wings we'll reside.
3. He'll keep us and protect us  
From snares along our way,  
From terrors in the nighttime,  
And arrows by the day.  
Yes, there will be no cause for dread,  
No place where we will fear to tread.  
Jehovah is our refuge,  
Ever guarding us on our way.

(See also Ps. 97:10; 121:3, 5; Isa. 52:12.)