

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.



"Jehovah Is My Shepherd"

(Psalm 23)

Bb/F Bb Bb° Bb Bb/D Eb Dm/F F7/A

Je - ho - vah God is my Shep - herd; I'll fol - low where he will
 Re - fresh - ing are all your path - ways, The ways of your right - eous -
 Je - ho - vah, you are my Shep - herd; I fol - low where you will

Bb D7/A D7 C/D D/C Gm/Bb D/A Gm Bb6/D Db7b5

lead. He knows my hopes and my heart's de - sire; He
 ness. For your name's sake ne - ver let me stray From
 lead. You strength - en me, and you give me rest; You

F/C C7 C7sus4 F F7 Bb B°

knows what I tru - ly need. To wa - tered pas - tures he
 walk - ing in faith - ful - ness. In val - leys deep in the
 give all I tru - ly need. As you most sure - ly are

F7/C F F+5 Bb7 Ab/Bb Bb7 Eb

leads me, To plac - es se - cure and blessed. And he
 shad - ows, As - sured by your staff and rod, I will
 liv - ing, So sure is my hope in you. May your

“Jehovah Is My Shepherd”

E^o B \flat /F B \flat

guides me al - ways with loy - al love To
 fear no dan - ger and of last - ing harm, For
 loy - al love and your care for me Pur -

F/A F+5 B \flat F7

where I find peace and rest. He
 you are my Friend and God. I
 sue me my whole life through. Your

B \flat F/C B \flat 7/D A \flat /B \flat B \flat 7 E^o G^o E^o

guides me al - ways with loy - al love To
 fear no dan - ger and of last - ing harm, For
 loy - al love and your care for me Pur -

B \flat /F G^o B \flat /F E \flat F7 B \flat

where I find peace and rest.
 you are my Friend and God.
 sue me my whole life through.

first year as a burnt offering,^a one sound female lamb in its first year as a sin offering,^b one sound ram as a communion sacrifice,^c **15** a basket of unleavened ring-shaped loaves of fine flour mixed with oil, unleavened wafers smeared with oil, and their grain offering^d and their drink offerings.^e **16** The priest will present them before Jehovah and will offer up his sin offering and his burnt offering. **17** He will offer the ram as a communion sacrifice to Jehovah along with the basket of unleavened loaves, and the priest will present its grain offering^f and its drink offering.

18 "The Naz'i-rite must then shave the uncut hair of his head^g at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and he will take the hair of his head grown during his Naziriteship and put it on the fire that is under the communion sacrifice. **19** And the priest must take a boiled^h shoulder from the ram, one unleavened ring-shaped loaf from the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and put them on the palms of the Naz'i-rite after he has had the sign of his Naziriteship shaved off. **20** And the priest must wave them back and forth as a wave offering before Jehovah.ⁱ It is something holy for the priest, along with the breast of the wave offering and the leg of the contribution.^j Afterward, the Naz'i-rite may drink wine.

21 "This is the law about the Naz'i-rite^k who makes a vow: If he vows and can afford to make an offering to Jehovah that is beyond the requirements of his Naziriteship, he must then carry out his vow out of regard for the law of his Naziriteship."

6:18 *Or "the head of his Naziriteship."

CHAP. 6

a Le 1:10

b Le 4:32

c Le 3:1

d Le 2:1
Le 6:14

e Nu 15:8, 10

f Le 2:9

g Nu 6:5

h Le 8:31

i Ex 29:23, 24

j Le 7:34

k Jg 13:5

Second Col.

a Le 9:22
De 10:8

b Ru 2:4
Ps 134:3

c Ps 31:16
Ps 67:1

d Ps 29:11
Lu 2:14

e De 28:10
Isa 43:7, 10

f Ps 5:12
Ps 67:7

CHAP. 7

g Ex 40:17

h Ex 30:26

i Le 8:10

j Ex 40:10

k Ex 18:21
Nu 1:4, 16

l Nu 3:25, 26
Nu 4:24-26

22 Then Jehovah said to Moses: **23** "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is the way you should bless^a the people of Israel. Say to them:

24 "May Jehovah bless you^b and safeguard you.

25 May Jehovah make his face shine upon you,^c and may he favor you.

26 May Jehovah lift up his face toward you and grant you peace."^d

27 And they must place my name upon the people of Israel,^e that I may bless them."^f

7 On the day that Moses finished setting up the tabernacle,^g he anointed it^h and sanctified it, together with all its furnishings, the altar, and all its utensils.ⁱ When he had anointed and sanctified these things,^j **2** the chieftains of Israel,^k the heads of their paternal houses, made an offering. These chieftains of the tribes who presided over the registration **3** brought before Jehovah their offering of six covered wagons and 12 oxen, a wagon for two chieftains and a bull^l for each one; and they presented them before the tabernacle. **4** Jehovah said to Moses: **5** "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."

6 So Moses accepted the wagons and the cattle and gave them to the Levites. **7** He gave two wagons and four oxen to the sons of Ger'shon, according to what was needed for their duties;^l **8** 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

7:3 *Or "an ox."

of Aaron the priest.^a **9** But he did not give any to the sons of Ko'hath because their duties involved the service of the holy place,^b and they carried the holy things on their shoulders.^c

10 Now the chieftains made their presentation at the inauguration^{*d} of the altar on the day it was anointed. When the chieftains presented their offering before the altar, **11** Jehovah said to Moses: "One chieftain each day, on successive days, will present his offering for the inauguration of the altar."

12 The one who presented his offering on the first day was Nah'shon^e the son of Amin'a-dab of the tribe of Judah. **13** 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;^g **14** one gold cup* weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **15** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^h **16** one young goat for a sin offering;ⁱ **17** and for a communion sacrifice,^j 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.^k

18 On the second day, Ne-than'el^l the son of Zu'ar, the chieftain of Is'sa-char, made a presentation. **19** 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,^m both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a

7:10 *Or "dedication." 7:13 *A shekel equaled 11.4 g (0.367 oz t). See App. B14. #Or "by the holy shekel." 7:14 *Or "small bowl."

CHAP. 7

a Nu 3:36, 37

Nu 4:31-33

b Nu 3:30, 31

Nu 4:15

c 2Sa 6:13

1Ch 15:15

d 1Ki 8:63

2Ch 7:5

e Nu 1:4, 7

Nu 2:3

Ru 4:20

Mt 1:4

f Le 27:25

g Le 2:1

h Le 1:3

i Le 4:22, 23

j Le 3:1

k Ex 6:23

Lu 3:23, 33

l Nu 1:4, 8

Nu 2:5

Nu 10:15

m Le 27:25

Second Col.

a Le 2:1

b Le 1:3

c Le 4:22, 23

d Le 3:1

e Nu 2:7

Nu 10:16

f Le 27:25

g Le 2:1

h Le 1:3

i Le 4:22, 23

j Le 3:1

k Nu 1:4, 9

l Nu 2:10

Nu 10:18

m Le 27:25

n Le 2:1

o Le 1:3

p Le 4:22, 23

q Le 3:1

r Nu 1:4, 5

grain offering;^a **20** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **21** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^b **22** one young goat for a sin offering;^c **23** and for a communion sacrifice,^d 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.

24 On the third day, the chieftain for the sons of Zeb'u-lun, E-li'ab^e the son of He'lon, **25** 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,^f both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;^g **26** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **27** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^h **28** one young goat for a sin offering;ⁱ **29** and for a communion sacrifice,^j two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of E-li'ab^k the son of He'lon.

30 On the fourth day, the chieftain for the sons of Reu'ben, E-li'zur^l the son of Shed'e-ur, **31** 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,^m both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;ⁿ **32** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **33** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^o **34** one young goat for a sin offering;^p **35** and for a communion sacrifice,^q two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of E-li'zur^r the son of Shed'e-ur.

36 On the fifth day, the chieftain for the sons of Sim'e-on, She-lu'mi-el^a the son of Zu-ri-shad'dai, **37** 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,^b both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;^c **38** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **39** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^d **40** one young goat for a sin offering;^e **41** and for a communion sacrifice,^f two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of She-lu'mi-el^g the son of Zu-ri-shad'dai.

42 On the sixth day, the chieftain for the sons of Gad, E-li'a-saph^h the son of Deu'el, **43** 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,ⁱ both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;^j **44** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **45** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^k **46** one young goat for a sin offering;^l **47** and for a communion sacrifice,^m two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of E-li'a-saphⁿ the son of Deu'el.

48 On the seventh day, the chieftain for the sons of E'phraim, E-lish'a-ma^o the son of Am-mi'hud, **49** 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,^p both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;^q **50** one gold cup weigh-

CHAP. 7

- a Nu 2:12
- b Le 27:25
- c Le 2:1
- d Le 1:3
- e Le 4:22, 23
- f Le 3:1
- g Nu 1:4, 6
- h Nu 2:14
Nu 10:20
- i Le 27:25
- j Le 2:1
- k Le 1:3
- l Le 4:22, 23
- m Le 3:1
- n Nu 1:4, 14
- o Nu 2:18
Nu 10:22
- p Le 27:25
- q Le 2:1

Second Col.

- a Le 1:3
- b Le 4:22, 23
- c Le 3:1
- d Nu 1:4, 10
- e Nu 2:20
Nu 10:23
- f Le 27:25
- g Le 2:1
- h Le 1:3
- i Le 4:22, 23
- j Le 3:1
- k Nu 1:4, 10
- l Nu 1:16
- m Nu 2:22
Nu 10:24
- n Le 27:25
- o Le 2:1
- p Le 1:3
- q Le 4:22, 23
- r Le 3:1

ing 10 shekels, full of incense; **51** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^a **52** one young goat for a sin offering;^b **53** and for a communion sacrifice,^c two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of E-lish'a-ma^d the son of Am-mi'hud.

54 On the eighth day, the chieftain for the sons of Manas'seh, Ga-ma'li-el^e the son of Pe-dah'zur, **55** 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,^f both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;^g **56** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **57** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;^h **58** one young goat for a sin offering;ⁱ **59** and for a communion sacrifice,^j two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of Ga-ma'li-el^k the son of Pe-dah'zur.

60 On the ninth day, the chieftain^l for the sons of Benjamin, Ab'i-dan^m the son of Gid-e-o'ni, **61** 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,ⁿ both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;^o **62** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **63** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^p **64** one young goat for a sin offering;^q **65** and for a communion sacrifice,^r two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the

offering of Ab'i-dan^a the son of Gid-e-o'ni.

66 On the tenth day, the chieftain for the sons of Dan, A-hi-e'zer^b the son of Am-mi-shad'dai, **67** 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,^c both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;^d **68** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **69** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^e **70** one young goat for a sin offering;^f **71** and for a communion sacrifice,^g two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of A-hi-e'zer^h the son of Am-mi-shad'dai.

72 On the 11th day, the chieftain for the sons of Ash'er, Pa'gi-elⁱ the son of Och'ran, **73** 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,^j both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;^k **74** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **75** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^l **76** one young goat for a sin offering;^m **77** and for a communion sacrifice,ⁿ two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of Pa'gi-el^o the son of Och'ran.

78 On the 12th day, the chieftain for the sons of Naph'tali, A-hi'ra^p the son of E'nan, **79** 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,^q both of them full of fine flour mixed with

CHAP. 7

a Nu 1:4, 11

b Nu 2:25

Nu 10:25

c Le 27:25

d Le 2:1

e Le 1:3

f Le 4:22, 23

g Le 3:1

h Nu 1:4, 12

i Nu 2:27

Nu 10:26

j Le 27:25

k Le 2:1

l Le 1:3

m Le 4:22, 23

n Le 3:1

o Nu 1:4, 13

p Nu 2:29

Nu 10:27

q Le 27:25

Second Col.

a Le 2:1

b Le 1:3

c Le 4:22, 23

d Le 3:1

e Nu 1:4, 15

f Nu 7:10

Ezr 2:68

g Nu 7:13-17

h Le 27:25

i Nu 7:10

j Nu 7:1

k Ex 33:9

Nu 11:17

Nu 12:8

l Ex 25:22

Ex 37:6

m Ex 25:18

1Sa 4:4

Ps 80:1

oil for a grain offering;^a **80** one gold cup weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; **81** one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year for a burnt offering;^b **82** one young goat for a sin offering;^c **83** and for a communion sacrifice,^d two cattle, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs each a year old. This was the offering of A-hi'ra^e the son of E'nan.

84 This was the inauguration offering^f of the altar from the chieftains of Israel when it was anointed: 12 silver dishes, 12 silver bowls, 12 gold cups;^g **85** 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;^h **86** 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. **87** 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; **88** 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 offeringⁱ of the altar after it was anointed.^j

89 Whenever Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with God,^{*k} he would hear the voice conversing with him from above the cover^l of the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubs;^m and God would speak to him.

8 Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying: **2** "Speak to Aaron and tell him, 'When you light up the lamps, the seven lamps

7:89 *Lit., "him."

should shine on the area in front of the lampstand."^a **3** So Aaron did this: He lit up its lamps for the area in front of the lampstand,^b just as Jehovah had commanded Moses. **4** This is how the lampstand was made: It was hammered work of gold; from its stem to its blossoms, it was hammered work.^c The lampstand was made according to the vision^d that Jehovah had shown Moses.

5 Jehovah spoke again to Moses, saying: **6** "Take the Levites from among the Israelites, and cleanse them.^e **7** 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.^f **8** Then they will take a young bull^g and its grain offering^h of fine flour mixed with oil, and you will take another young bull for a sin offering.ⁱ **9** And you are to present the Levites before the tent of meeting and gather all the assembly of the Israelites.^j **10** When you present the Levites before Jehovah, the Israelites are to lay their hands on the Levites.^k **11** And Aaron must offer* the Levites before Jehovah as a wave offering^l from the Israelites, and they will carry out the service of Jehovah.^m

12 "Then the Levites will lay their hands on the heads of the bullsⁿ and offer the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to Jehovah to make atonement^o for the Levites. **13** And you will have the Levites stand before Aaron and his sons and offer* them as a wave offering to Jehovah. **14** You must separate the Levites from among the Israelites, and the Levites will become mine.^p **15** Afterward, the

8:11, 13, 15 *Lit., "wave," that is, cause to move back and forth.

CHAP. 8

a Ex 25:37
Ex 40:24, 25
Le 24:2

b Heb 9:2

c Ex 37:17

d Ex 25:9, 40
1Ch 28:12, 19

e Ex 29:4
Isa 52:11

f Ex 30:18, 19
Le 16:28
Nu 19:7

g Le 1:3

h Le 2:1

i Le 4:3

j Le 8:2, 3

k Nu 3:9, 41

l Le 7:30
Nu 8:21

m Nu 1:50
Nu 3:6
2Ch 31:2

n Ex 29:10

o Le 1:4

p Nu 3:45
Nu 16:9

Second Col.

a Nu 3:12

b Ex 13:2, 12
Le 27:26

c Ex 12:29
Ex 13:15

d Nu 3:9
Nu 18:6
1Ch 23:32
Eze 44:11

e Nu 1:53
Nu 18:5
1Sa 6:19

f Nu 8:7

g Nu 8:11

h Nu 8:12

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. **16** For they are given ones, given to me from among the Israelites. In place of all those who are firstborn* of the Israelites,^a I will take them for myself. **17** For every firstborn among the Israelites is mine, both man and animal.^b I sanctified them to myself on the day I struck down every firstborn in the land of Egypt.^c **18** I will take the Levites in place of all the firstborn among the Israelites. **19** 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^d and to make atonement for the Israelites, so that no plague may occur among the Israelites^e because the people of Israel come near the holy place."

20 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. **21** So the Levites purified themselves and washed their garments,^f after which Aaron offered* them as a wave offering before Jehovah.^g Then Aaron made atonement for them to cleanse them.^h **22** 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.

23 Jehovah now spoke to Moses, saying: **24** "This applies to the Levites: From 25 years old

8:16 *Or "all the firstborn opening the wombs." 8:21 *Lit., "waved," that is, caused to move back and forth.

and up, a man will join the company of those in the service of the tent of meeting. **25** But after the age of 50 years, he will retire from the service company and not serve any longer. **26** 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.^a

9 Jehovah spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Si'nai in the first month^b of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying: **2** "The Israelites should prepare the Passover sacrifice^c at its appointed time.^d **3** On the 14th day of this month at twilight,* you should prepare it at its appointed time. According to all its statutes and all its set procedures, you should prepare it."^e

4 So Moses told the Israelites to prepare the Passover sacrifice. **5** Then they prepared the Passover sacrifice in the first month, on the 14th day of the month at twilight,* in the wilderness of Si'nai. According to all that Jehovah had commanded Moses, so the Israelites did.

6 Now there were men who had become unclean by touching a dead body,*^f so that they were not able to prepare the Passover sacrifice on that day. So those men presented themselves before Moses and Aaron on that day^g **7** and said to him: "We are unclean because of touching a dead body.* Why should we be kept from presenting the offering to Jehovah at its appointed time among the Israelites?"^h **8** At this Moses said to them:

9:3, 5, 11 *Lit., "between the two evenings." 9:6 *Or "by a human soul." 9:7 *Or "because of a human soul."

CHAP. 8

a Nu 1:53
Nu 3:32
Nu 18:4

CHAP. 9

b Ex 40:2
Nu 1:1

c Ex 12:27

d Ex 12:3, 6
Le 23:5
De 16:1
1Co 5:7

e Ex 12:8

f Nu 5:2
Nu 19:14, 16

g Ex 18:15
Nu 15:33
Nu 27:1, 2

h Le 7:21
De 16:2

Second Col.

a Ex 25:22
Le 16:2
Ps 99:6

b Nu 5:2

c 2Ch 30:2, 15

d Ex 12:8

e Ex 12:10

f Ex 12:46
Ps 34:20
Joh 19:36

g Ex 12:15

h Ex 12:19, 48

i Ex 12:8

j Le 24:22
De 31:12

k Ex 40:2, 17

l Ex 40:34, 38

"Wait there, and let me hear what Jehovah may command regarding you."^a

9 Then Jehovah said to Moses: **10** "Tell the Israelites, 'Although any man among you or of your future generations should become unclean by touching a dead body*^b or should be off on a distant journey, he must still prepare the Passover sacrifice to Jehovah. **11** They should prepare it in the second month,^c on the 14th day at twilight.* They should eat it together with unleavened bread and bitter greens.^d **12** They must not let any of it remain until morning,^e and they should not break any bone in it.^f They should prepare it according to every statute regarding the Passover. **13** But if a man was clean or was not off on a journey and neglected to prepare the Passover sacrifice, that person* must then be cut off^g from his people,^g because he did not present the offering of Jehovah at its appointed time. That man will answer for his sin.

14 "And if a foreign resident is residing with you, he should also prepare the Passover sacrifice to Jehovah.^h He should do so according to the statute of the Passover and its set procedure.ⁱ There should exist one statute for you, both for the foreign resident and for the native of the land."^j

15 Now on the day the tabernacle was set up,^k the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony, but in the evening what appeared to be fire remained over the tabernacle until morning.^l **16** That is what continued to take place: The cloud would cover it by day, and the appearance of fire by

9:10 *Or "by a soul." 9:13 *Or "soul."
*Or "put to death."

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)

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

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 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.



March 1-7 / Numbers 7-8

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)

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

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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)

E \flat /B \flat *B \flat ma7*

There is a way of peace, The way you've
 There is a way of love, No need to
 There is a way of life, No need to

E \flat /B \flat *F/B \flat* *E \flat /B \flat* *F/A* *Gm* *F*

come to know. It is the way you learned, The way of
 look a - round. God's voice has shown the way He lets him -
 look be - hind. Our God has prom - ised us: No bet - ter

E \flat *B \flat /D* *Cm*

long a - go, The way that Je - sus taught you When his
 self be found. His love is full - and good; His love is
 way we'll find, No high - er way to peace, No fin - er

Dm *E \flat* *Cm7*

voice you heard. This is the way of peace, Found in Je -
 warm and true. This is the way of love; It touch - es
 way to love. This is the way to life, Thanks to our

“This Is the Way”

Chorus

Cm/F Dm/F Eb/F F Bb F/A

ho - vah's Word.
all we do. This is the way to life; This is the
God a - bove.

Gm Bb/F Dm/F Eb Bb/D

way. Don't look a - side; Not for a mo - ment

C7sus4 C7 Cm11 F7/C Bbadd9/D Bb/D

stray! God's voice is call - ing: 'This is the

Ebma7 Gm/E Bb/F Eb/F Bb

way; Do not look back, for yes, this is the way.'

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

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inner courtyard of the temple. There, at the entrance of the temple, he saw 25 men bowing down to worship “the sun in the east.” Those men could hardly have found a way to offend Jehovah more deeply. How so?

¹⁶ Picture the scene: God’s temple was built with the entrance facing east. Worshipers entering the 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!

¹⁷ 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 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.

¹⁸ 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”

¹⁹ Read Ezekiel 22:3-12. The nation was morally corrupt from the rulers on down. “The chieftains,” or leaders, used

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?

19. How did Ezekiel describe the moral bankruptcy of Jehovah’s covenant people?

Jehovah deserves
exclusive devotion
from his worshippers



Under Christendom's influence, the world sinks deeper and deeper into violence and immorality

SEE PARAGRAPH 20

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

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."

²⁰ 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. Political 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 stan-

dards 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.”

²¹ 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.”

²² 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.

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

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

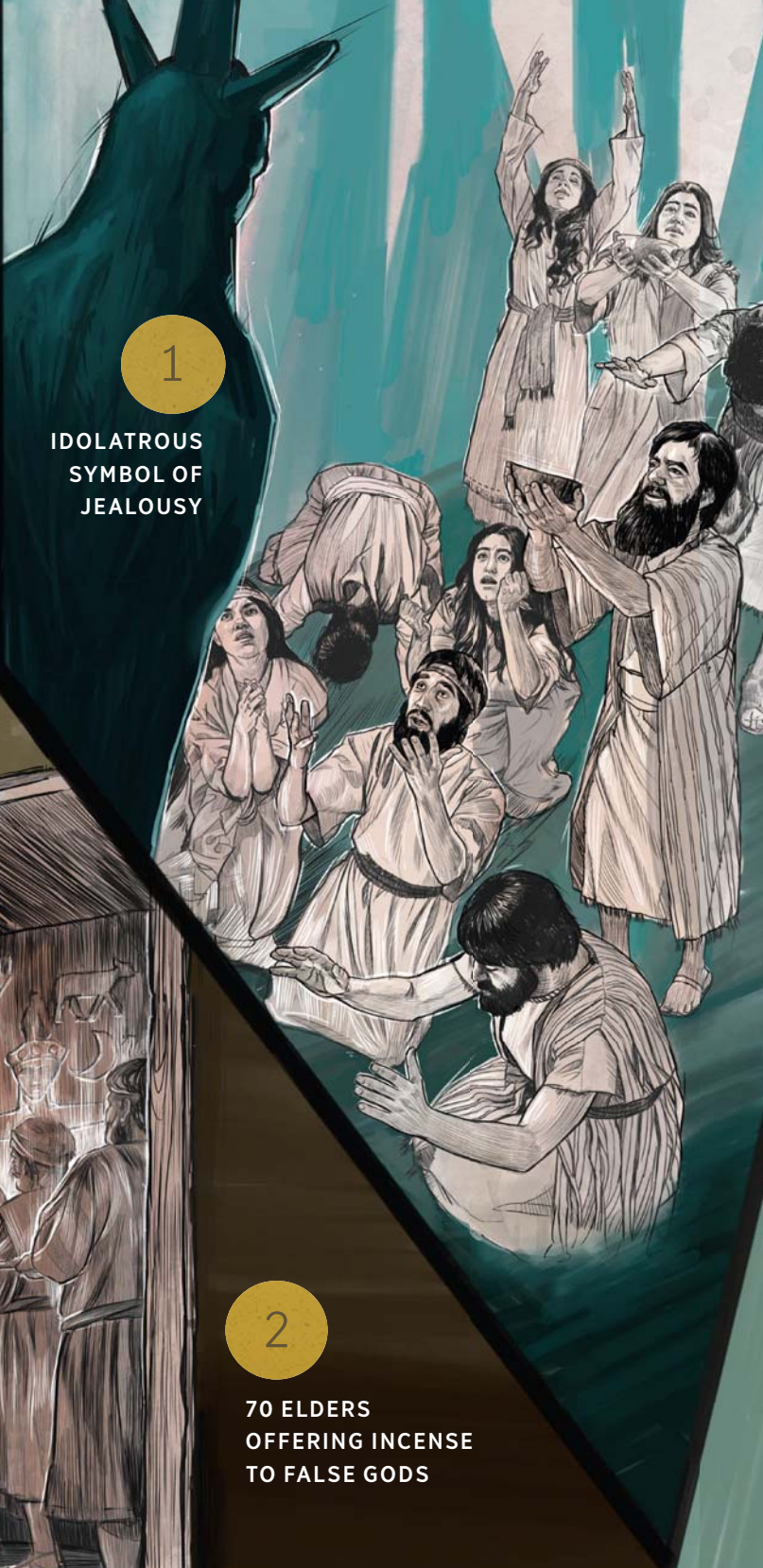
- 1 What does Jehovah rightly expect of his worshippers, and how can you live up to his expectation?
- 2 In what ways did the Israelites become spiritually unclean, but how can you keep spiritually clean?

- 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)

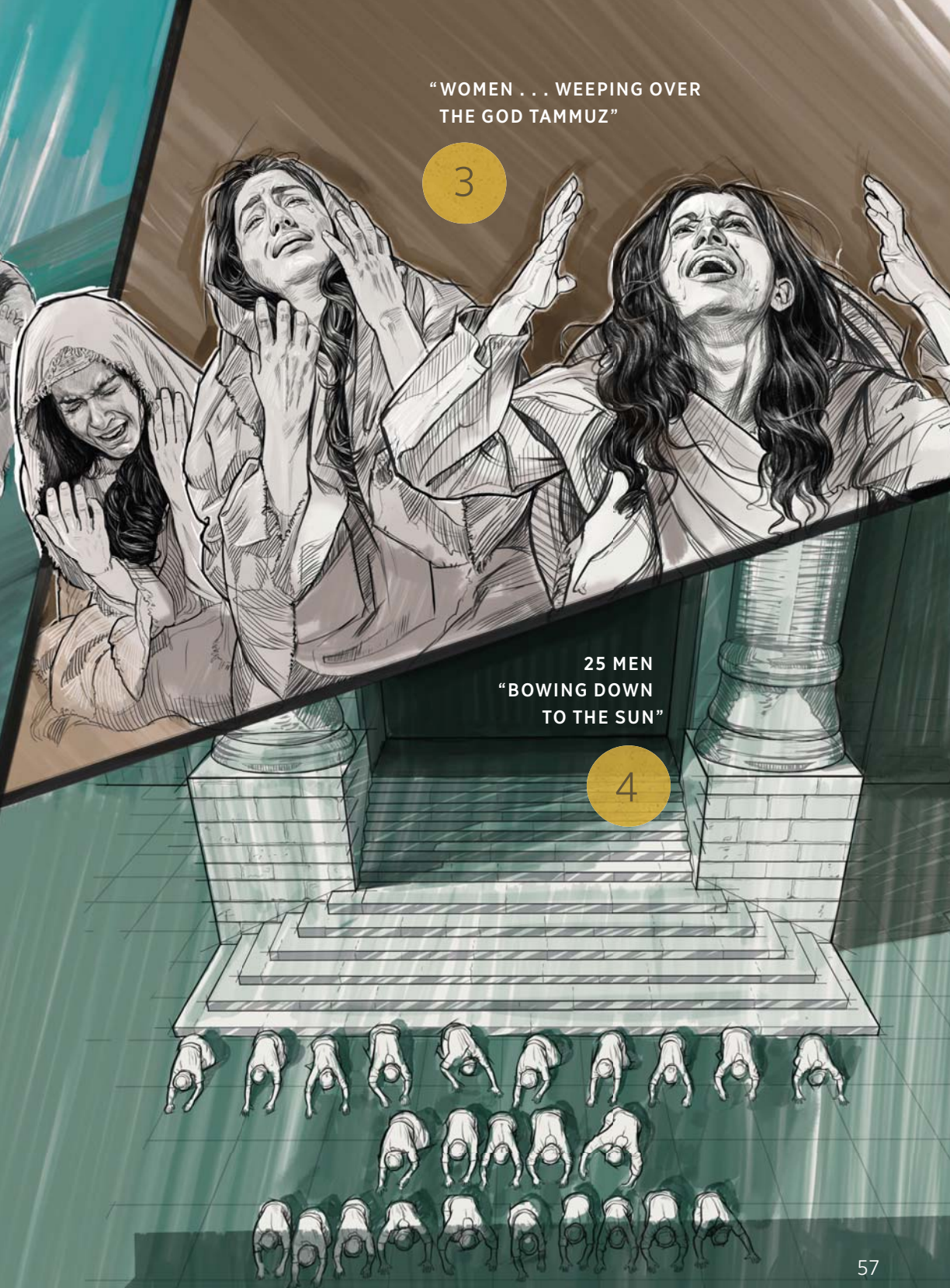


1

**IDOLATROUS
SYMBOL OF
JEALOUSY**

2

**70 ELDERS
OFFERING INCENSE
TO FALSE GODS**



3

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

4

**25 MEN
“BOWING DOWN
TO THE SUN”**



The Sort of Person I Should Be

(2 Peter 3:11)

Db Bbm7 Gb Ebm7

How can I re-pay you, what gift can I give To

Gb/Ab Ab/Gb Db/F F7b9b13/A Bbm7 Eb13sus4 Eb7

thank you, Je-ho - vah, for the life that I live? I

Ebm Ab7/Eb Db/F Gb Ab Bbm9/11 Bbm

look in my heart with your Word as my mir - ror; The

Bridge

Gb Db/F Ebm11 Gb/Ab Ab7 Dbsus4 Db

per - son I see, may you help me see clear - er. My

The Sort of Person I Should Be

Chords: G \flat ma7, Ab/G \flat , G \flat ma7, Ab/G \flat , Fm7, C \flat /D \flat

life I have prom - ised in ser - vice to you, But

Chords: G \flat ma7, Ab/G \flat , G \flat ma7, B \flat m/G, C7sus4, C7, Fm

not from mere du - ty will I do what I do. Whole -

Chords: D $^{\circ}$, E \flat m11, E \flat m, G \flat m/A

souled and whole - heart - ed I serve you by

Chords: D \flat /A \flat , B \flat m/G, G \flat /A \flat , Fm/A \flat

choice; May I be one more who makes you re - jice.

The Sort of Person I Should Be

Ebm7/Ab Ab7 Db Bbm7 Gb Ebm7

Help me to ex-am-ine, and help me to see Just

Gb/Ab Ab/Gb Db/F F7b9b13/A Bbm7 Eb13sus4 Eb7

what sort of per-son you de-sire me to be. Those

Ebm Ab7/Eb Db/F Gb Ab Bbm9/11 Bbm

loy-al to you, you will loy-al-ly trea-sure; May

Gb Db/F Ebm11 Gb/Ab Ab7 Dbsus4 Db

I be a-mong those who bring your heart plea-sure.

JANUARY 2021

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



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MARCH 1–APRIL 4, 2021

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How does an ancient inscription support the Bible?

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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)

C F G C G/B

O Je - ho - vah, you have giv - en us a
So Je - ho - vah, please in - still in us a

Am F Gsus4 G

hope that we hold dear. It's a
heart that won't for - get, For you've

C F G Am Am/G

hope we find so thrill - ing we
al - ways been our com - fort when

F Dm7 Gsus4 G

want the world to hear. But at
trou - bled times we've met. And these

Our Strength, Our Hope, Our Confidence

C F G C C/B

times thoughts this that life's lift anx and i - e - ties strength - en us are the can re -

Am F Gsus4 G G7/F

cause of fears with - in, And the
vive that dy - ing flame, For they

C/E F G Am

hope fill that our hearts burned so with bright - ly cour - age has to

F Dm7 E7sus4 E7 Chorus

sud speak - den - ly a - bout grown your dim. name. You're our

Our Strength, Our Hope, Our Confidence

Am Am/G G/F F C/E

strength, you're our hope, you're our confidence. What -

Dm7 Am/C Bb Fadd9 G7sus4 G7

ever we lack, you supply. When we

Am Am/G G/F F Dm7

preach, when we teach, we have confidence be -

C/E F6 F/G G13 C

cause it's on you we rely.

(See also Ps. 72:13, 14; Prov. 3:5, 6, 26; Jer. 17:7.)

SONG 3

Our Strength, Our Hope,
Our Confidence

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.

Keep Calm and Trust in Jehovah

OUR YEARTEXT FOR 2021:

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

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.

² 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?

³ 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 neighborhood. We face

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?

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!

⁴ 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?'

⁵ 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 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

* 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.

4. How might we respond to intense pressures?
5. What did Jesus mean when he said: "Stop being anxious"?

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

⁶ **(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.

⁷ 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 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.

⁸ 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

6. According to Philippians 4:6, 7, what can calm our anxieties?
7. What should we keep in mind when praying to God?
8. What should we include in our prayers?

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.

⁹ **(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: “Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust” in Jehovah.—Isa. 30:15b.

¹⁰ 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?

9. How can real security be found?

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

¹¹ **(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 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.

¹² 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

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

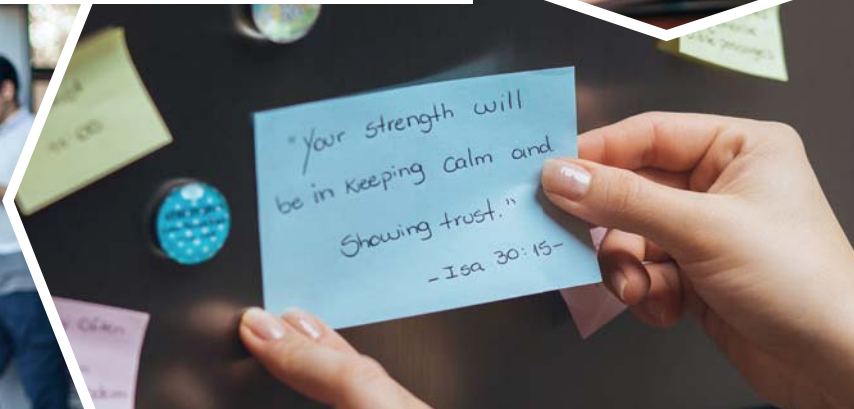
12. According to 1 Peter 3:14 and 4:14, why can we be happy when we are persecuted?



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

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



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 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.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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 Syrians for help against Israel may have appeared to be very practical. But his

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?

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.

¹⁵ **(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.

¹⁶ **(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 audi-

15. What might we do when reading the Bible?

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

ence, 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.

¹⁷ **(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 discipling work. If you do, you can “have

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

the full assurance of the hope down to the end.”—Heb. 6:11.

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.

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

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 5: (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.

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?

Jehovah Is Our Refuge

(Psalm 91)

C7 F F/A Dm

Je - ho - vah is our ref - uge, Our
Though thou - sands will have fall - en And
He'll keep us and pro - tect us From

Bb C7/G Gm C C7 F F/A

God in whom we trust. His shad - ow is our
man - y at our side, The righ - teous and the
snares a - long our way, From ter - rors in the

Dm Gm/Bb Gm D/A Gm/Bb C7 C13

shel - ter; Re - main in it we must. His
meek ones Will nev - er be de - nied. So
night - time, And ar - rows by the day. Yes,

F F/A Ab°

faith - ful ones he will de - fend, On
in our hearts we need not fear; Ca -
there will be no cause for dread, No

Jehovah Is Our Refuge

Gm D7/A Gm/Bb G7/B C G C7

this we know we can de - pend. Je -
lam - i - ty we will will not come near. From
place where we will fear to tread. Je -

F Dm Gm/Bb D/A

ho - vah is a strong - hold, Ev - er
dan - ger he will shield us, For be -
ho - vah is our ref - uge, Ev - er

Gm Eb7/G C7/G Am/C C7 F

faith - ful, loy - al, and just.
neath God's wings - we'll re - side.
guard - ing us on our way.