

## Monday, May 31

*We love, because he first loved us.*

—1 John 4:19.

Jehovah has invited us to join his family of worshippers. Our family is made up of those who have dedicated themselves to God and who exercise faith in the ransom sacrifice of his Son. Ours is a happy family. We enjoy a meaningful life now, and we rejoice in the prospect of life without end—whether in heaven or in Paradise on earth. Moved by love and at great cost to himself, Jehovah opened the way for us to be part of his family. (John 3:16) We were “bought with a price.” (1 Cor. 6:20) By means of the ransom, Jehovah made it possible for us to have a warm relationship with him. We have the honor of addressing the greatest Person in the universe as Father. And Jehovah is the ideal Father. Like one Bible writer, we might ask: “With what will I repay Jehovah for all the good he has done for me?” (Ps. 116:12) The answer is that we can never repay our heavenly Father. Still, we feel moved to love him. *w20.02 8 ¶1-3*

## Tuesday, June 1

*Her rival wife taunted her relentlessly in order to upset her.*

—1 Sam. 1:6.

The prophet Samuel’s mother, Hannah, had to deal with some difficult problems. For many years she was unable to have children. (1 Sam. 1:2) In Israelite culture, a woman who was barren was believed to be cursed. This left her feeling humiliated. (Gen. 30:1, 2) To make matters worse for Hannah, her husband had another wife, Peninnah, who bore him children and taunted Hannah about it. Hannah

did not cope well with these difficult challenges. She was so upset that “she would weep and not eat.” She became “extremely bitter” at heart. (1 Sam. 1:7, 10) How did Hannah find comfort? Hannah poured out her feelings to Jehovah in prayer. After she prayed, she explained her situation to High Priest Eli. He then told her: “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant your petition.” What was the result? Hannah “went on her way and ate, and her face was no longer downcast.” (1 Sam. 1:17, 18) Prayer helped Hannah to regain peace. *w20.02 21 ¶4-5*

## Wednesday, June 2

*Let your words always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should answer each person.—Col. 4:6.*

Soon, Jehovah will bring this system to an end. Only those who are “rightly disposed for everlasting life” will survive. (Acts 13:48) So it is natural that we would also want our relatives to serve Jehovah with us. Our loving Father, Jehovah, “does not desire anyone to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9) We need to keep in mind that there is a right way and a wrong way to share the message of salvation. Although we may be tactful when witnessing to a stranger, we may be too blunt when talking with our relatives. Many of us may look back with regret on our initial attempt to witness to our relatives and wish we had dealt with them differently. It is good to remember the apostle Paul’s advice, mentioned in today’s text, when we approach our relatives. Otherwise, we might end up alienating them rather than persuading them. *w19.08 14-15 ¶3-5*

### Thursday, June 3

*Christ [left] a model for you to follow his steps closely.*

—1 Pet. 2:21.

What was your reaction when you learned the following truths about the Son? Jesus is the second most important person in the universe. He is our Ransomer. He willingly gave his life for us. When we show by our actions that we have faith in the ransom, we can have our sins forgiven, develop a friendship with God, and gain everlasting life. (John 3:16) Jesus is our High Priest. He wants to help us to benefit from the ransom and to have a close relationship with God. (Heb. 4:15; 7:24, 25) As King of God's Kingdom, he is the one through whom Jehovah will sanctify His name, end wickedness, and bring eternal blessings in the coming Paradise. (Matt. 6:9, 10; Rev. 11:15) Jesus is our model. He set an example for us in devoting his life to doing God's will. (John 4:34) When you accept what the Bible teaches about Jesus, you come to love God's dear Son. That love moves you to use your life to do God's will, as Jesus did. *w20.03 10 ¶12-13*

### Friday, June 4

*Pray constantly.*

—1 Thess. 5:17.

Jesus prayed often throughout the last day of his life on earth. When he instituted the commemoration of his death, he prayed over the bread and the wine. (1 Cor. 11:23-25) Before leaving the place where they had held the Passover, he prayed with the disciples. (John 17:1-26) When he and the disciples arrived at the Mount of Olives that night, he prayed repeatedly. (Matt. 26:36-39,

42, 44) And the very last words Jesus spoke before dying were uttered in prayer. (Luke 23:46) Through prayer, Jesus included Jehovah in every major event on that momentous day. One reason why Jesus could endure his trial was that he turned to his Father in prayer. The apostles, on the other hand, failed to persevere in prayer that night. As a result, their courage weakened when the hour of test arrived. (Matt. 26:40, 41, 43, 45, 56) When we face trials, we will remain faithful only if we follow Jesus' example and "pray continually." *w19.04 9 ¶4-5*

### Saturday, June 5

*I am Jehovah; I do not change.*

—Mal. 3:6.

Jehovah hates spiritism! He told the Israelites: "There should not be found in you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, anyone who employs divination, anyone practicing magic, anyone who looks for omens, a sorcerer, anyone binding others with a spell, anyone who consults a spirit medium or a fortune-teller, or anyone who inquires of the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to Jehovah." (Deut. 18:10-12) Christians are not under the Law that Jehovah gave to the Israelites. However, we know that his feelings about spiritism have not changed. Jehovah warns us against spiritism because he knows that Satan uses it to harm people. Satan uses spiritism to promote lies—including the lie that the dead are alive in some other realm. (Eccl. 9:5) Satan also uses spiritism to keep people in fear and to turn them away from Jehovah. His aim is that people who practice spiritism will trust in wicked spirits instead of in Jehovah. *w19.04 21 ¶5-6*

## Sunday, June 6

*If you are doing what is bad,  
be in fear.—Rom. 13:4.*

Child abuse is a grave sin. The child abuser hurts the child in devastating ways. He betrays the child's trust, robbing the child of his or her security. Children must be protected from such a wicked deed, and those who have been victimized by it need comfort and help. (1 Thess. 5:14) When someone who is a part of the congregation becomes guilty of child abuse, he brings reproach on the congregation. (Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12) We do not tolerate in our midst individuals who unrepentantly commit wicked deeds and who bring reproach on the good name of the congregation. If someone in the congregation becomes guilty of violating a criminal law, such as by committing child abuse, he is sinning against the secular authorities. (Compare Acts 25:8.) While the elders are not authorized to enforce the law of the land, they do not shield any perpetrator of child abuse from the legal consequences of his sin. *w19.05 9 ¶4-7*

## Monday, June 7

*The wisdom of this world  
is foolishness with God.  
—1 Cor. 3:19.*

We can face any challenge—all because Jehovah is our Grand Instructor. (Isa. 30:20, 21) His Word gives us everything we need to be “fully competent” and “completely equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:17) When we live by Bible teachings, we become wiser than those who promote “the wisdom of this world.” (Ps. 119:97-100) Regrettably, the wisdom of the world often appeals to our fleshly desires. So we might find it

difficult to resist thinking and acting like those who are part of the world. For good reason, the Bible says: “Look out that no one takes you captive by means of the philosophy and empty deception according to human tradition.” (Col. 2:8) As the Bible foretold about the last days, people would to a remarkable degree become “lovers of pleasures.” (2 Tim. 3:4) The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases, such as AIDS, is just one indication that the wisdom of the world is foolishness. —2 Pet. 2:19. *w19.05 21 ¶1-2; 22 ¶4-5*

## Tuesday, June 8

*Stand firm against the crafty  
acts of the Devil.—Eph. 6:11.*

Satan deceived the Israelites into believing that to prosper, they had to adopt the practices of their pagan neighbors. Those neighbors believed that certain rituals were needed to get their gods to act and bring the needed rain. Those who lacked faith in Jehovah believed that this was the only way to avoid a prolonged drought, so they performed pagan rituals in honor of the false god Baal. Satan also appealed to immoral desires. The pagan nations worshipped their gods by engaging in grossly immoral acts. This perverted form of worship included both female and male temple prostitution. Homosexuality and other forms of sexual immorality not only were tolerated but became normal! (Deut. 23:17, 18; 1 Ki. 14:24) The pagans believed that these rituals encouraged their gods to make the land fertile. Many Israelites were attracted by the pagans' sexually immoral rituals and allowed themselves to be lured into serving false gods. *w19.06 2 ¶3; 4 ¶7-8*

Song 125 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES  
FROM GOD'S WORD

“The Judgment Belongs to God”: (10 min.)

**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)

De 1:19; 2:7—How did Jehovah care for his people during their 40-year trek through a “great and fearsome wilderness”? (w13 9/15 9 ¶9)

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.) De 1:1-18 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF  
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**Initial Call:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (16)

**Return Visit:** (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Give the householder a meeting invitation, and introduce (but do not play) the video *What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?* (11)

**Talk:** (5 min.) w13 8/15 11 ¶7—Theme: Avoid Uttering or Listening to Negative Speech. (13)

 LIVING  
AS CHRISTIANS

**Song 30**

“Remain Prepared During the Last of ‘the Last Days’”: (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Play the video *Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?* (video category THE BIBLE). Include reminders from the branch office and the body of elders, if provided.

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
rr chap. 9 ¶10-17

 “The Judgment Belongs to God”

[Play the video *Introduction to Deuteronomy*.]

Elders must “judge with righteousness”  
(De 1:16; w96 3/15 23 ¶1)

Elders “must not be partial in judgment”  
(De 1:17; w02 8/1 9 ¶4)

How can we all show that we appreciate the elder arrangement?—Heb 13:17; Jas 5:13-15



# "Happy Are the Merciful!"

(Matthew 5:7)

*E $\flat$*  *E $\flat$ /G* *F $\flat$ /A $\flat$*  *B $\flat$ 7*

Our hap - py God is mer - ci - ful, His  
 When we have sinned and feel dis - tressed, When  
 When gifts of mer - cy we be - stow, The

*F $\flat$*  *B $\flat$ 7* *A $\flat$ /E $\flat$*  *E $\flat$  $^\circ$*  *E $\flat$*

mer - cy not just du - ti - ful. He  
 God's for - give - ness we re - quest, Our  
 giv - ing spir - it we should show. We

*E $\flat$ /G* *F $\flat$ /A $\flat$*  *C7/G*

takes de - light in kind - ly deeds And  
 Lord, Christ Je - sus, showed the way To  
 give with - out de - sir - ing praise, Con -

*F $\flat$*  *B $\flat$ 9* *B $\flat$ 7* *E $\flat$  $^\circ$*  *E $\flat$*

free - ly grants our dai - ly needs. Re -  
 ask for mer - cy when we pray: "For -  
 tent with joy our gift con - veys. Then

*"Happy Are the Merciful!"*

Eb
Eb/G
Fm/Ab
Bb7

pen - tant ones can be as - sured Their  
 give our debts, we beg of you, As  
 God, who sees all things we do, Will

Fm
Bb7
Ab/Eb
Eb°
Eb

plea for mer - cy will be heard. Re -  
 we for - give our debt - ors too." We  
 be the One re - pay - ing you. Yes,

Eb7
Bbm7
Eb+5
Ab
A°

mem - ber - ing that we are dust, He's  
 then can let re - sent - ment go, And  
 hap - py are the mer - ci - ful, In

Eb/Bb
Ab
Bb
Ebsus4
Eb

mer - ci - ful and kind and just.  
 peace of mind and heart we'll know.  
 God's eyes they are beau - ti - ful.

(See also Matt. 6:2-4, 12-14.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>29 Covenant with Israel at Moab (1-13)<br/>Warning against disobedience (14-29)<br/>Things concealed, things revealed (29)</p> <p>30 Returning to Jehovah (1-10)<br/>Jehovah's commands not too difficult (11-14)<br/>Choosing between life and death (15-20)</p> <p>31 Moses about to die (1-8)<br/>Public reading of the Law (9-13)<br/>Joshua appointed (14, 15)<br/>Israel's rebelliousness foretold (16-30)<br/>A song to teach Israel (19, 22, 30)</p> | <p>32 Song of Moses (1-47)<br/>Jehovah, the Rock (4)<br/>Israel forgets its Rock (18)<br/>"Vengeance is mine" (35)<br/>"Be glad, you nations, with his people" (43)<br/>Moses to die on Mount Nebo (48-52)</p> <p>33 Moses blesses the tribes (1-29)<br/>Jehovah's "everlasting arms" (27)</p> <p>34 Jehovah shows Moses the land (1-4)<br/>Death of Moses (5-12)</p> |
|---|---|

**1** These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel in the region of the Jordan in the wilderness, on the desert plains in front of Suph, between Pa'ran, To'phel, La'ban, Ha-ze'roth, and Di'za-hab. **2** It is 11 days from Ho'reb to Ka'desh-bar'ne-a<sup>a</sup> by way of Mount Se'ir. **3** In the 40th year,<sup>b</sup> in the 11th month, on the first of the month, Moses spoke to the Israelites\* according to all that Jehovah had instructed him to tell them. **4** This was after he defeated Si'hon<sup>c</sup> the king of the Am'or-ites, who was dwelling in Hesh'bon, and Og<sup>d</sup> the king of Ba'shan, who was dwelling in Ash'ta-roth, in Ed're-i.<sup>e</sup> **5** In the region of the Jordan in the land of Mo'ab, Moses undertook to explain this Law,<sup>f</sup> saying:

**6** "Jehovah our God told us in Ho'reb, 'You have stayed long enough in this mountainous region.'<sup>g</sup> **7** Turn and set out for the mountainous region of the Am'or-ites<sup>h</sup> and toward all their neighbors in the Ar'a-bah,<sup>i</sup> the mountainous region, the She-phe'lah, the Neg'eb, and the sea-coast,<sup>j</sup> the land of the Ca'naan-

1:3 \*Lit., "sons of Israel."

#### CHAP. 1

- a De 9:23  
b Nu 32:13  
Nu 33:38  
c Nu 21:23, 24  
Jos 12:1, 2  
d Nu 21:33-35  
e Jos 13:8, 12  
f De 4:8  
De 17:18  
Ne 8:7  
g Ex 19:1  
Nu 10:11, 12  
h Ge 15:16  
i Jos 12:2, 3  
j Jos 9:1, 2

#### Second Col.

- a Jos 13:1, 5  
1KI 9:19  
b Ge 15:18  
c Ge 26:3  
d Ge 28:13  
e Ge 12:7  
Ge 13:14, 15  
Ge 17:1, 7  
f Ex 18:17, 18  
g Ge 15:1, 5  
Ex 32:13  
Nu 26:51  
De 10:22  
h 1KI 3:8  
i Ge 12:1-3  
Ge 22:15, 17  
Ge 26:3, 4  
Ex 23:25  
j Ex 18:17, 18  
Nu 11:1  
Nu 20:3  
k Ex 18:21

ites, and Leb'a-non,<sup>a</sup> up to the great river, the river Eu-phra'tes.<sup>b</sup> **8** See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land about which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac,<sup>c</sup> and Jacob,<sup>d</sup> to give it to them and their offspring\* after them.<sup>e</sup>

**9** "And I told you at that time, 'I am not able to carry you by myself.'<sup>f</sup> **10** Jehovah your God has multiplied you, and here you are today as numerous as the stars of the heavens.<sup>g</sup> **11** May Jehovah, the God of your forefathers, multiply you<sup>h</sup> a thousand times as many as you are, and may he bless you just as he has promised you.<sup>i</sup> **12** How can I bear by myself the burden of you and the load of you and your quarreling?<sup>j</sup> **13** Select wise, discreet, and experienced men of your tribes, and I will appoint them as heads over you.<sup>k</sup> **14** You answered me, 'What you have told us to do is good.'<sup>l</sup> **15** So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and appointed them as heads over you, chiefs of thou-

1:7 \*Evidently, the Lebanon mountain range. 1:8 \*Lit., "seed."

sands, chiefs of hundreds, chiefs of fifties, chiefs of tens, and of officers of your tribes.<sup>a</sup>

**16** "At that time I instructed your judges, 'When you hear a case between your brothers, you are to judge with righteousness<sup>b</sup> between a man and his brother or a foreign resident.<sup>c</sup> **17** You must not be partial in judgment.<sup>d</sup> You should hear the small one the same as the great one.<sup>e</sup> You must not become intimidated by men,<sup>f</sup> for the judgment belongs to God;<sup>g</sup> and if a case is too difficult for you, you should present it to me, and I will hear it.'<sup>h</sup> **18** At that time I instructed you regarding all the things that you should do.

**19** "Then we departed from Ho'reb and marched through all that great and fearsome wilderness<sup>i</sup> that you saw on the way to the mountainous region of the Am'or-ites,<sup>j</sup> just as Jehovah our God had commanded us, and we eventually came to Ka'desh-bar'ne-a.<sup>k</sup> **20** I then said to you, 'You have come to the mountainous region of the Am'or-ites, which Jehovah our God is giving to us. **21** See, Jehovah your God has given the land over to you. Go up, take possession of it, just as Jehovah, the God of your forefathers, has told you.<sup>l</sup> Do not be afraid or terrified.'

**22** "However, all of you approached me and said, 'Let us send men ahead of us to search out the land for us and bring word back to us as to what route we should take and what kind of cities we will encounter.'<sup>m</sup>

**23** The suggestion seemed good to me, so I selected 12 of your men, one for each tribe.<sup>n</sup> **24** They left and went up into the mountainous region<sup>o</sup> and reached the Valley\* of Esh'col and spied it out. **25** They took

CHAP. 1

- a Ex 18:25
- b Ex 23:8  
De 16:18  
Joh 7:24
- c Ex 22:21  
Le 19:34  
Le 24:22
- d Le 19:15  
Ro 2:11
- e Ex 23:3
- f Pr 29:25
- g 2Ch 19:6
- h Ex 18:25, 26
- i Nu 10:12  
De 8:14, 15  
Jer 2:6
- j Nu 13:29
- k Nu 13:26
- l Ex 23:27  
De 1:8
- m Nu 13:1, 2
- n Nu 13:3
- o Nu 13:17

Second Col.

- a Nu 13:23-27
- b Nu 14:1-4
- c Nu 32:9  
Jos 14:7, 8
- d Nu 13:28, 33
- e Nu 13:22  
Jos 11:21
- f Nu 14:9
- g Ex 14:14  
Jos 10:42
- h Nu 14:22
- i Ps 78:22  
Ps 106:24  
Heb 3:16, 19  
Jude 5
- j Ex 13:21  
Ex 40:36  
Nu 10:33, 34  
Ps 78:14
- k Nu 14:28, 35  
Nu 32:10-12  
De 2:14  
Ps 95:11  
Heb 3:11
- l Nu 14:29, 35  
1Co 10:1, 5  
Heb 3:17

some of the fruitage of the land and carried it back to us, and they brought word back to us, 'The land that Jehovah our God is giving us is good.'<sup>a</sup> **26** But you refused to go up, and you rebelled against the order of Jehovah your God.<sup>b</sup> **27** You kept grumbling in your tents and were saying, 'It was because Jehovah hated us that he brought us out of the land of Egypt to hand us over to the Am'or-ites to annihilate us. **28** What kind of place are we going to? Our brothers made us lose heart<sup>\*c</sup> by saying, "They are a people greater and taller than we are, and their cities are great and fortified to the heavens,<sup>#d</sup> and we saw the sons of the An'a-kim<sup>e</sup> there.'"

**29** "So I said to you, 'Do not be struck with terror or be afraid because of them.<sup>f</sup> **30** Jehovah your God will go before you and will fight for you,<sup>g</sup> just as he did in Egypt before your very eyes.<sup>h</sup> **31** And you saw in the wilderness how Jehovah your God carried you just as a man carries his son, everywhere you went until you came to this place.' **32** But despite all of this, you did not put faith in Jehovah your God,<sup>i</sup> **33** who was going ahead of you on the way, to spy out a place for you to camp. He appeared by fire at night and by a cloud in the daytime to show you the way you should walk.<sup>j</sup>

**34** "All the while Jehovah heard what you were saying, and he became indignant and solemnly swore,<sup>k</sup> **35** 'Not one of these men of this evil generation will see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers,<sup>l</sup> **36** except Ca'leb the son of Je-phun'neh. He will see it,

1:28 \*Lit., "caused our heart to melt."  
# That is, with towering walls.



and I will give the land on which he walked to him and to his sons, because he has followed Jehovah wholeheartedly.<sup>a</sup> **37** (Jehovah even became angry with me because of you, and he said, "You too will not go in there."<sup>b</sup> **38** Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you,<sup>c</sup> is the one who will enter into the land.<sup>d</sup> Make him strong,<sup>e</sup> for he will cause Israel to inherit it.") **39** Moreover, your children whom you said would become plunder<sup>f</sup> and your sons who today do not know good or bad, these will enter, and I will give it to them to possess.<sup>g</sup> **40** But as for you, turn back and depart for the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea.<sup>h</sup>

**41** "At this you said to me, 'We have sinned against Jehovah. We will now go up and fight, just as Jehovah our God has commanded us!' So each of you put on his weapons of war, and you thought it would be an easy thing to go up the mountain.<sup>i</sup> **42** But Jehovah said to me, 'Tell them: "You must not go up and fight, for I will not be with you.<sup>j</sup> If you do, you will be defeated by your enemies."<sup>k</sup> **43** So I spoke to you, but you did not listen. Instead, you rebelled against Jehovah's order and presumptuously tried to go up the mountain. **44** Then the Am'or-ites who were dwelling in that mountain came out to meet you and chased you away like bees do, and they scattered you in Se'ir as far as Hor'mah. **45** So you returned and began to weep before Jehovah, but Jehovah did not listen to you or pay attention to you. **46** That is why you kept dwelling in Ka'desh for as long as you did.

1:36 \*Lit., "fully; completely." 1:38 \*Or possibly, "God has made him strong."

## CHAP. 1

- a Nu 14:24  
Jos 14:9  
b Nu 20:12  
Nu 27:13, 14  
De 3:26  
Ps 106:32  
c Ex 33:11  
Nu 11:28  
d Nu 14:38  
e Nu 27:18  
De 31:7  
Jos 1:6, 9  
f Nu 14:3  
g Nu 14:30, 31  
h Nu 14:25  
i Nu 14:39-45  
j Le 26:14, 17

## Second Col.

## CHAP. 2

- a Nu 14:25  
b Nu 20:14  
De 23:7  
c Ge 27:39, 40  
Ge 36:8, 9  
d Ex 15:15  
Ex 23:27  
e De 32:8  
Jos 24:4  
Ac 17:26  
f Nu 20:18, 19  
g De 29:5  
Ne 9:21  
Ps 23:1  
Ps 34:9, 10  
h Nu 20:20, 21  
i 2Ch 8:17  
j Nu 21:13  
Jg 11:17, 18  
2Ch 20:10  
k Ge 19:36, 37  
l Ge 14:5  
m De 3:11  
1Ch 20:6

**2** "Then we turned and departed for the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea, just as Jehovah had told me,<sup>a</sup> and we traveled for many days around Mount Se'ir. **2** Finally Jehovah said to me, **3** 'You have gone around this mountain long enough. Now turn north. **4** And give this command to the people: "You will pass by the border of your brothers, the descendants of E'sau,<sup>b</sup> who are dwelling in Se'ir,<sup>c</sup> and they will be afraid of you,<sup>d</sup> and you must be very careful. **5** Do not engage in hostilities with\* them, for I will not give you any of their land, not even the space of a footprint, because I have given Mount Se'ir to E'sau as his possession.<sup>e</sup> **6** You should give them money for the food you will eat, and you should pay for the water you will drink.<sup>f</sup> **7** For Jehovah your God has blessed you in all that you have done. He is fully aware of your walking through this great wilderness. These 40 years Jehovah your God has been with you, and you have lacked nothing."<sup>g</sup> **8** So we passed by our brothers, the descendants of E'sau,<sup>h</sup> who are dwelling in Se'ir, keeping away from the way of the Ar'a-bah, from E'lath and from E'zi-on-ge'ber.<sup>i</sup>

"Next we turned and traveled by the way of the wilderness of Mo'ab.<sup>j</sup> **9** Jehovah then said to me, 'Do not engage in hostilities or in war with Mo'ab, for I will not give you any of his land as a possession because I have given Ar as a possession to the descendants of Lot.<sup>k</sup> **10** (The E'mim<sup>l</sup> formerly lived there, a people great and numerous and tall like the An'a-kim. **11** The Reph'a-im<sup>m</sup> were also considered like the An'a-

2:5 \*Or "Do not provoke."

kim,<sup>a</sup> and the Mo'ab-ites used to call them E'mim. **12** Previously, the Hor'ites<sup>b</sup> were living in Se'ir, but the descendants of E'sau dispossessed and annihilated them and settled in their place,<sup>c</sup> just as Israel will do to the land that is their possession, which Jehovah will certainly give to them.) **13** Now go and cross over the Valley\* of Ze'red.<sup>d</sup> So we crossed over the Valley\* of Ze'red.<sup>d</sup> **14** The time it took us to walk from Ka'desh-bar'ne-a until we crossed the Valley\* of Ze'red was 38 years, until the entire generation of the men of war had perished from the camp, just as Jehovah had sworn to them.<sup>e</sup> **15** Jehovah's hand was against them to eliminate them from the camp until they had perished.<sup>f</sup>

**16** "As soon as all the men of war had died off from among the people,<sup>g</sup> **17** Jehovah spoke to me again, saying, **18** "Today you are to pass by the territory of Mo'ab, that is, Ar. **19** When you come near to the Am'mon-ites, do not harass or provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the Am'monites as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as their possession.<sup>h</sup> **20** This too used to be considered the land of the Reph'a-im.<sup>i</sup> (The Reph'a-im formerly lived there, and the Am'mon-ites used to call them Zam-zum'mim. **21** They were a great and numerous and tall people like the An'a-kim;<sup>j</sup> but Jehovah annihilated them before the Am'monites, and these drove them out and settled in their place. **22** That is what he did for the descendants of E'sau, who now dwell in Se'ir,<sup>k</sup> when he annihilated the Hor'ites<sup>l</sup> from before them, so that they could dispossess them and dwell in their place to this

2:13, 14 \*Or "Wadi."

CHAP. 2

a Nu 13:22, 33

b Ge 14:6  
Ge 36:20

c Ge 27:39, 40

d Nu 21:12

e Nu 14:33  
Nu 32:11  
De 1:35  
Ps 95:11  
Heb 3:18  
Jude 5

f 1Co 10:1, 5

g Nu 26:63, 64

h Ge 19:36, 38  
De 2:9  
Jg 11:15  
2Ch 20:10  
Ac 17:26

i Ge 15:18-20  
De 3:11

j Nu 13:33  
De 9:1, 2

k Ge 36:8

l Ge 14:6  
De 2:12

Second Col.

a Ge 10:19

b Ge 10:13, 14

c Nu 21:13

d Nu 21:23

e Ex 15:14  
Ex 23:27  
De 11:25  
Jos 2:9, 10

f Jos 13:15, 18  
Jos 21:8, 37

g De 20:10

h Nu 21:21, 22

i Ro 9:18

j Nu 21:25

k Nu 32:33  
Ps 135:10-12

very day. **23** As for the Av'vim, they had dwelled in settlements as far as Gaz'a<sup>a</sup> until the Caph'to-rim,<sup>b</sup> who came out from Caph'tor,<sup>c</sup> annihilated them and settled in their place.)

**24** "Get up, and make your way across the Ar'non Valley.\*<sup>c</sup> See, I have given into your hand Si'hon<sup>d</sup> the Am'or-ite, king of Hesh'bon. So begin taking possession of his land, and engage him in war. **25** This day I will start to put the dread and the fear of you upon all the people under the heavens who hear the report about you. They will be disturbed and will tremble\* because of you.<sup>e</sup>

**26** "Then I sent messengers from the wilderness of Ked'e-moth<sup>f</sup> to King Si'hon of Hesh'bon, with these peaceful words,<sup>g</sup> **27** 'Let me pass through your land. I will remain on the road and not turn to the right or to the left.<sup>h</sup> **28** I will eat only the food and drink only the water that you will sell to me. Just allow me to pass through on foot **29** —that is what the descendants of E'sau dwelling in Se'ir and the Mo'ab-ites dwelling in Ar did for me—until I pass over the Jordan into the land that Jehovah our God is giving to us.' **30** But King Si'hon of Hesh'bon did not let us pass through, because Jehovah your God allowed his spirit to become obstinate<sup>i</sup> and his heart to become hard, in order to give him into your hand as is now the case.<sup>j</sup>

**31** "Then Jehovah said to me, 'See, I have already begun to give Si'hon and his land over to you. Start to take possession of his land.'<sup>k</sup> **32** When Si'hon came out along with all his people to meet us in battle

2:23 \*That is, Crete. 2:24 \*Or "Wadi Arnon." 2:25 \*Or "have pains like those of childbirth."

at Ja'haz,<sup>a</sup> **33** Jehovah our God handed him over to us, so that we defeated him, his sons, and all his people. **34** We captured all his cities at that time and devoted every city to destruction, including men, women, and children. We left no survivor.<sup>b</sup> **35** We plundered only the livestock for ourselves along with the spoils from the cities that we had captured. **36** From A-ro'er,<sup>c</sup> which is on the rim of the Ar'non Valley\* (including the city that is in the valley), as far as Gil'e-ad, no town was beyond our reach. Jehovah our God handed them all over to us.<sup>d</sup> **37** However, you did not approach the land of the Am'mon-ites,<sup>e</sup> the whole bank of the Valley\* of Jab'bok<sup>f</sup> and the cities of the mountainous region, or any other place forbidden by Jehovah our God.

**3** "Then we turned and went up by way of Ba'shan. And Og, the king of Ba'shan, came out with all his people to meet us in battle at Ed're-i.<sup>g</sup> **2** So Jehovah said to me, 'Do not be afraid of him, for I will give him and all his people and his land into your hand, and you will do to him just as you did to Si'hon the king of the Am'or-ites, who lived in Hesh'bon.' **3** So Jehovah our God also gave King Og of Ba'shan and all his people into our hand, and we kept striking him down until none of his people survived. **4** We then captured all his cities. There was no town that we did not take from them—60 cities, all the region of Ar'gob, the kingdom of Og in Ba'shan.<sup>h</sup> **5** All these cities were fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, along with a great number of rural towns. **6** However, we devoted them to de-

struction,<sup>a</sup> just as we had done to King Si'hon of Hesh'bon, in devoting every city to destruction, including men, women, and children.<sup>b</sup> **7** And we took all the livestock and the spoil of the cities for ourselves.

**8** "At that time we seized the land of the two Am'or-ite kings<sup>c</sup> who were in the region of the Jordan, from the Ar'non Valley\* as far as Mount Her'mon<sup>d</sup> **9** (the mountain that the Si-do'nians used to call Sir'i-on and the Am'or-ites used to call Se'nir), **10** all the cities of the tableland,\* all Gil'e-ad, and all Ba'shan as far as Sal'e-cah and Ed're-i,<sup>e</sup> the cities of the kingdom that belonged to Og in Ba'shan. **11** For King Og of Ba'shan was the last remaining one of the Reph'a-im. His bier\* was made of iron,<sup>f</sup> and it is still in Rab'bah of the Am'mon-ites. It is nine cubits<sup>g</sup> long and four cubits wide, by the standard cubit. **12** At that time we took possession of this land: from A-ro'er,<sup>f</sup> which is by the Ar'non Valley,\* and half of the mountainous region of Gil'e-ad, and I have given its cities to the Reu'ben-ites and the Gad'ites.<sup>g</sup> **13** And the rest of Gil'e-ad and all Ba'shan of the kingdom of Og I have given to the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh.<sup>h</sup> All the region of Ar'gob, which belongs to Ba'shan, was known as the land of the Reph'a-im.

**14** "Ja'ir<sup>i</sup> the son of Ma-nas'seh took all the region of Ar'gob<sup>j</sup> as far as the boundary of the Gesh'ur-ites and the Ma-ac'a-thites<sup>k</sup> and named those villages of Bashan after himself, Hav'voth-ja'ir,<sup>m</sup> to this day. **15** And I have given Gil'e-ad to Ma'chir.<sup>m</sup> **16** And to the

**3:10** \*Or "plateau." **3:11** \*Or "sarcophagus; coffin." <sup>n</sup>Or possibly, "black basalt." <sup>o</sup>A cubit equaled 44.5 cm (17.5 in.). See App. B14. **3:14** \*Meaning "Tent Villages of Jair."

## CHAP. 2

a Nu 21:23, 24  
Jg 11:20

b De 20:16, 17

c De 3:12  
De 4:47, 48  
Jos 13:8, 9

d Ps 44:3

e De 3:16  
Jg 11:15

f Nu 21:23, 24

## CHAP. 3

g Nu 21:33-35

h Nu 32:33  
De 29:7, 8  
Jos 13:29, 30

## Second Col.

a Le 27:29

b Le 18:25

c Nu 32:33

d Jos 12:1, 2

e Nu 21:33

f Nu 32:34

g Nu 32:33

h Nu 32:39  
Jos 13:29-31  
1Ch 5:23

i 1Ch 2:22

j De 3:4

k Jos 13:13

l Nu 32:40, 41

m Nu 32:39  
Jos 17:1

Song 125 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)


**TREASURES  
FROM GOD'S WORD**

**“The Judgment Belongs to God”:** (10 min.)

**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)

De 1:19; 2:7—How did Jehovah care for his people during their 40-year trek through a “great and fearsome wilderness”? (w13 9/15 9 ¶9)

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.) De 1:1-18 (10)


**APPLY YOURSELF  
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

**Initial Call:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (16)

**Return Visit:** (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Give the householder a meeting invitation, and introduce (but do not play) the video *What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?* (11)

**Talk:** (5 min.) w13 8/15 11 ¶7—Theme: Avoid Uttering or Listening to Negative Speech. (13)


**LIVING  
AS CHRISTIANS**

**Song 30**

**“Remain Prepared During the Last of ‘the Last Days’”:** (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Play the video *Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?* (video category THE BIBLE). Include reminders from the branch office and the body of elders, if provided.

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
rr chap. 9 ¶10-17



## “The Judgment Belongs to God”

[Play the video *Introduction to Deuteronomy*.]

Elders must “judge with righteousness”  
(De 1:16; w96 3/15 23 ¶1)

Elders “must not be partial in judgment”  
(De 1:17; w02 8/1 9 ¶4)

**How can we all show that we appreciate the elder arrangement?—Heb 13:17; Jas 5:13-15**



## Introduction to Deuteronomy

See how Jehovah rewards those who love him  
and withholds his blessing from those who disobey him.

### Raw Transcript

An introduction to the book of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy was written by Moses on the plains of Moab in 1473 B.C.E. just before the Israelites entered the Promised Land. The name Deuteronomy means “Second Law,” or “Repetition of the Law.” However, the book is also an explanation of the Law. Deuteronomy urges the Israelites to love and obey Jehovah in the land he is about to give them. The book consists primarily of four discourses, a song, and a blessing by Moses. In the first discourse, found in chapters 1-4, Moses reviews Israel’s history after the Exodus and urges the people to remember what Jehovah has done for them. For example, Moses reminds them that Jehovah eliminated the faithless and cowardly generation that, 40 years earlier, feared the inhabitants of Canaan. In the second discourse, contained in chapters 5-26, Moses exhorts the people to obey God’s commandments, not out of mere duty, but because they love him with all their heart, soul, and strength. Did you know? In the ancient world, foreigners often had no legal rights and widows and fatherless children faced many difficulties. In Israel, however, Jehovah’s Law applied to and benefited all, including foreigners, widows, and fatherless children. Jehovah loves these individuals, and his people should love them too. In chapter 7, Moses tells the Israelites that Jehovah will clear away the nations in the Promised Land, which are more populous and mightier than Israel. In chapter 8, Moses describes Israel’s inheritance as “a good land” with streams of water, wheat, barley, grapevines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil, and honey. But it is a land filled with false worship. So in chapter 12, the Israelites are commanded to pull down the altars to false gods, to shatter the sacred pillars, to burn the sacred poles, and to cut down the graven images. In chapter 16, Moses reminds God’s people to celebrate the Passover as well as the three great festivals: the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Booths. Chapter 18 contains a prophecy about a future great prophet. Moses says: “Jehovah your God will raise up for you “from among your brothers a prophet like me. You must listen to him.” The third discourse, in chapters 27 and 28, sets out the cursings for disobedience and the blessings for obedience. After the nation crosses the Jordan River, the cursings are to be recited on Mount Ebal, where half of the tribes are to stand. The other tribes are to stand on Mount Gerizim and bless the people. Chapters 29 and 30 contain Moses’ fourth discourse, in which he makes a covenant with the people, telling them to choose life by obeying Jehovah. In chapter 31, Jehovah commissions Joshua as Moses’ successor. Joshua should “be courageous and strong” as he leads the nation into its God-given land. Chapter 32 records the song of Moses, which powerfully extols God’s faithfulness in contrast with the Israelites’ unfaithfulness. In chapter 33, we read “the blessing that Moses . . . pronounced on the Israelites before his death.” In the final chapter, Moses ascends Mount Nebo, where he is shown the Promised Land. Jehovah says: “I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you will not cross over there.” Moses then dies at 120 years of age, and Jehovah buries him in a secret location in Moab. As you read the book of Deuteronomy, see how Jehovah blesses those who love him, note how he withholds his blessing from those who disobey him, and discern how the principles behind God’s Law are reflected in the teachings of Jesus—the Prophet like Moses, who is also the King of God’s Kingdom.

video source: <https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/books-of-bible-intros/book-of-deuteronomy>

## May 31–June 6 / Deuteronomy 1-2

### Treasures From God's Word

#### **"The Judgment Belongs to God": (10 minutes)**

[Play the video *Introduction to Deuteronomy*.]

#### **Elders must "judge with righteousness"**

**Deuteronomy 1:16:** "At that time I instructed your judges, 'When you hear a case between your brothers, you are to judge with righteousness between a man and his brother or a foreign resident.

#### **w96 3/15 23 paragraph 1**

Appointed congregation elders are obliged to judge in cases of serious wrongdoing. (1 Corinthians 5:12, 13) When doing so, they remember that God's justice seeks to extend mercy where possible. If there is no basis for it—as in the case of unrepentant sinners—mercy cannot be extended. But the elders do not expel such a wrongdoer from the congregation out of vindictiveness. They hope that the disfellowshipping action itself will bring him to his senses. (Compare Ezekiel 18:23.) Under Christ's headship, the elders serve in the interests of justice, and this includes being like "a hiding place from the wind." (Isaiah 32:1, 2) They must therefore show impartiality and reasonableness.—Deuteronomy 1:16, 17.

#### **Elders "must not be partial in judgment"**

**Deuteronomy 1:17:** You must not be partial in judgment. You should hear the small one the same as the great one. You must not become intimidated by men, for the judgment belongs to God; and if a case is too difficult for you, you should present it to me, and I will hear it.'

#### **w02 8/1 9 paragraph 4**

There was more to being a judge than knowing the Law, however. Being imperfect, the older men had to be alert to curb any of their own wayward tendencies—such as selfishness, partiality, and greed—that might pervert their judgment. Moses told them: "You must not be partial in judgment. You should hear the little one the same as the great one. You must not become frightened because of a man, *for the judgment belongs to God.*" Yes, Israel's judges were judging for God. What an awe-inspiring privilege that was!—Deuteronomy 1:16, 17.



## How can we all show that we appreciate the elder arrangement?

**Hebrews 13:17:** Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over you as those who will render an account, so that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for this would be damaging to you.

**James 5:13-15:** Is there anyone suffering hardship among you? Let him carry on prayer. Is there anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms. Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the elders of the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, applying oil to him in the name of Jehovah. And the prayer of faith will make the sick one well, and Jehovah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

[Image:] A young brother meeting with the elders.

## Spiritual Gems

### **Deuteronomy 1:19; 2:7—How did Jehovah care for his people during their 40 year trek through a “great and fearsome wilderness”?**

**Deuteronomy 1:19:** “Then we departed from Horeb and marched through all that great and fearsome wilderness that you saw on the way to the mountainous region of the Amorites, just as Jehovah our God had commanded us, and we eventually came to Kadesh-barnea.

**Deuteronomy 2:7:** For Jehovah your God has blessed you in all that you have done. He is fully aware of your walking through this great wilderness. These 40 years Jehovah your God has been with you, and you have lacked nothing.”

### **w13 9/15 9 paragraph 9**

When the Israelites set out on what became a 40 year trek through a “fear-inspiring wilderness,” Jehovah did not give them specific details beforehand as to how he would direct, protect, and care for them. Still, he repeatedly demonstrated that they could trust in him and his instructions. Using a pillar of cloud by day and one of fire by night, Jehovah reminded the Israelites that he was backing them as he led them across that inhospitable terrain. (Deuteronomy 1:19; Exodus 40:36-38) He also provided for their basic needs. “Their very garments did not wear out, and their feet themselves did not become swollen.” Indeed, “they lacked nothing.”—Nehemiah 9:19-21.

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) Deuteronomy 1:1-18 (*th* study 10)

Song 125 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES  
FROM GOD'S WORD

**“The Judgment Belongs to God”:** (10 min.)

**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)

De 1:19; 2:7—How did Jehovah care for his people during their 40-year trek through a “great and fearsome wilderness”? (w13 9/15 9 ¶9)

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.) De 1:1-18 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF  
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**Initial Call:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (16)

**Return Visit:** (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Give the householder a meeting invitation, and introduce (but do not play) the video *What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?* (11)

**Talk:** (5 min.) w13 8/15 11 ¶7—Theme: Avoid Uttering or Listening to Negative Speech. (13)

 LIVING  
AS CHRISTIANS

**Song 30**

**“Remain Prepared During the Last of ‘the Last Days’”:** (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Play the video *Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?* (video category THE BIBLE). Include reminders from the branch office and the body of elders, if provided.

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
rr chap. 9 ¶10-17

 “The Judgment Belongs to God”

[Play the video *Introduction to Deuteronomy*.]

Elders must “judge with righteousness”  
(De 1:16; w96 3/15 23 ¶1)

Elders “must not be partial in judgment”  
(De 1:17; w02 8/1 9 ¶4)

**How can we all show that we appreciate the elder arrangement?—Heb 13:17; Jas 5:13-15**







## Make Wise Decisions Regarding Alcoholic Beverages



All Christians need to exercise self-control regarding alcoholic beverages. (Pr 23:20, 29-35; 1Co 6:9, 10) If a Christian chooses to drink, he should do so in moderation. He must also avoid dependence on alcohol and avoid stumbling others. (1Co 10:23, 24; 1Ti 5:23) Certainly, no one, especially young ones, should be pressured to consume alcoholic beverages.

**WATCH THE WHITEBOARD ANIMATION *THINK PAST THE DRINK*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- Why must all Christians obey laws regarding drinking alcohol?—Ro 13:1-4

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- Why should we avoid letting others pressure us to drink alcohol?—Ro 6:16

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- How can we avoid pitfalls related to alcoholic beverages?

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## SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

### Initial Call

**Question:** What is God’s purpose for humans?

**Scripture:** **Ge 1:28**

**Link:** How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

▶ FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs 29 ¶1*

### Return Visit

**Question:** How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

**Scripture:** **Isa 55:11**

**Link:** What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?

▶ FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs 29 ¶2*



<sup>4</sup> Is it really possible that we could become “enraged against Jehovah”? Surely to do so would be futile. (Isa. 41:11) What would we hope to gain? A poet once said: “Your arm’s too short to box with God.” We may never go so far as to vocalize a complaint against Jehovah. But Proverbs 19:3 says that a man’s foolishness “distorts his way, and so his heart becomes enraged against Jehovah himself.” Yes, a person can become enraged against God in *his heart*. This attitude could manifest itself in subtle ways. An individual could, as it were, hold a grudge against Jehovah. As a result, that person might withdraw from the congregation or not fully support arrangements for Jehovah’s worship.

<sup>5</sup> What could prompt us to be “enraged against Jehovah”? How can we avoid that trap? It is vital that we know the answers to these questions. Why, our very relationship with Jehovah God is involved!

#### **WHAT COULD PROMPT US TO BECOME “ENRAGED AGAINST JEHOVAH”?**

<sup>6</sup> What could cause the heart of a faithful servant of Jehovah to start to complain about his God? Let us consider five factors and analyze Bible examples that highlight how some in the past fell into this trap.—1 Cor. 10:11, 12.

<sup>7</sup> **The negative speech of others can influence us.** (Read *Deuteronomy 1:26-28*.) The Israelites had just been delivered from slavery in Egypt. Jehovah had miraculously brought ten plagues on that oppressive nation and thereafter destroyed Pharaoh and his military force in the Red Sea. (Ex. 12:29-32, 51; 14:29-

31; Ps. 136:15) God’s people were poised to enter the Promised Land. Yet, at that crucial moment, the Israelites started to complain about Jehovah. What caused this lack of faith? Their hearts melted because of the negative report of some who had been sent to spy out the land. (Num. 14:1-4) What resulted? A whole generation was not allowed to enter into that “good land.” (Deut. 1:34, 35) Could we at times allow the negative speech of others to weaken our faith and cause us to grumble about Jehovah’s dealings with us?

<sup>8</sup> **Hardships and difficulties may discourage us.** (Read *Isaiah 8:21, 22*.) In Isaiah’s day, the nation of Judah found themselves in dire straits. They were surrounded by enemies. Food was scarce. Many were hungry. But more important, there was a spiritual famine. (Amos 8:11) Instead of looking to Jehovah for help in dealing with these hardships, however, they started to “call down evil” on their king and on their God. Yes, they blamed Jehovah for their problems. If we are beset by tragedy or personal problems, might we likewise say in our heart, ‘Where was Jehovah when I needed him?’

<sup>9</sup> **We do not know all the facts.** Because of not having all the facts, the Israelites in Ezekiel’s day felt that Jehovah’s way was “not adjusted right.” (Ezek. 18:29) It was as if they had set themselves up as judges of God, putting their own standards of justice above Jehovah’s and judging him based on their own limited understanding of events. If we at times do not fully understand a Bible account or the way events develop in our own

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4, 5. How could a Christian become “enraged against Jehovah”?

6, 7. Why did the Israelites in Moses’ time start to complain about Jehovah?

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8. What caused God’s people in Isaiah’s day to start to blame Jehovah for their situation?

9. Why did the Israelites in Ezekiel’s day develop a wrong viewpoint?

# My Father, My God and Friend

(Hebrews 6:10)

C Fma7/C G7/C C Am Em/G

Life in this world can be hard. Life in this world can bring  
Gone are the days of my youth; Days of ca - lam - i - ty

F Dm Dm/C Dm/B E7

tears and pain. Still ev - 'ry day I will say, "My  
now are here. Still through the eyes of my faith, My

Am7 D9 F/G Chorus G7 C

life is not in vain." For God is not un -  
hope is bright and clear.

Em F Am

right - teous, And he re - mem - bers the love I've shown. So

# My Father, My God and Friend

Dm7 Em F

he is ev - er near me; With Je - ho - vah, I'm not a -

G7 C Em

lone. Yes, God is my pro - vid - er and my pro -

F Fm/D

tec - tor down to the end. Yes, Je -

C/G G7sus4 G7 G7/C C

ho - vah is my Fa - ther, My God and Friend.

Song 125 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES  
FROM GOD'S WORD

“The Judgment Belongs to God”: (10 min.)

**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)

De 1:19; 2:7—How did Jehovah care for his people during their 40-year trek through a “great and fearsome wilderness”? (w13 9/15 9 ¶9)

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.) De 1:1-18 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF  
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**Initial Call:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (16)

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**Talk:** (5 min.) w13 8/15 11 ¶7—Theme: Avoid Uttering or Listening to Negative Speech. (13)

 LIVING  
AS CHRISTIANS

**Song 30**

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**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
rr chap. 9 ¶10-17

 “The Judgment Belongs to God”

[Play the video *Introduction to Deuteronomy*.]

Elders must “judge with righteousness”  
(De 1:16; w96 3/15 23 ¶1)

Elders “must not be partial in judgment”  
(De 1:17; w02 8/1 9 ¶4)

How can we all show that we appreciate the elder arrangement?—Heb 13:17; Jas 5:13-15





## Remain Prepared During the Last of “the Last Days”



As we endure the last of “the last days,” we expect troubles of increasing intensity. (2Ti 3:1; *nwtsty* study note on Mt 24:8) When facing a disaster, Jehovah’s people often receive timely and lifesaving direction. Our survival *then* may depend on our obedient preparation *now*, both spiritually and physically.—Lu 16:10.

- Prepare spiritually: Develop a good routine. Learn different forms of the ministry. Do not panic if you are temporarily separated from others in the congregation. (Isa 30:15) You are never isolated from Jehovah and Jesus.—od 176 ¶15-17
- Prepare physically: In addition to go bags, each household should have a reasonable reserve of food, water, medicine, and similar items in case it is necessary to shelter in place for an extended period of time.—Pr 22:3; *g17.5* 4, 6

**WATCH THE VIDEO ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A NATURAL DISASTER? AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- How can we prepare spiritually for a disaster?

---

- Why should we . . . maintain good communication with the elders?

---

prepare an emergency kit?

---

review the types of disasters that might occur and what to do in each situation?

---

- What are three ways we can help others when they experience a disaster?

---



**ASK YOURSELF,** ‘What lessons regarding being prepared can I learn from the COVID-19 pandemic?’

# Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?

## ***(Opening scenes of natural disasters foretold in God’s Word the Bible).***

Jehovah has warned us that we’re living in “critical times hard to deal with.” And Jesus foretold that in the last days there would be great “earthquakes in one place after another” and other “fearful sights.”

Many of us either have or will be affected by some form of natural disaster.

If this happens, how can we be prepared?

## ***(Scenes depicting how we can be comforted)***

First, we can prepare spiritually by maintaining a close relationship with Jehovah. He is “the God of all comfort,” and he can comfort us in times of tribulation. How does he do this? We do not expect divine intervention. But if we pray during times of distress, his powerful holy spirit can bring Bible passages back to mind to comfort us.

## ***(Scenes depicting practical steps to take)***

Second, we can take practical steps, perhaps preparing an emergency kit. Our kit could contain the following items if possible: first-aid supplies, bottled water, and nonperishable food.

Also, we shouldn’t forget to update the elders with our latest contact information. If we don’t do so, valuable time could be lost in a disaster.

## ***(Scenes depicting what to review at Family Worship)***

Additionally, during a Family Worship evening, our family could review the types of disasters that might happen and what could be done in each situation—such as where we meet, how we contact the elders, and so forth.

## ***(Scenes depicting how to show love by helping others)***

And third, we can help others when they’re experiencing a disaster, knowing they’d do the same for us. How can we do this?

By offering prayers in their behalf, by volunteering to assist with disaster relief efforts, and by contributing donations to the worldwide work.

No, we can’t avoid all natural disasters. But if we prepare spiritually, practically, and help others currently affected, we can take comfort in knowing that in Jehovah’s eyes we are prepared.



**Bro Anthony Morris:** That was great, practical advice for all of us to take to heart. But there are some things we can do to help our local congregation. Let's turn briefly to interview Brother Bram Siegel, who's with the Coordinators' Committee Office. Bram, how can all of us cooperate with the congregation arrangement when a disaster hits?

**Brother Siegel:** Immediately after a disaster occurs, each field service group overseer will contact everyone in his group to make sure that all are accounted for and to see if anyone needs assistance. So each of us should make sure to give the elders our up-to-date contact information. That way they can reach us when something happens.

**Bro Anthony Morris:** That's a very important reminder—good point!

But what if my area was not hit by the disaster but an adjacent town or city was? Can I just travel there on my own to help, or what should I do?

**Bro. Siegel:** We really appreciate the beautiful spirit the brotherhood shows when it comes to providing disaster relief. Really, the best time to make yourself available to help is right now, before a disaster occurs. Just ask your local elders for an application. Later, when there's a need to provide disaster relief, the branch office will know that you're willing and ready to assist.

**Bro. Anthony Morris:** Thank you very much, Bram, for those important reminders.

**Bro. Siegel:** Thank you.

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rebellion, their idolatry, their unfaithfulness, and their corruption under the influence of bad shepherds. He thus allowed them to suffer famine—which was a disaster and a disgrace, considering that their land had been “one flowing with milk and honey.” (Ezek. 20:6, 7) Then, as he had long foretold, Jehovah allowed his wayward people to be punished with exile. In 607 B.C.E., Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon struck the final blow, destroying Jerusalem and her temple. Many thousands of the surviving Jews were carried off into exile in Babylon. There they suffered the mockery and opposition described at the outset of this chapter.

<sup>8</sup> Did something similar to the Babylonian exile befall the Christian congregation? It did indeed! Like the Jews of ancient times, Christ’s followers were warned ahead of time. Early in his ministry, Jesus said: “Be on the watch for the false prophets who come to you in sheep’s covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves.” (Matt. 7:15) Years later, the apostle Paul was inspired to issue a similar warning: “I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness, and from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves.”—Acts 20:29, 30.

<sup>9</sup> Christians were taught how to identify and avoid such dangerous men. Christian elders were instructed to remove apostates from the congregation. (1 Tim. 1:19; 2 Tim. 2:16-19; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 2 John 10) Nonetheless, as was the case with Israel and Judah of old, many Christians gradually turned a deaf ear to loving warnings. By the end of the first century, apostasy had taken root in the congregation. John, the last of the apostles still living at the close of the first century C.E., observed that the congregation was suffering such corruption and widespread rebellion. He was the only remaining restraint against that wicked trend. (2 Thess. 2:6-8; 1 John 2:18) What happened after John died?

<sup>10</sup> After John’s death, Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the weeds began to see fulfillment. (Read Matthew 13:24-30.) As Jesus had foreseen, Satan oversowed the congregation with “weeds,” or imitation Christians, and the corruption of the congregation sped up. How heartbroken Jehovah must have been to see the congregation his Son had founded become polluted with idolatry, pagan holidays and practices, and false doctrines adopted from godless philosophers and satanic religions! What did Jehovah do? As he had done

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8, 9. How did God provide the Christian congregation with warnings against apostasy?

10, 11. Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the weeds saw what fulfillment from the second century C.E. onward?

with unfaithful Israel, he let his people be taken into exile. From sometime in the second century C.E. onward, the wheatlike ones were lost among the imitation Christians. The true Christian congregation was, in effect, in exile in Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, whereas the imitation Christians were absorbed by that corrupt empire. As the imitation Christians flourished, Christendom came into being.

<sup>11</sup> Throughout the dark centuries of Christendom's dominance, there were some genuine Christians, the "wheat" of Jesus' parable. Like the Jewish exiles described at Ezekiel 6: 9, they remembered the true God. Some courageously opposed the false doctrines of Christendom. They faced mockery and persecution. Did Jehovah intend to forsake his people permanently in that realm of spiritual darkness? No! As was the case with Israel of old, Jehovah's anger was expressed to the proper degree and for the right amount of time. (Jer. 46:28) Furthermore, Jehovah did not leave his people without hope. Let us return to those Jewish exiles in ancient Bab-



ylon and see how Jehovah gave them hope for an end to their captivity.

### “My Anger Will Come to an End”

<sup>12</sup> Jehovah was forthright about his anger toward his people, but he also reassured them that his righteous indignation would not last forever. Note, for instance, these words: “My anger will come to an end, and my wrath against them will subside, and I will be satisfied. And they will have to know that I, Jehovah, have spoken in my insistence on exclusive devotion, when I have finished unleashing my wrath against them.” (Ezek. 5:13) Why would Jehovah’s wrath eventually subside?

<sup>13</sup> Among the captives were faithful Jews who were taken into exile along with their unfaithful counterparts. In addition, through Ezekiel, God foretold that some of His people would repent while in exile. Those remorseful Jews would recount the shameful things that they had done in rebellion against their God, and they would implore Jehovah for forgiveness and favor. (Ezek. 6:8-10; 12:16) Ezekiel was among

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**12, 13.** Why would Jehovah’s anger against his exiled people of Ezekiel’s day eventually subside?



For centuries, true Christians faced persecution at the hands of Babylon the Great  
SEE PARAGRAPHS 10, 11

## Jehovah Keeps His Promises **ANCIENT TIMES**

SEE PARAGRAPHS 15-19



**1** Worship free  
from idolatry



**2** Return to a fertile  
homeland

**14.** Why would Jehovah restore his people to their homeland?

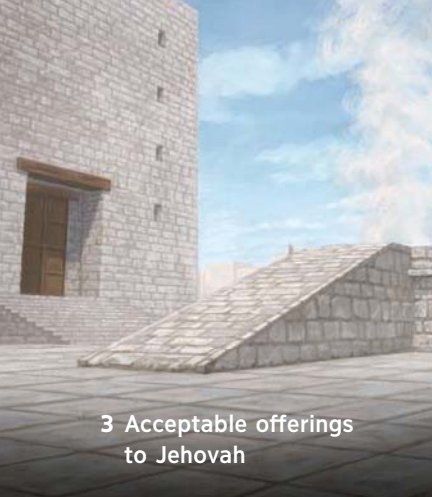
**15.** What change would be made in the religious practices of the returnees?

the faithful ones, as were the prophet Daniel and his three companions. In fact, Daniel lived long enough to see both the beginning and the end of the exile. His heartfelt prayer of repentance over the sins of Israel is recorded in Daniel chapter 9. No doubt his sentiments represented the feelings of many thousands of exiles who longed for Jehovah's forgiveness and renewed blessings. How thrilling, then, were Ezekiel's inspired promises of release and restoration!

<sup>14</sup> There was, however, a more important factor in the release and restoration of Jehovah's people. Their long exile would end, not because they deserved liberation, but because it was again Jehovah's time to sanctify his own name before all the nations. (Ezek. 36:22) Those Babylonians would know once and for all that their demonic gods, such as Marduk, were no match for the Sovereign Lord Jehovah! Let us consider five promises that Jehovah inspired Ezekiel to share with his fellow exiles. First, let us discuss what each promise would have meant to those faithful ones. Then, we will see how those promises saw a greater fulfillment.

<sup>15</sup> **PROMISE 1.** *No more idolatry or other disgusting practices associated with false religion. (Read Ezekiel 11:18; 12:24.)* As discussed in Chapter 5 of this publication, Jerusalem and her temple had been polluted with false religious practices, such as idolatry. The people were thus corrupt, alienated from Jehovah. Through Ezekiel, Jehovah foretold that the exiles could look forward to a time when they would once again take part in worship that was clean and undefiled. All other blessings of the restoration would depend on this primary matter: the restoration of God's arrangement for pure worship.





3 Acceptable offerings to Jehovah



4 Faithful men to take the lead



5 United in worship at God's temple

**16 PROMISE 2.** *A return to their homeland.* “I will give you the land of Israel,” Jehovah told the exiles. (Ezek. 11:17) This was a remarkable promise, for the Babylonians, who taunted God’s captive people, surely never gave them any hope of returning to their beloved homeland. (Isa. 14:4, 17) Moreover, as long as the returnees remained faithful, the land would prove fertile and productive, supporting them and providing useful work. The disgrace and misery of famine would remain a thing of the past.—Read Ezekiel 36:30.

**17 PROMISE 3.** *The resuming of gift offerings at Jehovah’s altar.* As noted in Chapter 2 of this publication, under the Law, sacrifices and offerings formed a vital part of pure worship. As long as the returning exiles remained obedient and spiritually clean, their offerings would be acceptable to Jehovah. The people could thus find atonement for their sins and remain close to their God. Jehovah promised: “The whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve me in the land. I will take pleasure in them there, and I will require your contributions and the firstfruits of your offerings, all your holy things.” (Ezek. 20:40) Pure worship would truly be restored, bringing blessings to God’s people.

**18 PROMISE 4.** *The sifting out of bad shepherds.* A key reason why God’s people went so wrong was the influence of corrupt men who took the lead. Jehovah promised to change that. Regarding such bad shepherds, he promised: “I will dismiss them from feeding my sheep . . . I will rescue my sheep from their mouth.” In contrast, Jehovah assured his faithful people: “I will care for my sheep.” (Ezek. 34:10, 12) How would he do so? He would use faithful, loyal men as shepherds.

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16. Jehovah made what promise regarding his people’s homeland?

17. What would happen regarding sacrifices to Jehovah?

18. How would Jehovah shepherd his people?

# Sharing Joyfully in the Harvest

(Matthew 13:1-23)

D A7 Dsus4 D

We live in the time of the har - vest, A  
True love for our God and our neigh - bor Now

D/F# F#+5 Gma7 G6

priv - 'lege be - yond all com - pare. The  
moves us to speed up our - pace. Both

Em Am6 Am/E D#+5 B Em9/11 Em Em7

wheat fields stand read - y be - fore us, And  
preach - ing and teach - ing are ur - gent, For

A A7 D

ea - ger - ly we have a share. With  
short - ly the end we will face. The

# Sharing Joyfully in the Harvest

D F#7 Bm9/11 Bm E/G#

Je - sus, our fin - est ex - am - ple, Di -  
joy we re - ceive is a bless - ing, A

Am D7 G

rect - ing our work in the field, How  
gift that Je - ho - vah pro - vides. By

Gm D/A B9

hap - py and hon - ored we feel each day. We  
faith we en - dure till this work is done And

Em7 A7 D

joy - ful - ly share in the yield.  
joy - ful - ly share at his side.

(See also Matt. 24:13; 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Tim. 4:2.)

MARCH 2021

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
MAY 3–JUNE 6, 2021



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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

The *Watchtower* (ISSN 0043-1087) March 2021 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2020 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

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# Ever Loyal

(Psalm 18:25)

Bb7sus4 Bb7 Eb Fm11 Bb7/F Eb/G Ab

Ev - er loy - al to Je - ho - vah, Loy - al  
 Ev - er loy - al to our broth - ers, Stick - ing  
 Ev - er loy - al to their guid - ance When our

R.H.

Eb/Bb Gm Gm7 Ab C7sus4 C7

love we wish to show. As a  
 close in times of need. Ev - er  
 broth - ers lead the way. When they

Fm Gm11 C7/G Fm/Ab Bb/C C7

peo - ple, ded - i - cat - ed, His com -  
 car - ing, al - ways trust - ing, Ev - er  
 give us clear di - rec - tion, May we

R.H.

Fm Ab/Eb Dm11 G7

mands we want to know. His ad -  
 kind in word and deed. We show  
 loy - al - ly o - bey. Then the

# Ever Loyal

Cm                      Ab                      Eb/G                      G7

vice      will    nev - er      fail    us,      And    his  
 hon -    or    to      our    broth -    ers  
 bless -    ing    from    Je -    ho -    vah      Will    be

R.H.

Cm                      Eb/F                      F9                      Bb                      Bb/Ab                      Eb/G

coun -    sel    we      o -    bey.      He    is  
 spect    them    from    the    heart.      Ev -    er  
 ours    to    make    us      strong.      When    we're

Fm7                      Bb    Bb/Ab                      Eb/G                      Cm9    Cm

loy -    al;      we    can      trust    him.      From    his  
 loy -    al,      ev -    er      clos -    er,      From    their  
 loy -    al,      ev -    er      faith -    ful,      To    Je -

R.H.                      R.H.

Fm7                      Bb7sus4                      Bb7                      Eb

side      we'll    nev - er      stray.  
 side      we'll    nev - er      part.  
 ho -    vah    we'll    be -    long.

R.H.

(See also Ps. 149:1; 1 Tim. 2:8; Heb. 13:17.)

**SONG 124**

Ever Loyal

**PREVIEW**

The Bible promises that Jehovah will strengthen us and protect us not only from spiritual harm but from any other lasting harm. In this article, we will answer the following questions: Why do we need to be protected? How does Jehovah protect us? And what must we do to benefit from the help Jehovah offers?

## Jehovah Will Protect You —How?

*“The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the wicked one.”—2 THESS. 3:3.*

ON THE last night of his life as a man, Jesus was thinking about the challenges that his disciples would face. Moved by his love for his friends, Jesus asked his Father to “watch over them because of the wicked one.” (John 17:14, 15) Jesus knew that after he returned to heaven, Satan the Devil would continue to wage war against any who wanted to serve Jehovah. Clearly, Jehovah’s people would need protection.

<sup>2</sup> Jehovah answered Jesus’ prayer because of His love for His Son. If we try our best to please Jehovah, he will love us too, and he will pay attention to our prayers for help and protection. As a concerned family Head, Jehovah will continue to care lovingly for his children. His very name, or reputation, is at stake!

<sup>3</sup> We need Jehovah’s protection as never before. Satan has been cast out of heaven, “having great anger.” (Rev. 12:12) He has managed to convince some who persecute us that they are offering “a sacred service to God.” (John 16:2) Others, who do not believe in God, persecute us because we do not fit into this world’s mold. Whatever the case, we can be confident. Why? Because God’s Word says: “The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the wicked one.” (2 Thess. 3:3) How does Jehovah protect us? Let us discuss two ways.

1. Why did Jesus ask Jehovah to watch over his disciples?
2. How can we be sure that Jehovah will answer our prayers?
3. Why do we need Jehovah’s protection today?

## Jehovah Provides a Suit of Armor

<sup>4</sup> Jehovah has made available to us a suit of armor that can protect us from Satan's attacks. (**Read Ephesians 6:13-17.**) This spiritual armor is strong and effective! But it will protect us only if we put on each piece of the armor—and keep it on. What does each piece represent? Let us take a closer look.

<sup>5</sup> **The belt of truth** represents the truths found in God's Word, the Bible. Why must we wear this belt? Because Satan is "the father of the lie." (John 8:44) He has had thousands of years to practice his lying and has misled "the entire inhabited earth"! (Rev. 12:9) But the truths contained in the Bible protect us from being deceived. How do we wear this symbolic belt? We do so by learning the truth about Jehovah, by worshipping him "with spirit and truth," and by conducting ourselves honestly in all things.—John 4:24; Eph. 4:25; Heb. 13:18.

<sup>6</sup> **The breastplate of righteousness** represents Jehovah's righteous standards. Why must we wear the breastplate? Just as a breastplate protects the literal heart of a soldier from being pierced, the breastplate of righteousness protects our figurative heart, or inner person, from the corrupting influences of this world. (Prov. 4:23) Jehovah expects us to love and serve him with our whole heart. (Matt. 22:36, 37) So Satan tries to

divide our heart by getting us to love the things this world offers—things that Jehovah hates. (Jas. 4:4; 1 John 2:15, 16) And if that does not work, he will try to bully us into going against Jehovah's standards.

<sup>7</sup> We wear the breastplate of righteousness by accepting Jehovah's standards of right and wrong and by living according to those standards. (Ps. 97:10) Some may feel that Jehovah's standards are restrictive. But if we were to stop applying Bible principles in our lives, we would be like a soldier who removed his breastplate in the middle of a battle because he thought it was too heavy. How foolish that would be! To those who love Jehovah, his commandments are, "not burdensome," but lifesaving.—1 John 5:3.

<sup>8</sup> Paul also urges us to have our **feet shod in readiness to declare the good news of peace**. In other words, we should always be ready to preach the Kingdom good news. When we share the Bible's message with others, our own faith is strengthened. It is truly encouraging to see how Jehovah's people around the earth are looking for opportunities to declare the good news—when at work, at school, in business territory and when preaching from house to house, shopping, visiting unbelieving relatives, talking to casual acquaintances, and even when confined at home for a time. If we were to give in to fear and stop preaching, we would be like a soldier who

---

4. According to Ephesians 6:13-17, what has Jehovah made available to protect us?

5. What is the belt of truth, and why must we wear it?

6. What is the breastplate of righteousness, and why must we wear it?

---

7. How do we wear the breastplate of righteousness?

8. What does it mean to have our feet shod in readiness to declare the good news?

## The Armor—What Is It?



removed his sandals during the battle; his feet would easily get injured. As a result, he would be more vulnerable to attack, and he would not be able to follow the orders of his commander.

<sup>9</sup> *The large shield of faith* represents the faith we have in Jehovah. We trust that he will fulfill all his promises. That faith will help us “to extinguish all the wicked one’s burning arrows.” Why do we need to carry this large shield? Because it protects us from being swayed by the

9. Why do we need to carry the large shield of faith?

teachings of apostates or from being intimidated by the snide remarks of cynics. Without faith, we will not have the strength to resist when others try to persuade us to ignore Jehovah’s standards. On the other hand, each time we stand up for our faith at work or at school, we are carrying our shield. (1 Pet. 3:15) Each time we turn down a better-paying job that would interfere with our routine of worship, we are carrying our shield. (Heb. 13:5, 6) And each time we serve Jehovah despite opposition, we are being protected by our shield.—1 Thess. 2:2.

<sup>10</sup> *The helmet of salvation* is the hope Jehovah gives us—the hope that he will save us from death and will reward all those who do his will. (1 Thess. 5:8; 1 Tim. 4:10; Titus 1:1, 2) Just as a literal helmet protects a soldier’s head, the hope of salvation protects our thinking ability. In what way? That hope keeps us focused on God’s promises and helps us to see problems in the right perspective. How do we wear this helmet? We do so by keeping our thinking in harmony with God’s thoughts. For example, we place our hope, not on uncertain riches, but on God.—Ps. 26:2; 104:34; 1 Tim. 6:17.

<sup>11</sup> *The sword of the spirit* is God’s Word, the Bible. That sword has the power to cut through deception of all kinds and to liberate people from being enslaved to false teachings and harmful habits. (2 Cor. 10:4, 5; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 4:12) We learn to use that sword properly through personal study and through the training we receive from God’s organization. (2 Tim. 2:15) In addition to the suit of armor, Jehovah gives us another powerful form of protection. What is it?

#### WE DO NOT HAVE TO FIGHT ALONE

<sup>12</sup> An experienced soldier knows that he cannot successfully fight a massive army on his own; he needs the help of his fellow soldiers. Similarly, we cannot successfully resist Satan and his followers on our own; we need the support of our brothers and sisters. Jehovah has pro-

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10. What is the helmet of salvation, and why must we wear it?

11. What is the sword of the spirit, and why do we need to use it?

12. What else do we need, and why?

vided us with a worldwide “association of brothers” who are there to help us.—1 Pet. 2:17.

<sup>13</sup> One way we receive support is by attending our meetings. (**Read Hebrews 10:24, 25.**) When we feel discouraged—as we all do at times—meetings can lift our spirits. We are encouraged by the heartfelt comments given by our brothers and sisters. The Bible-based talks and demonstrations that they present strengthen our determination to serve Jehovah. And our upbuilding conversations before and after the meeting encourage us. (1 Thess. 5:14) In addition, our meetings give us the opportunity to have the joy that comes from helping others. (Acts 20:35; Rom. 1:11, 12) Our meetings help us in other ways too. They improve our battle skills, so to speak, by equipping us for the ministry. For example, we learn to use the tools in our Teaching Toolbox effectively. So prepare well for congregation meetings. During the meeting, listen carefully. After the meeting, apply the training you received. By doing such things, you will become “a fine soldier of Christ Jesus.”—2 Tim. 2:3.

<sup>14</sup> We also have the support of myriads of powerful angels. Think of what just one angel can do! (Isa. 37:36) Now consider what a mighty army of angels would be able to accomplish. No man or demon is equal to Jehovah’s powerful fighting force. It has been said that one faithful Witness plus Jehovah equals the

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13. According to Hebrews 10:24, 25, what benefits come from attending our meetings?

14. What other help do we have available to us?



majority. (Judg. 6:16) How true that is! Keep those thoughts in mind when you feel intimidated by something a workmate, a schoolmate, or an unbelieving relative says or does. Remember, you are not alone in this fight. You are following Jehovah's direction.

#### JEHOVAH WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT US

<sup>15</sup> The world under Satan's control has many reasons to hate us. We remain strictly neutral politically and do not take up arms. We proclaim God's name, promote his Kingdom as the only hope for peace, and uphold his righteous standards. We expose the world's ruler as a monstrous liar and murderer. (John 8:44) And we announce the imminent destruction of Satan's world. Yet, we will never be silenced by Satan and his followers. On the contrary, we will keep praising Jehovah, using every means at our disposal to do so! As powerful as Satan is, he has not been able to prevent the Kingdom message from reach-

15. According to Isaiah 54:15, 17, why will God's people never be silenced?

ing people around the globe. Only Jehovah's protection can account for that.—**Read Isaiah 54:15, 17.**

<sup>16</sup> What lies ahead? During the great tribulation, Jehovah will save us in two amazing ways. First, he will save his loyal servants during the time when he causes the kings of the earth to destroy Babylon the Great, the empire of false religion. (Rev. 17:16-18; 18:2, 4) Then, he will save his people when he annihilates the remaining elements of Satan's world at Armageddon.—Rev. 7:9, 10; 16:14, 16.

<sup>17</sup> When we remain close to Jehovah, Satan can do us no lasting harm. In fact, he is the one who will suffer permanent harm. (Rom. 16:20) So put on the complete suit of armor—**and leave it on!** Do not try to fight the battle on your own. Support your brothers and sisters. And follow Jehovah's direction. If you do, you can be confident that your loving heavenly Father will strengthen you and protect you.—Isa. 41:10.

16. How will Jehovah save his people during the great tribulation?

17. How do we benefit from remaining close to Jehovah?

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#### HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What is each piece in the suit of armor? (See the box "The Armor—What Is It?")
- How do we show that we are wearing each piece of armor?
- What other protection has Jehovah given us?



# A Victory Song

(Exodus 15:1)

Em Bm Em Am/C B+5 B

Sing to Je - ho - vah. His great name is high - ly ex -  
See now all na - tions Op - pos - ing the Sov - 'reign, Je -

Em Em/G B7/F# Em C Esus4/B Em/B

alt - ed. His proud E - gyp - tian foes, He has  
ho - vah. Though might - i - er than Phar - aoh, They

Am C7/Bb B Em Bm Em

cast in - to the sea. Praise Jah Al - might - y; Be -  
too will suf - fer shame. Judg - ment a - waits them; They

Am/C B+5 B Em Em/G B7/F# Em

sides him there can be no oth - er. Je - ho - vah is his  
can - not es - cape Ar - ma - ged - don. Soon ev - 'ry - one will

# A Victory Song

*Chorus*

C D/C C7 B Em/C# B7/D# E Dadd9/F# E/G#

name; He has gained the vic - to - ry. Je -  
know That Je - ho - vah is God's name.

Am D D7 G C Am B7

ho - vah God, Most High o - ver all, The one who is for -

Em/G B/F# Em B7/D# Em Em/G Am D D7

ev - er - more the same, You soon will cause your

G Em C Em/B Am Em/G B7/F# Em Bsus4 B E

en - e - mies to fall And sanc - ti - fy your ho - ly name.

## **Are You Guided by Fact or by Fancy?**

FOR some, self-delusion may be more pleasant than facing reality, but it does not provide a living, feed loved ones, or enable one to cope with the many other requirements of life. A person who imagines things are the way he would like them to be, instead of facing them the way they really are, is not reasoning on the facts, but is building on fancy. His powers of discernment are clouded.

Those who ignore the facts and delude themselves with fancy are like the proverbial ostrich that hides his head in the sand when danger nears. However, the realist recognizes that such ostrich exists in fables only, not in fact! The ostrich of reality does not ignore the fact of danger. He does not hide his head in the sand. To the contrary, he moves away from the source of potential harm so rapidly that few animals can keep up with him when he is in full flight.

Dreamers are like that proverbial ostrich. They hide their heads in the sands of self-deception and fancy when situations arise that demand a realistic facing of the facts, and actions based on those facts. Such fancy is as profitless as believing the earth to be square in spite of the overwhelming proof against such a conclusion; or like believing two plus two equals five, when the facts of mathematics show this is not the case.

[w63 9/15 p. 547]



APPROVAL



COMPASSION



PROTECTION



DISCIPLINE



PHYSICAL SUPPORT

## Jehovah Manifests His Fatherly Love in Various Ways

rience, Felipe is thankful for the compassion expressed by his fellow worshippers. But Felipe is convinced that his heavenly Father was the motivating force behind their compassion. “It was as if God, like a loving father, were standing by my side to strengthen me,” says Felipe. Indeed, Jehovah often shows his compassion by moving his servants on earth to reflect that quality.

### Our Father Provides Protection

When a little child senses danger, he may run to his father for protection. A child finds security in the loving embrace of his father. Jesus fully trusted in Jehovah as a protector. (Matthew 26:53; John 17:15) We too can find security under our heavenly Father’s protection. **The protection Jehovah now provides is primarily spiritual. In other words, he protects us from spiritual harm** by equipping us with what we need in order to avoid danger and to safeguard our friendship with him. One way he provides protection is through Bible-based counsel. When we receive such counsel, it is as if Jehovah were walking behind us, saying: “This is the way. Walk in it.” —Isaiah 30:21.

Consider the example of Tiago and his brothers Fernando and Rafael, who were members of a rock-and-roll band. They

were really excited when they were selected to play at one of the most famous music halls in São Paulo, Brazil. It seemed that success awaited them. A fellow worshipper, however, warned them about the dangers of keeping close company with those whose lifestyle shows disregard for God’s ways. (Proverbs 13:20) He underscored this Bible-based counsel by telling of his personal experience. His own brother had become involved in ungodly conduct as a result of associating with the wrong crowd. Tiago and his brothers decided to abandon their musical career. All three of them are now in the full-time Christian ministry. They believe that heeding the counsel of God’s Word protected them from spiritual harm.

### Our Heavenly Father Disciplines Us

A loving father disciplines his children, for he cares about the kind of people they will become. (Ephesians 6:4) Such a father may be firm, but he is never harsh in correcting his children. Similarly, our heavenly Father may at times find it necessary to discipline us. But God’s discipline is always given in love and is never abusive. Like his Father, Jesus was never harsh, not even when his disciples were slow to respond to needed correction.—Matthew 20:20-28; Luke 22:24-30.

# Jehovah's Witnesses

## News Alerts

### Fatal Bus Accident in Honduras

NOVEMBER 11, 2014 | HONDURAS

On the morning of October 31, 2014, a bus transporting 57 Jehovah's Witnesses, who had volunteered to provide Bible education in Las Flores Lempira, crashed en route from San Carlos Choloma. The accident resulted in the death of the commercial bus driver and thirteen Witness passengers, which included two fourteen-year-old girls and an eight-year-old girl. The 44 surviving Witnesses were taken to the hospital for examination. Only two required extensive medical care but have since been released. Fellow worshippers are providing comfort and practical assistance. On November 1, 2014, the first funeral was held in Choloma for nine of the victims who died in the crash. Some 3,000 people attended.



José Castillo, a spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses in Honduras, stated: "We appreciate the outpouring of support from the community and the various agencies that have come to the aid of those affected by this tragedy."

*Media Contact(s):*

*International: J. R. Brown, Office of Public Information, tel. +1 718 560 5000*

*Honduras: José Castillo Adriano, tel. +504 9998 0895*

*Mexico: Gamaliel Camarillo, tel. +52 555 133 3048*