

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*

Wednesday, June 9

God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name.—Heb. 6:10.

Thousands of Bethel family members and others have received new assignments. These faithful brothers and sisters may find it challenging to leave a cherished assignment. If you are one of them, what can help you to deal with the change? Remain close to Jehovah by reading the Scriptures daily and pondering on them. Also, continue to be fully involved in preaching the good news in your new congregation. Jehovah remembers those who continue to serve him faithfully, even if they cannot do all they did before. Keep your life simple. Do not let the anxieties of Satan's world "choke" your spiritual activity. (Matt. 13:22) Reject pressure from the world or from well-meaning friends or relatives to seek financial security in Satan's system. (1 John 2:15-17) Trust in Jehovah, who promises to provide for all our spiritual, emotional, and material needs "at the right time."—Heb. 4:16; 13:5, 6. *w19.08 20 ¶4; 21-22 ¶7-8*

Thursday, June 10

Throw your burden on Jehovah, and he will sustain you.—Ps. 55:22.

Are you dealing with a stressful situation? How comforting it is for us to know that Jehovah understands our emotional struggles. He knows our limitations, and he even knows what we are thinking and feeling. (Ps. 103:14; 139:3, 4) By relying on Jehovah, we will receive help to deal with problems that cause us stress. Stress can cause you to think negatively, making you feel

discouraged. If that happens, remember that Jehovah will help you deal with stress. How will he help you? He invites you to share your concerns with him. And he will answer your cries for help. (Ps. 5:3; 1 Pet. 5:7) So pray to Jehovah often about your problems. He will not speak directly to you, but he will speak to you through his Word, the Bible, and through his organization. The accounts you read in the Bible can comfort you and give you hope. Also, your brothers and sisters can encourage you.—Rom. 15:4; Heb. 10:24, 25. *w19.06 16 ¶7-8*

Friday, June 11

You will be hated by all the nations on account of my name.—Matt. 24:9.

When persecuted, pray to Jehovah, "pour out your heart like water," and tell your loving Father about all your fears and anxieties. (Lam. 2:19) The more you pray this way, the closer you will feel to Jehovah. (Rom. 8:38, 39) Be convinced that the blessings of God's Kingdom will come true. (Num. 23:19) If your faith in such promises is weak, it will be easier for Satan and his agents to terrify you. (Prov. 24:10; Heb. 2:15) Make it a study project to examine God's promises about his Kingdom and the reasons why you can be certain that they will come true. How will that help? Consider the example of Stanley Jones, who was imprisoned for seven years because of his faith. What helped him to endure faithfully? He said: "Being fortified with a knowledge of God's kingdom, being sure of it, never doubting it for a moment, I couldn't be moved." If you have strong faith in God's promises, you will not give in to fear.—Prov. 3:25, 26. *w19.07 2 ¶1; 3 ¶6-7*

Saturday, June 12

Into whatever city or village you enter, search out who in it is deserving, and stay there until you leave.—Matt. 10:11.

Why is the disciple-making work so important? Because only disciples of Christ can be friends of God. In addition, those who follow Christ improve their lives now and have the hope of enjoying endless life in the future. (John 14:6; 17:3) Certainly, Jesus has entrusted us with an important responsibility, but we do not do this work by ourselves. The apostle Paul wrote about himself and certain close associates: “We are God’s fellow workers.” (1 Cor. 3:9) What a privilege Jehovah and Christ have given to imperfect humans! Also, the disciple-making work can bring us much joy. We take the first step in making disciples when we “search out” those with the right heart condition. We prove that we truly are Jehovah’s Witnesses by witnessing to all whom we meet. We prove that we are genuine Christians by following Christ’s command to preach. *w19.07 15 ¶13-5*

Sunday, June 13

Wisdom is a protection just as money is a protection, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves the life of its owner.—Eccl. 7:12.

Many people are first attracted to the practical wisdom found in the Bible. In New York, a sister who visits Mandarin-speaking people says: “I try to take an interest in people and listen to them. If I learn that they are new immigrants, I might ask: ‘How are you settling in? Have you found work? Are the local peo-

ple treating you well?’” Sometimes this opens the way to introduce a Bible teaching. When appropriate, the sister may add: “What would you say is the key to getting along with people? May I show you a proverb from the Bible? It says: ‘Beginning a fight is like opening a floodgate; before the quarrel breaks out, take your leave.’ Do you think that this advice could help us to get along with others?” (Prov. 17:14) Such conversations can help us to identify people who would welcome further visits. *w19.07 23 ¶13*

Monday, June 14

*What will happen to the one who falls with no one to help him up?
—Eccl. 4:10.*

Those who have moved to a new assignment need, not pity, but understanding. They may be struggling to deal with their own health problems or those of their relative. They may be grieving over the death of a loved one. And they also may grieve, even if in private, over the loss of association with their spiritual family in their former assignment. It takes time to process such deep and often very mixed emotions. In the meantime, your support and example can help them to adjust. “In my previous assignment, I conducted Bible studies every day,” says a sister who served for many years in a foreign land. “In my new one, it was difficult even to get the opportunity to open the Bible or to show a video in the ministry. But local publishers invited me on their calls and studies. This gave me a more positive outlook. I learned to start conversations in the new territory. All of this helped me to regain joy.” *w19.08 22 ¶10; 24 ¶13-14*

Song 98 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 4:23—What was the point of this prohibition? (w04 9/15 25 ¶3)

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 3:1-13 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Teach With Enthusiasm”: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Teaching With Enthusiasm*.

Bible Study: *Iffi* lesson 01 intro and points 1-2 (15)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 68

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 9 ¶18-26, boxes 9A and 9B

 Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just

We show wisdom and understanding when we obey God’s laws (De 4:6; *it-2* 1140 ¶5)

Many who observe our actions recognize the wisdom of God’s laws (De 4:6; *w99* 11/1 20 ¶6-7)

Jehovah’s people enjoy a way of life far superior to that of the nations (De 4:7, 8; *w07* 8/1 29 ¶13)

Many people are drawn to Jehovah’s organization when they see the fine conduct of those who live by God’s laws and principles.

What blessings have you enjoyed because of following Jehovah’s wise direction?



The Scriptures—Inspired of God

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

Eb Eb/G Gb^o Fm7 Ab Bb9/Ab Eb/G Bb7/F Eb
 God's Word shines like a bril - liant light,
 He pro - vides us with words in - spired,
 By these words from our God a - bove,

Ab C7/G Fm Bb Bb/Ab Eb/G F7sus4 F7 Bb7sus4 Bb7
 Guides our feet through earth's dark night.
 Helps us learn what is re - quired.
 We have come to know his love.

Eb Bbm6/Db C Fm Fm7 Bb Bb/Ab
 If we fol - low it faith - ful - ly,
 Ho - ly writ - ings can mo - ti - vate,
 As we read in it ev - 'ry day,

Eb/G Eb Bb7/F Gm7 Eb/G B7/F# Fm7 Bb7 Eb
 Sure - ly its truth will set us free.
 Show how to teach and set things straight.
 God's Word will keep us on the way.

at Ja'haz,^a **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.^b **35** We plundered only the livestock for ourselves along with the spoils from the cities that we had captured. **36** From A-ro'er,^c 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.^d **37** However, you did not approach the land of the Am'mon-ites,^e the whole bank of the Valley* of Jab'bok^f 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.^g **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.^h **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,^a just as we had done to King Si'hon of Hesh'bon, in devoting every city to destruction, including men, women, and children.^b **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^c who were in the region of the Jordan, from the Ar'non Valley* as far as Mount Her'mon^d **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,^e 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,^f and it is still in Rab'bah of the Am'mon-ites. It is nine cubits^g long and four cubits wide, by the standard cubit.

12 At that time we took possession of this land: from A-ro'er,^f 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.^g **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.^h All the region of Ar'gob, which belongs to Ba'shan, was known as the land of the Reph'a-im.

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

3:10 *Or "plateau." **3:11** *Or "sarcophagus; coffin." ⁿOr possibly, "black basalt." ^oA 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

Reu'ben-ites and the Gad'ites,^a I have given from Gil'e-ad to the Ar'non Valley,* with the middle of the valley as a boundary, and as far as Jab'bok, the valley that is the boundary of the Am'mon-ites, **17** and the Ar'a-bah and the Jordan and the border, from Chin'ne-reth to the Sea of the Ar'a-bah, the Salt Sea,* at the base of the slopes of Pis'gah toward the east.^b

18 "I then gave you this command: 'Jehovah your God has given you this land to take possession of it. All your valiant men will take up arms and cross over before your brothers, the Israelites.^c **19** Only your wives, your children, and your livestock (I well know that you have a great deal of livestock) will continue dwelling in the cities that I have given you, **20** until Jehovah gives your brothers rest, as he does for you, and they also have taken possession of the land that Jehovah your God will give them across the Jordan. Then you will come back, each one to his possession that I have given you.'^d

21 "At that time I gave this command to Joshua:^e 'You have seen with your own eyes what Jehovah your God has done to these two kings. Jehovah will do the same thing to all the kingdoms into which you will cross over.^f **22** You must not be afraid of them, for Jehovah your God is the one fighting for you.'^g

23 "At that time I pleaded with Jehovah, saying, **24** 'O Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you have begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty arm,^h for what god in the heavens or on the earth performs such mighty deeds as

CHAP. 3

- a Nu 32:33
Jos 22:9
b Nu 34:11, 12
c Nu 32:20-22
d Jos 1:14, 15
Jos 22:4, 8
e Nu 11:28
Nu 14:30
Nu 27:18
f Jos 10:25
g Ex 14:14
Ex 15:3
De 1:30
De 20:4
Jos 10:42
h Ex 15:16
De 11:2

Second Col.

- a Ex 15:11
2Sa 7:22
1KI 8:23
Ps 86:8
Jer 10:6, 7
b Ex 3:8
De 1:7
De 11:11, 12
c Nu 20:12
Nu 27:13, 14
De 4:21
Ps 106:32
d Nu 27:12
e De 34:1, 4
f Nu 27:18-20
De 1:38
De 31:7
g Jos 1:1, 2
h De 4:45, 46
De 34:5, 6

CHAP. 4

- i Le 18:5
j De 12:32
Pr 30:5, 6
Re 22:18, 19
k Nu 25:5, 9
Ps 106:28
Ho 9:10
1Co 10:7, 8
l Le 26:46
Nu 30:16
Nu 36:13
De 6:1
m 1KI 2:3
n Ps 111:10
o Ps 119:98,
100

you?^a **25** Please let me pass over and see the good land that is across the Jordan, this good mountainous region and Leb'anon.^b **26** But Jehovah was still furious with me because of you,^c and he would not listen to me. Rather, Jehovah said to me, 'Enough from you! Never speak to me again about this matter. **27** Go up to the top of Pis'gah,^d and look to the west and north and south and east and view the land with your eyes, for you will not cross over this Jordan.^e **28** Commission Joshua^f and encourage him and strengthen him, because he is the one who will cross over^g before this people and he is the one who will cause them to inherit the land that you will see.'^h **29** All this happened while we were dwelling in the valley in front of Beth-pe'or.^h

4 "Now, O Israel, listen to the regulations and the judicial decisions that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may liveⁱ and go in and take possession of the land that Jehovah, the God of your forefathers, is giving you. **2** You must not add to the word that I am commanding you, neither must you take away from it,^j so as to keep the commandments of Jehovah your God that I am commanding you.

3 "Your own eyes have seen what Jehovah did in the case of the Ba'al of Pe'or; Jehovah your God annihilated from your midst every man who walked after the Ba'al of Pe'or.^k **4** But you who are holding fast to Jehovah your God are all alive today. **5** See, I have taught you regulations and judicial decisions,^l just as Jehovah my God has commanded me, so that you may observe them in the land you will take possession of. **6** You must carefully follow them,^m because this will show wisdomⁿ and understanding^o on your part before

3:16 *Or "Wadi Arnon." 3:17 *That is, the Dead Sea.

the peoples who will hear about all these regulations, and they will say, "This great nation is undoubtedly a wise and understanding people."^a **7** For what great nation has gods as near to it as Jehovah our God is to us whenever we call on him?^b **8** And what great nation has righteous regulations and judicial decisions like this entire Law that I am putting before you today?^c

9 "Just be careful and watch yourself closely,* so that you may not forget the things that your eyes have seen and so that they may not depart from your heart all the days of your life. You must also make them known to your sons and to your grandsons.^d **10** On the day that you stood before Jehovah your God in Ho'reb, Jehovah said to me, "Congregate the people together to me so that I may let them hear my words,^e in order that they may learn to fear me^f all the days that they are alive on the ground and that they may teach their sons."^g

11 "So you came near and stood at the base of the mountain, and the mountain was burning with fire up to the very heavens;* there was darkness, cloud, and thick gloom.^h **12** And Jehovah began to speak to you out of the fire.ⁱ You heard the sound of words, but you saw no form—there was only a voice.^k **13** And he declared his covenant to you,^l which he commanded you to observe—the Ten Commandments.^m Afterward, he wrote them on two tablets of stone.ⁿ **14** At that time Jehovah commanded me to teach you regulations and judicial decisions, which you are to observe in the

4:9 *Or "and pay close attention to your soul." **4:11** *Lit., "up to the heart of the heavens." **4:13** *Lit., "the Ten Words." Also known as the Decalogue.

CHAP. 4

- a 1Ki 4:34
1Ki 10:4-7
Da 1:19, 20
b Ex 25:8
Le 26:12
De 5:26
2Sa 7:23
c Ps 147:19, 20
d Ge 18:19
De 6:6, 7
e Ex 19:9
f Ex 20:20
De 5:29
g Pr 22:6
Eph 6:4
h Ex 19:18
Heb 12:18, 19
i De 9:10
j Isa 40:18
Joh 1:18
Joh 4:24
k Ex 20:22
l Ex 19:5
De 5:2
De 9:9
Heb 9:19, 20
m Ex 20:1
Ex 34:28
De 10:4
n Ex 24:12
Ex 31:18
Ex 32:19
Ex 34:1

Second Col.

- a Ex 20:4
De 27:15
Isa 40:18
Ac 17:29
1Co 10:14
b De 5:8
Ro 1:22, 23
c 1Sa 5:4
d De 17:2, 3
2Ki 17:16
Eze 8:16
e Ex 19:5
f Ps 106:32
g Nu 20:12
De 31:1, 2
h De 3:27
i Ex 24:3
j Ex 20:4

land you will enter to take possession of.

15 "Therefore, watch yourselves closely*—since you did not see any form on the day Jehovah spoke to you in Ho'reb out of the middle of the fire—**16** that you may not act corruptly by making for yourselves any carved image having the form of any symbol, the representation of male or female,^a **17** the representation of any animal on the earth or the representation of any bird that flies in the sky,^b **18** the representation of anything creeping on the ground or the representation of any fish in the waters under the earth.^c **19** And when you raise your eyes to the heavens and see the sun and the moon and the stars—all the army of the heavens—do not get seduced and bow down to them and serve them.^d Jehovah your God has given them to all the peoples under the whole heavens. **20** But you are the ones Jehovah took and brought out of the iron-smelting furnace, out of Egypt, to become the people of his personal possession,^e as you are today.

21 "Jehovah became angry with me because of you,^f and he swore that I should not cross the Jordan or go into the good land that Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance.^g **22** For I am to die in this land; I will not cross the Jordan,^h but you will cross over and take possession of this good land. **23** Be careful that you do not forget the covenant of Jehovah your God that he made with you,ⁱ and do not make for yourselves a carved image, the form of anything forbidden to you by Jehovah your God.^j **24** For Jehovah

4:15 *Or "pay close attention to your souls." **4:20** *Or "of his inheritance."

your God is a consuming fire,^a a God who requires exclusive devotion.^b

25 "If you become father to sons and grandsons and you have lived a long time in the land and you act ruinously and make a carved image^c of any kind and you do what is evil in the eyes of Jehovah your God so as to offend him,^d **26** I do take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you today that you will surely and quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of. You will not last long on it, but you will be utterly annihilated.^e **27** Jehovah will scatter you among the peoples,^f and just a few of you will survive^g among the nations to which Jehovah will have driven you. **28** There you will have to serve gods of wood and stone made by human hands,^h gods that cannot see or hear or eat or smell.

29 "If you search for Jehovah your God from there, you will certainly find him,ⁱ if you inquire for him with all your heart and with all your soul.^j **30** When you are in great distress and all these things have happened to you in later times, then you will return to Jehovah your God and listen to his voice.^k **31** For Jehovah your God is a merciful God.^l He will not desert you or bring you to ruin or forget the covenant that he swore to your forefathers.^m

32 "Ask, now, about the former days before your time, from the day when God created man on the earth; search from one end of the heavens to the other end of the heavens. Has anything so great ever happened or has anything like it ever been heard of?ⁿ **33** Have any other people heard the voice of God speaking

CHAP. 4

- a Ex 24:17
De 9:3
Heb 12:29
b Ex 20:5
Ex 34:14
Nu 25:11
Lu 10:27
c Jg 18:30
2Ki 21:1, 7
d 2Ki 17:16, 17
e Le 18:24, 28
Le 26:27, 32
f De 28:64
Ne 1:8
g De 28:62
h De 28:15, 36
Jer 16:13
Eze 20:39
i 2Ch 15:4, 15
j De 30:1-3
De 30:8-10
1Ki 8:48, 49
Jer 29:13
Joe 2:12
k 2Ch 33:13
Ne 1:9
l Ex 34:6
De 30:3
2Ch 30:9
Ne 9:31
Isa 54:7
Isa 55:7
m Le 26:42
n Ps 44:1

Second Col.

- a De 5:26
b Ex 7:3
c Ex 15:3
d Ex 13:3
e De 26:8
Ps 78:43-51
f Ex 6:7
g Ex 15:11
De 32:39
1Sa 2:2
Isa 45:18
Mr 12:32
h Ex 19:18
Ex 20:22
i De 10:15
Ps 105:6
j Ex 23:28
De 7:1
De 9:1
Jos 3:10
k 2Ch 20:6
l Isa 44:6
m Ge 48:3, 4
n Nu 35:14
o Nu 35:22-24
p Nu 35:11, 25
De 19:4, 5
q Jos 21:8, 36

out of the fire the way you have heard it and kept on living?^a **34** Or has God ever attempted to take for himself a nation out of the midst of another nation along with judgments,^{*} with signs, with miracles,^b with war,^c with a mighty hand,^d with an outstretched arm, and with terrifying deeds,^e as Jehovah your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? **35** You yourselves have been shown these things so you will know that Jehovah is the true God;^f there is no other besides him.^g **36** He made you hear his voice from the heavens to correct you, and on the earth he made you see his great fire, and his words you heard from out of the fire.^h

37 "Because he loved your forefathers and has chosen their offspring^{*} after them,ⁱ you were brought out of Egypt in his presence by his great power. **38** From before you he drove away nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in and give you their land as an inheritance, as it is today.^j **39** Know, therefore, on this day, and take it to heart that Jehovah is the true God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.^k There is no other.^l **40** You must keep his regulations and his commandments that I am commanding you today, in order that it may go well with you and your sons after you, so that you may long remain in the land that Jehovah your God is giving you."^m

41 At that time Moses set apart three cities on the eastern side of the Jordan.ⁿ **42** If any manslayer unintentionally kills his fellow man and he did not previously hate him,^o he must flee to one of these cities and live.^p **43** The cities are Be'zer^q in the wilderness on the

4:29 *See Glossary.

4:34 *Or "trials." 4:37 *Lit., "seed."

tableland* for the Reu'ben-ites, Ra'moth^a in Gil'e-ad for the Gad'-ites, and Go'lan^b in Ba'shan for the Ma-nas'sites.^c

44 Now this is the Law^d that Moses set before the people of Israel. **45** These are the reminders, the regulations, and the judicial decisions that Moses gave to the Israelites after they came out of Egypt,^e **46** in the region of the Jordan, in the valley opposite Beth-pe'or,^f in the land of King Si'hon of the Am'or-ites, who was dwelling in Hesh'-bon,^g whom Moses and the Israelites defeated after coming out of Egypt.^h **47** And they took possession of his land and of the land of King Ogⁱ of Ba'shan, the two kings of the Am'or-ites who were in the region east of the Jordan, **48** from A-ro'er,^j which is on the rim of the Ar'non Valley,* up to Mount Si'on, that is, Her'mon,^k **49** and all the Ar'a-bah in the region east of the Jordan, and as far as the Sea of the Ar'a-bah,* at the base of the slopes of Pis'gah.^l

5 Moses then summoned all Israel and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the regulations and the judicial decisions that I am announcing to you today, and you must learn them and carefully observe them. **2** Jehovah our God made a covenant with us in Ho'reb.^m **3** It was not with our forefathers that Jehovah made this covenant, but with us, all of us alive here today. **4** Jehovah spoke face-to-face with you in the mountain, out of the fire.ⁿ **5** I was standing between Jehovah and you at that time^o to convey to you the word of Jehovah, for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.^p He said:

4:43 *Or "plateau." 4:48 *Or "Wadi Arnon." 4:49 *That is, the Salt Sea, or the Dead Sea.

CHAP. 4

- a Jos 21:8, 38
b Jos 21:27
c Jos 20:8, 9
d De 17:18
De 27:2, 3
Ga 3:24
e Le 26:46
De 4:1
f De 1:5
De 3:29
g Nu 21:26
h Nu 21:23, 24
i Nu 21:33
De 3:4
j De 2:36
De 3:12
k De 3:8, 9
l De 3:16, 17
De 34:1

CHAP. 5

- m Ex 19:5
Heb 9:19, 20
n Ex 19:9, 18
Ac 7:38
o Ex 20:19
Ga 3:19
p Ex 19:16

Second Col.

- a Ex 13:3
Ex 20:2
b Ex 20:3-6
2Ki 17:35
c Le 26:1
De 4:15, 16
De 4:23
De 27:15
Ac 17:29
d Ex 23:24
1Co 10:14
e Ex 34:14
De 4:24
Isa 42:8
Mt 4:10
f Ex 34:6, 7
g Ex 22:28
Le 19:12
h Ex 20:7
Le 24:16
i Ex 16:23
Ex 20:8-10
Ex 31:13
j Ex 34:21
k Ex 16:29
l Ne 13:15
m Ex 23:12
n De 10:17
Eph 6:9

6 "I am Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.^a **7** You must never have any other gods besides me."^b

8 "You must not make for yourself a carved image^c or a form* like anything that is in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. **9** You must not bow down to them nor be led to serve them,^d for I, Jehovah your God, am a God who requires exclusive devotion,^e bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation of those who hate me,^f **10** but showing loyal love* to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

11 "You must not take up the name of Jehovah your God in a worthless way,^g for Jehovah will not leave anyone unpunished who takes up his name in a worthless way.^h

12 "Observe the Sabbath day to keep it sacred, just as Jehovah your God commanded you.ⁱ **13** You are to labor and do all your work in six days,^j **14** but the seventh day is a sabbath to Jehovah your God.^k You must not do any work,^l neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your slave man nor your slave girl nor your bull nor your donkey nor any of your domestic animals nor your foreign resident who is inside your cities,^m in order that your slave man and your slave girl may rest the same as you.ⁿ **15** Remember that you became a slave in the land of Egypt and that Jehovah your God brought you out of there

5:7 *Or "in defiance of me." Lit., "against my face." 5:8 *Or "representation." 5:10 *Or "loving-kindness." 5:14 *Lit., "gates."

Song 98 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 4:23—What was the point of this prohibition? (w04 9/15 25 ¶3)

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 3:1-13 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Teach With Enthusiasm”: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Teaching With Enthusiasm*.

Bible Study: *Iffi* lesson 01 intro and points 1-2 (15)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 68

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
rr chap. 9 ¶18-26, boxes 9A and 9B

 Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just

We show wisdom and understanding when we obey God’s laws (De 4:6; *it-2* 1140 ¶5)

Many who observe our actions recognize the wisdom of God’s laws (De 4:6; w99 11/1 20 ¶6-7)

Jehovah’s people enjoy a way of life far superior to that of the nations (De 4:7, 8; w07 8/1 29 ¶13)

Many people are drawn to Jehovah’s organization when they see the fine conduct of those who live by God’s laws and principles.

What blessings have you enjoyed because of following Jehovah’s wise direction?



June 7-13 / Deuteronomy 3-4

Treasures From God's Word

“Jehovah's Laws Are Wise and Just”: (10 minutes)

We show wisdom and understanding when we obey God's laws

Deuteronomy 4:6: You must carefully follow them, because this will show wisdom and understanding on your part before the peoples who will hear about all these regulations, and they will say, ‘This great nation is undoubtedly a wise and understanding people.’

it-2 1140 paragraph 5

Diligence in studying and applying God's Word and commands can enable a person to have greater insight than those set as his teachers and more understanding than those who are older men. (Psalm 119:99, 100, 130; compare Luke 2:46, 47.) This is because wisdom and understanding are, in effect, built into God's pure regulations and judicial decrees; hence Israel's faithful observance of these would cause surrounding nations to view them as “a wise and understanding people.” (Deuteronomy 4:5-8; Psalm 111:7, 8, 10; compare 1 Kings 2:3.) The understanding person recognizes the inviolability of God's Word, wants to see his own course in relation thereto, and petitions God's aid in this. (Psalm 119:169) He lets God's message sink down deep (Matthew 13:19-23), writes it on the tablet of his heart (Proverbs 3:3-6; 7:1-4), and comes to develop a hatred for “every false path” (Psalm 119:104). God's Son, when on earth, showed understanding in this way, even refusing to seek escape from death on the stake because the fulfillment of the Scriptures called for his dying in that manner.—Matthew 26:51-54.

Many who observe our actions recognize the wisdom of God's laws

Deuteronomy 4:6: You must carefully follow them, because this will show wisdom and understanding on your part before the peoples who will hear about all these regulations, and they will say, ‘This great nation is undoubtedly a wise and understanding people.’

w99 11/1 20 paragraphs 6-7

Astounded at what she heard and saw, the queen humbly replied: “Happy are these servants of yours who are standing before you constantly, listening to your wisdom!” (1 Kings 10:4-8) She did not pronounce Solomon's servants happy because they were surrounded by opulence—although they were. Rather, Solomon's servants were blessed because they could constantly listen to Solomon's God-given wisdom. What a fine example the queen of Sheba is for Jehovah's people today, who bask in the wisdom of the Creator himself and that of his Son, Jesus Christ!

Also noteworthy was the queen's next comment to Solomon: "May Jehovah your God come to be blessed." (1 Kings 10:9) Evidently, she saw Jehovah's hand in Solomon's wisdom and prosperity. This accords with what Jehovah earlier promised to Israel. 'Keeping my regulations,' he said, "is wisdom on your part and understanding on your part before the eyes of the peoples who will hear of all these regulations, and they will certainly say, 'This great nation is undoubtedly a wise and understanding people.'"—Deuteronomy 4:5-7.

Jehovah's people enjoy a way of life far superior to that of the nations

Deuteronomy 4:7, 8: For what great nation has gods as near to it as Jehovah our God is to us whenever we call on him? And what great nation has righteous regulations and judicial decisions like this entire Law that I am putting before you today?

w07 8/1 29 paragraph 13

When Jehovah bestows blessings on his people, he always gives them the best. (James 1:17) For example, when Jehovah gave the Israelites a home, it was "a land flowing with milk and honey." Although the land of Egypt had also been described that way, the land that Jehovah gave the Israelites was different in at least one vital respect. It was "a land that Jehovah your God is caring for," Moses told the Israelites. In other words, they would prosper because Jehovah would be looking after them. As long as the Israelites remained faithful to Jehovah, they were richly blessed by him and enjoyed a way of life that was visibly superior to that of all the nations round about. Yes, it is Jehovah's blessing that "makes rich"!—Numbers 16:13; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; 11:8-15.

Many people are drawn to Jehovah's organization when they see the fine conduct of those who live by God's laws and principles.

[Image:] A brother at a witnessing cart noticing a man losing his wallet as a woman watches from a nearby café.

[Image:] A brother at a witnessing cart returning a lost wallet to a man as a woman watches from a nearby café.

What blessings have you enjoyed because of following Jehovah's wise direction?

Spiritual Gems

Deuteronomy 4:23—What was the point of this prohibition?

Deuteronomy 4:23: Be careful that you do not forget the covenant of Jehovah your God that he made with you, and do not make for yourselves a carved image, the form of anything forbidden to you by Jehovah your God.

w04 9/15 25 paragraph 3

Deuteronomy 4:15-20, 23, 24—*Does the prohibition against making carved images mean that it is wrong to make representations of objects for artistic purposes?* No. The prohibition here was against making images for worship—against ‘bowing down to idols and serving them.’ The Scriptures do not

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 3:1-13 (*th study 10*)

Song 98 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

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Bible Study: *Iffi* lesson 01 intro and points 1-2 (15)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

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INCREASE YOUR JOY IN THE MINISTRY Teach With Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm is contagious. It can capture the attention of our listeners. It also shows that we value our message. Regardless of our cultural background or personality, we can cultivate enthusiasm. (Ro 12:11) How?

First, think about the importance of your message. You have the privilege to “declare good news of good things!” (Ro 10:15) Second, meditate on the positive effect that the good news can have on your listeners. They really need to hear what you have to say. (Ro 10:13, 14) Finally, speak with zeal, using natural gestures and sincere facial expressions.



WATCH THE VIDEO DRAMATIZATION EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF DISCIPLE-MAKING—IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS—TEACHING WITH ENTHUSIASM, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



- What dampened Neeta’s enthusiasm for her Bible study with Jade?



- What helped Neeta to rekindle her enthusiasm?



- Why should we focus on the positive qualities of our listeners?

- What effect may our enthusiasm have on our Bible students and others?

Enthusiasm is contagious



How Can the Bible Help You?

Nearly all of us have questions about life, suffering, death, and the future. We are also concerned about day-to-day matters, such as making a living or having a happy family. Many people find that the Bible not only helps them answer life's big questions but also gives them practical advice for daily living. Do you think that the Bible can help anyone you know?

1. What are some questions that the Bible answers?

The Bible answers these important questions: How did life begin? Why are we here? Why do innocent people suffer? What happens when a person dies? If everyone wants peace, why is there so much war? What will happen to the earth in the future? The Bible encourages us to seek answers to such questions, and millions have found its answers very satisfying.

2. How can the Bible help us to enjoy our daily life?

The Bible gives us good advice. For example, it teaches families how to be truly happy. It offers advice on how to deal with stress and how to enjoy our work. You will learn what the Bible teaches about these topics and much more as we discuss this material together. You may come to agree that “**all Scripture [everything in the Bible] is . . . beneficial.**”—2 Timothy 3:16.

This publication does not replace the Bible. Rather, it encourages you to examine the Bible for yourself. Therefore, we urge you to read the scriptures that are listed in these lessons and compare them with what you are learning.

Sowing Kingdom Seed

(Matthew 13:4-8)

E \flat *A \flat /*E \flat* *E \flat ma7/*E \flat* *A \flat /*E \flat****

Come share in the work of our Mas - ter; Re -
How much of your work is suc - cess - ful May

E \flat *Gm* *A \flat* *C7/*G**

spond to his call and o - bey. He
of - ten de - pend much on you. Those

Fm *D \flat /*F** *Fm6* *Fm7*

of - fers to help and to guide you; His
hear - ing will need your as - sis - tance To

B \flat 7 *B \flat 9/*A \flat* *E \flat /*G** *B \flat 7/*F***

teach - ing will show you the way. The
learn and to love what is true. So

Sowing Kingdom Seed

E_b *E_b+5* *C_m*

seed of the truth has pow - er to grow In
help them to deal with pres - sures and doubts They're

D_b *F_m7* *B_b7*

hearts that are hon - est and true. So
cer - tain to face on their way. The

E_b *F_m7* *E_b/G* *A_b*

give of your best as you faith - ful - ly share In the
seed of the truth will bring joy when you see How it

E_b/B_b *B_b7sus4* *B_b7* *E_b*

work you've been giv - en to do.
grows in their heart day by day.

Song 98 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

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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!

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ **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.

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?

19. What did Jehovah promise regarding unity?

20, 21. How were God's promises fulfilled on the returning exiles?

19 PROMISE 5. *Unity among worshippers of Jehovah.* Imagine how distressing it was for faithful worshippers to see disunity among God's people before the exile. Influenced by false prophets and corrupt shepherds, the people rebelled against the faithful prophets who represented Jehovah; the people even broke into opposing factions. Thus, one of the most appealing features of the restoration was this promise through Ezekiel: "I will give them a unified heart, and I will put a new spirit in them." (Ezek. 11:19) As long as the returning Jews remained at unity with Jehovah God and with one another, no opposer could defeat them. As a nation, they could once again bring glory to Jehovah instead of reproach and dishonor.

20 Were those five promises fulfilled on the Jews who returned from exile? We do well to remember the words of faithful Joshua of old: "Not one word out of all the good promises that Jehovah your God has spoken to you has failed. They have all come true for you. Not one word of them has



A landmark convention in 1919 provided powerful evidence that God's people were finally freed from Babylon the Great

9B

WHY 1919?

Why do we say that God's people were freed from bondage to Babylon the Great in 1919? A combination of Bible prophecy and the facts of history helps us arrive at that conclusion.

Bible prophecy and history show conclusively that Jesus began reigning as King in heaven in 1914, signaling the start of the last days of Satan's system here on earth. What did Jesus do upon becoming King? Did he immediately free his earthly servants from bondage to Babylon the Great? Did he appoint his "faithful and discreet slave" in 1914 and begin in the great work of the harvest?—Matt. 24:45.

Evidently not. Remember, the apostle Peter was inspired to note that judgment would "start with the house of God." (1 Pet. 4:17) In a similar vein, the prophet Malachi foretold the time when Jehovah would come to His house of worship accompanied by "the messenger of the covenant," the Son of God. (Mal. 3:1-5) That time would be a period of refinement and testing. Does history harmonize with those prophetic indications?

failed.” (Josh. 23:14) So it was in Joshua’s day; so it had to be in the days of the exiles who returned to their homeland.

²¹ The Jews gave up idolatry and the other disgusting practices of false religion that had alienated them from Jehovah. Against all likelihood, they resumed living in their homeland, cultivating it and enjoying productive lives there. One of the first things they did was to restore Jehovah’s altar in Jerusalem and make acceptable offerings there. (Ezra 3:2-6) Jehovah blessed them with fine spiritual shepherds, such men as the faithful priest and copyist Ezra, governors Nehemiah and Zerubbabel, High Priest Joshua, and the courageous prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. As long as the people remained responsive to spiritual direction and guidance, they enjoyed a unity unlike any they had known in a long, long time.—Isa. 61:1-4; read **Jeremiah 3:15**.

²² Without question, the initial fulfillment of Jehovah’s restoration promises was encouraging! Still, that fulfillment was really only a foregleam of something much greater. How do

22. How do we know that the initial fulfillment of the restoration prophecies was only a foregleam of something greater?

It certainly does! The period of 1914 to early 1919 was a difficult time of tests and refinement for the Bible Students, as Jehovah’s Witnesses were then known. In 1914 many of God’s people on earth were disappointed when the end of the system did not arrive as they had hoped. Disappointment deepened in 1916, with the death of Charles T. Russell, who had been taking a dynamic lead among God’s people. Some who were overly attached to Brother Russell actively resisted the efforts of Joseph F. Rutherford, who succeeded Russell in taking the lead. Divisions erupted and almost split the organization in 1917. Then, in 1918, evidently at the instigation of the clergy, Brother Rutherford and seven of his associates were tried, wrongly convicted, and sent to prison. Headquarters in Brooklyn closed down. Clearly, God’s people were not yet freed from Babylon the Great!

What happened in 1919, however? Why, things turned around with almost dizzying swiftness! Early

in the year, Rutherford and his associates were released from prison. And they got right back to work! Within short order, a landmark convention was planned, and the publication of a new journal, *The Golden Age*, (now *Awake!*) was under way. The new journal was designed for campaigns in the public ministry. Additionally, in each congregation an overseer was appointed to organize and promote the ministry. That same year, the *Bulletin* (now *Our Christian Life and Ministry—Meeting Workbook*) was published to help in organizing the preaching work.

What had happened? Clearly, Christ had freed his people from captivity to Babylon the Great. He had appointed his faithful and discreet slave. The work of harvesting was under way. Ever since that pivotal year of 1919, the work has forged ahead to an astounding degree.

Jehovah Keeps His Promises **MODERN TIMES**

SEE PARAGRAPHS 27-31



1 Pure worship free
from idolatry



2 An end to spiritual
famine

23, 24. When and how did “the times of restoration of all things” begin?

25, 26. (a) When did the long exile in Babylon the Great come to an end, and how do we know? (See also the box “Why 1919?”) (b) What began to see fulfillment from 1919 onward?

we know that? Well, the promises were conditional; Jehovah would fulfill them only to the extent that the people remained obedient and responsive. In time, the Jews again became disobedient and rebellious. But as Joshua pointed out, Jehovah’s word always comes true. So the promises would see a greater, more lasting fulfillment. Let us see how that came about.

“I Will Take Pleasure in You”

²³ As students of the Bible, we know that this wicked system of things entered its final decline, its last days, in 1914. For servants of Jehovah, though, this is not an era of sad decline. In fact, the Bible indicates that 1914 saw the beginning of a thrilling period—“the times of restoration of all things.” (Acts 3:21) How do we know that? Well, what happened in heaven in 1914? Jesus Christ was enthroned as the Messianic King! How was that event a restoration? Remember, Jehovah had promised King David that kingship in his family line would endure forever. (1 Chron. 17:11-14) That kingship was interrupted in 607 B.C.E. when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and ended the rule of the Davidic kings.

²⁴ As “the Son of man,” Jesus was a descendant of David and thus became the legal heir to the Davidic kingship. (Matt. 1:1; 16:13-16; Luke 1:32, 33) In 1914 when Jehovah granted Jesus the heavenly throne, “the times of restoration of all things” began! Now the way was open for Jehovah to use that perfect King to continue the work of restoration.

²⁵ One of Christ’s early actions as King was to join his Father in an inspection of the arrangement for pure worship on



3 Sacrifices of praise offered



4 Faithful men to take the lead



5 Global unity of worship

the earth. (Mal. 3:1-5) As Jesus had foretold in his illustration of the wheat and the weeds, it had long been impossible to distinguish wheat from weeds, genuine anointed Christians from impostors.^[2] Now, though, the harvest season arrived in 1914, and the distinction was clear. For decades leading up to 1914, faithful Bible Students had been exposing the gross errors of Christendom and were beginning to separate themselves from that corrupt organization. It was Jehovah's time to restore them fully. So in early 1919, just a few years into "the harvest season," God's people were set completely free from captivity in Babylon the Great. (Matt. 13:30) The exile was over!

²⁶ The restoration prophecies of Ezekiel began to see a fulfillment far greater than any that God's people had seen back in ancient times. Let us now consider how the five promises we have already examined have seen a greater fulfillment.

²⁷ **PROMISE 1.** *An end of idolatry and other disgusting religious practices.* At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, faithful Christians were gathering together and were beginning to discard false religious practices. Veneration of a triune God, belief in the immortality of the human soul, and the hellfire doctrine were all cast aside as unscriptural teachings with roots in false religion. The use of images in worship was exposed as outright idolatry. Gradually, God's people also came to see the use of the cross in worship as a form of idolatry.—Ezek. 14:6.

²⁸ **PROMISE 2.** *A restoration to the spiritual land of God's people.* As they left Babylonish religion behind, faithful Christians found themselves in their proper spiritual land, a

27. How did God cleanse his people of idolatry?

28. In what sense were Jehovah's people restored to their land?

FOOTNOTE

[2] For example, we cannot confirm which of the Reformers of the 16th century may have been anointed Christians.

"The Joy of Jehovah"

(Nehemiah 8:10)

C C/B F/A C/G G/F C/E Am7

Signs of the times are point - ing to the King - dom. Good news we tell for
 Look to our God, you lov - ers of Je - ho - vah. No need to fear, for

Dm7 Dm/G G/F E E/D# A/C# E/B C°

all to hear. Lift up your heads, and look to your sal - va - tion;
 he is strong. Stand up and shout with voic - es loud as thun - der;

Chorus
 C#m Am/C E/B B/A E/G# B7/F# E G7/D C G/B F/A G7

Time for de - liv - er - ance is near! The joy of Je - ho - vah is our
 Sing to our God a joy - ful song!

C Dm7 C/E F Am7 Dm7 C/E Dm/F D7/F# Gsus4 G G#°

strong - hold. Sing loud, and raise a joy - ful cry. Re -

“The Joy of Jehovah”

Am D9 C/D D7 G D7/A G/B Em/C# G/D D7sus4 D7

joyce in the hope, and show a grate - ful heart, All give praise and laud our God on

G G/F C/E G7/D C G/B F/A G7 C Dm7 C/E

high. The joy of Je - ho - vah is our strong - hold. His

F Am7 Dm7 C/E Dm/F D7/F# Gsus4 G G#° Am C/G

great - ness all must come to know. With con - stant de - vo - tion to our

F E7 Am Fm/D C/G G7sus4 C

God and King, God - ly joy in ser - vice we will show.

APRIL 2021

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JUNE 7–JULY 4, 2021

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By means of a simple meal, Jesus showed his disciples how to remember his sacrifice (See study article 16, paragraph 16)

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Christ, Our Model

(1 Peter 2:21)

C/E C/G C G7sus4 C C/B F/A G/B

What love Je - ho - vah showed, What good - ness from him flowed,
 Je - ho - vah's Word, he said, Sus - tained his life like bread.
 Like Je - sus, may our days Pro - vide Je - ho - vah praise,

G G/F C/E F C/G F6/A G/B F/C C

When for all man - kind he of - fered his First - born.
 It gave him wis - dom and knowl - edge and in - sight.
 And may his foot - steps be - come our own road - way.

C/E Dm11 C Bm11 E7 Am Cma7/G Fma7 C/E Dm7

Christ took on hu - man form— The Son of man was born—
 His Fa - ther's will - ing slave, A mod - el Je - sus gave;
 Let Je - sus' mod - el be Our path e - ter - nal - ly,

G7 G/D G/F Em7 C/E F C/G G13sus4 G7 C

By his ex - am - ple, God's name he a - dorned.
 To please his Fa - ther would bring him de - light.
 And then God's fa - vor we'll know day by day.

SONG 13

Christ, Our Model

PREVIEW

As true Christians, we need to “follow [Jesus’] steps closely.” What “steps” did Jesus leave for us to follow? This article will answer that question. It will also discuss why we should follow his steps closely and how we can do it.

“Follow His Steps Closely”

“Christ suffered for you, leaving a model for you to follow his steps closely.”—1 PET. 2:21.

IMAGINE that you are part of a group hiking through a dangerous, snow-covered wilderness. An experienced guide is leading you. As he walks, he leaves behind tracks, or footprints, in the soft snow. At some point, you cannot see the guide! But you do not panic. Rather, you and your fellow hikers follow the guide’s footprints as closely as you can!

² As true Christians, we are, in a sense, hiking through a dangerous wilderness—this wicked world. Fortunately, Jehovah has provided the perfect Guide—his Son, Jesus Christ, whose steps we can follow closely. (1 Pet. 2:21) According to one Bible reference work, Peter here uses the metaphor of a guide. Like a guide leaving behind tracks, Jesus has left behind footprints, or footsteps, that we can follow. Let us consider three questions about following his footsteps—what? why? and how?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS’ FOOTSTEPS?

³ What does it mean to follow someone’s footsteps? In the Bible, the words “walk” and “feet” at times refer to a person’s course of life. (Gen. 6:9; Prov. 4:26) The example a person sets may be compared to footprints, or footsteps, that he leaves behind as he walks. So to follow someone’s footsteps means to follow his example, to imitate him.

1-2. How is it possible for us to follow Jesus’ steps? Illustrate.

3. What does it mean to follow someone’s footsteps?

⁴ What, then, does it mean to follow Jesus' footsteps? Put simply, it means to imitate his example. In our theme text, the apostle Peter is specifically commenting on the fine example Jesus set in the endurance of suffering; however, there are many other ways in which we can imitate Jesus. (1 Pet. 2:18-25) Really, Jesus' entire life course—everything he said and did—is an example for us to follow.

⁵ As imperfect humans, can we really follow Jesus' example? Yes, we can. Recall that Peter urges us "to follow [Jesus'] steps closely"—not perfectly. If we follow his footsteps carefully, doing the best we can as imperfect humans, we will be heeding the apostle John's words:

- 4. What does it mean to follow Jesus' footsteps?
- 5. Can imperfect humans really follow Jesus' perfect example? Explain.

"Go on walking just as that one [Jesus] walked."—1 John 2:6.

WHY FOLLOW JESUS' FOOTSTEPS?

⁶ *Following Jesus' footsteps will draw us closer to Jehovah.* Why can we say that? First, Jesus set an outstanding example of how to live in a way that pleases God. (John 8:29) So by following Jesus' footsteps, we will please Jehovah. And we can be sure that our heavenly Father will draw close to those who try hard to be his friends.—Jas. 4:8.

⁷ Second, Jesus imitated his Father perfectly. That is why Jesus could say: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father also." (John 14:9) When we imitate Jesus' qualities and ways of dealing with

- 6-7. Why can we say that following Jesus' footsteps will draw us closer to Jehovah?



Jesus has left behind
footsteps for us to
follow closely
(See paragraphs 1-2)



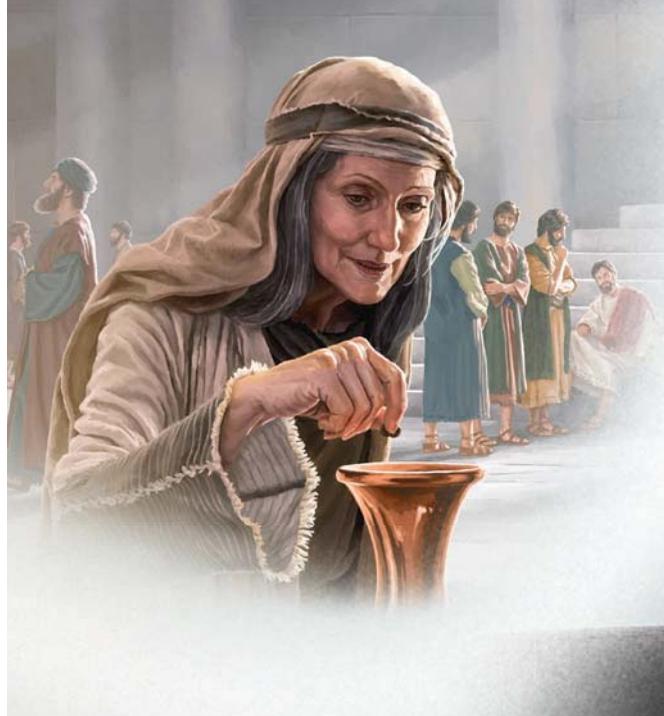
others—for example, his pity for a leper, his empathy for a woman with a grievous illness, his compassion for the bereaved—we are imitating Jehovah as well. (Mark 1:40, 41; 5:25-34; John 11:33-35) The more we become like Jehovah, the closer we draw to him.

⁸ **Following Jesus' footsteps helps us not to be distracted by this wicked world.** On the final night of his earthly life, Jesus was able to say: "I have conquered the world." (John 16:33) He meant that he had refused to allow himself to be influenced by the thinking, the goals, and the actions of this world. Jesus never allowed himself to lose his focus on the reason he was sent to earth—to vindicate Jehovah. What about us? In this world, there are many things that could distract us. But if, like Jesus, we keep focused on doing Jehovah's will, we too will "conquer" the world.—1 John 5:5.

⁹ **Following Jesus' footsteps leads to everlasting life.** When a rich young man asked what he needed to do to gain everlasting life, Jesus replied: "Come be my follower." (Matt. 19:16-21) To some Jews who did not believe that he was the Christ, Jesus said: "My sheep . . . follow me. I give them everlasting life." (John 10:24-29) To Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin who became interested in Jesus' teachings, Jesus said that those "exercising faith in him" would "have everlasting life." (John 3:16) We exercise faith in Jesus by acting on what he taught both by word and by example. If

8. Explain why following Jesus' footsteps will help us "conquer" the world.

9. What must we do to stay on the road to everlasting life?



we do that, we will stay on the road to everlasting life.—Matt. 7:14.

HOW CAN WE FOLLOW JESUS' FOOTSTEPS CLOSELY?

¹⁰ Before we can follow Jesus' footsteps closely, we must come to know him. **(Read John 17:3.)** "Coming to know" Jesus is an ongoing process. We must become better and better acquainted with him—learning about his qualities, his thinking, and his standards. No matter how long we have been in the truth, we must keep working at coming to know Jehovah and his Son.

¹¹ To help us come to know his Son, Jehovah lovingly included the four Gospels in his Word. The Gospels contain a historical account of the life and ministry of Jesus. That account tells us what Jesus

10. What is involved in "coming to know" Jesus better? (John 17:3)

11. What do the four Gospels contain?



Like Jesus, commend others who
are giving Jehovah their best
(See paragraphs 19-20)

said, shows us what he did, and reveals to us how he felt. These four books help us to “consider closely” the example of Jesus. (Heb. 12:3) In effect, they contain the footsteps that Jesus left behind. So by examining the Gospels, we can come to know Jesus better and better. As a result, we can follow his steps closely.

¹² To benefit fully from the Gospels, we must do more than just read them. We need to take the time to study them carefully and meditate on them deeply. (Compare Joshua 1:8, footnote.) Let us discuss two suggestions that can help us to meditate on the Gospels and apply what we read in them.

¹³ **First, bring the Gospel accounts to life.** Use your imagination to see, hear, and feel what was happening. To help you do that, do some research in the

12. How can we benefit fully from the Gospels?

13. How can you bring the Gospel accounts to life?

study aids provided by Jehovah’s organization. Examine the context—the events that come before or follow after the passage you are studying. Look for information that explains the background and the circumstances. Compare the account you are studying with a parallel account in another Gospel. Sometimes one Gospel writer includes a meaningful detail that another leaves out.

¹⁴ **Second, apply the Gospel accounts in your life.** (John 13:17) After you have carefully studied a Gospel account, ask yourself: ‘Is there a lesson in this account that I can apply in my life? How can I use this account to help someone else?’ Try to think of a specific individual, and then at an appropriate time, lovingly and tactfully share the lesson you learned.

14-15. How can we go about applying the Gospel accounts in our life?

¹⁵ Let us consider an example of how we can apply these two suggestions. We will examine the account of the needy widow whom Jesus observed in the temple.

THE NEEDY WIDOW IN THE TEMPLE

¹⁶ **Bring the account to life. (Read Mark 12:41.)** Picture the scene. It is Nisan 11, 33 C.E.—less than a week before Jesus’ death. Jesus has spent much of the day teaching in the temple. His religious opposers have not made it easy for him. Earlier, some of them questioned his authority. Others tried to corner him with challenging questions. (Mark 11:27-33; 12:13-34) Now Jesus has moved to another part of the temple. Here—likely in the area called the Court of the Women—he can see the treasury chests along the walls of the court. He sits down and begins observing the people as they put their contributions in the chests. He sees many rich people depositing many coins. Perhaps he is close enough to hear a loud jingling as their coins drop into the chests.

¹⁷ **Read Mark 12:42.** After a while, one woman catches Jesus’ attention. She is a poor, “needy widow.” (Luke 21:2) Life is very difficult for her; she likely struggles to obtain the basic necessities of life. Yet, she goes to one of the chests and discreetly puts in two small coins, which perhaps hardly make a sound as they are dropped into the chest. Jesus knows what she deposited—two lepta coins, the smallest coins in circulation at the time. That is not even enough money to buy

a single sparrow, among the cheapest birds sold for food.

¹⁸ **Read Mark 12:43, 44.** Jesus is deeply impressed by this widow. So he calls his disciples, draws their attention to the widow, and says: “This poor widow put in more than all the others.” Then he explains: “They [especially the rich people] all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her want, put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” When this faithful widow gave her last bit of money that day, she was putting her life in Jehovah’s caring hands.—Ps. 26:3.

¹⁹ **Apply the account in your life.** Ask yourself, ‘What lesson can I learn from Jesus’ words about the poor widow?’ Think about that widow. No doubt she wished that she could have given more to Jehovah. Yet, she did what she could; she gave Jehovah her very best. And Jesus knew that her contribution was precious in his Father’s eyes. Here, then, is an important lesson for us: Jehovah is pleased when we give him our best—our wholehearted and whole-souled service. (Matt. 22:37; Col. 3:23) Jehovah is happy when he sees us doing all we can! That principle applies to the amount of time and energy we can devote to our worship, including the ministry and the meetings.

²⁰ How can you apply the lesson from the account about the widow? Try to

16. Describe the scene recorded at Mark 12:41.

17. What did the poor widow mentioned at Mark 12:42 do?

18. According to Mark 12:43, 44, what did Jesus say about the widow’s contribution?

19. What important lesson can we learn from Jesus’ words about the poor widow?

20. How can you apply the lesson from the account about the widow? Give an example.

think of specific individuals who may need to be reassured that their efforts are pleasing to Jehovah. For example, do you know of an older sister who perhaps feels guilty or useless because she no longer has the health or energy to do as much as she used to in the ministry? Or can you think of a brother with a chronic, painful illness who gets discouraged because he cannot be at the Kingdom Hall for every meeting? Help such ones by speaking words that are “good for building up.” (Eph. 4:29) Share with them the heartwarming lesson we learned from the account about the poor widow. Your encouraging words can reassure them that Jehovah is pleased when we give him our best. (Prov. 15:23; 1 Thess. 5:11) When you commend others for giving Jehovah their best—no matter how small it may seem—you are following Jesus’ footsteps closely.

²¹ How thankful we are that the Gospel accounts provide so many details about Jesus’ life, enabling us to imitate him, to follow his footsteps closely! Why not have a personal study or Family Worship project that focuses on the Gospels? Let us remember that to benefit fully from such a study, we need to bring the accounts to life and apply them in our life. In addition to imitating what Jesus *did*, we need to listen to what he *said*. In the next article, we will consider what we can learn from Jesus’ final words as a human.

21. What are you determined to do?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Pages 4-5: After meditating on what Jesus said about the poor widow, a sister commends an older sister for her whole-souled service.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What does it mean to follow Jesus’ footsteps?
- Why should we follow Jesus’ footsteps?
- How can we benefit fully from a study of the Gospels?

Praise Jehovah's Firstborn!

(Hebrews 1:6)

E \flat Gm7/D Cm7 Cm Cm7/B \flat A \flat E \flat /G Fm A \flat ma7/E \flat

Praise Je - ho - vah's First - born, God's du - ly ap - point - ed
Praise Je - ho - vah's First - born, Who died so that we may

B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat Gm7/D Cm7 Cm Cm7/B \flat

King. He reigns for truth and jus - tice; Rich
live. He hum - bly paid the ran - som; Our

A \flat E \flat /G Fm7 B \flat 7 E \flat E \flat /G B \flat B \flat sus4/C B \flat /D B \flat 7

bles - sings his rule will bring. With dig - ni - ty and
sins God can now for - give. The bride of Christ a -

E \flat D Dsus4/E D/F \sharp D7 Gm

splen - dor And love for God's great name, He'll
waits him, A - dorned for him in white. This

Praise Jehovah's Firstborn!

F Fsus4/G F7/A F7 Bb Bb/D Cm Cm/Bb Fadd9/A F

vin - di - cate Je - ho - vah, His sov - 'reign - ty pro -
mar - riage in the heav - ens Will prove God's rule is

Chorus
Bb Eb Gm7/D Cm7 Cm Cm7/Bb

claim. Praise Je - ho - vah's First - born! All
right.

R.H.

Ab Eb/G Fm Abma7/Eb Bb/D Cm11 Bb Bb7 Eb Gm7/D

praise God's a - noint - ed Son. In - stalled up - on Mount

Cm7 Cm Cm7/Bb Ab Eb/G Fm7 Bb7 Eb

Zi - on, His King - ship has now be - gun!

R.H.

(See also Ps. 2:6; 45:3, 4; Rev. 19:8.)