

## Monday, June 21

*God . . . energizes you, giving you both the desire and the power to act.—Philippians 2:13.*

Jehovah can become whatever is necessary in order to accomplish his purpose. For instance, Jehovah has become a Teacher, a Comforter, and an Evangelizer, just to name a few of his many roles. (Isaiah 48:17; 2 Corinthians 7:6; Galatians 3:8) Still, he often uses humans to carry out his purposes. (Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20; 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4) Jehovah can also give any of us the wisdom and strength we need in order to become whatever is necessary to fulfill his will. This is all part of the meaning of Jehovah's name, as it is suggested by a number of scholars. All of us want to be useful to Jehovah, but some may doubt that Jehovah is using them. Why? Because they feel limited by their age, circumstances, or abilities. On the other hand, others may be quite satisfied with what they are already doing and fail to see the need to make further progress. *w19.10 20*  
paragraphs 1-2

## Tuesday, June 22

*The love of money is a root of all sorts of injurious things.—1 Timothy 6:10.*

Materialism can cause us to become distracted and neglect our shield of faith. The apostle Paul said: “No man serving as a soldier involves himself in the commercial businesses of life, in order to gain the approval of the one who enrolled him.” (2 Timothy 2:4) In fact, Roman soldiers were not allowed to get involved in any trade. Like good soldiers, we do not become distracted from our primary goal—gaining the approval of our Commanders, Jehovah and Christ. We view that as being more valuable than gaining anything Satan’s world has to offer. We make sure that we have the time and energy we need to serve Jehovah and to keep our shield of faith and the rest of our spiritual armor in good condition. We must never let down our guard! Why? The apostle Paul warned that “those who are determined to be rich” will be “led astray from the faith.”—1 Timothy 6:9, 10. *w19.11 17* paragraph 12, 14-15

## Wednesday, June 23

*Then sudden destruction is to be instantly on them.—1 Thessalonians 5:3.*

The proclamation of “peace and security” precedes “Jehovah’s day.” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6) At 1 Thessalonians 5:2, “Jehovah’s day” refers to “the great tribulation.” (Revelation 7:14) How will we know when that tribulation is about to begin? The Bible tells us about a most unusual proclamation. It will serve as a signal announcing the great tribulation. That will be the foretold proclamation of “peace and security.” Will religious leaders participate? Possibly. Nevertheless, the proclamation will be just another demon-inspired lie. But this lie will be especially dangerous because it will give people a false sense of security just before the greatest tribulation in human history begins. Yes, “sudden destruction is to be instantly on them, just like birth pains on a pregnant woman.” What about Jehovah’s loyal servants? They may be surprised by the sudden start of Jehovah’s day, but they will not be caught off guard. w19.09 9 paragraphs 7-8

## Thursday, June 24

*There is an appointed time for everything, . . . a time to search and a time to give up as lost.—Ecclesiastes 3:1, 6.*

When making decisions, be specific. The more specific you are, the more likely you are to complete what you start. For example, you may have decided to read the Bible more often. But if you do not have a specific schedule in mind, you may not achieve your objective. Or the elders in a congregation may decide to shepherd the flock more often, but after some time, they have not followed through on that decision. To be successful, they could ask such questions as these: “Have we identified the brothers and sisters who could especially benefit from more shepherding? Have we set a specific time to visit them?” Also, be realistic. None of us have the time, resources, or energy to do everything that we would like to do. So be realistic and reasonable. When necessary, you may need to change a decision that was beyond your ability to accomplish. w19.11 29 paragraphs 11-12

## Friday, June 25

*These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.—Revelation 7:14.*

A prophetic description of life on earth is found at Isaiah 65:21-23. That life will not be a life of idleness. Rather, the Bible indicates that God's people at that time will be doing useful, satisfying work. At the end of that period, we can be sure that "the creation itself will also be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Romans 8:21) Just as Jehovah arranged for the Israelites to balance work and rest, so it will be for his people in the coming Thousand Year Rule of Christ. There will certainly be time for spiritual activities. Worship of God is essential to happiness today, and it will be so in the new world. Yes, we have good reason to rejoice over the good work and spiritual activity that we can expect when believing mankind enjoys life during Christ's Millennial Reign. *w19.12* 12 paragraph 15; 13 paragraphs 17-18

## Saturday, June 26

*These words . . . must be on your heart, and you must inculcate them in your sons.—Deuteronomy 6:6, 7.*

“To inculcate” means “to teach and impress by frequent repetitions.” To do so, parents need to spend time regularly with their young ones. It could at times seem frustrating to have to repeat instructions to the children. However, parents can strive to see this as a way to help their children understand God’s Word and apply it. So be discerning. Psalm 127 compares children to arrows. (Psalm 127:4) Just as arrows can be made from different materials and can vary in size, no two children are precisely alike. So parents need to determine how to train each of their children. A couple in modern-day Israel who successfully raised two children to serve Jehovah tell what they found to be helpful, “We conducted a Bible study with each child separately.” Of course, each family head will decide whether studying in that way is necessary or possible. *w19.12 26-27 paragraphs 18-20*

## Sunday, June 27

*All things . . . that you want men to do to you, you also must do to them.—Matthew 7:12.*

When we are going through a hard time, how we appreciate those who offer support in practical ways! “There are so many routine things that seem to be impossible to do when you are suffering,” says Ryan, whose father died unexpectedly in a tragic accident. “Practical assistance—even when it seems very little—goes a long way.” Never underestimate how comforting your practical yet simple acts of kindness can be. The first-century disciple Mark was a busy Christian. Yet, Mark made time to comfort the apostle Paul, and Paul felt free to ask for Mark’s assistance. Angela, who had to cope with the violent death of a family member, appreciated the willingness of those who comforted her. “When friends genuinely want to help, they are approachable,” she says. “They don’t seem reluctant or hesitant.” We can ask ourselves, ‘Am I known for being willing to comfort fellow worshippers in practical ways?’

w20.01 11-12 paragraphs 14-16



**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

**“You Must Not Form Any Marriage Alliances With Them”:** (10 min.)

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

De 8:3—What can we learn from Jehovah’s provision of the manna? (w04 2/1 13 ¶4)

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 7:1-16 (5)



**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

**Initial Call:** (3 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Invite the person to our meetings. (15)

**Return Visit:** (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Offer a publication from our Teaching Toolbox. (9)

**Talk:** (5 min.) w06 1/1 28 ¶14-15—Theme: Do Not Forget Jehovah. (7)



**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

**Song 35**

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

**Local Needs:** (10 min.)

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) rr chap. 9 ¶33-39, box 9E



**“You Must Not Form Any Marriage Alliances With Them”**

Jehovah required the Israelites to marry only fellow believers (De 7:3; w12 7/1 29 ¶2)

Jehovah wants his servants to avoid pain and heartache (De 7:4; w15 3/15 30-31)

Jehovah’s viewpoint regarding marriage has not changed (1Co 7:39; 2Co 6:14; w15 8/15 26 ¶12)

**ASK YOURSELF,** ‘How does the requirement to marry “only in the Lord” benefit me?’





# 136 “A Perfect Wage” From Jehovah

(Ruth 2:12)

1. Jehovah is faithful and fully aware  
Of all those who serve him whole-souled.  
He knows there are times their devotion and zeal  
Result in their loss as foretold.  
If you have left houses or fam'ly or friends,  
Be sure that our God knows the sum.  
He makes it up now with our dear brotherhood  
And life in the new world to come.

*(CHORUS)*

*May Jehovah reward what you have done.  
May he provide a perfect wage for you.  
May you find refuge beneath his wings.  
Jehovah is faithful; Jehovah is true.*

2. At times we may feel that our lot in this life  
Has burdened us more than our share.  
And sometimes it seems that the cares of the day  
Are more than we're able to bear.  
The God of all comfort takes note of your need;  
You know he's the Hearer of prayer.  
His Word and his spirit and true, loving friends  
Will bring to you comfort and care.

*(Chorus)*

## Deuteronomy 7-8

**7** “When Jehovah your God brings you into the land you are about to enter and take possession of, he will also clear away populous nations from before you: the Hit'tites, the Gir'ga-shites, the Am'or-ites, the Ca'naan-ites, the Per'iz-zites, the Hi'vites, and the Jeb'u-sites, seven nations more populous and mightier than you are. <sup>2</sup> Jehovah your God will give them over to you, and you will defeat them. You should without fail devote them to destruction. You must not make any covenant with them nor show them any favor. <sup>3</sup> You must not form any marriage alliances with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons. <sup>4</sup> For they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods; then Jehovah's anger will blaze against you, and he will swiftly annihilate you.

<sup>5</sup> “Instead, this is what you should do to them: Tear down their altars, break up their sacred pillars, cut down their sacred poles, and burn up their graven images. <sup>6</sup> For you are a holy people to Jehovah your God, and Jehovah your God has chosen you to become his people, his special property, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

<sup>7</sup> “It was not because you were the most numerous of all the peoples that Jehovah showed affection for you and chose you, for you were the smallest of all the peoples. <sup>8</sup> Rather, it was because of Jehovah's love for you and because he kept the oath that he had sworn to your forefathers that Jehovah brought you out with a mighty hand,

to redeem you from the house of slavery, from the power of Phar'aoth king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> You well know that Jehovah your God is the true God, the faithful God, keeping his covenant and loyal love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. <sup>10</sup> But those who hate him he will repay to their face with destruction. He will not be slow to deal with those who hate him; he will repay them to their face. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, take care to keep the commandments and the regulations and the judicial decisions that I am commanding you today, by observing them.

<sup>12</sup> “If you continue listening to these judicial decisions and you observe them and carry them out, Jehovah your God will keep the covenant and the loyal love about which he swore to your forefathers. <sup>13</sup> He will love you and bless you and multiply you. Yes, he will bless you with many children and with the produce of your soil, your grain, your new wine, your oil, the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks, in the land that he swore to your forefathers to give to you.

<sup>14</sup> You will become the most blessed of all the peoples; no man or woman among you will be childless, nor will your livestock be without young. <sup>15</sup> Jehovah will take away from you all sickness, and he will not bring upon you any of the terrible diseases that you have known in Egypt. Instead, he will bring them upon all those who hate you. <sup>16</sup> You are to destroy all the peoples whom Jehovah your God gives over to you. You must not feel sorry for them, and you must not serve their gods, because that would be a snare to you.

<sup>17</sup> “If you should say in your heart, ‘These nations outnumber us. How can I drive them away?’ <sup>18</sup> you must not be afraid of them. You should remind yourself of what Jehovah your God did to Phar'aoh and all Egypt, <sup>19</sup> the great judgments that your eyes saw and the signs and the miracles and the mighty hand and the outstretched arm with which Jehovah your God brought you out. That is what Jehovah your God will do to all the peoples you fear.

<sup>20</sup> Jehovah your God will send the feeling of dejection upon them until those who were left remaining and who were concealing themselves from before you perish. <sup>21</sup> Do not be struck with terror because of them, for Jehovah your God is with you, a great and awe-inspiring God.

<sup>22</sup> “Jehovah your God will certainly drive these nations away from before you little by little. You will not be allowed to put an end to them quickly, so that the wild animals of the field will not multiply against you. <sup>23</sup> Jehovah your God will give them over to you and utterly defeat them until they are annihilated. <sup>24</sup> He will give their kings into your hand, and you will wipe out their names from under the heavens. Nobody will stand up to you, until you have exterminated them. <sup>25</sup> You should burn the graven images of their gods in the fire. Do not desire the silver and the gold on them or take it for yourself, so that you are not ensnared by it, for it is something detestable to Jehovah your God. <sup>26</sup> You must not bring a detestable thing into your house and thereby become something devoted to destruction like it. You should utterly

loathe it and absolutely detest it, because it is something devoted to destruction.

**8** “You should be careful to observe every commandment that I am giving you today, so that you may continue living and multiply and go in and take possession of the land about which Jehovah swore to your forefathers. <sup>2</sup> Remember the long road that Jehovah your God made you walk these 40 years in the wilderness, to humble you and to put you to the test so as to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. <sup>3</sup> So he humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you with the manna, which neither you had known nor your fathers had known, in order to make you know that man does not live by bread alone but man lives by every expression from Jehovah’s mouth. <sup>4</sup> The clothing you wore did not wear out, nor did your feet become swollen these 40 years. <sup>5</sup> You well know in your heart that just as a man corrects his son, Jehovah your God was correcting you.

<sup>6</sup> “Now you must keep the commandments of Jehovah your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. <sup>7</sup> For Jehovah your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of streams of water, springs and fountains flowing in the valley plain and in the mountainous region, <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of grapevines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, <sup>9</sup> a land where food will not be scarce and you will lack nothing, a land where the stones contain iron and from its mountains you will mine copper.

<sup>10</sup> “When you have eaten and are satisfied, you must praise Jehovah your God for the good land that he has given you. <sup>11</sup> Be careful not to forget Jehovah your God by failing to keep his commandments, his judicial decisions, and his statutes that I am commanding you today. <sup>12</sup> When you eat and are satisfied and you build fine houses and dwell in them, <sup>13</sup> when your herd and your flocks multiply and your silver and gold increase and you have an abundance of everything, <sup>14</sup> do not let your heart become proud and cause you to forget Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup> who caused you to walk through the great and fearsome wilderness, with poisonous serpents and scorpions and with parched ground that has no water. He made water flow out of the flinty rock <sup>16</sup> and fed you with manna in the wilderness, which your fathers had not known, in order to humble you and to put you to the test so as to benefit you in the future. <sup>17</sup> If you should say in your heart, ‘My own power and the strength of my own hand have produced this wealth for me,’ <sup>18</sup> remember that it is Jehovah your God who gives power to you to make wealth, in order to carry out his covenant that he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

<sup>19</sup> “If you should ever forget Jehovah your God and you walk after other gods and serve them and bow down to them, I do bear witness against you today that you will surely perish. <sup>20</sup> Like the nations that Jehovah is destroying before you, that is how you will perish, because you would not listen to the voice of Jehovah your God.



**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

**“You Must Not Form Any Marriage Alliances With Them”:** (10 min.)

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

De 8:3—What can we learn from Jehovah’s provision of the manna? (w04 2/1 13 ¶4)

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

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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

**Song 35**

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Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for June.

**Local Needs:** (10 min.)

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
rr chap. 9 ¶33-39, box 9E



**“You Must Not Form Any Marriage Alliances With Them”**

Jehovah required the Israelites to marry only fellow believers (De 7:3; w12 7/1 29 ¶2)

Jehovah wants his servants to avoid pain and heartache (De 7:4; w15 3/15 30-31)

Jehovah’s viewpoint regarding marriage has not changed (1Co 7:39; 2Co 6:14; w15 8/15 26 ¶12)

**ASK YOURSELF,** ‘How does the requirement to marry “only in the Lord” benefit me?’



**June 21-27 / Deuteronomy 7-8**

## **Song 136 and Prayer**

**Opening Comments** (1 minute)

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

**"You Must Not Form Any Marriage Alliances With Them":** (10 minutes)

**Jehovah required the Israelites to marry only fellow believers**

**Deuteronomy 7:3:** You must not form any marriage alliances with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons.

### **w12 7/1 29 paragraph 2**

On the broad scale, Jehovah knew that Satan wanted to corrupt His people by turning them to the worship of false gods. God thus went on to warn that the unbelievers "will turn your son from following me, and they will certainly serve other gods." A lot was at stake here. If the nation of Israel fell to serving other gods, they would lose God's favor and



protection, becoming easy prey to their enemies. How, then, could the nation produce the promised Messiah? Clearly, Satan had reason to lure the Israelites into marrying unbelievers.

## **Jehovah wants his servants to avoid pain and heartache**

**Deuteronomy 7:4:** For they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods; then Jehovah's anger will blaze against you, and he will swiftly annihilate you.

### **w15 3/15 30-31**

Still, Jehovah has set out in his Word the direction to marry only in the Lord. Why? Because he knows what is good for his people. Not only does he want to safeguard his servants from the pain resulting from pursuing an unwise course but he also wants them to be happy. In Nehemiah's day when many Jews were marrying foreigners who did not worship Jehovah, Nehemiah referred to the bad example of Solomon. Although Solomon "was loved by his God, . . . the foreign wives caused even him to sin." (Nehemiah 13:23-26) So for the good of his servants, God has directed us to marry only

true worshippers. (Psalm 19:7-10; Isaiah 48:17, 18) True Christians are grateful for God's loving care and rely on his direction. By thus submitting themselves to him as Ruler, they recognize him as the Universal Sovereign.—Proverbs 1:5.

[Image:] A Canaanite woman inviting an Israelite man to join her in bowing before an idol while others around them engage in various acts of idolatry.

## **Jehovah's viewpoint regarding marriage has not changed**

**1 Corinthians 7:39:** A wife is bound as long as her husband is alive. But if her husband should fall asleep in death, she is free to be married to whomever she wants, only in the Lord.

**2 Corinthians 6:14:** Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what sharing does light have with darkness?

## **w15 8/15 26 paragraph 12**

Watching their associations is particularly important for

single Christians who want to get married. God's Word clearly counsels: "Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what sharing does light have with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14) The Bible counsels God's servants who are seeking a marriage mate to marry "only in the Lord," that is, to marry only a dedicated, baptized worshipper of Jehovah who lives according to Scriptural teachings. (1 Corinthians 7:39) By marrying fellow believers, Christians gain companions who are dedicated to Jehovah and will help them maintain their integrity to him.

Ask yourself, 'How does the requirement to marry "only in the Lord" benefit me?'

## Spiritual Gems

### **Deuteronomy 8:3—What can we learn from Jehovah's provision of the manna?**

**Deuteronomy 8:3:** So he humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you with the manna, which neither you had known nor your fathers had known, in order to make you know that man does not live by bread alone but man lives by every expression from Jehovah's mouth.

### **w04 2/1 13 paragraph 4**

Our prayer for daily bread should also remind us of our need for daily spiritual food. Although very hungry after a long fast, Jesus resisted Satan's temptation to turn stones into bread, saying: "It is written, 'Man must live, not on bread alone, but on every utterance coming forth through Jehovah's mouth.'" (Matthew 4:4) Jesus here quoted the prophet Moses, who told the Israelites: "[Jehovah] humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you with the manna, which neither you had known nor your fathers had known; in order to make you know that not by bread alone does man live but by every expression of Jehovah's mouth does man

live.” (Deuteronomy 8:3) The way in which Jehovah supplied the manna provided the Israelites not only with physical food but also with spiritual lessons. For one thing, they were to “pick up each his amount day for day.” If they gathered more than enough for the day, the remainder began to smell and breed worms. (Exodus 16:4, 20) Yet, this did not occur on the sixth day when they had to gather double the daily amount to cover their needs for the Sabbath. (Exodus 16:5, 23, 24) So the manna impressed upon their minds that they had to be obedient and that their lives depended not just on bread but on “every expression of Jehovah’s mouth.”

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 7:1-16 (*th* study 5)

Song 136 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 min.)



**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

**“You Must Not Form Any Marriage Alliances With Them”:** (10 min.)

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## 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*



*“Make Sure of the  
More Important Things”*  
(Philippians 1:10)

1. How great our need today for discernment,  
To know the things that are true,  
To know which things have greater importance,  
To know which things we must do!

*(CHORUS)*

*Love what is good; Hate what is bad.  
Make God’s heart glad;  
Oh, what rich blessings it brings when we learn,  
When we discern,  
And when we do the important things!*

2. And what could be of greater importance  
Than sharing Kingdom good news,  
To search for those who hunger for truth  
And to help them God’s way to choose?

*(Chorus)*

3. If we take care to do what’s important,  
Then true contentment we’ll find.  
The peace surpassing all understanding  
Will guard our heart and our mind.

*(Chorus)*





**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

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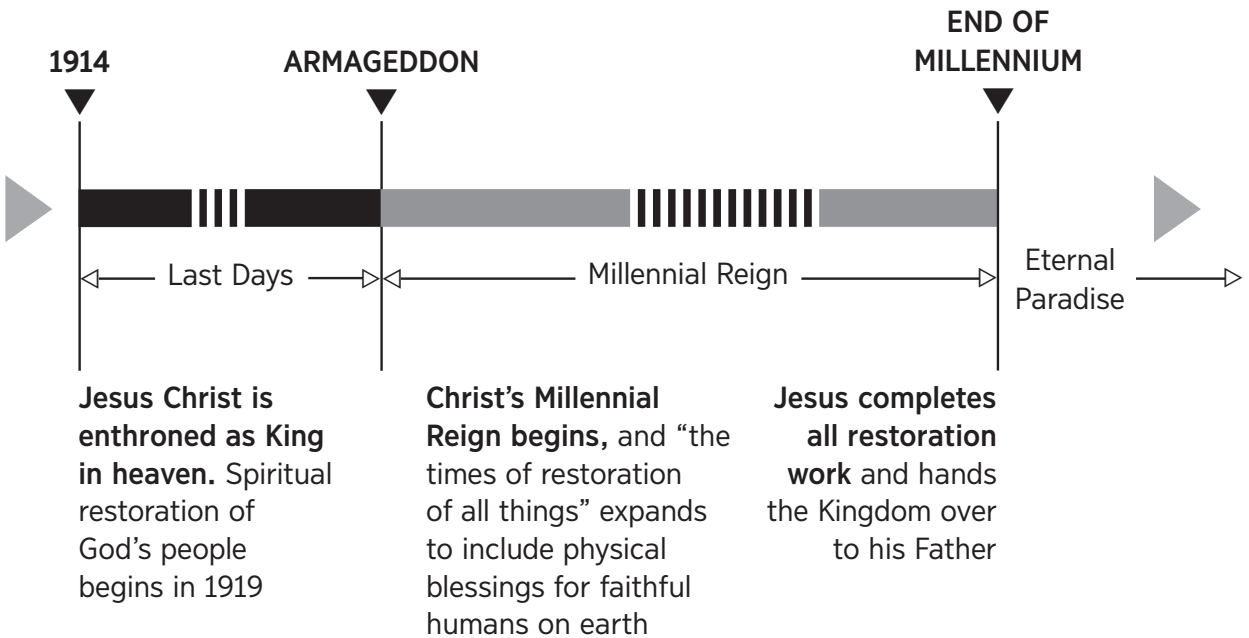


# “THE TIMES OF RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS”

ACTS 3:21

SEE PARAGRAPHS 23, 33-39

When the apostle Peter mentioned “the times of restoration of all things,” he was speaking prophetically about a marvelous span of time that would begin with Christ’s enthronement as King and continue to the end of the Millennium.



- JESUS’ RULERSHIP WILL RESTORE . . .**
- glory to the name of God
  - life to the dead
  - health to the sick
  - perfection to faithful mankind
  - youth to the elderly
  - Paradise on earth

economic, and social backgrounds. Yet, all are taught the same truths and carry out the same work in marvelous harmony. On the final night of his life on earth, Jesus earnestly prayed that his followers would be united. **(Read John 17:11, 20-23.)** In our day, Jehovah has fulfilled that request in the greatest way.

<sup>32</sup> Are you not delighted to live during this thrilling time of restoration? We see the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecies in every facet of our worship today. We can be confident that Jehovah now looks on his people with favor, just as he foretold through Ezekiel: "I will take pleasure in you." (Ezek. 20:41) Do you realize what a privilege you have to be part of the unified, well-fed people who are offering praise to Jehovah around the world—a people freed after centuries of spiritual exile? Still, some of Ezekiel's restoration prophecies will see a greater fulfillment yet.

### **“Like the Garden of Eden”**

<sup>33</sup> As we have seen, “the times of restoration of all

**32. How do you feel about the fulfillment of the restoration prophecies? (See also the box “Prophecies of Captivity and Restoration.”)**

**33-35. (a) What did the prophecy of Ezekiel 36:35 mean to the Jewish exiles? (b) What does that prophecy mean to Jehovah's people today? (See also the box “The Times of Restoration of All Things.”)**

things” began with the restoration of the Davidic line of kings when Jesus was enthroned in 1914. (Ezek. 37:24) Next, Jehovah empowered Christ to restore pure worship among His people after many centuries of spiritual exile. However, does Christ’s restoration work stop there? Far from it! That work will continue in a spectacular way in the future—and Ezekiel’s prophecies give us soul-stirring details.

<sup>34</sup> Consider, for example, these inspired words: “People will say: ‘The desolate land has become like the garden of Eden.’” (Ezek. 36:35) What did that promise mean to Ezekiel and his fellow exiles? They surely did not expect a full, literal fulfillment—as if the restored land might actually be mistaken for the original garden, or Paradise, the one planted by Jehovah himself! (Gen. 2:8) Rather, they no doubt understood that Jehovah was reassuring them that their restored land would be beautiful and fruitful.

<sup>35</sup> What does the same promise mean to us today? We do not expect a literal fulfillment now, in the midst of this wicked world ruled by Satan the Devil. Rather, we grasp that those words have a spiritual

fulfillment today. As Jehovah's servants, we inhabit a restored spiritual land, a condition, or environment, wherein we serve productively and make his sacred service the center of our lives. This spiritual land is gradually, steadily becoming ever more paradisaic. What, though, about the future?

<sup>36</sup> After the great war of Armageddon, Jesus will expand his restoration work to cover even the physical earth. During his Thousand Year Reign, he will direct mankind to turn this planet into a global garden of Eden, a paradise, just as Jehovah always intended it to be! (Luke 23:43) Then all humans will be in harmony with one another and with their earthly home. There will be no danger, no threat, anywhere. Imagine a time when even this promise will be fulfilled: "I will make a covenant of peace with them, and I will rid the land of vicious wild beasts, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the forests."—Ezek. 34:25.

<sup>37</sup> Can you picture that? Without any fear, you will be able to visit any part of this vast earth. No animal

**36, 37. What promises will be fulfilled in the future Paradise?**

will harm you. No danger will threaten your peace. You will be able to walk alone into the deepest forest, enjoying its majestic beauty, even sleeping there in perfect safety, sure to wake up rested and unharmed!

<sup>38</sup> We will see this promise fulfilled as well: “They will dwell on [the land] in security and build houses and plant vineyards, and they will dwell in security when I execute judgment on all those around them who treat them with scorn; and they will have to know that I am Jehovah their God.” (Ezek. 28:26) After all of Jehovah’s enemies are gone, we will enjoy peace and security earth wide. As we care for the earth, we will also be able to take care of ourselves and our loved ones, building comfortable houses to live in and planting vineyards to cultivate.

<sup>39</sup> Do these promises sound to you like mere dreams? Remember, then, what you have already seen during this time of “restoration of all things.”

**38. How do you feel about seeing the promise recorded at Ezekiel 28:26 fulfilled?**

**39. Why can you be sure that the prophecies Ezekiel recorded about Paradise will come true?**

Despite Satan's fiercest opposition, Jesus has been empowered to restore pure worship during this world's darkest era. What powerful evidence that all of God's promises through Ezekiel will come true!

### YOUR PLACE IN PURE WORSHIP

- 1** What was Babylonian captivity like for the Jews, and why did Jehovah eventually liberate his people?
- 2** How was the Christian congregation corrupted, and what happened that was similar to the Babylonian captivity of the Jews?
- 3** What promises of restoration did Jehovah make through Ezekiel, and how were they fulfilled on true Christians during the last days?
- 4** What are some restoration prophecies that you long to see fulfilled in Paradise?
- 5** How can we show that we appreciate the way that Jehovah has restored pure worship in our day?



Imagine a time when  
it will be safe even to  
“sleep in the forests”  
SEE PARAGRAPHS 36, 37



# 145      *God's Promise of Paradise*

(Luke 23:43)

1. A paradise our God has promised,  
    By means of Christ's Millennial Reign,  
When he'll blot out all sin and error,  
    Removing death and tears and pain.

*(CHORUS)*

*A paradise, the earth will be.  
With eyes of faith, this we can see.  
This promise Christ will soon fulfill,  
For he delights to do God's will.*

2. Soon here on earth, as God has purposed,  
    His Son will cause the dead to rise.  
Then it will be as Jesus promised:  
    'You'll be with me in Paradise.'

*(Chorus)*

3. The Paradise, our Lord has promised,  
    And he is now our reigning King.  
We daily thank our loving Father,  
    And from our hearts, his praises sing.

*(Chorus)*

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THE  **WATCHTOWER**  
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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JUNE 7–JULY 4, 2021

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### COVER PICTURE:

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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# 18

## *Grateful for the Ransom*

(Luke 22:20)

1. Today, Jehovah God,  
we stand before your throne,  
For you showed the greatest love  
that could ever be shown.  
You gave the gift of your dear Son,  
that we might live.  
No greater sacrifice than this  
could you ever give.

*(CHORUS)*

*He gave his life to set us free.  
His precious blood provides the key.  
With all our hearts,  
we'll go on thanking you eternally.*

2. It was a willing sacrifice  
that Jesus made.  
Out of love, his perfect life  
was the price that he paid.  
We had no hope until he came  
to save mankind.  
But now our hope is finding life,  
leaving death behind.

*(Chorus)*

# Continue Appreciating the Ransom

*“The Son of man came . . . to give his life as a ransom  
in exchange for many.”*—MARK 10:45.

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## SONG 18

Grateful for the Ransom

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## PREVIEW

Why did Jesus suffer a cruel death? This article will answer that question. It will also help us to strengthen our appreciation for the ransom.

**WHEN** the perfect man Adam sinned, he lost the opportunity for everlasting life not only for himself but also for his future children. There was no excuse for what Adam did. His sin was deliberate. But what about his children? They had played no role in Adam's sin. (Rom. 5:12, 14) Could anything be done to rescue them from the death sentence that their forefather so richly deserved? Yes! Soon after Adam sinned, Jehovah progressively revealed how he would rescue millions of Adam's offspring from the curse of sin and death. (Gen. 3:15) At his appointed time, Jehovah would send his Son from heaven "to give his life as a ransom in exchange for many."—Mark 10:45; John 6:51.

<sup>2</sup> What is the ransom? When referred to in the Christian Greek Scriptures, the ransom is the price Jesus paid to buy back what Adam lost. (1 Cor. 15:22) Why do we need the ransom? Because Jehovah's standard of justice as set out in the Law required that a life be given for a life. (Ex. 21:23, 24) Adam lost his perfect human life. To satisfy God's justice, Jesus sacrificed his perfect human life. (Rom. 5:17) He thus becomes an "Eternal Father" to all those who exercise faith in the ransom.—Isa. 9:6; Rom. 3:23, 24.

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1-2. What is the ransom, and why do we need it?

<sup>3</sup> Jesus was willing to sacrifice his life because of his great love for his heavenly Father and for us. (Read John 14:31; 15:13.) Moved by that love, he was determined to keep his integrity to the end and to accomplish his Father's will. Jesus did so by remaining faithful until his death. As a result, Jehovah's original purpose for mankind and for the earth will be fulfilled. In this article, we will discuss why God allowed Jesus to suffer so much before he died. We will also briefly review the example of a Bible writer who deeply appreciated the ransom. And finally, we will discuss how we can show our thankfulness for the ransom and how we can deepen our appreciation for the sacrifice that Jehovah and Jesus provided for us.

## **WHY WAS JESUS ALLOWED TO SUFFER?**

<sup>4</sup> Imagine what the last day of Jesus' earthly life was like. Although he can call on legions of angels to protect him, he allows himself to be seized by Roman soldiers, who beat him mercilessly. (Matt. 26:52-54; John 18:3; 19:1) They use a whip that rips strips of flesh from his body. Later, they load a heavy beam on his lacerated back. Jesus begins to drag the stake to the place of execution, but soon a bystander is

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3. According to John 14:31 and 15:13, why was Jesus willing to sacrifice his perfect human life?

4. Describe how Jesus died.

conscripted to carry it for him. (Matt. 27:32) When Jesus arrives at the place where he will die, his executioners nail his hands and his feet to the stake. The weight of Jesus' body tears at the nail wounds. His friends grieve and his mother weeps, but the Jewish rulers mock Jesus. (Luke 23:32-38; John 19:25) One agonizing hour follows another. His heart and lungs become strained, and his breathing becomes more difficult. With his dying breath, he utters one last triumphant prayer. He then bows his head and surrenders his life. (Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 10:17, 18; 19:30) It was truly a slow, painful, humiliating way to die!

<sup>5</sup> For Jesus, the manner of his execution was not the worst part of his ordeal. He was more distressed by the charge that was the basis for his execution. He was falsely accused of being a blasphemer—someone who had no respect for God or for God's name. (Matt. 26:64-66) The very thought of that charge tormented Jesus so much that he hoped his Father would spare him this humiliation. (Matt. 26:38, 39, 42) Why did Jehovah allow his beloved Son to suffer and die? Let us consider three reasons.

<sup>6</sup> First, Jesus had to be hung on a stake to free the

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5. For Jesus, what was worse than the way he was killed?

6. Why did Jesus have to be hung on a torture stake?





Think about all the mistreatment Jesus endured to provide the ransom for us!  
(See paragraph 4)

Jews from a special curse. (Gal. 3:10, 13) They had agreed to observe God's Law but had fallen far short of keeping it. As a result, this curse was in addition to their condemnation as offspring of sinful Adam. (Rom. 5:12) God's Law to Israel stated that a man who committed a sin deserving of death should be executed. Afterward, his dead body may be hung on a stake.\* (Deut. 21:22, 23; 27:26) So by being hung on a stake, Jesus made it possible for the very nation that rejected him to benefit from his sacrifice.

<sup>7</sup> Consider a second reason why God allowed his Son to suffer. He was training Jesus for his future role as our High Priest. Jesus experienced how difficult it is to obey God when under extreme test. He felt so much pressure that he prayed for help "with strong outcries and tears." Certainly, having gone through wrenching emotional distress, Jesus himself understands our needs and "is able to come to [our] aid" when we "are being put to the test." How grateful we are to Jehovah for appointing over us a merciful High Priest who can "sympathize with our weaknesses"!—Heb. 2:17, 18; 4:14-16; 5:7-10.

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\* It was the Roman custom to nail or tie condemned ones to a stake while they were alive, and Jehovah allowed his Son to be put to death in that manner.

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7. What is a second reason why God allowed his Son to suffer?

<sup>8</sup> Third, Jehovah allowed Jesus to suffer so severely in order to answer an important question: Can humans demonstrate godly devotion even when severely tested? Satan says no! He claims that humans serve God for selfish reasons. And he believes that—like their forefather Adam—they are not devoted to Jehovah. (Job 1:9-11; 2:4, 5) Confident in the loyalty of his Son, Jehovah allowed Jesus to be tested to the limit of human endurance. Jesus maintained his integrity and proved Satan a liar.

## **A BIBLE WRITER WHO DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE RANSOM**

<sup>9</sup> The faith of many Christians has been sustained by the teaching of the ransom. They have kept on preaching despite opposition and have endured all sorts of trials right on into old age. Consider the example of the apostle John. He loyally preached the truth about Christ and the ransom, likely for more than 60 years. When he was in his late 90's, he was apparently considered to be such a threat to the Roman Empire that he was imprisoned on the isle of Patmos. His crime? “Speaking about God and

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8. What is a third reason why God allowed Jesus to be tested so severely?

9. What example did the apostle John set for us?

bearing witness concerning Jesus.” (Rev. 1:9) What an outstanding example of faith and endurance!

<sup>10</sup> John expresses his deep love for Jesus and his appreciation for the ransom in his inspired writings. They contain over 100 references either to the ransom or to the benefits that the ransom makes possible. For example, John wrote: “If anyone does commit a sin, we have a helper with the Father, Jesus Christ, a righteous one.” (1 John 2:1, 2) John’s writings also stress the importance of “witnessing concerning Jesus.” (Rev. 19:10) Clearly, John deeply appreciated the ransom. How can we show that we do too?

## HOW CAN YOU SHOW YOUR THANKFULNESS FOR THE RANSOM?

<sup>11</sup> *Resist the temptation to sin.* If we truly appreciate the ransom, we will not take the attitude: ‘There is no need for me to put up much resistance when I am tempted. I can go ahead and commit a sin, and then I’ll ask for forgiveness.’ Rather, when we are tempted to do something wrong, we will say: ‘No! How could I do such a thing after everything Jehovah and Jesus have done for me?’ In line with that, we can ask Je-

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10. How do John’s writings show that he appreciated the ransom?

11. What can help us resist temptation?



If we truly appreciate the ransom, we will resist the temptation to sin  
(See paragraph 11)

---

hovah for strength, begging him: ‘Do not allow me to give in to temptation.’—Matt. 6:13.

<sup>12</sup> *Love your brothers and sisters.* When we show such love, we also show appreciation for the ransom. Why? Because Jesus gave his life not just for us but also for our brothers and sisters. If he was ready to die for them, they clearly have great value in his eyes. (Read 1 John 3:16-18.) We express our love for our brothers and sisters by the way we treat them. (Eph. 4:29, 31-5:2) For example, we help them when they are sick or when they are enduring severe trials, including natural disasters. But what should we do when a fellow believer does or says something that offends us?

---

12. How can we apply the counsel found at 1 John 3:16-18?

<sup>13</sup> Are you inclined to hold a grudge against a fellow believer? (Lev. 19:18) If so, follow this advice: “Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely even if anyone has a cause for complaint against another. Just as Jehovah freely forgave you, you must also do the same.” (Col. 3:13) Every time we forgive our brother or sister, we prove to our heavenly Father that we truly appreciate the ransom. How can we continue to deepen our appreciation for this gift from God?

## HOW CAN YOU DEEPEN YOUR APPRECIATION FOR THE RANSOM?

<sup>14</sup> *Thank Jehovah for the ransom.* “I think that it is important to mention the ransom each day in my prayers and to thank Jehovah for it,” says an 83-year-old sister named Joanna, who lives in India. In your private prayers, think about specific mistakes you have made during the day and then ask Jehovah for forgiveness. Of course, if you have committed a serious sin, you will also need the help of the elders. They will listen to you and offer loving counsel from God’s Word. They will pray with you, asking Jehovah to

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13. Why should we be forgiving?

14. What is one way we can deepen our appreciation for the ransom?

continue applying the value of Jesus' sacrifice "so that you may be [spiritually] healed."—Jas. 5:14-16.

<sup>15</sup> *Meditate on the ransom.* "When I read of Jesus' suffering," says a 73-year-old sister named Rajamani, "my eyes fill with tears." You too may find it painful to think about how God's Son suffered so much. But the more you meditate on the sacrifice Jesus made, the deeper your love for him and for his Father will become. To help you meditate on the ransom, why not make this topic a special study project?

<sup>16</sup> *Teach others about the ransom.* Each time we tell others about the ransom, our appreciation for it will grow. We have some excellent tools to use in teaching others why Jesus had to die for us. For example, we can use lesson 4 of the brochure *Good News From God!* That lesson has the title "Who Is Jesus Christ?" Or we could refer to chapter 5 of the book *What Can the Bible Teach Us?* That chapter is entitled "The Ransom—God's Greatest Gift." And each year we deepen our gratitude for the ransom by attending the Memorial of Jesus' death and by zealously inviting others to join us. What a privilege Jehovah has given us to teach others about his Son!

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15. Why should we take time to read about the ransom and meditate on it?

16. How can teaching others about the ransom benefit us? (See cover picture.)

<sup>17</sup> Without a doubt, we have good reason to develop and maintain deep appreciation for the ransom. Because of the ransom, we can have a close friendship with Jehovah even though we are imperfect. Because of the ransom, the works of the Devil will be completely broken up. (1 John 3:8) Because of the ransom, Jehovah's original purpose for the earth will be fulfilled. The entire planet will become a paradise. Everyone you meet will love Jehovah and serve him. Let us, then, each day look for ways to show our appreciation for the ransom—God's greatest gift to mankind!

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17. Why is the ransom God's greatest gift to mankind?

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 35:** Each brother resists a temptation—to look at inappropriate images, to smoke tobacco, or to accept a bribe.

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#### HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What is the ransom?
- Why did Jesus have to suffer and die?
- How can we deepen our appreciation for the ransom?

**SONG 20**

You Gave Your Precious Son



# 20      *You Gave Your Precious Son* (1 John 4:9)

1. Jehovah, dear Father,  
    There seemed no hope for us.  
The ransom has given  
    Hope to ev'ryone!  
We give our lives to you,  
    Our best in all we do.  
And we'll tell others too,  
    That your will might be done.

*(CHORUS)*

*You gave your precious Son,  
And now we sing as one,  
A song we'll sing forever,  
for giving us your precious Son.*

2. Your kindness, your mercy,  
    They draw us close to you.  
Your great name, your friendship,  
    These we've come to love.  
But something more than this  
    Is your most precious gift.  
He died that we might live.  
    You sent him from above.

*(Chorus)*

*(ENDING)*

Jehovah, dear Father, we pray in gratitude.  
    We offer our thanks for giving us your precious Son.