

Monday, September 6

As for me, drawing near to God is good for me. I have made the Sovereign Lord Jehovah my refuge.—Psalm 73:28.

Although deeply distressed, Hannah, David, and a psalmist all relied on Jehovah for help. They shared their anxiety with him through fervent prayer. They spoke freely to him about the reasons why they were so stressed. And they continued to go to Jehovah's place of worship. (1 Samuel 1:9, 10; Psalm 55:22; 73:17; 122:1) Jehovah compassionately responded to each one of them. Hannah gained peace of mind. (1 Samuel 1:18) David wrote: "Many are the hardships of the righteous one, but Jehovah rescues him from them all." (Psalm 34:19) And the psalmist later felt that Jehovah had "taken hold of [his] right hand," guiding him with loving advice. (Psalm 73:23, 24) What do we learn from these examples? At times, we will be burdened with problems that cause us stress. But we can cope if we meditate on how Jehovah has helped others, rely on him in prayer, and obey him by doing what he asks us to do.—Psalm 143:1, 4-8. w19.06 17 paragraphs 14-15

Tuesday, September 7

Even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are happy.—1 Peter 3:14.

Never allow anything that mere humans say or do to make you feel ashamed of being one of Jehovah's Witnesses. (Micah 4:5) Consider the example set by the apostles in Jerusalem just after Jesus was put to death. They knew how much the Jewish religious leaders hated them. (Acts 5:17, 18, 27, 28) Yet, every day they continued to go to the temple and publicly identify themselves as disciples of Jesus. (Acts 5:42) They refused to cower in fear. We too can defeat our own fear of man by regularly and publicly identifying ourselves as Jehovah's Witnesses—at work, at school, and in our neighborhood. (Acts 4:29; Romans 1:16) Why were the apostles happy? They knew why they were hated, and they considered it an honor to be mistreated for doing Jehovah's will. (Luke 6:23; Acts 5:41; 1 Peter 2:19-21) When we understand that we are hated for doing what is right, we will never allow the hatred of men to paralyze us with fear. w19.07 7 paragraphs 19-20

Wednesday, September 8

It is lawful to do a fine thing on the Sabbath.—Matthew 12:12.

Jesus and his Jewish followers observed the Sabbath because they were under the Mosaic Law. But Jesus showed by word and deed that keeping the Sabbath was to be reasonable and that kind and helpful actions were allowable. (Matthew 12:9-11) He did not view performing kind and helpful actions as a violation of the Sabbath. Jesus' actions highlighted a key feature of the Sabbath. Because God's people rested from their daily labor, they were able to focus on spiritual things. Jesus grew up in a family that must have used the Sabbath for spiritual benefit. That is reflected in what we read about Jesus when he was in his hometown of Nazareth: "According to [Jesus'] custom on the Sabbath day, he entered the synagogue and stood up to read." (Luke 4:15-19) Also, his disciples had so much respect for the Sabbath law that they stopped preparations for Jesus' burial until the Sabbath day was over.—Luke 23:55, 56. w19.12 4 paragraph 10

Thursday, September 9

You had no hope.—Ephesians 2:12.

Every Christian minister is involved in helping to find honest hearted ones. We could liken this work to finding a lost child. In what way? Consider the real-life example of a three year old boy who wandered away from home. About 500 people were involved in searching for him. Finally, some 20 hours after the child went missing, a volunteer discovered the little boy in a cornfield. That volunteer refused to take credit for locating the boy. He said: “It took hundreds of people to find him.” Many people are like that child. They feel lost. They have no hope, but they want help. Over eight million of us are involved in trying to find these deserving ones. You may not personally find someone who will study the Bible with you. However, other publishers working the same territory may find someone who wants to learn the truth found in God’s Word. When a brother or sister meets someone who becomes a disciple of Christ, everyone who shared in the search has good reason to rejoice. w19.07 16-17 paragraphs 9-10

Friday, September 10

I am pressing on toward the goal.—Philippians 3:14.

The apostle Paul reminded the Christians in Philippi of the need to keep running with endurance. The congregation faced hostility from the start. It all began when, in response to the divine invitation to “step over into Macedonia,” Paul and Silas arrived in Philippi about 50 C.E. (Acts 16:9) There they found a woman named Lydia, who “was listening, and Jehovah opened her heart wide” to the good news. (Acts 16:14) She soon got baptized along with her household. However, the Devil was not idle. Men of the city dragged Paul and Silas before the civil magistrates and falsely accused them of causing a disturbance. As a result, Paul and Silas were beaten, imprisoned, and later urged to leave the city. (Acts 16:16-40) Did they give up? Never! And what about the brothers and sisters in the newly formed congregation? Commendably, they too endured! No doubt they were greatly encouraged by the good example that Paul and Silas set for them. w19.08 2 paragraphs 1-2

Saturday, September 11

Be filled with righteous fruit.—Philippians 1:11.

No doubt this “righteous fruit” included love for Jehovah and his people. That would also include speaking to others about our faith in Jesus and our wonderful hope. We bear “righteous fruit” when we actively share in the most important work of making disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20) No matter what our circumstances, we can shine as illuminators. In some cases, what seems to be an obstacle to declaring the good news may turn out to be an opportunity for us to preach. The apostle Paul, for example, was under house arrest in Rome when he wrote his letter to the Philippians. But his chains did not hold him back from preaching to his captors and to visitors. Paul preached zealously under these circumstances, and this gave the brothers confidence and courage “to speak the word of God fearlessly.”—Philippians 1:12-14; 4:22. *w19.08* 12 paragraphs 15-16

Sunday, September 12

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.—1 Peter 5:6.

The most important reason for us to cultivate humility is that it pleases Jehovah. The apostle Peter made this clear when he wrote the words of today's text. Commenting on Peter's words, the book *"Come Be My Follower"* says in chapter 3, paragraph 23: "Haughtiness is like poison. The effects can be devastating. It is a quality that can render the most gifted human useless to God. Humility, on the other hand, can make even the least one very useful to Jehovah.... [He] will ... delight in rewarding you for your humility." Really, could we hope for anything better than to bring joy to Jehovah's heart? (Proverbs 23:15) Besides pleasing Jehovah, we receive many benefits when we cultivate humility. Humility draws other people to us. To understand why, put yourself in the shoes of others.—Matthew 7:12.

w19.09 4 paragraphs 8-9



TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Seek Refuge in Jehovah’s ‘Everlasting Arms’”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 34:6—For what possible reason did Jehovah not reveal Moses’ burial place? (*it-2* 439 ¶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 33:1-17 (10)



APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call Video: (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Initial Call: The Bible—2Ti 3:16, 17*

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 76

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Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 13 ¶7-14, box 13A



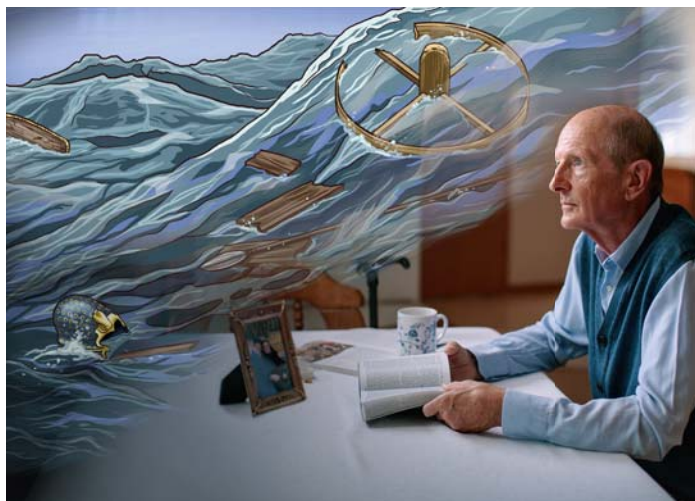
Seek Refuge in Jehovah’s “Everlasting Arms”

Jehovah wants us to remain morally upright (De 33:26; *it-2* 51)

Jehovah willingly uses his strength in our behalf (De 33:27; *rr* 120, box)

We should trust in Jehovah’s salvation as Moses did (De 33:29; *w11* 9/15 19 ¶16)

Jehovah’s everlasting arms support us during various trials. This includes when we are sick or depressed, face grief, or make mistakes but repent.



150 *Seek God for Your Deliverance*

(Zephaniah 2:3)

1. Nations align as one,
 Opposing Jehovah's Son.
Their time of human rulership
 By God's decree now is done.
Rulers have had their day;
 God's Kingdom is here to stay.
Soon Christ will crush earthly enemies.
 No more will there be delay.

(CHORUS)

*Seek God for your deliverance,
 Yes, look to him with confidence.
Seek his righteousness,
 Show your faithfulness,
For his sov'reignty, take your stand.
 Then see our God deliver you
By his mighty hand.*

2. People on earth now choose,
 Responding to this good news.
We offer to all men the choice
 To hear or proudly refuse.
Trials, although severe,
 Need not fill our hearts with fear.
Jehovah cares for his loyal ones;
 Our cries for help he will hear.

(Chorus)

(See also 1 Sam. 2:9; Ps. 2:2, 3, 9; Prov. 2:8; Matt. 6:33.)

DEUTERONOMY 33-34

33 Now this is the blessing that Moses the man of the true God pronounced on the Israelites before his death. ² He said:

“Jehovah—from Si'nai he came,
And he shone upon them from Se'ir.
He shone forth in glory from the mountainous region
of Pa'ran,
And with him were holy myriads,
At his right hand his warriors.

³ He had affection for his people;
All their holy ones are in your hand.
They were sitting at your feet;
They began to listen to your words.

⁴ (Moses gave us a command, a law,
As a possession of the congregation of Jacob.)

⁵ And He became king in Jesh'u·run,
When the heads of the people gathered together,
Along with all the tribes of Israel.

⁶ Let Reu'ben live and not die off,
And may his men not become few.”

⁷ And he pronounced this blessing on Judah:
“Hear, O Jehovah, the voice of Judah,
And may you bring him back to his people.
His arms have defended what belongs to him,
And may you help him against his adversaries.”

- ⁸ Of Le'vi he said:
“Your Thum'mim and your U'rim belong to the man
loyal to you,
Whom you put to the test at Mas'sah.
You began to contend with him by the waters of
Mer'i-bah,
- ⁹ The man who said to his father and his mother, ‘I have
not shown regard to them.’
Even his brothers he did not acknowledge,
And he ignored his own sons.
For they kept your word,
And they observed your covenant.
- ¹⁰ Let them instruct Jacob in your judicial decisions
And Israel in your Law.
Let them offer up incense as a pleasant aroma for you
And a whole offering on your altar.
- ¹¹ Bless, O Jehovah, his strength,
And may you show pleasure in the work of his hands.
Crush the legs of those who rise up against him,
So that those who hate him may rise up no more.”
- ¹² Of Benjamin he said:
“Let the beloved one of Jehovah reside in security by
him;
While he shelters him the whole day,
He will reside between his shoulders.”
- ¹³ Of Joseph he said:
“May his land be blessed by Jehovah

- With the choice things of heaven,
With dew and the waters from the springs below,
- ¹⁴ With choice things produced by the sun
And the choice yield each month,
- ¹⁵ With the choicest things from the ancient mountains
And choice things of the enduring hills,
- ¹⁶ With the choice things of the earth and what fills it,
And with the approval of the One residing in the
thornbush.
May they come upon the head of Joseph,
On the crown of the head of the one singled out from
his brothers.
- ¹⁷ His splendor is like that of a firstborn bull,
And his horns are the horns of a wild bull.
With them he will push peoples
All together to the ends of the earth.
They are the tens of thousands of E'phra·im,
And they are the thousands of Ma·nas'seh.”
- ¹⁸ Of Zeb'u·lun he said:
“Rejoice, O Zeb'u·lun, in your going out,
And you, Is'sa·char, in your tents.
- ¹⁹ They will call peoples to the mountain.
There they will offer the sacrifices of righteousness.
For they will draw from the abundant wealth of the
seas
And the hidden hoards of the sand.”
- ²⁰ Of Gad he said:

“Blessed is the one widening the borders of Gad.
He lies there like a lion,
Ready to tear off the arm, yes, the crown of the head.

²¹ He will select the first portion for himself,
For there the allotment of a lawgiver is reserved.
The heads of the people will gather together.
The righteousness of Jehovah he will execute,
And his judicial decisions with Israel.”

²² Of Dan he said:
“Dan is a lion cub.
He will leap out from Ba'shan.”

²³ Of Naph'ta-li he said:
“Naph'ta-li is satisfied with the approval
And full of the blessing of Jehovah.
Take possession of the west and south.”

²⁴ Of Ash'er he said:
“Blessed with sons is Ash'er.
May he be favored by his brothers,
And may he dip his feet in oil.

²⁵ Iron and copper are your gate locks,
And you will be secure all your days.

²⁶ There is none like the true God of Jesh'u-run,
Who rides through heaven to help you
And who rides upon the clouds in his majesty.

²⁷ God is a refuge from ancient times,
His everlasting arms are beneath you.
And he will drive away the enemy from before you,

And he will say, 'Annihilate them!'

²⁸ Israel will reside in security,
And the fountain of Jacob will be secluded
In a land of grain and new wine,
Whose skies will drip with dew.

²⁹ Happy you are, O Israel!
Who is there like you,
A people enjoying salvation in Jehovah,
Your protective shield
And your majestic sword?
Your enemies will cringe before you,
And you will tread on their backs."

34 Then Moses went up from the desert plains of Mo'ab to Mount Ne'bo, to the top of Pis'gah, which faces Jer'i-cho. And Jehovah showed him all the land, from Gil'e-ad to Dan, ² and all Naph'ta-li and the land of E'phra-im and Ma-nas'seh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, ³ and the Neg'eb and the District, the valley plain of Jer'i-cho, the city of the palm trees, as far as Zo'ar.

⁴ Jehovah then said to him: "This is the land about which I have sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your offspring I will give it.' I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you will not cross over there."

⁵ After that Moses the servant of Jehovah died there in the land of Mo'ab just as Jehovah had said. ⁶ He buried him in the valley in the land of Mo'ab, opposite Beth-pe'or, and nobody knows where his grave is down to this day. ⁷ Moses

was 120 years old at his death. His eyes had not grown dim, and his strength had not departed. ⁸ The people of Israel wept for Moses on the desert plains of Mo'ab for 30 days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were completed.

⁹ Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hand on him; and the Israelites began to listen to him, and they did just as Jehovah had commanded Moses. ¹⁰ But there has never again arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom Jehovah knew face-to-face. ¹¹ He performed all the signs and the miracles that Jehovah had sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Phar'aoh and all his servants and all his land, ¹² along with the mighty hand and the awesome power that Moses displayed before the eyes of all Israel.

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Seek Refuge in Jehovah’s ‘Everlasting Arms’”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 34:6—For what possible reason did Jehovah not reveal Moses’ burial place? (*it-2* 439 ¶3)

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 76

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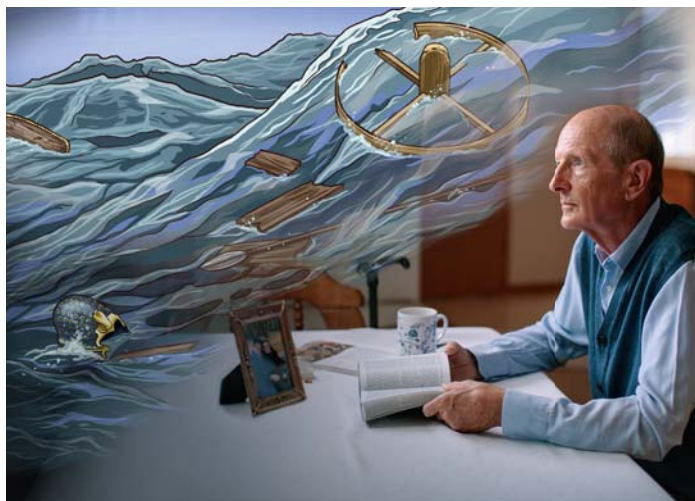
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We should trust in Jehovah’s salvation as Moses did (De 33:29; *w11* 9/15 19 ¶16)

Jehovah’s everlasting arms support us during various trials. This includes when we are sick or depressed, face grief, or make mistakes but repent.



September 6-12 / Deuteronomy 33-34

Song 150 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Seek Refuge in Jehovah's 'Everlasting Arms'": (10 minutes)

Jehovah wants us to remain morally upright

Deuteronomy 33:26: There is none like the true God of Jeshurun, Who rides through heaven to help you And who rides upon the clouds in his majesty.

***it-2* 51**

Jeshurun

An honorary title for Israel. In the Greek *Septuagint* "Jeshurun" becomes a term of affection, it being rendered "beloved." The designation "Jeshurun" should have reminded Israel of its calling as Jehovah's covenant people and therefore of its obligation to remain upright. (Deuteronomy 33:5, 26; Isaiah 44:2) At Deuteronomy 32:15 the name

Jeshurun is used ironically. Instead of living up to its name Jeshurun, Israel became intractable, forsook its Maker, and despised its Savior.

Jehovah willingly uses his strength in our behalf

Deuteronomy 33:27: God is a refuge from ancient times, His everlasting arms are beneath you. And he will drive away the enemy from before you, And he will say, 'Annihilate them!'

***rr* 120, box**

[Box.] Help to Get Back on Our Feet

We may be reminded that many centuries before Ezekiel's day, the prophet Moses stated that Jehovah has not only the power but also the desire to use his strength in behalf of his people. Moses wrote: "God is a refuge from ancient times, his everlasting arms are beneath you." (Deuteronomy 33:27) Yes, we can be sure that if we turn to our God in times of distress, Jehovah will put his caring arms beneath us, gently lift us up, and help us to get back on our feet.—Ezekiel 37:10.

We should trust in Jehovah's salvation as Moses did

Deuteronomy 33:29: Happy you are, O Israel! Who is there like you, A people enjoying salvation in Jehovah, Your protective shield And your majestic sword? Your enemies will cringe before you, And you will tread on their backs."

w11 9/15 19 paragraph 16

Like Abraham, Moses did not experience the fulfillment of God's promise in his lifetime. With the Israelites poised to enter the Promised Land, Moses was told: "From a distance you will see the land, but you will not go there into the land that I am giving to the sons of Israel." This was because earlier he and Aaron, exasperated by the people's rebelliousness, "acted undutifully toward [God] in the middle of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah." (Deuteronomy 32:51, 52) Did Moses become despondent or resentful? No. He pronounced a blessing on the people and concluded with these words: "Happy you are, O Israel! Who is there like you, a people enjoying salvation in Jehovah, the shield of your help, and the One who is your eminent sword?"—
Deuteronomy 33:29.

Jehovah's everlasting arms support us during various trials. This includes when we are sick or depressed, face grief, or make mistakes but repent.

[Image:] An older brother reading the Bible and imagining the destruction of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea.

Spiritual Gems

Deuteronomy 34:6—For what possible reason did Jehovah not reveal Moses' burial place?

Deuteronomy 34:6: He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, and nobody knows where his grave is down to this day.

***it-2* 439 paragraph 3**

Moses was 120 years of age at the time of his death. Testifying to his natural strength, the Bible comments: "His eye had not grown dim, and his vital strength had not fled." He was buried by Jehovah in a location never since discovered. (Deuteronomy 34:5-7) Likely, this was to prevent the Israelites from being ensnared into false worship by making a shrine of his grave. Evidently the Devil desired to

use Moses' body for some such purpose, for Jude, the Christian disciple and half brother of Jesus Christ, writes: "When Michael the archangel had a difference with the Devil and was disputing about Moses' body, he did not dare to bring a judgment against him in abusive terms, but said: 'May Jehovah rebuke you.'" (Jude 9) Before crossing over into Canaan under the leadership of Joshua, Israel observed a 30-day mourning period for Moses.—Deuteronomy 34:8.

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 33:1-17 (*th* study 10)

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Song 76

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HOW TO OFFER THE *ENJOY LIFE FOREVER!* BROCHURE ON THE INITIAL CALL

Similar to our tracts, the back cover of the brochure includes an intriguing question. Try the following:

- ▶ Ask the multiple-choice question
- ▶ Read the Bible’s answer at Psalm 37:29
- ▶ Discuss the points under “What That Can Mean for You.” If time allows, read the scriptures and highlight the artwork
- ▶ Offer to answer the question posed near the bottom of the page, and begin discussing the first lesson

FOCUS AND GOALS FOR EACH SECTION

LESSONS	FOCUS	STUDENT GOALS
1 01-12	Consider how the Bible can help you and how you can come to know its Author	Encourage the student to read the Bible, prepare for the study, and start attending meetings
2 13-33	See what God has done for us and the kind of worship that pleases him	Motivate the student to share the truth with others and to become a publisher
3 34-47	Consider what God expects from his worshippers	Motivate the student to dedicate his life to Jehovah and get baptized
4 48-60	Learn how to remain in God’s love	Teach the student how to distinguish right from wrong and to make spiritual progress



SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

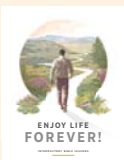
Initial Call

Question: Where can we find practical advice for daily living?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:16, 17

Link: Why can you trust the Bible?

▶ FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *Iffi* 3

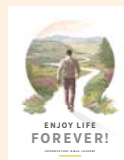
Return Visit

Question: Why can you trust the Bible?

Scripture: Job 26:7

Link: What are some questions that the Bible answers?

▶ FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *Iffi* 12



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76 *How Does It Make You Feel?*

(Hebrews 13:15)

1. How does it make you feel
 when you preach and teach with zeal,
When you know you've done your part
 to reach an honest heart?
Knowing you've done your best;
 then our God will do the rest.
Honest hearts he surely knows—
 all those to him disposed.

(CHORUS)

*It makes us glad, and we rejoice
 to give our heart and mind and voice.
So may our sacrifice of praise
 continue all our days.*

2. How does it make you feel
 when the words you speak appeal
To the ones whose heart is right
 for everlasting life?
Some people turn away,
 others might be led astray.
Still we're glad to bear his name
 and witness just the same.

(Chorus)

3. How does it make you feel,
knowing God's support is real,
And that he's entrusted you
to do the work we do?
Proudly we preach and teach,
using bold but gracious speech,
Searching out deserving ones;
this work will soon be done.

(CHORUS)

*It makes us glad, and we rejoice
to give our heart and mind and voice.
So may our sacrifice of praise
continue all our days.*

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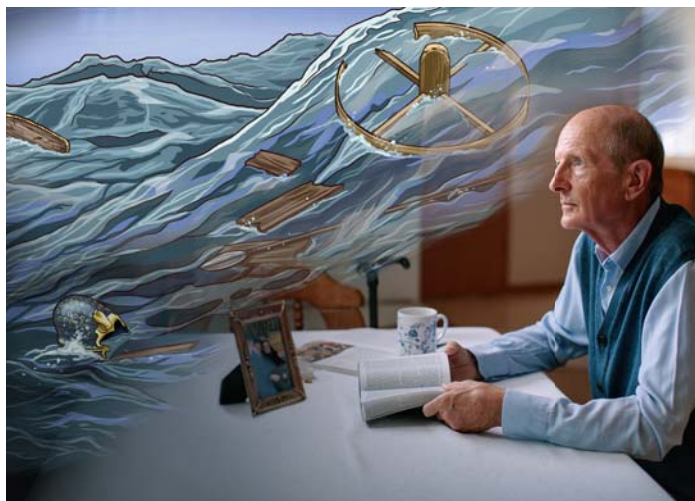
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Jehovah wants us to remain morally upright (De 33:26; *it-2* 51)

Jehovah willingly uses his strength in our behalf (De 33:27; *rr* 120, box)

We should trust in Jehovah’s salvation as Moses did (De 33:29; *w11* 9/15 19 ¶16)

Jehovah’s everlasting arms support us during various trials. This includes when we are sick or depressed, face grief, or make mistakes but repent.



Living as Christians

“Use *Enjoy Life Forever!* in Your Ministry”: (15 minutes)

Discussion. Play the video *Welcome to Your Bible Study*. As time allows, highlight features of the new book. Encourage all to study each lesson in the new book personally or as a Family Worship project.

Use *Enjoy Life Forever!* in Your Ministry

How excited we are to have a new brochure and book for conducting Bible studies! We pray for Jehovah to bless our efforts to make many more disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 3:6-9) How do we use the new tools?

Since *Enjoy Life Forever!*, the interactive Bible course, presents a new way to teach, follow these general guidelines as you prepare for and conduct Bible studies. *

- Read the material, and discuss the questions
- Read the “read” scriptures, and help the student to understand their application
- Play and discuss the videos, using any questions that are provided

- Try to cover each lesson in one session

* Note: Although the “Explore” section is optional during the study, take time to read or watch each item as you prepare. Then, you will know what may especially appeal to and help your student. The electronic version includes links to the videos and supplementary material.

In the ministry, offer the brochure first to determine a person’s interest. (See the box “How to Offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* Brochure on the Initial Call.”) If you finish studying the brochure together and the student wants to continue, then offer the book and start with lesson 04. If you are already studying with someone in the *Teach Us* book or the *Remain in God’s Love* book, transfer to the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book and determine where in it to begin.

[Image:] A couple using the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure to talk with a man at a bus stop.

[Image:] The same couple using the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book to conduct a Bible study with the man at his home.

[Box.] How to Offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* Brochure on the Initial Call

Similar to our tracts, the back cover of the brochure includes an intriguing question. Try the following:

- Ask the multiple-choice question
- Read the Bible's answer at Psalm 37:29
- Discuss the points under "What That Can Mean for You." If time allows, read the scriptures and highlight the artwork
- Offer to answer the question posed near the bottom of the page, and begin discussing the first lesson [End of box.]

Watch the video *Welcome to Your Bible Study*, and then answer the following questions:

- What will students learn from the new book?
- Why should you show this video to new students?
- What goals should you progressively encourage the student to set and reach?—See the chart "Focus and Goals for Each Section"

[Box.] Focus and Goals for Each Section

Section 1

Lessons: 01-12

Focus: Consider how the Bible can help you and how you can come to know its Author

Student Goals: Encourage the student to read the Bible, prepare for the study, and start attending meetings

Section 2

Lessons: 13-33

Focus: See what God has done for us and the kind of worship that pleases him

Student Goals: Motivate the student to share the truth with others and to become a publisher

Section 3

Lessons: 34-47

Focus: Consider what God expects from his worshippers

Student Goals: Motivate the student to dedicate his life to

Jehovah and get baptized

Section 4

Lessons: 48-60

Focus: Learn how to remain in God's love

Student Goals: Teach the student how to distinguish right from wrong and to make spiritual progress [End of box.]

these things in detail.” (Heb. 9:4, 5) Paul was willing to yield to the leading of the holy spirit and to wait humbly on Jehovah.—Heb. 9:8.

⁶ A similar point might be made in principle in connection with Ezekiel’s temple vision. It too is rich in details. And it seems best to wait on Jehovah to clarify matters if further clarification is needed. (**Read Micah 7:7.**) Should we conclude, though, that Jehovah’s spirit has shed no further light on this vision? Far from it!

Did Ezekiel See the Great Spiritual Temple?

⁷ As mentioned earlier, for many years our publications have explained that Ezekiel saw Jehovah’s great spiritual temple, the one that Paul was inspired to write about in his letter to the Hebrews. However, further study leads us to conclude that Ezekiel could not have seen the great spiritual temple. Why not?

⁸ First, *the temple that Ezekiel saw does not fit Paul’s inspired explanation.* Consider this: The apostle Paul made it clear that the tabernacle of Moses’ day was a shadow and a pattern of something greater. The 7, 8. (a) **What understanding has now been adjusted?** (b) **How did the visionary temple differ from the spiritual temple that Paul described?**

tabernacle, like the temples of Solomon and Zerubbabel, which were designed in the same basic pattern, included a “Most Holy” compartment. Paul called that compartment “a holy place made with hands,” explaining that it was “a copy of the reality,” not the reality itself. What was the reality? Paul explained: “Heaven itself.” (Heb. 9:3, 24) Is that what Ezekiel saw—heaven? No. Ezekiel’s vision contains no suggestion that he was beholding heavenly things.—Compare Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14.

⁹ An even more convincing difference between Ezekiel’s vision and Paul’s description involves sacrifices. Ezekiel heard extensive directions being given to the people, to the chieftains, and to the priesthood about the offering of sacrifices. They were to offer sacrifices for their own sins. They were also to offer communion sacrifices, which they could likely share in eating in the temple’s dining rooms. (Ezek. 43:18, 19; 44:11, 15, 27; 45:15-20, 22-25) Are such repeated sacrifices offered up in the great spiritual temple?

¹⁰ The answer is clear and simple. Paul explained:
9, 10. When it comes to sacrifices, how did Ezekiel’s visionary temple differ from the great spiritual temple that Paul described?

“When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have already taken place, he passed through the greater and more perfect tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. He entered into the holy place, not with the blood of goats and of young bulls, but with his own blood, *once for all time*, and obtained an everlasting deliverance for us.” (Heb. 9:11, 12) So in the great spiritual temple, only one sacrifice is offered—ever. It is the ransom sacrifice, and it is offered by the Greater High Priest himself, Jesus Christ. Clearly, Ezekiel’s visionary temple with its many sacrifices of goats and of bulls was not the great spiritual temple.

¹¹ That leads us to a second reason why Ezekiel could not have seen the great spiritual temple: *It was not God’s time to reveal such truths*. Remember, Ezekiel’s vision was addressed first to the Jewish exiles in Babylon. They were under the Mosaic Law. Once the exile ended, they were to return to Jerusalem and apply that Law regarding pure worship by rebuilding the temple with its altar. Then they would continue

11. In Ezekiel’s day, why was it not God’s time to reveal truths about the great spiritual temple?

DIFFERENT TEMPLES, DIFFERENT LESSONS

SEE PARAGRAPHS 7-14

Ezekiel’s Visionary Temple:

- Is described by Ezekiel for the Jews exiled in Babylon
- Has an altar on which many sacrifices are offered
- Highlights Jehovah’s righteous standards for worship
- Focuses our attention on the spiritual restoration that began in 1919

The Great Spiritual Temple:

- Is explained by Paul, addressing the Hebrew Christians
- Has an altar on which only one sacrifice is offered, “once for all time” (Heb. 10:10)
- Explains the spiritual reality to which the tabernacle and the physical temples had long pointed—Jehovah’s arrangement for pure worship based on the ransom sacrifice of Christ
- Focuses our attention on the work that Christ did as the Greater High Priest from 29 to 33 C.E.

to offer sacrifices there, as it turned out, for nearly six centuries. Imagine how the Jews would have been affected if Ezekiel’s vision *had* showed them the spiritual temple—a temple in which the high priest offered up his own life as a sacrifice, after which all

other sacrifices were abolished! How could they have grasped such a vision? Might their resolve to obey the Mosaic Law have been undermined? As always, Jehovah reveals truths only at the right time and when his people are ready.

¹² What, then, is the relationship between Ezekiel's temple vision and Paul's explanation of the spiritual temple? Keep in mind that Paul did not base his discussion on Ezekiel's temple vision; rather, he based it on the tabernacle of Moses' day. Granted, Paul did mention several features that also existed in the temples of Solomon and Zerubbabel and that likewise appeared in Ezekiel's temple vision. In general, though, Ezekiel and Paul covered different ground in their writings.*^[2] Rather than echo one another, their writings complement one another. In what way?

¹³ We might think of the relationship between the two Bible passages in this way: From Paul, we learn

*[2] For example, Paul focused on the high priest and his role on the annual Atonement Day. (Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-16; 5:1-10; 7:1-17, 26-28; 8:1-6; 9:6-28) But in Ezekiel's vision, no mention is made either of the high priest or of Atonement Day.

12-14. What is the relationship between the temple that Ezekiel saw and Paul's explanation of the spiritual temple? (See the box "Different Temples, Different Lessons.")

about Jehovah's *arrangement* for worship, but from Ezekiel, we learn about Jehovah's *standards* for worship. To teach us about Jehovah's *arrangement* for pure worship, Paul reveals the meanings of such features of the spiritual temple as the high priest, the sacrifices, the altar, and the Most Holy. But to emphasize Jehovah's high *standards* for pure worship, Ezekiel's temple vision gives us a detailed picture that impresses on our mind and heart many lessons about Jehovah's standards.

¹⁴ Where, then, does our adjusted understanding leave us? It certainly does not mean that Ezekiel's vision conveys less meaning for us today. In order to see how the vision benefits us, let us take a closer look at how it must have benefited the faithful Jews back in Ezekiel's day and thereafter.

What Did the Vision Mean to the Jewish Exiles?

¹⁵ In order to find the Bible's answer to that question, let us consider a series of related questions that will help us to see a full and complete picture. **First, what was the overall prophetic message of the vision?** Sim-

15. (a) What was the overall prophetic message of Ezekiel's vision? (b) What contrast do we find between Ezekiel chapter 8 and Ezekiel chapters 40 to 48?

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)

JULY 2021

THE  **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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COVER PICTURE:

Jesus' disciples were drawn to him because he never assumed a superior attitude. He enjoyed association with his friends (See study article 29, paragraph 12)

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1. Our Sov'reign Lord Jehovah
Is zealous for his holy name.
He fervently desires
To clear it from unrighteous blame.
Through many generations,
Great endurance he has shown;
In loving, kindly patience,
Not weary has he grown.
His will is that salvation
All sorts of people might attain.
Long-lasting, loving patience
By God will not have been in vain.

2. The quality of patience
Will help us on our godly path.
It lets our heart be tranquil,
Protects us from unrighteous wrath.
It finds the good in others,
Always hoping for the best.
It helps us keep our balance
In times when we're distressed.
Along with other virtues
That holy spirit can bestow,
Our patience will assist us
To imitate the God we know.

Imitate Jehovah's Endurance

“By your endurance you will preserve your lives.”—LUKE 21:19.

SONG 114

“Exercise Patience”

PREVIEW

All of us have problems of one kind or another. There is presently no solution for many of them; we simply have to endure. But we are not alone. Jehovah himself is enduring many things. In this article, we will examine nine of them. We will also see what Jehovah's endurance has accomplished and how we can benefit from his example.

“DON’T GIVE UP!” was the rousing theme of the 2017 regional convention program. The program showed us how we can bear up under the trials that befall us. Four years have passed since then, and here we are, still enduring life in this present system of things.

² What have you had to deal with recently? The loss of a family member or a dear friend? A life-threatening illness? The trials of getting older? A natural disaster, violence, or persecution? Or the effects of a disease, such as the COVID-19 pandemic? How we yearn for the day when all of that will be behind us—long forgotten and never to be repeated!—Read Isaiah 65:16, 17.

³ Life in this system is hard, and we may be confronted with even more difficult challenges in the future. (Matt. 24:21) Clearly, we need to continue to strengthen our endurance. Why? Because Jesus said: “By your endurance you will preserve your lives.” (Luke 21:19) Thinking about how others are successfully enduring trials similar to ours can strengthen our endurance.

1-2. How do Jehovah’s words recorded at Isaiah 65:16, 17 encourage us not to give up?

3. What must we do now, and why?

⁴ Who is the best example of endurance? Jehovah God. Does that answer surprise you? It might until you think about it. This world is under the control of the Devil, and it is riddled with problems. Jehovah has the power to end it in an instant, but he is waiting for a future day to do that. (Rom. 9:22) In the meantime, our God keeps on enduring until that appointed time arrives. Let us consider nine things that Jehovah has chosen to endure.

WHAT HAS JEHOVAH CHOSEN TO ENDURE?

⁵ *The reproach brought on his name.* Jehovah loves his name, and he wants everyone to respect it. (Isa. 42:8) But for some six millenniums, his good name has been reproached. (Ps. 74:10, 18, 23) This started in the garden of Eden when the Devil (meaning “Slanderer”) accused God of depriving Adam and Eve of something they needed in order to be happy. (Gen. 3:1-5) Ever since then, Jehovah has been falsely accused of depriving humans of what they truly need. Jesus was concerned about the reproach that was being heaped on his Father’s name. For that reason, he taught his disciples to

-
4. Why can we say that Jehovah is the best example of endurance?
 5. How has God’s name been reproached, and how do you feel about that?

pray: “Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified.”—Matt. 6:9.

⁶ *The opposition to his sovereignty.* Jehovah has the absolute right to rule the heavens and the earth, and his way of ruling is the very best. (Rev. 4:11) But the Devil has tried to mislead angels and humans into thinking that God does not have that right. The issue of the rightfulness of Jehovah’s sovereignty could not be settled overnight. Wisely, God has allowed ample time for people to see that when humans try to rule themselves independently of the Creator, they are doomed to fail. (Jer. 10:23) As a result of God’s patience, the issue will be settled once and for all. He will be vindicated as he proves that his Kingdom alone can establish real peace and security on earth.

⁷ *The rebellion of some of his children.* Jehovah created his spirit and human children perfect, without any flaws. But then the rebel angelic son Satan (meaning “Resister”) turned the perfect humans, Adam and Eve, against Jehovah. Other angels and humans joined in the rebellion. (Jude 6) Later,

6. Why has Jehovah allowed ample time to pass before settling the issue of his sovereignty?

7. Who have rebelled against Jehovah, and what will he do about them?

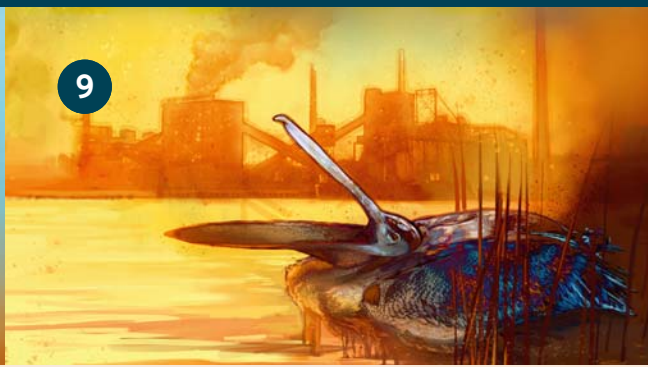
even members of the nation of Israel, God's chosen people, rejected him and turned to the worship of false gods. (Isa. 63:8, 10) Jehovah rightly felt betrayed. Still, he has endured, and he will keep on enduring until the time comes to put an end to all rebels. That will bring blessed relief to his loyal ones, who along with him are enduring evil in this system of things!

⁸ *The constant lies of the Devil.* Satan accused Jehovah's upright servant Job, saying in effect that all of Jehovah's faithful worshippers serve God for selfish reasons. (Job 1:8-11; 2:3-5) The Devil has kept up his accusations to this day. (Rev. 12:10) We can do our part to prove that there is no truth to Satan's lies by enduring our trials and remaining loyal to Jehovah out of love for Him. As with Job, we will be blessed for our endurance.—Jas. 5:11.

⁹ Satan uses leaders of false religion to say that Jehovah is cruel and is responsible for man's suffering. Some even say that when children die, it was God who took them because he needed more angels in heaven. How blasphemous! We know better. When we are stricken with a serious illness or when

8-9. What lies are being told about Jehovah, and how do we respond to them?





What Jehovah Is Enduring

1. Reproach brought on his name
2. Opposition to his sovereignty
3. Rebellion of some of his children
4. Constant lies of the Devil
5. Suffering of his cherished servants
6. Separation from his friends who have died
7. Oppression of humans by the wicked
8. Degradation of the human family
9. Ruining of his creation

someone we love dies, we never blame our God. On the contrary, we have faith that one day he will make things right. We can tell everyone who will listen what a loving God Jehovah is. That gives him a good reply to make to the one taunting him.—Prov. 27:11.

¹⁰ *The suffering of his cherished servants.* Jehovah is a compassionate God. He hates to hear us cry out because of the suffering that we are enduring—be it persecution, illness, or our imperfections. (Read Psalm 22:23, 24.) Jehovah feels our pain; he wants to stop it, and he will stop it. (Compare Exodus 3:7, 8; Isaiah 63:9.) The day will come when “he will wipe out every tear from [our] eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore.”—Rev. 21:4.

¹¹ *Separation from his friends who have died.* How does Jehovah feel about faithful men and women who have died? He longs to see them again! (Job 14:15) Can you imagine how much Jehovah misses his friend Abraham? (Jas. 2:23) Or Moses, with whom he spoke “face-to-face”? (Ex. 33:11) And how he must yearn to hear David and the other

10. What does Psalm 22:23, 24 reveal about Jehovah?

11. What does Jehovah miss about his loyal servants who have died?

psalmists sing their beautiful songs of praise! (Ps. 104:33) Although these friends of God are sleeping in death, Jehovah has not forgotten them. (Isa. 49: 15) He remembers every detail of their personality. In a sense, “they are all living from his standpoint.” (Luke 20:38, ftn.) One day, he will bring them back to life, and he will once again hear their earnest prayers and accept their worship. If you have lost a loved one in death, may these thoughts console and comfort you.

¹² *The oppression of humans by the wicked.* When the rebellion began in Eden, Jehovah knew that conditions would get worse before they got better. Jehovah hates the wickedness, injustice, and violence in the world today. He has always been especially empathetic toward the most vulnerable—the weak and defenseless, the orphan as well as the widow. (Zech. 7:9, 10) Jehovah is particularly distressed when he sees his faithful servants being oppressed and imprisoned. Be assured that he loves all of you who are enduring along with him.

¹³ *The degradation of the human family.* Satan

12. What especially distresses Jehovah during these wicked last days?

13. How is the human family being degraded before God’s eyes, and what will he do about it?

loves to degrade humans, who were created in God's image. When God "saw that man's wickedness was great" in Noah's day, "Jehovah regretted that he had made men on the earth, and he felt hurt at his heart." (Gen. 6:5, 6, ftn., 11) Have conditions improved since then? Certainly not! How pleased the Devil must be when he sees the prevalence of sexual immorality in all its forms, including immoral acts between people of the opposite sex and people of the same sex! (Eph. 4:18, 19) Satan is especially happy when he can cause those who practice true worship to fall into sin. When Jehovah's patience comes to an end, he will demonstrate his strong disapproval of all immoral conduct.

¹⁴ *The ruining of his creation.* Not only is man 'dominating man to his harm' but he is mismanaging the earth and the animal creation that Jehovah entrusted to man's care. (Eccl. 8:9; Gen. 1:28) Some experts warn that human actions could push one million more species* to extinction in the next few years. No wonder they say nature is in trouble! Thankfully, Jehovah has promised "to bring to ruin

* "Species" should not be confused with the Bible term "kinds," which refers to a broad group of living things.

14. What is man doing to God's earthly creation?

those ruining the earth” and to turn the planet into a global paradise.—Rev. 11:18; Isa. 35:1.

WHAT WE LEARN FROM JEHOVAH’S ENDURANCE

¹⁵ Think of all the distressing problems that our heavenly Father has been enduring for thousands of years. (See the box “What Jehovah Is Enduring.”) Jehovah could put an end to this wicked system of things at any time. But his patience has proved to be a blessing for us! We might think of it this way. Suppose a man and his wife are told that their unborn baby has serious physical problems and that the child will never have an easy life and will die prematurely. Even so, at great cost to themselves, the parents welcome the child’s birth. Their love for the child moves them to endure any hardship in order to provide him with the best possible quality of life.

¹⁶ Similarly, all descendants of Adam and Eve are imperfect when they come into the world. Still, Jehovah loves them and cares for them. (1 John 4:19) And unlike the human parents in our illustration, Jehovah can do something about it. He has set the

15-16. What should move us to endure along with Jehovah? Illustrate.

date when he will undo all the maladies that plague his human creation. (Matt. 24:36) Should not his love motivate us to endure along with him for as long as it is necessary?

¹⁷ Jehovah set the perfect example of endurance. Jesus succeeded in imitating his Father's endurance. As a human, Jesus endured hostile speech, shame, and a torture stake for our sake. (Read Hebrews 12:2, 3.) Jehovah's example of endurance undoubtedly gave Jesus the strength to endure. It can strengthen us too.

¹⁸ Read 2 Peter 3:9. Jehovah knows the best time to end this wicked world. His patience has allowed for the gathering of a great crowd, numbering into the millions, who worship and praise him. All of them are glad that Jehovah has endured long enough for them to be born, to learn to love him, and to dedicate themselves to him. Jehovah's decision to endure will be fully justified when he joyfully rewards the millions of us who have endured to the end!

17. How does the description of Jesus recorded at Hebrews 12:2, 3 encourage us to keep on enduring?

18. How does 2 Peter 3:9 help us to understand what Jehovah's patience is accomplishing?

¹⁹ We learn from Jehovah how to endure with joy. Despite all the heartache and suffering Satan has caused, Jehovah remains “the happy God.” (1 Tim. 1:11) We can likewise remain joyful while we patiently wait for Jehovah to sanctify his name, vindicate his sovereignty, end all wickedness, and bring an end to our present problems. Let us be determined to endure and to take comfort in knowing that our heavenly Father is enduring too. If we do, these words will come true for each one of us: “Happy is the man who keeps on enduring trial, because on becoming approved he will receive the crown of life, which Jehovah promised to those who continue loving Him.”—Jas. 1:12.

19. What should we be determined to do, and what will be our reward?

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

- What example of Jehovah’s endurance especially impresses you?
- How did Jesus benefit from his Father’s example of endurance?
- Why are you determined to endure?

139 *See Yourself When All Is New* (Revelation 21:1-5)

1. Just see yourself, just see me too;
 Just see us all in a world that is new.
Think how you'll feel, how it will be,
 To live in peace, to be truly free.
No evil one will then prevail;
 Rule by our God cannot ever fail.
The time will have come for a new earthly start,
 The song of our praises
 will pour out from our heart:

(CHORUS)

*"We thank you, our God, for all you have done.
All things are new by the rule of your Son.
The fullness of our heart overflows in our song;
All glory and honor and praise to you belong."*

2. Now see yourself, and see me too;
 And look ahead to a world that is new.
No sight we see, no sound we hear
 Will cause alarm or give rise to fear.
All has come true, just as he said;
 Now over mankind, his tent is spread.
He now will awaken those sleeping in death;
 Their voices will join ours with
 ev'ry grateful breath:

(Chorus)

(See also Ps. 37:10, 11; Isa. 65:17; John 5:28; 2 Pet. 3:13.)