

Saturday, September 4

*The wisdom of this world
is foolishness with God.*

—1 Cor. 3:19.

The Bible instructs the husband and wife to honor each other and their marriage vows. It encourages marriage mates to have a deep sense of commitment to each other, stating: "A man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to his wife, and they will become one flesh." (Gen. 2:24) In contrast, those influenced by the wisdom of the world promote a different view, saying that each spouse should focus on his or her own needs. "In some ceremonies," notes one book about divorce, "the traditional pledge to marry for 'as long as we both shall live' was replaced with the more limited promise to marry for 'as long as we both shall love.'" Such a casual view of marriage has led to countless broken families and has caused immeasurable emotional harm. Without a doubt, the world's disrespectful view of marriage is a foolish teaching. *w19.05 23 ¶12*

Sunday, September 5

*Stop being molded by this system
of things.—Rom. 12:2.*

Paul was concerned because some Christians were apparently being influenced by the unwholesome reasonings and philosophies promoted by Satan's world. (Eph. 4:17-19) That can happen to any one of us. In a desperate attempt to turn us away from Jehovah, Satan, the god of this system of things, uses various tactics. One of them is that of exploiting any tendency we may have toward selfish ambition or self-promotion. He may even use certain aspects of our background, our cul-

ture, or our education to bring us over to his way of thinking. Is it possible for us to root out things that are "strongly entrenched" in our minds? (2 Cor. 10:4) Notice how Paul answers: "We are overturning reasonings and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are bringing every thought into captivity to make it obedient to the Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5) Yes, with Jehovah's help we can actually gain control over wrong reasonings. *w19.06 8 ¶1-3*

Monday, September 6

*As for me, drawing near to God
is good for me. I have made the
Sovereign Lord Jehovah my
refuge.—Ps. 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 Sam. 1:9, 10; Ps. 55:22; 73:17; 122:1) Jehovah compassionately responded to each one of them. Hannah gained peace of mind. (1 Sam. 1:18) David wrote: "Many are the hardships of the righteous one, but Jehovah rescues him from them all." (Ps. 34:19) And the psalmist later felt that Jehovah had "taken hold of [his] right hand," guiding him with loving advice. (Ps. 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.—Ps. 143:1, 4-8. *w19.06 17 ¶14-15*

Tuesday, September 7

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

Never allow anything that mere humans say or do to make you feel ashamed of being one of Jehovah's Witnesses. (Mic. 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; Rom. 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 Pet. 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 ¶19-20*

Wednesday, September 8

It is lawful to do a fine thing on the Sabbath.—Matt. 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. (Matt. 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 ¶10*

Thursday, September 9

You had no hope.—Eph. 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 ¶9-10*

Friday, September 10

I am pressing on toward the goal.—Phil. 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 ¶1-2*

Saturday, September 11

Be filled with righteous fruit.—Phil. 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. (Matt. 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.”—Phil. 1:12-14; 4:22. *w19.08 12 ¶15-16*

Sunday, September 12

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.—1 Pet. 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? (Prov. 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. —Matt. 7:12. *w19.09 4 ¶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*

(video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video.

Initial Call: (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. (1)

Initial Call: (5 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and start a Bible study. (3)



LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 76

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

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.



Seek God for Your Deliverance

(Zephaniah 2:3)

Bm Gm6 Bm/F# Gm/E Bm/D Em Bm/D F#7/C# Bm Gm6/Bb D/A Gm6

Na - tions a - lign as one, Op - pos - ing Je - ho - vah's
 Peo - ple on earth now choose, Re - spond - ing to this good

R.H. R.H.

D/F# F#/E Bm/D C/E Bm/F# Em/G C#/G# C#

Son. Their time of hu - man rul - er - ship By God's de - cree now is
 news. We of - fer to all men the choice To hear or proud - ly re -

F# /E /D /C# Bm Gm6 Bm/F# Gm/E Bm/D C#m11 Bm A D Gm/Bb D/A Gm6

done. Rul - ers have had their day; God's King - dom is here to
 fuse. Tri - als, al - though se - vere, Need not fill our hearts with

R.H. R.H.

D/F# A7/E D C° Em/B A° Em/G F#m11 Em /D /C# Em7/B

stay. Soon Christ will crush earth - ly en - e - mies. No
 fear. Je - ho - vah cares for his loy - al ones; Our

Seek God for Your Deliverance

Chorus

F#/A# G#m11 C#7/G# F# A7/E A7 D A/C# Bm7 D/A

more will there be de - lay. Seek God for your de -
cries for help he will hear.

G Em7 A Bm D/A G D/F# Em7 A A/G F#m G A7 Bm A7

liv - er - ance, Yes, look to him with con - fi - dence. Seek his righ - teous - ness, Show your

G B7/F# Em Em/D C# B/D# C#/E# F# E/G# F#/A# Bm Gm/Bb

faith - ful - ness, For his sov - 'reign - ty, take your stand. Then

D/A A/G D/F# Bm7 G Em7 D/A A7sus4 A7 D

see our God de - liv - er you By his might - y hand.

R.H.

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

And bring retribution to those who hate me.

42 I will make my arrows drunk with blood,
And my sword will eat flesh,
With the blood of the slain
and the captives,
With the heads of the leaders
of the enemy.⁷

43 Be glad, you nations, with his people,^a
For he will avenge the blood
of his servants,^b
And he will repay vengeance
to his adversaries^c
And will make atonement
for* the land of his people.”

44 Thus Moses came and recited all the words of this song in the hearing of the people,^d he and Ho-she'a*^e the son of Nun.

45 After Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, **46** he said to them: “Take to heart all the words of my warning to you today,^f so that you may command your sons to take care to do all the words of this Law.^g **47** For this is no empty word for you, but it means your life,^h and by this word you may live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

48 Jehovah spoke to Moses on this same day, saying: **49** “Go up into this mountain of Ab'a-rim,ⁱ Mount Ne'bo,^j which is in the land of Mo'ab, which faces toward Jer'i-cho, and view the land of Ca'naan, which I am giving to the Israelites as a possession.^k **50** Then you will die on the mountain you are about to ascend, and be gathered to your people,* just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor^l and

32:43 *Or “will cleanse.” **32:44** *The original name of Joshua. Hoshea is a shortened form of Hoshaiah, which means “Saved by Jah; Jah Has Saved.” **32:50** *This is a poetic expression for death.

CHAP. 32

- a Ge 12:2, 3
1Ki 8:43
Ro 3:29
Ro 15:10
b 2Ki 9:7
Re 6:10
c Mic 5:15
d Re 15:3
e Nu 11:28
De 31:22, 23
f De 11:18
g De 6:6, 7
h Le 18:5
De 30:19
Ro 10:5
i Nu 27:12
j De 34:1
k Ge 10:19
Ge 15:18
Jos 1:3
l Nu 20:28
Nu 33:38

Second Col.

- a Nu 20:12, 13
b Le 22:32
Isa 8:13
c Nu 27:13, 14
De 3:27
De 34:4, 5

CHAP. 33

- d Ge 49:28
e Ex 19:18
f Hab 3:3
g Da 7:10
Jude 14
h Ps 68:17
i De 7:8
Ho 11:1
j Ex 19:6
k Ex 19:23
l Ex 20:19
m Ex 24:8
n De 4:8
Ac 7:53
o Isa 44:2
p Ex 18:25
Ex 19:7
q Nu 1:44, 46
r Ge 49:3
s Nu 26:7
Jos 13:15

DEUTERONOMY 32:42–33:6

was gathered to his people, **51** because both of you were unfaithful to me among the Israelites at the waters of Mer'i-bah^a of Ka'desh in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not sanctify me before the people of Israel.^b **52** You will see the land from a distance, but you will not enter the land that I am giving to the people of Israel.”^c

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

“Jehovah—from Si'nai he came,^e

And he shone upon them
from Se'ir.

He shone forth in glory from
the mountainous region
of Pa'ran,^f

And with him were holy
myriads,^g

At his right hand his
warriors.^h

3 He had affection for his
people;ⁱ

All their holy ones are in
your hand.^j

They were sitting at your
feet;^k

They began to listen to your
words.^l

4 (Moses gave us a command,
a law,^m

As a possession of the
congregation of Jacob.)ⁿ

5 And He became king in
Jesh'u-run,^o

When the heads of the
people gathered together,^p

Along with all the tribes
of Israel.^q

6 Let Reu'ben live and not die
off,^r

And may his men not become
few.”^s

33:2 *Or “were tens of thousands of holy ones.” **33:5** *Meaning “Upright One,” an honorary title for Israel.

7 And he pronounced this blessing on Judah:^a

“Hear, O Jehovah, the voice of Judah,^b

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.”^c

8 Of Le’vi he said:^d

“Your* Thum’mim and your U’rim^e belong to the man loyal to you,^f

Whom you put to the test at Mas’sah.^g

You began to contend with him by the waters of Mer’i-bah,^h

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,ⁱ

And he ignored his own sons. For they kept your word, And they observed your covenant.^j

10 Let them instruct Jacob in your judicial decisions^k

And Israel in your Law.^l

Let them offer up incense as a pleasant aroma for you^m And a whole offering on your altar.ⁿ

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:^o

“Let the beloved one of Jehovah reside in security by him;

CHAP. 33

a Ge 49:8
1Ch 5:2

b Ps 78:68

c Jg 1:2
2Sa 7:8,9

d Ge 49:5
Nu 3:12

e Ex 28:30
Le 8:6,8

f Ex 32:26

g Ex 17:7

h Nu 20:13

i Ex 32:27
Le 10:6,7

j Mal 2:4,5

k De 17:9

l 2Ch 17:8,9
Mal 2:7

m Ex 30:7
Nu 16:40

n Le 1:9

o Ge 49:27

Second Col.

a Ge 49:22

b Jos 16:1

c Ge 49:25

d Le 26:5
Ps 65:9

e Jos 17:17,18

f De 8:7,8

g Ex 3:4
Ac 7:30

h Ge 37:7
Ge 49:26
1Ch 5:1,2

i Ge 48:19,20

j Ge 49:13

k Ge 49:14

While he shelters him the whole day,

He will reside between his shoulders.”

13 Of Joseph he said:^a

“May his land be blessed by Jehovah^b

With the choice things of heaven,

With dew and the waters from the springs below,^c

14 With choice things produced by the sun

And the choice yield each month,^d

15 With the choicest things from the ancient mountains*^e

And choice things of the enduring hills,

16 With the choice things of the earth and what fills it,^f

And with the approval of the One residing in the thornbush.^g

May they come upon the head of Joseph,

On the crown of the head of the one singled out from his brothers.^h

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,ⁱ

And they are the thousands of Ma-nas’sah.”

18 Of Zeb’u-lun he said:^j

“Rejoice, O Zeb’u-lun, in your going out,

And you, Is’sa-char, in your tents.^k

19 They will call peoples to the mountain.

33:7 *Or “contended for.” 33:8 *Your” and “you” in this verse refer to God. 33:10 *Lit., “in your nose.” 33:11 *Or “hips.”

33:15 *Or possibly, “the mountains of the east.” 33:17 *Or “gore.”

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:^a

"Blessed is the one widening the borders of Gad.^b

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.^c

For there the allotment of a lawgiver is reserved.^d

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:^e

"Dan is a lion cub.^f

He will leap out from Ba'shan."^g

23 Of Naph'ta-li he said:^h

"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:ⁱ

"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,^j

And you will be secure all your days.*

26 There is none like the true God^k of Jesh'u-run,^l

33:19 *Lit., "will suck the abundance of." ^aOr "treasures." **33:24** *Or "bathe." **33:25** *Lit., "And like your days will be your strength."

CHAP. 33

- a Ge 49:19
b Jos 13:24-28
c Nu 32:1-5
d Jos 22:1, 4
e Ge 49:16
f Jg 13:2, 24
Jg 15:8, 20
Jg 16:30
g Jos 19:47
h Ge 49:21
i Ge 49:20
j De 8:7, 9
k Ex 15:11
l Isa 44:2

Second Col.

- a Ps 68:32-34
b Ps 46:11
Ps 91:2
c Isa 40:11
d De 9:3
e De 31:3, 4
f De 8:7, 8
g De 11:11
h Ps 33:12
Ps 144:15
Ps 146:5
i De 4:7
2Sa 7:23
Ps 147:20
j Ps 27:1
Isa 12:2
k Ps 115:9
l Ps 66:3

CHAP. 34

- m De 32:49
n De 3:27
o Nu 36:13
p Jg 18:29
q Ex 23:31
Nu 34:2, 6
De 11:24
r Jos 15:1
s Ge 13:10
t Ge 19:22, 23
u Ge 12:7
Ge 26:3
Ge 28:13

DEUTERONOMY 33:20-34:4

Who rides through heaven to help you

And who rides upon the clouds in his majesty.^a

27 God is a refuge from ancient times,^b

His everlasting arms are beneath you.^c

And he will drive away the enemy from before you,^d

And he will say, 'Annihilate them!'^e

28 Israel will reside in security, And the fountain of Jacob will be secluded

In a land of grain and new wine,^f

Whose skies will drip with dew.^g

29 Happy you are, O Israel!^h

Who is there like you,ⁱ

A people enjoying salvation in Jehovah,^j

Your protective shield^k

And your majestic sword?

Your enemies will cringe before you,^l

And you will tread on their backs."^m

34 Then Moses went up from the desert plains of Mo'ab to Mount Ne'bo,ⁿ to the top of Pis'gah,ⁿ which faces Jer'i-cho.^o And Jehovah showed him all the land, from Gil'e-ad to Dan,^p **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,^q **3** and the Neg'-eb^r and the District,^s the valley plain of Jer'i-cho, the city of the palm trees, as far as Zo'ar.^t

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.'^u I have let you see it with your own

33:29 *Or possibly, "high places."
34:2 *That is, the Great Sea, the Mediterranean. **34:4** *Lit., "seed."

eyes, but you will not cross over there.”^a

5 After that Moses the servant of Jehovah died there in the land of Mo’ab just as Jehovah had said.^b **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.^c **7** Moses was 120 years old at his death.^d 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.^e Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were completed.

CHAP. 34

- a Nu 20:12
b De 32:50
Jos 1:2
c Jude 9
d De 31:1, 2
Ac 7:23
Ac 7:30, 36
e Nu 20:29

Second Col.

- a De 31:14
1Ti 4:14
b Nu 27:18, 21
Jos 1:16
c De 18:15
Ac 3:22
Ac 7:37
d Ex 33:11
Nu 12:8
e De 4:34
f De 26:8
Lu 24:19

9 Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hand on him;^a and the Israelites began to listen to him, and they did just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.^b

10 But there has never again arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses,^c whom Jehovah knew face-to-face.^d **11** He performed all the signs and the miracles that Jehovah had sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Phar’aoth and all his servants and all his land,^e **12** along with the mighty hand and the awesome power that Moses displayed before the eyes of all Israel.^f

JOSHUA

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TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

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(video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video.

Initial Call: (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. (1)

Initial Call: (5 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and start a Bible study. (3)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 76

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

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



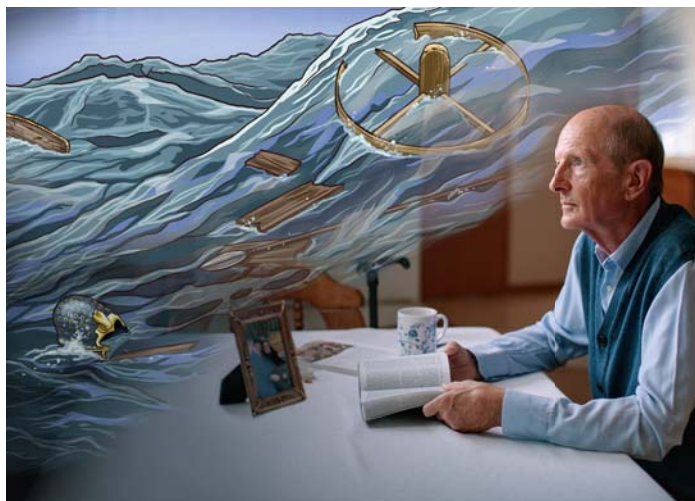
Seek Refuge in Jehovah’s “Everlasting Arms”

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.



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)



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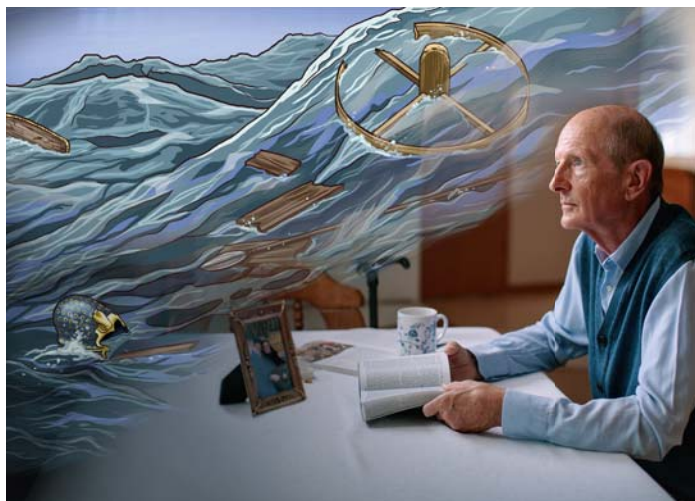
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HOW TO OFFER THE *ENJOY LIFE FOREVER!* BROCHURE ON THE INITIAL CALL

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



mwb21.09-E
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How Does It Make You Feel?

(Hebrews 13:15)

E_b *A_b* *B_b* *E_b* *A_b* *B_b*

How does it make you feel when you preach and teach with zeal,
 How does it make you feel when the words you speak ap - peal
 How does it make you feel, know - ing God's sup - port is real,

E_b *A_b* *E_b/A_b* *F_m*

When you know you've done your part to reach an hon - est
 To the ones whose heart is right for ev - er - last - ing
 And that he's en - trust - ed you to do the work we

B_b *F_m7* *B_b* *E_b* *A_b* *B_b*

heart?
 life?
 do? Know - ing you've done your best;
 Some peo - ple turn a - way,
 Proud - ly we preach and teach,

E_b *A_b* *B_b*

then our God will do the rest. Hon - est
 oth - ers might be led a - stray. Still we're
 us - ing bold but gra - cious speech, Search - ing

How Does It Make You Feel?

Eb
Ab
Eb/Ab
Fm
Gm/Bb
Bb7

hearts he sure - ly knows— all those to him dis -
 glad to bear his name and wit - ness just the
 out de - serv - ing ones; this work will soon be

Chorus

Eb
Ab
Eb
Eb/G
Ab
Bb

posed.
 same.
 done.

It makes us glad, and we re -

Eb
Eb/G
Ab
Cm7
Bbsus4
Bb
Eb
Eb/G

joyce to give our heart and mind and voice. So may our

Ab
Cm7
Bbsus4
Eb
Ab
Eb

sac - ri - fice of praise con - tin - ue all our days.



TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

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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. (Mt 28:18-20; 1Co 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

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.



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”

***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.

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SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

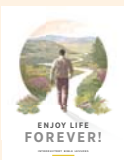
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• *Iffi* 12



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4. Regarding the temple vision, what approach has been taken in the past, but what is called for now?

5, 6. (a) How did the apostle Paul show humility in his discussion of the tabernacle? (b) What did Paul say about some details of the tabernacle, and how might we, in principle, apply his thought to our understanding of Ezekiel's temple vision?

7, 8. (a) What understanding has now been adjusted? (b) How did the visionary temple differ from the spiritual temple that Paul described?

real! For Ezekiel, the experience must be faith-strengthening, overwhelming, and perhaps a bit puzzling. Though the temple that he sees has many familiar features, it is also vastly different from the one he knew back in Jerusalem.

³ This intriguing vision fills the last nine chapters of Ezekiel's book. Let us now discuss the attitude that we need to adopt as we approach this vision and seek understanding. Then we will consider whether what Ezekiel saw was the great spiritual temple that the apostle Paul discussed at length centuries later. Finally, we will examine what the vision meant to Ezekiel and to his fellow exiles.

The Need for a Different Approach

⁴ In the past, our publications have stated that Ezekiel saw Jehovah's great spiritual temple, the one that the apostle Paul was inspired to write about in his letter to the Hebrews.^[1] Based on that conclusion, it seemed to follow logically that we could assign symbolic, or antitypical, meanings to many of the features of Ezekiel's visionary temple, using Paul's explanation of the tabernacle as a starting point. However, further prayerful study and meditation suggest that a simpler approach is called for in explaining Ezekiel's temple vision.

⁵ It seems wise that we do not look for a prophetic or symbolic meaning in every feature of Ezekiel's visionary temple. Why not? Consider an interesting example. When Paul discussed the tabernacle and the spiritual temple, he mentioned details of the tabernacle, such as the golden censer, the cover of the ark, and the golden jar that contained the manna. Did he then assign some prophetic meaning to those details? Evidently, the holy spirit did not move him to do so. Instead, Paul wrote: "Now is not the time to speak of 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 let-

FOOTNOTE

[1] The spiritual temple is Jehovah's arrangement for pure worship based on the ransom sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We understand that it came into existence in 29 C.E.

ter 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 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: "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 to

9, 10. When it comes to sacrifices, how did Ezekiel's visionary temple differ from the great spiritual temple that Paul described?

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

Ezekiel's visionary temple is not the great spiritual temple

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.”)

FOOTNOTE

[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.

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?

...
13A

DIFFERENT TEMPLES, DIFFERENT LESSONS

SEE PARAGRAPHS 7-14



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

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?

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.



18

Grateful for the Ransom

(Luke 22:20)

E_b *A_badd9* *C_m* *C_m/B_b* *G_m/B_b*

To - day, Je - ho - vah God, we stand be - fore your
It was a will - ing sac - ri - fice that Je - sus

A_b *E_badd9/G* *F_m* *D_b* *A_b* *F_m7*

throne, For you showed the great - est love that could ev - er be
made. Out of love, his per - fect life was the price that he

B_bsus4 *B_b* *A_b/B_b* *B_b7sus4* *B_b* *E_b* *A_b*

shown. You gave the gift of your dear
paid. We had no hope un - til he

C_m *C_m/B_b* *G_m/B_b* *A_b* *F_m7* *B_b* *C_m* *G_m*

Son, that we might live. No great - er sac - ri - fice than
came to save man - kind. But now our hope is find - ing

Grateful for the Ransom

Chorus

Ab6 Ab/Bb Eb Ebsus4 Eb Ebma7/G

this could you ev - er give. He gave his
life, leav - ing death be - hind.

Ab Fm7 Bbsus4 Bb Cm Eb/G Ab Fm7

life to set us free. His pre - cious blood pro - vides the

Bbsus4 Bb Cm Eb/Bb Ab Eb/G

key. With all our hearts, we'll go on thank - ing

Fm7 Ab/Bb Eb Ebsus4 Eb

you e - ter - nal - ly.

JULY 2021

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



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AUGUST 30–SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

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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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"Exercise Patience"

(James 5:8)

B \flat B $^{\circ}$ Cm Eb/F F7

Our Sov - 'reign Lord Je - ho - vah Is zeal - ous for his ho - ly
The qual - i - ty of pa - tience Will help us on our god - ly

B \flat Gm

name. He fer - vent - ly de - si - res To
path. It lets our heart be tran - quil, Pro -

Cm7 Eb/F F7 B \flat Gm

clear it from un - righ - teous blame. Through man - y gen - er -
fects us from un - righ - teous wrath. It finds the good in

Cm7 Dm7 F/G G7/F

a - tions, Great en - dur - ance he has shown; In
oth - ers, Al - ways hop - ing for the best. It

“Exercise Patience”

Cm/E \flat Gm7/D C7

lov - ing, kind - ly pa - tience, Not wea - ry has he
helps us keep our bal - ance In times when we're dis -

F13 B \flat G7/B

grown. His will is that sal - va - tion All
tressed. A - long with oth - er vir - tues That

Cm A7/C \sharp B \flat /D E \flat 6 A7/E

sorts of peo - ple might at - tain. Long - last - ing, lov - ing
ho - ly spir - it can be - stow, Our pa - tience will as -

B \flat /F Fm/A \flat G7 Cm7 E \flat /F F7 B \flat

pa - tience By God will not have been in vain.
sist us To im - i - tate the God we know.

(See also Ex. 34:14; Isa. 40:28; 1 Cor. 13:4, 7; 1 Tim. 2:4.)

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.

Imitate Jehovah’s Endurance

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

“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.

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

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. Why can we say that Jehovah is the best example of endurance?

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 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, 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!

5. How has God’s name been reproached, and how do you feel about that?

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?

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

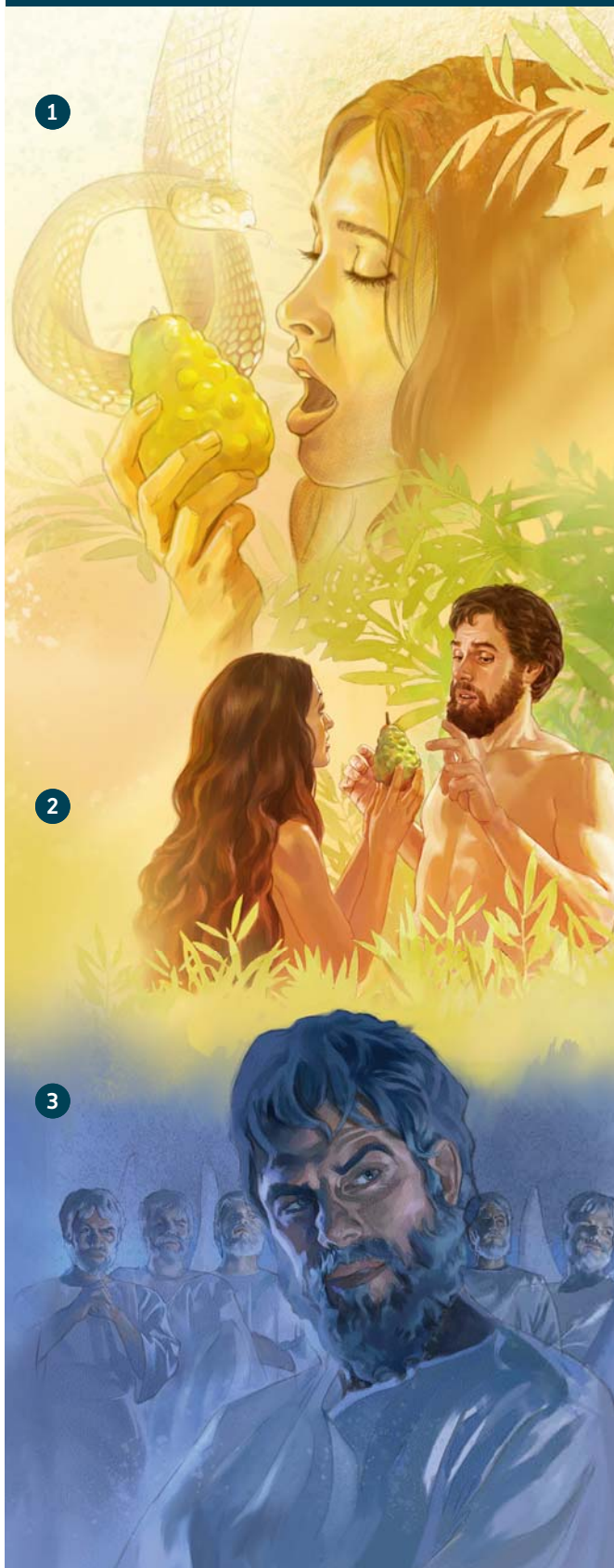
We know better. When we are stricken with a serious illness or when someone we love dies, we never blame our God. On the contrary, we have faith that one day he will make things right. We can tell everyone who will listen what a loving God Jehovah is. That gives him a good reply to make to the one taunting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

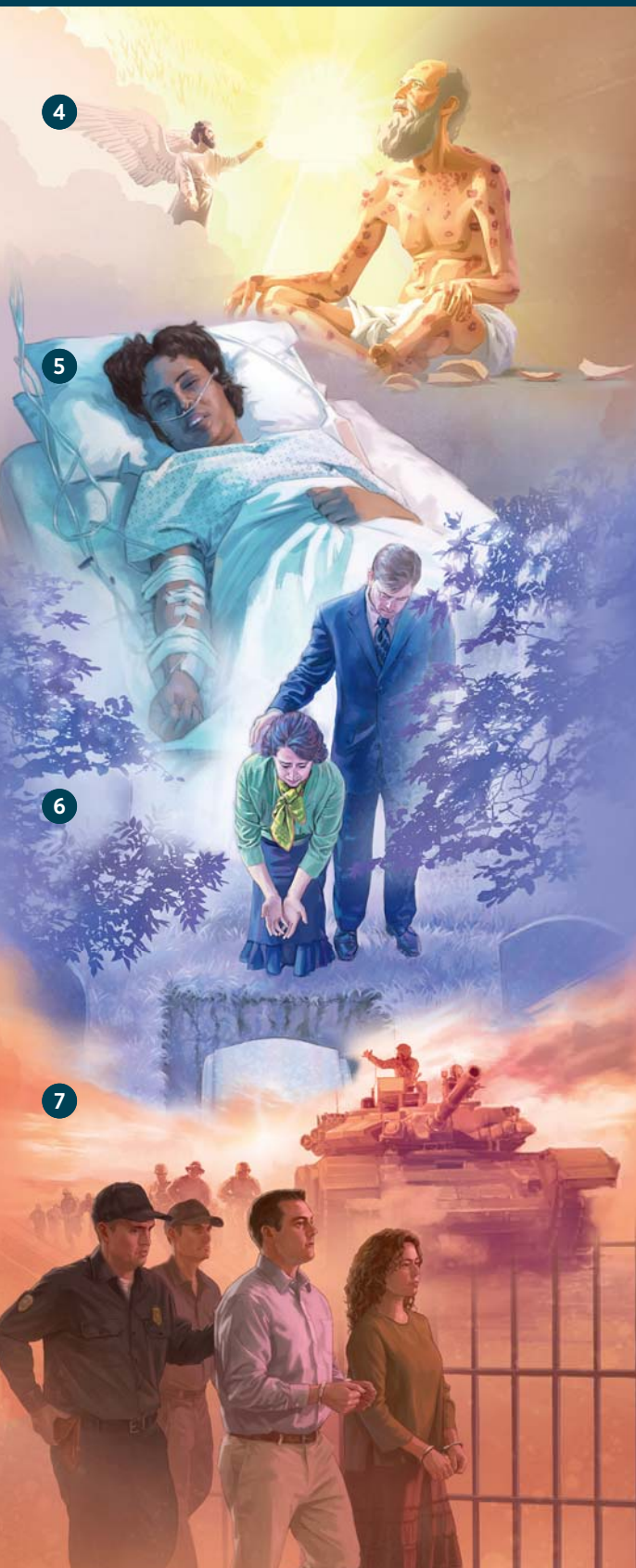
¹⁰ *The suffering of his cherished servants.* Jehovah is a compassionate God. He hates to hear us cry out because of the suffering that we are enduring—be it persecution, illness, or our imperfections. (**Read Psalm 22:23, 24.**) Jehovah feels our pain; he wants to stop it, and he will stop it. (Compare 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 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

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

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





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

his standpoint.” (Luke 20:38, fn.) 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 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, fn., 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 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.

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

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?

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

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

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 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

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?

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!

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?

See Yourself When All Is New

(Revelation 21:1-5)

Db/Eb Eb6 Ab Bbm7 Eb7 Ab/C C7b9b13

Just see your - self, just see me too; Just see us
Now see your - self, and see me too; And look a -

Fm Cm/Eb Db Ab/C

all in a world that is new. Think how you'll
head to a world that is new. No sight we

Bbm Db/Ab Gm11 C7

feel, how it will be, To live in
see, no sound we hear Will cause a -

Fm7 Ab/Bb Bb9 Bbm11 Db/Eb Eb6

peace, to be tru - ly free. No e - vil
larm or give rise to fear. All has come

See Yourself When All Is New

Ab Bbm7 Eb7 Ab/C C7b9b13

one true, will then pre - vail; Rule by our
just as he said; Now o - ver

Fm Cm/Eb Db Ab6/C

God can - not ev - er fail. The
man - kind, his tent is spread. He

Bbm7 Cm7 Dbma7 Cm7

time will have come for a new earth - ly start, The
now will a - wak - en those sleep - ing in death; Their

Fm Ab/Eb Dbma7 Abadd9/C

song of our prais - es will pour out from our
voic - es will join ours with ev - 'ry grate - ful

See Yourself When All Is New

Chorus

B♭m7 Eb9sus4 Eb7 A♭ Eb/G

heart:
breath: "We thank you, our God, for all you have

Fm A♭/E♭ D♭ma7 E♭sus4/D♭ E♭/D♭ A♭add9/C G♭/B♭ A♭7

done. All things are new by the rule of your Son. The

D♭ B♭m7 B♭m/G C7sus4 C7

full - ness of our heart o - ver - flows in our song; All

Fm A♭/E♭ D♭ma7 A♭add9/C B♭m7 E♭9sus4 A♭sus4 A♭

glo - ry and hon - or and praise to you be - long."