

## Saturday, September 25

*Become imitators of God, as beloved children.—Eph. 5:1.*

As Jehovah's "beloved children," we do our best to imitate him. We imitate his qualities by being loving, kind, and forgiving in our dealings with others. When those who do not know God see our fine conduct, they may be motivated to learn more about him. (1 Pet. 2:12) Christian parents have good reason to imitate Jehovah in the way they treat their children. When they do, their children may want to form their own friendship with our loving Father. We are proud of our heavenly Father, Jehovah, and want others to come to know him. In our heart, we all feel as did King David, who wrote: "I will boast in Jehovah." (Ps. 34:2) What, though, if we are timid? How can we become bold? We grow bold when we focus on how happy we can make Jehovah and how much others will benefit from learning about him. Jehovah will give us the courage we need. He helped our first-century brothers to become bold, and he will help us too.—1 Thess. 2:2. *w20.02 11 ¶12-13*

## Sunday, September 26

*Go, therefore, and make disciples . . . , baptizing them.—Matt. 28:19.*

Many who study the Bible progress to baptism. However, some who regularly study the Bible with us seem reluctant to become disciples. They enjoy their studies, but they are not progressing to baptism. If you are conducting a Bible study, we are sure that you want to help your student to apply what he learns and to become a disciple of Christ.

Jehovah wants people to serve him because they love him. So our goal is to help our students to understand that Jehovah cares deeply about them as individuals and that he loves them very much. We want to help them to see Jehovah as "a father of the fatherless and a protector of widows." (Ps. 68:5) As your students come to appreciate God's love for them, their heart will likely be touched and their own love for him will grow. So help your students to understand that our loving God wants them to gain everlasting life, and he is ready to help them to achieve that goal. *w20.01 3 ¶7-8*

## Monday, September 27

*I received much joy and comfort on hearing of your love.—Philem. 7.*

The apostle Paul was humble, so he sought and received encouragement from his friends. He did not worry about being viewed as a weak person if he acknowledged that he had been comforted by others during times of distress. (Col. 4:7-11) When we humbly acknowledge that we need encouragement, our brothers and sisters will gladly give us the support we need. Paul knew that the Scriptures would comfort him. (Rom. 15:4) They would also give him wisdom to face any trial. (2 Tim. 3:15, 16) When imprisoned in Rome for the second time, Paul felt that his death was near. He asked Timothy to come to him quickly and bring "the scrolls." (2 Tim. 4:6, 7, 9, 13) Why? Because those scrolls were likely portions of the Hebrew Scriptures that Paul could use in his personal Bible study. When we imitate Paul by regularly studying God's Word, Jehovah will use the Scriptures to soothe us—no matter what trials we face. *w20.02 23-24 ¶14-15*

## **Tuesday, September 28**

*Stop judging that you may not be judged.—Matt. 7:1.*

Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar did not spend their time thinking about how they could help Job. Instead, they were thinking about how they could prove that Job had done something wrong. They made some accurate statements, but much of what they said about Job and about Jehovah was either unkind or untrue. They judged Job harshly. (Job 32:1-3) How did Jehovah respond? His anger burned hot against those three men. He called them foolish and made them ask Job to pray for them. (Job 42:7-9) We learn a number of lessons from the bad examples set by Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. First, we should not judge our brothers. (Matt. 7:2-5) Instead, we should listen carefully to them before we speak. Only then will we be able to understand their situation. (1 Pet. 3:8) Second, when we do speak, we must make sure that our words are kind and our statements accurate. (Eph. 4:25) And third, Jehovah takes a keen interest in what we say to one another. *w20.03* 22-23 ¶15-16

## **Wednesday, September 29**

*Carry on prayer on every occasion.—Eph. 6:18.*

It is often when we are teaching others about Jehovah that we ourselves come to know him better. For example, we see direct evidence of Jehovah's compassion when he guides us to those who have the right heart condition. (John 6:44; Acts 13:48) We see the power of God's Word at work as we watch those with whom we study break free from bad habits and begin to put on the new personality. (Col. 3:9, 10) And we see

proof of God's patience as he gives many in our territory numerous opportunities to learn about him and be saved. (Rom. 10:13-15) However, no matter how long we have been serving Jehovah, we should never take our relationship with him for granted. One of the most obvious ways we can prove that we value our friendship with God is by talking to him in prayer. Good communication is the lifeblood of a strong relationship. So draw close to God by praying often, never being afraid to express your innermost thoughts to him. *w19.12* 19 ¶11, 13-14

## **Thursday, September 30**

*Your sins have been forgiven.  
—1 John 2:12.*

What relief that thought brings to us! As King of God's Kingdom, Jesus will undo any damage Satan and his system may inflict on us. (Isa. 65:17; 1 John 3:8; Rev. 21:3, 4) What hope that inspires in us! And even though Jesus has given us a challenging assignment, he is with us, supporting us through the last days of this system. (Matt. 28:19, 20) What courage that builds in us! Relief, hope, and courage—these are some of the solid foundation stones on which our peace of mind is built. How, then, can you retain your peace of mind when you are shaken by severe trials? You can do so by imitating the things Jesus did. First, pray and persist in prayer. Second, obey Jehovah and preach zealously even when it is difficult to do so. And third, look to your friends to help you through trials. Then the peace of God will guard your mind and heart. (Phil. 4:6, 7) And like Jesus, you will conquer any trial.—John 16:33. *w19.04* 13 ¶16-17

## Friday, October 3

*The eyes of Jehovah are roving about through all the earth to show his strength in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward him.—2 Chron. 16:9.*

We see abundant evidence that Jehovah protects his people today. Consider: We are preaching and teaching the truth in all parts of the earth. (Matt. 28:19, 20) As a result, we expose the evil works of the Devil. Surely, if Satan were able to, he would stop all our activity, but he cannot. So we do not need to be terrified of wicked spirits. If we are faithful to Jehovah, the demons cannot cause us lasting harm. However, all of us need to resist wicked spirits and trust in Jehovah. If we do that, we will receive many blessings and we will avoid being misled by Satan's lies. Also, we will not be paralyzed by fear of the demons. Above all, we will strengthen our friendship with Jehovah. "Oppose the Devil," wrote the disciple James, "and he will flee from you. Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you."—Jas. 4:7, 8. *w19.04 24 ¶15; 25 ¶18*

## Saturday, October 2

*The fruit of the womb is a reward.—Ps. 127:3.*

Your children are a sacred trust, "an inheritance from Jehovah." It is your responsibility to safeguard that trust. What can you do to protect your children from abuse? First, educate yourself about abuse. Learn about the kind of individuals who abuse children and the tactics they use to deceive them. Be alert to potential dangers. (Prov. 22:3; 24:3) Remember that in most cases, the

abuser is someone the child already knows and trusts. Second, maintain good communication with your children. (Deut. 6:6, 7; Jas. 1:19) Remember that children are often reluctant to report abuse. They may fear that they will not be believed, or they may have been threatened by the abuser to keep the abuse secret. If you sense that something is wrong, kindly draw them out with questions and then patiently listen to their answers. Third, educate your children. Teach them what to say and do if someone tries to touch them in an inappropriate way. *w19.05 13 ¶19-22*

## Sunday, October 3

*Everyone proud in heart is detestable to Jehovah.*

—*Prov. 16:5.*

Why does Jehovah detest proud people? One reason is that those who develop and promote an inflated love of self reflect Satan's own arrogance. Imagine, Satan believed that Jesus—the one whom God used to create all things—should bow down and worship him! (Matt. 4:8, 9; Col. 1:15, 16) Those with such an inflated view of their own importance confirm that the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God. (1 Cor. 3:19) The Bible, though, helps us to have a balanced view of ourselves. It acknowledges that a degree of self-love is proper. Jesus said: "Love your neighbor as yourself," which indicates that we should give a reasonable amount of attention to our needs. (Matt. 19:19) However, the Bible does not teach that we should elevate ourselves above others. Rather, it states: "Do nothing out of contentiousness or out of egotism, but with humility consider others superior to you."—Phil. 2:3; Rom. 12:3. *w19.05 24 ¶13-14*

Song 144 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Turn Away From Worthless Things”: (10 min.)

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

Jos 6:20—What evidence is there that the ancient city of Jericho was conquered without a long siege? (w15 11/15 13 ¶2-3)

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.) Jos 6:1-14 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**Initial Call:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (12)

**Return Visit:** (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce (but do not play) the video *Why Study the Bible?* (9)

**Bible Study:** (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 01 point 3 (8)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

**Song 121**

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

**Willful Disobedience Brings Bad Results:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video ‘*Not One Word Has Failed*’—*Excerpt*. Then ask the audience: What clear command did Jehovah give regarding Jericho? What did Achan and his family do, and why? What lessons does this account teach us? Encourage all to watch the entire video.

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *rr* chap. 14 ¶8-14, box 13A

 Turn Away From Worthless Things

Achan’s eyes led him to take what did not belong to him (Jos 7:1, 20, 21; w10 4/15 20 ¶5)

Achan’s actions affected his family and the whole nation of Israel (Jos 7:4, 5, 24-26; w97 8/15 28 ¶2)

We must exercise self-discipline (1Jo 2:15-17; w10 4/15 21 ¶8)

We must reject worthless things that will not exist in God’s new world of righteousness.—2Pe 3:13.



# Keep Your Eyes on the Prize!

(2 Corinthians 4:18)

F F+5 Dm/F C/B $\flat$  B $\flat$  D7/A

When the eyes of blind ones see a - gain And the  
When the wolves and lambs will feed as one, When the

Gm Eb/G Gm6(ma7) C7sus4 C7

ears of and deaf ones hear a - gain, When the  
bears and calves bask in the sun, Then a

F F/A Gm/B $\flat$  D/A Gm

songs of chil - dren fill the air And  
mere young boy will lead them all, And

Dm7 Dm11 G7 C7 B $\flat$ /D C7/E

joy and peace are ev - 'ry - where, When our  
they will heed his child - ish call. When our

# Keep Your Eyes on the Prize!

F F+5 Dm/F C/Bb Bb D7/A

loved ones will re - turn to life, To an  
tears be - long to yes - ter - day, When our

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of chords and a vocal line. The lyrics are: 'loved ones will re - turn to life, To an tears be - long to yes - ter - day, When our'.

Gm Eb/G Gm6(ma7) C7sus4 C7 Chorus

earth that's free from sin and strife, You will  
fears and pain have passed a - way,

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of chords and a vocal line. The lyrics are: 'earth that's free from sin and strife, You will fears and pain have passed a - way,'. The word 'Chorus' is written above the final measure.

F Cm7 A+5 Bb F/A Bbm/G //

see how God these things sup - plies, If

Detailed description: This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of chords and a vocal line. The lyrics are: 'see how God these things sup - plies, If'. There are double bar lines (//) at the end of both staves.

F/C F/A Db7/Ab Gm7 Bb/C C7 F

you keep your eyes on the prize.

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of chords and a vocal line. The lyrics are: 'you keep your eyes on the prize.'. There are double bar lines (//) at the end of both staves.

Israel at Gib'e-ath-ha-ar'a-loth.\*<sup>a</sup>  
**4** This is why Joshua circumcised them: All the males of the people who left Egypt, all the men of war,\* had died in the wilderness on the journey after they left Egypt.<sup>b</sup> **5** All the people who left Egypt were circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness on the journey after they left Egypt were not circumcised. **6** The Israelites had walked for 40 years<sup>c</sup> in the wilderness until the entire nation had died off, that is, the men of war who left Egypt who did not obey the voice of Jehovah.<sup>d</sup> Jehovah swore to them that he would never let them see the land<sup>e</sup> that Jehovah had sworn to their forefathers to give to us,<sup>f</sup> a land flowing with milk and honey.<sup>g</sup> **7** So he raised up their sons instead of them.<sup>h</sup> These Joshua circumcised; they were uncircumcised because they had not circumcised them during the journey.

**8** When they finished circumcising the entire nation, they remained where they were in the camp until they recovered.

**9** Then Jehovah said to Joshua: "Today I have rolled away from you the reproach of Egypt." So that place has been called Gil'gal<sup>h</sup> until this day.

**10** The Israelites continued to camp at Gil'gal, and they observed the Passover on the 14th day of the month,<sup>i</sup> in the evening, on the desert plains of Jer'i-cho. **11** And they began to eat the produce of the land the day after the Passover, unleavened bread<sup>k</sup> and roasted grains, on this same day. **12** Then the manna stopped on the day following when they had eaten some of the produce of the land; there was no longer manna for

5:3 \*Meaning "Hill of the Foreskins."  
 5:4 \*Or "the men of military age." 5:9  
 \*Meaning "Rolling; Rolling Away."

CHAP. 5

- a Jos 5:8, 9
- b Nu 14:29  
Nu 26:65  
De 2:14
- c Nu 14:33  
De 1:3
- d Nu 14:22, 23
- e De 1:35
- f Ge 13:14, 15  
Ex 33:1
- g Ex 3:8  
Nu 13:26, 27  
Eze 20:6
- h Nu 14:31
- i Jos 4:19  
Jos 5:3
- j Ex 12:24, 25  
Nu 9:5
- k Ex 12:18

Second Col.

- a Ex 16:35
- b De 6:10-12  
De 8:10
- c Ge 18:2  
Jg 13:6  
Ac 1:10
- d Ex 23:23  
Nu 22:23  
1Ch 21:16
- e Ex 23:20  
1Ki 22:19  
Da 10:13
- f Ex 3:4, 5

CHAP. 6

- g Jos 2:9
- h Nu 14:9  
De 7:24  
Ne 9:24
- i Jg 7:22
- j Heb 11:30

the Israelites,<sup>a</sup> but they began to eat the produce of the land of Ca'naan in that year.<sup>b</sup>

**13** When Joshua was near Jer'i-cho, he looked up and saw a man<sup>c</sup> standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand.<sup>d</sup> Joshua walked up to him and asked: "Are you on our side or on the side of our adversaries?"

**14** To this he said: "No, but I have come as prince\* of Jehovah's army."<sup>e</sup> With that Joshua fell with his face to the ground and prostrated himself and said to him: "What does my lord have to say to his servant?" **15** The prince of Jehovah's army replied to Joshua: "Remove your sandals from your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy." At once Joshua did so.<sup>f</sup>

**6** Now Jer'i-cho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites; no one was leaving and no one was entering.<sup>g</sup>

**2** Jehovah then said to Joshua: "See, I have handed over to you Jer'i-cho and its king and its mighty warriors.<sup>h</sup> **3** All you fighting men should march around the city, going around the city once. That is what you should do for six days. **4** Have seven priests carry seven ram's horns before the Ark. But on the seventh day, you should march around the city seven times and the priests should blow the horns.<sup>i</sup> **5** When the ram's horn is sounded—as soon as you hear the sound\* of the horn—all the people should shout a great war cry. Then the wall of the city will fall down flat,<sup>j</sup> and the people must go up, each one straight ahead."

**6** So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests together and told them: "Take up the ark of the covenant, and seven priests should carry seven ram's horns

5:14 \*Or "chief." 6:5 \*Or "long blast."

before the Ark of Jehovah.<sup>a</sup> **7** Then he told the people: "Move on and march around the city, and the armed troops<sup>b</sup> should go ahead of the Ark of Jehovah." **8** And just as Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying seven ram's horns before Jehovah went forward and blew the horns, and the ark of the covenant of Jehovah was following them. **9** And the armed troops went ahead of the priests who were blowing the horns, and the rear guard followed the Ark as the horns were blown continuously.

**10** Now Joshua had commanded the people: "Do not shout nor let your voices be heard. Not a word should come out of your mouths until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then shout." **11** He had the Ark of Jehovah go around the city, going around it once, after which they returned to the camp and spent the night there.

**12** The next morning Joshua got up early, and the priests took up the Ark<sup>c</sup> of Jehovah, **13** and seven priests carrying seven ram's horns walked before the Ark of Jehovah, continuously blowing the horns. The armed troops were walking ahead of them while the rear guard was following the Ark of Jehovah as the horns were blown continuously. **14** They marched around the city on the second day once, after which they returned to the camp. That was what they did for six days.<sup>d</sup>

**15** On the seventh day they got up early, as soon as the dawn broke, and they marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times.<sup>e</sup> **16** And on the seventh time, the priests blew the horns, and Joshua told

CHAP. 6

a Nu 4:15

b Nu 10:14,  
18, 22  
Jos 1:12, 14

c 1Ch 15:2

d Jos 6:3

e Jos 6:4

Second Col.

a Jos 6:5, 10

b Le 27:29  
De 7:2  
De 20:16

c Jos 2:1  
Mt 1:5  
Heb 11:31

d Ge 12:3  
Jos 2:4, 6  
Jas 2:25

e De 7:26

f De 13:17  
Jos 7:11, 21

g Jos 7:25

h Nu 31:22, 23

i Jos 6:24  
1Ki 7:51  
1Ch 18:11

j Jos 6:4, 16

k Jos 6:5  
Heb 11:30

l De 7:2  
De 20:16

m Jos 2:14  
Heb 11:31

n Jos 2:12, 13  
Jos 2:17-19

the people: "Shout,<sup>a</sup> for Jehovah has given you the city! **17** The city and everything in it is to be devoted to destruction;<sup>b</sup> it all belongs to Jehovah. Only Ra'hab<sup>c</sup> the prostitute may keep living, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers we sent out.<sup>d</sup> **18** But keep away from what is devoted to destruction,<sup>e</sup> so that you do not desire something devoted to destruction and take it,<sup>f</sup> making the camp of Israel something devoted to destruction by bringing disaster\* on it.<sup>g</sup> **19** But all the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and iron are holy to Jehovah.<sup>h</sup> They should go into the treasury of Jehovah."<sup>i</sup>

**20** Then the people shouted when the horns were blown.<sup>j</sup> As soon as the people heard the sound of the horn and shouted a great war cry, the wall fell down flat.<sup>k</sup> After that the people went up into the city, each one straight ahead, and they captured the city. **21** They devoted all that was in the city to destruction by the sword, man and woman, young and old, bull, sheep, and donkey.<sup>l</sup>

**22** Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land: "Go into the house of the prostitute and bring out the woman and all who belong to her, just as you swore to her."<sup>m</sup> **23** So the young spies went in and brought out Ra'hab, along with her father, her mother, her brothers, and all who belonged to her; yes, they brought out her whole family,<sup>n</sup> and they brought them safely to a place outside the camp of Israel.

**24** Then they burned the city and everything in it with fire. But the silver, the gold, and the articles of copper and iron,

6:18 \*Or "trouble; ostracism."

they gave to the treasury of Jehovah's house.<sup>a</sup> **25** Only Ra'hab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her were spared by Joshua;<sup>b</sup> and she lives in Israel to this day,<sup>c</sup> because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent out to spy on Jer'i-cho.<sup>d</sup>

**26** At that time Joshua pronounced this oath:<sup>e</sup> "Cursed be the man before Jehovah who undertakes to rebuild this city of Jer'i-cho. At the cost of his first-born he will lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest he will put up its doors."<sup>e</sup>

**27** So Jehovah was with Joshua,<sup>f</sup> and his fame spread through all the earth.<sup>g</sup>

**7** But the Israelites were unfaithful with regard to what had been devoted to destruction, for A'chan<sup>h</sup> son of Car'mi, son of Zab'di, son of Ze'rah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of what was devoted to destruction.<sup>i</sup> At this Jehovah's anger blazed against the Israelites.<sup>j</sup>

**2** Then Joshua sent men out from Jer'i-cho to A'i,<sup>k</sup> which is close by Beth-a'ven and east of Beth'el,<sup>l</sup> telling them: "Go up and spy on the land." So the men went up and spied on A'i.

**3** When they returned to Joshua, they told him: "Not all the people need to go up. About two or three thousand men are enough to defeat A'i. Do not tire out all the people by making them go, for there are only a few of them."<sup>m</sup>

**4** So about 3,000 men went up there, but they had to flee from the men of A'i.<sup>n</sup> **5** The men of A'i struck down 36 men, and they pursued them from outside the city gate as far as Sheb'arim,<sup>o</sup> and they continued striking

6:26 \*Or possibly, "made the people swear this oath." 7:5 \*Meaning "Quarries."

CHAP. 6

- a Jos 6:19
- b Jos 2:14  
Jos 6:17, 22
- c Mt 1:5
- d Heb 6:10  
Jas 2:25
- e 1Ki 16:34
- f De 31:6  
Jos 1:5
- g Jos 9:1, 2  
Jos 9:9, 10

CHAP. 7

- h Jos 22:20  
1Ch 2:7
- i De 7:26
- j Jos 6:17, 18
- k Ge 12:8
- l Ge 28:19
- m Le 26:14, 17  
De 28:15, 25  
De 32:30

Second Col.

- a De 32:26, 27  
Ps 106:8  
Ps 143:11  
Eze 20:9
- b Ex 24:7
- c Jos 6:17
- d Ex 20:15
- e Jos 7:21
- f De 7:26  
Jos 6:18  
Isa 59:2
- g Ex 19:10

them down on the descent. So the courage\* of the people melted and flowed away like water.

**6** At this Joshua ripped his garments and fell with his face to the ground before the Ark of Jehovah until the evening, he and the elders of Israel, and they kept throwing dust on their heads. **7** Joshua said: "Alas, Sovereign Lord Jehovah, why did you bring this people all the way across the Jordan just to hand us over to the Am'or-ites to be destroyed? If only we had been satisfied to remain on the other side\* of the Jordan! **8** Pardon me, O Jehovah, what can I say now that Israel has retreated\* before his enemies? **9** When the Ca'naan-ites and all the inhabitants of the land hear about it, they will surround us and wipe out our very name from the earth, and what will you do about your great name?"<sup>a</sup>

**10** Jehovah replied to Joshua: "Get up! Why are you lying on your face? **11** Israel has sinned. They have violated my covenant<sup>b</sup> that I commanded them to keep. They took some of what was devoted to destruction,<sup>c</sup> stealing<sup>d</sup> it and secretly putting it among their own possessions.<sup>e</sup> **12** Therefore, the Israelites will not be able to stand against their enemies. They will turn their backs and flee from their enemies, because they have become something devoted to destruction. I will not be with you again unless you annihilate from your midst what was devoted to destruction.<sup>f</sup> **13** Get up and sanctify the people!<sup>g</sup> Tell them, 'Sanctify yourselves tomorrow, for this is what Jehovah the God of Israel says: "What is devoted to destruction is among you, O Israel. You will not be

7:5 \*Lit., "heart." 7:7 \*That is, the east side. 7:8 \*Or "turned his back."

able to stand against your enemies until you remove from your midst the thing devoted to destruction. **14** You are to present yourselves in the morning, tribe by tribe, and the tribe that Jehovah selects<sup>a</sup> will come near, family by family, and the family that Jehovah selects will come near, household by household, and the household that Jehovah selects will come near, man by man. **15** And the one who is caught with the thing devoted to destruction will be burned with fire,<sup>b</sup> he and all that belongs to him, because he has violated the covenant<sup>c</sup> of Jehovah and because he has committed a disgraceful act in Israel.””

**16** So Joshua rose early the next morning and had Israel come near, tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was selected. **17** He had the families of Judah come near and the family of the Ze'rah-ites<sup>d</sup> was selected, after which he had the family of the Ze'rah-ites come near, man by man, and Zab'di was selected. **18** Finally he had the household of Zab'di come near, man by man, and A'chan son of Car'mi, son of Zab'di, son of Ze'rah, of the tribe of Judah, was selected.<sup>e</sup> **19** Then Joshua said to A'chan: “My son, please, honor Jehovah the God of Israel and make confession to him. Tell me, please, what you have done. Do not hide it from me.”

**20** A'chan answered Joshua: “For a fact I am the one who sinned against Jehovah the God of Israel, and this is what I have done. **21** When I saw among the spoil a good-looking official garment from Shi'nar<sup>f</sup> and 200 shekels\* of silver and one gold bar weighing 50 shekels, I desired them, so I took them. They are now hidden in the

7:21 \*A shekel equaled 11.4 g (0.367 oz t). See App. B14.

## CHAP. 7

a Pr 16:33

b Jos 1:18  
Jos 7:25

c Ex 24:7

d Ge 38:30  
Nu 26:20  
1Ch 2:4, 6e Pr 16:33  
Ac 5:3

f Ge 10:10

## Second Col.

a Jos 22:20

b Jos 6:19

c Jos 15:7, 12  
Isa 65:10  
Ho 2:15d Jos 6:18  
1Ch 2:7e Le 24:14  
Jos 1:18

f Jos 7:15

g De 13:17

## CHAP. 8

h De 7:18  
De 31:8  
Jos 1:9  
Isa 12:2  
Ro 8:31

i Ps 44:3

j Jos 6:2, 21

ground inside my tent, with the money underneath.”

**22** At once Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there the garment was hidden in his tent, with the money underneath it. **23** So they took the things out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and placed them before Jehovah. **24** Joshua and all Israel with him then took A'chan<sup>a</sup> the son of Ze'rah, the silver, the official garment, and the bar of gold,<sup>b</sup> along with his sons, his daughters, his bull, his donkey, his flock, his tent, and everything that was his, and they brought them up to the Valley\* of A'chor.<sup>c</sup> **25** Joshua said: “Why have you brought disaster\* upon us?<sup>d</sup> Jehovah will bring disaster upon you on this day.” With that all Israel stoned him,<sup>e</sup> after which they burned them with fire.<sup>f</sup> Thus they stoned all of them. **26** And they raised a huge pile of stones over him that remains to this day. At this Jehovah's hot anger subsided.<sup>g</sup> That is why the name of that place is Valley of A'chor\* to this day.

**8** Then Jehovah said to Joshua: “Do not be afraid or be terrified.<sup>h</sup> Take with you all the fighting men and go up against A'i. See, I have handed over to you the king of A'i, his people, his city, and his land.<sup>i</sup> **2** Do to A'i and to its king just as you did to Jer'i-cho and its king,<sup>j</sup> except you may plunder its spoil and its livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city.”

**3** So Joshua and all the fighting men went up against A'i. Joshua chose 30,000 mighty warriors and sent them off by night. **4** He gave them this command: “See, you are to lie in

7:24 \*Or “Low Plain.” 7:25 \*Or “trouble; ostracism.” 7:26 \*Meaning “Disaster; Ostracism.”

Song 144 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Turn Away From Worthless Things”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Jos 6:20—What evidence is there that the ancient city of Jericho was conquered without a long siege? (w15 11/15 13 ¶2-3)

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.) Jos 6:1-14 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call: (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (12)

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce (but do not play) the video *Why Study the Bible?* (9)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 01 point 3 (8)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 121

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

Willful Disobedience Brings Bad Results: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video ‘*Not One Word Has Failed*’—*Excerpt*. Then ask the audience: What clear command did Jehovah give regarding Jericho? What did Achan and his family do, and why? What lessons does this account teach us? Encourage all to watch the entire video.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 14 ¶8-14, box 13A

 Turn Away From Worthless Things

Achan’s eyes led him to take what did not belong to him (Jos 7:1, 20, 21; w10 4/15 20 ¶5)

Achan’s actions affected his family and the whole nation of Israel (Jos 7:4, 5, 24-26; w97 8/15 28 ¶2)

We must exercise self-discipline (1Jo 2:15-17; w10 4/15 21 ¶8)

We must reject worthless things that will not exist in God’s new world of righteousness.—2Pe 3:13.



## September 27–October 3 / Joshua 6-7

### Song 144 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

### Treasures From God's Word

"Turn Away From Worthless Things": (10 minutes)

#### Achan's eyes led him to take what did not belong to him

**Joshua 7:1:** But the Israelites were unfaithful with regard to what had been devoted to destruction, for Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of what was devoted to destruction. At this Jehovah's anger blazed against the Israelites.

**Joshua 7:20, 21:** Achan answered Joshua: "For a fact I am the one who sinned against Jehovah the God of Israel, and this is what I have done. When I saw among the spoil a good-looking official garment from Shinar and 200 shekels of silver and one gold bar weighing 50 shekels, I desired them, so I took them. They are now hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the money underneath."

#### w10 4/15 20 paragraph 5

Centuries later, the Israelite Achan's eyes seduced him into stealing some items from the captured city of Jericho. God had commanded that all things in that city should be destroyed except for certain things that were to be given to the treasury of Jehovah. The Israelites were warned: "Keep away from the thing devoted to destruction, for fear you may get a desire" and take some items from the city. When Achan disobeyed, the people of Israel suffered defeat at the city of Ai, and a number of them died. Achan did not admit to his theft until he was exposed. "When I got to see" the items, Achan said, "then I wanted them, and I took them." The desire of his eyes led to his destruction, along with "everything that was his." (Joshua 6:18, 19; 7:1-26) Achan desired in his heart what was forbidden to him.

#### Achan's actions affected his family and the whole nation of Israel

**Joshua 7:4, 5:** So about 3,000 men went up there, but they had to flee from the men of Ai. The men of Ai struck down 36 men, and they pursued them from outside the city gate as far as Shebarim, and they continued striking them down on the descent. So the courage of the people melted and flowed away like water.

**Joshua 7:24-26:** Joshua and all Israel with him then took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the official garment, and the bar of gold, along with his sons, his daughters, his bull, his donkey, his flock, his tent, and everything that was his, and they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. Joshua said: "Why have you brought disaster upon us? Jehovah will bring disaster upon you on this day." With that all Israel stoned him, after which they burned them with fire. Thus they stoned all of them. And they raised a huge pile of stones over him that remains to this day. At this Jehovah's hot anger subsided. That is why the name of that place is Valley of Achor to this day.

### **w97 8/15 28 paragraph 2**

One reason for reporting wrongdoing is that it works to preserve the cleanness of the congregation. Jehovah is a clean God, a holy God. He requires all those who worship him to be spiritually and morally clean. His inspired Word admonishes: "As obedient children, quit being fashioned according to the desires you formerly had in your ignorance, but, in accord with the Holy One who called you, do you also become holy yourselves in all your conduct, because it is written: 'You must be holy, because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:14-16) Individuals who practice uncleanness or wrongdoing can bring defilement and Jehovah's disfavor upon an entire congregation unless action is taken to correct or remove them.—Compare Joshua, chapter 7.

### **We must exercise self-discipline**

**1 John 2:15-17:** Do not love either the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him; because everything in the world—the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the showy display of one's means of life—does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world. Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

### **w10 4/15 21 paragraph 8**

True Christians are not immune to the desire of the eyes and of the flesh. Therefore, God's Word encourages us to exercise self-discipline in connection with what we look at and long for. (1 Corinthians 9:25, 27; read 1 John 2:15-17.) The upright man Job was one who recognized the strong link between seeing and desiring. He stated: "A covenant I have concluded with my eyes. So how could I show myself attentive to a virgin?" (Job 31:1) Not only did Job refuse to touch a woman in an immoral way but he would not even allow his mind to entertain such a thought. Jesus emphasized that the mind must be kept clean of immoral thoughts when he said: "Everyone that keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."—Matthew 5:28.

We must reject worthless things that will not exist in God's new world of righteousness.—2 Peter 3:13.

2 Peter 3:13: But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell.

Collage: 1. Achan secretly takes some spoils. 2. A brother looks at something inappropriate on his computer late at night.

## Spiritual Gems

**Joshua 6:20—What evidence is there that the ancient city of Jericho was conquered without a long siege?**

**Joshua 6:20:** Then the people shouted when the horns were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the horn and shouted a great war cry, the wall fell down flat. After that the people went up into the city, each one straight ahead, and they captured the city.

**w15 11/15 13 paragraphs 2-3**

In ancient times, it was common for attackers to besiege a fortified city. Regardless of how long a successful siege lasted, the victors would plunder the city's riches, including any remaining provisions. In Jericho's ruins, however, archaeologists found large supplies of food. In this regard, *Biblical Archaeology Review* states: "The most abundant item found in the destruction, apart from pottery, was grain. . . . This is unique in the annals of Palestinian archaeology. Perhaps a jar or two might be found, but to find such an extensive amount of grain is exceptional."

According to the Scriptural account, the Israelites had good reason not to plunder Jericho's grain. Jehovah had commanded them not to do so. (Joshua 6:17, 18) The Israelites attacked in the spring of the year, just after harvesttime when grain supplies were abundant. (Joshua 3:15-17; 5:10) The fact that much grain remained in Jericho indicates that the Israelite siege was of short duration, just as the Bible describes it.

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) Joshua 6:1-14 (*th* study 10)

Song 144 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Turn Away From Worthless Things”: (10 min.)

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

Jos 6:20—What evidence is there that the ancient city of Jericho was conquered without a long siege? (w15 11/15 13 ¶2-3)

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.) Jos 6:1-14 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**Initial Call:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (12)

**Return Visit:** (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce (but do not play) the video *Why Study the Bible?* (9)

**Bible Study:** (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 01 point 3 (8)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

**Song 121**

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

**Willful Disobedience Brings Bad Results:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video ‘*Not One Word Has Failed*’—*Excerpt*. Then ask the audience: What clear command did Jehovah give regarding Jericho? What did Achan and his family do, and why? What lessons does this account teach us? Encourage all to watch the entire video.

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *rr* chap. 14 ¶8-14, box 13A

 Turn Away From Worthless Things

Achan’s eyes led him to take what did not belong to him (Jos 7:1, 20, 21; w10 4/15 20 ¶5)

Achan’s actions affected his family and the whole nation of Israel (Jos 7:4, 5, 24-26; w97 8/15 28 ¶2)

We must exercise self-discipline (1Jo 2:15-17; w10 4/15 21 ¶8)

We must reject worthless things that will not exist in God’s new world of righteousness.—2Pe 3:13.



## Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

**Initial Call:** (3 minutes) Use the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (*th* study 12)

**Return Visit:** (4 minutes) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce (but do not play) the video *Why Study the Bible?* (*th* study 9)

**Bible Study:** (5 minutes) *lffi* lesson 01 point 3 (*th* study 8)

### 3. The Bible can guide us

The Bible is like a powerful light. We can use the Bible to show us how to make good decisions and to help us see what lies ahead.

**Read Psalm 119:105**, and then discuss these questions:

- How did the writer of this psalm view the Bible?
- How do you view the Bible?

Psalm 119:105: Your word is a lamp to my foot, And a light for my path.

**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**

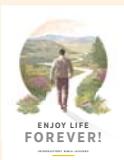
**Initial Call**

**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

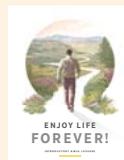
**Return Visit**

**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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# We Need Self-Control

(Romans 7:14-25)

Eb Eb/D Cm9 Cm Eb/Bb Ab Bb Ab/Bb

We love Je - ho - vah with heart, mind, and soul; But  
 Sa - tan's temp - ta - tions con - front us each day, And  
 Each word and ac - tion re - flects on God's name, So

R.H.

Eb Eb/D Cm9 Cm Eb/Bb Ab Ab/Bb Bb

since we are sin - ful, we need self - con - trol.  
 sin's law with - in us can lead us a - stray.  
 we must en - deav - or to keep free from blame.

G G7/B Cm Bb Bb7/D Eb Eb/Bb

Flesh - ly de - sires bring trou - ble and strife;  
 Pow - er of truth is great - er than sin.  
 In all we do, we make this our goal:

Ab Ab/G Fm7 Fm/Ab Ab/Bb Bb7 Eb

Liv - ing by spir - it brings peace and life.  
 Thanks to Je - ho - vah, our minds can win.  
 Al - ways main - tain - ing our self - con - trol.

R.H. R.H.

Song 144 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Turn Away From Worthless Things”: (10 min.)

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

Jos 6:20—What evidence is there that the ancient city of Jericho was conquered without a long siege? (w15 11/15 13 ¶2-3)

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**Bible Study:** (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 01 point 3 (8)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

**Song 121**

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

**Willful Disobedience Brings Bad Results:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video ‘*Not One Word Has Failed*’—*Excerpt*. Then ask the audience: What clear command did Jehovah give regarding Jericho? What did Achan and his family do, and why? What lessons does this account teach us? Encourage all to watch the entire video.

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *rr* chap. 14 ¶8-14, box 13A

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We must exercise self-discipline (1Jo 2:15-17; w10 4/15 21 ¶8)

We must reject worthless things that will not exist in God’s new world of righteousness.—2Pe 3:13.



## 'Not One Word Has Failed'—Excerpt

### Raw transcript

Jericho fell, and Rahab and her family were spared. Jehovah had decreed that everything in the city be destroyed, though all the silver and gold were to be delivered to his treasury. No one was to take anything for himself. Achan, what is it? Why are you looking so smug? We are rich, dear one! Rich? What are you talking about? See for yourselves! Give that to me! That's mine! You have done well, my husband! I took it from the rich, selfish, ungodly Canaanites! Did anyone see you? No. I was careful. Are you sure? Yes. No one could possibly know. Father, this will give us a good start in the Promised Land. But—We must hide all of these treasures. Yes, keep them hidden! What no one sees, no one knows. Agreed? Uh-huh. Hmm. Come then! Let us hide all of it. When we attacked the city of Ai, we suffered defeat. Jehovah then revealed that someone had taken something that was to be destroyed and had stolen gold and silver meant for Jehovah's treasury. The next morning, Jehovah had all Israel come near, tribe by tribe, family by family, household by household, man by man. Finally, Jehovah revealed the disobedient man. My son. My lord. Please, honor Jehovah the God of Israel and make confession to him. Tell me, please, what you have done. Do not hide it from me. For a fact, I am the one who sinned against Jehovah the God of Israel. When I saw among the spoil of Jehovah an official garment from Shinar—such a good looking one—And? Yes, and 200 shekels of silver—Go on. Yes, and one gold bar weighing 50 shekels. Achan, why did you take them? I desired them, so I took them. But why? Look at me. Did you not hear the same words we all heard? The instructions were clear—the city was to be devoted to destruction. Were you not aware that it and everything in it belonged to Jehovah? Yes, I was. And yet you stole these things? Yes. Why? What does this garment from Shinar mean to you? It was—You have to see it, Joshua. It is beautiful. It is one whole piece. The finest material. Fit for a king. I have never seen such brilliant colors. Enough, my son, enough! Tell me, where is it? It is hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the money underneath it. Go, Ishbak! See if these words are true! Nedabiah, go and find his family. Achan, did you not know that Jehovah would see you? I didn't think of that. You had no need of these things. You have a bull and a donkey and a flock. I—I don't know what to say. For a fact, I have sinned against Jehovah, the God of Israel. Why have you brought disaster upon us? Jehovah will bring disaster upon you on this day! Nedabiah, take them away. Jehovah warned that willful disobedience brings bad consequences. Achan's case shows that in this way too, Jehovah's word never fails.

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8, 9. What might people have learned from Jehovah's strong counsel to responsible men?

10, 11. What evidence suggests that some of the returning exiles learned the lessons conveyed in Ezekiel's vision?

850 feet, to a side. So there was a wide area surrounding the temple, and it was enclosed by that outer wall.<sup>[1]</sup> For what purpose?

<sup>7</sup> Jehovah said: "Now let them put their spiritual prostitution and the carcasses of their kings far away from me, and I will dwell among them forever." (Ezek. 43:9) "The carcasses of their kings" likely referred to idolatry. So Jehovah used that wide perimeter in Ezekiel's visionary temple to say, in effect: "Keep all such filth far away. Do not even let it near." If they thus kept their worship pure, Jehovah would bless them with his presence.

<sup>8</sup> *Strong counsel to responsible men.* Jehovah also gave strong but loving counsel to the men who bore great responsibility among the people. He forcefully corrected the Levites who strayed far from him when the people lapsed into idolatry, whereas he commended the sons of Zadok, "who took care of the responsibilities of [his] sanctuary when the Israelites strayed." He dealt justly and mercifully with each group, according to their actions. (Ezek. 44:10, 12-16) Similarly, the chieftains of Israel received powerful correction.—Ezek. 45:9.

<sup>9</sup> Jehovah thus clearly revealed that men in positions of authority and oversight had to answer to him for the way they handled their responsibilities. They were not above counsel, correction, and discipline. On the contrary, they were to take the lead in upholding Jehovah's standards!

<sup>10</sup> Did the returning exiles apply the lessons of Ezekiel's vision? Of course, we cannot know exactly what faithful men and women back then were thinking about this remarkable vision. However, God's Word does tell us a great deal about what the returning exiles did and how they came to view the pure worship of Jehovah. Did they apply the principles conveyed in Ezekiel's vision? To some extent, they did—especially in comparison with their rebellious ancestors prior to the exile in Babylon.

<sup>11</sup> Such faithful men as the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, the priest and copyist Ezra, and the governor Nehemiah all worked hard to teach the people principles like those conveyed in Ezekiel's temple vision. (Ezra 5:1, 2) They taught the people that pure worship must be exalted and must take precedence over material concerns and selfish pursuits. (Hag. 1:3, 4) They insisted that the standards for participating in pure worship be respected. For instance, Ezra and Nehemi-

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#### FOOTNOTE

[1] Jehovah was thus offering a contrast with the way his people had formerly treated his sacred house: "By putting their threshold next to my threshold and their doorpost beside my doorpost, *with only a wall between me and them*, they defiled my holy name by the detestable things they did." (Ezek. 43:8) In ancient Jerusalem, there was only a wall separating Jehovah's temple from secular housing. As the people strayed from Jehovah's righteous standards, they brought their uncleanness, their idolatry, right up against Jehovah's house. That situation was intolerable!



ah forcefully counseled the people to put away their foreign wives, who were weakening the people spiritually. (Read **Ezra 10:10, 11**; Neh. 13:23-27, 30) What about idolatry? It seems that after the exile, the nation finally developed a hatred for that sin, which had ensnared them so often during their history. And what about the priests and chieftains, or princes? As Ezekiel's vision indicated, they were among those who received counsel and correction from Jehovah. (Neh. 13:22, 28) Many humbly complied with that counsel.—Ezra 10:7-9, 12-14; Neh. 9:1-3, 38.

<sup>12</sup> In response, Jehovah did bless his people. The land enjoyed a measure of spiritual prosperity, health, and order that it had not seen in a long time. (Ezra 6:19-22; Neh. 8:9-12; 12:27-30, 43) And why? Because the people finally began to follow Jehovah's righteous standards for pure worship. The lessons of the visionary temple found their way into many responsive hearts. In summary, then, we could say that Ezekiel's vision of the temple benefited the exiles in two vital ways. (1) It taught them practical lessons about the standards for pure worship and about how they should uphold those standards. (2) It provided prophetic reassurance. It foretold

Nehemiah taught the people about pure worship while working alongside them

SEE PARAGRAPH 11

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**12.** In what ways did Jehovah bless the exiles after their return?

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13, 14. (a) How do we know that Ezekiel's temple vision has a fulfillment in our time? (b) In what two ways does the vision benefit us today? (See also box 13A, "Different Temples, Different Lessons.")

15. What should we keep in mind as we draw lessons from Ezekiel's visionary temple?

16. What can we learn from all the measuring in Ezekiel's vision? (See opening picture.)

that pure worship would be restored, and it further foretold how Jehovah would bless his people as long as they practiced pure worship. However, we today want to know: Does this vision have a fulfillment now?

### What Ezekiel's Vision Teaches Us Today

<sup>13</sup> Can we be sure that Ezekiel's temple vision applies to us today? Yes! Recall the similarity between Ezekiel's vision of God's sacred house on "a very high mountain" and Isaiah's prophecy that "the mountain of the house of Jehovah" would be "firmly established above the top of the mountains." Isaiah specifically tells us that his prophecy would see fulfillment during "the final part of the days," or "the last days." (Ezek. 40:2; Isa. 2:2-4; ftn.; see also Micah 4:1-4.) These prophecies apply to the time in the last days ever since 1919 when pure worship is lifted up, restored, as if placed on a lofty mountain.<sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Most decidedly, then, Ezekiel's vision does apply to pure worship today. Much as it benefited the Jewish exiles in ancient times, this vision benefits us today in two ways. (1) It provides practical lessons about how we can uphold Jehovah's standards for pure worship. (2) It gives prophetic reassurances of the restoration of pure worship and of Jehovah's blessings.

### Standards for Pure Worship Today

<sup>15</sup> Let us now consider some specific features of Ezekiel's vision. Imagine that we are joining Ezekiel on his tour of that impressive visionary temple. Keep in mind that we are not seeing the great spiritual temple; rather, we are simply drawing lessons that apply to our worship today. What are some lessons that we might learn?

<sup>16</sup> *Why all the measurements?* As Ezekiel watches, the angelic man with a copper appearance takes detailed measurements of the temple, including the walls, the gates, the guard chambers, the courtyards, and the altar. The sheer volume of detail can be overwhelming to the reader. (Ezek. 40:1-42:20; 43:13, 14) Think, though, of the vital points we can gain from such detail. Jehovah thereby powerfully stresses the importance of his standards. It is he who sets them, not mere humans. Those who claim that it does not matter how God is worshipped are sadly mistaken. Furthermore, by measuring out the temple in detail, Jehovah provides assurance that

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#### FOOTNOTE

[2] Ezekiel's temple vision also ties in with other restoration prophecies that have seen fulfillment during the last days. Note, for example, the similarities between Ezekiel 43:1-9 and Malachi 3:1-5; Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Joel 3:18.

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**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.”)

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**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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>[2]</sup> Rather than echo one another, their writings complement one another. In what way?

13A

## DIFFERENT TEMPLES, DIFFERENT LESSONS

SEE PARAGRAPHS 7-14



<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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?

<sup>15</sup> 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.



# Make Me Know Your Ways

(Psalm 25:4)

A F#m C#m G/A A7

We're gath - ered to - geth - er, Je - ho - vah our God, Ac -  
Un - reach - a - bly high is your wis - dom, O God; Your

D F#7+5 Bm Bm/A

cept - ing your warm in - vi - ta - tion. Your  
judg - ments we find re - as - sur - ing. Your

Bm/G# C#7 F° F#m

Word is a lamp that lights up our path - way, The  
Word is a source of un - end - ing won - der; Your

A/B B13 Bm7 E13sus4 E7

source of di - vine ed - u - ca - tion.  
say - ings of truth are en - dur - ing.

# Make Me Know Your Ways

## Chorus

A C#+5 D Bm7

Teach me your ways, and make me un - der - stand; In -

E7sus4 E/D A/C# Bm11 E7

cline my ear to hear your wise com - mand.

G/A A13 Dma7 G13sus4 Dm6/F

Cause me to walk in ways of truth and right, And

A/E D/E E7 A

make your law my prin - ci - pal de - light.

AUGUST 2021

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
SEPTEMBER 27–OCTOBER 31, 2021

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A couple preach in an area where there is a greater need for Kingdom publishers; a young sister helps with the construction of a Kingdom Hall; an elderly couple share in telephone witnessing. All of them derive much joy from their ministry (See study article 34, paragraph 11)

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# 123 *Loyally Submitting to Theocratic Order*

(1 Corinthians 14:33)

C Fma7 F6 Dm7 G9 Em7 C/E

As Je - ho - vah's peo - ple sound through - out the earth  
God pro - vides his stew - ard and his ac - tive force.

Am Am7/G F Dm7 C/E Fma7 G9sus4 G

Truths a - bout the King - dom and its price - less worth,  
These will ev - er guide us in our Chris - tian course.

C Fma7 F6 Dm7 G9 Em7 C/E

The - o - crat - ic or - der they must all o - bey  
So may we be stead - fast, seek - ing God to please,

F/A G/B Em7 Am Dm7 G7 G7sus4 C C/B

And re - main u - nit - ed, loy - al - ty dis - play.  
Loy - al - ly pro - claim - ing all his wise de - crees!

# Loyally Submitting to Theocratic Order

*Chorus*

Am Cma7/G G/F F Em7 Cma7/E C/E Fma7 F6

Loy - al sub - mis - sion in rec - og - ni - tion,

Dm9 Dm7 G7sus4 G7 Cma7 E7sus4 E7

This to our God we owe.

Am Cma7/G G/F F Em7 Cma7/E C/E Fma7 F6

He gives pro - tec - tion, ten - der af - fec - tion,

Dm7 F/G G7 C

Loy - al - ty to him we show.

**SONG 123**

Loyally Submitting  
to Theocratic Order

**PREVIEW**

In order for a family to function well, each member must know what is expected of him and must cooperate with other family members. The father lovingly takes the lead, the mother supports him, and the children obediently work along with their parents. It is similar with Jehovah's family. Our God has a purpose for us, and if we cooperate with that purpose, we will belong to Jehovah's family of worshippers forever.

## Cherish Your Place in Jehovah's Family

*“You made him a little lower than angels, and you crowned him with glory and splendor.”—PS. 8:5, ftn.*

WHEN we ponder the vast universe that Jehovah has created, we may feel as did the psalmist David, who prayerfully asked: “When I see your heavens, the works of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have prepared, what is mortal man that you keep him in mind, and a son of man that you take care of him?” (Ps. 8:3, 4) Like David, we may look at the small place we occupy in the universe and marvel that Jehovah keeps us in mind at all. Yet, as we shall see, Jehovah not only took notice of the first humans, Adam and Eve, but also made them part of his family.

<sup>2</sup> Adam and Eve were Jehovah's first earthly children, and Jehovah was their loving heavenly Father. He expected this couple to be productive family members. God told them: “Be fruitful and become many, fill the earth and subdue it.” (Gen. 1:28) They were to have children and take good care of their earthly home. If they had obediently cooperated with Jehovah's purpose for them, Adam and Eve and their offspring would have remained members of God's family forever.

<sup>3</sup> Adam and Eve had an honorable place in Jehovah's family. As recorded at Psalm 8:5 and footnote, David said this about Jehovah's creation of man: “You made him a little lower than angels, and you crowned him with

1. What questions may come to mind when we ponder all that Jehovah has created?
2. What was Jehovah's purpose for his first earthly children?
3. Why can we say that Adam and Eve were assigned an honorable place in Jehovah's family?

glory and splendor.” True, humans were not given the same power, intelligence, and abilities as the angels. (Ps. 103:20) Yet, mankind is only “a little lower” than those mighty spirit creatures. Imagine that! Jehovah truly gave our first parents a wonderful start.

<sup>4</sup> Sadly, Adam and Eve lost their place in Jehovah’s family. This has had disastrous consequences for their descendants, as we will see later in this article. But Jehovah’s purpose has not changed. He wants obedient humans to be his children forever. First, let us discuss how Jehovah has honored us. Then, we will discuss what we can do now to show that we want to be part of God’s family. Finally, we will consider the blessings that Jehovah’s earthly children will enjoy forever.

#### HOW JEHOVAH HAS HONORED HUMANS

<sup>5</sup> *Jehovah honored us by making us in his image.* (Gen. 1:26, 27) Because we are made in God’s image, we can develop and manifest many of his wonderful qualities, such as love, compassion, loyalty, and righteousness. (Ps. 86:15; 145:17) As we cultivate such qualities, we honor Jehovah and prove that we are grateful to him. (1 Pet. 1:14-16) When we behave in a way that pleases our heavenly Father, we are happy and satisfied. And by making us in his image, Jehovah gave us the ability to become the kind of people he wants in his family.

4. What happened to Adam and Eve’s place in Jehovah’s family, and what will we discuss in this article?

5. How can we honor God for making us in his image?

<sup>6</sup> *Jehovah prepared a special home for us.* Long before he created the first man, Jehovah prepared the earth for humans. (Job 38:4-6; Jer. 10:12) Because he is thoughtful and generous, Jehovah provided an abundance of good things for us to enjoy. (Ps. 104:14, 15, 24) At times, he reflected on his creative work, and he “saw that it was good.” (Gen. 1:10, 12, 31) He honored humans by giving them “dominion over” all his marvelous works on earth. (Ps. 8:6) God’s purpose is that perfect humans have the joy of caring for these grand works forever. Do you regularly thank Jehovah for that wonderful promise?

<sup>7</sup> *Jehovah has given us the gift of free will.* We can choose which course we will take in life. (**Read Joshua 24:15.**) The ability to choose is called free will. Our loving God rejoices when we choose to serve him. (Ps. 84:11; Prov. 27:11) We can use our free will properly in many areas. Consider the example set by Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Following the example of Jesus, we can choose to put the interests of others ahead of our own. Once when Jesus and his apostles were very tired, they traveled to a quiet place where they hoped to get some rest. However, that was not to be. A crowd found them, and they were eager to be taught by Jesus. But Jesus did not become irritated. Instead, he felt pity for the people. So, what did Jesus do? “He started to teach them *many*

6. How did Jehovah honor humans when preparing the earth?

7. How does Joshua 24:15 indicate that man has free will?

8. What is one way in which Jesus used his ability to choose?



**In what ways has  
Jehovah honored us?**  
(See paragraphs 5-11)

things.” (Mark 6:30-34) When we imitate Jesus by sacrificing our time and energy to help others, we bring glory to our heavenly Father. (Matt. 5:14-16) We also show Jehovah that we want to be part of his family.

<sup>9</sup> ***Jehovah has given humans the ability to have children, as well as the responsibility to teach them to love and to serve him.*** If you are a parent, do you appreciate this special gift? Although the angels are highly blessed by Jehovah, they have not been granted this privilege. With that in mind, those who are raising children should treasure their opportunity to do so. Parents have been given a trust, a sacred duty to raise their children in “the discipline and admonition of Jehovah.” (Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:5-7; Ps. 127:3) In order to help parents, God’s organization provides many Bible-based tools, such as publications, videos, music, and online resources. Clearly, both our heavenly Father and his Son cherish our young ones. (Luke 18:15-17) When parents rely on Jehovah and do their very best to care for their precious children, Jehovah is pleased. And such parents give their children the prospect of becoming part of Jehovah’s family forever!

<sup>10</sup> ***Jehovah gave his most precious Son so that we can once again become members of His family.*** As we mentioned in paragraph 4, Adam and Eve lost their place in Jehovah’s family, and they lost a place for their children. (Rom. 5:12) Adam and Eve deliberately disobeyed God, so they deserved to be disinherited

by him. But what of their offspring? Jehovah lovingly made a provision for deserving ones among them to be adopted into his family. He did this by means of the sacrifice of his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. (John 3:16; Rom. 5:19) As a result of Jesus’ sacrifice, 144,000 integrity-keeping humans are adopted as God’s sons.—Rom. 8:15-17; Rev. 14:1.

<sup>11</sup> Additionally, untold millions of other faithful ones are obediently doing God’s will. They have the prospect of full membership in God’s family after the final test at the end of the Millennium. (Ps. 25:14; Rom. 8:20, 21) With that prospect in mind, even now they address Jehovah, their Creator, as “Father.” (Matt. 6:9) Resurrected ones too will be given the opportunity to learn what Jehovah expects of them. Those who respond well to his direction will eventually also become members of his family.

<sup>12</sup> As we have seen, Jehovah has taken the initiative to honor humans in many ways. He has already adopted anointed ones as his sons, and he has granted those of the “great crowd” the prospect of full sonship in the new world. (Rev. 7:9) What can we do now to show Jehovah that we want to be part of his family forever?

#### SHOW JEHOVAH THAT YOU WANT TO BE PART OF HIS FAMILY

<sup>13</sup> ***Show your love for Jehovah by serving him with your whole heart. (Read Mark 12:30.)*** Of all the things that we

9. What should parents keep in mind?

10-11. What has Jehovah made possible for us by means of the ransom?

12. What question will we now answer?

13. What can we do to become a part of God’s family? (Mark 12:30)

have been kindly given by God, perhaps one of the greatest gifts is the ability to worship him. We show Jehovah that we love him by ‘observing his commandments.’ (1 John 5:3) Speaking for his Father, Jesus commanded us to make disciples, baptizing them. (Matt. 28:19) He also commanded us to love one another. (John 13:35) Jehovah will make obedient ones a part of his worldwide family of worshippers.—Ps. 15:1, 2.

<sup>14</sup> **Show love for others.** Love is Jehovah’s foremost quality. (1 John 4:8) Jehovah showed love for us before we ever knew him. (1 John 4:9, 10) We imitate him when we show love for others. (Eph. 5:1) One of the best ways we can show love for people is by helping them learn about Jehovah while there is still time. **(Read Matthew 9:36-38.)** In doing so, we give them an opportunity to become prospective members of God’s family. After a person gets baptized, we must continue to love and respect him. (1 John 4:20, 21) What does this involve? For one thing, we give him the benefit of the doubt whenever possible. For example, we would not impute bad or selfish motives to him. Instead, we would show honor for our brother, considering him to be superior to us.—**Read Romans 12:10; Phil. 2:3.**

<sup>15</sup> **Show mercy and kindness to all people.** If we want to be among those who can rightly call Jehovah their Father forever, we must apply God’s Word in our lives. For instance, Jesus taught that we should show mercy and kindness to all

people, even our enemies. (Luke 6:32-36) We may find that at times this is difficult for us to do. If so, we must learn to think and act like Jesus. When we do our best to obey Jehovah and imitate Jesus, we show our heavenly Father that we want to be part of his family forever.

<sup>16</sup> **Protect the reputation of Jehovah’s family.** In a literal family, it is not uncommon for a little boy to copy his older brother. If the older sibling applies Bible principles in his life, he will serve as a good example for his younger brother. If the older one turns to doing what is wrong, the younger brother may follow his bad example. It is similar in Jehovah’s family. If a once faithful Christian later adopts apostate thinking or chooses an immoral or a corrupt way of life, others may be tempted to join him in doing what is bad. Those who do so harm the reputation of Jehovah’s family of worshippers. (1 Thess. 4:3-8) We must avoid following bad examples and not allow anything to pull us away from our loving heavenly Father.

<sup>17</sup> **Trust in Jehovah instead of in material things.** Jehovah promises that he will provide us with food, clothing, and shelter if we seek his Kingdom first and live by his righteous standards. (Ps. 55:22; Matt. 6:33) With that in mind, we avoid thinking that the material things this world offers will bring us security and lasting happiness. We know that the only way we can gain real peace of mind is by doing Jehovah’s will. (Phil. 4:

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14. How can we show love for others? (Matthew 9:36-38; Romans 12:10)

15. To whom should we show mercy and kindness?

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16. How can we protect the reputation of Jehovah’s family?

17. What kind of thinking should we avoid, and why?

6, 7) Even if we can afford to buy many things, we must consider whether we really have the time or the energy to use and care for such things. Might we become too attached to our possessions? We must remember that God expects us to be productive members of his family. That means we should not allow ourselves to be distracted. We certainly do not want to be like the young man who turned down the opportunity to serve Jehovah as well as the potential to be adopted as one of his sons—all because he was attached to a few earthly possessions!—Mark 10:17-22.

#### WHAT JEHOVAH'S CHILDREN WILL ENJOY FOREVER

<sup>18</sup> Obedient humans will enjoy the greatest honor of all—the privilege of loving and worshipping Jehovah forever! Those with an earthly hope will also have the joy of caring for this beautiful planet that Jehovah so perfectly designed to be their home. Soon the earth and all life on it will be renewed under Kingdom rule. Jesus will undo the conditions that resulted when Adam and

18. What great honor and what blessings will obedient humans enjoy forever?

Eve decided to leave God's family. Jehovah will resurrect millions and give them the opportunity for everlasting life in perfect health on an earth transformed into a paradise. (Luke 23:42, 43) As the earthly part of Jehovah's family of worshippers grows to perfection, each one will reflect the "glory and splendor" that David wrote about.—Ps. 8:5.

<sup>19</sup> If you belong to the "great crowd," you have a wonderful prospect. God loves you; he wants you to be a member of his family. So do all you can to please him. Live each day with God's promises in your mind and heart. Appreciate your privilege of worshipping our dear heavenly Father, and cherish the prospect of praising him forever!

19. What should we keep in mind?

**PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 4:** Being made in God's image enables a couple to show love and compassion to each other and to their sons. The couple love Jehovah. The gift of having children gives them the opportunity to raise their sons to love and serve Jehovah. The parents use a video to explain to them why Jehovah provided Jesus as a ransom. They also teach them that in the Paradise to come, we will care for the earth and the animals forever.

#### HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- How has Jehovah honored humans?
- How can we show Jehovah that we want to be part of his family?
- What will Jehovah's children soon enjoy?

# The Divine Pattern of Love

(1 John 4:19)

B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$  Cm7 A $\flat$  Fm7 B $\flat$ 7/F

The pat - tern of love, we learn from Je - ho - vah Shows the  
 When we walk his way, our love for each oth - er Will be  
 The pat - tern of love, the bond that u - nites us Lets us

E $\flat$ /G A $\flat$ ma7 A $\flat$ 6 B $\flat$ 9sus4 B $\flat$ 7

way, guides our way. In all he has  
 true, warm and true, Will move us to  
 be fam - i - ly. Our Fa - ther a -

Fm C+5/E Fm/E $\flat$  A $\flat$ /B $\flat$  B $\flat$ 7

done, his deal - ings have shown us How to dis -  
 care for all of our broth - ers, Old ones and  
 bove now warm - ly in - vites us: "Come taste and

E $\flat$ 6 Fm/B $\flat$  A $\flat$ /B $\flat$  E $\flat$ ma7 E $\flat$ 6

play his lov - ing way. He gave us his  
 new, not just a few. True love for our  
 see real u - ni - ty." Come share in the

