

Sunday, October 10

I am sending you out as sheep among wolves.—Matt. 10:16.

Many of our brothers and sisters live in countries where they cannot preach openly or from door to door, so they find other ways to declare the good news. (Matt. 10:17-20) In one such country, a circuit overseer suggested that each publisher cover his own preaching “territory” made up of relatives, neighbors, schoolmates, workmates, and acquaintances. Within two years, the number of congregations in that circuit increased significantly. We may not live in a country where we cannot preach openly. However, we can learn a valuable lesson from the example of our resourceful brothers and sisters: Always look for ways to have a full share in the ministry, confident that Jehovah will give you the power you need to overcome any obstacle. (Phil. 2:13) At this momentous time, may we make sure of the more important things, be flawless, avoid stumbling others, and bear righteous fruit. Then we will abound in love and bring honor to our caring Father, Jehovah. *w19.08 13 ¶17-18*

Monday, October 11

I have seen servants on horseback but princes walking on foot just like servants.—Eccl. 10:7.

Few of us enjoy dealing with people who always insist on their own way and who refuse to accept suggestions from others. By contrast, we find it refreshing to deal with our fellow believers when they show “fellow feeling, brotherly affection, tender compassion, and humility.” (1 Pet. 3:8) If we are drawn to such people, they will likely be drawn to

us—as long as we are humble. Humility also makes our life easier. Realistically, we may observe things in life that do not seem to be right or fair. Those who have great ability do not always receive recognition. And those with less ability sometimes receive more honor. Even so, Solomon acknowledged that it is wise for us to face reality rather than to be obsessed with negative circumstances. (Eccl. 6:9) If we are humble, we will find it easier to accept life as it is—not as we think it should be. *w19.09 4-5 ¶9-10*

Tuesday, October 12

Fathers, . . . go on bringing [your children] up in the discipline and admonition of Jehovah.—Eph. 6:4.

Those who have a measure of authority, such as fathers, have the opportunity to benefit other people. Jehovah has assigned the father as head of the family, and God expects him to train and discipline his children. (1 Cor. 11:3) But a father’s authority is limited—he must answer to Jehovah, the one to whom every family owes its name. (Eph. 3:14, 15) Fathers show their submission to Jehovah by using their authority in a way that pleases God. Do not abuse the authority that Jehovah has given you. Admit your mistakes, and accept Bible-based counsel from others. If you do, your family will respect you for your humility. When praying with your family, pour your heart out to Jehovah—let them hear how much you depend on him. And above all, build your life around your service to Jehovah. (Deut. 6:6-9) Your good example is one of the most valuable gifts that you can give to your family. *w19.09 15 ¶8; 17 ¶14; 18 ¶16*

Wednesday, October 13

*Welcome [Mark] if he comes
to you.—Col. 4:10.*

Mark was happy to serve others. At various times he served alongside both the apostle Paul and the apostle Peter as they fulfilled their responsibilities, with Mark possibly attending to their physical needs. (Acts 13:2-5; 1 Pet. 5:13) Paul described Mark as one of his “fellow workers for the Kingdom of God” and as “a strengthening aid” to him. (Col. 4:11, ftn.) Mark became one of Paul’s close friends. For example, when Paul was imprisoned for the last time in Rome, about 65 C.E., he wrote his second letter to Timothy. In that letter, Paul asked Timothy to come to Rome and to bring Mark along. (2 Tim. 4:11) Paul no doubt appreciated Mark’s past faithful service, so he asked for Mark’s presence at that crucial time. Mark helped Paul in practical ways, perhaps supplying him with food or items for his writing. The support and encouragement that Paul received likely helped him to endure the final days leading up to his execution. *w20.01 11 ¶12-13*

Thursday, October 14

Come to me.—Matt. 11:28.

We have chosen a life of self-sacrifice and hard work. Jesus warned us that we would be persecuted. But we can expect that Jehovah will give us the strength to endure any challenge. The more we endure, the stronger we will become. (Jas. 1:2-4) We can also expect that Jehovah will provide for us, that Jesus will shepherd us, and that our brothers and sisters will encourage us. (Matt. 6:31-33; John 10:14; 1 Thess. 5:11) The woman whom Jesus cured from her “flow of blood”

was refreshed on the very day that she was healed. (Luke 8:43-48) But she would receive lasting refreshment only if she became a loyal disciple of Christ. What do you think she did? If she did choose to come under Jesus’ yoke, imagine the reward—serving with Jesus in heaven! Any sacrifices she had made to follow Christ would pale in comparison with that blessing. No matter what our hope is—living forever in heaven or on earth—how thankful we can be that we have accepted Jesus’ invitation: “Come to me!” *w19.09 25 ¶21-22*

Friday, October 15

*By wisdom a house is built up, and
by discernment it is made secure.
—Prov. 24:3.*

Needing help, David’s men asked a wealthy Israelite named Nabal for a little food. They felt free to ask because they had been protecting Nabal’s flocks in the wilderness. But selfish Nabal refused to give them anything. David became furious and intended to wipe out Nabal and every male of his household. (1 Sam. 25:3-13, 22) However, Nabal’s wife, Abigail, was as discerning as she was beautiful. Showing great courage, she fell at David’s feet and urged him not to incur bloodguilt by taking revenge. She tactfully advised him to leave matters in Jehovah’s hands. Abigail’s humble words and discreet actions touched David’s heart. He rightly concluded that Jehovah had sent her. (1 Sam. 25:23-28, 32-34) Abigail had cultivated qualities that made her useful to Jehovah. Similarly, Christian sisters who develop tact and discernment can be used by Jehovah to build up their families and others in the congregation. —Titus 2:3-5. *w19.10 23 ¶10*

Saturday, October 16

Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues.

—Rev. 18:4.

All true Christians must maintain a clear distinction between themselves and Babylon the Great. Before learning the truth, a Bible student may have been a member of a false religion. He may have attended its religious services and shared in its activities. Or he may have contributed money to such an organization. Before a Bible student can be approved as an unbaptized publisher, he must break all ties with false religion. He should submit a letter of resignation or otherwise completely sever his membership in his former church and in any other organization that has ties to Babylon the Great. A true Christian must make sure that his secular employment has nothing to do with Babylon the Great. (2 Cor. 6:14-17) Why do we take such a firm stand? Because we do not want to share in the works and sins of religious organizations that are unclean in God's eyes.—Isa. 52:11. *w19.10 12 ¶16-17*

Sunday, October 17

Jehovah is merciful and compassionate . . . He will not always find fault, nor will he stay resentful forever.—Ps. 103:8, 9.

Jeremiah wrote the book named after him, and he likely also wrote the Bible books of 1 and 2 Kings. That assignment no doubt made him especially aware of Jehovah's mercy toward imperfect humans. For example, he knew that when King Ahab repented of his bad deeds, Jehovah spared him from

seeing his entire family destroyed during his lifetime. (1 Ki. 21:27-29) Similarly, Jeremiah knew that Manasseh did even more to offend Jehovah than Ahab did. Even so, Jehovah forgave Manasseh because he repented. (2 Ki. 21:16, 17; 2 Chron. 33:10-13) Those accounts must have helped Jeremiah to imitate God's patience and mercy. Consider how Jeremiah dealt with Baruch when he temporarily became distracted in his assignment. Instead of quickly giving up on his friend, Jeremiah helped Baruch by sharing God's kind but frank message with him.—Jer. 45:1-5. *w19.11 6 ¶14-15*

Monday, October 18

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

In the book of Leviticus, we learn that an Israelite could offer a communion sacrifice "as an expression of thanksgiving." (Lev. 7:11-13, 16-18) He made this offering, not because he had to, but because he wanted to. Like those communion sacrifices, our service to Jehovah is a voluntary expression of how we feel about him. We give Jehovah our best, and we do so because we love him with all our heart. How pleased Jehovah must be to see millions of willing worshippers serve him out of deep love for him and his ways! Jehovah sees and values not only our actions but also our motives. For example, if you are elderly and can no longer do as much as you would like, be assured that Jehovah sees beyond your limitations. You may feel that you have little to offer, but Jehovah sees the love deep within you that motivates you to do what you can do. He is pleased to accept the best that you can give. *w19.11 22 ¶9; 23 ¶11-12*



TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Jehovah Fights for Israel”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Jos 10:13—Why do we not need to know what was in “the book of Jashar”? (w09 3/15 32 ¶5)

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 10:1-15 (10)



APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Accept Help From Fellow Workers”: (10 min.)

Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Accept Jehovah’s Help—Our Brothers*.

Bible Study: (5 min.) Iffi lesson 01 point 4 (14)



LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 102

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

rr chap. 14 ¶21-25, box 14A



Jehovah Fights for Israel

Five kings joined forces against Gibeon and Israel (Jos 10:5; it-1 50)

Jehovah fought against the coalition (Jos 10:10, 11; it-1 1020)

Jehovah caused the sun to stand still (Jos 10:12-14; w04 12/1 11 ¶1)

When we face persecution, we trust in Jehovah to help us remain faithful. We know that with his backing, no human government can prevent us from worshipping him.



A Victory Song

(Exodus 15:1)

Em Bm Em Am/C B+5 B

Sing to Je - ho - vah. His great name is high - ly ex -
See now all na - tions Op - pos - ing the Sov - 'reign, Je -

Em Em/G B7/F# Em C Esus4/B Em/B

alt - ed. His proud E - gyp - tian foes, He has
ho - vah. Though might - i - er than Phar - aoh, They

Am C7/Bb B Em Bm Em

cast in - to the sea. Praise Jah Al - might - y; Be -
too will suf - fer shame. Judg - ment a - waits them; They

Am/C B+5 B Em Em/G B7/F# Em

sides him there can be no oth - er. Je - ho - vah is his
can - not es - cape Ar - ma - ged - don. Soon ev - 'ry - one will

A Victory Song

Chorus

C D/C C7 B Em/C# B7/D# E Dadd9/F# E/G#

name; He has gained the vic - to - ry. Je -
know That Je - ho - vah is God's name.

Am D D7 G C Am B7

ho - vah God, Most High o - ver all, The one who is for -

Em/G B/F# Em B7/D# Em Em/G Am D D7

ev - er - more the same, You soon will cause your

G Em C Em/B Am Em/G B7/F# Em Bsus4 B E

en - e - mies to fall And sanc - ti - fy your ho - ly name.

(See also Ps. 2:2, 9; 92:8; Mal. 3:6; Rev. 16:16.)

10 As soon as King A-do-ni-ze'dek of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured A'i and devoted it to destruction, doing to A'i and its king^a just as he had done to Jer'i-cho and its king,^b and how the inhabitants of Gib'e-on had made peace with Israel^c and remained among them, **2** he was greatly alarmed,^d because Gib'e-on was a great city, like one of the royal cities. It was greater than A'i,^e and all its men were warriors. **3** So A-do-ni-ze'dek king of Jerusalem sent this message to Ho'ham king of Heb'ron,^f Pi'ram king of Jar'muth, Japhi'a king of La'chish, and De'bir king of Eg'lon:^g **4** "Come to my aid, and let us attack Gib'e-on, because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites."^h **5** At this the five kings of the Am'or-ites—the king of Jerusalem, the king of Heb'ron, the king of Jar'muth, the king of La'chish, and the king of Eg'lon—gathered together along with their armies, and they marched on and encamped against Gib'e-on to fight against it.

6 Then the men of Gib'e-on sent word to Joshua at the camp at Gil'gal:ⁱ "Do not forsake* your slaves.^k Come quickly! Rescue us and help us! All the kings of the Am'or-ites from the mountainous region have gathered against us." **7** So Joshua went up from Gil'gal with all the fighting men and the mighty warriors.^l

8 Jehovah then said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid of them,^m for I have handed them over to you.ⁿ Not one of them will be able to stand against you."^o **9** Joshua came against them by surprise after marching all night long from Gil'gal. **10** Jehovah threw them into confusion before Israel,^p and they inflicted a

10:6 *Lit., "let your hand drop from."

CHAP. 10

a Jos 8:24, 29

b Jos 6:2, 21

c Jos 9:9, 15
Jos 11:19

d De 2:25
De 11:25
Jos 2:10, 11
Jos 5:1

e Jos 8:25

f Ge 23:2
Nu 13:22

g Jos 12:7,
10-12

h Jos 9:9, 15
Jos 11:19

i Ge 15:16

j Jos 5:10

k Jos 9:25, 27

l Jos 8:3

m De 3:2
De 20:1

n De 7:24
Jos 11:6

o Jos 1:3-5

p Ps 44:3

Second Col.

a 2Ki 20:10
Ps 135:6
Isa 38:8

b Isa 28:21

c 2Sa 1:17, 18

d De 9:18, 19
1Ki 17:22
Jas 5:16

e De 1:30
Jos 23:3

f Jos 5:10
Jos 9:6

g Jos 10:10

h Jos 10:28

i De 28:7

great slaughter on them at Gib'e-on, pursuing them by way of the ascent of Beth-ho'ron and striking them down as far as A-ze'kah and Mak-ke'dah. **11** While they were fleeing from Israel and were on the descent of Beth-ho'ron, Jehovah hurled great hailstones from the sky on them as far as A-ze'kah, and they perished. In fact, more died from the hail than from the sword of the Israelites.

12 It was then, on the day that Jehovah routed the Am'or-ites before the eyes of the Israelites, that Joshua said to Jehovah before Israel:

"Sun, stand still^a over
Gib'e-on,^b

And moon, over the Valley*
of Ai'ja-lon!"

13 So the sun stood still and the moon did not move until the nation could take vengeance on its enemies. Is it not written in the book of Ja'shar?^c The sun stood still in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to set for about a whole day. **14** There has never been a day like that one, either before it or after it, when Jehovah listened to the voice of a man,^d for Jehovah was fighting for Israel.^e

15 After that Joshua together with all Israel returned to the camp at Gil'gal.^f

16 Meanwhile, the five kings fled and hid in the cave at Mak-ke'dah.^g **17** Then it was reported to Joshua: "The five kings have been found hiding in the cave at Mak-ke'dah."^h **18** So Joshua said: "Roll large stones over the mouth of the cave and assign men to guard them. **19** But the rest of you should not stop. Pursue your enemies and strike them from the rear.ⁱ Do not allow them to enter into their cities, for Jehovah your

10:12 *Or "Low Plain."

God has given them into your hands."

20 After Joshua and the Israelites had finished inflicting a very great slaughter on them, to the point of wiping them out except for some survivors who escaped and entered into the fortified cities, **21** all the people returned safely to Joshua at the camp at Mak-ke'dah. Not a man dared to utter a word* against the Israelites. **22** Then Joshua said: "Open the mouth of the cave and bring the five kings out of the cave to me." **23** So they brought to him from the cave these five kings: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Heb'ron, the king of Jar'muth, the king of La'chish, and the king of Eg'lon.^a **24** When they brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the commanders of the fighting men who had gone with him: "Come forward. Place your feet on the backs of the necks of these kings." So they came forward and placed their feet on the backs of their necks.^b **25** Then Joshua said to them: "Do not be afraid or be terrified.^c Be courageous and strong, for this is what Jehovah will do to all your enemies against whom you are fighting."^d

26 Then Joshua struck them and put them to death and hung them on five stakes,* and they remained hanging on the stakes until the evening. **27** At sunset Joshua ordered that they be taken down off the stakes^e and thrown into the cave where they had hidden themselves. Then large stones were placed at the mouth of the cave, and these remain to this very day.

28 Joshua captured Mak-ke'dah^f on that day and struck it with the sword. He devoted its

10:21 *Lit., "sharpened his tongue."
10:26 *Or "trees."

CHAP. 10

a Jos 10:3-5
Jos 12:7,
10-12

b Ex 23:27

c De 31:6
Jos 1:9

d De 3:21
De 7:18, 19

e De 21:22, 23
Jos 8:29

f Jos 10:10
Jos 15:20, 41

Second Col.

a De 20:16

b Jos 12:7, 16

c Jos 15:20, 42
Jos 21:13

d Jos 12:7, 15

e Jos 6:2, 21

f Jos 10:3, 4
Jos 12:7, 11
Jos 15:20, 39

g De 20:16

h Jos 12:7, 12
Jos 16:10
Jos 21:20, 21
1Ki 9:16

i Jos 10:3, 4
Jos 12:7, 12
Jos 15:20, 39

j De 20:16
Jos 10:32

k Ge 13:18
Ge 23:19
Nu 13:22
Jos 10:3, 4
Jos 15:13
Jos 21:13

l Jos 12:7, 13
Jos 15:15

king and everyone* in it to destruction, letting no survivor remain.^a He did to the king of Mak-ke'dah^b just as he had done to the king of Jer'i-cho.

29 Then Joshua together with all Israel went from Mak-ke'dah to Lib'nah and fought against Lib'nah.^c **30** Jehovah also gave it and its king^d into Israel's hand, and they struck it and everyone* in it with the sword, not letting a survivor remain in it. So they did to its king just as they had done to the king of Jer'i-cho.^e

31 Next Joshua together with all Israel went from Lib'nah to La'chish^f and camped there and fought against it. **32** Jehovah gave La'chish into Israel's hand, and they captured it on the second day. They struck it and everyone* in it with the sword,^g just as they had done to Lib'nah.

33 Then Ho'ram king of Ge'zer^h went up to help La'chish, but Joshua struck him and his people down until not one survivor remained.

34 Then Joshua together with all Israel went from La'chish to Eg'lonⁱ and camped there and fought against it. **35** They captured it on that day and struck it with the sword. They devoted everyone* in it to destruction on that day, just as they had done to La'chish.^j

36 Then Joshua together with all Israel went up from Eg'lon to Heb'ron^k and fought against it. **37** They captured it and struck it, its king, its towns, and everyone* in it with the sword, not letting any survivor remain. Just as he had done to Eg'lon, he devoted it and everyone* in it to destruction.

38 Finally Joshua together with all Israel turned toward De'bir^l and fought against it.

10:28, 30, 32, 35, 37 *Or "every soul."

39 He captured it, its king, and all its towns, and they struck them down with the sword, devoting everyone* in it to destruction,^a not letting any survivor remain.^b He did to De'bir and its king just as he had done to Heb'ron and to Lib'nah and its king.

40 Joshua conquered all the land of the mountainous region, the Neg'eb, the She-phe'lah,^c and the slopes, and all their kings, not letting any survivor remain; he devoted everything that breathed to destruction,^d just as Jehovah the God of Israel had commanded.^e **41** Joshua conquered them from Ka'desh-bar'ne-a'f to Gaz'a^g and all the land of Go'shen^h and up to Gib'e-on.ⁱ **42** Joshua captured all these kings and their land, all at the same time, because it was Jehovah the God of Israel who was fighting for Israel.^j

43 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gil'gal.^k

11 As soon as Ja'bin king of Ha'zor heard of it, he sent word to Jo'bab king of Ma'don,^l and to the king of Shim'ron, the king of Ach'shaph,^m **2** the kings who were in the northern mountainous region, those in the plains* south of Chin'ne-reth, those in the She-phe'lah and on the slopes of Dorⁿ to the west, **3** the Ca'naan-ites^o to the east and the west, the Am'or-ites,^p the Hit'tites, the Per'iz-zites, the Jeb'u-sites in the mountainous region, and the Hi'vites^q at the base of Her'mon' in the land of Miz'pah. **4** So they came out with all their armies, a vast multitude as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore, together with very many horses and war chariots. **5** All these kings agreed to meet, and they came and camped together at the wa-

10:39; 11:11 *Or "every soul." 11:2 *Or "Arabah."

CHAP. 10

- a De 7:2
b Jos 11:14
c Jos 9:1, 2
Jg 1:9
d Le 27:29
De 20:16
Jos 11:14
e De 7:2
De 9:5
f Nu 34:2, 4
De 9:23
g De 2:23
h Jos 15:20, 51
i Jos 11:16, 19
j Ex 14:14
De 1:30
k Jos 4:19

CHAP. 11

- l Jos 12:7, 19
m Jos 12:7, 20
n Jos 17:11
Jg 1:27
o Nu 13:29
p Ge 15:16
q De 7:1
De 20:17
r De 4:48

Second Col.

- a Jos 10:8
b De 17:16
Pr 21:31
c Jos 21:44
d Ge 10:19
Jos 19:28, 31
e Jos 13:1, 6
f De 20:16
g Jos 11:6
h Jos 12:7, 19
i Le 27:29
j De 20:16
Jos 11:14
k De 9:5
l De 7:2, 16
m Jos 8:2, 27
n De 7:2
o De 20:16

ters of Mer'om to fight against Israel.

6 At this Jehovah said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid because of them,^a for about this time tomorrow, I am giving over all of them slain to Israel. Their horses you must hamstring,^b and their chariots you must burn in the fire."^c **7** Joshua together with all the fighting men then launched a surprise attack against them along the waters of Mer'om. **8** Jehovah gave them into Israel's hand,^c and they defeated them and pursued them as far as Great Si'don^d and Mis're-photh-ma'im^e and the Valley of Miz'peh to the east, and they struck them down until no survivors remained.^f **9** Joshua then did to them just as Jehovah had told him; he hamstringed their horses and burned their chariots in the fire.^g

10 Moreover, Joshua then returned and captured Ha'zor and struck down its king with the sword,^h because Ha'zor had formerly been the head of all these kingdoms. **11** They struck down everyone* in it with the sword, devoting them to destruction.ⁱ Not a breathing thing was left.^j Then he burned Ha'zor in the fire. **12** Joshua captured all the cities of these kings and defeated all their kings with the sword.^k He devoted them to destruction,^l just as Moses the servant of Jehovah had commanded. **13** However, Israel did not burn any of the cities that stood on their mounds except Ha'zor; it was the only one Joshua burned. **14** All the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the Israelites plundered for themselves.^m But they struck every human with the sword until they had annihilated each one.ⁿ They did not let anyone who breathed remain.^o **15** Just as Jehovah had

commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua,^a and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that Jehovah had commanded Moses.^b

16 Joshua conquered all this land, the mountainous region, all the Neg'eb,^c all the land of Go'a-bah,^e and the mountainous region of Israel and its She-phe'lah,^d the Ar'a-bah,^e and the mountainous region of Israel and its She-phe'lah,^{* 17} from Mount Ha'lak, which goes up to Se'ir, and as far as Ba'al-gad^f in the Valley of Leb'a-non at the base of Mount Her'mon,^g and he captured all their kings and defeated them, putting them to death. **18** Joshua waged war with all these kings for quite some time. **19** There was no city that made peace with the Israelites except the Hi'vites inhabiting Gib'e-on.^h They conquered all the others by war.ⁱ **20** It was Jehovah who allowed their hearts to become stubborn^j so that they waged war against Israel, in order for him to devote them to destruction without any favorable consideration.^k They were to be annihilated, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.^l

21 At that time Joshua wiped out the An'a-kim^m from the mountainous region, from Heb'ron, De'bir, A'nab, and all the mountainous region of Judah and all the mountainous region of Israel. Joshua devoted them and their cities to destruction.ⁿ **22** There were no An'a-kim left in the land of the Israelites; they remained^o only in Gaz'a,^p in Gath,^q and in Ash'dod.^r **23** So Joshua took control of all the land, just as Jehovah had promised Moses,^s and then Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel by their shares to be divided among their tribes.^t And the land had rest from war.^u

11:16 *Or "its foothills."

CHAP. 11

- a De 3:28
- De 7:1
- De 31:7
- b De 4:2, 5
- c Nu 13:17
- De 1:7
- d Jos 10:40, 41
- e Jos 12:7, 8
- f Jos 13:1, 5
- g De 4:48
- Jos 13:8, 11
- h Jos 9:7, 15
- i De 20:17
- j De 2:30
- k Ex 34:12
- De 7:2
- l De 20:16
- m Nu 13:22
- De 1:28
- Jos 15:13, 14
- n Le 27:29
- Jos 11:12
- Jos 24:11
- o Ex 23:28-30
- p Jg 1:18
- q 1Sa 17:4
- r 2Ch 26:1, 6
- s Ex 23:27
- De 11:23
- t Nu 26:53, 54
- Jos 14:1
- u Jos 14:15
- Jos 21:44
- Jos 23:1

Second Col.

CHAP. 12

- a De 2:24
- b De 3:8
- c De 4:47-49
- d Nu 21:23, 24
- e De 3:12
- f Nu 21:13
- g Joh 6:1
- h De 3:27
- i Nu 21:33-35
- j De 3:11
- k De 29:7
- l Jos 13:13
- m Nu 21:26
- n Nu 21:23, 24
- Nu 21:33-35
- o Nu 32:33
- De 3:12, 13
- p Jos 13:1, 5
- q Jos 1:4
- r Jos 11:16, 17
- s De 2:12

12 Now these are the kings of the land whom the Israelites defeated, whose land they took possession of on the east side of the Jordan, from the Ar'non Valley^{*a} up to Mount Her'mon^b and all the Ar'a-bah toward the east:^c **2** King Si'hon^d of the Am'or-ites, who lived in Hesh'bon and ruled from A-ro'er,^e which was on the rim of the Ar'non Valley,^{*f} and from the middle of the valley, and half of Gil'e-ad as far as the Valley[#] of Jab'bok, the boundary of the Am'mon-ites. **3** He also ruled over the Ar'a-bah as far as the Sea of Chin'ne-reth^{*g} toward the east and as far as the Sea of the Ar'a-bah, the Salt Sea,[#] to the east in the direction of Beth-jesh'i-moth, and toward the south under the slopes of Pis'gah.^h

4 Also the territory of King Ogⁱ of Ba'shan, who was one of the last of the Reph'a-im^j and who lived in Ash'ta-roth and Ed're-i **5** and ruled in Mount Her'mon, in Sal'e-cah, and in all Ba'shan,^k as far as the boundary of the Gesh'ur-ites and the Ma-ac'a-thites,^l and half of Gil'e-ad, to the territory of King Si'hon of Hesh'bon.^m

6 Moses the servant of Jehovah and the Israelites defeated them,ⁿ after which Moses the servant of Jehovah gave their land as a possession to the Reu'ben-ites, the Gad'ites, and the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh.^o

7 These are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the Israelites defeated on the west side of the Jordan, from Ba'al-gad^p in the Valley of Leb'a-non^q and as far as Mount Ha'lak,^r which goes up to Se'ir,^s after which Joshua gave their land to the tribes

12:1, 2 *Or "Wadi Arnon." 12:2 #Or "Wadi." 12:3 *That is, the lake of Gennesaret, or the Sea of Galilee. #That is, the Dead Sea.



TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Jehovah Fights for Israel”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Jos 10:13—Why do we not need to know what was in “the book of Jashar”? (w09 3/15 32 ¶5)

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 10:1-15 (10)



APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Accept Help From Fellow Workers”: (10 min.)

Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Accept Jehovah’s Help—Our Brothers*.

Bible Study: (5 min.) Iffi lesson 01 point 4 (14)



LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 102

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

rr chap. 14 ¶21-25, box 14A



Jehovah Fights for Israel

Five kings joined forces against Gibeon and Israel (Jos 10:5; it-1 50)

Jehovah fought against the coalition (Jos 10:10, 11; it-1 1020)

Jehovah caused the sun to stand still (Jos 10:12-14; w04 12/1 11 ¶1)

When we face persecution, we trust in Jehovah to help us remain faithful. We know that with his backing, no human government can prevent us from worshipping him.



October 11-17 / Joshua 10-11

Song 149 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Jehovah Fights for Israel": (10 minutes)

Five kings joined forces against Gibeon and Israel

Joshua 10:5: At this the five kings of the Amorites—the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon—gathered together along with their armies, and they marched on and encamped against Gibeon to fight against it.

it-1 50

Adoni-Zedek - A king of Jerusalem at the time of the Israelite conquest of the Promised Land. Adoni-zedek joined with other petty kingdoms W of the Jordan in a consolidated effort to halt Joshua's conquering forces. (Joshua 9:1-3) However, the Hivite inhabitants of Gibeon made peace with Joshua. In a retaliatory measure designed to stop further desertion to the enemy, Adoni-zedek united his army with those of four additional kings of the Amorites, and he laid siege against Gibeon and warred against it. Joshua's spectacular rescue of the Gibeonites and the shattering defeat of these combined forces caused the five kings to flee to Makkedah, where they were trapped in a cave. Joshua himself slew Adoni-zedek and the other four kings before his troops, and hung them upon stakes. Their corpses were finally thrown back into the cave, which came to be their tomb.—Joshua 10:1-27.

Jehovah fought against the coalition

Joshua 10:10, 11: Jehovah threw them into confusion before Israel, and they inflicted a great slaughter on them at Gibeon, pursuing them by way of the ascent of Beth-horon and striking them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. While they were fleeing from Israel and were on the descent of Beth-horon, Jehovah hurled great hailstones from the sky on them as far as Azekah, and they perished. In fact, more died from the hail than from the sword of the Israelites.

it-1 1020

Hail - *Used by Jehovah.* Hail is one of the forces Jehovah has used at times to accomplish his word and to demonstrate his great power. (Psalm 148:1, 8; Isaiah 30:30) The first recorded instance of this was the seventh plague upon ancient Egypt, a destructive hailstorm that ruined vegetation, shattered trees, and killed both men and beasts out in the field but did not affect the Israelites in Goshen. (Exodus 9:18-26; Psalm 78:47, 48; 105:32, 33) Later, in the Promised Land, when the Israelites, under Joshua, came to the aid of the Gibeonites, who were threatened by an alliance of five kings of the Amorites, Jehovah used great hailstones against the attacking Amorites. On this occasion more died from the hailstones than in battle with Israel.—Joshua 10:3-7, 11.

Jehovah caused the sun to stand still

Joshua 10:12-14: It was then, on the day that Jehovah routed the Amorites before the eyes of the Israelites, that Joshua said to Jehovah before Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, And moon, over the Valley of Aijalon!" So the sun stood still and the moon did not move until the nation could take vengeance on its enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? The sun stood still in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to set for about a whole day. There has never been a day like that one, either before it or after it, when Jehovah listened to the voice of a man, for Jehovah was fighting for Israel.

w04 12/1 11 paragraph 1

How is such a phenomenon possible? "Is anything too extraordinary for Jehovah," the Creator of the heavens and the earth? (Genesis 18:14) If he chooses to, Jehovah can manipulate the movement of the earth so that the sun and the moon would seem motionless to an earthly observer. Or he can let the movement of the earth and the moon remain undisturbed while refracting the rays from the sun and the moon in such a way that the light from these two luminaries continues to shine. Whatever the case, "no day has proved to be like that one" in human history.—Joshua 10:14.

When we face persecution, we trust in Jehovah to help us remain faithful. We know that with his backing, no human government can prevent us from worshipping him.

[Image:] Joshua amid Israelite soldiers, asking Jehovah to make the sun stand still.

[Image:] A brother smiling while in a courtroom's holding cell.

Spiritual Gems

Joshua 10:13—Why do we not need to know what was in “the book of Jashar”?

Joshua 10:13: So the sun stood still and the moon did not move until the nation could take vengeance on its enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? The sun stood still in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to set for about a whole day.

w09 3/15 32 paragraph 5

The fact that certain books were mentioned in the Bible and that they were usable sources should not lead us to conclude that they were inspired. However, Jehovah God has preserved all the writings containing “the word of our God,” and these “will last to time indefinite.” (Isaiah 40:8) Yes, what Jehovah chose to include in the 66 Bible books that we have is just what we need to “be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.”—2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

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 10:1-15 (*th* study 10)



TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Accept Help From Fellow Workers”: (10 min.)

Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Accept Jehovah’s Help—Our Brothers*.

Bible Study: (5 min.) Iffi lesson 01 point 4 (14)



LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 102

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

rr chap. 14 ¶21-25, box 14A



Jehovah Fights for Israel

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INCREASE YOUR JOY IN THE MINISTRY
Accept Help From Fellow Workers

To help us, Jehovah has provided us with “the entire association” of our brothers and sisters. (1Pe 5:9) They can assist us to face challenges in the ministry with success. For instance, the apostle Paul benefited from the help of Aquila and Priscilla, Silas, Timothy, and others.—Ac 18:1-5.

How can fellow workers assist you in the ministry? They might give you practical suggestions

on how to overcome objections, to make return visits, or to offer and conduct Bible studies. Think of someone in your congregation who could provide the help you need, and then ask for it. No doubt you both will find it beneficial, and you will contribute to each other’s joy. —Php 1:25.

WATCH THE VIDEO DRAMATIZATION *EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF DISCIPLE-MAKING—ACCEPT JEHOVAH’S HELP—OUR BROTHERS*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



- How did Neeta try to encourage Jade to attend a congregation meeting?



- Why should we invite other publishers to join us on a Bible study?



- What common interest did Jade and Abigail share?

- What skills for the ministry might fellow workers teach you?

It takes a congregation
 to make a disciple

Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making Accept Jehovah's Help—Our Brothers

Raw transcript

I've tried everything to get Jade to a meeting . . . It's every Thursday and Sunday, and I think—I think you'd really enjoy it. I can't promise anything. It would be nice if you could come. I might just text her, actually, just to remind her. OK, yeah, excellent. Have you tried bringing other people on the study? . . . well, maybe not everything. What are you doing tomorrow afternoon? Hi. Hi. This is Abigay. Oh. Hi, Abigay. Sorry, let me kill that. It's been a long time since I hear them! You know that band? Know them? I used to see them all the time before I became a Witness. No way! You like that kind of music? You don't believe me? Oh, this bag, it's so big! I can't find anything. Abigay? Ah, when I was young . . . You were in a band? "The sun shines so sweet." Ah, I love that song! I actually have that vinyl. So I'll be gone next week. OK. But I'll have someone else take care of the study, OK?

source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODMinistryMethods/pub-mwbv_202109_6_VIDEO

DIG DEEPER

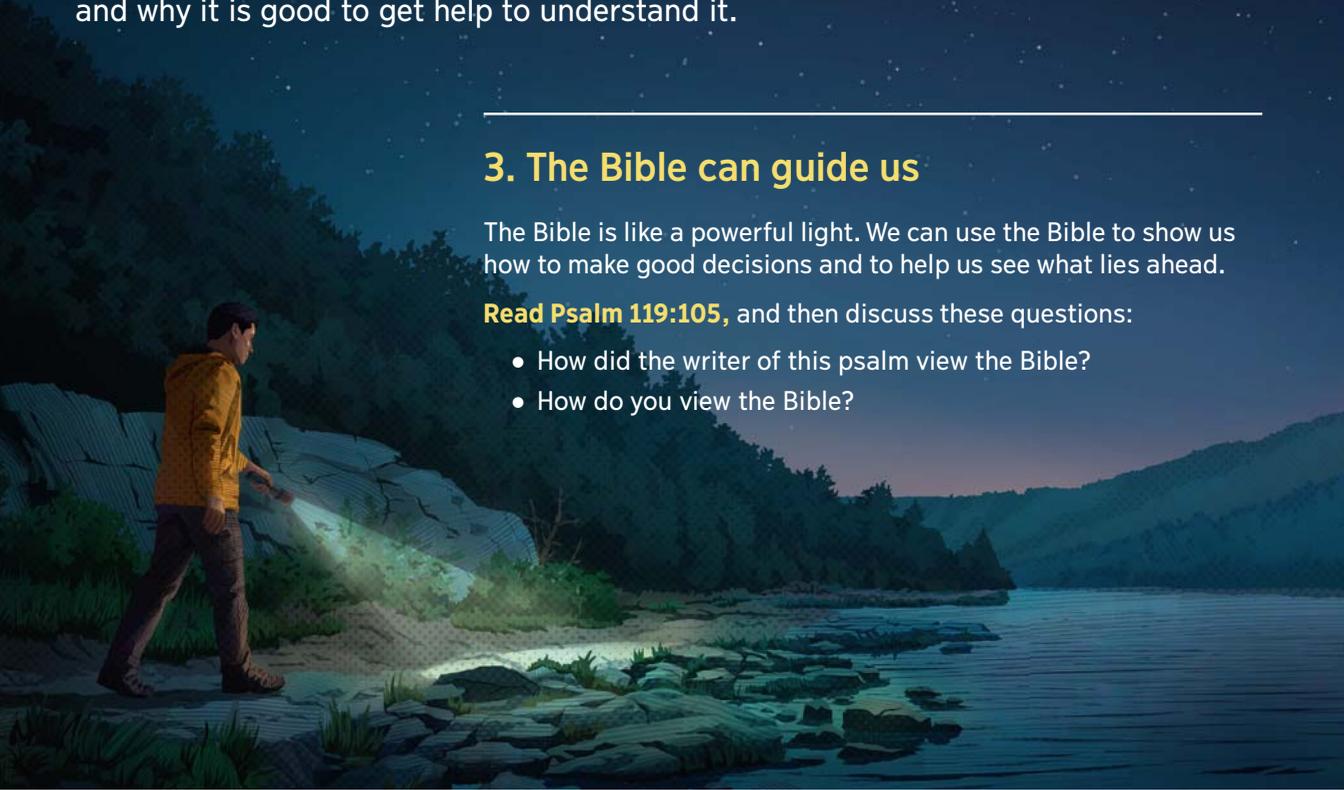
Consider how the Bible has helped people, how you can enjoy reading it, and why it is good to get help to understand it.

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?



VIDEO: *Never Give Up Hope!*
(1:48)

4. The Bible can answer our questions

One woman found that the Bible provided answers to questions that had troubled her for many years. **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, what sort of questions did this woman have?
- How did studying the Bible help her?

The Bible encourages us to ask questions. **Read Matthew 7:7**, and then discuss the following:

- What questions do you have that the Bible may be able to answer?

“Assist Those Who Are Weak”

(Acts 20:35)

E \flat B \flat 7 E \flat 6 B \flat A \flat /E \flat B \flat A \flat B \flat A \flat /E \flat G \flat /B \flat A \flat B \flat E \flat

Man - y are the weak - ness - es That we all pos - sess.
Some at times are weak in faith, Strong though they ap - pear.
Rath - er than con-demn the weak, We should bear in mind

E \flat B \flat 7 E \flat 6 B \flat A \flat /E \flat B \flat A \flat B \flat A \flat /E \flat G \flat /B \flat A \flat A \flat /B \flat E \flat

Still Je - ho - vah cares for us, Loves us none - the - less.
By our re - as - sur - ing words, We can calm their fears.
How much we can strength - en them By our be - ing kind.

F \flat m7 G \flat /B \flat B \flat 7/A \flat G \flat C \flat C \flat /A D7+5 \flat 9 D7 G \flat F \flat m7 B \flat 7

He is so mer - ci - ful; His love, so pow - er - ful.
Weak ones to God be - long; His spir - it makes them strong.
May we be dil - i - gent, Give them en - cour - age - ment.

E \flat B \flat 7 E \flat 6 B \flat A \flat /E \flat B \flat A \flat B \flat A \flat /E \flat G \flat /B \flat A \flat A \flat /B \flat E \flat

May we show this kind of love, Help those in dis - tress.
May we feel their pain and cares, Help them dry their tears.
As we lend our kind sup - port, Com - fort they will find.

(See also Isa. 35:3, 4; 2 Cor. 11:29; Gal. 6:2.)



TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Jehovah Fights for Israel”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Jos 10:13—Why do we not need to know what was in “the book of Jashar”? (w09 3/15 32 ¶5)

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

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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Accept Help From Fellow Workers”: (10 min.)

Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Accept Jehovah’s Help—Our Brothers*.

Bible Study: (5 min.) Iffi lesson 01 point 4 (14)



LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 102

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

rr chap. 14 ¶21-25, box 14A



Jehovah Fights for Israel

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When we face persecution, we trust in Jehovah to help us remain faithful. We know that with his backing, no human government can prevent us from worshipping him.



21. What might anointed Christians learn from the priesthood in Ezekiel's vision?

22, 23. (a) What lesson might Christian elders today draw from the chieftain described in Ezekiel's vision? (b) What may occur in the future?

We offer up
“a sacrifice of
praise” when we
share in pure
worship

offer up sacrifices as the Jews did under the Mosaic Law. Rather, we offer up “a sacrifice of praise” when we share in pure worship, such as through our comments and expressions of faith at our meetings or in the field ministry. (Heb. 13:15) We are also nourished by the spiritual food that Jehovah provides. No wonder we feel as did the sons of Korah who sang to Jehovah: “A day in your courtyards is better than a thousand anywhere else!”—Ps. 84:10.

²¹ *The priesthood.* Ezekiel saw that the inner courtyard was accessible to the priests and Levites by means of gates like those that allowed the nonpriestly tribes to enter the outer courtyard. That was an effective way to remind the men of that priestly class that they too had to meet Jehovah's standards for pure worship. And today? There is no hereditary priesthood among God's servants now, but anointed Christians are told: “You are ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood.’” (1 Pet. 2:9) The priests of ancient Israel worshipped in a separate courtyard. Today, anointed Christians are not separated from their fellow worshippers in any physical sense, but they do enjoy a special relationship with Jehovah as his adopted children. (Gal. 4:4-6) At the same time, anointed ones can find useful reminders in Ezekiel's vision. They note, for instance, that the priests were subject to counsel and discipline. All Christians do well to remember that we are part of “one flock” that serves under “one shepherd.”—**Read John 10:16.**

²² *The chieftain.* In Ezekiel's vision, the chieftain is a fairly prominent figure. He is not of the priestly tribe, and in the temple setting, he would have submitted to the lead of the priests. However, he clearly acts as an overseer among the people and assists them in providing sacrifices. (Ezek. 44:2, 3; 45:16, 17; 46:2) So he is an example for Christian men today who carry a measure of responsibility in the congregation. After all, Christian elders, including traveling overseers, need to remain submissive to the anointed faithful slave. (Heb. 13:17) Elders work hard to help God's people offer their sacrifices of praise at Christian meetings and in the ministry. (Eph. 4:11, 12) And elders may also take note of the way Jehovah rebuked Israel's chieftains for abusing their power. (Ezek. 45:9) Likewise, elders do not expect to be above counsel and correction. On the contrary, they cherish any opportunity to be refined by Jehovah so that they can be more effective as shepherds and overseers.—**Read 1 Peter 5:1-3.**

²³ Jehovah will continue to provide capable, loving overseers in the Paradise earth to come. Many elders today are, in effect, receiving training in how to be helpful, capable shepherds in Paradise. (Ps. 45:16) Is it not exciting to contemplate how such men will prove to be a blessing in the new world? Our understanding of Ezekiel's vision, like that of other restoration prophecies, may become clearer in Jehovah's due time. Perhaps some aspects will see a thrilling application in the future, a fulfillment we could barely fathom at present. Time will tell.

Jehovah's Blessings on Pure Worship

²⁴ In conclusion, let us recall the one great event that takes place in Ezekiel's vision. Jehovah comes to that visionary temple, and he promises his people that he will remain there for as long as they adhere faithfully to his standards for pure worship. (Ezek. 43:4-9) What effect would Jehovah's presence have on his people and on their land?

²⁵ The vision describes divine blessings by using two reassuring prophetic pictures: (1) A river flows from the temple sanctuary, bringing life and fertility to the land; and (2) the land is divided up in an orderly, precise way, with the temple and its grounds clearly in a central position. How may we understand those passages today? After all, we live in a time when Jehovah has entered, refined, and approved a far more sacred system of worship, the great spiritual temple. (Mal. 3:1-4) We will discuss those two prophetic pictures in Chapters 19 to 21 of this publication.

24, 25. How did Ezekiel's vision portray Jehovah's blessings on his people as they adhered to pure worship?

YOUR PLACE IN PURE WORSHIP

- 1** What practical lessons did the exiled Jews likely draw from Ezekiel's temple vision?
- 2** In what ways does the temple vision apply in our own time?
- 3** As you look over the diagram of Ezekiel's visionary temple, what lessons would you like to apply in your own worship? (See the box "Lessons From Ezekiel's Temple Vision.")

LESSONS FROM EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE VISION

1 Pure Worship Elevated and Protected

2 The visionary temple is exalted on “a very high mountain” (1). Have we lifted up pure worship, giving it the highest priority in our own life?

The perimeter wall (2), which enclosed the temple complex in the center of a wide area (3), reminds us that we must never let anything corrupt our worship of Jehovah. If things even for “common use” must be kept far away from pure worship, how much more so must unclean or immoral conduct be kept out of the life of a worshipper of Jehovah today!—Ezek. 42:20.

4 Eternal Blessings

A stream trickles from the temple sanctuary, expanding to a torrent and bringing life and fertility to the land (4). These blessings will be discussed in Chapter 19 of this publication.

5 The Same Standards for All

9 The lofty outer gates (5) and inner gates (9) remind us that Jehovah has high standards of conduct for all who would engage in pure worship. Note that the outer and the inner gates are identical in overall dimensions. That is fitting, for Jehovah's righteous requirements are the same for all his servants, regardless of their position or the capacity in which they serve.

8 A Meal at Jehovah's Table

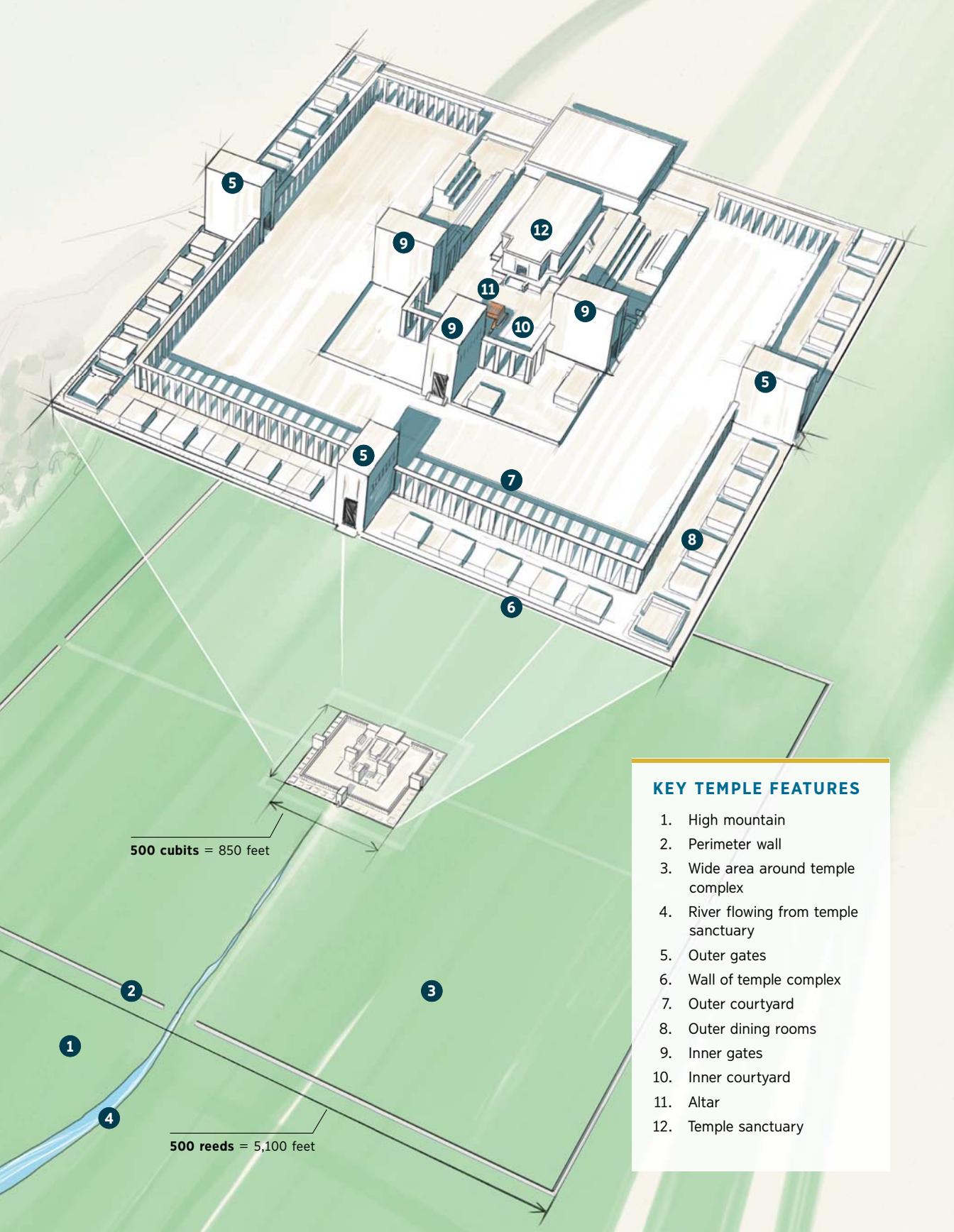
The dining rooms (8) remind us that in ancient times, the people could share in eating from some of the sacrifices that they brought to the temple, in effect, sharing a meal with Jehovah. It is different in the spiritual temple in which Christians worship today, for the “one sacrifice” has already been offered. (Heb. 10:12) Still, we do offer our sacrifice of praise.—Heb. 13:15.

A Divine Guarantee

You may find all the detailed measurements in the vision overwhelming. But they teach a key point: They guarantee that Jehovah's purpose to restore pure worship is sure and absolute, as precise and unchangeable as those measurements. Though Ezekiel does not mention seeing any humans in his vision, he records Jehovah's strong counsel for the priests, the chieftains, and the people. All of God's servants must uphold His righteous standards.



A jumbo passenger jet is about 250 feet long; yet, it is very small compared to the vast temple enclosure



KEY TEMPLE FEATURES

1. High mountain
2. Perimeter wall
3. Wide area around temple complex
4. River flowing from temple sanctuary
5. Outer gates
6. Wall of temple complex
7. Outer courtyard
8. Outer dining rooms
9. Inner gates
10. Inner courtyard
11. Altar
12. Temple sanctuary

500 cubits = 850 feet

500 reeds = 5,100 feet

Shepherds—Gifts in Men

(Ephesians 4:8)

C G/C F/C C F/C C D/C G/B

Help in our lives, Je - ho - vah pro - vides, Shep - herds to tend his flock.
 Shep - herds who love us care how we feel; Gent - ly they guide the way.
 God - ly ad - vice and coun - sel they give, That we may nev - er stray.

C G/B F/A C/G F Dm7 E7sus4 E7

By their ex - am - ple they serve as guides, Show - ing us how to walk.
 When we are hurt, they help us to heal, Kind in the words they say.
 Thus they as - sist us, God's way to live, Serv - ing him ev - 'ry day.

Chorus
Am F F/G G/F C/E Dm7 C/E D7/F# G

God gives us men who have earned our trust, Men who are loy - al and true.

Am F E7 Am F C/G G7 C

They show con - cern for his pre - cious sheep; Love them for all that they do.

AUGUST 2021

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
SEPTEMBER 27–OCTOBER 31, 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Study Article 30: September 27–October 3	2
Cherish Your Place in Jehovah's Family	

Study Article 31: October 4-10	8
Are You Willing to Wait on Jehovah?	

Study Article 32: October 11-17	14
Strengthen Your Faith in the Creator	

Study Article 33: October 18-24	20
Find Joy in the Privileges You Have	

Study Article 34: October 25-31	26
“Taste” Jehovah's Goodness—How?	

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

The *Watchtower* (ISSN 0043-1087) August 2021 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2021 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

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COVER PICTURE:

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)

Visit the jw.org website, or scan code



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210407

Praising Earth's New King

(Psalm 2:12)

Ab Abma7/C Fm

A mul - ti - tude is gath - er - ing from ev - 'ry tribe and
We praise the Christ, our reign - ing King, with sounds of ju - bi -

Ab Bbm F7/C Bbm/Db Bb7/D Eb Bb7/F Eb/G Eb

na - tion, Col - lect - ed by the Christ and his a -
la - tion. This Prince of Peace will be our Judge and

Fm Bb7 Eb7 Ab

noint - ed con - gre - ga - tion. God's King - dom has been
bring a - bout sal - va - tion. We see the joys that

Abma7/C Bbm F/C Bbm/Db Bb7/D Eb Bb7 Eb Eb/Db

brought to birth; We pray his will be done on earth. This
lie a - head: An earth re - leased from fear and dread; The

Praising Earth's New King

Ab/C Db Ab/C Eb7/Bb Ab Eb7/Bb Ab/C Ab Db Eb7

hope is a gift of price-less worth, Giv-ing joy and con-so-
time for our Lord to raise the dead. What a time for ex-ul-

Absus4 Ab Chorus Ab Fm

la-tion. Praise our God, Je-ho-vah; Praise his Son for-ev-er-
ta-tion!

Bb Bb7 Eb Ab/Eb Eb Bb7 Bb13 Eb Eb7 Ab Eb/Bb Ab/C Db Ab/C

King of all kings and the Lord of lords. Now u-nit-ed-ly we

Db Ab/C Eb7/Bb Ab Db Bbm Eb7 Ab

bow to his rule, And praise him with one ac-cord.

SONG 11

Creation Praises God

PREVIEW

The Scriptures plainly teach that Jehovah God is the Creator. But many people do not believe that. They insist that life arose on its own. Their claims will not shake our confidence if we work hard to strengthen our faith in God and in the Bible. This article will explain how we can do that.

Strengthen Your Faith in the Creator

“Faith is . . . the evident demonstration of realities that are not seen.”—HEB. 11:1.

IF YOU were raised as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, you likely learned about Jehovah from an early age. You were taught that he is the Creator, that he has an appealing personality, and that he has a loving purpose for mankind.—Gen. 1:1; Acts 17:24-27.

² Many people, however, do not believe that God exists, let alone that he is the Creator. Instead, they believe that life started by chance and then slowly evolved from so-called simple life-forms to more complex forms of life. Some of these individuals are highly educated. They may claim that science has proved the Bible wrong and that faith in a Creator is for people who are ignorant, weak, or naive.

³ Will the views expressed by some influential people shake our faith that Jehovah is our loving Creator? This depends largely on *why* we believe that Jehovah is the Creator. Is it because we were told to believe that or because we have taken the time to examine the evidence for ourselves? (1 Cor. 3:12-15) No matter how long we have been one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, we all need to keep building our faith. In doing so, we will not be misled by “the philosophy and empty deception” taught by men who contradict God’s Word. (Col. 2:8; Heb. 11:6) To help us, this article will discuss (1) why many do not believe in a Creator, (2) how you can build your faith in Jehovah, your Creator, and (3) how you can keep that faith strong.

1. What have you been taught about our Creator?
2. How do some people view those who believe in a Creator?
3. Why is it important to build our own faith?

WHY MANY DO NOT BELIEVE IN A CREATOR

⁴ Some people think that having faith means believing in something without proof. But according to the Bible, that is not real faith. **(Read Hebrews 11:1 and footnote.)** Notice that faith in invisible realities, such as Jehovah, Jesus, and the heavenly Kingdom, is based on *convincing evidence*. (Heb. 11:3) One Witness who is a biochemist put it this way: “Our faith is not blind faith that ignores the facts of science.”

⁵ We might ask, ‘If convincing evidence of a Creator exists, why do many people believe that God had nothing to do with the origin of life?’ Some have simply never examined the evidence for themselves. Robert, who is now one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, says: “Since creation was never mentioned in school, I assumed that it was not true. It was not until I was in my 20’s that I talked to Jehovah’s Witnesses and heard the logical and convincing arguments from the Bible in favor of creation.”*—See the box “An Appeal to Parents.”

⁶ Some do not believe in a Creator because they say that they believe only in what they can see. They make exceptions, of course, for such unseen things as gravity, which is, after all, a reality. The type

* In many public schools, creation is not discussed as a possible explanation for our existence. Some educators say that doing so would interfere with the students’ freedom of religion.

4. According to Hebrews 11:1 and footnote, on what is real faith based?
5. Why do many people believe that life began without a Creator?
6. Why do some reject belief in a Creator?



An Appeal to Parents

Parents, endeavor to know what your children are being taught in school. What if you find out that some of the teachings include philosophies that contradict the Bible? Use our publications to help your children reason on convincing evidence. Also, beware of exposing your children to universities, where belief in God is scorned by many.



Some Faith-Building Resources

Brochures:

The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking
Was Life Created?

Books:

Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?

Journals:

“Is There a Creator?”
special issue of *Awake!*
September 2006

Videos:

The Wonders of Creation
Reveal God’s Glory

Series:

“Was It Designed?” series
in *Awake!* and on jw.org

of faith mentioned in the Bible involves evidence for other “*realities* that are *not seen*.” (Heb. 11:1) It takes time and effort to study the evidence for ourselves, and many people lack the motivation they need to do the work. A person who does not investigate the evidence for himself may conclude that there is no God.

⁷ After studying the evidence, some

7. Do all educated people deny that God created the universe? Explain.

scientists have become convinced that God created the universe.* Like Robert, mentioned earlier, some may have simply assumed that there was no Creator because creation had never been taught

* Comments from over 60 professionals, including scientists, who believe in creation can be found in the current *Watch Tower Publications Index*. Under the subject “Science,” look for the heading “scientists expressing belief in creation.” Some of these comments can also be found in the *Research Guide for Jehovah’s Witnesses*. Under the subject “Science and Technology,” look for the heading “‘Interview’ (*Awake!* series).”

in university. However, many scientists have come to know and love Jehovah. As was the case with these scientists, all of us must build our faith in God, no matter what our educational background. Nobody else can do that for us.

HOW TO BUILD YOUR FAITH IN THE CREATOR

⁸ How can you build *your* faith in the Creator? Let us consider four ways.

⁹ **Study creation.** You can build your faith in the Creator by observing animals, plants, and stars. (Ps. 19:1; Isa. 40:26) The more you *study* such things, the more convinced you will become that Jehovah is the Creator. Our publications often contain articles that explain various aspects of creation. Do not shy away from such articles if you find them difficult to understand fully. Absorb as much as you can. And do not forget to review on our website, *jw.org*, the beautiful videos on creation that have been presented at our regional conventions in recent years.

¹⁰ When studying creation, pay careful attention to what the facts reveal about our Creator. **(Read Romans 1:20.)** For instance, you may know that our sun, in addition to providing life-giving heat, emits harmful energy in the form of ultraviolet rays. We humans need to be protected from those rays. And we are! How? Our earthly home has its own protective shield—a layer of ozone gas that filters out the harmful radiation. As the ultra-

violet rays from the sun get more intense, the amount of ozone grows. Now, do you not agree that there must be someone behind this process and that he must be a loving and an intelligent Creator?

¹¹ You can find many faith-building facts about creation by consulting the *Watch Tower Publications Index* and by doing research on *jw.org*. You might wish to start with articles and videos from the series “Was It Designed?” These are short and present a few amazing facts about animals and other creations. They also contain examples of how scientists have tried to copy what they see in nature.

¹² **Study the Bible.** The biochemist mentioned earlier initially rejected the idea of a Creator. In time, though, he came to have faith. He says: “My faith was not based solely on what I studied in science. It was also based on a careful study of the Bible.” Perhaps you already have accurate knowledge of Bible teachings. Even so, to build faith in your Creator, you need to continue studying God’s Word. (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:97) Note the Bible’s detailed descriptions of historical events. Pay attention to its prophecies and to its internal harmony. Doing so can reinforce your faith that a loving, wise Creator made us and that he inspired the Bible.*—2 Tim. 3:14; 2 Pet. 1:21.

* For example, see the article “Are Science and the Bible Compatible?” in the February 2011 issue of *Awake!* and the article “What Jehovah Foretells Comes to Be” in the January 1, 2008, issue of *The Watchtower*.

8-9. (a) What question will we now consider?
(b) How will a study of creation benefit you?

10. Give an example of how creation testifies to the existence of a Creator. (Romans 1:20)

11. Where can you find faith-building facts about creation? (See the box “Some Faith-Building Resources.”)

12. When studying the Bible, what are some things we should take note of?

¹³ When studying God’s Word, note how helpful its counsel is. For example, the Bible long ago warned that the love of money is harmful and that it produces “many pains.” (1 Tim. 6:9, 10; Prov. 28:20; Matt. 6:24) Is that warning still relevant? The book *The Narcissism Epidemic* observes: “On average, materialistic people are less happy and more depressed. Even people who simply aspire to have more money suffer from poor mental health; they also report more physical health problems.” How helpful, then, is the Bible’s warning against developing a love of money! Can you think of additional Bible principles that have proved to be beneficial? The more we appreciate the Bible’s counsel, the more we will rely on the timeless wisdom provided by our loving Creator. (Jas. 1:5) As a result, our life will be more enjoyable.—Isa. 48:17, 18.

¹⁴ **Study with the right objective—to know Jehovah.** (John 17:3) As you study the Scriptures, you will note that a distinct personality emerges—one that harmonizes with the qualities reflected in creation. These qualities clearly belong to a real Person and are not a product of someone’s imagination. (Ex. 34:6, 7; Ps. 145:8, 9) As you come to know Jehovah better and better, your faith in him will grow, your love for him will deepen, and your friendship with him will become stronger.

¹⁵ **Share your faith in God with others.**

13. What is one example of the wisdom found in God’s Word?

14. What will a study of the Bible reveal about Jehovah?

15. How will you benefit from sharing your faith?

As you do so, your own faith will be reinforced. But what if someone you witness to raises a question about the existence of God and you are unsure of how to reply? Try to find a Scriptural answer to the question in one of our publications, and then share it with the individual. (1 Pet. 3:15) You can also ask an experienced fellow Witness for help. Whether the unbeliever accepts answers from the Bible or not, you will benefit from having done the research. Your faith will grow stronger. As a result, you will not be vulnerable to the false claims of the seemingly wise and intellectual ones who say that there is no Creator.

MAINTAIN YOUR FAITH!

¹⁶ No matter how long we have been serving Jehovah, we must continue to build and maintain our faith in him. Why? Because if we are not careful, our faith can weaken. Remember, faith involves evidence of **unseen** realities. What we cannot see, we may easily forget. Thus, Paul called lack of faith “the sin that easily entangles us.” (Heb. 12:1) How, then, can we avoid that trap? —2 Thess. 1:3.

¹⁷ First, **beg Jehovah for his holy spirit, and do so often.** Why? Because faith is an aspect of the fruitage of the spirit. (Gal. 5:22, 23) We cannot build and maintain faith in our Creator without the help of his holy spirit. If we keep asking Jehovah for his spirit, he will give it to us. (Luke 11:13) In particular, we can pray: “Give us more faith.”—Luke 17:5.

16. What can happen if we do not continue to build and maintain our faith?

17. What help do we need to maintain faith?

¹⁸ Additionally, *be consistent in your personal study of God's Word.* (Read **Psalm 1:2, 3.**) When that psalm was composed, few Israelites had a complete written copy of God's Law. However, the king and the priests had access to copies, and every seven years, arrangements were made for "the men, the women, the children," and the foreign residents of Israel to listen to the reading of God's Law. (Deut. 31:10-12) In Jesus' day, Scripture scrolls could be found only in the hands of a few and in synagogues. In contrast, today most people have access to portions of God's Word. That is a real privilege. How can we show that we appreciate such a privilege?

¹⁹ We can show that we appreciate the

18. According to Psalm 1:2, 3, what privilege can we enjoy?

19. What do we need to do to keep our faith strong?

privilege of having God's Word by reading it regularly. We cannot afford to leave personal study to chance, doing it when we feel that we have the time. By sticking to a regular routine of study, we can keep our faith strong.

²⁰ Unlike "the wise and intellectual ones" of this world, we have solid faith based on God's Word. (Matt. 11:25, 26) As a result of our study of that sacred volume, we know why conditions on earth are deteriorating and what Jehovah is going to do about it. So let us be determined to strengthen our faith and to help as many as possible to have faith in our Creator. (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) And let us continue to look forward to the time when all alive on earth will echo the words of Revelation 4:11: "You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory . . . because you created all things."

20. What should we be determined to do?

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- Explain what faith is and what it is not.
- What are some ways you can build your faith in the Creator?
- How can you keep your faith strong?

Jehovah Is Your Name

(Psalm 83:18)

F Am Dm Dm/C

The liv - ing and true God— The God of all cre - a - tion
You cause us to be - come What - ev - er you de - si - re,

Bb Bb/C F Am

In ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion— Je -
To do as you re - qui - re— Je -

Dm Dm/C Bb Dm/A Gm

ho - vah is your name. We're hon - ored and we're proud
ho - vah is your name. And Wit - ness - es for you

Gm/F Eb Bb/D

To be your con - gre - ga - tion. In
Is what you've kind - ly named us. We're

Jehovah Is Your Name

Csus4 C/Bb

ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion, Your
hon - ored you have claimed us— A

R.H.

F/A Bb Csus4 C Chorus

glo - ry we pro - claim. Je -
peo - ple for your name.

F C/E Dm Dm/C

ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, There is no God like you.

Bb F/A Gm Dm/F

There's no oth - er in the heav - ens Or

Jehovah Is Your Name

F/Eb Eb F/Eb Eb Gm

on the earth be - low. You a - lone are God Al -

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The treble staff features chords F/Eb, Eb, F/Eb, Eb, and Gm. The bass staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "on the earth be - low. You a - lone are God Al -".

Gm/F C/E Dm11 C

might - y, And this all men must know. Je -

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The treble staff features chords Gm/F, C/E, Dm11, and C. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are: "might - y, And this all men must know. Je -".

F Am7 Dm7 Gm7

ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, We have no oth - er

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The treble staff features chords F, Am7, Dm7, and Gm7. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, We have no oth - er".

C9sus4 F

God but you.

Detailed description: This system contains the final two lines of music. The treble staff features chords C9sus4 and F. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are: "God but you.".