

Sunday, February 6

Jehovah detests a devious person, but His close friendship is with the upright.—Prov. 3:32.

How many imperfect humans today enjoy a close friendship with Jehovah? There are millions. This friendship is possible because of their faith in Jesus' ransom sacrifice. On that basis, Jehovah kindly allows us to dedicate ourselves to him and get baptized. When we take these important steps, we join the millions of dedicated, baptized Christians who are enjoying "close friendship" with the greatest Person in the universe! How can we show that we treasure God's friendship? Like Abraham and Job, who remained faithful to God for well over a hundred years, we must remain faithful—no matter how long we have been serving Jehovah in this old system. Like Daniel, we must value our friendship with God more than life. (Dan. 6:7, 10, 16, 22) With Jehovah's help, we can endure any trials we face and thus keep our close bond with him.—Phil. 4:13. *w20.05 27 ¶5-6*

Monday, February 7

Unify my heart.—Ps. 86:11.

King David saw another man's wife bathing. He knew Jehovah's standard: "You must not desire your fellow man's wife." (Ex. 20:17) Yet, evidently he kept looking. His heart became divided between his desire for the woman, Bath-sheba, and his desire to please Jehovah. Although David had long loved and feared Jehovah, he gave in to his selfish desire. In that instance, David pursued a very bad course. He brought reproach on Jehovah's name. David

also brought terrible harm to innocent people, including his own family. (2 Sam. 11:1-5, 14-17; 12:7-12) Jehovah disciplined David, and he recovered. (2 Sam. 12:13; Ps. 51:2-4, 17) David remembered the trouble and misery that resulted when he let his heart become divided. His words recorded at Psalm 86:11 may also be rendered: "Give me an undivided heart." Did Jehovah help David make his heart whole, or undivided? Yes, for Jehovah's Word later refers to David as a man whose "heart was . . . complete with Jehovah his God." —1 Ki. 11:4; 15:3. *w20.06 11 ¶12-13*

Tuesday, February 8

I kept drawing them, with the cords of love.—Hos. 11:4.

The Bible describes Jehovah's love for his people as a cord, or rope. In what sense is God's love like a rope? Consider this illustration: Imagine that you are drowning in rough seas and someone throws you a life vest. Surely you would appreciate the help because that may ease your struggle to stay afloat. But a life vest will not be enough to keep you alive. The water is cold, and you will not survive unless you can reach a lifeboat. You need someone to throw you a rope and to pull you toward the lifeboat. As Jehovah said in the words of today's text, he lovingly "kept drawing" the Israelites who had gone astray. God feels the same way today about those who have stopped serving him and who are drowning in problems and anxiety. He wants them to know that he loves them, and he wants to draw them to him. And Jehovah can use you to express his love to them. It is important to assure inactive ones that Jehovah loves them and that we love them too. *w20.06 27 ¶12-13*

Wednesday, February 9

Happy is the man who keeps on enduring trial.—Jas. 1:12.

When the disciple Stephen was murdered, many Christians fled from Jerusalem and “were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria,” eventually as far away as Cyprus and Antioch. (Acts 7:58-8:1; 11:19) We can only imagine the hardship the disciples had to endure. Still, they eagerly preached the good news wherever they went, and congregations were established throughout the Roman Empire. (1 Pet. 1:1) But far more turbulent times lay ahead for the early Christians. For instance, about the year 50 C.E., Roman Emperor Claudius ordered all Jews to leave Rome. So Jews who had become Christians were forced to abandon their homes and relocate elsewhere. (Acts 18:1-3) About 61 C.E., the apostle Paul wrote that his fellow Christians had been publicly reproached, put in prison, and plundered. (Heb. 10:32-34) And just like other people, Christians had to endure poverty and sickness.—Rom. 15:26; Phil. 2:25-27. *w21.02* 26-27 ¶2-4

Thursday, February 10

The Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing that he has a short period of time.
—Rev. 12:12.

There is nothing that Satan or those influenced by him can do that will destabilize a Christian who has strengthened his own faith. (2 John 8, 9) We must expect to be hated by the world. (1 John 3:13) John reminds us that “the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one.” (1 John 5:19) As this system draws to an end, Satan’s

anger grows hotter. He uses more than subtle forms of attack, such as the lure of immorality or the lies of apostates. He will also use brute force. Satan knows that he has only a short period of time left to try to stop our preaching work or to break our faith. It is no surprise, then, that our work is restricted or banned in a number of countries. Even so, our brothers and sisters in those lands are enduring. They are proving that no matter what the wicked one throws at us, we can be victorious!
w20.07 24 ¶12-13

Friday, February 11

The gift God gives is everlasting life by Christ Jesus our Lord.
—Rom. 6:23.

Jehovah intended for the human family to enjoy everlasting life on the beautiful planet that he had created. But when Adam and Eve rebelled against their loving Father, sin and death cast a shadow over the earth. (Rom. 5:12) How did Jehovah respond? Immediately, he stated how he would rescue mankind. (Gen. 3:15) Jehovah purposed to provide a ransom that would make it possible for Adam and Eve’s children to be freed from sin and death. He could then allow each person to choose to serve Him and to receive everlasting life. (John 3:16; 1 Cor. 15:21, 22) When Jehovah through his Son resurrects countless millions, we may assume that not all of them will come back to life at the same time. Why not? Because an explosion in the earth’s population would likely cause chaos. And Jehovah never does anything in a disorganized, chaotic way. He knows that for peace to last, order must be maintained.—1 Cor. 14:33. *w20.08* 14 ¶3; 15 ¶5

Saturday, February 12

Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching.—1 Tim. 4:16.

A student should understand that the purpose of the Bible study is to help him to start serving Jehovah as one of His Witnesses. Step-by-step, a sincere Bible student can reach the goal of baptism! First, the student comes to know and love Jehovah and put faith in Him. (John 3: 16; 17:3) The student then forms a relationship with Jehovah and begins to bond with the congregation. (Heb. 10:24, 25; Jas. 4:8) Eventually, the student rejects bad practices and repents of his sins. (Acts 3:19) Meanwhile, his faith impels him to share the truth with others. (2 Cor. 4:13) Then he dedicates himself to Jehovah and symbolizes his dedication by getting baptized. (1 Pet. 3:21; 4:2) And what a joyous day that is for everyone! As the student takes each step toward his goal, be generous with sincere commendation and encourage him to continue his progress in the right direction. *w20.10* ¶17-18 ¶12-13

Sunday, February 13

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am no part of the body," that does not make it no part of the body.—1 Cor. 12:15.

If you compare yourself with others in the congregation, you may be blinded to your own value. Some in the congregation may be gifted teachers, good organizers, or skilled shepherds. Perhaps you feel that you do not have those gifts to the same degree. This shows that you are humble and modest. (Phil. 2:3) But be careful. If you constantly compare yourself with those who

have outstanding talents, you will be disappointed in yourself. You may even feel, as the apostle Paul mentioned, that you have no place in the congregation at all. Jehovah gave some first-century Christians miraculous gifts of the holy spirit, but not all Christians received the same gifts. (1 Cor. 12:4-11) Yet, each Christian was valuable. Today, we do not have the miraculous gifts of the holy spirit. But the principle still applies. We may not all have the same talents, but all of us are valuable to Jehovah. *w20.08* 23 ¶13-15

Monday, February 14

Jehovah is on my side; I will not be afraid.—Ps. 118:6.

When you pray for courage and boldness, Jehovah will answer your prayers and never abandon you. (Acts 4:29, 31) He is always there to give you support. Think about how he has helped you overcome challenges and given you the strength to make changes in your lifestyle. Certainly the One who led his people through the Red Sea can help you to be a disciple of Christ. (Ex. 14: 13) Maintain the same conviction as did the psalmist who said the words of today's text. Jehovah can also help new publishers to be courageous. Note the experience of a sister named Tomoyo. When she started to preach from house to house, the first householder she met shouted: "I don't want anything to do with Jehovah's Witnesses!" and slammed the door. Tomoyo courageously told her companion: "Did you hear that? I didn't have to say a word, and she recognized me as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. I'm so happy!" Tomoyo now serves as a regular pioneer. *w20.09* 6 ¶13-14

Song 44 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Open Your Heart to Jehovah in Prayer”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 2:10—Why did Hannah pray that Jehovah “give power to his king” when there was no human king over Israel? (w05 3/15 21 ¶15)

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.) 1Sa 1:1-18 (12)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

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

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and briefly consider “How to Get the Most Out of These Bible Lessons.” (20)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 03 point 5 (13)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 133

“Young Ones—Open Your Heart to Your Parents”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *My Teen Life—How Can I Talk to My Parents?* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 20 ¶1-8, intro video



Open Your Heart to Jehovah in Prayer

[Play the video *Introduction to 1 Samuel*.]

Hannah prayed at length to Jehovah (1Sa 1:10, 12, 15; *ia* 55 ¶12)

Hannah left her problems in Jehovah’s hands (1Sa 1:18; *w07* 3/15 16 ¶14)

When we pour out our heart before Jehovah, we can trust that he will strengthen and sustain us.—Ps 55:22; 62:8.



A Prayer of the Lowly One

(Psalm 4:1)

Gm Am11 D7 Gm9/Bb Gm/Bb Am7#5 D7#9/A

Je - ho - vah God, I call to you and ask you: "Hear my prayer." My
Your Word has been my com - fort and a ref - uge when I'm weak, Ex -

Gm Dm/F Ebma7 Cm6/Eb Dm7 Bb/D

wounds are deep and slow to heal; my load is hard to bear. De -
press - ing feel - ings dear to me in words I can - not speak. Please

Cm Cm/Bb Cm/A A° Gm9/Bb Gm/Bb

spont - ent thoughts and dis - ap - point - ed hopes have left me weak. O
build in me the faith and trust that your Word does im - part. And

Ebma7 F9/Eb Dm7 Bb/D Cm Eb/F

God of com - fort, care for me; your fa - vor I do seek.
help me al - ways know your love is great - er than my heart.

A Prayer of the Lowly One

Chorus F7 Bb Fm/Ab G7sus4 G7

Do raise me up; help me en - dure. When I'm in

Cm Cm/Bb Cm6/A D7 C/E D7/F#

doubt, make my hope sure. From deep de -

Gm Gm/F Cm/Eb Ebm/Gb

spair, I turn to you. Je - ho - vah

Bb/F F13sus4 F7 Bb

God, my strength re - new.

- Samuel reproves Saul (10-14)
Israel without weapons (15-23)
- 14 Jonathan's exploit at Michmash (1-14)
Israel's enemies routed by God (15-23)
Saul's rash oath (24-46)
 People eat meat with the blood (32-34)
Saul's wars; his family (47-52)
- 15 Saul disobediently spares Agag (1-9)
Samuel reproves Saul (10-23)
 “To obey is better than a sacrifice” (22)
Saul rejected as king (24-29)
Samuel kills Agag (30-35)
- 16 Samuel anoints David as next king (1-13)
 “Jehovah sees into the heart” (7)
God's spirit removed from Saul (14-17)
David becomes harpist for Saul (18-23)
- 17 David defeats Goliath (1-58)
 Goliath taunts Israel (8-10)
 David accepts the challenge (32-37)
 David fights in Jehovah's name (45-47)
- 18 David and Jonathan's friendship (1-4)
David's victories make Saul jealous (5-9)
Saul attempts to kill David (10-19)
David marries Saul's daughter Michal (20-30)
- 19 Saul continues to hate David (1-13)
David escapes from Saul (14-24)
- 20 Jonathan's loyalty to David (1-42)
- 21 David eats the showbread at Nob (1-9)
David feigns insanity in Gath (10-15)
- 22 David at Adullam and Mizpeh (1-5)
Saul has the priests of Nob killed (6-19)
Abiathar escapes (20-23)
- 23 David saves the city of Keilah (1-12)
Saul pursues David (13-15)
Jonathan strengthens David (16-18)
David narrowly escapes Saul (19-29)
- 24 David spares Saul's life (1-22)
 David respects Jehovah's anointed (6)
- 25 Death of Samuel (1)
Nabal rejects David's men (2-13)
Abigail's wise action (14-35)
 “Bag of life with Jehovah” (29)
Senseless Nabal struck by Jehovah (36-38)
Abigail becomes David's wife (39-44)
- 26 David again spares Saul's life (1-25)
 David respects Jehovah's anointed (11)
- 27 David given Ziklag by the Philistines (1-12)
- 28 Saul visits a spirit medium at En-dor (1-25)
- 29 Philistines mistrust David (1-11)
- 30 Amalekites raid and burn Ziklag (1-6)
 David draws strength from God (6)
David defeats the Amalekites (7-31)
 Captives retaken by David (18, 19)
 David's regulation on spoil (23, 24)
- 31 Deaths of Saul and three of his sons (1-13)

1 Now there was a man of Ra-math-a'im-zo'phim^a of the mountainous region of E'phra-im^b whose name was El-ka'nah,^c the son of Je-ro'ham, the son of E-li'hu, the son of To'hu, the son of Zuph, an E'phra-im-ite. **2** He had two wives; one was named Han'nah, and the other was named Pe-nin'nah. Pe-nin'nah had children, but Han'nah

1:1 *Or “of Ramah, a Zuphite.”

CHAP. 1

- a Ex 23:19
1Sa 7:15, 17
b Jos 16:5
c 1Ch 6:22, 27

Second Col.

- a Ex 23:14
Ex 34:23
De 12:5, 6
Jos 18:1
Jg 21:19
Lu 2:41
b 1Sa 2:12, 22
1Sa 4:17
c Nu 3:10
De 33:10
Mal 2:7

had no children. **3** That man went up from his city year after year to worship* and to sacrifice to Jehovah of armies in Shi-loh.^a That is where the two sons of E'li, Hoph'ni and Phin'e-has,^b served as priests to Jehovah.^c

4 One day when El-ka'nah offered a sacrifice, he gave portions to his wife Pe-nin'nah as well as to all her sons and

1:3 *Or “bow down.”

her daughters,^a **5** but to Han'nah he gave a special portion, because Han'nah was the one he loved; but Jehovah had not given her children.* **6** Moreover, her rival wife taunted her relentlessly in order to upset her because Jehovah had not given her children. **7** That is what she would do year after year; whenever Han'nah went up to the house of Jehovah,^b her rival would taunt her so much that she would weep and not eat. **8** But her husband El-ka'nah said to her: "Han'nah, why do you weep, and why do you not eat, and why are you so sad?*" Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

9 Then Han'nah got up after they had finished eating and drinking in Shi'loh. At the time, E'li the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple*^c of Jehovah. **10** Han'nah was extremely bitter,* and she began to pray to Jehovah^d and to weep uncontrollably. **11** And she made this vow: "O Jehovah of armies, if you look upon the affliction of your servant and remember me and you do not forget your servant and give to your servant a male child,^e I will give him to Jehovah all the days of his life, and no razor will touch his head."^f

12 While she prayed for a long time before Jehovah, E'li was watching her mouth. **13** Han'nah was speaking in her heart, only her lips were trembling, but her voice was not heard. So E'li thought she was drunk. **14** E'li said to her: "How long will you stay drunk? Stop drinking your wine." **15** At this Han'nah answered: "No, my lord!

1:5 *Lit., "had closed her womb." **1:8** *Or "why does your heart feel bad?" **1:9** *That is, the tabernacle. **1:10** *Or "bitter of soul."

CHAP. 1

a Le 7:15

b De 16:16
1Sa 2:18, 19c Ex 25:8
1Sa 3:3
2Sa 7:2d Ps 55:22
Ps 65:2

e Ge 30:22

f Nu 6:5

Second Col.

a Ps 42:6
Ps 62:8
Ps 142:2

b 1Sa 1:11

c 1Sa 1:1

d 1Sa 1:11
Ps 66:19
Pr 15:29e Ge 5:29
Ge 41:51
Ex 2:21, 22
Mt 1:21

f 1Sa 1:3

g De 16:16

h 1Sa 1:11
1Sa 2:11
2Ch 31:16

I am a woman under great stress;* I have not drunk wine or anything alcoholic, but I am pouring out my soul[#] before Jehovah.^a **16** Do not take your servant for a worthless woman, for I have been speaking until now out of my great anguish and distress." **17** Then E'li answered: "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of him."^b **18** To this she said: "Let your servant find favor in your eyes." And the woman went on her way and ate, and her face was no longer downcast.

19 Then they got up early in the morning and bowed before Jehovah, after which they returned to their house in Ra'mah.^c El-ka'nah had sexual relations with his wife Han'nah, and Jehovah gave attention to* her.^d **20** Within a year* Han'nah became pregnant and gave birth to a son and named^e him Samuel,[#] because, as she said, "it is from Jehovah that I have asked him."

21 In time El-ka'nah went up with all his household to offer the yearly sacrifice to Jehovah^f and to present his vow offering. **22** But Han'nah did not go up,^g for she said to her husband: "As soon as the boy is weaned, I will bring him; then he will appear before Jehovah and remain there from then on."^h **23** El-ka'nah her husband then said to her: "Do what you think is best.* Stay at home until you wean him. May Jehovah carry out what you have said." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she weaned him.

24 As soon as she had weaned him, she took him

1:15 *Or "a woman hard-pressed in spirit." [#]See Glossary. **1:19** *Lit., "remembered." **1:20** *Or possibly, "In due time." [#]Meaning "Name of God." **1:23** *Lit., "what is good in your eyes."

up to Shi'loh, along with a three-year-old bull, one e'phah* of flour, and a large jar of wine,^a and she came to the house of Jehovah in Shi'loh^b and brought the young boy with her. **25** Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the boy to E'li. **26** With that she said: "Pardon me, my lord! As surely as you live,* my lord, I am the woman who was standing with you in this place to pray to Jehovah.^c **27** It was for this boy that I prayed, and Jehovah granted my petition that I asked of him.^d **28** I, in turn, now lend him to Jehovah. For all his days, he is lent to Jehovah."

And he* bowed down there to Jehovah.

2 Then Han'nah said in prayer: "My heart rejoices in Jehovah;^e

My horn* is exalted by Jehovah.

My mouth is opened wide against my enemies, For I rejoice in your acts of salvation.

2 There is no one holy like Jehovah, There is no one but you,^f And there is no rock like our God.^g

3 Do not keep speaking with haughtiness; Let nothing arrogant come from your mouth, For Jehovah is a God of knowledge,^h And by him deeds are rightly evaluated.

4 The bows of mighty men are shattered, But those who are stumbling are given strength.ⁱ

1:24 *About 22 L (20 dry qt). See App. B14. **1:26** *Or "By the life of your soul." **1:28** *Evidently referring to Elkanah. **2:1, 10** *Or "strength." See Glossary.

CHAP. 1

a Nu 15:8-10

b Jos 18:1

c 1Sa 1:15

d 1Sa 1:11, 17

Ps 66:19

CHAP. 2

e Ps 13:6

Lu 1:46

f Ex 15:11

De 4:35

Ps 73:25

Ps 86:8

Ps 89:6

g De 32:4

h Job 36:4

Job 37:16

Ro 11:33

i Isa 40:29

Second Col.

a Lu 1:53

b 1Sa 1:11, 20

c De 32:39

Job 14:13

Ps 30:3

Ps 49:15

Ps 68:20

Ho 13:14

Joh 11:24

1Co 15:55

d De 8:18

De 28:12

2Ch 1:11, 12

Job 42:12

Pr 10:22

e Ps 75:7

f Ps 113:5, 7

Lu 1:52

g Ps 102:25

h Ps 91:11

Ps 97:10

Ps 121:3

i Ps 37:28

j Ps 33:16

Zec 4:6

k Ex 15:6

l 1Sa 7:10

2Sa 22:14

Ps 18:13

m Ps 96:13

Ac 17:31

n Ps 2:6

Ps 110:1

Mt 28:18

o Lu 1:69

Ac 4:27

5 The well-fed must hire themselves out for bread, But the hungry hunger no more.^a

The barren has given birth to seven,^b

But she who had many sons has become desolate.*

6 Jehovah kills, and he preserves life;*

He brings down to the Grave,[#] and he raises up.^c

7 Jehovah impoverishes, and he enriches;^d

He abases, and he exalts.^e

8 He raises the lowly one from the dust;

He lifts up the poor from the ash heap,^{#f}

To make them sit with princes,

Giving them a seat of honor. To Jehovah belong earth's supports,^g

And he places the productive land upon them.

9 He guards the steps of his loyal ones,^h

But the wicked will be silenced in darkness,ⁱ

For not by power does a man prevail.^j

10 Jehovah will shatter those fighting against him;^{#k}

He will thunder against them from the heavens.^l

Jehovah will judge to the ends of the earth,^m

He will give power to his kingⁿ

And exalt the horn* of his anointed one."^o

11 Then El-ka'nah went to his house in Ra'mah, but the boy

2:5 *Lit., "has withered." **2:6** *Or "brings to life." #Or "Sheol," that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary. **2:8** *Or possibly, "garbage dump." **2:10** #Or possibly, "Those contending against Jehovah will be terrified."

became a minister of* Jehovah^a before E'li the priest.

12 Now the sons of E'li were wicked men;^b they had no regard for Jehovah. **13** This is what they did with the due right of the priests from the people:^c Whenever any man was offering a sacrifice, an attendant of the priest came with a three-pronged fork in his hand when the meat was boiling, **14** and he would thrust it into the basin, the two-handled cooking pot, the cauldron, or the one-handled cooking pot. Whatever the fork brought up, the priest would take for himself. That is what they would do in Shi'loh to all the Israelites coming there. **15** Also, even before the man sacrificing could make the fat smoke,^d an attendant of the priest would come and say to him: "Give the priest meat to roast. He will not take boiled meat from you, only raw meat." **16** When the man would say to him: "Let them first be sure to make the fat smoke,^e then take for yourself whatever you desire,"* he would say: "No, give it to me now; if not, I will take it by force!" **17** Thus the sin of the attendants came to be very great before Jehovah,^f for the men treated the offering of Jehovah with disrespect.

18 Now Samuel was ministering^g before Jehovah, wearing* a linen eph'od,^h though he was just a boy. **19** Also, his mother would make for him a little sleeveless coat, and she brought it up to him year after year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.ⁱ **20** And E'li blessed El-ka-nah and his wife and said: "May Jehovah grant you a child from this wife in place of the one who was lent to Jehovah."^j And

2:11 *Or "was serving." 2:16 *Or "your soul craves." 2:18 *Lit., "girded with."

CHAP. 2

a 1Sa 1:11
1Sa 3:1, 15

b 1Sa 2:22

c Le 7:34

d Le 3:3-5

e Le 3:16
Le 7:25, 31

f 1Sa 2:29

g 1Sa 2:11
1Sa 3:15

h 2Sa 6:14

i Ex 23:14
1Sa 1:3, 21

j 1Sa 1:27, 28

Second Col.

a Ge 21:1, 2
1Sa 1:19

b 1Sa 2:26
1Sa 3:19

c 1Sa 2:12-17

d Ex 38:8
Le 21:6

e Nu 15:31
1Sa 2:17
1Sa 3:13, 14

f Pr 29:1
Pr 30:17

g 1Sa 2:21

h Ex 4:14, 27

i Ex 28:1
Le 8:12
Nu 17:5, 8

j Nu 18:7

k Le 2:3
Le 6:16
Le 10:14
Nu 5:9
Nu 18:9

they went back home. **21** Jehovah turned his attention to Han-nah, so that she could conceive;^a and she gave birth to three more sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel continued growing up before Jehovah.^b

22 Now E'li was very old, but he had heard about everything that his sons were doing^c to all Israel and how they would lie down with the women who served at the entrance of the tent of meeting.^d **23** He used to say to them: "Why do you keep doing things like these? For the things I am hearing about you from all the people are bad. **24** No, my sons, the report that I hear circulating among the people of Jehovah is not good. **25** If a man should sin against another man, someone may appeal to Jehovah for him;* but if a man should sin against Jehovah,^e who can pray for him?" But they refused to listen to their father, for Jehovah had determined to put them to death.^f **26** Meanwhile, the boy Samuel kept growing in stature and in favor both with Jehovah and with the people.^g

27 A man of God came to E'li and said to him: "This is what Jehovah says: 'Did I not plainly reveal myself to your father's house while they were in Egypt as slaves to the house of Phar'aoh?'^h **28** And he was chosen out of all the tribes of Israelⁱ to serve as my priest and to go up on my altar^j to make sacrifices, to offer incense,* and to bear an eph'od before me; and I gave to the house of your forefather all the offerings made by fire of the Israelites."^k **29** Why do you men scorn* my sacrifice

2:25 *Or possibly, "God will arbitrate for him." 2:28 *Or possibly, "to make sacrificial smoke billow up." *Lit., "sons of Israel." 2:29 *Lit., "kick at."

and my offering that I have commanded in my place of dwelling?^a Why do you keep honoring your sons more than me by fattening yourselves from the best portions of every offering of my people Israel?^b

30 "That is why the word of Jehovah the God of Israel is: "I did indeed say that your house and the house of your forefather would always walk before me."^c But now Jehovah declares: "It is unthinkable, on my part, because those honoring me I will honor,^d but those despising me will be treated with contempt."^e **31** Look! Days are coming when I will cut off your strength* and that of your father's house, so that no man in your house will live to old age.^e **32** And you will look upon a rival in my dwelling amid all the good that is done to Israel,^f and never again will there be an old man in your house. **33** The man of yours whom I do not cut off from serving at my altar will cause your eyes to fail and will bring you grief,* but the greater number of your house will die by the sword of men.^g **34** And what happens to your two sons, Hoph'ni and Phin'e-has, will be the sign for you: On one day both of them will die.^h **35** Then I will raise up for myself a faithful priest.ⁱ He will act in harmony with what is my heart's desire;* and I will build for him a lasting house, and he will walk before my anointed one always. **36** Anyone who remains in your house will come and bow down to him for the payment of money and a loaf of bread, and will say: "Assign me, please, to one of the priestly offices to eat a piece of bread."^j

2:31 *Lit., "arm." 2:33 *Or "will cause your soul to pine away." 2:35 *Or "is in my heart and in my soul."

CHAP. 2

a Ex 25:8
Jos 18:1
1Sa 1:3

b 1Sa 2:14-16

c Ex 28:43

d Ps 18:20
Ps 91:14

e 1Sa 3:14
1Sa 4:11, 18
1Sa 22:18
1Ki 2:27

f Ps 78:60, 61

g 1Sa 22:18, 21

h 1Sa 4:11, 17

i 1Ki 2:27, 35
1Ch 29:22

j Le 2:3
Nu 5:9

Second Col.

CHAP. 3

a 1Sa 2:11, 18

b Nu 12:6
1Ch 17:15

c 1Sa 4:15

d Le 24:2

e 1Sa 1:9
1Sa 3:15

f Am 3:7

g 1Sa 4:17

3 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel was ministering^a to Jehovah before E'li, but word from Jehovah had become rare in those days; visions^b were not widespread.

2 One day E'li was lying down in his usual place, and his eyes had grown dim; he was not able to see.^c **3** The lamp of God^d had not yet been extinguished, and Samuel was lying in the temple^e of Jehovah, where the Ark of God was. **4** Jehovah then called Samuel. He answered: "Here I am." **5** He ran to E'li and said: "Here I am, for you called me." But he said: "I did not call. Lie down again." So he went and lay down. **6** Jehovah called once again: "Samuel!" At this Samuel got up and went to E'li and said: "Here I am, for you called me." But he said: "I did not call, my son. Lie down again." **7** (Now Samuel had not yet come to know Jehovah, and the word of Jehovah had not yet been revealed to him.)^f **8** So Jehovah called again, a third time: "Samuel!" At that he got up and went to E'li and said: "Here I am, for you called me."

E'li then realized that it was Jehovah who was calling the boy. **9** So E'li said to Samuel: "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you should say, 'Speak, Jehovah, for your servant is listening.'" And Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Jehovah came and stood there, and he called as at the other times: "Samuel, Samuel!" At this Samuel said: "Speak, for your servant is listening." **11** Jehovah said to Samuel: "Look! I am doing something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears about it tingle.^g **12** On that day I will carry out toward E'li all that I said

3:3 *That is, the tabernacle.

Song 44 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Open Your Heart to Jehovah in Prayer”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 2:10—Why did Hannah pray that Jehovah “give power to his king” when there was no human king over Israel? (w05 3/15 21 ¶15)

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.) 1Sa 1:1-18 (12)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

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

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and briefly consider “How to Get the Most Out of These Bible Lessons.” (20)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 03 point 5 (13)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 133

“Young Ones—Open Your Heart to Your Parents”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *My Teen Life—How Can I Talk to My Parents?* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 20 ¶1-8, intro video



Open Your Heart to Jehovah in Prayer

[Play the video *Introduction to 1 Samuel*.]

Hannah prayed at length to Jehovah (1Sa 1:10, 12, 15; *ia* 55 ¶12)

Hannah left her problems in Jehovah’s hands (1Sa 1:18; *w07* 3/15 16 ¶14)

When we pour out our heart before Jehovah, we can trust that he will strengthen and sustain us.—Ps 55:22; 62:8.



February 7-13 / 1 Samuel 1-2

Song 44 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Open Your Heart to Jehovah in Prayer": (10 minutes)

[Play the video *Introduction to 1 Samuel*.]

Hannah prayed at length to Jehovah

1 Samuel 1:10: Hannah was extremely bitter, and she began to pray to Jehovah and to weep uncontrollably.

1 Samuel 1:12: While she prayed for a long time before Jehovah, Eli was watching her mouth.

1 Samuel 1:15: At this Hannah answered: "No, my lord! I am a woman under great stress; I have not drunk wine or anything alcoholic, but I am pouring out my soul before Jehovah.

ia 55 paragraph 12

Hannah thus set an example for all of God's servants when it comes to prayer. Jehovah kindly invites his people to speak to him openly, without reservation, pouring out their concerns before him as a trusting child would to a loving parent. (Read Psalm 62:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.) The apostle Peter was inspired to write these comforting words about prayer to Jehovah: "Throw all your anxiety upon him, because he cares for you."—1 Peter 5:7.

Hannah left her problems in Jehovah's hands

1 Samuel 1:18: To this she said: "Let your servant find favor in your eyes." And the woman went on her way and ate, and her face was no longer downcast.

w07 3/15 16 paragraph 4

What can we learn from all of this? When we pray to Jehovah about our concerns, we can let him know how we feel and make heartfelt requests. If we can do no more to resolve the problem, we

should leave the matter in his hands. There is no better course to follow.—Proverbs 3:5, 6.

[Image:] Hannah praying to Jehovah.

When we pour out our heart before Jehovah, we can trust that he will strengthen and sustain us.—
Psalm 55:22; 62:8.

Spiritual Gems

1 Samuel 2:10—Why did Hannah pray that Jehovah “give power to his king” when there was no human king over Israel?

1 Samuel 2:10: Jehovah will shatter those fighting against him; He will thunder against them from the heavens. Jehovah will judge to the ends of the earth, He will give power to his king And exalt the horn of his anointed one.”

w05 3/15 21 paragraph 5

Why did Hannah pray that Jehovah “give strength to his king” when there was no human king over Israel? That the Israelites would have a human king was foretold in the Mosaic Law. (Deuteronomy 17:14-18) In his deathbed prophecy, Jacob said: “The scepter [a symbol of royal authority] will not turn aside from Judah.” (Genesis 49:10) Moreover, concerning Sarah—the ancestress of the Israelites—Jehovah said: “Kings of peoples will come from her.” (Genesis 17:16) Hannah, then, was praying about a future king.

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) 1 Samuel 1:1-18 (*th* study 12)

An introduction to the book of 1 Samuel

In the original Hebrew canon, First and Second Samuel were one volume. The writing is attributed to the prophets Samuel, Gad, and Nathan, Samuel penning the first 24 chapters. First Samuel covers a period of just over 100 years, from about 1180 to 1078 B.C.E., roughly when the writing was completed. The book is largely about four leaders in Israel—High Priest Eli, the prophet Samuel, King Saul, and David.

In chapter 1, a barren woman named Hannah begs Jehovah for a son, promising to devote him to God's service. God answers her prayer. When her child, Samuel, is weaned, she places him in the care of High Priest Eli in Shiloh.

In chapter 3, Jehovah tells young Samuel to deliver a judgment message against Eli's house because he has failed to rebuke his wicked sons.

In chapter 4, Philistines capture the ark of the covenant at Israel's army camp and slay Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. When 98-year-old Eli hears the news, he falls backward and dies.

In chapters 5 through 7, the Philistines return the ark to Israel after suffering a series of heavy punishments from Jehovah.

In the next chapter, the Israelites faithlessly demand a king.

In chapter 9, Jehovah tells Samuel to anoint Saul of the tribe of Benjamin as leader of Israel.

Chapter 11 shows that Saul starts out well. But before long, he becomes disobedient.

In chapter 13, he presumptuously offers up a burnt sacrifice.

In chapter 15, he defeats the Amalekites but disobediently spares King Agag and the best of the herd and the flock. "To obey is better than a sacrifice," Samuel says. He then tells Saul that God has rejected him from being king.

In chapter 16, Samuel anoints David, a son of Jesse, to be the next king.

In the next chapter, David, with just a sling and a stone, kills the giant Goliath, a champion of the Philistines.

Chapter 18 records the start of a lifelong friendship between David and Saul's son Jonathan. Seeing David's courage, Saul puts him in charge of the fighting men. David's campaigns are so successful that he receives more praise than Saul, who becomes filled with murderous envy.

In chapter 19, David flees for his life, remaining a fugitive until Saul's death.

Did you know? First Samuel has valuable lessons about faith and obedience. Eli and Saul disobeyed Jehovah and came to a tragic end. Samuel and David, however, served God faithfully from their youth, thus enjoying his blessing throughout their lives.

In chapters 24 and 26, David has opportunities to kill Saul, but he refuses to harm Jehovah's anointed.

In chapter 25, Samuel dies and all Israel mourns. David, now in the wilderness of Paran, sends ten of his young men to a wealthy sheep owner called Nabal to ask for provisions. When Nabal insolently refuses to help, David prepares to take revenge. However, Nabal's wife, Abigail, quickly goes to David with provisions and averts tragedy.

In chapter 31, First Samuel closes with the death of Saul and three of his sons, who are buried under a tamarisk tree in Jabesh-Gilead.

As you read First Samuel, note how Eli and Saul brought disgrace upon themselves, see why Jehovah loved Samuel and David, and read how God built for David a lasting house, which eventually led to the Messiah—the King of God's Kingdom.

source:https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/BibleBooks/pub-nwtsv_90_VIDEO

Song 44 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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Bible Reading: (4 min.) 1Sa 1:1-18 (12)

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

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Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 03 point 5 (13)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 133

“Young Ones—Open Your Heart to Your Parents”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *My Teen Life—How Can I Talk to My Parents?* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 20 ¶1-8, intro video



Open Your Heart to Jehovah in Prayer

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Hannah prayed at length to Jehovah (1Sa 1:10, 12, 15; *ia* 55 ¶12)

Hannah left her problems in Jehovah’s hands (1Sa 1:18; *w07* 3/15 16 ¶14)

When we pour out our heart before Jehovah, we can trust that he will strengthen and sustain us.—Ps 55:22; 62:8.





INCREASE YOUR JOY IN THE MINISTRY Help Bible Students to Avoid Bad Associations

To gain Jehovah’s friendship, Bible students must select good associates. (Ps 15:1, 4) Good associates will influence them to do what is right.—Pr 13:20; *Iff* lesson 48.

When helping your Bible students to avoid bad associations, be empathetic. They may struggle to give up friends in the world. Therefore, show genuine personal interest in them between Bible studies. This may involve a text message, a phone call, or a short visit. As your students progress, you can include them in association with God’s people. Then they will clearly see that they are gaining far more than they are losing. (Mr 10:29, 30) You too will find joy as you see Jehovah’s family increase.

WATCH THE VIDEO DRAMATIZATION *HELP YOUR BIBLE STUDENTS TO AVOID BAD ASSOCIATIONS*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What are bad associations?—1Co 15:33

- How did Jade imagine what a Christian gathering would be like?

- How did Neeta help Jade to replace bad associations?



SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

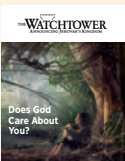
Initial Call*

Question: How do we know that God cares about us as individuals?

Scripture: Mt 10:29-31

Link: How does God help us to cope with present problems?

▶ FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• wp18.3 4

Return Visit*

Question: How does God help us to cope with present problems?

Scripture: Jer 29:11

Link: How can the Bible guide us?

▶ FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• lffi 7

* You may adjust the question and link according to local circumstances.



DIG DEEPER

Examine how modern science agrees with the Bible, and investigate a few impressive Bible prophecies.

4. Science agrees with the Bible

In ancient times, most people believed that the earth rested upon something. [Play the VIDEO.](#)



VIDEO: *The Earth Hangs Upon Nothing* (1:13)

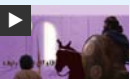
Notice what was recorded in the book of Job some 3,500 years ago. **Read Job 26:7**, and then discuss this question:

- Why is the statement that the earth is suspended “upon nothing” surprising?

It was not until the 1800’s that the earth’s water cycle was well understood. Yet, notice what the Bible stated thousands of years ago.

Read Job 36:27, 28, and then discuss these questions:

- Why is this simple description of the water cycle remarkable?
- Do the scriptures you just read strengthen your trust in the Bible?



VIDEO: *The Bible Foretold the Fall of Babylon* (0:58)

5. The Bible foretold important events

Read Isaiah 44:27–45:2, and then discuss this question:

- What details did the Bible foretell 200 years before the fall of Babylon?

[Play the VIDEO.](#)

Worship Jehovah During Youth

(Ecclesiastes 12:1)

C/G F/G G C F G7/F C/E

Pre - cious to God, we are daugh - ters and sons,
 Hon - or - ing par - ents who care for our lives
 May we re - mem - ber our God in our youth,

F C/E D7 G

Giv - ing our strength as his faith - ful young ones.
 Helps us ex - press what we're feel - ing in - side.
 Grow - ing each day in our love of the truth.

G/F F G/F C/E F C/E

Lov - ing at - ten - tion to us he will give,
 Then we find fa - vor with God and with men,
 Giv - ing our best to our God, we will bring

Fma7 F6 C/G Dm7/G Em/G G7 C

Bless - ing our days for as long as we live.
 Draw - ing us close to Je - ho - vah, our Friend.
 Joy to the heart of Je - ho - vah, our King.

Song 44 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 03 point 5 (13)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 133

“Young Ones—Open Your Heart to Your Parents”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *My Teen Life—How Can I Talk to My Parents?* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 20 ¶1-8, intro video



Open Your Heart to Jehovah in Prayer

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Hannah prayed at length to Jehovah (1Sa 1:10, 12, 15; *ia* 55 ¶12)

Hannah left her problems in Jehovah’s hands (1Sa 1:18; *w07* 3/15 16 ¶14)

When we pour out our heart before Jehovah, we can trust that he will strengthen and sustain us.—Ps 55:22; 62:8.





Young Ones—Open Your Heart to Your Parents

Why should you try to share your thoughts openly with your parents? (Pr 23:26) Because Jehovah has charged them with caring for you and guiding you. (Ps 127:3, 4) It would be hard for them to help you if you kept all your cares and worries concealed from them. Also, you would miss out on the practical experience that they have gained in life. Is it wrong to keep some thoughts to yourself? Not necessarily—as long as you are not deceitful.—Pr 3:32.

How can you talk to your parents? Try picking a time that is good for you and them. If that is a challenge, you could write one of them a letter to share your feelings. What if they want to talk about a subject that you prefer not to discuss? Remember that they really want to help. Think of your parents as allies, not enemies. The effort you put forth to communicate openly with your parents will benefit you for the rest of your life—everlasting life!—Pr 4:10-12.

WATCH THE VIDEO *MY TEEN LIFE—HOW CAN I TALK TO MY PARENTS?* AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



- What did Esther and Partik come to recognize about themselves?



- What can you learn from Jesus' example?



- How have your parents shown that they care for you?



- What Bible principles could help you talk to your parents?

Your parents want you to succeed

How Can I Talk to My Parents?

When you were younger, your parents were probably the first ones you ran to for advice. But now you might feel that your parents just don't understand you.

Deep down, you still want to talk to them. But what if you try, and you feel they just aren't listening?

Well, you could raise your voice, but shouting won't make your parents more receptive and won't show them the respect they deserve.

You could give your parents the silent treatment, but the Bible suggests at Proverbs 15:22 that things only get more frustrating when you don't talk. So saying nothing really gets you nowhere.

It's smarter to just wait for a better time to talk.

Or you might even write them an honest but respectful letter expressing how you feel.

But what if the situation is flipped? Yeah, that's right. Your parents want to talk, but you don't.

Maybe you had a bad day at school.

It's true that choosing to talk when you don't feel like it could mean the conversation will be forced, which makes everyone tense and leads to poor communication.

But refusing to talk means you'll still be stressed, and your parents might think that the problem is bigger than it is, or worse, that you're hiding something.

Instead, you could start off talking with them on a subject that isn't as stressful or even one that makes you happy. That will ease the tension or get rid of it all together.

The bottom line: Your parents want to help you and you can use their help.

So choose your words carefully, deliver them respectfully, and think of your parents as friends, not enemies. Because let's face it, you'll need all the allies you can get to cope with the challenges that lie ahead.

Pure Worship book - Chapter Twenty - Video Transcript

Have you ever wondered how Jehovah views you?

Some of our dear brothers and sisters struggle with feelings of unworthiness.

It's important for us to know that Jehovah God loves and values each of his worshippers, and this includes you.

Chapter 20 of the Pure Worship book discusses the heartwarming encouragement we can receive from Ezekiel's last vision. The title is "Allot the Land as an Inheritance," based on Ezekiel 45:1. Please read that with me:

"When you allot the land as an inheritance, you should offer as a contribution to Jehovah a holy portion out of the land. Its length should be 25,000 cubits, and its width, 10,000 cubits. Its entire area will be a holy portion."

As you study this chapter, you will learn this reassuring lesson:

No matter how modest our responsibility in the earthly part of God's organization may be, each of us has a secure place in the spiritual paradise.

How loving of Jehovah to give Ezekiel a vision that's filled with such encouragement and assurance!

May this chapter help you to become fully convinced that you are precious to Jehovah and that he values all that you do in his service.



20

“ALLOT THE LAND AS AN INHERITANCE”

EZEKIEL 45:1

FOCUS: *The meaning of the division of the land*

EZEKIEL has just seen a vision that must have made his thoughts travel back nearly 900 years to the days of Moses and Joshua. At that time, Jehovah outlined to Moses the boundaries of the Promised Land and later told Joshua how that land should be allotted among the tribes of Israel. (Num. 34:1-15; Josh. 13:7; 22:4, 9) But now, in the year 593 B.C.E., Jehovah instructs Ezekiel and his fellow exiles to allot the Promised Land among the tribes of Israel again!—Ezek. 45:1; 47:14; 48:29.

² What message did this vision contain for Ezekiel and his fellow exiles? Why is this vision a source of encouragement for God’s people today? Will it see a larger fulfillment in the future?

A Vision With a Four-Fold Assurance

³ The final vision that Ezekiel received fills nine chapters of his book. (Ezek. 40:1–48:35) It provided the exiles with

1, 2. (a) What instructions does Ezekiel receive from Jehovah? (b) What questions will we consider?

3, 4. (a) Ezekiel’s final vision provided the exiles with what four assurances? (b) In this chapter, what guarantee will we examine?

four heartening assurances about the renewed nation of Israel. What were those assurances? First, pure worship would be restored in God’s temple. Second, righteous priests and shepherds would lead the restored nation. Third, land inheritances would be reserved for all those who would return to Israel. And fourth, Jehovah would be with them, dwelling among them again.

⁴ Chapters 13 and 14 of this publication considered how the first two guarantees—the restoration of true worship and the leadership by righteous shepherds—would come true. In this chapter, we will focus on the third guarantee, the promise about the inheritance of the land. In the following chapter, we will consider the promise regarding the presence of Jehovah.—Ezek. 47:13-21; 48:1-7, 23-29.

“This Land . . . Is Assigned to You as an Inheritance”

⁵ Read Ezekiel 47:14. In vision, Jehovah directed Ezekiel’s attention to a portion of land that would soon resemble “the garden of Eden.” (Ezek. 36:35) Then Jehovah stated: “This is the territory that you will assign as the land inheritance of the 12 tribes of Israel.” (Ezek. 47:13) “The territory” to be assigned was the restored land of Israel to which the exiles would return. Next, as recorded at Ezekiel 47:15-21, Jehovah went on to describe in detail the precise external boundaries of the whole land.

⁶ What was the purpose of this vision of land assignment? The description of the precisely measured boundaries reassured Ezekiel and his fellow exiles that their beloved land would definitely be restored. Imagine how that reassurance from Jehovah, in such detailed and descriptive language, must have lifted the hearts of the exiles! Did God’s ancient people indeed receive land that was allotted to them as an inheritance? Yes, they did.

⁷ In 537 B.C.E., some 56 years after Ezekiel received his vision, thousands of exiles began to return to the land of Israel and take possession of it. Those remarkable events of long ago remind us of a similar development that has been taking place among God’s people in modern times. In a way, they too received an allotment of land. How so? Jehovah allowed his servants to enter a spiritual land and take possession of it. That being the case, the restoration of the ancient Promised Land can teach us much about the restoration of the spiritual land of God’s people today. But before we

5, 6. (a) In Ezekiel’s vision, what territory was to be assigned? (See opening picture.) (b) What was the purpose of the vision of land assignment?

7. (a) What events began in 537 B.C.E., reminding us of what? (b) What question will we consider first?



No matter what responsibility we care for in God’s organization, Jehovah values our efforts
SEE PARAGRAPH 11



8. (a) Jehovah replaced the nation of natural Israelites with what nation? (b) What is the spiritual land, or paradise? (c) When did it come into existence, and who have settled in it?

consider these lessons, let us first answer the question, “Why can we conclude that a spiritual land truly exists today?”

⁸ In an earlier vision given to Ezekiel, Jehovah indicated that prophecies about Israel’s restoration would see a greater fulfillment after his “servant David,” Jesus Christ, began to rule as King. (Ezek. 37:24) That event occurred in 1914 C.E. By that time, the nation of natural Israelites had long since been replaced as God’s people by a nation of spiritual Israelites, made up of spirit-anointed Christians. (Read Matthew 21:43; 1 Peter 2:9.) However, Jehovah replaced not only the natural nation of Israel with a spiritual nation but also the physical land of Israel with a spiritual land, or paradise. (Isa. 66:8) As we saw in Chapter 17 of this publication, the spiritual land is the secure spiritual environment, or realm of activity, in which the remnant of the anointed ones have been

worshipping Jehovah since 1919. (See box 9B, “Why 1919?”) As time progressed, those with an earthly hope, the “other sheep,” also began to settle in this spiritual land. (John 10:16) While the spiritual paradise continues to develop and expand today, its blessings will be experienced to the fullest extent only after Armageddon.

Dividing the Land Evenly and Precisely

⁹ Read Ezekiel 48:1, 28. After having established the outer boundaries of the land, Jehovah described in detail how to allot the land itself. He directed that the 12 tribal inheritances be laid out evenly and precisely from north to south, starting with the tribe of Dan at the northern tip of the land and ending with the tribe of Gad at the southernmost boundary. Each of the 12 inheritances consisted of a horizontal strip of territory stretching from the land’s outer boundary in the east to the Great Sea, or the Mediterranean Sea, in the west.—Ezek. 47:20.

¹⁰ What assurances did this part of the vision likely convey to the exiles? The detailed description that Ezekiel gave of the land allotment must have impressed on the exiles that the dividing of the land would be a well-organized project. Moreover, the precise division of the land among all 12 tribes underlined that every one of the returned exiles would receive a secure inheritance in the restored land. No one would return only to end up landless or homeless.

¹¹ What strengthening lessons can we draw from this vision today? The restored Promised Land had a place not only for the priests, the Levites, and the chieftains but also for all other members of the 12 tribes. (Ezek. 45:4, 5, 7, 8) Similarly today, the spiritual paradise has a place not only for the anointed remnant and for those among the “great crowd” who take the lead but also for all other members of the great crowd.^[1] (Rev. 7:9) No matter how modest our role in the organization may be, we have a secure place and a valuable assignment in the spiritual land. What a heartwarming assurance!

Two Significant Differences—What Do They Mean for Us?

¹² Some of Jehovah’s instructions about the allotting of land might have puzzled Ezekiel because they differed from those that God had given Moses. Consider two such differences. One has to do with the land; the other, with its inhabitants.

9. What detailed instructions did Jehovah give about the allotment of the land itself?

10. What assurances did this part of the vision likely convey to the exiles?

11. What lessons can we draw from the prophetic vision of the land allotment? (See the box “The Allotment of the Land.”)

12, 13. What specific instructions did Jehovah give about assigning the tribes shares in the land?

FOOTNOTE

[1] For a consideration of the special place and assignment that Jehovah has set apart for the priesthood and the chieftain in the spiritual land, see Chapter 14 of this publication.

Our Possession of Peace

(John 14:27)

B \flat Eb/B \flat B \flat B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat B \flat F/C B \flat /D Cm/E \flat F/A B \flat

Praise Je - ho - vah, God of peace, God of u - ni - ty.
 We have left off an - gry words, Mak - ing quar - rels cease.
 Peace from God gives proof to all; He has blessed our way.

B \flat Cm/A D7 Gm D/A Gm/B \flat G7/B C7 C7/E C7 F F7

He will make all wars to cease, Bring in har - mo - ny.
 We have made from spears and swords, Im - ple - ments of peace.
 His com - mands we glad - ly keep, Read - y to o - bey.

B \flat F7/C B \flat /D B \flat ma7/D F/E \flat Eb G7/D C7 Gm7/D C7/E C7 F

Prince of Peace is Christ his Son, Ten - der, calm, and kind.
 If this peace we want to keep, Then we must for - give.
 We would rec - om - mend our way, Show our peace - ful care

E \flat 7 \flat 5 D D7 Gsus4 Gm E $^{\circ}$ B \flat /F F7 F7sus4 B \flat

When the fight for right he's won, Per - fect peace we'll find.
 Peace - ful - ly as Je - sus' sheep, May we learn and live.
 Till the King - dom's per - fect day Brings peace ev - 'ry - where.

DECEMBER 2021

THE  **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 27, 2022

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Love Intensely From the Heart

(1 Peter 1:22)

C G/B Gm/Bb A7b5 A7 Gm/A A7

When our love is pure and in - tense, We make Je - ho - vah's heart re - joice.

Fma7/A Fm6/Ab G7b5 G7 F/G G7 Dm7 G9/F Em7 Eb6 Dm11 G7

Love is his great - est qual - i - ty, Some - thing that we hold dear.

C G/B Gm/Bb A7b5 A7 Gm/A A7

Warm af - fec - tion glows in our hearts, Mak - ing a loy - al friend - ship grow.

Fma7/A Fm6/Ab G7b5 G7 F/G G7 Dm/F Fm/G G7b9

Love al - ways acts un - self - ish - ly, Prov - ing our love sin -

C Dm7/G C Dbma7 Dbma7b5 Dbma7 Dbm Db°

cere. When we see a friend in need,

Love Intensely From the Heart

Ab/C B° Bbm11 Eb7sus4 Eb7 Dbma7 Dbm7b5 Dbma7

We'll be there to lend a help - ing hand. Tru - ly we can

Bbm9/G C7b5/E C7/E Fm9 Fm Fm/D G7sus4 G7

be a friend, Some - one who can un - der - stand.

C G/B Gm/Bb

Je - sus showed what love real - ly means, Help - ing us see Je -

A7b5 A7 Gm/A A7 Fma7/A Fm6/Ab C/G Cma7/G Am C/G

ho - vah's love, Touch - ing our hearts and mov - ing us.

G/F F Dm/B Bb7b5 G/A Cm/A A7 Dm9 Dm F/G Fm/G G7b5 C Dm7/G C

Ten - der feel - ings are a start. Love in - tense - ly from the heart.

R.H.

(See also 1 Pet. 2:17; 3:8; 4:8; 1 John 3:11.)

SONG 109

Love Intensely
From the Heart

PREVIEW

Christians are not under the Mosaic Law, but that Law mentions many things that we should do or should avoid doing. Learning about them can help us show love to others and please God. This article discusses how we can benefit from some lessons found in Leviticus chapter 19.

What Leviticus Teaches Us About How to Treat Others

“You must love your fellow man as yourself.”—LEV. 19:18.

IN THE preceding article, we considered practical counsel set out in Leviticus chapter 19. For example, as noted in verse 3, Jehovah admonished the Israelites to respect their parents. We discussed how we today can apply that advice by caring for our parents’ physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. In the same verse, God’s people were reminded of the importance of observing the Sabbath. We learned that while we are not bound by the Sabbath law today, we can apply the principle by regularly setting aside time in our schedule to care for matters related to our worship. In doing so, we will show that we are striving to be holy, as Leviticus 19:2 and 1 Peter 1:15 direct.

² In this article, we will continue to consider Leviticus chapter 19. What can this chapter teach us about showing consideration to those who have physical limitations, about being honest in our business dealings, and about showing love to our fellow man? We want to be holy as God is holy, so let us see what we can learn.

SHOWING CONSIDERATION FOR THOSE WITH PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

³ **Read Leviticus 19:14.** Jehovah expected his people to show consideration for those who had physical limitations. For example, the Israelites were not to curse a deaf man. Such cursing involved threatening someone or call-

1-2. What did we consider in the preceding article, and what will we consider in this article?

3-4. According to Leviticus 19:14, how were the deaf and the blind to be treated?

ing down evil on him. What a terrible thing to do to a deaf man! He could not hear what was being said about him, so he would not be in a position to defend himself.

⁴ Furthermore, in verse 14 we learn that God’s servants were not to “put an obstacle before a blind man.” One reference work comments regarding people with physical challenges: “In the ancient Near East [they] tended to be exploited and abused.” Perhaps some inconsiderate person would place an obstacle before a blind man out of spite or out of some perverted sense of humor. How unkind! By means of this command, Jehovah helped his people to see that they should show compassion to those who were disadvantaged.

⁵ Jesus showed compassion to those who had physical limitations. Recall the report he sent to John the Baptist: “The blind are now seeing, the lame are walk-

5. How can we show compassion to those with physical limitations?

ing, the lepers are being cleansed, the deaf are hearing, [and] the dead are being raised up.” In response to Jesus’ miracles, “all the people gave praise to God.” (Luke 7:20-22; 18:43) Christians are happy to imitate Jesus’ compassionate attitude toward those who have physical limitations. So we are kind, considerate, and patient with such ones. Granted, Jehovah has not given us the power to perform miracles. We are privileged, though, to tell those who are physically or spiritually blind the good news about a paradise where mankind will be restored to full physical and spiritual health. (Luke 4:18) This good news is already leading many to give praise to God.

BEING HONEST IN OUR BUSINESS DEALINGS

⁶ Some verses in Leviticus chapter 19 expand on what was stated in the Ten Commandments. For example, the eighth

6. How does the information found in Leviticus chapter 19 expand on what was stated in the Ten Commandments?



Leviticus 19:14 encourages what attitude and actions toward someone who is deaf or blind? (See paragraphs 3-5)

commandment simply said: “You must not steal.” (Ex. 20:15) Someone might conclude that as long as he was careful not to take anything that did not belong to him, he would be obeying that command. Yet, he might be stealing in other ways.

⁷ A merchant might take pride in the fact that he had never taken anything that did not belong to him. But what about his business practices? As recorded at Leviticus 19:35, 36, Jehovah said: “You must not use dishonest standards in measuring length, weight, or volume. You should use accurate scales, accurate weights, an accurate dry measure, and an accurate liquid measure.” A merchant who used inaccurate scales or measurements in order to deceive his customers would in a sense be stealing from them. A further consideration of Leviticus chapter 19 makes that clear.

⁸ **Read Leviticus 19:11-13.** The opening words of Leviticus 19:11 read: “You must not steal.” Verse 13 connects stealing with dishonest business practices, saying: “You must not defraud your fellow man.” So fraudulent business practices are linked with stealing and robbery. While the eighth commandment set out the law on stealing, the details found in Leviticus would help the Jews to understand how they could apply the spirit of that law. We can benefit from reflecting on Jehovah’s view of dishonesty and stealing. We might ask ourselves: ‘In the

7. How might a merchant break the eighth commandment about stealing?

8. How did the details found at Leviticus 19:11-13 help the Jews to apply the spirit of the eighth commandment, and how can we benefit?

light of Leviticus 19:11-13, is there something in my life that merits attention? Do I need to make adjustments in my business dealings or work habits?’

⁹ There is another aspect of honesty that a Christian who has a business should consider. Leviticus 19:13 concludes: “You should not withhold the wages of a hired worker all night until morning.” In the agricultural society of Israel, hired laborers were to be paid at the end of each workday. To hold back the wages of such a worker would deprive him of the money he needed to feed his family that day. Jehovah explained: “He is in need and his life depends on his wages.”—Deut. 24:14, 15; Matt. 20:8.

¹⁰ Today many employees are paid once or twice a month, not every day. However, the principle set out at Leviticus 19:13 is still valid. Some employers take advantage of their employees by paying them an amount that is far below what is fair. They know that these workers may have little choice but to continue working for starvation wages. In a sense, such employers are ‘withholding the wages of a hired worker.’ A Christian who has a business would want to take this point to heart. Now let us see what else we can learn from Leviticus chapter 19.

LOVING YOUR FELLOW MAN AS YOURSELF

¹¹ God’s interest in how we treat people includes more than merely telling us to

9. What protection did the law found at Leviticus 19:13 provide?

10. We can draw what lesson from Leviticus 19:13?

11-12. What did Jesus emphasize by quoting from Leviticus 19:17, 18?

refrain from doing harm to our fellow man. We can see this at **Leviticus 19:17, 18. (Read.)** Note the clear command: “You must love your fellow man as yourself.” Acting that way is fundamental for a Christian who wants to please God.

¹² Consider how Jesus emphasized the importance of the command recorded at Leviticus 19:18. A Pharisee once asked Jesus: “Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied that “the greatest and first commandment” is to love Jehovah with our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind. Then Jesus quoted Leviticus 19:18, saying: “The second, like it, is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matt. 22:35-40) There are countless ways to show love for neighbor, but once again we can gain insight from Leviticus chapter 19.

¹³ One way to show love for our neighbor is by applying the counsel found at Leviticus 19:18. It says: “You must not

take vengeance nor hold a grudge.” Most of us know of cases in which a person has held a grudge against a coworker, a schoolmate, a relative, or a family member—even for years! Recall that Joseph’s ten half brothers harbored a grudge against him, which finally led them to commit a hateful act. (Gen. 37:2-8, 25-28) How differently Joseph acted toward them! When he was in a position of authority and could get even with his half brothers, he showed them mercy. Joseph did not hold a grudge. Rather, he acted in harmony with the counsel recorded later at Leviticus 19:18.—Gen. 50:19-21.

¹⁴ Joseph’s course of forgiving instead of nursing a grudge or taking vengeance sets a pattern for Christians who want to please God. It is also in harmony with the model prayer, for Jesus urged us to forgive those who sin against us. (Matt. 6:9, 12) Likewise, the apostle Paul advised fellow Christians: “Do not

13. How does the Bible account of Joseph illustrate the point later made at Leviticus 19:18?

14. What shows that the principles found at Leviticus 19:18 still hold true?



In view of Leviticus 19:11-13, a Christian might make what self-examination about business practices? (See paragraphs 8-10)



Just as it is best not to keep picking at a literal wound, it is best not to keep thinking about offenses. We should try to put them behind us
(See paragraph 15)



avenge yourselves, beloved.” (Rom. 12:19) He also encouraged them: “Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely even if anyone has a cause for complaint against another.” (Col. 3:13) Jehovah’s principles do not change. The principles behind the law stated at Leviticus 19:18 still hold true today.

¹⁵ Consider an illustration. Hurt feelings can be likened to physical wounds. Some are minor; others are serious. For example, when we open an envelope, we might get a slight paper cut on our finger. That can really hurt, but it will likely not do us any lasting harm. After a day or two, perhaps we do not even recall where the cut was. Similarly, some offenses are minor. For example, a friend may say or do something thoughtless that hurts us, but we are able to forgive him easily. But if we have a deeper wound, a doctor may have to stitch the wound and bind it in bandages. If we were to keep poking or picking at the wound, we would only

15. How might we illustrate the need to put offenses behind us?

harm ourselves. Sadly, a person might be doing something similar when he is deeply offended. He may constantly think about the emotional injury he suffered and the hurt the other person caused him. But those who hold a grudge hurt only themselves. How much better it is to obey the counsel found at Leviticus 19:18!

¹⁶ When Jehovah commanded the Israelites to love their fellow man, he did not mean that they should show love only to those of the same race or nationality. They were also told to love the foreigners in their midst. That is the clear message found at **Leviticus 19:33, 34. (Read.)** The foreigner was to be treated “like a native,” and the Israelites were to “love him” as themselves. For example, the Israelites were to permit both the foreign residents and the poor to benefit from the gleaning arrangement. (Lev. 19:9, 10) The principle about loving foreigners applies to Christians today. (Luke 10:30-

16. According to Leviticus 19:33, 34, how were foreign residents in Israel to be cared for, and what can we learn from that?

37) How so? There are millions of immigrants, and likely some live near you. It is important for us to treat these men, women, and children with dignity and respect.

LOOKING BEYOND LEVITICUS CHAPTER 19

¹⁷ Both Leviticus 19:2 and 1 Peter 1:15 urge God's people to be holy. Many other verses in Leviticus chapter 19 can help us see what we can do to gain Jehovah's approval. We have discussed verses that identify just some of the positive things to do and some of the negative things to avoid.* The Christian Greek Scriptures show the need for similar conduct. But the apostle Peter adds something.

¹⁸ While we may engage in various spiritual activities and do many good works,

* Verses not addressed in these articles deal with showing partiality, slandering others, consuming blood, as well as practicing spiritism, fortune-telling, and sexual immorality.—Lev. 19:15, 16, 26-29, 31.—See “Questions From Readers” in this issue.

17-18. (a) How should Leviticus 19:2 and 1 Peter 1:15 affect us? (b) What important work did the apostle Peter encourage us to do?

Peter highlighted one in particular. Leading up to his encouragement to become holy in all our conduct, Peter urges us: “Brace up your minds for activity.” (1 Pet. 1:13, 15) What would that activity involve? Peter said that Christ's anointed brothers would “‘declare abroad the excellencies’ of the One who called” them. (1 Pet. 2:9) In fact, all Christians today have the honor of doing this most important work, one that does the greatest amount of good. What a special privilege we have as a holy people to share regularly and zealously in the preaching and teaching work! (Mark 13:10) When we diligently apply the principles found in Leviticus chapter 19, we prove that we love our God and our neighbor. And we show that we want to “become holy” in all our conduct.

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 9: A Witness helps a deaf brother communicate with a doctor.

Page 11: A brother who has a painting business gives an employee his wages. **Page 12:** A sister can easily forget about a minor cut. Will she choose to do the same with a more serious injury?

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM LEVITICUS CHAPTER 19 . . .

- about showing consideration for those with physical limitations?
- about being honest in all things?
- about showing love for others?

Our Reasons for Joy

(Matthew 5:12)

B \flat Eb/B \flat F/B \flat B \flat Eb/B \flat B \flat

Our rea - sons for joy are a - bun - dant, Like rich - es in - creas - ing in
We glad - ly be - hold his pro - duc - tions, The heav - ens, the sea, and the

Fsus4 F B \flat Eb/B \flat F/B \flat B \flat B \flat /D Eb Cm7 B \flat /F F7

worth. Those pre - cious to God from all na - tions Are join - ing us in all the
land. We gaze at the book of cre - a - tion, Ap - plaud - ing the work of his

B \flat F/A Eb/G B \flat /F

earth. The joy in our heart is well - found - ed, With
hands. Tri - um - phant - ly we now bear wit - ness, Pro -

E \flat B \flat /D C7sus4 F B \flat F/A

roots reach - ing deep in God's Word. We dai - ly par - take of its
claim - ing the King - dom of God. The news of its birth and its

E \flat /G B \flat /F E \flat Cm7 B \flat /F F7 B \flat

teach - ings; Faith fol - lows the things we have heard. Our
bless - ings, We joy - ous - ly spread all a - broad. E -

Our Reasons for Joy

F7sus4 F7 Bb/F Gm6/E A7

caus - es for joy are deep - seat - ed, Like em - bers that burn in our
ter - nal re - joic - ing ap - proach - es, Like day - light that fol - lows the

Dm Bbm6/Db F/C

hearts. night. Though trou - bles and tri - als be - set us, En -
The prom - ised new earth and new heav - ens Will

Bb/C C7 F Chorus F/Eb Gm/D F7/C Bb F/A

dur - ance Je - ho - vah im - parts. Je - ho - vah our God is our
bring ev - er - last - ing de - light.

Gm7 Bb/F Eb Bb/D C7sus4 F

joy, The work of his hands our de - light. How deep are his

Gm Cm7 Bb/D Eb Bb/F Cm/F F7 Bb

thoughts, how great are his works, A - bound - ing in good - ness and might!