

Sunday, March 20

I have resolved to obey your regulations at all times, down to the last.—Ps. 119:112.

We need to be patient when helping a student progress to dedication and baptism. But at some point, we need to find out if he has the desire to serve Jehovah God. Do you see signs that the student is trying to obey Jesus' commandments? Or does he only want to learn facts from the Bible? Regularly analyze the progress that the student is making. For example, does he express his feelings for Jehovah? Does he pray to Jehovah? (Ps. 116:1, 2) Does he enjoy reading the Bible? (Ps. 119:97) Is he attending the meetings regularly? (Ps. 22:22) Has he made any needed changes in his lifestyle? Has he started sharing what he is learning with his family and friends? (Ps. 9:1) Most important, does he want to become one of Jehovah's Witnesses? (Ps. 40:8) If the student is not making progress in any of these areas, tactfully try to find out why and then discuss the matter with him kindly but frankly. *w20.10 18 ¶14-15*

Monday, March 21

The One who sent me is with me; he did not abandon me to myself, because I always do the things pleasing to him.—John 8:29.

Jesus' heavenly Father always makes good choices, and his earthly parents also made wise decisions. However, as Jesus grew up, he had to make his own choices. (Gal. 6:5) Like all of us, he had the gift of free will. He could have chosen to seek his own interests first. Instead, he chose to maintain a good relationship with Jehovah. As Jesus

learned about his role in Jehovah's purpose, he chose to accept his assignment. (John 6:38) He knew that he would be hated by many, and that thought must have been sobering for him to contemplate. Yet, he chose to submit himself to Jehovah. When Jesus got baptized in 29 C.E., his main focus in life was that of doing what Jehovah required of him. (Heb. 10:5-7) Even when he was dying on the torture stake, Jesus never wavered in doing his Father's will.—John 19:30. *w20.10 29 ¶12; 30 ¶15*

Tuesday, March 22

I will never leave you, and I will never abandon you.—Heb. 13:5.

Do you know of brothers or sisters in your congregation who are suffering distress because they are ill or are facing other challenging circumstances? Or maybe they have lost a loved one in death. If we become aware of an individual in need, we can ask Jehovah to help us to say or do something kind and loving. Our words and actions may be just the encouragement that our brother or sister needs. (1 Pet. 4:10) We know that we can take courage because Jehovah is with us. He gives us help by means of Jesus and the angels. Also, if it is in harmony with his purpose, Jehovah can help us by means of people in authority. And as many of us have personally experienced, Jehovah uses his holy spirit to stir the hearts of his servants to come to the aid of their Christian brothers and sisters. Therefore, like the apostle Paul, we have good reason to say with confidence: "Jehovah is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"—Heb. 13:6. *w20.11 17 ¶19-20*

Wednesday, March 23

Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust.

—Isa. 30:15.

The apostles had direct evidence that Jehovah was with them. He had given them the power to perform miracles. (Acts 5:12-16; 6:8) That is not the case with us today. Even so, through his Word, Jehovah lovingly assures us that when we suffer for the sake of righteousness, he is pleased with us and his spirit is with us. (1 Pet. 3:14; 4:14) So rather than dwell on how we might react to severe persecution in the future, we need to focus on what we can do now to build our confidence in Jehovah's ability to sustain and deliver us. We must trust Jesus' promise: "I will give you words and wisdom that all your opposers together will not be able to resist or dispute." We have the guarantee: "By your endurance you will preserve your lives." (Luke 21:12-19) And never forget that Jehovah keeps in his memory the smallest details about his servants who die faithful to him. With that knowledge, he will resurrect them. *w21.01 4 ¶12*

Thursday, March 24

I have hope toward God . . . that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.—Acts 24:15.

The apostle Paul was not the first to express the hope of a resurrection. The patriarch Job did too. He was confident that God would remember him and raise him to life again. (Job 14:7-10, 12-15) "The resurrection of the dead" is part of the "foundation," or "primary doctrine," of all Christian teachings.

(Heb. 6:1, 2) Paul's discussion of the resurrection is recorded in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. What he wrote must have built up first-century Christians. And that chapter can build us up and strengthen a hope that we may have long held. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is key to our hope for our dead loved ones. It was part of "the good news" that Paul declared to the Corinthians. (1 Cor. 15:1, 2) In fact, he said that if a Christian lacked belief in that resurrection, his faith would be useless.—1 Cor. 15:17. *w20.12 2 ¶2-4*

Friday, March 25

Peter called to mind what Jesus had said . . . And he went outside and wept bitterly.—Matt. 26:75.

What helped the apostle Peter to recover? For one thing, Jesus had prayed earlier that Peter's faith might not give out. Jehovah answered that heartfelt prayer. Later, Jesus personally appeared to Peter, no doubt to encourage him. (Luke 22:32; 24:33, 34; 1 Cor. 15:5) After the apostles had a disappointing night of fishing, Jesus appeared to them. On this occasion, Jesus gave Peter the opportunity to reaffirm his love for him. Jesus had forgiven his dear friend and entrusted him with more work. (John 21:15-17) The way that Jesus dealt with Peter highlights Jesus' mercy, and Jesus perfectly reflects his Father. So when we make mistakes, we should not judge ourselves as being beyond hope. We should bear in mind that Satan wants us to give in to such feelings. Instead, let us try hard to see ourselves—and those who sin against us—through the compassionate and loving eyes of our heavenly Father. —Ps. 103:13, 14. *w20.12 20-21 ¶17-19*

Saturday, March 26

I will remain confident.

—Ps. 27:3.

We can learn from the experiences of those who failed to keep calm and trust in Jehovah. Studying those bad examples will help us to avoid making the same mistakes they made. For instance, early in his reign, King Asa looked to Jehovah when faced with problems. But later he failed to turn to his God for help, preferring to handle matters on his own. (2 Chron. 16:1-3, 12) On the surface, Asa's asking the Syrians for help against Israel may have appeared to be very practical. But his success was short-lived. Jehovah told him through a prophet: "Because you relied on the king of Syria and did not rely on Jehovah your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand." (2 Chron. 16:7) We must be careful not to feel so confident about handling matters on our own that we fail to look to Jehovah for guidance through his Word. Even when we are faced with an urgent situation, we should calmly rely on Jehovah, and he will help us to succeed. *w21.01* 6 ¶13-15

Sunday, March 27

They will hunger no more.

—Rev. 7:16.

Right now, some of Jehovah's people are suffering physical hunger because of oppressive economic conditions or as a result of the ravages of civil unrest and war. Others are imprisoned for their faith. However, those of the great crowd are thrilled to know that on escaping the destruction of this wicked system of things, they will al-

ways have an abundance of physical and spiritual food. When destruction is unleashed on Satan's system of things, the great crowd will be spared the "scorching heat" of Jehovah's anger that he will pour out on the nations. After the great tribulation ends, Jesus will guide these earthly survivors to the "waters of [everlasting] life." (Rev. 7:17) Just think: The great crowd have a unique prospect. Of all the billions who have ever lived, they may never die! (John 11:26) The other sheep have a marvelous hope for which they are thankful to Jehovah and Jesus! *w21.01* 16-17 ¶11-12

Monday, March 28

The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you.

—2 Thess. 3:3.

On the last night of his life as a man, Jesus was thinking about the challenges that his disciples would face. Moved by his love for his friends, Jesus asked his Father to "watch over them because of the wicked one." (John 17:14, 15) Jesus knew that after he returned to heaven, Satan the Devil would continue to wage war against any who wanted to serve Jehovah. Clearly, Jehovah's people would need protection. Today we need Jehovah's protection as never before. Satan has been cast out of heaven, "having great anger." (Rev. 12:12) He has managed to convince some who persecute us that they are offering "a sacred service to God." (John 16:2) Others, who do not believe in God, persecute us because we do not fit into this world's mold. Whatever the case, we can be confident. Why? The answer is given in today's text. *w21.03* 26 ¶1, 3

Song 7 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“The Battle Belongs to Jehovah”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 16:14—In what sense did Saul receive “a bad spirit from Jehovah”? (*it-2* 871-872)

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 16:1-13 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Memorial Invitation: (2 min.) Use the sample conversation. (11)

Memorial Invitation: (3 min.) Invite a workmate, a schoolmate, or a relative to whom you have witnessed in the past. (2)

Return Visit: (3 min.) Make a return visit on someone who accepted the Memorial invitation and showed interest. (4)

Return Visit: (3 min.) Make a return visit on someone who accepted the Memorial invitation and showed interest. Direct the person to our website. (20)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 150

“Three Ways to Rely On Jehovah”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *No Reason to Fear Persecution* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 22 ¶10-22

 “The Battle Belongs to Jehovah”

David’s faith in Jehovah was based on knowledge and experience (1Sa 17:36, 37; *wp16.5* 11 ¶2-3)

David looked at Goliath in comparison to Jehovah, not himself (1Sa 17:45-47; *wp16.5* 11-12)

Jehovah gave David the victory over an imposing enemy (1Sa 17:48-50; *wp16.5* 12 ¶4; see cover picture)

At times, we may face huge challenges, such as persecution or a bad habit. When problems seem too big, remember that they are small in comparison to Jehovah’s limitless power. —Job 42:1, 2.



Jehovah, Our Strength

(Isaiah 12:2)

C G/B C G7/D C/G G C C° C

Gra - cious Je - ho - vah, our strength and our might,
 We who now serve you re - joice in your light;
 Glad - ly, O God, we keep do - ing your will.

G7 C/G G C G/B Am G/D C/D D G

You are our Sav - ior, in you we de - light.
 Eyes that are o - pened now see truth and right.
 Though Sa - tan mocks us, we're trust - ing you still.

C G/B C G7/D C/G E7/G# Am E7/G# Am

We are your Wit - ness - es bear - ing your news,
 Search - ing the Scrip - tures, we hear your com - mand;
 Though he may slay us, oh, help us to be

E/B Am/C G/D B7/D# Em A7 D7 G Chorus G7

Wheth - er men hear or they proud - ly re - fuse.
 Mak - ing our choice, for your King - dom we stand. Je -
 Firm to the end for your grand Sov - 'reign - ty.

Jehovah, Our Strength

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

ho - vah, our Rock, Our strength and our might,

G B° Am/C E7/B Am G/D D7 G

Your name we make known Both day and night.

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

Glo - rious Je - ho - vah, Al - might - y in pow'r,

F#° C/G C#° Dm C/G G C

You are our hid - ing place; You are our Tow'r.

(See also 2 Sam. 22:3; Ps. 18:2; Isa. 43:12.)

please, pardon my sin, and return with me so that I may bow down to Jehovah.”^a **26** But Samuel said to Saul: “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of Jehovah, and Jehovah has rejected you from continuing as king over Israel.”^b **27** As Samuel was turning to go, Saul grabbed hold of the hem of his sleeveless coat, but it ripped away. **28** At this Samuel said to him: “Jehovah has ripped away the royal rule of Israel from you today, and he will give it to one of your fellow men who is better than you.”^c **29** Moreover, the Excellency of Israel^d will not prove false^e or change his mind,^{*f} for He is not a mere man that he should change his mind.”^g

30 At this he said: “I have sinned. But honor me, please, in front of the elders of my people and in front of Israel. Return with me, and I will bow down to Jehovah your God.”^g **31** So Samuel returned behind Saul, and Saul bowed down to Jehovah. **32** And Samuel said: “Bring A’gag the king of Am’a-lek near to me.” Then A’gag went to him reluctantly,^{*} for A’gag had been saying to himself: ‘Surely the threat[#] of death is past.’ **33** However, Samuel said: “Just as your sword has bereaved women of children, so your mother will be most bereaved among women.” With that Samuel hacked A’gag to pieces before Jehovah at Gil’gal.^h

34 Samuel now went to Ra’mah, and Saul went up to his own house at Gib’e-ah of Saul. **35** Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, for Samuel went into mourning for Saul.ⁱ And Jehovah regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.^j

15:29 *Or “feel regret.” 15:32 *Or possibly, “confidently.” [#]Lit., “bitterness.”

CHAP. 15

- a 1Sa 15:30
b 1Sa 13:14
1Sa 16:1
c 1Sa 13:14
1Sa 16:12,13
Ac 13:22
d 1Ch 29:11
e Tit 1:2
Heb 6:18
f Nu 23:19
g 1Sa 15:25
h Ex 17:14
De 25:19
1Sa 15:3
i 1Sa 16:1
j 1Sa 15:11

Second Col.

CHAP. 16

- a 1Sa 15:35
b 1Sa 15:23, 26
c 1Ki 1:39
d Ru 4:17
1Ch 2:12
e Ge 49:10
1Sa 13:14
Ps 78:70
Ac 13:22
f 1Sa 22:17
g Ps 89:20
h Ru 4:11
1Sa 20:6
i 1Sa 17:28
1Ch 2:13
j 1Sa 10:21, 23
k 1Ki 8:39
1Ch 28:9
Ps 7:9
Pr 24:12
Jer 17:10
Ac 1:24
l 1Sa 17:13
1Ch 2:13
m 2Sa 13:3

16 Jehovah eventually said to Samuel: “How long will you mourn for Saul^a now that I have rejected him from ruling as king over Israel?^b Fill your horn with oil^c and go. I will send you to Jes’s^d the Beth’le-hemite, because I have selected from among his sons a king for myself.”^e **2** But Samuel said: “How can I go? When Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”^f Jehovah replied: “Take a young cow with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to Jehovah.’” **3** Invite Jes’s^e to the sacrifice; then I will make known to you what to do. You must anoint for me the one whom I designate to you.”^g

4 Samuel did what Jehovah said. When he came to Beth’le-hem,^h the elders of the city were trembling at meeting him, and they said: “Does your coming mean peace?” **5** To this he said: “It means peace. I have come to sacrifice to Jehovah. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then he sanctified Jes’s^e and his sons, after which he summoned them to the sacrifice. **6** As they came in and he saw E-li’ab,ⁱ he said: “Surely here before Jehovah stands his anointed one.” **7** But Jehovah said to Samuel: “Do not pay attention to his appearance and how tall he is,^j for I have rejected him. For the way man sees is not the way God sees, because mere man sees what appears to the eyes, but Jehovah sees into the heart.”^k **8** Then Jes’s^e called A-bin’a-dab/^l and had him pass before Samuel, but he said: “Jehovah has not chosen this one either.” **9** Next Jes’s^e presented Sham’mah,^m but he said: “Jehovah has not chosen this one either.” **10** So Jes’s^e had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jes’s^e: “Jehovah has not chosen any of these.”

11 Finally Samuel said to Jes'se: "Are these all of your boys?" To this he said: "The youngest^a has been left out until now; he is pasturing the sheep."^b Then Samuel said to Jes'se: "Send for him, because we will not sit down for the meal until he comes here." **12** So he sent for him and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes, and handsome in appearance.^c Then Jehovah said: "Get up, anoint him, for this is the one!"^d **13** So Samuel took the horn of oil^e and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. And the spirit of Jehovah began to empower David from that day forward.^f Samuel later rose and went his way to Ra'mah.^g

14 Now the spirit of Jehovah had departed from Saul,^h and a bad spirit from Jehovah terrorized him.ⁱ **15** The servants of Saul said to him: "You see that a bad spirit from God is terrorizing you. **16** Let our lord, please, command your servants before you to look for a man who is skilled at playing the harp.^j Whenever a bad spirit from God comes upon you, he will play it, and you will feel better." **17** So Saul said to his servants: "Find me, please, a man who plays well, and bring him to me."

18 One of the attendants said: "Look! I have seen how a son of Jes'se the Beth'lehem-ite plays skillfully, and he is a courageous, mighty warrior.^k He can speak well, and he is handsome,^l and Jehovah is with him."^m **19** Saul then sent messengers to Jes'se and said: "Send to me your son David, who is with the flock."ⁿ **20** So Jes'se loaded a donkey with bread, a skin bottle of wine, and a young goat and sent them to Saul with his son David. **21** Thus David came to Saul and began serving him.^o Saul grew to love

CHAP. 16

a 1Sa 17:14

b 2Sa 7:8
Ps 78:70

c 1Sa 17:42

d 1Sa 13:14
Ps 89:20
Ac 13:22e 1Sa 16:1
1Ki 1:39f Nu 11:17
Jg 3:9, 10
1Sa 10:6
2Sa 23:2

g 1Sa 1:1, 19

h 1Sa 18:12
1Sa 28:15i 1Sa 18:10
1Sa 19:9

j Pr 22:29

k 1Sa 17:32, 36
1Sa 17:45, 46

l 1Sa 16:12

m 1Sa 18:12

n 1Sa 17:15

o Pr 22:29

Second Col.

a 1Sa 16:14
1Sa 18:10
1Sa 19:9

CHAP. 17

b Jg 3:1, 3
1Sa 9:16
1Sa 14:52

c 2Ch 28:18

d Jos 15:20, 35
Jer 34:7

e 1Ch 11:12, 13

f 1Sa 21:9

g 1Sa 17:23

h Jos 11:22
2Sa 21:20, 21i 1Sa 17:38, 39
1Ki 22:34

j 1Sa 17:45

k 1Ch 20:5

him very much, and he became his armor-bearer. **22** Saul sent a message to Jes'se: "Please let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my eyes." **23** Whenever a bad spirit from God came upon Saul, David took the harp and played it, and Saul found relief and felt better, and the bad spirit would depart from him.^a

17 And the Phi-lis'tines^b assembled their armies* for war. They assembled at So'-coh,^c which belongs to Judah, and they camped between So'-coh and A:ze'kah,^d in E'phes-dam'mim.^e **2** Saul and the men of Israel assembled and camped in the Valley* of E'lah,^f and they drew up in battle formation to meet the Phi-lis'tines. **3** The Phi-lis'tines occupied the mountain on one side, and the Israelites occupied the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

4 Then a champion came out from the camps of the Phi-lis'tines; his name was Go-li'ath,^g from Gath,^h and his height was six cubits and a span.* **5** He had a helmet of copper on his head, and he was wearing a coat of mail of overlapping scales. The weight of the copper coat of mailⁱ was 5,000 shekels.* **6** He had shin guards of copper on his legs and a javelin^j of copper slung between his shoulders. **7** The wooden shaft of his spear was like the beam of loom workers,^k and the iron blade of his spear weighed 600 shekels;* and his shield-bearer was marching ahead of him. **8** Then he stood and called out to the battle line

17:1 *Lit., "camps." 17:2 *Or "Low Plain." 17:4 *His height was about 2.9 m (9 ft 5.75 in.). See App. B14. 17:5 *About 57 kg (125 lb). See App. B14. 17:7 *About 6.84 kg (15 lb). See App. B14.

of Israel^a and said to them: "Why have you come out to draw up in battle formation? Am I not the Phi-lis'tine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. **9** If he is able to fight with me and strike me down, we will then become your servants. But if I prevail against him and strike him down, you will become our servants and serve us." **10** The Phi-lis'tine then said: "I do taunt* the battle line of Israel^b this day. Give me a man, and let us fight it out!"

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Phi-lis'tine, they became terrified and greatly afraid.

12 Now David was the son of the Eph'rath-ite^c from Beth-le-hem^d of Judah named Jes'se,^e who had eight sons^f and who in the days of Saul was already an old man. **13** The three oldest sons of Jes'se had followed Saul to the war.^g The names of his three sons who went to war were E-li'ab^h the firstborn, his second son A-bin'a-dab,ⁱ and the third Sham'mah.^j **14** David was the youngest,^k and the three oldest followed Saul.

15 David was going back and forth from Saul to tend the sheep^l of his father at Beth-le-hem. **16** Meanwhile, the Phi-lis'tine would come forward and take his position each morning and each evening for 40 days.

17 Then Jes'se said to his son David: "Take, please, this e'phah* of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread, and carry them quickly to your brothers in the camp. **18** And take these ten portions of cheese* to the chief of the thousand; also, you should check

CHAP. 17

a Nu 33:55

b 1Sa 17:26
2Ki 19:22c Ge 35:16, 19
Ru 1:2d 1Sa 17:58
Mic 5:2
Mt 2:6

e Ru 4:22

f 1Ch 2:13-15

g Nu 1:3

h 1Sa 16:6

i 1Sa 16:8

j 1Sa 16:9

k 1Ch 2:13, 15

l 1Sa 16:11, 19

Second Col.

a 1Sa 17:2
1Sa 21:9

b 1Sa 9:16, 17

c 1Sa 17:17, 18

d 1Sa 17:4

e 1Sa 17:10

f 1Sa 17:11

g 1Sa 17:10

h Jos 15:16
1Sa 14:49
1Sa 18:17, 21i 1Sa 17:10
Jer 10:10

on the welfare of your brothers and bring back some token from them." **19** They were with Saul and all the other men of Israel in the Valley* of E'lah,^a fighting against the Phi-lis'tines.^b

20 So David got up early in the morning and left someone in charge of the sheep; then he packed up and went just as Jes'se had commanded him. When he came to the camp enclosure, the army was going out to the battle line, shouting a battle cry. **21** Israel and the Phi-lis'tines drew up so that one battle line faced the other battle line. **22** David immediately left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper and ran to the battle line. When he arrived, he began asking about the welfare of his brothers.^c

23 While he was speaking with them, there came the champion named Go-li'ath,^d the Phi-lis'tine from Gath. He came out from the battle line of the Phi-lis'tines, and he spoke the same words as before,^e and David heard him. **24** When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him, terrified.^f **25** The men of Israel were saying: "Have you seen this man who is coming out? He comes to taunt* Israel.^g The king will give great riches to the man who strikes him down, he will give him his own daughter,^h and he will give the house of his father exemption in Israel."

26 David began to say to the men who were standing near him: "What will be done for the man who strikes down that Phi-lis'tine over there and takes away reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Phi-lis'tine that he should taunt* the battle line of the living God?"ⁱ **27** Then the people told

17:10, 25, 26 *Or "challenge." 17:17 *About 22 L (20 dry qt). See App. B14. 17:18 *Lit., "milk."

17:19 *Or "Low Plain."

him the same thing as before: "This is what will be done for the man who strikes him down." **28** When his oldest brother E-li'ab^a heard him speak to the men, he became angry with David and said: "Why have you come down? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness?"^b I well know your presumptuousness and the bad intentions of your heart; you came down just to see the battle." **29** To this David said: "What have I done now? I was only asking a question!" **30** So he turned from him toward someone else and asked the same thing as before,^c and the people gave him the same reply as before.^d

31 The words that David had spoken were overheard and reported to Saul. So he sent for him. **32** David said to Saul: "Let no one lose heart* because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Phi-lis'tine."^e **33** But Saul said to David: "You are not able to go fight against this Phi-lis'tine, for you are but a boy,^f and he has been a soldier* from his youth." **34** David then said to Saul: "Your servant became a shepherd of his father's flock, and a lion^g came, also a bear, and each carried off a sheep from the flock. **35** I went out after it and struck it down and rescued it from its mouth. When it rose up against me, I grabbed it by its fur* and struck it down and put it to death. **36** Your servant struck down both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Phi-lis'tine will become like one of them, for he has taunted* the battle lines of the living God."^h

17:32 *Or "courage." 17:33 *Or "a man of war." 17:35 *Or "by the jaw." Lit., "by its beard." 17:36, 45 *Or "challenged."

CHAP. 17

a 1Sa 16:6, 7
1Ch 2:13

b 1Sa 17:20

c 1Sa 17:26

d 1Sa 17:25

e 1Sa 16:18

f 1Sa 17:42

g Isa 31:4

h 1Sa 17:10
Jer 10:10

Second Col.

a De 7:21
2Ki 6:16
Heb 11:32-34

b Jg 20:15, 16

c 1Sa 16:12
1Sa 17:33

d 1Sa 24:14
2Sa 16:9
2Ki 8:13

e 1Sa 17:4, 6

f 2Sa 5:10
Heb 11:32-34

g 1Sa 17:10
2Ki 19:22

h De 9:1-3
Jos 10:8

37 Then David added: "Jehovah, who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear, he is the one who will rescue me from the hand of this Phi-lis'tine."^a At this Saul said to David: "Go, and may Jehovah be with you."

38 Saul now clothed David with his garments. He put a copper helmet on his head, after which he clothed him with a coat of mail. **39** Then David strapped on his sword over his garments and tried to go but could not, for he was not used to them. David said to Saul: "I am unable to go in these things, for I am not used to them." So David took them off. **40** He then took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the streambed* and placed them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag, and his sling^b was in his hand. And he began approaching the Phi-lis'tine.

41 The Phi-lis'tine came closer and closer to David, and his shield-bearer was ahead of him.

42 When the Phi-lis'tine looked and saw David, he sneered at him in contempt because he was just a ruddy and handsome boy.^c

43 So the Phi-lis'tine said to David: "Am I a dog,^d so that you are coming against me with sticks?" With that the Phi-lis'tine cursed David by his gods. **44** The Phi-lis'tine said to David: "Just come to me, and I will give you flesh to the birds of the heavens and to the beasts of the field."

45 David replied to the Phi-lis'tine: "You are coming against me with sword and spear and javelin,^e but I am coming against you in the name of Jehovah of armies,^f the God of the battle line of Israel, whom you have taunted."^g **46** This very day Jehovah will surrender you into my hand,^h and I will strike you down

17:40 *Or "wadi."

and cut off your head; and on this day I will give the corpses of the camp of the Phi-lis'tines to the birds of the heavens and to the wild beasts of the earth; and people of all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel.^a

47 And all those gathered here* will know that it is not with the sword or the spear that Jehovah saves,^b for the battle belongs to Jehovah,^c and he will give all of you into our hand.^d

48 Then the Phi-lis'tine rose and drew steadily closer to meet David, but David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Phi-lis'tine. **49** David thrust his hand into his bag and took a stone from there and slung it. He struck the Phi-lis'tine in the forehead, and the stone sank into his forehead and he fell face-down on the ground.^e **50** So David prevailed over the Phi-lis'tine with a sling and a stone; he struck down the Phi-lis'tine and put him to death, though there was no sword in David's hand.^f **51** David continued running and stood over him. Then he took hold of the Phi-lis'tine's sword^g and pulled it out of its sheath and made sure that he was dead by cutting off his head with it. When the Phi-lis'tines saw that their mighty one had died, they fled.^h

52 At that the men of Israel and of Judah rose and broke into shouting and pursued the Phi-lis'tines all the way from the valleyⁱ to the gates of Ek'ron,^j and the slain of the Phi-lis'tines lay fallen along the road from Sha'ara'im,^k as far as Gath and Ek'ron. **53** After the Israelites returned from hotly pursuing the Phi-lis'tines, they pillaged their camps.

54 Then David took the head of the Phi-lis'tine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put the

CHAP. 17

- a Ex 9:16
De 28:10
1Ki 8:43
2Ki 19:19
Da 3:29
b Ps 44:6, 7
Zec 4:6
c 2Ch 20:15
Pr 21:31
d De 20:4
e 1Sa 17:37
2Sa 21:22
f Jg 3:31
Jg 15:15, 16
1Sa 17:47
g 1Sa 21:9
h De 28:7
Jos 23:10
Heb 11:32-34
i 1Sa 17:2, 19
j Jos 15:20, 45
k Jos 15:20, 36

Second Col.

- a 1Sa 21:9
b 1Sa 14:50
c 1Sa 16:19, 21
d 1Sa 17:54
e Ru 4:22
1Sa 16:1
1Ch 2:13, 15
Mt 1:6
Lu 3:23, 32
Ac 13:22
f 1Sa 17:12

CHAP. 18

- g 1Sa 14:1, 49
h 1Sa 19:2
1Sa 20:17, 41
2Sa 1:26
i 1Sa 8:11
1Sa 16:22
1Sa 17:15
j 1Sa 20:8, 42
1Sa 23:18
2Sa 9:1
2Sa 21:7
k Pr 17:17
Pr 18:24
l 1Sa 18:30
m 1Sa 14:52
n Ex 15:20, 21
Jg 5:1

Phi-lis'tine's weapons in his own tent.^a

55 At the moment that Saul saw David go out to meet the Phi-lis'tine, he said to Ab'ner,^b the chief of the army: "Whose son is this boy,^c Ab'ner?" Ab'ner replied: "As surely as you live,^{*} O king, I do not know!" **56** The king said: "Find out whose son the young man is." **57** So as soon as David returned from striking down the Phi-lis'tine, Ab'ner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Phi-lis'tine^d in his hand. **58** Saul now said to him: "Whose son are you, boy?" to which David said: "The son of your servant Jes'se^e the Beth'lehem-ite."^f

18 As soon as David had finished speaking to Saul, Jon'a-than^g and David became bound together in close friendship,^{*} and Jon'a-than began to love him as himself.^h **2** From that day, Saul kept David with him, and he did not allow him to return to his father's house.ⁱ **3** And Jon'a-than and David made a covenant,^j because he loved him as himself.^h **4** Jon'a-than took off the sleeveless coat that he wore and gave it to David, along with his gear, his sword, his bow, and his belt. **5** David began going out and was successful^{*j} wherever Saul would send him. So Saul put him in charge of the fighting men,^m and this pleased all the people and the servants of Saul.

6 When David and the others would return from striking down the Phi-lis'tines, the women would come out from all the cities of Israel with songⁿ and danc-

17:55 *Or "By the life of your soul." **18:1** *Or "Jonathan's soul became bound with David's soul." **18:1, 3** *Or "as his own soul." **18:5** *Or "acted wisely."

17:47 *Lit., "all this congregation."

Song 7 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“The Battle Belongs to Jehovah”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 16:14—In what sense did Saul receive “a bad spirit from Jehovah”? (*it-2* 871-872)

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 16:1-13 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Memorial Invitation: (2 min.) Use the sample conversation. (11)

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 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 150

“Three Ways to Rely On Jehovah”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *No Reason to Fear Persecution* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 22 ¶10-22

 “The Battle Belongs to Jehovah”

David’s faith in Jehovah was based on knowledge and experience (1Sa 17:36, 37; *wp16.5* 11 ¶2-3)

David looked at Goliath in comparison to Jehovah, not himself (1Sa 17:45-47; *wp16.5* 11-12)

Jehovah gave David the victory over an imposing enemy (1Sa 17:48-50; *wp16.5* 12 ¶4; see cover picture)

At times, we may face huge challenges, such as persecution or a bad habit. When problems seem too big, remember that they are small in comparison to Jehovah’s limitless power. —Job 42:1, 2.



March 21-27 / 1 Samuel 16-17

Song 7 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"The Battle Belongs to Jehovah": (10 minutes)

David's faith in Jehovah was based on knowledge and experience

1 Samuel 17:36, 37: Your servant struck down both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine will become like one of them, for he has taunted the battle lines of the living God." Then David added: "Jehovah, who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear, he is the one who will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." At this Saul said to David: "Go, and may Jehovah be with you."

wp16.5 11 paragraphs 2-3

David reassured Saul by recounting what had happened with the lion and the bear. Was he boasting? No. David knew how he had won those battles. He said: "Jehovah, who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear, he is the one who will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Resigned at last, Saul responded: "Go, and may Jehovah be with you."—1 Samuel 17:37.

Would you like to have faith like David's? Note, then, that David's faith was not mere idealism or wishful thinking. He had faith in his God because of knowledge and experience. He knew Jehovah as a loving Protector and a Keeper of promises. If we want to acquire such faith, we need to keep learning about the God of the Bible. As we live by what we learn, we will find that the good results will likewise strengthen our faith.—Hebrews 11:1.

David looked at Goliath in comparison to Jehovah, not himself

1 Samuel 17:45-47: David replied to the Philistine: "You are coming against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I am coming against you in the name of Jehovah of armies, the God of the battle line of Israel, whom you have taunted. This very day Jehovah will surrender you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and on this day I will give the corpses of the camp of the

Philistines to the birds of the heavens and to the wild beasts of the earth; and people of all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel. And all those gathered here will know that it is not with the sword or the spear that Jehovah saves, for the battle belongs to Jehovah, and he will give all of you into our hand.”

wp16.5 11-12

To this day, David’s response stands as a great statement of faith. Just imagine the young man calling out to Goliath: “You are coming against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I am coming against you in the name of Jehovah of armies, the God of the battle line of Israel, whom you have taunted.” David knew that human power and weaponry mattered little. Goliath had shown disrespect for Jehovah God, and Jehovah would respond. As David put it, “the battle belongs to Jehovah.”— 1 Samuel 17:45-47.

David was not blind to Goliath’s size or his weapons. Yet David refused to let such things daunt him. He did not make the mistake that Saul and the members of his army did. David did not compare himself to Goliath. Instead, he looked at Goliath in comparison with Jehovah. Standing some nine and a half feet (2.9 meters) tall, Goliath towered over other men, but how big was he compared to the Sovereign of the universe? Really, like any human, he was barely more than an insect—in this case, one that Jehovah was ready to exterminate!

Jehovah gave David the victory over an imposing enemy

1 Samuel 17:48-50: Then the Philistine rose and drew steadily closer to meet David, but David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David thrust his hand into his bag and took a stone from there and slung it. He struck the Philistine in the forehead, and the stone sank into his forehead and he fell facedown on the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; he struck down the Philistine and put him to death, though there was no sword in David’s hand.

Cover picture [Image:] Goliath towering over his shield-bearer and taunting David on the battlefield.

Caption: David facing Goliath

wp16.5 12 paragraph 4; see cover picture

Today, servants of God do not engage in carnal warfare. That time has passed. (Matthew 26:52) Still,

we do need to imitate the faith of David. Like him, we need to see Jehovah as real—as the only God to serve and to hold in awe. We may, at times, feel small in comparison to our problems, but our problems are small compared to Jehovah’s limitless power. If we choose Jehovah as our God and we put faith in him as David did, then no challenge, no problem, need daunt us. Nothing is beyond the power of Jehovah to conquer!

At times, we may face huge challenges, such as persecution or a bad habit. When problems seem too big, remember that they are small in comparison to Jehovah’s limitless power.—Job 42:1, 2.

[Image:] A man discarding a pack of cigarettes into a trash can.

Job 42:1, 2: Then Job said in reply to Jehovah: “Now I know that you are able to do all things And that nothing you have in mind to do is impossible for you.

Spiritual Gems

1 Samuel 16:14—In what sense did Saul receive “a bad spirit from Jehovah”?

1 Samuel 16:14: Now the spirit of Jehovah had departed from Saul, and a bad spirit from Jehovah terrorized him.

it-2 871-872

It was after this and after the anointing of David as Israel’s future king that Jehovah’s spirit left Saul. From then on “a bad spirit from Jehovah terrorized him.” Having withdrawn his spirit from Saul, Jehovah made it possible for a bad spirit to gain possession of him, depriving Saul of his peace of mind and stirring up his feelings, thoughts, and imaginations in a wrong way. Saul’s failure to obey Jehovah indicated a bad inclination of mind and heart, against which God’s spirit offered Saul no protection or resistive force. However, since Jehovah had permitted the “bad spirit” to replace his spirit and terrorize Saul, it could be termed a “bad spirit from Jehovah,” so that Saul’s servants spoke of it as “God’s bad spirit.” On the recommendation of one of his attendants, Saul requested that David be his court musician to calm him when he was troubled by the “bad spirit.”—1 Samuel 16:14-23; 17:15.

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 minutes) 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (*th* study 5)

Song 7 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

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 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 150

“Three Ways to Rely On Jehovah”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *No Reason to Fear Persecution* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 22 ¶10-22

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Memorial Invitation Campaign (March 19–April 15)

“We’re happy to invite you to a special event that will be attended by millions of people. It’s the anniversary of Jesus’ death.” Provide a printed or electronic invitation. “This invitation shows the time and location of the event in our area [or how you can attend online]. We also invite you to a special talk the weekend before.”

When Interest Is Shown: Play [or text or email] the video *Remember Jesus’ Death*.

Link: Why did Jesus die?

Initial Call* (March 1-18, April 16-30)

Question: Who is Jesus?

Scripture: **Mt 16:16**

Link: Why did Jesus die?

Return Visit*

Question: Why did Jesus die?

Scripture: **Mt 20:28**

Link: How can we show appreciation for Jesus’ ransom sacrifice?

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



Seek God for Your Deliverance

(Zephaniah 2:3)

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

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

R.H. R.H.

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

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

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

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

R.H. R.H.

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

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

Seek God for Your Deliverance

Chorus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R.H.

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

Song 7 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

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Three Ways to Rely On Jehovah

David defeated Goliath because he relied on Jehovah. (1Sa 17:45) Jehovah wants to show his strength in behalf of all his servants. (2Ch 16:9) How can we rely on the help that Jehovah provides rather than on our own experience and abilities? Here are three ways:

- **Pray often.** Pray not just for forgiveness after making a mistake but also for strength when facing a temptation. (Mt 6:12, 13) Pray not just for Jehovah's blessing on decisions that have already been made but also for his direction and wisdom *before* making decisions.—Jas 1:5
- **Have a routine of Bible reading and study.** Read the Bible every day. (Ps 1:2) Ponder over Bible examples, and apply the lessons learned. (Jas 1:23-25) Prepare for the ministry instead of relying on personal experience. Benefit fully from congregation meetings by considering the material in advance
- **Cooperate with Jehovah's organization.** Keep up-to-date with direction from the organization, and then follow through promptly. (Nu 9:17) Listen to the elders when they give counsel and instructions.—Heb 13:17

WATCH THE VIDEO *NO REASON TO FEAR PERSECUTION*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What fears did the brothers and sisters experience?

- What helped them to cope with their fears?



No Reason to Fear Persecution

Please watch the following video that contains heartfelt comments from persecuted brothers and sisters in Russia, and see why we have no reason to fear persecution. I was horrified when several masked officers broke down two doors and burst into the home where the meeting was being held. Everything happened at once—loud sounds, noise, the order: “Everyone sit on the floor!” I was overcome with fear when they put me in handcuffs, placed me in the police van, and took me to jail. I was afraid because I didn’t know how long I would be there and what was awaiting me. When I was being interrogated, I was afraid that I might be unfaithful to Jehovah and let my brothers down. After being detained, I was mostly afraid about what I would face in prison—whom I would encounter, how to act, how others would treat me—the unknown. When one of the officers began to describe how bad life is behind bars, I imagined that behind the officer stood an angel just like the one who supported Daniel in the illustration. This helped me to calm down and not to panic or be afraid. That’s how Jehovah supported me. At the first court appearance, when I was brought out, the brothers’ feelings impelled them to show support somehow, and they began applauding. How that encouraged me that they were with me! Fervent and sincere prayers to Jehovah helped me to cope with these fears. Isaiah 30:15 gave me much support. I realized that tranquility and trust in Jehovah are now the most important things. Understanding this made things much easier for me. We took the elevator down to the first floor, the doors opened, and there stood a large crowd of our brothers and sisters—and they all began clapping. When I saw that, my emotions just welled up, and I got a lump in my throat. I felt as if I had wings; I felt the “great cloud of witnesses.” I prayed to Jehovah for calmness, courage, and wisdom and that he help me not to bring reproach on his holy name. Almost immediately, “the peace of God” came over me, and I was calm. The unpleasant sensations did not go away, but I was no longer afraid. While overcoming our fear, my wife and I tried to go out in service every day. When you don’t concentrate on yourself but focus on helping others, fear disappears. Something that helped me to cope with my fears is hope, looking at the situation through Jehovah’s eyes, seeing what will happen next that this is not the end of the situation, but only a difficult phase through which you can pass. I was helped to cope with my fear by the words of the song: “Take one day at a time; “leave tomorrow until tomorrow; peace is what I find.” I understood that it was important to solve problems as they came up and not to be troubled by what might never happen. Fear is interesting; that is, in principle, fear can be inside a person, and if someone is afraid, that is not shameful. But the question is, Can you overcome this fear? Can you get the fear under your control? Can you overcome this surge of negativity? And when my heart persuaded me to get scared, then I started to pray. I prayed to Jehovah to give me courage and not be afraid of anyone or anything. I still say to myself, ‘Feliks, do not fear anybody or anything except Jehovah!’ Dear brothers and sisters, I really appreciate your support. I’m very happy for all your letters, for all your thoughts, for all your prayers. I really appreciate it a lot. I try to do my best, and I try to serve Jehovah in the best way that I can. I will do that forever!

source: <https://www.jw.org/en/news/jw/region/russia/No-Reason-to-Fear-Persecution/>

10-14. How has the need for us to remain united in clean worship been emphasized?

15-18. Why must we continue to demonstrate love, and how can we do so?

⁹ *Chapter 15:* The prophetic descriptions of Israel and Judah as being like prostitutes remind us of just how repugnant spiritual adultery is to Jehovah.—Ezek., chaps. 16, 23.

Second theme: Remain united in clean worship

¹⁰ *Chapter 8:* The prophecies promising that Jehovah would raise up “one shepherd” to care for His people stress the need for us to work unitedly and peaceably under Jesus’ leadership.—Ezek. 34:23, 24; 37:24-28.

¹¹ *Chapter 9:* Ezekiel’s prophecies about God’s people being released from Babylonian captivity and restored to their homeland contain a message for those who want to please Jehovah today. Clean worshippers of Jehovah must break free from and remain free from the contaminating influence of false religion. Despite coming from countless religious, economic, and ethnic backgrounds, we must maintain the unity that helps identify us as God’s people.—Ezek. 11:17, 18; 12:24; John 17:20-23.

¹² *Chapter 10:* The theme of unity was highlighted by the vision of the dry bones coming to life. What a privilege we have to be among the restored group of cleansed worshippers who work together as an army!—Ezek. 37:1-14.

¹³ *Chapter 12:* Unity was especially emphasized by the prophecy of the two sticks becoming one. How faith-strengthening it is to see the anointed and the other sheep fulfill that prophecy! Despite living in a world divided by religious and political hatred, we remain bound together by love and loyalty.—Ezek. 37:15-23.

¹⁴ *Chapter 16:* The vision of the man with the inkhorn and the men with smashing weapons contains a sobering warning—only those who enter the “great tribulation” as pure worshippers will be in a position to be marked for survival.—Matt. 24:21; Ezek. 9:1-11.

Third theme: Demonstrate love for others

¹⁵ *Chapter 4:* The vision of the four living creatures taught us about Jehovah’s qualities, the foremost being love. When we speak and act in a loving manner, we prove that Jehovah is our God.—Ezek. 1:5-14; 1 John 4:8.

¹⁶ *Chapters 6 and 11:* God’s love motivated him to commission watchmen, such as Ezekiel. Because God is love, he does not want any to be destroyed when he brings an end to Sa-

tan's domination of the earth. (2 Pet. 3:9) We have the privilege of reflecting God's love by fulfilling our responsibility to support the work of the modern-day watchman.—Ezek. 33:1-9.

¹⁷ *Chapters 17 and 18:* Jehovah knows that many will reject his mercy and will attempt to wipe out his loyal worshippers. Love will move Jehovah to defend his people when “Gog of the land of Magog” launches an attack on those who are loyal to Him. Love for others motivates us to warn as many as possible that Jehovah will destroy those who oppress his people.—Ezek. 38:1–39:20; 2 Thess. 1:6, 7.

¹⁸ *Chapters 19, 20, and 21:* Jehovah's love for people is strikingly evident in the visions depicting the stream of life-giving water and the apportioning of the land. The visions describe the results of Jehovah's greatest act of love, giving the life of his Son so that we might have our sins forgiven and enjoy perfect life as part of God's family. One of the best ways to show our love for people is to tell them about the beautiful future Jehovah has prepared for those who put faith in his Son.—Ezek. 45:1-7; 47:1–48:35; Rev. 21:1-4; 22:17.

After the Millennial Reign, a Remarkable Act of Humility

¹⁹ During the Thousand Year Reign, Jesus will bring billions back to life and heal the pain caused by our “enemy, death.” (1 Cor. 15:26; Mark 5:38-42; Acts 24:15) The history of mankind has been like a heartbreaking story filled with sadness and loss. But as each generation is brought back to life, Jesus will be erasing the tragic story and giving the resurrected ones the opportunity to write a better story. On the basis of the ransom sacrifice, he will undo all the harm caused by sickness, war, disease, and famine. More than that, he will help us dig out and destroy the root cause of our sorrow—the sin we inherited from Adam. (Rom. 5:18, 19) Jesus will completely “break up the works of the Devil.” (1 John 3:8) What takes place then?

²⁰ **Read 1 Corinthians 15:24-28.** When all mankind has perfect life, when the earth has finally been transformed into the Paradise that Jehovah originally intended, Jesus and his 144,000 corulers will display remarkable humility; they will hand over the Kingdom to Jehovah. Willingly, peacefully, they will give up the authority they exercised for the thousand years. All that the Kingdom accomplished will last forever.

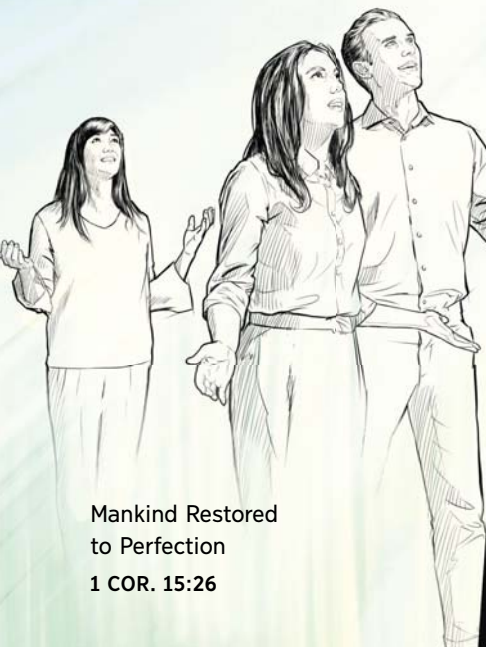
19. What will Jesus do during the Thousand Year Reign? (See the box “Facing the Final Test.”)

20. How will Jesus and the 144,000 display remarkable humility? Explain. (See opening picture.)

Resurrected ones will have the opportunity to write a better story

FACING THE FINAL TEST

SEE PARAGRAPHS 19-29



Mankind Restored
to Perfection
1 COR. 15:26



Jesus Hands Back
the Kingdom to
Jehovah
1 COR. 15:24



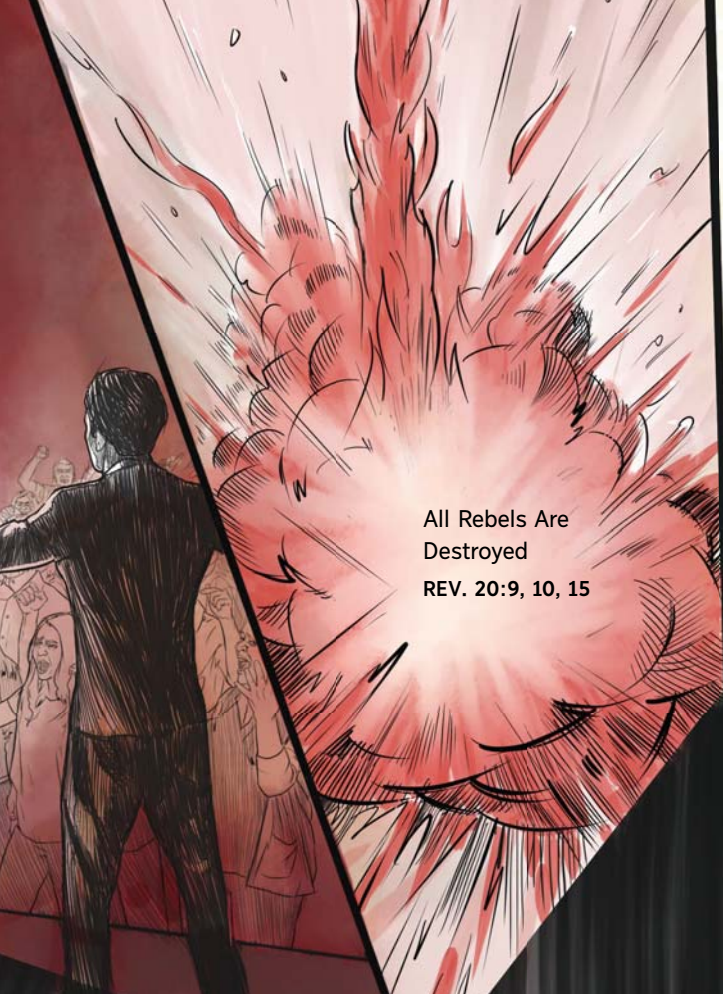
Satan Released From the
Abyss; Rebels Join Satan
in the Final Attack
REV. 20:3, 7, 8

21, 22. (a) What will the world be like at the end of the thousand years? (b) Why will Jehovah release Satan and the demons?

The Final Test

²¹ Jehovah will then do something extraordinary, something that expresses great confidence in his earthly subjects. He will direct that Satan and the demons be released from the abyss in which they have been confined for the thousand years. (Read Revelation 20:1-3.) The world that greets them will be vastly different from the one they knew. Before Armageddon, the majority of mankind was misled by Satan and the unity of the human race was fractured by hate and prejudice. (Rev. 12:9) But at the end of the thousand years, all mankind will be worshipping Jehovah as a united, loving family. The earth will be one harmonious Paradise.

²² Why will Jehovah release such criminals as Satan and the demons into this clean environment? Because the major-



All Rebels Are
Destroyed
REV. 20:9, 10, 15

Endless Life in Peace
and Unity
ROM. 8:19-21



ity of those alive at the end of the thousand years will never have had their loyalty as faithful worshippers of Jehovah tested. Most died without knowing Jehovah and were then resurrected into Paradise. Jehovah not only gave them life but also provided for all their physical and spiritual needs. They will have experienced no negative influences, only positive peer pressure. They will have been surrounded by people who love and serve Jehovah. Satan could hurl at these resurrected ones the same accusation he leveled at Job—they serve God only because he protects and blesses them. (Job 1:9, 10) So before Jehovah writes our names permanently in the book of life, he will allow us a chance to prove beyond doubt that we are loyal to him as our Father and Sovereign. —Rev. 20:12, 15.

Christ, Our Model

(1 Peter 2:21)

C/E C/G C G7sus4 C C/B F/A G/B

What love Je - ho - vah showed, What good - ness from him flowed,
 Je - ho - vah's Word, he said, Sus - tained his life like bread.
 Like Je - sus, may our days Pro - vide Je - ho - vah praise,

G G/F C/E F C/G F6/A G/B F/C C

When for all man - kind he of - fered his First - born.
 It gave him wis - dom and knowl - edge and in - sight.
 And may his foot - steps be - come our own road - way.

C/E Dm11 C Bm11 E7 Am Cma7/G Fma7 C/E Dm7

Christ took on hu - man form— The Son of man was born—
 His Fa - ther's will - ing slave, A mod - el Je - sus gave;
 Let Je - sus' mod - el be Our path e - ter - nal - ly,

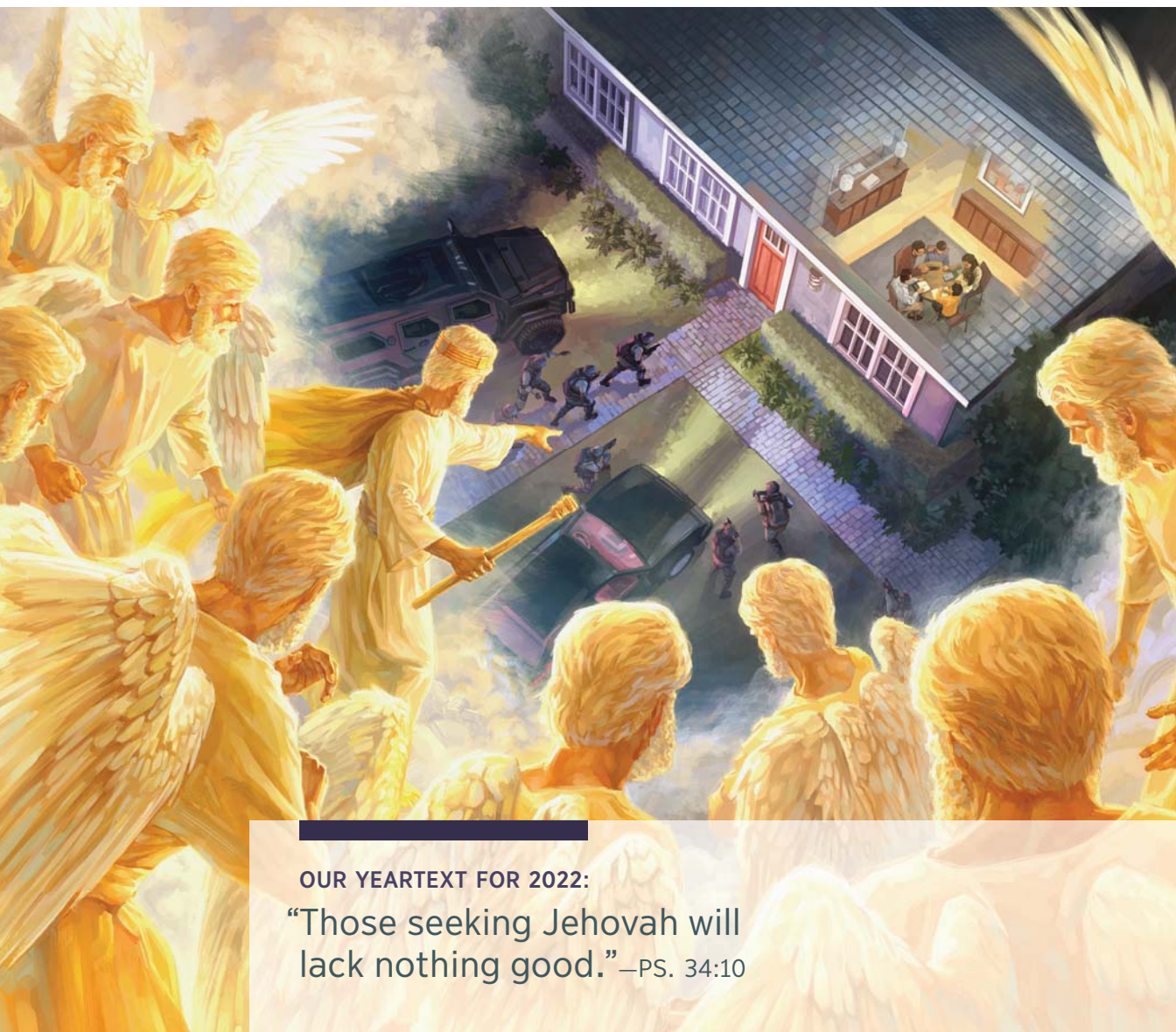
G7 G/D G/F Em7 C/E F C/G G13sus4 G7 C

By his ex - am - ple, God's name he a - dorned.
 To please his Fa - ther would bring him de - light.
 And then God's fa - vor we'll know day by day.

JANUARY 2022

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



OUR YEARTEXT FOR 2022:

“Those seeking Jehovah will
lack nothing good.”—PS. 34:10



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
FEBRUARY 28–APRIL 3, 2022

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COVER PICTURE:

During the great tribulation, Gog of Magog’s forces may try to assault us in our homes. But we can take comfort in knowing that Jesus and his angels are aware of what is happening and will defend us (See study article 1, paragraph 13)

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You Gave Your Precious Son

(1 John 4:9)

F C/E Dm7

Je - ho - vah, dear Fa - ther, There seemed no
Your kind - ness, your mer - cy, They draw us

Am/C Bb F/A

hope for us. The ran - som has giv - en
close to you. Your great name, your friend - ship,

Gm C7sus4 C7 F

Hope to ev - 'ry - one! We give our
These we've come to love. But some - thing

C/E Dm Am/C

lives to you, Our best in all we do.
more than this Is your most pre - cious gift.

You Gave Your Precious Son

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 4/4. The bass clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment with a half note G3 and a half note Bb3. The lyrics are: "And we'll tell that oth - ers too, That He died that we might live. You".

Bb F/A

And we'll tell that oth - ers too, That
He died that we might live. You

Musical notation for the second system. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 4/4. The bass clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment with a half note G3 and a half note Bb3. The lyrics are: "your will might be done. You gave your pre - cious sent him from a - bove." The word "Chorus" is written above the treble clef staff. The key signature changes to C major for the second half of the system, indicated by the absence of flats. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment with a half note G3 and a half note B4. The lyrics are: "You gave your pre - cious".

Gm Csus4 C Chorus F/A Bbadd9 C

your will might be done. You gave your pre - cious
sent him from a - bove.

Musical notation for the third system. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 4/4. The bass clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment with a half note G3 and a half note Bb3. The lyrics are: "Son, And now we sing as one, A".

Dm F/A Bbma7 C F Csus4/E

Son, And now we sing as one, A

Musical notation for the fourth system. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 4/4. The bass clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment with a half note G3 and a half note Bb3. The lyrics are: "song we'll sing for - ev - er, for giv - ing us your".

Dm C Bb Gm7 Fma7/A

song we'll sing for - ev - er, for giv - ing us your

You Gave Your Precious Son

B \flat C7 F F $\text{sus}4$ F B $\text{b}^{\text{add}9}$

pre - cious Son. *Repeat from beginning*

This system contains the first two staves of music. The treble clef staff features chords B \flat , C7, F, F $\text{sus}4$, F, and B $\text{b}^{\text{add}9}$ with corresponding lyrics. The bass clef staff provides a simple accompaniment. A repeat sign is placed at the end of the system.

Ending
F C/E Dm7 Am/C

Je - ho - vah, dear Fa - ther, we pray in grat - i - tude.

This system contains the second two staves of music. The treble clef staff features chords F, C/E, Dm7, and Am/C with corresponding lyrics. The bass clef staff provides a simple accompaniment. A repeat sign is placed at the end of the system.

B \flat F/A Gm7

We of - fer our thanks for giv - ing us your

This system contains the third two staves of music. The treble clef staff features chords B \flat , F/A, and Gm7 with corresponding lyrics. The bass clef staff provides a simple accompaniment.

C7 $\text{sus}4$ C F

pre - cious Son.

This system contains the final two staves of music. The treble clef staff features chords C7 $\text{sus}4$, C, and F with corresponding lyrics. The bass clef staff provides a simple accompaniment.

SONG 20

You Gave Your
Precious Son

PREVIEW

Whether our hope is to live in heaven or on a paradise earth, we look forward to attending the Memorial each year. This article will discuss the sound Scriptural reasons why we attend and how we benefit from doing so.

Why We Attend the Memorial

“Keep doing this in remembrance of me.”—LUKE 22:19.

NO MATTER how long it has been since our loved ones have died, we still remember them. The anniversary of their death usually brings especially vivid memories to mind.

² Each year, we are among the millions worldwide who gather on the anniversary of the death of someone we dearly love—Jesus Christ. (1 Pet. 1:8) We come together to remember the one who gave his life as a ransom to save us from sin and death. (Matt. 20:28) In fact, Jesus wanted his followers to remember his death. The night before he died, he instituted a special evening meal and commanded: “Keep doing this in remembrance of me.”* —Luke 22:19.

³ A small number of those attending the Memorial of Christ’s death cherish a heavenly hope. But many millions who have an earthly hope are also present. In this article, we will consider reasons why both groups are eager to attend the Memorial each year. We will also examine how we benefit from attending. Let us start by considering some reasons why the anointed attend.

* These words have been rendered “Do this in memory of me” (*Today’s English Version*) and “Do this as a memorial of me” (*The Jerusalem Bible*).

- 1-2. (a) When especially do we remember a loved one who has died?
(b) What did Jesus institute the night before he died?
3. What will we discuss in this article?

WHY ANOINTED ONES ATTEND

⁴ Each year, anointed ones look forward to attending the Memorial *as partakers*. Why do they appropriately partake of the bread and the wine? To answer that, consider what happened on the final night of Jesus' earthly life. After the Passover meal, Jesus instituted what has come to be known as the Lord's Evening Meal. He passed the bread and the wine to his 11 faithful apostles and told them to eat and drink. Jesus spoke to them about two covenants, or agreements—the new covenant and the Kingdom covenant.* (Luke 22:19, 20, 28-30) These covenants opened up the way for those apostles and a limited number of others to become kings and priests in heaven. (Rev. 5:10; 14:1) Only the anointed remnant,[#] who are in these two covenants, may partake of the bread and the wine at the Memorial.

⁵ Here is another reason why the anointed are eager to attend the Memorial: This observance gives them an opportunity to *contemplate their hope*. Jehovah has given them a remarkable hope—to enjoy immortal and incorruptible life in heaven, to serve alongside the glorified Jesus Christ and the rest of the 144,000 and, above all, to be in the very

* For more information about the new covenant and the Kingdom covenant, see the article "You Will Become 'a Kingdom of Priests'" in the October 15, 2014, issue of *The Watchtower*, pp. 15-17.

[#] **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** The expression **anointed remnant** refers to the remaining anointed Christians still alive on earth.

4. Why do anointed ones partake of the bread and the wine at the Memorial?
5. What do the anointed recognize about the hope they have been given?

presence of Jehovah God! (1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 John 3:2) The anointed recognize that they have been invited to enjoy such privileges in heaven. But to be admitted to heaven, they must remain faithful until their death. (2 Tim. 4:7, 8) It brings the anointed great joy to reflect on their heavenly hope. (Titus 2:13) What about the "other sheep"? (John 10:16) What are some reasons why they attend the Memorial?

WHY THE OTHER SHEEP ATTEND

⁶ The other sheep attend the Memorial, not as partakers, but *as observers*. In 1938, those with the earthly hope were for the first time specifically invited to attend the Memorial. *The Watchtower* of March 1, 1938, stated: "It will be entirely right and proper for the [other sheep] to be present at such meeting and observe what is done. . . . It should be and is a time of rejoicing for them also." Like invited guests who are happy to observe a wedding ceremony, the other sheep are happy to be present as observers at the Memorial.

⁷ The other sheep too *contemplate their hope*. They look forward to the Memorial discourse, for much of it focuses on what Christ and his 144,000 corulers will do for faithful humans during the Thousand Year Reign. Under the leadership of their King Jesus Christ, those heavenly rulers will help transform the earth into a paradise and lift obedient humankind to perfection. How thrilling

6. Why do the other sheep attend the Memorial each year?
7. Why do the other sheep look forward to the Memorial discourse?

it is for the millions of observers at the Memorial to imagine the future fulfillment of Bible prophecies, such as those found at Isaiah 35:5, 6; 65:21-23; and Revelation 21:3, 4. By picturing themselves and their loved ones in that new world, they strengthen their hope for the future and their determination never to stop serving Jehovah.—Matt. 24:13; Gal. 6:9.

⁸ Consider another reason why the other sheep attend the Memorial. They want to *show their love and support for the anointed*. God’s Word foretold that a close bond would exist between the anointed and those with the earthly hope. How so? Let us discuss a few examples.

⁹ **Read Zechariah 8:23.** This prophecy paints a touching picture of the way the other sheep feel about their anointed brothers and sisters. The expressions “a Jew” and “you people” refer to the same group—the anointed remnant. (Rom. 2:28, 29) The “ten men out of all the languages of the nations” represent the other sheep. They “take firm hold of”—loyally attach themselves to—the anointed, joining them in pure worship. Naturally, then, on the night of the Memorial, the other sheep show their close attachment to the anointed by being present with them.

¹⁰ **Read Ezekiel 37:15-19, 24, 25.** In

8. What is another reason why the other sheep attend the Memorial?

9. What does the prophecy recorded at Zechariah 8:23 indicate about the way the other sheep feel about the anointed?

10. What has Jehovah done in fulfillment of the prophecy found at Ezekiel 37:15-19, 24, 25?

fulfillment of this prophecy, Jehovah has brought the anointed and the other sheep together in an unbreakable bond of unity. The prophecy mentions two sticks. Those with the heavenly hope are like the stick “for Judah” (the tribe from which the kings of Israel were chosen), and those with the earthly hope are like the stick “of Ephraim.”* Jehovah would unite the two groups so that they would become “one stick.” This means that they serve unitedly under their one King, Christ Jesus. Each year, the anointed and the other sheep attend the Memorial, not as two separate groups, but as “one flock” under “one shepherd.”—John 10:16.

¹¹ **Read Matthew 25:31-36, 40.** “The sheep” in this parable represent righteous ones in the time of the end who have the earthly hope—that is, the other sheep. They loyally support the remaining ones of Christ’s spirit-anointed brothers primarily by helping them to fulfill an enormous responsibility—the worldwide preaching and disciple-making work.—Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.

¹² Every year in the weeks leading up to the Memorial, the other sheep show their support for Christ’s brothers by sharing fully in a global campaign to invite interested ones to the Memorial.

* For more information about the prophecy of the two sticks found in Ezekiel chapter 37, see *Pure Worship of Jehovah—Restored At Last!*, pp. 130-135, pars. 3-17.

11. How do “the sheep” mentioned at Matthew 25:31-36, 40 primarily show their support of Christ’s brothers?

12-13. What are some further ways in which the other sheep show their support for Christ’s brothers?

(See the box “Are You Planning Ahead for the Memorial Season?”) They also help make all the necessary arrangements so that the Memorial can be held in every congregation worldwide, even though most congregations do not have any partakers in attendance. The other sheep are thrilled to support Christ’s brothers in such ways. These sheep know that Jesus views what they do for his anointed brothers as if they were doing it for him personally.—Matt. 25:37-40.

¹³ What are some additional reasons why all of us, regardless of our hope, attend the Memorial?

WHY WE ALL ATTEND

¹⁴ *We are thankful for the love that Jehovah and Jesus have shown us.* Jehovah has demonstrated his love for us in many ways, but one way stands out above all others. Our God made his greatest expression of unselfish love by sending his precious Son to suffer and die for us. (John 3:16) We recognize that Jesus too showed great love by willingly giving his life for us. (John 15:13) We can never repay Jehovah and Jesus for the love they have shown us. But we can show our thankfulness by how we live our life each day. (Col. 3:15) And we attend the Memorial so that we may remember their love for us as well as show our love for them.

¹⁵ *We highly value the gift of the ransom.* (Matt. 20:28) The anointed trea-

sure the ransom, which makes their wonderful hope possible. Because of their faith in Christ’s sacrifice, Jehovah has declared them righteous and has adopted them as his children. (Rom. 5:1; 8:15-17, 23) The other sheep too are thankful for the ransom. On the basis of their faith in Christ’s shed blood, they have a clean standing before God, can render him sacred service, and have the hope of coming “out of the great tribulation.” (Rev. 7:13-15) One way that both the anointed and the other sheep show their gratitude for the ransom is by being present at the Memorial each year.

¹⁶ Another reason why we attend the Memorial is that *we want to obey Jesus.* Regardless of our hope for the future, we take personally the command that Jesus gave on the night he instituted the Memorial: “Keep doing this in remembrance of me.”—1 Cor. 11:23, 24.

HOW WE ALL BENEFIT FROM ATTENDING

¹⁷ *We draw closer to Jehovah.* (Jas. 4:8) As we have learned, the Memorial gives us an opportunity to think about the hope Jehovah has given us and to meditate on the great love he has shown us. (Jer. 29:11; 1 John 4:8-10) When we reflect on our sure hope for the future and on God’s unfailing love for us, we deepen our own love for Jehovah and strengthen our bond with him.—Rom. 8:38, 39.

14. How have Jehovah and Jesus shown great love for us?

15. Why do both the anointed and the other sheep highly value the gift of the ransom?

16. What is another reason why we attend the Memorial?

17. How does the Memorial help us draw closer to Jehovah?



Are You Planning Ahead for the Memorial Season?

PRIOR TO THE MEMORIAL

- Share as fully as possible in the campaign to invite others to attend this important event. Make a list of those whom you want to invite.
- Consider prayerfully whether you can enroll as an auxiliary pioneer during the Memorial season.
- Review articles or other published information that deepens your appreciation for the Memorial, the ransom, and the love that Jehovah and Jesus have shown us. For example, you can review chapters 14 and 23 of the book *Draw Close to Jehovah* and chapter 17 of the book *“Come Be My Follower.”*
- Keep up with the Memorial Bible reading schedule found in *Examining the Scriptures Daily*. Take time to meditate on Bible accounts about Jesus’ last days on earth, his death, and his resurrection.

ON THE EVENING OF THE MEMORIAL

- Arrive early so that you can warmly welcome visitors and inactive ones who come to the event.
- Pay close attention to the discourse, and follow along in your Bible when the speaker reads and explains the scriptures.
- After the program concludes, try to start a conversation with a visitor and answer any questions he may have. If he shows interest, make sure that you or someone else can follow up on it.



AFTER THE MEMORIAL

Visit any who showed interest, and offer a Bible study in the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure.

¹⁸ *We are moved to imitate Jesus' example.* (1 Pet. 2:21) In the days leading up to the Memorial, we focus on Bible accounts about Jesus' final week on earth, his death, and his resurrection. Then on the evening of the Memorial, the discourse reminds us of Jesus' love for us. (Eph. 5:2; 1 John 3:16) As we read about Jesus' self-sacrificing example and meditate on it, we feel compelled to "go on walking just as that one walked."—1 John 2:6.

¹⁹ *We are even more determined to remain in God's love.* (Jude 20, 21) We remain in God's love by doing all we can to obey him, sanctify his name, and bring joy to his heart. (Prov. 27:11; Matt. 6:9; 1 John 5:3) The Memorial obser-

18. What does meditating on Jesus' example move us to do?

19. How can we remain in God's love?

vance moves us to be more determined to live each day in a way that says to Jehovah, 'I want to remain in your love forever!'

²⁰ Whether our hope is to live forever in heaven or on earth, we have sound reasons to attend the Memorial. Each year when we gather together on that date, we remember the death of someone we love, Jesus Christ. Above all, we remember the greatest act of love—the love that Jehovah showed us by giving his Son as a ransom. This year, the Memorial will be held on the evening of **Friday, April 15, 2022**. We love Jehovah and his Son, so on the anniversary of Jesus' death, nothing could be more important to us than being present at the Memorial.

20. What sound reasons do we have for attending the Memorial?

REGARDING THE MEMORIAL, . . .

- what are some reasons why the anointed attend?
- what are some reasons why the other sheep attend?
- how do we all benefit from attending?

16 Praise Jah for His Son, the Anointed

(Revelation 21:2)

F B♭ E♭/B♭ F/B♭ E♭/B♭ B♭ F/A Gm7 B♭/F E♭ B♭/F

Je - ho - vah a - noint - ed his Son To rule o - ver ev - 'ry -
 Christ's broth - ers are cho - sen and called. God gives them their own new

F Fsus4/G F/A F B♭ C/B♭ Csus4/B♭ C/B♭ F/A F

one. His throne is es - tab - lished on jus - tice, That
 birth. This bride class will share in the King - dom And

C C7 Gm7/D C7/E Am/C C7/B♭ F/A C7/G F *Chorus* Gm Dm/F Gm/E

God's will on earth may be done. Praise Jah for his Son, the A -
 bring Par - a - dise to this earth.

Dm/F Dm E♭ B♭/D Cm7 B♭/D Cm11 B♭

noint - ed. Praise Je - sus, O you faith - ful sheep, Who

Praise Jah for His Son, the Anointed

E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 B \flat /D D7 Gm/D D7 Gm F/C Gm/C F/C Gm/C C7

loy - al - ly fol - low day af - ter day and all his com - mand - ments

F F \sharp us4 F Gm Dm/F Gm/E F/Dm Dm

keep. Praise Jah for his Son, the A - noint - ed, the

E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 B \flat /D

Rul - er of heav - en - ly fame, A - noint - ed with ex - ul -

D7 Gm/D D7 Gm E \flat m6/G \flat B \flat /F Cm/E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 F7 B \flat

ta - tion and might to hon - or God's ho - ly name.