

## Saturday, May 28

*Christ . . . [left] a model for you to follow his steps closely.*

—1 Pet. 2:21.

A family head needs to maintain the right balance. He should not become so involved in secular work to support his family that he fails to care properly for his family's spiritual and emotional needs and provide them with training. Jehovah trains and disciplines us with our best interests in mind. (Heb. 12:7-9) Like his Father, Jesus trains those under his authority in a loving manner. (John 15:14, 15) He is firm but kind. (Matt. 20:24-28) He understands that we are imperfect and prone to make mistakes. (Matt. 26:41) A family head who imitates Jehovah and Jesus makes allowances for the imperfections of family members. He does not become "bitterly angry" with his wife or children. (Col. 3:19) Instead, he applies the principle recorded at Galatians 6:1 and tries to readjust them "in a spirit of mildness," remembering that he too is imperfect. Like Jesus, he realizes that the best way to teach is by example. *w21.02* 6-7 ¶16-18

## Sunday, May 29

*Every breathing thing—let it praise Jah.—Ps. 150:6.*

By means of the ransom, Jehovah purchased the lives of each individual in the congregation and, potentially, of all humankind. (Mark 10:45; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 15:21, 22) So it is fitting that he appointed Jesus, who gave his life as a ransom, as head of the congregation. As our head, Jesus has the authority to make and to enforce rules that govern the conduct of individuals, of families, and of the entire congregation. (Gal. 6:2)

But Jesus does more than just make rules. He feeds and cherishes each one of us. (Eph. 5:29) Sisters show that they respect Christ by following the direction given by the men he has appointed to take care of them. Brothers show that they understand the headship arrangement by respecting and honoring sisters. When all in the congregation understand and respect the principle of headship, the congregation enjoys peace. And more important, we bring praise to our loving heavenly Father, Jehovah. *w21.02* 18-19 ¶14-17

## Monday, May 30

*David inquired of Jehovah.*

—1 Sam. 30:8.

During the time when David and his men were fugitives, they had left their families to go on a mission. While the men were away, an enemy force raided their homes and took their families captive. David could have concluded that with all the experience he had as a warrior, he could surely devise an effective strategy for rescuing the captives. Instead, David looked to Jehovah for guidance. David inquired of Jehovah: "Should I chase after this marauder band?" Jehovah indicated that David should do so and assured him that he would be successful. (1 Sam. 30:7-10) What can you learn from this incident? Seek advice before you make decisions. Young ones, consult your parents. You can also get good advice by talking to experienced elders. Jehovah trusts these appointed men, and you can too. Jehovah views them as "gifts" to the congregation. (Eph. 4:8) You will benefit by imitating their faith and by listening to the wise suggestions they give. *w21.03* 4-5 ¶10-11

## Tuesday, May 31

*[Nothing] will be able to separate us from God's love.—Rom. 8:38, 39.*

Jesus said that if we do not apply what we learn, we are like a man who builds his house on sand. He works hard, but he is wasting his effort. Why? Because when a storm and flood hit his house, it will collapse. (Matt. 7:24-27) Similarly, if we do not apply what we learn, we will have wasted our effort. When our faith is tested by trials or persecution, it will not be strong enough. On the other hand, when we study and apply what we learn, we make better decisions, we gain more peace, and we develop stronger faith. (Isa. 48:17, 18) To maintain our integrity under trial, we need to rely on Jehovah in prayer and maintain a good study routine. And we must always remember that one of the most important things we can do is to bring glory to Jehovah. We can be certain that Jehovah will never abandon us and that there is nothing anyone can do to break his love for us.—Heb. 13:5, 6. *w21.03* 15 ¶16; 18 ¶120

## Wednesday, June 1

*We were determined to impart to you, not only the good news of God but also our very selves.*  
—1 Thess. 2:8.

Teachers must show genuine, personal interest in their students. View them as your future spiritual brothers or sisters. It is not easy for them to give up friends in the world and to make all the necessary changes to serve Jehovah. Effective Bible teachers introduce their students to others in the congregation who can have a good influence on them. The students can then enjoy associat-

ing with God's people, who can give them spiritual and emotional support. We want each student to feel that he belongs in the congregation and is part of our spiritual family. We want him to be drawn to our warm and loving Christian brotherhood. Then it will be easier for him to stop having close association with people who do not help him to love Jehovah. (Prov. 13:20) If his former associates reject him, he will know that he can find true friends in Jehovah's organization.—Mark 10:29, 30; 1 Pet. 4:4. *w20.10* 17 ¶10-11

## Thursday, June 2

*All authority has been given me in heaven and on the earth.*  
—Matt. 28:18.

We must be friends with Jesus if we are to have a good relationship with Jehovah. Why is that true? Consider just two reasons. First, Jesus told his disciples: "The Father himself has affection for you, because you have had affection for me." (John 16:27) He also said: "No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Trying to be Jehovah's friend without building a close bond with Jesus is like trying to enter a building without using the door. Jesus used a similar illustration when he described himself as "the door for the sheep." (John 10:7) A second reason is that Jesus perfectly reflected his Father's qualities. He said to his disciples: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father also." (John 14:9) So an important way that we come to know Jehovah is by studying the life of Jesus. As we learn about Jesus, our affection for him will grow. And as our friendship with Jesus grows, our love for his Father will deepen. *w20.04* 21-22 ¶5-6

### Friday, June 3

*I take pleasure in weaknesses, . . . for when I am weak, then I am powerful.—2 Cor. 12:10.*

Are you lying in a bed or sitting in a wheelchair? Do you have weak knees or poor eyesight? If so, can you run along with those who are young and healthy? You certainly can! Many older and infirm ones are running on the road to life. They cannot do this work in their own power. Instead, they draw on Jehovah's strength by listening to Christian meetings over a telephone tie-line or watching meetings through video streaming. And they engage in the disciple-making work by witnessing to doctors, nurses, and relatives. Never let discouragement over your physical limitations convince you that you are too weak to run on the road to life. Jehovah loves you for your faith in him and your record of endurance. You need his help now more than ever, and he will not abandon you. (Ps. 9:10) Instead, he will draw even closer to you. *w20.04 29 ¶16-17*

### Saturday, June 4

*I do all things for the sake of the good news, in order to share it with others.—1 Cor. 9:23.*

What subjects might you discuss with a religious person? Try to find common ground. He may worship only one God, he may recognize Jesus as the Savior of humankind, or he may believe that we are living in a time of wickedness that will soon end. Based on beliefs you have in common, present the Bible's message in a way that is appealing to that person. Keep in mind that people may not believe everything that

their religion teaches. So even after you discern a person's religion, try to find out what he personally believes. A missionary brother notes that some people say that they believe in the Trinity, but they may not actually believe that the Father, the Son, and the holy spirit are one God. "Knowing that makes it much easier to find common ground with the person," he says. So try to find out what people really believe. Then, like the apostle Paul, you can "become all things to people of all sorts."—1 Cor. 9:19-22. *w20.04 10 ¶9-10*

### Sunday, June 5

*During that time your people will escape, everyone who is found written down in the book.*

—Dan. 12:1.

We can face the future with confidence because both Daniel and John confirm that those who serve Jehovah and Jesus will survive this unparalleled time of distress. Daniel says that the survivors will have their names "written down in the book." How do we get our names in that book? We must give clear evidence that we have faith in Jesus, the Lamb of God. (John 1:29) We need to get baptized in symbol of our dedication to God. (1 Pet. 3: 21) And we must show our support for God's Kingdom by doing what we can to help others learn about Jehovah. Now is the time to build trust in Jehovah and his organization of loyal servants. Now is the time to support God's Kingdom. If we do, we will be saved when the king of the north and the king of the south are destroyed by God's Kingdom. *w20.05 16 ¶18-19*

## Song 22 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES  
FROM GOD'S WORD**“Jehovah Makes a Covenant With David”:**  
(10 min.)**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)2Sa 8:2—How did David's defeat of the Moabites fulfill prophecy? (*it-2* 206 ¶2)

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.) 2Sa 7:1-17 (5)APPLY YOURSELF  
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**Initial Call:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation, and apply it to a current event. Offer a magazine to address a topic raised by the householder. (13)**Return Visit:** (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation, and apply it to a current event. Explain our free Bible course, and give the person a [jw.org](http://jw.org) contact card. (18)**Bible Study:** (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 04 summary, review, and goal (8)LIVING  
AS CHRISTIANS**Song 91****Local Needs:** (10 min.)**“Use Current Events in Your Ministry”:**  
(5 min.) Discussion.**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
*Iff* lesson 06

## Jehovah Makes a Covenant With David

Jehovah decreed that he would make a dynasty for David (2Sa 7:11, 12, ftn.; *w10* 4/1 20 ¶3; see cover picture)Aspects of Jehovah's covenant with David were fulfilled in the Messiah (2Sa 7:13, 14; Heb 1:5; *w10* 4/1 20 ¶4)The Messiah's accomplishments will last forever (2Sa 7:15, 16; Heb 1:8; *w14* 10/15 10 ¶14)

The sun and moon are fitting reminders of the permanence of the Messiah's rule. (Ps 89:35-37) When you see them, think about the blessings that Jehovah has promised to you and your family through His Kingdom.



# 22 The Kingdom Is in Place—Let It Come!

(Revelation 11:15; 12:10)

A D/A Fma7 G

Je - ho - vah, you al - ways have been, And al - ways you will  
 The time for the Dev - il is short; We know what this will  
 The an - gels in heav - en re - jice And sing with joy - ful

A F#m C#m Em

be. You've giv - en the throne to your Son; He  
 mean. Though liv - ing in times of dis - tress, We  
 cries. The heav - ens a - bove are re - lieved From

Bm7 A/C# E D/E C#m/E Bm/E A/E

rules by your de - cree. The King - dom has been  
 see the things un - seen. The King - dom has been  
 Sa - tan and his lies. The King - dom has been

R.H.

*The Kingdom Is in Place—Let It Come!*

Bm/E C#m/E D/E F#m/E E D/E C#m/E D/E

brought to birth; His ru - ler - ship will  
 brought to birth; His ru - ler - ship will  
 brought to birth; His ru - ler - ship will

E D/E E *Chorus* A E A

fill the earth.  
 fill the earth. For now have come to pass Sal -  
 fill the earth.

D A/C# E A E/G#

va - tion and king - dom and might. The King - dom is in

F#m Bm Bm/D A/E E7 A

place. We pray: "Let it come, Let it come!"

become low even in my own eyes. But by the slave girls whom you mentioned, I will be glorified." **23** So Saul's daughter Mi'chal<sup>a</sup> had no children down to the day of her death.

**7** When the king was settled in his own house<sup>\*b</sup> and Jehovah had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, **2** the king said to Nathan<sup>c</sup> the prophet: "Here I am living in a house of cedars<sup>d</sup> while the Ark of the true God sits in the midst of tent cloths."<sup>e</sup> **3** Nathan replied to the king: "Go and do whatever is in your heart, for Jehovah is with you."<sup>f</sup>

**4** On that very night, the word of Jehovah came to Nathan, saying: **5** "Go and say to my servant David, 'This is what Jehovah says: "Should you build me a house to dwell in?"<sup>g</sup> **6** For I have not dwelled in a house from the day I brought the people of Israel out of Egypt to this day,<sup>h</sup> but I have been moving\* about in a tent and in a tabernacle.<sup>i</sup> **7** During all the time that I went with all the Israelites,\* did I ever say one word to any of the tribal leaders of Israel whom I appointed to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why did you not build a house of cedars for me?'"<sup>j</sup> **8** Now say this to my servant David, 'This is what Jehovah of armies says: "I took you from the pastures, from following the flock,<sup>j</sup> to become a leader over my people Israel.<sup>k</sup> **9** And I will be with you wherever you go,<sup>l</sup> and I will do away with\* all your enemies from before you;<sup>m</sup> and I will make a great name for you<sup>n</sup> like the name of the great men of the earth. **10** I will appoint a place for my people Israel and settle them, and they will live

7:1 \*Or "palace." 7:6 \*Lit., "walking."  
7:7 \*Lit., "sons of Israel." 7:9 \*Lit., "cut off."

## CHAP. 6

a 1Sa 14:49  
2Sa 6:16

## CHAP. 7

b 1Ch 17:1  
c 2Sa 12:1  
1Ch 29:29  
d 2Sa 5:11  
e 2Sa 6:17  
f 1Ki 8:17  
1Ch 17:2  
1Ch 22:7  
g 1Ki 5:3  
1Ki 8:17-19  
1Ch 17:4-6  
1Ch 22:7, 8  
h Jos 18:1  
i Ex 40:18, 34  
j 1Sa 16:11  
k 2Sa 5:2  
1Ch 17:7-10  
1Ch 28:4  
Ps 78:70, 71  
l 1Sa 18:14  
2Sa 5:10  
m 2Sa 22:1  
Ps 18:37  
n 1Ch 14:2, 17

## Second Col.

a Jg 2:14  
Ps 89:20, 22  
b Jg 2:16  
c De 25:19  
d 1Ki 2:24  
Ps 89:4  
e 1Ki 2:1  
f Ge 49:10  
1Ki 8:20  
1Ch 17:11-14  
Ps 132:11  
Isa 9:7  
Isa 11:1  
Mt 21:9  
Mt 22:42  
Lu 1:32, 33  
Joh 7:42  
Ac 2:30  
g 1Ki 5:5  
1Ki 6:12  
Zec 6:12, 13  
h 1Ki 1:37  
1Ch 22:10  
1Ch 28:7  
Ps 89:4, 36  
i 1Ch 28:6  
Mt 3:17  
Heb 1:5  
j Ps 89:30, 32  
Jer 52:3  
k 1Sa 15:23, 26  
l Ps 45:6  
Ps 89:36  
Da 2:44  
Heb 1:8  
Re 11:15  
m 1Ch 17:15  
n 1Ch 17:16-22

there and not be disturbed anymore; and wicked men will not oppress them again as they did in the past,<sup>a</sup> **11** from the day that I appointed judges<sup>b</sup> over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.<sup>c</sup>

""Also, Jehovah has told you that Jehovah will make a house\* for you.<sup>d</sup> **12** When your days come to an end<sup>e</sup> and you are laid to rest with your forefathers, then I will raise up your offspring\* after you, your own son,<sup>f</sup> and I will firmly establish his kingdom.<sup>f</sup> **13** He is the one who will build a house for my name,<sup>g</sup> and I will firmly establish the throne of his kingdom forever.<sup>h</sup> **14** I will become his father, and he will become my son.<sup>i</sup> When he does wrong, I will reprove him with the rod of men and with the strokes of the sons of men.\*<sup>j</sup> **15** My loyal love will not be taken away from him the way I took it away from Saul,<sup>k</sup> whom I removed from before you. **16** Your house and your kingdom will be secure forever before you; your throne will be firmly established forever."<sup>l</sup>

**17** Nathan told David all these words and this entire vision.<sup>m</sup>

**18** At that King David came in and sat down before Jehovah and said: "Who am I, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah? And what is my house that you have brought me this far?"<sup>n</sup> **19** As if this were not enough, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you also speak about the house of your servant down to a distant future time; and this is instruction\* for all mankind, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah. **20** What more can your servant David say to you when you

7:11 \*Or "dynasty." 7:12 \*Lit., "seed."  
\*Lit., "one who will come out of your inward parts." 7:14 \*Or possibly, "Adam." 7:19 \*Or "law."

know me so well,<sup>a</sup> O Sovereign Lord Jehovah? **21** For the sake of your word and in agreement with your heart\* you have done all these great things and have revealed them to your servant.<sup>b</sup> **22** That is why you are truly great,<sup>c</sup> O Sovereign Lord Jehovah. There is no one like you,<sup>d</sup> and there is no God except you;<sup>e</sup> everything we have heard with our ears confirms this. **23** And what other nation on earth is like your people Israel?<sup>f</sup> God went and redeemed them as his people,<sup>g</sup> making a name for himself<sup>h</sup> by doing great and awe-inspiring things for them.<sup>i</sup> You drove out the nations and their gods in behalf of your people, whom you redeemed to yourself from Egypt. **24** You established your people Israel as your own people for all time;<sup>j</sup> and you, O Jehovah, have become their God.<sup>k</sup>

**25** "Now, O Jehovah God, carry out the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house for all time, and may you do just as you have promised.<sup>l</sup> **26** May your name be exalted forever,<sup>m</sup> so that people may say, 'Jehovah of armies is God over Israel,' and may the house of your servant David be firmly established before you.<sup>n</sup> **27** For you, Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, have made a revelation to your servant by saying, 'I will build a house\* for you.'<sup>o</sup> That is why your servant has the courage<sup>p</sup> to pray this prayer to you. **28** And now, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you are the true God, and your words are truth,<sup>p</sup> and you have promised these good things to your servant. **29** So may it please you to bless the house of

7:21 \*Or "in harmony with your will."  
7:27 \*Or "dynasty." #Lit., "has found his heart."

## CHAP. 7

a 1Sa 16:7  
Ps 17:3  
b Ps 25:14  
c De 3:24  
1Ch 16:25  
d Ex 15:11  
Ps 83:18  
e De 4:35  
f De 4:7  
Ps 147:19, 20  
g Ex 3:8  
Ex 19:5  
Isa 63:9  
h Ex 9:16  
i De 10:21  
j De 26:18  
k Ex 15:2  
l 1Ch 17:23-27  
Ps 89:20, 28  
m 1Ch 29:11  
Ps 72:19  
Mt 6:9  
Joh 12:28  
n Isa 9:7  
Jer 33:22  
o 2Sa 7:11  
p Nu 23:19  
Ps 89:35  
Ps 132:11  
Joh 17:17

## Second Col.

a Ps 89:20, 36  
Ps 132:12  
b 2Sa 22:51  
Ps 72:17

## CHAP. 8

c Jos 13:2, 3  
2Sa 21:15  
d 1Ch 18:1  
e Nu 24:17  
Jg 3:29  
1Sa 14:47  
Ps 60:8  
f De 23:3-6  
g 2Ki 3:4  
1Ch 18:2  
h 2Sa 10:6  
1Ki 11:23  
Ps 60:Sup  
i Ge 15:18  
Ex 23:31  
1Ki 4:21  
1Ch 18:3, 4  
j De 17:16  
Ps 20:7  
Ps 33:17  
k Isa 7:8  
l 1Ch 18:5, 6  
m De 7:24  
2Sa 8:14  
n 1Ch 18:7, 8  
o 2Ki 14:28  
p 1Ch 18:9-11

your servant, and may it continue forever before you;<sup>a</sup> for you, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah, have promised, and with your blessing may the house of your servant be blessed forever."<sup>b</sup>

**8** Some time later, David defeated the Phi-lis'tines<sup>c</sup> and subdued them,<sup>d</sup> and David took Meth'eg-am'mah out of the hands of the Phi-lis'tines.

**2** He defeated the Mo'ab-ites<sup>e</sup> and made them lie down on the ground and measured them with a line. He measured out two lines to be put to death, and one full line to be kept alive.<sup>f</sup> And the Mo'ab-ites became David's servants and brought tribute.<sup>g</sup>

**3** David defeated Had-ad-e'zer the son of Re'hob the king of Zo'bah<sup>h</sup> as he was on his way to restore his authority at the Eu-phra'tes River.<sup>i</sup> **4** David captured 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers from him. Then David hamstrung all but 100 of the chariot horses.<sup>j</sup>

**5** When the Syrians of Damascus<sup>k</sup> came to help King Had-ad-e'zer of Zo'bah, David struck down 22,000 of the Syrians.<sup>l</sup> **6** David then established garrisons in Syria of Damascus, and the Syrians became David's servants and brought tribute. Jehovah gave David victory\* wherever he went.<sup>m</sup> **7** Moreover, David took the circular shields of gold from the servants of Had-ad-e'zer and brought them to Jerusalem.<sup>n</sup> **8** From Be'tah and Be-ro'thai, cities of Had-ad-e'zer, King David took a great quantity of copper.

**9** Now King To'i of Ha'math<sup>o</sup> heard that David had defeated the entire army of Had-ad-e'zer.<sup>p</sup>

**10** So To'i sent his son Jo'ram to King David to ask about his welfare and to congratulate him because he had fought

8:6 \*Or "salvation."

and defeated Had-ad-e'zer (for Had-ad-e'zer had often fought against To'i), and he brought articles of silver, gold, and copper. **11** King David sanctified these to Jehovah, along with the silver and the gold that he had sanctified from all the nations that he had subdued.<sup>a</sup> **12** from Syria and Mo'ab,<sup>b</sup> from the Am-mon-ites, the Phi-lis'tines,<sup>c</sup> the A-mal'ek-ites,<sup>d</sup> and from the spoil of Had-ad-e'zer<sup>e</sup> the son of Re'hob the king of Zo'bah. **13** David also made a name for himself when he came back from striking down 18,000 E'dom-ites in the Valley of Salt.<sup>f</sup> **14** He established garrisons in E'dom. In all E'dom he established garrisons, and all the E'dom-ites became David's servants.<sup>g</sup> Jehovah gave David victory\* wherever he went.<sup>h</sup>

**15** David kept reigning over all Israel,<sup>i</sup> and David was administering justice and righteousness<sup>j</sup> for all his people.<sup>k</sup> **16** Jo'ab<sup>l</sup> the son of Ze-ru'iah was over the army, and Je-hosh'a-phat<sup>m</sup> the son of A-hi'lud was recorder. **17** Za'dok<sup>n</sup> the son of A-hi'tub and A-him'e-lech the son of A-bi'a-thar were priests, and Se-rai'ah was secretary. **18** Be-nai'ah<sup>o</sup> the son of Je-hoi'a-da was over the Cher'e-thites and the Pel'e-thites.<sup>p</sup> And David's sons became chief ministers.\*

**9** David then said: "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I may show loyal love for the sake of Jon'a-than?"<sup>q</sup> **2** Now there was a servant of the house of Saul named Zi'ba.<sup>r</sup> So they called him to David, and the king asked him: "Are you Zi'ba?" He replied: "I am your servant." **3** The king continued: "Is there anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I may extend God's loyal love?" Zi'

8:14 \*Or "salvation." 8:18 \*Lit., "became priests."

## CHAP. 8

- a Jos 6:19  
1Ki 7:51  
1Ch 22:14  
1Ch 26:27  
b 2Sa 8:2  
c 2Sa 8:1  
d 1Sa 30:18  
e 2Sa 8:7  
f 1Ch 18:12, 13  
Ps 60:Sup  
g Ge 25:23, 26  
Ge 27:29, 37  
Nu 24:18  
h Ps 60:12  
i 2Sa 5:3, 5  
j 1Ki 3:6  
k 1Ch 18:14-17  
l 2Sa 20:23  
1Ch 11:6  
m 2Sa 20:24  
1Ki 4:3  
n 2Sa 15:27  
1Ch 6:8  
1Ch 24:3  
o 2Sa 23:20  
1Ki 1:44  
1Ki 2:35  
p 2Sa 15:18  
2Sa 20:7

## CHAP. 9

- q 1Sa 18:1, 3  
1Sa 20:15, 42  
r 2Sa 16:1  
2Sa 19:17

## Second Col.

- a 2Sa 4:4  
2Sa 9:13  
2Sa 19:26  
b 2Sa 17:27-29  
c Pr 11:17  
d 2Sa 19:28  
Pr 11:25  
e 1Sa 24:14  
f 2Sa 9:1  
2Sa 16:4  
2Sa 19:29  
g 2Sa 19:28  
h 2Sa 19:17

ba replied to the king: "There is still one son of Jon'a-than; he is crippled\* in both feet."<sup>a</sup> **4** The king asked him: "Where is he?" Zi'ba replied to the king: "He is in the house of Ma'chir<sup>b</sup> the son of Am'mi-el at Lo-de'bar."

**5** King David immediately sent for him and took him from the house of Ma'chir the son of Am'mi-el at Lo-de'bar. **6** When Me-phen'o-sheth the son of Jon'a-than the son of Saul came in to David, he at once fell facedown and prostrated himself. Then David said: "Me-phen'o-sheth!" to which he replied: "Here is your servant." **7** David said to him: "Do not be afraid, for I will certainly show loyal love<sup>c</sup> to you for the sake of your father Jon'a-than, and I will return to you all the land of Saul your grandfather, and you will always dine\* at my table."<sup>d</sup>

**8** At that he prostrated himself and said: "What is your servant, that you have turned your attention\* to a dead dog<sup>e</sup> like me?" **9** The king now sent for Zi'ba, Saul's attendant, and said to him: "Everything that belonged to Saul and to all his house I give to the grandson of your master.<sup>f</sup> **10** You will cultivate the land for him—you and your sons and your servants—and you will gather its produce to provide food for those who belong to the grandson of your master to eat. But Me-phen'o-sheth, the grandson of your master, will always dine at my table."<sup>g</sup>

Now Zi'ba had 15 sons and 20 servants.<sup>h</sup> **11** Then Zi'ba said to the king: "Your servant will do all that my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Me-phen'o-sheth ate at David's\* table like one of the sons of the king.

9:3 \*Or "lame." 9:7 \*Lit., "eat bread." 9:8 \*Lit., "face." 9:11 \*Or possibly, "my."

## Song 22 and Prayer

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TREASURES  
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(5 min.) Discussion.**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
*Iff* lesson 06

## Jehovah Makes a Covenant With David

Jehovah decreed that he would make a dynasty for David (2Sa 7:11, 12, ftn.; *w10* 4/1 20 ¶3; see cover picture)

Aspects of Jehovah's covenant with David were fulfilled in the Messiah (2Sa 7:13, 14; Heb 1:5; *w10* 4/1 20 ¶4)

The Messiah's accomplishments will last forever (2Sa 7:15, 16; Heb 1:8; *w14* 10/15 10 ¶14)

The sun and moon are fitting reminders of the permanence of the Messiah's rule. (Ps 89:35-37) When you see them, think about the blessings that Jehovah has promised to you and your family through His Kingdom.



## May 30–June 5 / 2 Samuel 7-8

### Song 22 and Prayer

**Opening Comments** (1 minute)

### **Treasures From God's Word**

**"Jehovah Makes a Covenant With David":** (10 minutes)

#### **Jehovah decreed that he would make a dynasty for David**

**2 Samuel 7:11, 12:** from the day that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. ""Also, Jehovah has told you that Jehovah will make a house\* for you. When your days come to an end and you are laid to rest with your forefathers, then I will raise up your offspring after you, your own son, and I will firmly establish his kingdom. [Footnote.] \*Or "dynasty." [End of footnote.

#### **w10 4/1 20 paragraph 3**

Jehovah is touched by David's heartfelt desire. In response to David's devotion and in line with prophecy, God makes a covenant with David that He will raise up someone in David's royal line who will rule forever. Nathan conveys God's solemn promise to David: "Your house and your kingdom will certainly be steadfast to time indefinite before you; your very throne will become one firmly established to time indefinite." (Verse 16) Who is the permanent Heir of this covenant—the One who will rule forever?—Psalm 89:20, 29, 34-36.

Cover picture [Image:] King David looking out a palace window.

Caption: David meditates on the covenant Jehovah made with him

#### **Aspects of Jehovah's covenant with David were fulfilled in the Messiah**

**2 Samuel 7:13, 14:** He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will firmly establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will become his father, and he will become my son. When he does wrong, I will reprove him with the rod of men and with the strokes of the sons of men.

**Hebrews 1:5:** For example, to which one of the angels did God ever say: "You are my son; today I have become your father"? And again: "I will become his father, and he will become my son"?

## **w10 4/1 20 paragraph 4**

Jesus of Nazareth was a descendant of David. When announcing Jesus' birth, an angel said: "Jehovah God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule as king over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of his kingdom." (Luke 1:32, 33) So the covenant with David finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Hence, he rules, not by human choice, but through a solemn promise of God that gives him the right to rule forever. Let us remember that God's promises always come true.—Isaiah 55:10, 11.

## **The Messiah's accomplishments will last forever**

**2 Samuel 7:15, 16:** My loyal love will not be taken away from him the way I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will be secure forever before you; your throne will be firmly established forever.'"

Hebrews 1:8: But about the Son, he says: "God is your throne forever and ever, and the scepter of your Kingdom is the scepter of uprightness.

## **w14 10/15 10 paragraph 14**

Consider what Jehovah promised King David of ancient Israel by means of the *Davidic covenant*. (Read 2 Samuel 7:12, 16.) Jehovah made this covenant with David during David's reign in Jerusalem, promising him that the Messiah would be his descendant. (Luke 1:30-33) Thus, Jehovah further narrowed the line of descent of the offspring and established that an heir of David would have "the legal right" to the throne of the Messianic Kingdom. (Ezekiel 21:25-27) Through Jesus, David's kingship "will be firmly established forever." Indeed, David's offspring "will endure forever; his throne will endure like the sun." (Psalm 89:34-37) Yes, the Messiah's rule will never become corrupt, and its accomplishments will last forever!

The sun and moon are fitting reminders of the permanence of the Messiah's rule. (Psalm 89:35-37) When you see them, think about the blessings that Jehovah has promised to you and your family through His Kingdom.

[Image:] Jesus looking at the earth from his heavenly throne.

## Spiritual Gems

### **2 Samuel 8:2—How did David's defeat of the Moabites fulfill prophecy?**

**2 Samuel 8:2:** He defeated the Moabites and made them lie down on the ground and measured them with a line. He measured out two lines to be put to death, and one full line to be kept alive. And the Moabites became David's servants and brought tribute.

### **it-2 206 paragraph 2**

*Balaam's Prophecy.* It was before the Israelites entered the Promised Land that the prophet Balaam said to Moab's King Balak: "Do come, let me advise you what this people [Israel] will do to your people afterward in the end of the days. . . . A star will certainly step forth out of Jacob, and a scepter will indeed rise out of Israel. And he will certainly break apart the temples of Moab's head and the cranium of all the sons of tumult of war." (Numbers 24:14-17) In the initial fulfillment of this prophecy, the "star" proved to be King David, the subduer of the Moabites. (2 Samuel 8:2) Evidently, therefore, in that fulfillment of this particular prophecy, "the end of the days" began with David's becoming king. Since David foreshadowed Jesus as Messianic King, the prophecy would also apply to Jesus at the time when he subdues his enemies.—Isaiah 9:7; Psalm 2:8, 9.

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) 2 Samuel 7:1-17 (*th study 5*)

## Song 22 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 min.)

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## Use Current Events in Your Ministry

In his ministry, Jesus drew lessons from current events. (Lu 13:1-5) You too can use current events to stir people's interest in the Kingdom message. After mentioning the high cost of living, a natural disaster, civil unrest, drug addiction, or something similar, ask a thought-provoking question. You might ask: "Do you think we'll ever see an end to . . . ?" or "What do you think is the solution to . . . ?" Then, share a Bible verse related to the topic. If the person shows interest, direct his attention to a video or a publication in our Teaching Toolbox. As we strive to touch the hearts of people in our territory, may we "do all things for the sake of the good news." —1Co 9:22, 23.

What topics may appeal to people in *your* territory?

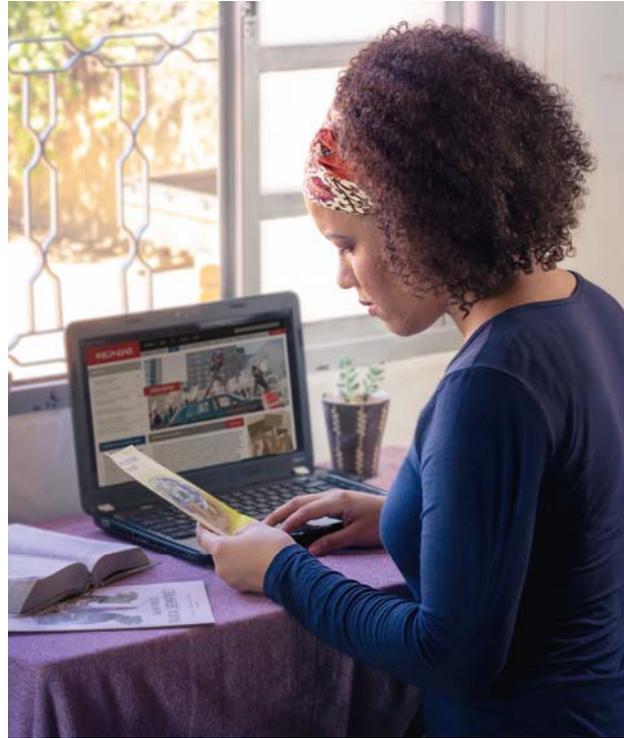
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## SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

### Initial Call\*

**Question:** How do we know that our suffering is not punishment from God?

**Scripture:** **Jas 1:13**

**Link:** Why do we suffer?

### Return Visit\*

**Question:** Why do we suffer?

**Scripture:** **1Jo 5:19**

**Link:** How does God feel about our suffering?

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



## SUMMARY

Jehovah is the name of the only true God. He wants us to know and use that name so that we can draw close to him.

## Review

- How is Jehovah different from all the other gods that people worship?
- Why should we use God's name?
- What shows that Jehovah wants you to draw close to him?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- When talking about God, use his name, Jehovah.
- Other:

## E X P L O R E



Examine five compelling lines of reasoning that give proof God exists.

**“Does God Exist?”** (Web article)



Consider why believing that God has always existed makes sense.

**“Who Made God?”**  
(*The Watchtower*, August 1, 2014)



Learn why we should use God's name, even if its ancient pronunciation is unknown.

**“Who Is Jehovah?”**  
(Web article)



Does it matter what we call God? See why we can say that he has just one personal name.

**“How Many Names Does God Have?”** (Web article)



To find all media for LESSON 04,  
scan code or go to the publication  
*Enjoy Life Forever!* on [jw.org](http://jw.org)

# Our Labor of Love

(Psalm 127:1)

B $\flat$

Je - ho - vah, this is the day; Now from our  
What hap - py fac - es we see, And what good

hearts, we want to pray. How you have hon - ored us,  
friends we've come to be! And how we'll cher - ish these

fa - vored us, More than words can say! Up - on our la - bor of love,  
mem - o - ries For e - ter - ni - ty! We saw your spir - it, O Lord,

We've seen your bless - ing from a - bove. And now a  
In how we worked with one ac - cord. And how we've

# Our Labor of Love

*E $\flat$ ma7* *B $\flat$ add9/D* *Cm11*

build - ing stands, by our hands, As the proof there - of.  
add - ed fame to your name; What a grand re - ward!

*Chorus*  
*E $\flat$ /F* *F7* *B $\flat$*  *B $\flat$ +5* *B $\flat$ 6* *Fm/B $\flat$*  *E $\flat$ ma7* *B $\flat$ add9/D*

Je-ho-vah God, it was a priv-'lege For us to build this place for

*Cm7* *Cm7/B $\flat$*  *Cm6/A* *D7 $\flat$ 9 $\flat$ 13* *D7 $\flat$ 9* *Gm9* *Gm* *E $\flat$ m6/G $\flat$*

you. May we con - tin - ue in your ser - vice through-out our

*B $\flat$ /F* *E $\flat$ /F* *F9* *B $\flat$*

days And bring you praise in all we do.

## Song 22 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 min.)

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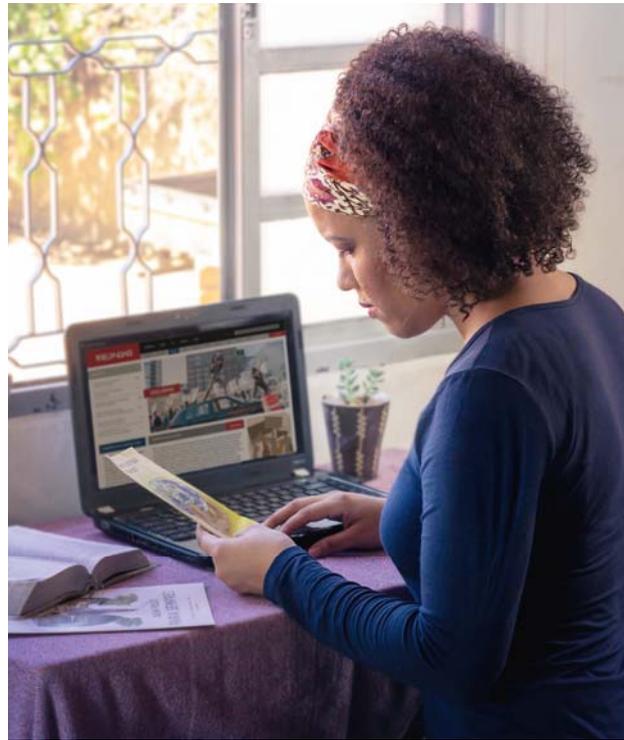
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# How Did Life Begin?

“With [God] is the source of life.” (Psalm 36:9) Do you believe that? Some people think that life came from random, undirected events. If that is true, then we exist only because of an accident. But if Jehovah God created life, it would have a purpose, would it not?\*

Consider the Bible’s account of the origin of life and also why that account is reasonable.

## 1. How did the universe begin?

The Bible states: **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** (Genesis 1:1) Most scientists agree that the universe had a beginning. How did God create it? He used his “active force”—his holy spirit—to make everything in the universe, including galaxies, stars, and planets. —Genesis 1:2.

## 2. Why did God create the earth?

Jehovah **“did not create [the earth] simply for nothing, but formed it to be inhabited.”** (Isaiah 45:18) He made our planet to be a comfortable and permanent home for humans. (Read Isaiah 40:28; 42:5.) Science reveals that the earth is unique. It is the only known planet that can sustain human life.

## 3. What makes humans unlike the animals?

After he made the earth, Jehovah created life on it. First, he filled the earth with plants and animals. Then, **“God went on to create *the man* in his image.”** (Read Genesis 1:27.) What makes humans unique? Since we are made in God’s image, we can reflect his qualities, such as love and justice. He also created us with the ability to learn languages, appreciate art, and enjoy music. And unlike any animal, we can worship our Creator.

---

\* Lesson 25 will discuss God’s purpose for humans.

# DIG DEEPER

Consider the evidence that life was designed and that the Bible's creation account is reasonable. Learn what the qualities in humans teach us about God.



**VIDEO:** *Belief in God (2:43)*

## Did you know?

You can find articles and videos about this topic on [jw.org](http://jw.org) in the series "Was It Designed?" and "Viewpoints on the Origin of Life."

## 4. Life was designed

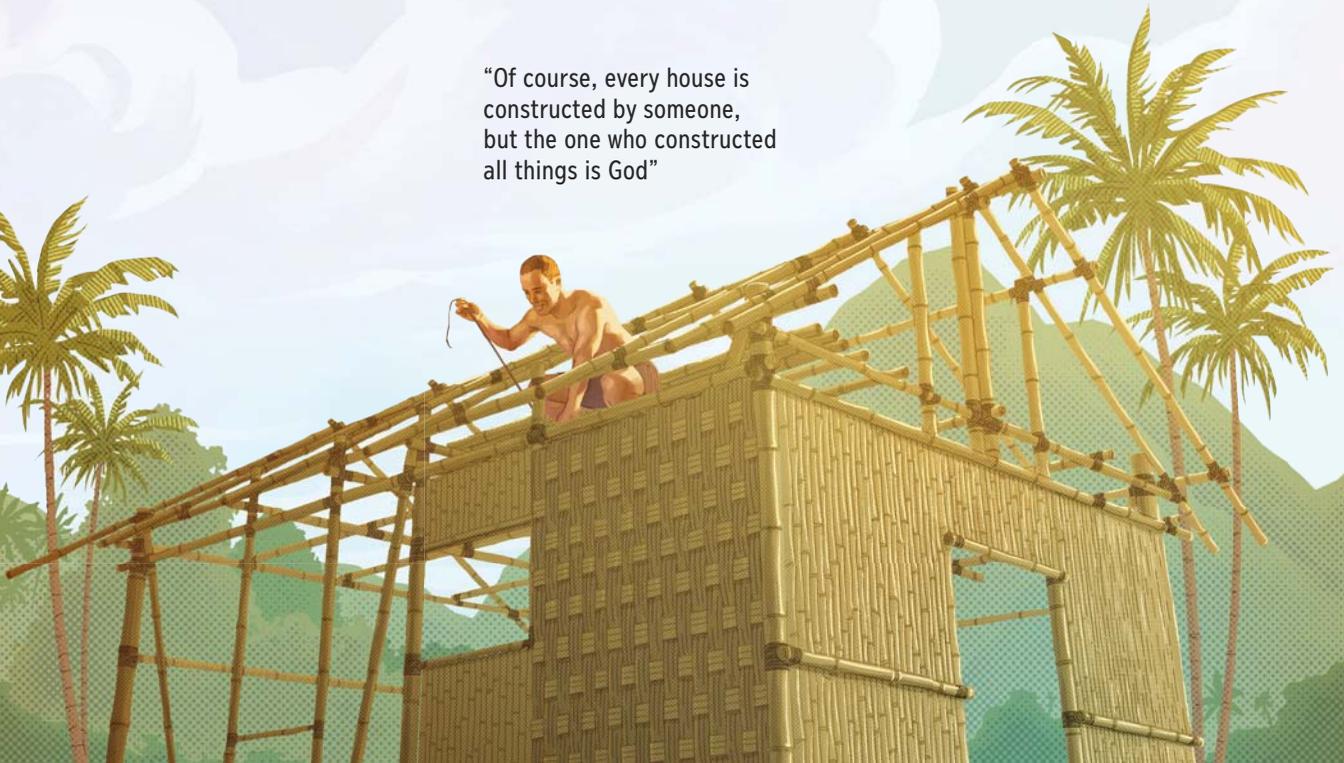
Humans get credit for the designs they copy from nature. So who should get credit for the originals? **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the question that follows.

- What have human designers copied from nature?

Every house is designed and built by someone. But who designed and built the things in nature? **Read Hebrews 3:4**, and then discuss these questions:

- What designs in the natural world impress you?
- Is it reasonable to believe that the universe and everything in it were designed? Why?

"Of course, every house is constructed by someone, but the one who constructed all things is God"





**VIDEO: Was the Universe Created?**  
—Excerpt (3:51)



## 5. The Bible's creation account is reasonable

In Genesis chapter 1, the Bible describes the origin of the earth and life on it. Can you trust that account, or is it just a myth? **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.

- Does the Bible teach that the earth and life on it were created in six 24-hour days?
- Do you think that the Bible's account of creation is logical and reasonable? Why, or why not?

**Read Genesis 1:1**, and then discuss this question:

- Scientists say that the universe had a beginning. How does their conclusion compare with what you just read in the Bible?

Some people wonder if God used evolution to create life.

**Read Genesis 1:21, 25, 27**, and then discuss these questions:

- Does the Bible teach that God made a simple life-form and then let it evolve into fish, mammals, and humans? Or did he create all the basic "kinds" of life?\*

---

\* In the Bible, the word "kind" refers to a broad group of living things.

---

## 6. Humans are a unique creation of God

We are unlike the animals that Jehovah created. **Read Genesis 1:26**, and then discuss this question:

- Because we are made in God's image, what does our ability to show love and compassion suggest about God's personality?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "The Bible's account of creation is a myth."

- What do you think? Why?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah created the universe and all life.

## Review

- What does the Bible teach about the origin of the universe?
- Did God let the different kinds of life *evolve* from a simple life-form, or did he *create* them all?
- What is unique about humans?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Read an article or watch a video from the series “Was It Designed?” on [jw.org](http://jw.org).
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Discover the design reflected in nature.

**“What Does Nature Teach?”**  
(*Awake!*, September 2006)



See how a father can explain the Bible’s creation account to his young son.

**“Jehovah . . . Created All Things”**



Consider whether evolution is compatible with the Bible.

**“Did God Use Evolution to Create the Different Types of Life?”** (Web article)



Examine whether the fossil record or scientific experiments suggest that life was created or that it originated by chance.

***The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*** (brochure)



To find all media for LESSON 06,  
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# Peace at Last!

(Psalm 29:11)

## Verse 1

A E/A D/A A

Like an is - land of calm In dark storm - y seas, God's

F#m D A Esus4 E A E/A

peo - ple are liv - ing in peace. With our eyes of faith, We

D/A A F#m D Esus4 E A/C#

**Chorus**

see be - yond the clouds And know that the storm soon will cease. To the

D A Esus4 E F#m Bm7 A/C# D

ends of the earth, There'll be peace at last For all e - ter - ni -

A E Esus4 E D F#m

ty. From the val - leys be - low To the moun - tain - tops,

E Bsus4 B7 B6 F#add9 Dma7 Esus4 E

**Verse 2**

All cre - a - tion will see Peace at last. When the

A E/A D/A A F#m D

new world is here, All will be one On earth and in heav - en a -

A Esus4 E A/C# Dadd9 E7 F#m

bove. And the peace we'll know We've nev - er known be - fore— A

# Peace at Last!

**Chorus**  
 D Bm7 Esus4 E A/C# D A

world ruled by jus - tice and love. To the ends of the earth, There'll be

Esus4 E F#m Bm7 A/C# D A E Esus4 E

peace at last For all e - ter - ni - ty. From the

D F#m E

val - leys be - low To the moun - tain - tops, All cre - a - tion will

Bsus4 B7 B6 F#add9 Dma7 Esus4 E/D C Em G D Am F

see Peace at last.

**Chorus**  
 Esus4 E A/C# D A E F#m

To the ends of the earth, There'll be peace at last For

Bm7 A/C# D A E Esus4 E D

all e - ter - ni - ty. From the val - leys be - low To the

F#m E

moun - tain - tops, All cre - a - tion will see. To the

1. Bsus4 B B6 F#add9 Aadd9 A/B C#9sus4 F#sus4 F#

see Peace at last,

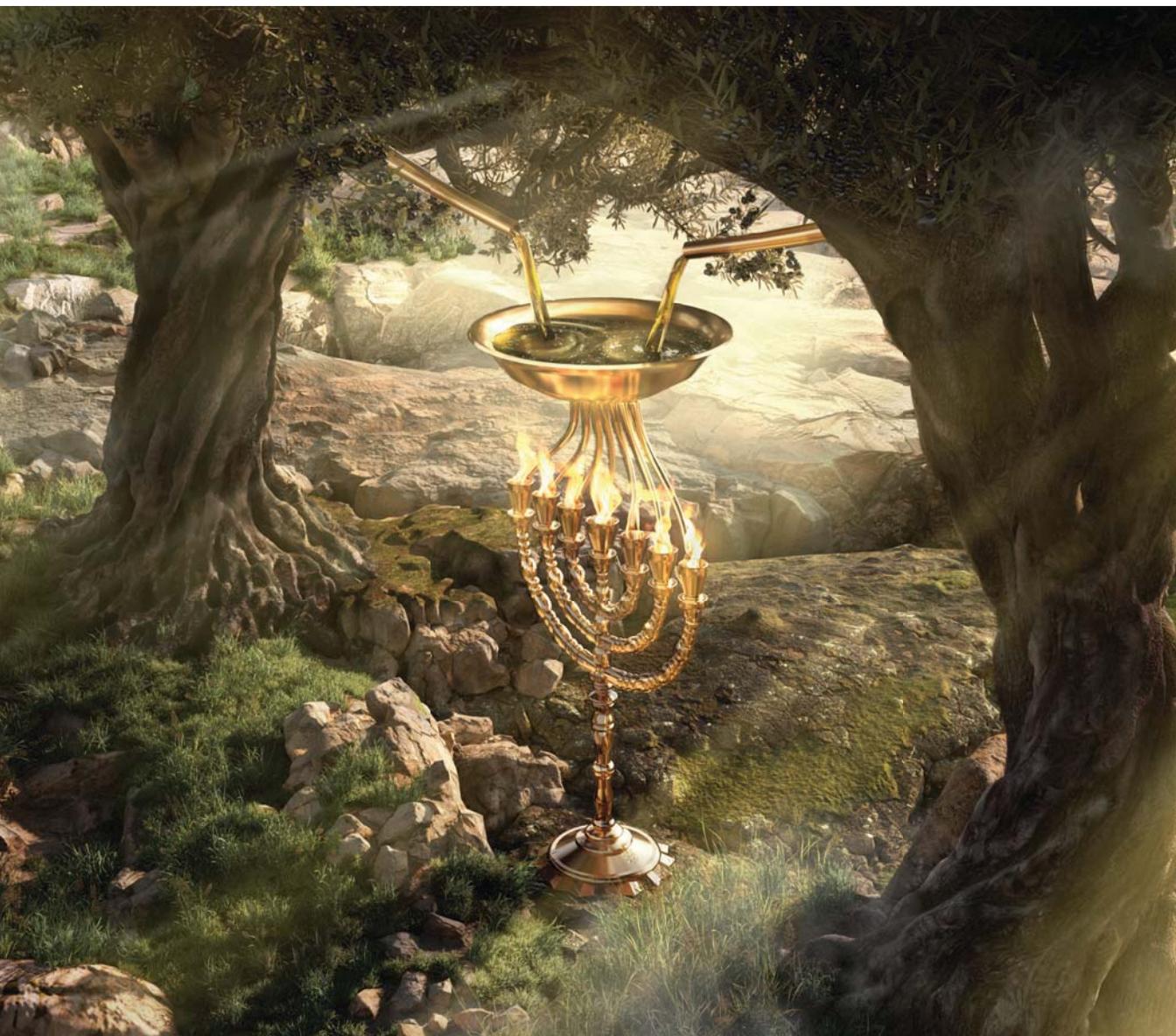
Peace at last!

(See also Ps. 72:1-7; Isa. 2:4; Rom. 16:20)

MARCH 2022

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
MAY 2–JUNE 5, 2022

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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) March 2022 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2021 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

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### COVER PICTURE:

Zechariah saw a vision of two olive trees supplying oil to a lampstand that had seven lamps (See study article 12, paragraph 6)

Visit the [jw.org](https://jw.org) website, or scan code



w22.03-E  
211103

# Myriads of Brothers

(Revelation 7:9, 10)

E♭ E♭sus4 E♭ A♭/E♭ E♭ E♭/G A♭ E♭/G F♯° Fm7 B♭7

Myr - iads on myr - iads of broth - ers, Mil - lions for all to see,  
 Myr - iads on myr - iads of broth - ers, We preach both far and near  
 Myr - iads on myr - iads of broth - ers, God keeps us in his sight,

Fm7 B♭ Fm7 B♭7 A♭/B♭ B♭7 B♭13 E♭

Each one a faith - ful wit - ness, Firm in in - teg - ri - ty.  
 "Good news of some - thing bet - ter," Which mil - lions long to hear.  
 Safe in his earth - ly court - yards, Serv - ing him day and night.

E♭sus4 E♭ A♭/E♭ E♭ E♭7 D♭/E♭ E♭7 E♭7sus4 E♭7 A♭

Myr - iads we are on myr - iads, Grow - ing, a might - y crowd,  
 And as we keep on preach - ing, Though we at times are stressed,  
 Myr - iads we are on myr - iads, With King - dom news we go,

A° E♭/B♭ B♭m6/D♭ C7 F A♭/B♭ B♭7 E♭

From ev - 'ry na - tion and tribe and tongue, We praise our God a - loud.  
 Je - sus re - fresh - es the wea - ry souls; He gives us peace and rest.  
 God's fel - low work - ers we have be - come, Serv - ing him here be - low.

**SONG 99**

Myriads of Brothers

**PREVIEW**

How blessed we are to benefit from the hard work of loving, caring elders! In this article, we will discuss four common challenges they face. We will also consider how the apostle Paul's example can help elders today to meet those challenges. This material will help all of us to feel empathy for our elders and to be motivated to show them love and give them support.

## Elders—Continue to Imitate the Apostle Paul

*“Become imitators of me.”*—1 COR. 11:1.

THE apostle Paul loved his brothers. He worked tirelessly in their behalf. (Acts 20:31) In turn, his fellow believers had deep affection for Paul. On one occasion, “quite a bit of weeping broke out” when the elders from Ephesus learned that they would never see him again. (Acts 20:37) Our devoted elders likewise love their brothers and sisters very much and spare no effort when it comes to helping them. (Phil. 2:16, 17) Sometimes, however, elders experience challenges. What can help them to overcome these?

<sup>2</sup> Our hardworking elders can consider the example of Paul. (1 Cor. 11:1) He was not superhuman. Paul was an imperfect man who at times struggled to do what was right. (Rom. 7:18-20) And he had to contend with various hardships. But Paul did not give up or lose his joy. By imitating Paul, elders can overcome the challenges they face and maintain their joy while serving Jehovah. Let us see how.

<sup>3</sup> In this article, we will examine four common challenges that elders face: (1) balancing their preaching work with other responsibilities, (2) being caring shepherds, (3) coping with personal weaknesses, and (4) dealing with the imperfections of others. We will discuss how Paul overcame each challenge and how elders can imitate his example.

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1-2. How can the apostle Paul's example help elders today?

3. What will we examine in this article, and what will we be helped to do?

## BALANCING THE PREACHING WORK WITH OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

<sup>4</sup> **Why it can be a challenge.** Elders have many responsibilities in addition to taking the lead in the preaching work. For example, many take turns presiding over the midweek meeting and conducting the Congregation Bible Study. They may also care for other speaking assignments. They are active in training ministerial servants and are happy to provide ongoing encouragement to the brothers and sisters. (1 Pet. 5:2) Some elders work on the building and maintenance of Kingdom Halls and other theocratic facilities. Still, like all in the congregation, an elder is first and foremost a minister of the good news.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

<sup>5</sup> **Paul's example.** The key to Paul's success is found at Philippians 1:10, where he urges us: "Make sure of the more important things." Paul followed his own advice. He had been assigned a ministry, and for decades he viewed that ministry as one of the more important

things. He preached "publicly and from house to house." (Acts 20:20) He did not limit his preaching activity to a certain time of day or to one day of the week. He took advantage of every opportunity to preach! For example, while waiting for his companions in Athens, he introduced the good news to a distinguished group of people, with some positive results. (Acts 17:16, 17, 34) Even while in "prison bonds," Paul preached to those who were around him.—Phil. 1:13, 14; Acts 28:16-24.

<sup>6</sup> Paul made the best use of his time. He often invited others to join him in the ministry. For example, on his first missionary tour, he took John Mark, and on his second, Timothy. (Acts 12:25; 16:1-4) No doubt Paul endeavored to teach these men how to organize a congregation, how to carry out the shepherd-ing work, and how to become effective teachers.—1 Cor. 4:17.

<sup>7</sup> **Lesson.** Elders can imitate Paul not only by preaching from door to door but also by being ready and willing to give a witness on every occasion. (**Read**

4. Why might elders find it challenging to take the lead in the preaching work?

5. What example did Paul set as a preacher?

6. What training did Paul provide?

7. How can elders follow Paul's admonition recorded at Ephesians 6:14, 15?



Imitate Paul by being  
ready to give a witness  
(See paragraph 7)



Commend others  
and build them up  
(See paragraphs 10, 12)

**Ephesians 6:14, 15.)** For example, they can give a witness when out shopping or at their place of employment. Or when caring for theocratic building projects, they can share the good news with neighbors and vendors. Like Paul, elders can use the time spent in the ministry to train others, including ministerial servants.

<sup>8</sup> Elders should never be so busy caring for assignments in the congregation or in the circuit that they have no time for the preaching work. To remain balanced, they may on occasion need to say no to some assignments. After prayerful consideration, they may realize that they could not care for an assignment without neglecting the more important things. Such things would include conducting family worship each week, having a full share in the preaching work, or training their children in that activity. Some find it difficult to refuse a privilege of service, but they can be sure that Jehovah understands their desire to be balanced in all things.

#### BEING A CARING SHEPHERD

<sup>9</sup> **Why it can be a challenge.** Jehovah's people experience many trials. During

8. At times, what may an elder need to do?
9. What challenge do busy elders face?

these last days, all of us need encouragement, support, and comfort. And at times some need help to avoid wrong conduct. (1 Thess. 5:14) Of course, elders cannot remove all the trials that Jehovah's people face. Even so, Jehovah wants elders to do what they can to encourage and protect his sheep. How can busy elders find the time to provide the needed assistance?

<sup>10</sup> **Paul's example.** Paul looked for ways to commend his brothers and build them up. Elders do well to follow his loving example by treating Jehovah's people with tender affection. (**Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7.**) Paul assured fellow worshippers that he loved them and that Jehovah loved them. (2 Cor. 2:4; Eph. 2:4, 5) Paul treated those in the congregation as friends, spending time with them. He showed that he trusted them by speaking openly about his own fears and weaknesses. (2 Cor. 7:5; 1 Tim. 1:15) Paul, however, did not focus on his own problems. Rather, he wanted to help his brothers.

<sup>11</sup> At times, Paul needed to counsel his brothers and sisters. But he never did so to vent his frustration. He gave counsel

10. In line with 1 Thessalonians 2:7, how did Paul care for Jehovah's people?
11. Why did Paul counsel his brothers and sisters?

because he cared about them and wanted to protect them from various dangers. He tried to make his counsel easy to understand, and he cared about how it was received. For example, in a letter to the Corinthians, Paul gave strong counsel. After writing that letter, he sent Titus to them. Paul was anxious to learn how they responded to his letter. How happy he was to find out that they had taken the counsel well!—2 Cor. 7:6, 7.

<sup>12</sup> **Lesson.** Elders can follow Paul's example by spending time with fellow worshippers. One way to do this is to arrive early at congregation meetings in order to have meaningful conversations with others. It often takes just a few minutes to provide some loving encouragement that a brother or a sister needs. (Rom. 1:12; Eph. 5:16) An elder who follows Paul's example will also strengthen fellow worshippers by using God's Word to build them up and to assure them of God's love for them. Further, he expresses his love for those under his care. He keeps in touch with them and looks for opportunities to commend them. When an elder must offer counsel,

12. How can elders strengthen fellow worshippers?

he bases it on God's Word. He is specific but kind because he cares about how his words are received.—Gal. 6:1.

### COPING WITH PERSONAL WEAKNESSES

<sup>13</sup> **Why it can be a challenge.** Elders are not perfect. Like everyone else, they make mistakes. (Rom. 3:23) They may at times struggle to have a balanced view of their weaknesses. Some might focus on their limitations so much that they become discouraged. Others might be quick to excuse their failings, causing them to become complacent and not make the needed adjustments.

<sup>14</sup> **Paul's example.** Paul humbly recognized that he could not cope with his weaknesses on his own. He needed the strength that God can provide. Earlier, Paul had been a headstrong, harsh persecutor of Christians. But later, he acknowledged his shortcomings and was willing to change his attitude and personality. (1 Tim. 1:12-16) With Jehovah's help, Paul became a loving, compassionate, humble shepherd. He was

13. What effect can personal weaknesses have on an elder?

14. According to Philipppians 4:13, how did humility help Paul to cope with his weaknesses?



Work hard to overcome  
personal weaknesses  
(See paragraphs 14-15)



Try not to be judgmental of others  
(See paragraph 19)

painfully aware of his imperfections; yet, he chose to trust in Jehovah's forgiveness rather than dwell on his failings. (Rom. 7:21-25) He did not expect to be perfect. Instead, he worked hard to improve his Christian personality and humbly relied on Jehovah's help to accomplish his work.—1 Cor. 9:27; **read Philippians 4:13.**

<sup>15</sup> **Lesson.** Elders are not appointed because they are perfect. Jehovah, though, does expect them to admit their mistakes and to cultivate a Christian personality. (Eph. 4:23, 24) An elder should examine himself in the light of God's Word and make any needed adjustments. Then Jehovah will help him to be happy and successful.—Jas. 1:25.

#### DEALING WITH THE IMPERFECTIONS OF OTHERS

<sup>16</sup> **Why it can be a challenge.** Elders may become aware of the imperfections of those in the congregation because of working closely with them. If not careful, however, elders could become frustrated, harsh, or judgmental. Paul warned Christians that Satan would like them to do that.—2 Cor. 2:10, 11.

15. What balanced view should elders have of their weaknesses?

16. What could happen if an elder focused on the imperfections of others?

<sup>17</sup> **Paul's example.** He kept a positive view of his brothers and sisters. He was well-aware of their mistakes, for at times their actions even affected him personally. Nevertheless, Paul knew the difference between bad conduct and bad people. He loved his brothers and focused on their good qualities. If his brothers and sisters were struggling to do the right thing, he assumed that their motives were good and that they simply needed help.

<sup>18</sup> Consider, for example, how Paul dealt with two sisters in the congregation in Philippi. (**Read Philippians 4:1-3.**) Euodia and Syntyche seemed to have allowed personal differences to cause a rift between them. Paul was not harsh or judgmental; he focused on their good qualities. They were faithful sisters who had built up a fine record. Paul knew that Jehovah loved them. Paul's positive view of these sisters motivated him to encourage them to resolve their differences. His outlook also allowed him to keep his joy and maintain strong friendships with those in that congregation.

17. How did Paul view his brothers and sisters?

18. What do you learn from how Paul dealt with Euodia and Syntyche's situation? (Philippians 4:1-3)

<sup>19</sup> **Lesson.** Elders, look for the good qualities that your brothers and sisters possess. Each one is imperfect; yet, each one has qualities we can admire. (Phil. 2:3) True, elders may from time to time need to adjust the thinking of a brother or a sister. But like Paul, elders should strive to look beyond a person’s irritating words and actions. Instead, they do well to focus on that individual’s love for Jehovah, his endurance in serving God, and his potential for doing good. Elders who have a positive view create a warm and nurturing environment in the congregation.

#### CONTINUE TO IMITATE PAUL

<sup>20</sup> You elders will find it helpful to continue studying Paul’s example. For instance, in the *Watch Tower Publications Index*, you could look under the main heading “Paul” and then the subheading

19. (a) How can elders keep a positive view of fellow worshippers? (b) What can you learn from the picture of the elder cleaning the Kingdom Hall?

20. How can elders continue to benefit from Paul’s example?

“example for elders.” As you read some of the material listed there, ask yourself, ‘How can Paul’s example help me to maintain my joy while accomplishing my work as an elder?’

<sup>21</sup> Elders, remember that Jehovah is not asking you to be perfect; he is asking you to be faithful. (1 Cor. 4:2) Jehovah appreciated Paul’s hard work and faithfulness. You can be sure that God also values what you do in his service. Jehovah will never “forget your work and the love you showed for his name by ministering and continuing to minister to the holy ones.”—Heb. 6:10.

21. What can elders be sure of?

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS** **Page 27:** As a brother leaves his place of work, he shares the good news with a workmate. **Page 28:** An elder warmly shepherds a brother who tends to isolate himself. **Page 29:** A brother provides helpful advice for someone who has taken offense over a matter. **Page 30:** An elder is not critical of a brother who has become distracted from doing a task he had volunteered for.

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#### WHAT CAN HELP ELDERS . . .

- to balance the preaching work with other responsibilities?
- to be caring shepherds?
- to cope with the imperfections of others?

# Come! Be Refreshed

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

C Dm/C Cma7 F/G Cma7 Dm/C

We live in a world that is way-ward and lost; The way of our God is not  
Je - ho - vah is keen - ly a - ware of our needs; His coun-sel by us should be

Cma7 F/G C Dm/C Cma7 F/G

known. We need sure di - rec - tion to safe-guard our steps; We  
heard. To buy out the time for oc - ca - sions to meet Shows

Cma7 Dm/C Bm11 E7 Ama7 Bm7

can - not suc-ceed on our own. Our meet - ings re - fresh us and  
wis - dom and trust in his Word. By whole - some in - struc - tion from

C#m7 Dma7 C#m7 Bm7 Ama7 Bm7

bright-en our hope; They help us build faith in our God. They  
God - fear - ing men, We learn how our faith can be shown. With

# Come! Be Refreshed

D $\flat$ ma7
E $\flat$ m7
Fm7
G $\flat$ ma7
Fm7
E $\flat$ m7

move us with words that in - cite to fine deeds, They give us the strength to go  
 lov - ing sup - port from our fam - 'ly of faith, We know that we're nev - er a -

Dm7
G9
C
Dm/C
Cma7
F/G

on. We'll nev - er for - sake what Je - ho - vah com - mands; His  
 lone. So as we look for - ward to much bet - ter times, We'll

Cma7
Dm/C
Cma7
F/G
C
Dm/C

will is what we want to do. Our meet - ings in - struct us in  
 meet with the ones whom we love. And here at these meet - ings we'll

Cma7
F/C
Cma7/G
Dm/G
C

ways that are right; Our love for the truth they re - new.  
 learn how to live With wis - dom that comes from a - bove.