



The WATCHTOWER

Announcing
**JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM**

JANUARY 1, 1965

Semimonthly

**DOES YOUR WORSHIP
TO GOD COME FIRST?**

**YOUR FINAL DECISION
BEING FORCED TODAY**

WORSHIP THE GOD OF RESURRECTION

**THE REJOICING OF THE
WICKED IS SHORT-LIVED**

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"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES," SAYS JEHOVAH.—Isa. 43:12

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER"

Every watchtower has its purpose. It serves as an elevated place for a wide-awake person with sharp vision. It enables him to see far ahead into the distance and tell those below for whom he is a watchman what is drawing near, whether it is a danger against which to prepare or it is something good over which to be glad with strong faith and hope.

Because of having the name "The Watchtower" this magazine justly has to render a similar useful service to the people of all nations. This is an international magazine and makes no racial distinctions, for we are all facing a common world danger; we are all hoping for a common good.

Ever since "The Watchtower" began to be published in July of 1879 it has looked ahead into the future, always striving to aid its readers to advance in knowledge and to gain a clearer picture of the glorious new order of things that is in store for righteous mankind. No, "The Watchtower" is no inspired prophet, but it follows and explains a Book of prophecy the predictions in which have proved to be unerring and unfailing till now. "The Watchtower" is therefore under safe guidance. It may be read with confidence, for its statements may be checked against that prophetic Book.

Among the many nations of today there are hundreds of differing religions. Which one does this magazine present? Not the confused religions of Christendom, but the religion of the oldest sacred Book on earth. Which Book? The Sacred Bible of the Holy Scriptures, written by inspiration in the name of the Creator of heaven and earth, the only living and true God.

The sacred, nonpolitical purpose of "The Watchtower" is accordingly to encourage and promote study of the Holy Bible and to give our many readers the needed unsectarian help to understand that Book of true religion and infallible prophecy. Thus this magazine will be helping them to prove worthy of perfect life and happiness in God's promised new order under His everlasting kingdom of righteousness.

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"They will all be taught by Jehovah."—John 6: 45; Isaiah 54: 13

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AS - American Standard Version	Le - Isaac Leeser's version
AT - An American Translation	Mo - James Moffatt's version
AV - Authorized Version (1611)	Ro - J. B. Rotherham's version
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Announcing
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Number 1

"IT DOES not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step." Those inspired words of the Holy Bible, found at Jeremiah 10:23, stress the fact that man needs the Bible. He needs it because man was not made to direct his steps without divine guidance. Just as it would be foolish for a purchaser of a complex electronic computer to try to operate it without instructions from its maker, so it would be foolishly walking in darkness for man to try to deal with life's activities without counsel from man's Maker.

You need the Bible, then, because you are confronted with problems that require reliable guidance. You are certain to be faced with moral issues that call for right decisions. Wrong decisions spell tragedy and heartache. The Bible can direct you in the right way by educating your conscience and moral sense.

So many decisions need to be made, too, regarding personal activities. The Bible contains principles to guide you in the selection of recreation, in determining whether you should join this club or that organization, and in deciding what kind of people to associate with and what kind to avoid. What are you to think about the new fads, philosophies and theories of the day? The Bible provides sound guidance

You **NEED** *the* *Bible*

for you in these matters, setting forth righteous principles, making clear in this vast sphere of personal activities what is right and what is wrong.

You need the Bible also in directing family affairs, concerning which there is so much nonsense masquerading in the garb of wisdom. From it the husband can learn his Scriptural role, the wife hers, for a successful marriage. What about the conflicting theories for rearing children in

a delinquent world? You need the Bible, for its counsel about family affairs is clear-cut—and it is right.

Guidance in the realm of business affairs is also vital. Whether employer, employee or in business for yourself, you need reliable principles to guide you if you are to avoid sorrow and attain success.

With the Bible, you have a Light, and by using it, you do not walk in darkness. The psalmist wrote: "Your word is a lamp to my foot, and a light to my roadway." (Ps. 119:105) You need this Lamp. Without it, you will be traveling in darkness and may plunge into the abyss of tragedy.

So why walk in darkness? Use God's Light to illuminate your steps on the roadway of life. Then you will have God's enriching blessing and avoid the pain and sorrow that befall those walking in darkness.—Prov. 10:22.

DOES YOUR WORSHIP TO GOD

Come First?

THE peoples of all nations are flooded with nationalistic propaganda through their own newspapers, magazines, radio and television. Hemmed in by boundaries and censorship, the peoples' thinking is confined to their own nation, to worshiping it, to idolizing it. This controlled thinking affects almost everyone's mind.

² *The Encyclopedia Americana* says: "Nationalism is a state of mind which can be, and often is, induced by governmental and private propaganda. It can be the creature of ambitious leaders who wish to form certain patterns of opinion which they expect to use, for their own purposes perhaps, or for ends they consider to be in the public interest."* Under the heading "Irrationality" it states: "The ability of governmental and civic leaders to spread the ferment of nationalism among the masses is greatly facilitated by its highly irrational character. The extreme patriot is largely impervious to rational argument. Even in free countries, he may never hear the truth, especially if he reads only tendentious newspapers or tunes in his radio to

* *The Encyclopedia Americana*, Volume 19, page 755, 1956 edition.

1. With what are people of all nations faced, leading to what kind of thinking?
2. What are some of the dangers of nationalism, as borne out by *The Encyclopedia Americana*?

biased, chauvinistic [blind, enthusiastic] commentators. Moreover, it is difficult to see how adults can consider the international problems facing their nation with any degree of objectivity if as young children their minds were formed by history books that were one-sided and biased."†

³ Analyzing these comments by worldly observers, ask yourself the question: Does nationalism take first place in my life and all my time and thinking or does my worship to God come first? Remember, the Bible is a book to be studied too. In it you learn about God and what your worship of him should be, and it sets out the history of man from man's very creation. It even describes the conditions that exist in the earth today, and tells us about new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to His promise, and in which righteousness is to dwell. (2 Pet. 3:13) If the Bible does that, then why not think, too, on what its author, Jehovah, says about man and what our relation to him should be?

⁴ Think carefully now! Does the nation in which you live give you all the things you possess? Did your government give you the sun, stars and moon above? Did your nation create the snowcapped mountains, the wooded slopes, the fertile valleys, the rushing streams? Did it bring forth the green grass, the fresh air, the babbling brooks? When you stand on a hilltop and

† *Ibid.*, page 756.

3. (a) What timely question are we now asked? (b) Of what value is the Bible on matters of worship?
4. Outline the questions now needing an answer.

look over the landscape, are the things you see, the blossoms of fruit trees, the waving grain, things that the government gave you? Is it your national government that created the vegetation and the cattle on a thousand hills? The rulers in government may have had something to do with the management of the productive land, but who created the heavens and the earth? Who made it possible for there to be people? Did not God make man with reproductive powers? Surely the State has no control of these!

° Read what God said in his book the Bible through the apostle Paul to the Athenians: "The God that made the world and all the things in it, being, as this One is, Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in handmade temples, neither is he attended to by human hands as if he needed anything, because he himself gives to all persons life and breath and all things. And he made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire surface of the earth, and he decreed the appointed seasons and the set limits of the dwelling of men, for them to seek God, if they might grope for him and really find him, although, in fact, he is

5. How does the Bible at Acts 17:24-27 reveal the work of God with regard to our earth?

not far off from each one of us."
—Acts 17:24-27.

° God gave us "life and breath and all things. And he made out of one man every nation of men." Nationalism did not do that, nor did Caesar. The Jewish Pharisees, proud religionists of Jesus' day, tried to catch Jesus in his speech by having him say something against Roman nationalism. Jesus Christ had the reputation of speaking the truth freely, but it was always God's Word he spoke. So the Pharisees said: "'You teach the way of God in line with truth: Is it lawful to pay head tax to Caesar or not? Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?' Detecting their hypocrisy, he said to them: 'Why do you

6. How did Jesus answer the hypocritical Pharisees who tried to scheme against him?



"Your gods are not the ones we are serving, and the image of gold that you have set up we will not worship."—Dan. 3:18.

put me to the test? Bring me a denarius to look at.' They brought one. And he said to them: 'Whose image and inscription is this?' They said to him: 'Caesar's.' Jesus then said: 'Pay back Caesar's things to Caesar, but God's things to God.'—Mark 12:14-17.

⁷ Jesus was not against orderly government, nor the paying of taxes. But rulers must recognize, too, that there are certain things that belong to God. Not everything is Caesar's! Remember, it was Jehovah who created man to dwell upon the earth. Jehovah the Almighty God said: "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth." And God went on to say to newly created man and woman: "Here I have given to you all vegetation bearing seed which is on the surface of the whole earth and every tree on which there is the fruit of a tree bearing seed. To you let it serve as food."—Gen. 1:26, 29.

⁸ It was Jehovah God who provided all these things for humankind. They were all here in plenty before any nations were formed, before nationalism was heard of. So again we ask, Does your worship to God come first? It should!

⁹ Nineteen hundred years ago the nationalistic Jews were under Roman rule and definitely rejected their God, Jehovah, as well as his Son, Jesus Christ. This is what happened after the Jews turned Jesus, their prisoner, over to Pilate. Pilate brought Jesus outside before the crowd and said to the Jews: "See! Your king!" "However, they shouted: 'Take him away! Take

him away! Impale him!' Pilate said to them: 'Shall I impale your king?' The chief priests answered: 'We have no king but Caesar.'" (John 19:13-15) These Jews showed their extremely nationalistic spirit. They had rejected and forgotten their God and despised his truth-speaking Son.

¹⁰ This action, however, did not make Jehovah lessen his love for mankind. "For God loved the world [of mankind] so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) No ruler of any nation, not even Caesar, has been able to give anyone everlasting life. The message of Jesus during his three and a half years of ministry was one of life for all mankind through God's kingdom, but the nationalistic ones among the Jews were not listening. They wanted nothing to do with God's kingdom. Those individuals who listened and believed took up Jesus' message and preached the good news of God's kingdom under very adverse circumstances. Finally, governments opposed them. Jesus had warned them well in advance as to what would happen if they became followers of him. He had told them: "People will lay their hands upon you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, you being haled before kings and governors for the sake of my name. It will turn out to you for a witness."—Luke 21:12, 13.

¹¹ Neither the Jews nor the Romans appreciated the message of good news that was being delivered by Christians. However, the apostle Paul, though a Jew by birth, put Christianity and his worship to God ahead of nationalism. He put his life in Jehovah God's hands. So he could say: "Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses,

7, 8. (a) While Jesus was not against orderly government, what did he also realize? (b) Since Jehovah God is indeed the great First Cause, what question should we again ask ourselves?

9. How did Roman nationalism influence the Jews of Jesus' day?

10. (a) In spite of this how has God's love been shown? (b) What treatment can followers of Christ expect?

11. What are the words of one Jew who put worship of God ahead of nationalism?

in insults, in cases of need, in persecutions and difficulties, for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am powerful." (2 Cor. 12:10) Paul had a work to do and he did it! He knew that his eternal life was not dependent upon his service to any nation or its ruler. His everlasting life would come from Jehovah God through His arrangements. Paul believed Jesus when this one said: "I am the way and the truth and the life." —John 14:6.

UNAFRAID OF DEATH

¹² Over the centuries many Christians have been killed for not bowing to the State. Paul was, it is believed, beheaded in Rome. Christians have not been afraid to die, because they know God is the Giver of life and they are well acquainted with Jesus' words: "Do not become fearful of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; but rather be in fear of him that can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna." —Matt. 10:28.

¹³ Government is a necessary and good thing when it serves the people, but when it is oppressive, the people suffer. Good government is needed, especially today when there are over 3,200,000,000 people in the world. But must the government be worshiped by the people? Must it be superior to all other loyalties of the people? If man's laws conflict with God's laws, then what? The apostles had to answer that question to the Sanhedrin. "Peter and the other apostles said: 'We must obey God as ruler rather than men.'" Because of their devotion to Jehovah God the rulers "flogged them, and ordered them to stop speaking." After that what did these do? "Every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup

teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus." (Acts 5:29, 40-42) So even though government is necessary, it cannot stop, and has no right to stop, persons from telling the truth, which is good news for all peoples.

¹⁴ But how does nationalism begin? Certain groups of people, usually of the same family head, live closely together and have a deep sense of belonging to one another. They form the same habits and have the same way of life. Their loyalty is to the group and they want everyone in the group to contribute to the welfare of one another. There is certainly nothing wrong in people loving one another and wanting to enjoy one another's association and being interested in the well-being of one another. This is a God-given commandment, loving your neighbor as yourself.

¹⁵ However, as these groups get larger, often certain individuals talk up national patriotism. Now their national group is told it is superior to all other groups, and the leader tries to show their group's superiority over other groups by aggression and conquest. Ignoring the thinking ability of some who want to live as the Bible directs, the dictator of a group will try to force all the people to rally around him, to do obeisance to a man-made ensign, flag, image or a symbol of the group's way of life. When that happens their nationalistic spirit is being pushed too far. God-fearing men know that Jehovah "made out of one man every nation of men" and so will not go along in the worship of the State through its emblems. Then the minority suffers for not going along with the majority. Jesus and the apostles were in the minority but were right.

¹⁶ Some of the other factors that bring about nationalism are language, race, religion, territory and political way of life, be-

12. How are the Scriptures a comfort to those who may face death for not bowing to the State?

13. (a) Why is good government needed? (b) How do Peter and the apostles show that this does not mean it must be worshiped?

14-16. (a) Show how nationalistic feelings begin. (b) What has been the end result over the centuries?

sides economic factors. When we examine true world history we can see that many national groups have been formed from very small groups. In fact, all the human family since the great deluge have come from Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. The Bible plainly says that "these three were Noah's sons, and from these was all the earth's population spread abroad." (Gen. 9:19) First there were family groups, then tribes, later the living together in cities. Thus came Nimrod's kingdom. (Gen. 10:9, 10) Over the centuries great nations have expanded across territories in conquest of other nations. We have thus had world empires, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. Since then, in recent years, we have seen many nations push forward into prominence. You remember Mussolini of Italy, who wanted to be a conqueror of parts of Africa. He allied himself with Hitler of Germany, who tried to take over all of Europe, Asia and Africa. He really wanted to be the ruler of the world. What a butcher he turned out to be! Following the failure of his schemes to conquer the nations, there have been many national groups seeking independence, and they have shown intense patriotism and loyalty to certain leaders.

¹⁷ "Strife" has been the newspaper's headline, especially since 1914, to this very day. Aggressive nationalists are demanding certain rights and territory for certain groups of people. So new governments are formed. In the past four years in Africa alone some twenty-four new countries have been set up. And since World War II this continent has produced some thirty-six new states.* *The Encyclopedia Americana* makes this statement: "Since World War

II, nationalism has continued to play a major role throughout the world. The Hitlerian techniques were developed still further by Joseph Stalin, who proved himself an apt pupil of fascist nationalism."† However, in discussing nationalism the *Americana* says: "In early times, man's supreme loyalty was centered on his religion. Today this place has been taken by the nation."‡

¹⁸ *Time* magazine of December 7, 1962, page 20, said: "The feudal lords of the Middle Ages gave their allegiance to king, not country, and French barons fighting on the side of invading English kings were considered faithful vassals, not collaborators. Writes historian Carlton Hayes: 'Nationality has always existed. Patriotism has long existed, either as applied to a locality or as extended to an empire. But the fusion of patriotism with nationality and the predominance of national patriotism over all other human loyalties—which is nationalism—is modern, very modern.'

¹⁹ "Nationalists came to learn that their creed contained bad seeds as well as good. The nation demanded supreme loyalty from its citizens, insisted on its superiority over other nationalities, fostered pride in the national character and destiny. Carried too far, these convictions played a part in World War I and, in a perversion of nationalism, loosed the Nazi terror on the world, piling the earth with corpses."

²⁰ In his book *Nationalism: A Religion*, Roman Catholic author Carlton Hayes also makes this statement, on page ten: "There are degrees of nationalism as of any emotion. Our loyalty to nationality and national state may be conditioned by other loyalties—to family, to church, to humanity, to internationalism—and hence restricted in

* *Foreign Letter*, December 24, 1963 (*Awake!*, May 22, 1964, page 29).

17. Show how nationalism has developed since World War II.

† *The Encyclopedia Americana*, Volume 19, page 755.
‡ *Ibid.*, page 756.

18, 19. (a) Define nationalism. (b) When nationalism is carried too far, what are the results?

20. How does nationalism become a supreme loyalty?

corresponding degree. On the other hand, nationalism may be a paramount, a supreme loyalty, commanding all others. This usually occurs when national emotion is fused with religious emotion, and nationalism itself becomes a religion or a substitute for religion."

CHRISTIANITY AND NATIONALISM

²¹ Nevertheless, let this be known: Christianity and nationalism do not mix. Christ Jesus never mixed them. But what about the Catholic and Protestant religions of Christendom? They go all out for nationalism and support each country in which they have adherents. The clergy of all these religions even campaign for political leaders and some run for political office themselves. In time of war the clergy take the lead in encouraging the young men of their nation to engage in murder against their own denominational members in another country, even though the Bible, which they claim as a basis for their religious belief, says you should not kill.

²² What have the clergy of these religious organizations become? What have they made of their parishioners? James, a footstep follower of Jesus Christ, said this: "Adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an enemy of God." (Jas. 4:4) You must know where their loyalties are. Can they not understand that either one is faithful to one master, while hating the other, or vice versa? Jesus forcefully said: "No one can slave for two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stick to the one and despise the other. You cannot slave for God and for Riches."

(Matt. 6:24) Are you a Christian? If so, what comes first in your life? You have a right to choose for yourself. But do you have a right to condemn and punish another Christian who chooses his Creator as his Master rather than the State?

²³ A Christian dedicated to the doing of Jehovah's will is going to do what Jehovah teaches him to do. Jehovah has revealed himself and his will through his written Word, the Holy Bible. The more one becomes acquainted with the written Word the better one understands what to do. Jesus took his stand—so did the apostles and the early Christians—not against Rome, but for Jehovah, their chosen Master. He was their God. Other persons, the majority, chose Caesar. That was their privilege, but why persecute the minority, the believers and worshipers of God?

²⁴ There comes a time in everyone's life when he has to decide where to keep his loyalties. To be loyal to Jehovah does not mean one is unfriendly to his neighbor, not even to the nation in which he was born. Jesus taught that we should love both our Father in heaven and our neighbor. (Luke 10:27) But that does not mean that we have to do what our neighbor does. Jesus advised in his Sermon on the Mountain: "You heard that it was said, 'You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' However, I say to you: Continue to love your enemies and to pray for those persecuting you; that you may prove yourselves sons of your Father who is in the heavens, since he makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous." (Matt. 5:43-45) So you can love your neighbor, even your enemy, but that does not mean you have to do the wicked things he does.

21, 22. (a) Are nationalism and Christianity compatible?
(b) What has Christendom done to force a mixing of the two, and with what result?

23. Like Jesus and his disciples, what is the Christian's attitude when it comes to doing Jehovah's will?

24. Define the term 'love of neighbor' when it involves loyalty to God.

HISTORIC EXAMPLE

²⁵ For a moment let us move farther back into history to 617 B.C.E. In that year Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, took many Israelites captive to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar chose certain ones of the children of Israel, of the royal seed, to get special training in his court. The best ones were selected, the ones with good appearance, those having insight into all wisdom, and being acquainted with knowledge and good discernment. These were to stand in the palace of the king. Instructions were given to teach these young folks the writing and the tongue of the Chaldeans. In order that they might receive good food, "the king appointed a daily allowance from the delicacies of the king and from his drinking wine, even to nourish them for three years, that at the end of these they might stand before the king."—Dan. 1:1-5.

²⁶ Among the specially selected children there were four boys, probably ranging in age from fourteen to eighteen years. They were of the tribe of Judah. Their names were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Each of their names had an interesting meaning: Daniel meaning "God Is Judge"; Hananiah, "Jah Has Favored"; Mishael, "Who Is What God Is?" Azariah, "Jah Is Keeper." Changing their names very evidently had something to do with the desire of Nebuchadnezzar to draw them away from their God and to get them to think the Chaldean way rather than the Hebrew way. Daniel's name was changed to Belteshazzar, which means "Prince of Bel," or "The Lord's Leader." Hananiah's name was changed to Shadrach, the meaning of which is obscure, but some say it means "The Servant of Aku" (the moon god). Mishael was called Meshach. The meaning of Meshach is not known, but

some tradition has it that it is possibly the name of a Babylonian deity. Azariah's name was changed to Abednego, meaning "Servant of Nego [or Mercury]." Thus they were to be servants of gods other than Jehovah. Did the changing of their names change them?

²⁷ These young men were not flattered at the change of their names or by the special attention they were getting from the king. They were devoted to the Almighty God Jehovah. Even though they were in captivity in Babylon, they wanted to live by God's law as written in his Word. "Daniel determined in his heart that he would not pollute himself with the delicacies of the king and with his drinking wine." (Dan. 1:8) He, along with his three companions, kept requesting just vegetables to eat and water to drink. Daniel had quite an argument with the court official providing the food, but he finally convinced him to bring that kind of simple food for ten days. Daniel and these young lads with him were likely recalling to mind the words of Deuteronomy 6:4-7: "Listen, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah. And you must love Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your vital force. And these words that I am commanding you today must prove to be on your heart; and you must inculcate them in your son and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up."

²⁸ They knew the Ten Commandments and Jehovah's ordinances concerning eating. They had inculcated in their minds Moses' words: "And now, O Israel, listen to the regulations and the judicial decisions that I am teaching you to do, in order that you may live." (Deut. 4:1) They

25, 26. To what time in history will we now go for a fitting example of loyalty to God or the State, and who are the individuals involved?

27, 28. (a) Did the giving of pagan names to these individuals change their attitude about worship of God? (b) How did they show that, even in the matter of eating, they would not violate the law of their God, and what was the result?

had an abhorrence of unclean and forbidden food. Refusing to eat meat and drink wine very likely offered to idols, they ate vegetables and "at the end of ten days their countenances appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the children who were eating the delicacies of the king." (Dan. 1:15) This, of course, pleased the court official who was looking after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. It pleased Jehovah, too, because, "as for these children, the four of them, to them the true God gave knowledge and insight in all writing and wisdom; and Daniel himself had understanding in all sorts of visions and dreams."—Dan. 1:17.

²⁹ During their three-year training course they learned the Chaldean language and the other things taught, but they never forgot their God and the things they had learned in Judea concerning Jehovah's laws. Even when being brought in to stand before the king, they were not overawed. Daniel, by God's help, interpreted dreams, received many gifts from the king and was made ruler over the jurisdictional district of Babylon and was made the chief prefect over the wise men of Babylon; but even this did not turn his head. His loyalty to Jehovah still held first place.

³⁰ Daniel, being now in such a high position, "made a request of the king, and he appointed over the administration of the jurisdictional district of Babylon Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, but Daniel was in the court of the king." (Dan. 2:49) These four Jewish men stayed close to one another and together in their worship. Still they took care of their assigned duties, for they were slaves in Babylon. However, these four lads with great knowledge and responsibility were not going to become nationalists and be worshipers of the State and forget their love for God. They re-

fused to render more to the State than was the State's and nothing to God. Certainly they were not going to render anything to the State that was God's.

³¹ All servants of Jehovah God will face tests sometime or another. Jesus said to the Christian witnesses of Jehovah that they too would face opposition and persecution for Christ's sake. So it was with these four Hebrew children; someday they had to face the issue as to their loyalty and devotion. Would their loyalty prove to be to their God or to the State? Would they worship the nation and renounce their God? Would they bow to the State if it became a life-or-death matter? The Bible account in Daniel, chapter three, gives us the answer.

FACING THE ISSUE

³² King Nebuchadnezzar had a great image of gold made. Its height was sixty cubits (ninety feet) and its breadth was six cubits (nine feet). It was built on the plains of Dura in the jurisdictional district of Babylon, a place approximately six miles south of Babylon. "Nebuchadnezzar himself as king sent to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the police magistrates and all the administrators of the jurisdictional districts to come to the inauguration of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up." (Dan. 3:1, 2) This command of course would include Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who were appointed as administrators over the jurisdictional district of Babylon.

³³ This was a deliberate attempt on the part of Satan the Devil, Babylon's real god, to get these three Hebrews to bow down

31. What test would these four Hebrews one day have to face, giving rise to what questions?

32. Outline how an issue was shaping up in Babylon.

33. (a) What was the Devil's aim now with regard to the three Hebrew children, and how did the king word his command to worship? (b) What interesting observation appears in the footnote, from the booklet *Our Flag*?

29, 30. Did position in government and gifts change them and their loyalty to Jehovah God?

to the State, the State's image, be it a monument, standard or flag.* The golden image was representative of the empire of Babylon. All the appointed rulers of the countries that Nebuchadnezzar had conquered were to be there at the same time and bow down to this image. The nationalism of Babylon was being forced upon the Judeans, Assyrians, Egyptians and all whom Nebuchadnezzar had conquered. They came together. "And the herald was crying out loudly: 'To you it is being said, O peoples, national groups and languages, that at the time that you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments you fall down and worship the image of gold that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. And whoever does not fall down and worship will at the same moment be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.'" (Dan. 3:4-6) The command was, Bow to the image, worship the State! Nationalism! All the peoples, the rulers large and small, must now worship what Jesus called Caesar, or his image, Nationalism!

* In the booklet *Our Flag*, published by the Office of Armed Forces Information & Education, Department of Defense, on page one it says this: "The story of the origin of our National flag parallels the story of the origin of our country. As our country received its birthright from the peoples of many lands who were gathered on these shores to found a new nation, so did the pattern of the Stars and Stripes rise from several origins back in the mists of antiquity to become emblazoned on the standards of our infant Republic.

"The star is a symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun. Both themes have long been represented on the standards of nations from the banners of the astral worshippers of ancient Egypt and Babylon to the 12-starred flag of the Spanish Conquistadors under Cortez. Continuing in favor, they spread to the striped standards of Holland and the West India Company in the 17th century and to the present patterns of stars and stripes on the flags of several nations of Europe, Asia, and the Americas."

On page 23 it states: "The Secretary of Defense, Washington, 28 December 1959, OUR FLAG (DOD Pam 5-6a)—This official Department of Defense Publication is for the use of personnel in the military Services. [Signed] Thomas S. Gates. Published by the Office of Armed Forces Information and Education, Department of Defense, Washington 25, D.C."

³⁴ But look! There are three men standing! They are not bowing down! Can you imagine it! These three men had gone along with all the others to the plain of Dura at the command of the king, but they were not bowing down. Why? They went as far as they could. They assembled with the others, but now the test came. They made the right decision. The three Judeans, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, called to mind the words of Jehovah spoken to Moses:

³⁵ "I am Jehovah your God, who have brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slaves. You must not have any other gods against my face. You must not make for yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. You must not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them, because I Jehovah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me; but exercising loving-kindness toward the thousandth generation in the case of those who love me and keep my commandments. You must not take up the name of Jehovah your God in a worthless way, for Jehovah will not leave the one unpunished who takes up his name in a worthless way." —Ex. 20:1-7.

³⁶ That was understandable to these three Hebrews. They gave their God exclusive devotion. They would not bow down and worship a man-made image or standard. They loved their life and believed that their God would save them. But if they were not kept alive, then there was no reason to fear death, because they be-

34, 35. How did the three Hebrews face up to the issue now raised, and what command of their God did they have in mind?

36. In whom was their confidence?

lieved in a resurrection of the dead. When Nebuchadnezzar heard what happened, he went into a rage and fury and ordered an investigation.

³⁷ These three Hebrews were brought before Nebuchadnezzar, and he said to them: "Is it really so, O Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you are not serving my own gods, and the image of gold that I have set up you are not worshipping?" (Dan. 3:14) It was disturbing to the king to have these fine servants of his step out of line and not do this little thing, 'just bow down, that is all.' So Nebuchadnezzar said he would give them another opportunity. His words were: "Now if you are ready so that when you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, and the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, you fall down and worship the image that I have made, all right. But if you do not worship, at that same moment you will be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. And who is that god that can rescue you out of my hands?"—Dan. 3:15.

³⁸ It did not take these three Hebrews even a moment to decide. Their minds had been made up. From the time they were young men, from the time that they were being fed in the king's private school for nobles, they knew whom they would serve. If they would not break Jehovah's laws on eating food, would they now break his law on image worship? So without hesitation "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered, and they were saying to the king: 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we are under no necessity in this regard to say back a word to you. If it is to be, our God whom we are serving is able to rescue us. Out of the burning fiery furnace and out of your

hand, O king, he will rescue us. But if not, let it become known to you, O king, that your gods are not the ones we are serving, and the image of gold that you have set up we will not worship.'"—Dan. 3:16-18.

³⁹ Faith! Loyalty! Where have we since heard such a powerful decision? Remember when Satan tried to get Jesus to "do an act of worship" to him? Jesus was not slow in his answer either. "Then Jesus said to him: 'Go away, Satan! For it is written, "It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.'"—Matt. 4:8-10.

DELIVERANCE TO THE FAITHFUL

⁴⁰ Nebuchadnezzar knew full well whom these three Hebrews worshiped. But would they break under pressure when bound and ready to be thrown into the furnace? Would they then bow to the State and become nationalistic? Would they try to serve two masters? Would they render to the State things that did not belong to the State?

⁴¹ These three men 'did not become fearful of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.' Rather, they were like true Christians today who really appreciate the fine example of the three Hebrews who were "in fear of him that can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna." (Matt. 10:28) They watched Nebuchadnezzar filled with fury and with his very expression changed toward them. The king commanded, "Throw them into the fiery furnace, now made seven times as hot." They were thrown into the furnace heated so hot that when the men who were commanded to throw the three Hebrews into the furnace did so they themselves were killed by the intense flames.

37. What next occurred when these men were brought before the king?

38. Was there any hesitation by the three Hebrews when offered another opportunity to bow down, and what were their words in reply to the king?

39. Who else gave a similar reply in defense of pure worship of God?

40-42. Describe now the tense drama that unfolds before Nebuchadnezzar and the final outcome of the fiery furnace episode.

⁴² Then Nebuchadnezzar saw a frightening thing. He rose up in a hurry and said: "Was it not three able-bodied men that we threw bound into the midst of the fire?" Those with him said: "Yes, O king." But Nebuchadnezzar in his excitement said: "Look! I am beholding four able-bodied men walking about free in the midst of the fire, and there is no hurt to them, and the appearance of the fourth one is resembling a son of the gods." Then Nebuchadnezzar called out to the three men in the fire and told them to step out and come to him. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stepped out from the midst of the fire. It was truly amazing. The fire had had no power over their bodies, not even a hair on their heads had been singed. Even their mantles had not been affected and the smell of fire itself had not come upon them! These men had gone through some experience and proved their faithfulness. —Dan. 3:24-27.

⁴³ The experience shook Nebuchadnezzar, for he said: "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who sent his angel and rescued his servants that trusted in him and that changed the very word of the king and gave over their bodies, because they would not serve and would not worship any god at all except their own God. And from me an order is being put through, that any people, national group or language that says anything wrong against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego should be dismembered, and its house should be turned into a public privy; forasmuch as there does not exist another god that is able to deliver like this one." (Dan. 3:28, 29) Do you today likewise believe that there "does not exist another god that is able to deliver like this one"?

43. What, then, were Nebuchadnezzar's next words, vindicating Jehovah's power of deliverance?

Your FINAL DECISION Being Forced Today

NATIONALISM today shows its authority too and can be very cruel to Christian worshipers of the true God Jehovah. The historian Arnold J. Toynbee, on page sixty-nine of his book *Christianity Among the Religions of the World*, said: "The collective power of Athens was worshipped by the Athenians in the form of the goddess Athena. . . . In the renaissance of Hellenism in the modern Western World in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, this Greek idolatrous attitude towards one's own country, one's own fatherland,

was imported from the Ancient Greek past back into our modern Western life. Only, unlike the Greeks, we have flinched from openly admitting that we are practicing this form of idolatry; and consequently we are even more at the mercy of this idolatrous type of Nationalism than the Greeks were at the mercy of their more frankly avowed idolatrous worship of their local states."

² Some persons may say, 'Well, that is

2, 3. (a) How were Jehovah's witnesses in Germany treated for refusing to hell Hitler, and how is this borne out in the book entitled "My Story"? (b) How, as in the case of the three Hebrews, were these Christians offered a second chance to "bow down," and with what results?

1. What observations are made on nationalism by Arnold Toynbee?

not so bad.' But are not these persons rather shortsighted? Just go back thirty years to the days of Hitler's Germany. Remember how he demanded that everyone worship the State? Anyone who would not heil Hitler with his arm raised to the swastika was sent off to a concentration camp, there to die. He had his own fiery furnaces, his gas chambers, his starvation program. In the book entitled "My Story," written by Gemma La Guardia Gluck, she says this, in chapter eight: "Now I shall describe briefly the Bible Students [Jehovah's witnesses] in the camp. They belonged to a religious sect that believes in the words of the Bible as literal truth. I did not know of the existence of this sect before I came to Ravensbruck. . . . Most of the Bible Students in Ravensbruck were simple, honest wives and mothers, a very hardworking lot. In this camp they were generally employed as servants, doing the heaviest labor. They told me they had been among the first prisoners at Ravensbruck and have been used for all kinds of construction jobs when the Nazis began to build the camp. I admired these women for their strength of character. They had a staunch will and faith. They had been in prison for eight, ten, or twelve years, right from the beginning of Hitler's regime in 1933, when members of their sect refused to answer or acknowledge the official Nazi greeting, 'Heil Hitler.' Bible Students insisted on the right to remain neutral in political matters and not to be forced to salute a power that had been created by man, not God. 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are His' was their credo. The authoritarian Nazi regime could not stand for such disobedience, and thousands of Bible Students were arrested and sent to the camps. At one point the Gestapo had announced that any Bible Student who renounced his beliefs and signed a statement

to that effect would be given his freedom and be persecuted no longer. It is difficult to believe, but it is true, that not one of them signed such a statement. They preferred to go on suffering and patiently waiting for the day of liberation."

³ Gemma La Guardia Gluck, the elder sister of the late Fiorello La Guardia, former mayor of New York City, wrote her story in 1961, telling what she and others lived through in the concentration camps of Hitler. She thus adds to the testimony that the Christian witnesses of Jehovah in Germany, some of whom are still living today, were offered a second chance to change their minds and bow down, just as the three Hebrew friends of Daniel were. All they had to do was sign a statement and heil Hitler and they would be free from further persecution. Like the three Hebrew men, they refused "to bow." They obeyed God as ruler rather than men. They were not fearful of those who could kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

FEARLESSNESS TOWARD MEN

⁴ True, the days of Hitler are gone. But how about the nationalistic spirit engendered worldwide? East Germany, now under communistic influence, has its strong nationalistic spirit opposed to the right worship of Jehovah God. Recently a young schoolgirl, a witness of Jehovah, had done very well in her examinations at school in East Germany. She was assigned to write on the subject "Why Is the Worker's Class the Only One Entitled to Lead the Nation?"

⁵ Believing that God's kingdom, for which she prayed, was the one to rule all nations, she could not think of any reasons to support a nationalistic answer. So she wrote an article showing that God's kingdom is the only hope for mankind and that

4, 5. What experience in present-day East Germany shows the fearlessness of God's people in the face of a strong nationalistic spirit?

Christ Jesus is its righteous Ruler, and that the laboring class through its dictators was not meant to take Jehovah God's place in government. After her paper was read, she was immediately called before three persons who strongly disagreed with her article and ridiculed her faith in God and told her that she would have to expect a very low grade unless she did the paper over. She explained that this was what she believed and she was not going to compromise. They asked the question. She gave her honest answer from God's Word. Before school ended, the board finally mentioned that she distinguished herself in honesty.

⁶ It takes courage for a young Christian to stand for Bible principle. The three Hebrews also took that stand. They trained their minds from childhood by studying the truth. Setting the right example in true worship must be done before all mankind, since every nation and tribe and tongue must "fear God and give him glory, because the hour of the judgment by him has arrived, and so worship the One who made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters." (Rev. 14:7) This is the day for decision. What will you do?

⁷ Behind the Iron Curtain the disseminating of Bible truths in printed form or by word of mouth by Jehovah's witnesses is forbidden. Over the years thousands of Jehovah's witnesses have been imprisoned for talking about the Bible. Recently three of Jehovah's witnesses who had received life terms in prison for preaching the good news of God's kingdom were released by the Communists from prison after fifteen years of confinement. One of the three is seventy-four years old. He had been imprisoned for nine years under the Hitler regime and for fifteen years under Com-

unist rule. Think of it! This man spent twenty-four years of his life, nearly a third of his lifetime, in prison because he dared to preach the Bible. He refused to hail Hitler and his Nazism or nationalism. He refused to deny his God for the Communists. Truly there are still those who say, "Your gods are not the ones we are serving"!—Dan. 3:18.

⁸ On June 10, 1964, there were two young girls, Jehovah's witnesses, who had traveled from their village to the capital city of Madrid, Spain, to do some shopping. As opportunity afforded they talked about the good news of God's kingdom to persons that they would meet. Did not Jesus say: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations"? (Matt. 28:19) After having talked to quite a few people and having bought the things they needed, they started home on the bus. Police agents got on the bus and ordered them off and told them to go with them to the police headquarters. These two young girls were interrogated from eight o'clock in the evening of June 10 until eleven o'clock on the morning of June 11; fifteen hours. Is this Catholic state afraid some persons in Spain will find out what the Catholic Bible used by these girls says about God's kingdom? The father of the girls is an overseer in a congregation of Jehovah's witnesses in a small town outside of Madrid. So they were taught the truth and were not afraid to tell it out. What satisfaction the father must have had to see his girls fearlessly standing on God's side even though arrested and fined; and for what reason? "Because of belonging to the sect of Jehovah's witnesses and making trips to the capital to carry on proselyting activities for the Jehovah's witnesses sect."

⁹ The dictatorial, nationalistic country of

6. How does Revelation 14:7 help a servant of God in his worship of Jehovah?

7. What modern-day example of faith is now brought to our attention?

8. How did Catholic Spain treat two young servants of Jehovah God, and for what reason?

9. Have the dictatorial, nationalistic methods of Spain stopped God's people from worshiping him, and how is that shown?

Spain says, 'You may not worship your God, you may not express your views about God's Word in this country!' But arrests and fines and a jail record will not stop genuine Christians. Their worship of Jehovah comes first. In 1950, in Spain, there were only 93 persons talking to those that had ears to hear, and today, in 1965, there are 3,502 witnesses of Jehovah still preaching, including these two young girls. Persecution has not dampened the zeal of Jehovah's servants in Spain, has it? And persecution has not dampened it in other countries either. What are you doing to bring the message of salvation to those of mankind in your community?

¹⁰ These experiences are not isolated cases. Much information has been published in the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines about the persecution of Jehovah's witnesses in Spain and Portugal, both strongly Catholic dictatorial countries. But to give you another incident, on April 2, 1964, police agents forced their way into a home in Spain. There they took Bibles and Bible literature and the keys of the house and arrested a twenty-seven-year-old minister of Jehovah's witnesses. He had been arrested previously, in June 1963, and on that occasion spent thirty days in jail for "prose-lytism," preaching from the Bible. While the police were making their search another young minister called at the house. He was seventeen years old, and he also was arrested. Both were thrown into prison, held twenty days and then released. Such harassment has not stopped the preaching of the good news of God's kingdom in Spain. Young men and women and the older folks who are witnesses of Jehovah in Spain will continue preaching. While the Catholic clergy tell the people to give all to Caesar, Jehovah's witnesses will con-

tinue to give Caesar only what is his, but God's things to God.

¹¹ In Cuba nationalism is sung from the housetops through television, radio and the press. Loyalty to the nation comes first, say its rulers. So to be a Christian there takes courage. Two of Jehovah's witnesses were going from house to house preaching God's kingdom as taught in the Bible. For doing this they were sentenced to four months in jail. Two circuit servants, traveling ministers, spent a month in jail for preaching God's kingdom. In another part of Cuba six congregation servants were taken to jail, some for three months, some for four months. So it goes if one freely speaks the truth about God and what he has done and will do. Jehovah's witnesses were all told to stop what they were doing and get in line with the State's teaching on communism. But how can a Christian do that when God's Word says: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come"? (Matt. 24:14) Whom would you obey?

¹² In Africa much violence has been brought to bear against Jehovah's witnesses because political parties are trying to force them to sign up with their nationalistic groups. If a witness of Jehovah refuses to buy a political card from a certain political group, then his house is stoned or broken up and often the occupants are brutally beaten. It takes real faith to stand for Jehovah God and his kingdom against such political violence. An overseer and several Kingdom publishers in Africa were so badly beaten that they had to go to the hospital. Their crops were burned too. In another place Jehovah's witnesses had

11. How have the servants of Jehovah in Cuba been treated because of loyalty first to Almighty God?

12, 13. (a) Why have some political parties in Africa persecuted Jehovah's witnesses, and to what extent has this persecution gone? (b) What spirit do world rulers have?

10. What other example of opposition by the Spanish government is cited?

their houses, Kingdom Halls and grain storage places all burned to the ground. They were driven from the community and some who were caught were severely beaten by the political party. The cause for such persecution is that Jehovah's witnesses refuse to engage in politics and worship the State. On the other hand, the false religious organizations, all of which belong to the world empire of false religion, Babylon the Great, do not hesitate for a minute to ride along with the nationalistic trend and "fall down and worship the image of gold."

¹³ Rulers today do not like this information to be publicized, but really the world of mankind is no better off than it was in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, king of ancient Babylon. They have the same spirit and say: 'If you do not bow down and worship the nationalistic image I have made and do as directed you will be thrown into the burning, fiery furnaces by the mob.'

¹⁴ These hardships true Christians endure. These few examples show what is going on in all parts of the world today, and they should be a warning to us. The Christian witness of Jehovah cannot compromise. In Communist countries they must preach underground. This means that for Jehovah's witnesses to meet as a congregation of God they have to do it secretly. Most people say, 'Jehovah's witnesses are foolish to go to such extremes. They just bring trouble on themselves.' But it is not that they want to be persecuted. It is a clear matter of whom do you worship—the State, "Caesar," or God, Jehovah? You will have to make the decision someday if you want everlasting life under God's kingdom. Better it is to do it now than to put it off. "Before there comes upon you the day of Jehovah's anger, seek Jehovah, all you meek ones of the earth." (Zeph. 2:2, 3) May your decision be to serve Him now.

14. Why must true Christians endure these hardships, and what wise decision should be made now?

Worship

THE GOD OF RESURRECTION

IT IS necessary to learn what the Christian knows, that men can kill only the body, but they cannot kill the soul. (Matt. 10:28) In Jehovah God's written Word he has promised a resurrection of the dead, and today the same Holy Scriptures that the Hebrews in Nebuchadnezzar's day believed we still have and they are still true.

1. What is it necessary to believe, and how did the mother of Samuel show she had such belief?

The three Hebrew friends of Daniel knew what their ancestors taught them. For example, Hannah the mother of the prophet Samuel said: "There is no one holy like Jehovah, for there is no one but you; and there is no rock like our God. Jehovah is a Killer and a Preserver of life, a Bringer down to Sheol, and He brings up."—1 Sam. 2:1, 2, 6.

² Believers in God's Word know that God can bring up from Sheol, the common grave of dead mankind. That is something man cannot do. There will be a resurrection of the dead, the three Hebrews believed. So to die as martyrs in the fiery furnace meant to them to die and be kept in secret, asleep, for a time indefinite to them, but after that a resurrection. They knew of Job's hard experience and likely recalled his words: "O that in Sheol [the grave] you would conceal me, that you would keep me secret until your anger turns back, that you would set a time limit for me and remember me!" (Job 14:13) Job was not afraid to go into the grave or Sheol, because he knew there would be a resurrection from it in God's promised due time. Jehovah said to Abraham that through him and his seed all nations of the earth would be blessed. How could that be without the resurrection of the peoples of all nations? Abraham, Job and the three Hebrews knew, as do honest students of the Bible today, that the grave is where mankind in general goes and that those there are in an unconscious state. David, in support of this, wrote: "In death there is no mention of you; in Sheol who will laud you?" (Ps. 6:5) The psalmist said: "Hear this, all you peoples. Give ear, . . . Sheol rather than a lofty abode is for each one." "From the hand of Sheol I shall redeem them; from death I shall recover them." (Ps. 49:1, 14; Hos. 13:14) A thousand years later the apostle Peter knew that David was still in the grave, resting as in sleep, awaiting the resurrection. Read Acts 2:29, 34, 35 and Hebrews 11:35.

³ David was sure his God Jehovah would redeem him from the grave. Jehovah made provision for this through his Son Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all. (1 Tim. 2:5, 6) In due time David along

with billions of others, including the three Hebrews and Daniel, will stand up and live in the new system of things after the battle of Armageddon. The last words of Daniel's prophetic book are: "And as for you yourself, go toward the end; and you will rest, but you will stand up for your lot at the end of the days." (Dan. 12:13) Daniel and the three Hebrews knew that, while one is living, this is good advice: "All that your hand finds to do, do with your very power, for there is no work nor devising nor knowledge nor wisdom in Sheol, the place to which you are going." (Eccl. 9:10) They knew the condition of the dead, just as Christians today do. They read Isaiah's prophecy, and it gave them hope when the three Hebrews were cast into the fiery furnace and when their friend Daniel was thrown to the lions. They read Jehovah's words: "For here I am creating new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be called to mind, neither will they come up into the heart." (Isa. 65:17) This would be the day for which Christians pray in saying, "Your kingdom come," when the earth will be brought to a Paradise condition and there will be the resurrection of the dead.

⁴ Now Christians are definitely assured of the resurrection because of Jesus' own words. He said: "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment." (John 5:28, 29) When these three faithful Hebrews are resurrected in the new system of things, with new heavens and new earth, they will undoubtedly do good things during the reign of Christ Jesus. Then, because of their continued faith and loyalty to Jehovah their God,

2, 3. What faith in future life was had by faithful men of ancient times?

4. How did Jesus give definite assurance regarding a resurrection?

they will get the fulfillment of God's promise.—Heb. 11:34, 39, 40.

⁵ Just how far-reaching is this resurrection Jesus spoke of when he said: "All those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out"? It certainly must be far-reaching, because the apostle Paul stated: "I have hope toward God, which hope these men themselves also entertain, that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous." (Acts 24:15) However, does that mean that even those practicing vile things after their resurrection are going to keep on living in this new system of things? It appears from the Scriptures that those who do not want to change and do good things after being resurrected on earth will be cut off before too many years pass. Certainly they will be given the opportunity to know the truth through others' teaching them God's will.

⁶ Isaiah, who wrote about Jehovah's creating new heavens and a new earth, also said about the shortness of life of sinners in comparison with everlasting life: "One will die as a mere boy, although a hundred years of age; and as for the sinner, although a hundred years of age he will have evil called down upon him." (Isa. 65:20) It will be just as the apostle John stated: "Death and Hades gave up those dead in them, and they were judged individually according to their deeds." (Rev. 20:13) So if their deeds in the "new earth" show they exhibit no faith and love of righteousness and they strive to practice vile things, then their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This means the second death.—Rev. 20:14, 15; John 5:29.

⁷ Thus it seems that those who do not develop an appreciation of life under the

new system of things when Christ is king will not be permitted to live indefinitely. Those returning from the grave, young or old, to begin with, will have to make progress in the right direction after they are told what happened and what the conditions of living are then under God's kingdom. After having an opportunity of understanding Jehovah's Word, and being given information on the effects of sin upon mankind over a six-thousand-year period, and how the ransom of Christ Jesus makes it possible for them to gain everlasting life, if after all this they refuse Jehovah's provision for life, then they will be condemned to everlasting destruction. Thus their resurrection will prove to be "a resurrection of judgment" because of their doing vile things.

⁸ Those who, during their present life, have acquainted themselves with God's Word and who are withdrawing from the evil practices of this wicked system of things, will certainly make far smoother progress when they are resurrected from the dead, because they will want to continue doing good things. They will be striving to make theirs a "resurrection of life."

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

⁹ A tremendous educational program will be in operation during the thousand-year reign of Christ. All coming forth from Sheol or Hades will have an opportunity to learn, but there will be those who prove incorrigible, who will not adopt right worship. That will be their responsibility. But still they will first have an opportunity to decide on choosing either life or adverse judgment. Only those will get life who are doing the will of God. Remember, Isaiah said: "As for the sinner, although a hun-

5, 6. (a) How far-reaching will the resurrection be according to Acts 24:15? (b) How long might a resurrected person be permitted to continue living in sin, and with what final result?

7. What opportunities will resurrected ones first have before ever being condemned to everlasting destruction?

8. What advantage will those now dying have if they withdraw from evil practices in this day?

9, 10. (a) How will those resurrected during the thousand-year reign of Christ learn about God's righteous requirements? (b) How is Jehovah's patience in this matter shown?

dred years of age he will have evil called down upon him." Some may feel that a hundred years is a rather long time to prove a man right or wrong. But Jehovah is patient.

¹⁰ We read in the Scriptures: "Because sentence against a bad work has not been executed speedily, that is why the heart of the sons of men has become fully set in them to do bad. Although a sinner may be doing bad a hundred times and continuing a long time as he pleases, yet I am also aware that it will turn out well with those fearing the true God, because they were in fear of him. But it will not turn out well at all with the wicked one, neither will he prolong his days that are like a shadow, because he is not in fear of God."—Eccl. 8:11-13.

¹¹ So during the rule of the kingdom of God very likely this principle will be applied. If one wishes to prolong his days he will have to do good things. Those who do bad things even a hundred times early in life or when nearing one hundred years of age will certainly be proving themselves habitual sinners. Then, when God chooses, his judgment will be called down upon such ones. So they will die as mere boys, although some of them are a hundred years of age. Just how long people will be given the opportunity to practice vile things we cannot say, but it will be long enough to determine that the individuals do not want to do the will of God. There will be many who will not prove rebellious and vile until the end of the thousand years, when Satan the Devil is loosed a little while to test all then alive on earth. (Rev. 20:7-10) Those who do good things will live to the end of the thousand years. If then they pass the final test of perfect obedience to God, they will prove to be "those who did good things" and their resurrection will

turn out to be a "resurrection of life."—John 5:29.

¹² Why, therefore, get steeped in wickedness now, continuing with this wicked system of things that will be destroyed at the battle of Armageddon? Why not get acquainted with God's Word and study it daily, taking advantage of sharing in the vindication of Jehovah's name and Word? Paul says: "Working together with him, we also entreat you not to accept the undeserved kindness of God and miss its purpose. For he says: 'In an acceptable time I heard you, and in a day of salvation I helped you.' Look! Now is the especially acceptable time. Look! Now is the day of salvation."—2 Cor. 6:1, 2.

¹³ Many persons today find it quite easy and pleasant to go along with the false religious organizations that encourage them to compromise with the State and even to worship the State. But God's written Word says: "Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues. For her sins have massed together clear up to heaven, and God has called her acts of injustice to mind."—Rev. 18:4, 5.

¹⁴ Surely now is the time to flee from Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion. If you do not want to go down in the destruction that God is bringing upon false religion, then flee! There are millions of people today who are hearing the message concerning God's kingdom and they are being urged to study the Word of God. But most of them push it aside as of no account. In Jesus' day he preached for three and a half years and he sent his disciples out to preach too. Be sure that you do not get yourself into a

11. How will a person prolong his days in the new order of things, and what result will befall the habitual sinners, and when at the latest?

12, 13. What, therefore, is the course of wisdom now, and why is it so necessary to follow the advice recorded in Revelation 18:4, 5?

14. While millions may hear the truth, what do most do, following what group of people of the days of Jesus?

1964 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLDWIDE

Country	1963 Av. Pubs.	1964 Av. Pubs.	%Inc. over 1963	Peak Pubs. 1964	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. Public Meet'gs	No. of Cong's	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Av. Bible Studies
U.S. of America	280,052	292,318	4	315,568	13,295	319,246	4,943	7,223,139	47,452,222	937,158	54,542,127	15,665,023	219,677
Bermuda	70	93	33	108	8	95	1	4,475	18,304	576	29,220	8,101	143
Guam	38	39	3	67	5	7	1	2,747	8,951	243	9,580	2,802	36
Salpan	4	4		6	3	2		96	3,209	7	680	1,194	16
Sudan	38	42	11	44	3		1	618	9,434	50	1,514	2,658	33
Alaska	462	472	2	521	24	429	11	12,402	82,175	1,877	85,308	25,928	364
Argentina	9,292	9,958	7	10,374	575	7,666	244	184,559	1,906,019	15,362	1,599,136	811,575	9,722
Australia	15,045	15,821	5	17,039	683	14,339	385	296,939	2,634,312	35,307	2,775,441	807,598	10,362
Austria	6,717	7,181	7	7,841	226	4,986	181	128,091	1,069,715	4,206	1,270,263	461,694	4,724
Bahamas	225	265	18	286	25	269	7	10,638	59,407	1,211	57,848	25,153	345
Belgium	7,016	7,568	8	8,294	229	5,584	117	154,381	1,161,091	9,905	1,392,993	408,174	4,599
Bolivia	476	539	13	606	62	708	19	21,540	148,405	1,508	115,125	48,587	655
Brazil	26,827	29,623	10	32,895	1,026	22,696	712	411,335	4,499,803	29,631	3,278,326	1,564,230	20,604
British Guiana	795	878	10	988	79	676	24	22,092	190,735	1,780	150,113	67,702	929
British Honduras	308	339	10	371	32	293	10	7,110	76,735	528	72,651	23,128	399
British Isles	47,053	48,849	4	52,405	2,291	54,468	905	928,403	7,814,147	62,558	9,195,642	2,914,661	34,858
Aden	4	8	100	10	1	6		568	1,284	84	2,125	595	8
Gibraltar	13	19	46	24	4	3	1	486	2,942	6	1,943	2,124	38
Malta	6	7	17	14	2	5	1	88	1,761	11	165	744	8
Burma	219	229	5	243	39	342	6	20,300	86,788	580	75,615	34,281	398
Cameroun	6,506	6,977	7	7,344	460	7,380	169	70,436	2,016,882	1,687	142,674	780,727	8,232
Tchad Republic	15	12	-20*	15	1	20	1	9	2,493	2	689	1,006	17
Canada	37,418	38,790	4	41,663	1,588	45,024	906	936,310	6,273,532	57,529	5,694,674	1,924,327	23,431
Central Afr. Rep.	508	636	25	714	23	850	16	3,475	131,069	43	7,331	46,275	614
Ceylon	239	240		252	48	225	9	11,035	94,853	1,850	86,559	30,838	379
Chile	2,938	3,110	6	3,404	202	2,454	86	119,257	613,861	4,941	554,174	244,958	3,705
Colombia	2,803	3,242	16	3,407	346	3,814	99	86,490	866,769	3,700	578,489	342,480	4,445
Congo (Brazzaville)	775	851	10	962	35	972	17	11,358	182,920	202	18,511	71,229	724
Gabon Republic	39	58	49	77	2	103	2	2,546	13,055	52	4,947	4,451	62
Congo (Leopoldville)	2,025	2,834	40	3,167	77	2,420	34	38,795	569,810	1,295	61,472	220,689	2,979
Costa Rica	2,656	2,656		2,768	95	1,446	79	16,926	404,988	487	148,612	134,349	2,178
Cuba	15,240	16,589	9	17,466	1,080	19,937	538	3,494	3,118,540		1,152	1,567,435	22,390
Cyprus	516	486	-6*	531	26	199	13	8,220	84,701	354	34,475	31,793	303
Denmark	10,080	10,369	3	10,958	329	11,173	219	71,652	1,381,122	3,409	1,827,005	516,767	5,224
Faroe Islands	27	27		28	9	51	2	1,290	14,942	58	19,239	5,720	39
Greenland	10	22	120	26	4	55	2	1,896	5,082	21	4,126	1,829	15
Dominican Republic	1,035	1,309	26	1,490	135	1,181	27	48,478	344,099	3,821	307,848	147,824	2,312
Ecuador	1,053	1,184	12	1,286	143	1,443	30	32,673	344,926	2,161	222,293	117,054	1,502
Eire (Ireland)	223	236	6	252	90	341	4	6,703	154,048	230	50,869	34,286	187
El Salvador	773	818	6	847	82	1,185	20	22,530	219,914	1,409	181,282	78,861	1,127
Fiji	227	241	6	261	23	199	9	15,062	62,377	637	38,882	20,698	286
American Samoa	24	28	17	32	6	26	1	5,075	14,090	372	11,533	5,148	51
Cook Islands	4	7	75	10	2	1		492	3,755	11	834	1,287	13
Gilbert & Ellice Isls.	5	5		6		1		50	606	5	243	451	10
New Caledonia	48	65	35	74	5	61	1	4,041	16,801	28	34	6,792	95
New Hebrides	4	7	75	10	1	12		631	2,144	55	770	813	14
Niue	16	23	44	34		5		90	1,830	3	1,100	815	17
Tahiti	62	70	13	78	9	67	1	7,210	23,549	531	16,535	8,370	125
Tonga	6	6		9		1		206	866	5	2	296	3
Western Samoa	61	62	2	68	9	15	1	1,429	21,638	119	14,254	7,035	93
Finland	8,737	9,054	4	9,815	368	9,236	334	125,150	1,291,323	14,490	1,611,803	485,254	5,003
France	18,514	20,103	9	21,750	559	12,016	357	627,940	2,932,108	34,859	3,158,081	1,183,567	13,775
Algeria	60	69	15	81	13	43	2	9,157	27,982	512	23,181	8,620	77
Mali, Republic of	5	4	-20*	5	3	4		658	5,339	43	1,249	1,494	14
Senegal, Republic of	43	55	28	64	6	41	1	4,947	18,667	430	16,615	8,255	99

Tunisia, Republic of	42	40	-5*	45	3	21	1	1,060	9,140	113	5,031	3,968	33
Germany, West	73,119	76,074	4	79,073	2,093	64,705	944	896,652	10,557,014	28,463	11,138,393	4,132,838	39,869
West Berlin	5,054	5,340	6	5,565	130	3,261	40	83,712	746,875	1,512	755,690	302,633	2,851
Ghana	8,408	8,574	2	9,326	406	7,818	261	127,833	1,830,136	3,725	424,814	599,717	7,473
Ivory Coast	78	116	49	143	13	104	3	4,780	38,878	330	23,591	12,906	193
Togoland	364	424	16	554	46	286	14	8,141	146,187	403	15,704	43,214	529
Upper Volta	7	9	29	10	3	5		551	3,247	25	955	968	23
Greece	9,573	10,022	5	10,832	202	2,777	352	70,378	1,223,495	4,280	884,013	722,414	4,460
Guadeloupe	376	458	22	494	23	207	10	14,254	88,555	799	80,636	37,438	445
French Guiana	17	23	35	27	3	28	1	3,005	6,699	369	9,103	2,678	42
Martinique	124	157	27	182	12	115	3	7,057	38,688	475	42,591	15,266	256
Guatemala	1,164	1,223	5	1,288	104	1,698	35	28,552	290,234	1,273	207,325	95,322	1,434
Haiti	933	1,027	10	1,193	117	1,203	30	18,791	290,236	254	70,268	107,669	1,785
Hawaii	1,832	1,979	8	2,064	168	2,003	37	66,178	491,123	10,363	513,835	172,144	2,346
Marshall Islands			New	7		1		77	270	4	36	161	4
Honduras	653	678	4	791	53	724	13	14,867	164,116	1,339	114,420	58,706	790
Hong Kong	209	231	11	243	39	256	7	11,899	82,911	1,614	78,501	30,647	430
Iceland	66	74	12	80	12	50	1	5,032	24,545	757	27,741	8,870	97
India	1,875	1,929	3	2,125	208	1,102	72	80,288	501,074	7,614	250,413	163,092	1,931
Indonesia	700	934	34	1,140	206	1,176	44	201,840	423,156	960	23,936	139,887	1,703
Israel	73	80	10	88	13	13	2	13,538	25,023	451	14,278	8,550	82
Italy	7,130	8,109	14	8,774	253	3,663	258	309,283	1,152,297	14,540	1,333,726	500,225	6,057
Libya	41	49	20	52	3	3	1	371	3,824	3	432	1,855	30
Jamaica	4,580	4,605	1	4,866	164	4,124	151	56,581	648,413	2,709	460,138	230,819	3,731
Cayman Islands	23	14	-39*	18	3	19	1	104	2,590	10	1,950	1,336	19
Turks & Caicos Is.	2	3	50	4	2	7		175	2,743	22	673	957	15
Japan	2,670	3,139	18	3,318	408	4,230	120	247,295	949,955	24,004	1,241,199	364,283	4,581
Okinawa Gunto	181	201	11	220	32	156	6	15,408	68,214	1,411	99,834	22,091	298
Sakishima Gunto		7	New	8	4	3		2,928	7,187	279	13,169	2,888	33
Jordan	66	73	10	80	15	113	3	213	27,519	9	207	10,365	112
Kenya	133	153	15	179	12	155	3	8,240	38,361	591	27,803	15,365	244
Seychelles		2	New	2		45		543	543	1	163	242	3
Tanganyika	745	818	10	855	76	1,301	26	19,366	234,585	521	26,064	75,120	1,044
Uganda	19	29	53	37	6	44	1	2,703	12,290	252	4,034	4,617	7
Zanzibar	3	3		3		3		54	59	4	104	51	7
Korea	4,617	5,164	12	5,538	507	4,993	158	96,236	1,239,847	10,756	863,308	443,287	6,881
Lebanon	756	814	8	871	47	1,188	20	47,689	174,455	15	342	64,914	900
Bahrain Islands	1	1		1		4		4	11		16	1	1
Iran	16	16		20	2	6	1	2,067	4,654	127	3,029	2,300	41
Iraq	1	1		1		9		9	30		19	1	1
Kuwait	6	8	33	11	1	5	1	30	804		36	283	4
Qatar	1	1		1		6		6	92	2	17	29	3
Syria	113	118	4	127	3	27	4	783	18,528		3	5,520	82
Leewards (Antigua)	106	107	1	114	13	136	3	4,123	28,028	248	18,619	10,354	110
Anguilla	8	9	13	10	1	10	1	428	2,908	10	975	894	11
Dominica	116	118	2	128	14	101	6	1,890	33,299	127	15,365	11,190	150
Montserrat	16	15	-6*	17	3	19	2	292	7,259	15	3,503	2,643	35
Nevis	31	32	3	36	5	28	2	265	11,178	8	3,266	3,941	55
St. Eustatius	2	1	-50*	1		1		10	114	3	30	61	2
St. Kitts	71	73	3	77	7	70	3	1,468	20,082	142	14,757	7,580	117
St. Martin	45	41	-9*	46	4	37	2	806	11,179	82	7,498	4,429	58
Liberia	401	241	-40*	307	19	290	8	13,280	67,270	610	30,533	20,377	258
Luxembourg	344	359	4	378	10	244	12	8,230	48,361	271	75,075	23,999	264
Malagasy Republic	98	117	19	130	24	96	3	15,784	48,432	2,365	52,182	17,357	226
Malawi	13,875	13,386	-4*	15,186	706	11,340	392	59,654	3,005,176	1,933	80,195	984,315	8,576
Mozambique	745	830	11	960	48	653	12	5,991	210,429	150	8,072	65,209	726
Malaysia	279	292	5	321	43	133	11	70,645	94,567	1,619	59,797	32,337	528
Mauritius	73	89	22	101	18	147	2	6,427	35,559	374	31,520	13,616	180
Réunion	61	131	115	161	10	148	3	4,788	32,711	127	15,986	11,510	168
Rodrigues		3	New	3	1			244	434	12	311	219	13

Country	1963 Av. Pubs.	1964 Av. Pubs.	%Inc. over 1963	Peak Pubs. 1964	Av. Plo. Pubs.	No. Public Meet'gs	No. of Cong's	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Av. Bible Studies
Mexico	26,311	27,796	6	32,016	1,878	17,484	1,046	522,342	4,875,328	23,959	2,775,911	1,456,748	23,268
Morocco	135	138	2	159	25	188	6	5,609	52,727	1,157	51,021	19,148	192
Netherlands	12,662	13,426	6	14,171	436	10,212	213	100,398	1,809,791	6,207	1,495,043	646,911	6,693
Neth. Ant. (Curaçao)	185	201	9	220	14	120	4	4,945	38,432	1,129	43,674	15,693	186
Aruba	119	130	9	135	4	112	3	2,239	18,018	633	19,189	6,753	87
Bonaire	23	21	-9*	24	2	18	1	468	4,624	66	3,143	1,846	18
Newfoundland	571	605	6	685	35	658	37	15,546	111,020	1,361	119,299	35,195	397
New Zealand	4,067	4,241	4	4,656	153	4,262	117	61,167	627,682	5,971	704,522	200,447	2,554
Nicaragua	524	573	9	656	53	473	19	12,442	137,273	677	114,785	48,134	676
Nigeria	33,492	35,039	5	38,285	1,919	35,668	680	239,315	8,106,817	6,371	655,458	2,142,764	31,540
Dahomey	868	869		1,011	69	1,212	22	9,649	216,063	257	22,010	58,273	626
Fernando Po	46	69	50	83	1	15		122	15,680	21	241	4,329	103
Northern Rhodesia	28,303	29,768	5	31,680	475	24,217	666	109,166	4,987,967	3,906	242,917	1,499,360	22,636
Burundi		6	New	9	4	10		332	4,453	4	69	1,330	43
Norway	3,738	3,790	1	4,041	117	2,106	128	72,560	497,258	3,022	684,932	204,883	1,892
Pakistan	147	147		170	22	100	4	12,292	47,354	1,668	31,743	16,829	202
Afghanistan	8	7	-13*	8	1	15		180	1,498	28	848	570	6
Panama	1,316	1,331	1	1,403	120	1,355	43	26,882	306,531	1,775	225,222	112,431	1,605
Papua	374	384	3	407	18	225	9	6,522	71,228	164	17,956	20,999	311
Manus Island		7	New	7		2	1	27	177		62	104	11
New Britain	60	60		63	4	54	1	1,382	14,421	50	4,733	5,354	51
New Guinea	198	242	22	261	23	332	4	2,961	60,599	90	13,688	26,056	306
Solomon Islands	239	318	33	367	16	725	5	1,080	87,187		102	39,068	327
Paraguay	444	468	5	488	47	354	19	5,717	109,983	654	80,646	36,170	435
Peru	1,673	1,983	19	2,156	198	3,126	58	104,197	538,516	4,562	446,687	177,649	2,451
Philippines	32,049	32,657	2	34,918	2,763	18,373	1,121	325,436	6,572,933	31,540	3,175,626	1,738,331	24,628
Portugal	1,597	2,039	28	2,160	62	1,074	39	18,471	381,777	79	5,231	170,805	2,416
Angola	35	77	120	109	2	6	1	428	15,458		330	13,516	166
Azores	86	89	4	93	6	166	4	741	18,540		2,463	9,140	117
Cape Verde Isl.	4	7	75	7					107		19	46	4
Madeira	39	40	3	46	1	45	1	469	6,237	7	417	2,664	36
São Tomé	8	6	-25*	9				72	946		6	378	10
Puerto Rico	2,453	2,664	9	2,876	141	3,123	60	166,329	498,354	15,158	708,684	179,605	2,888
Tortola	15	16	14	19	2	9	1	425	3,449	55	3,101	1,069	20
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	123	137	11	151	2	65	5	5,136	16,416	658	30,412	6,822	120
Sierra Leone	356	419	18	476	84	1,008	19	18,103	178,925	1,326	90,896	58,279	775
Gambia	7	7		9	2	55	1	1,004	4,842	80	4,147	2,030	24
Guinea	44	48	9	52	15	56	3	1,307	26,816	32	2,475	9,554	90
South Africa	17,688	18,251	3	19,221	1,173	16,518	477	345,951	4,021,444	27,697	1,631,984	1,183,428	17,011
Basutoland	196	184	-6*	199	25	70	8	2,969	55,707	40	4,353	14,224	219
Bechuanaland	205	226	10	248	15	157	5	2,807	50,089	69	5,694	15,055	216
St. Helena	36	37	3	45	3	32	2	282	7,626	15	3,892	2,770	49
South-West Africa	150	142	-5*	154	4	71	4	4,214	20,608	376	20,765	6,735	96
Swaziland	366	426	16	448	27	532	10	4,370	105,614	162	24,692	29,761	423
Southern Rhodesia	10,360	9,994	-4*	10,776	493	15,076	340	90,442	1,985,712	3,035	249,651	580,362	8,748
Spain	2,768	3,252	17	3,502	188	2,082	68	46,834	680,934	29	178,421	334,101	4,495
Andorra	3	4	33	5		3		30	393		200	197	5
Canary Islands	83	111	34	130	8	60	2	1,069	21,459		6,310	9,124	161
Surinam	427	441	3	487	40	339	10	13,698	100,049	858	81,243	33,719	411
Sweden	9,361	9,658	3	10,293	413	11,512	231	191,647	1,468,407	16,468	2,011,913	593,914	5,832
Switzerland	5,436	5,818	7	6,118	132	3,126	120	142,919	780,421	9,180	1,168,064	343,948	4,891
Liechtenstein	7	6	-14*	8		2		97	655	6	457	277	3
Taiwan	1,255	1,132	-10*	1,273	97	675	42	18,919	212,627	2,362	92,627	64,838	638
Thailand	312	276	-12*	306	34	237	23	7,400	65,623	1,456	57,119	20,336	261
Cambodia	5	4	-20*	6	3	13	1	1,703	5,560	112	4,745	1,977	16
Laos	13	16	23	18	7	23	1	2,202	12,404	92	5,921	3,711	49
Vietnam	13	14	8	16	6	3	1	6,239	10,669	628	12,977	3,903	43

Trinidad	1,645	1,668	1	1,743	86	1,222	38	25,882	295,990	2,205	224,586	112,316	1,762
Barbados	651	667	2	690	23	816	20	8,493	95,406	616	34,441	34,556	614
Bequia	14	16	14	17	3	44	2	372	7,020	24	2,966	3,109	42
Carriacou	25	24	4*	28	3	31	1	164	8,052	17	1,650	2,763	39
Grenada	146	146	146	161	14	73	5	1,902	35,244	148	15,523	13,014	171
St. Lucia	73	76	4	83	10	145	2	1,747	22,784	207	16,229	8,046	130
St. Vincent	67	74	10	83	6	34	2	675	12,985	154	5,725	6,598	102
Tobago	52	54	4	62	6	5	2	1,635	18,831	136	11,028	6,504	162
Uruguay	1,806	1,988	10	2,119	171	1,514	42	39,921	479,417	2,310	305,853	168,367	2,483
Falkland Islands	3	2	-33*	4	1			40	331	1	53	103	2
Venezuela	3,150	3,426	9	3,707	161	2,066	63	100,177	665,366	3,906	438,423	242,579	3,723
183 Countries	858,038	901,022	5.0	970,926	42,569	858,448	19,498	17,312,209	155,427,492	1,551,290	126,596,766	53,344,064	689,776
111 Other Countries	98,610	100,948	2.3	104,597	369	59,543	3,985	422,944	7,380,820	146	498,399	2,610,203	51,591
GRAND TOTAL	956,648	1,001,870	4.7	1,075,523	42,938	917,991	23,483	17,735,153	162,808,312	1,551,436	127,055,165	55,954,267	741,367
MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE WORLDWIDE													
MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLDWIDE													
1963													
1,693,752													
1,899,476													
12,292													

*Work Banned and Reports Are Incomplete
*Percentage of Decrease

situation like those persons who lived in Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. They had an opportunity to hear the truth, but they would not change their course of action. They could have become disciples of Jesus back there, but they missed out on the calling to share in the heavenly kingdom.

¹⁵ Today you can become his followers too, true Christians, and share in the preaching of God's kingdom. Read the account in Matthew 11:20-24, and you will see what Jesus said about consequences. There he said that in the resurrection it will be much better for the people of Tyre, Sidon and Sodom, to whom Jesus never preached, than for those persons to whom Jesus did preach in Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. It was in these cities that Jesus did many of his powerful works, but they did not repent and follow him. Now, when the resurrection takes place for all these people, as it will for the thief who heard Jesus say, "You will be with me in Paradise," what is going to happen? Jesus gave the answer to those of Chorazin and Bethsaida: "It will be more endurable for Tyre and Sidon on Judgment Day than for you." And to those in Capernaum: "It will be more endurable for the land of Sodom on Judgment Day than for you."—Matt. 11:22, 24.

¹⁶ It appears from Jesus' statement that those of Tyre, Sidon and Sodom will repent and accept the provisions to gain life more quickly than will the Jews who had seen the powerful works that took place in their cities when Jesus was there with them. What about the people in Christendom and elsewhere today in this twentieth century? What are their prospects?

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE EDUCATION FOR LIFE

¹⁷ Never in the history of mankind has such a tremendous witness been given concerning the kingdom of God as in the last twenty years. Jehovah through his Son Christ Jesus declared that "this good news of the kingdom" would be preached, and Jehovah's witnesses feel their responsibility and have gone preaching. Twenty years ago throughout the earth there were only 128,976 persons telling out the good news of the Kingdom in 6,727 congregations located in sixty-two lands. In the service year of 1964 throughout the earth there were on the average each month 1,001,870 who shared in that same proclamation work, and a new peak in

15. What are the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:20-24?

16. What seems evident from Jesus' words at that time?

17. 18. Over a twenty-year period what increase in the Kingdom witness has taken place, and how have Jehovah's witnesses shown loyalty and devotion in their God-ordained work?

Kingdom proclaimers of 1,075,523 was reached. These witnesses of Jehovah were located in 194 different lands. They spent 162,808,312 hours preaching the "good news of the kingdom" from God's Book of truth, the Holy Bible. Further, they made 55,954,267 return visits to the homes of the people and also conducted 741,367 home Bible studies each week.

¹⁸ In order to help the people get better acquainted with the Word of God, Jehovah's witnesses left with those interested 4,553,282 books and 13,181,871 booklets. Additionally, they obtained 1,551,436 subscriptions for the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines and placed a combined total of 127,055,165 individual copies of these magazines. The Society's printeries produced 111,194,768 copies of *The Watchtower* and 104,003,980 copies of *Awake!* during the past year.

¹⁹ That people listened to their message is evidenced by this fact: 1,809,476 met on Saturday, March 28, 1964, for the celebration of the Lord's death, the Memorial, in 23,483 congregations throughout the world, though only 11,953 partook of the Memorial emblems, signifying they were a part of the remaining members of Christ's bride here on earth. For the detailed report on what has been going on in different countries of the world, please see pages 22-25.

²⁰ From this you see thousands upon thousands of persons that withdrew from Babylon the Great. They are fleeing. They do not want to wait until the Judgment Day to make then first their decision on whether they will serve God or not. By

delay they could be caught in Babylon's destruction and be destroyed forever with her. So they are hearing the "everlasting good news" and doing something about it. They have taken up the ministry. Just last year there were 68,236 persons baptized, showing that they have dedicated their lives to the doing of Jehovah's will. They want to preach as Jesus preached. Therefore, they repented of their evil ways and turned around. They do not want to be

like the people of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum, whose reforming after their resurrection will be more difficult than that of those coming back from

Sodom and Gomorrah. Maybe, because of their stubborn disposition then when Jesus was on the earth nineteen hundred years ago, they will show an even worse disposition when raised from the dead and they will be more resentful of what is taking place. That will not be disturbing to those who want to do good things so as to have their resurrection, when they are brought forth from the memorial tombs, prove to be one of life.

²¹ Those grateful that they are alive again will do what they can to help these persons who in former times did not listen to God's Son and those who never knew Jehovah. But the sinner, doing bad things one hundred times, or as long as he pleases, will be permitted to go only to a certain limit, for his sinning will not prolong his days. His days will be like a shadow, and he will disappear in the second death.

²² There is work to be done today and, by Jehovah's undeserved kindness, Jehovah's witnesses want to do that work of

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Death and Hades to Give Up the Dead.
- A Nation Awaits Liberation.
- Vatican Council Reaffirms "The Reality of Hell."
- Weddings of Worldly Acquaintances.

19. How have many people shown interest in the message of the Bible?

20. (a) What personal changes are those who flee Babylon making? (b) Whom do they not want to be like, and why?

21. How will the sinner conduct his life, and what will be the result to him?

22, 23. What is the wise way to act now in spite of opposition, and why can we answer the question, "Does your worship to God come first?" in the affirmative?

spreading the good news everywhere. Now is the day of salvation. Now is the time to take your stand just as the three Hebrews did when they said to Nebuchadnezzar: "Your gods are not the ones we are serving." (Dan. 3:18) Be like the apostles who walked in the footsteps of Christ Jesus. They were bold and said: "We must obey God as ruler rather than men."—Acts 5:29.

²³ Everyone who hears the everlasting good news should get well acquainted with it and study God's Word and then share in the declaration of it "to every nation and tribe and tongue and people, saying in a loud voice: 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of the judgment by him has arrived, and so worship the One who made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters.'" (Rev. 14:

6, 7) This is not the time to put off your decision as to whom you will worship because of fear of pressure, persecution, opposition, chiding, ridicule, or for any other reason. You must feel strong in Jehovah and be determined to do his will. What is your answer to the question: Does your worship to God come first? If it is Yes, then you will be able to say to the whole world: "Your gods are not the ones we are serving, and the image of gold that you have set up we will not worship." Why so? Because you are not "fearful of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul," but, rather, you are fearful of "him that can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna."*

* For a very detailed discussion on the matter of the resurrection there will be five more articles in succession on this very subject in "The Watchtower."

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Have you read the recent issues of *The Watchtower* carefully? If so, you should recognize these important points. Check yourself.*

● By what will a properly trained conscience be guided?

Bible principles.—Pp. 517, 518.

● What is the greatest textbook on prayer, and what may prayer actually be said to be?

The Bible. One-way communication with God.—P. 557.

● Why do many give credence to attacks scientists make on the Bible?

Because they mistakenly think that scientists have scientifically proved the Bible to be unscientific.—P. 584.

● Who are the "men of good will" referred to in Luke 2:14?

Those whom God favors because of their doing his will.—Pp. 629-631.

● What is meant by Jerusalem's being "a burdensome stone to all the peoples"?

That the persecution of God's people, who are visible representatives of the heavenly Jerusalem, will backfire on the persecutors, causing them to be crushed.—Pp. 658, 659.

● May a Christian work in the employ of a false religious organization?

No, for he would be making himself a part of that organization.—P. 703.

● What will it mean to come forth to a resurrection of life?

To gain or be rewarded with everlasting life in the heavens at the time of resurrection in the case of those called to heavenly life, or to be adjudged one who is worthy of eternal life because he practiced good things after his resurrection and through the test at the end of Christ's thousand-year reign in the case of those resurrected on earth.—Pp. 724-726.

● What does it mean to come forth to a resurrection of judgment?

To be judged unworthy of life because of practicing vile things after one's having been resurrected on earth under God's kingdom.—Pp. 729, 730.

● Why did Jesus say that men cannot kill the soul?

Because they cannot prevent God from raising the soul from the dead.—P. 750.

● How does God destroy a soul in Gehenna? By not raising it from the dead.—P. 752.

* All references are to *The Watchtower* for 1964.

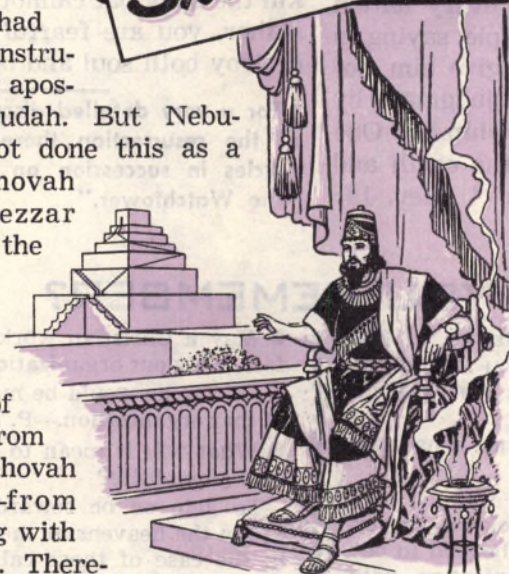
WHEN Babylon overthrew God's representative government in 607 B.C.E., Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon's king, had powerful incentive for boasting. He felt that he had highly exalted himself. (Isa. 14: 13) It is true that Jehovah had called Nebuchadnezzar his servant. (Jer. 25:9) He had allowed him to have power and had used him as an instrument in destroying apostate, rebellious Judah. But Nebuchadnezzar had not done this as a worshiper of Jehovah God. Nebuchadnezzar was a worshiper of the Babylonian god Marduk and Babylon was the age-old enemy of God. So the rejoicing of Babylon sprang from its hatred for Jehovah and his people—from motives originating with the Devil himself. Therefore, such rejoicing could only be short-lived, as a matter of fact, a mere sixty-eight years. For Jehovah foreknew and decreed in advance the length of time that Babylon would be able to hold up its head in rejoicing over his conquered people.—Lam. 1:21; Jer. 29:10.

It is comforting to see how matters worked out. This article, together with the next several of this series, will show how Jehovah brought Babylon's domination to its early end, reversing the scene of rejoicing.

To assure his people that the rejoicing

THE REJOICING of the WICKED

*IS
Short-Lived*



of their conquerors would be of short duration, God continued to use his prophet Ezekiel. In 593 B.C.E., the twenty-fifth year of Ezekiel's exile in Babylonia, he had a vision of a new temple of Jehovah and of an adjacent city called Jehovah-shammah, meaning "Jehovah Himself Is There." (Ezek. 40:1 to 48:35)

So a refreshed hope filled the hearts of those who worshiped Jehovah at the prospects of again worshiping the true God Jehovah at a new temple in Jerusalem, the city where he had placed his name.

Two years after this Ezekiel gave a final prophecy concerning Nebuchadnezzar in his use as a servant of Jehovah. God foretold that he would reward Nebuchadnezzar for the service he had performed as Jehovah's executioner in a

twelve-year siege of Tyre, in which he destroyed the land city of Tyre but did not get to take its vast wealth as booty. It was left for Alexander the Great to destroy the island city of Tyre. The reward to Nebuchadnezzar would be the conquest of Egypt with all its wealth for him to plunder. He therefore went on from victory over Tyre to extend the Babylonian Empire over the land of Egypt, in the year 588 B.C.E. However, Babylon now had only forty-nine years left to rejoice.—Ezek. 29: 17-20.

BABYLON'S LAST DYNASTY OF SEMITE KINGS

Nebuchadnezzar was now growing old, and eyes began to turn toward a successor for him. By his Median queen Amytis, Nebuchadnezzar had his first son, Evil-merodach. He had two sons-in-law, Neriglissar and Nabonidus. The latter was the husband of Nitocris, Nebuchadnezzar's daughter by his wife of the same name. This marriage produced Belshazzar, who was therefore a grandson of Nebuchadnezzar and a great-grandson of Nabopolassar, the founder of the last dynasty of Semite kings of Babylon.*

Amel-Marduk (Evil-merodach) as the oldest son succeeded Nebuchadnezzar to the throne in 581 B.C.E. He did a kindness to one of the Judean captives, by which kindness he unwittingly carried out Jehovah's purpose. Second Kings 25:27-30 states: "It came about in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin the king of Judah, in the twelfth month [in 580 B.C.E.], . . . Evil-merodach the king of Babylon, in the year of his becoming king, raised up the head of Jehoiachin the king of Judah out of the house of detention; and he began to speak good things with him, and then put his throne higher than the thrones of the kings that were with him in Babylon. And he took off his prison garments; and he ate bread constantly before him all the days of his life." Jehoiachin (or Jeconiah) had seven sons in Babylonia, including Shealtiel, whose nominal son Zerubbabel became governor of rebuilt Jerusalem, and through whose line of descent Jesus Christ came. —1 Chron. 3:17-19; Hag. 1:1; 2:23; Ezra 5:1, 2; Matt. 1:12.

Evil-merodach reigned two years and was murdered by his brother-in-law Neri-

glissar, who reigned for four years, which time he spent mainly in building operations. His underage son Labashi-Marduk, a vicious boy, succeeded him, and was assassinated within nine months. Nabonidus, who had served as governor of Babylon and who had been Nebuchadnezzar's favorite son-in-law, took the throne and had a fairly glorious reign until Babylon fell in 539 B.C.E. He devoted his time to literature, art and religion. He is reported to have been the son of a priestess of the moon at Harran (Haran), which fact had endeared him to Nebuchadnezzar. Says *The Encyclopedia Americana*, Volume 2, page 441:

He was an enthusiastic religionist and anti-quarian. He built and rebuilt many temples in the principal cities of his kingdom. Nabonidus' enthusiasm carried him too far, for he attempted to centralize in Babylon the religion of the kingdom. In doing this he alienated the priesthood, and even aroused their active opposition. For throughout the history of Babylonia each city had its own patron deity, to which its temple was dedicated and its people devoted. The images and shrines of these various divinities were collected to Babylon. This act, with others of similar offense to the priests, paved the way for his downfall before a mightier power.

Nabonidus set up a second capital for Babylonia at the oasis of Tema in Arabia. In the third year of his reign he made Belshazzar coregent. While Nabonidus was absent from Babylon and down south in Tema, Belshazzar officiated in Babylon as second ruler of the land. Belshazzar was also very religious, a thing required by the Babylonians of their kings. He revered the Babylonian gods greatly, but insulted and blasphemed Jehovah, rejoicing over the supposed victory of his gods in the fact that the Jews were in captivity to Babylon. (Dan. 5:1-4) He built sanctuaries, making offerings of gold and silver

* Nabonidus and Belshazzar, by R. P. Dougherty, page 79.

and sacrificial animals. There are six cuneiform texts that have been discovered that run from the fifth year to the thirteenth year of the reign of his father Nabonidus that prove this fact. Belshazzar even paid the Babylonian religious tithe. He was a devotee of the gods.*

BABYLON'S TERM AS WORLD POWER TO BE CUT SHORT

Nabonidus' third year may be the year referred to in Daniel 7:1, which calls Belshazzar "the king of Babylon" and says: "In the first year of Belshazzar the king of Babylon, Daniel himself beheld a dream and visions of his head upon his bed." In his prophetic dream Daniel saw that the Babylonian World Power would not last. The dream pictured the successive world powers as wild beasts. The first beast, a lion that had the wings of an eagle, pictured the Babylonian Empire, with its dynasty of kings from Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar. The second beast, which was like a bear that was raised up on one side and was given the command: "Get up, eat much flesh," pictured the Medo-Persian Empire, with its line of rulers from Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian down through Darius III the Persian.†

In another vision, described at Daniel, chapter 8, 'in the third year of Belshazzar the king,' Daniel saw a ram from which "there was no one doing any delivering." He was told that this ram stood for the kings of Media and Persia. So by this vision God foretold that the Babylonian World Power, the Third World Power of history, was to fall before the Fourth World Power, the empire of the Medes and Persians.—Dan. 8:3, 4, 20.

* See *Nabonidus and Belshazzar*, chapter VIII, entitled "Belshazzar's Devotion to Babylonian Deities."

† For an explanation see "*Your Will Be Done on Earth*," published by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

Thus the stage was set. For, after Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon had a brief and tempestuous history of rulership that extended only as far as the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, falling to Medo-Persia in 539 B.C.E. So, although Babylon felt highly exalted over the downfall of Judah, with much rejoicing, yet this rejoicing turned out to be very short-lived, for the One who sets the times and seasons and who "is doing according to his own will among the army of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth" had decreed a cutting off of Babylon's domination.—Dan. 4:35.

COMFORT FOR MANKIND

Likewise today, when wickedness is rampant in the earth and even the existence of mankind is threatened, and those who stand for the kingdom of God and who proclaim it are persecuted, we can be assured that the rejoicing of such wicked oppressors will have but a very short life. Now, in the day when the greater Babylon's false religious teachings have increased wickedness and violence, God's Word tells us that it is a sure sign that they are about to be cut down. Jesus himself said, in recounting the many world events of our time that seem to be a triumph for wickedness: "This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur," that is, until wickedness is destroyed and the kingdom of the "Son of man" will exercise full sway over the earth, to the blessing of all humankind. (Matt. 24:30, 34; Ps. 92:7) This is the ruler that Daniel saw in his dream, who was given "rulership and dignity and kingdom, that the peoples, national groups and languages should all serve even him. . . . an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away."—Dan. 7:14.

Fortify Yourselves for the Activity Ahead

TODAY there is much activity among Jehovah's dedicated people, even as the annual report for the service year of 1964 in this issue shows. In many lands this activity is carried on without severe opposition.

But it will not always be that way. We know from Bible prophecies that persecution will increase and that the endurance of every dedicated Christian will be tested to the limit. What would you do if you were separated from your congregation and had to continue alone? or, while preaching underground you heard that a prominent brother had turned traitor, and available evidence indicated that it was so? How long would you go out of your way to make opportunities to exalt Jehovah's name under such conditions? How much and how long you would serve would depend upon how well you had fortified yourself for the activity ahead. As Peter counseled: "Brace up your minds for activity, keep your senses completely."—1 Pet. 1:13.*

How can we fortify ourselves for the activity ahead? First of all, by looking to Jehovah God and leaning upon him at all times. Also, by looking to Jesus Christ and trying to follow him rather than any imperfect fellow human. Looking to human creatures and following them does not give us God's holy spirit; besides, there is always the danger of their falling away and

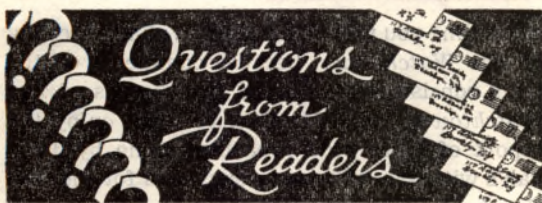
our falling away with them.—Ps. 91:1-16; 1 Pet. 2:21; 1 Cor. 1:10-13.

Further, to fortify ourselves for future activity we must take advantage of all the spiritual provisions and all the opportunities for service that are available to us now. We must cultivate a keen appreciation for these so that, when adversity makes these more difficult to come by, we will not become easily discouraged but will put forth ever greater and more courageous efforts to enjoy these. In particular will zealous fearless activity now fortify us for the activity ahead. By braving ridicule to offer Bible magazines to people on the street, by continuing from house to house in all kinds of weather, by persistently making return visits, we will strengthen ourselves so as to be able to endure under adversity.

And not to be overlooked is prayer. It is one of the most important aids we have, and we should make frequent use of it. Certainly in the trying times ahead we will be resorting frequently to prayer. To pray effectively then we must learn to pray effectively now. Prayer helps us to overcome uncertainty and fear. It helps to strengthen our view of God's Word and to apply it in our lives.—Phil. 4:6, 7.

In all such ways we can fortify ourselves for the more strenuous activity ahead as well as enjoying many blessings now.

* For details see *The Watchtower*, May 1, 1964.



● Does what is said about dancing, on page 154 of *The Watchtower* of March 1, 1964, imply that dancing is not to be done within the Christian congregation or that it is completely wrong as far as unmarried single persons are concerned?

The Watchtower, on page 154 of its March 1, 1964, issue, did not say that dancing is not to be done within the Christian congregation or that dancing is completely wrong as far as

single persons are concerned. However, when it comes to single persons who are minors, their parents are in position to determine whether they, as minors, should do any dancing at all. These young persons should discuss the matter with their parents and then they should follow the advice of their parents. In doing so, they will show how much they respect God's arrangement of things, since obedience to one's parents is a Christian requirement.—Eph. 6:1-3.

In dancing with persons of the opposite sex there is this to remember: It is not fitting for a Christian to dance close with one of the opposite sex to whom he is not married. Single persons in dancing with those of the opposite sex should certainly not dance so close as to develop some type of sensual pleasure from the dancing. That would be grossly improper. Also,

it would be well to consider the possibility that one's partner could be stimulated improperly even though you may feel that it is not close enough for you to develop sensual pleasure from the dancing.

Of course, it would be wrong for a person to dance with someone else's marriage mate in such a way as to become sexually aroused or to cause that to happen to the one with whom you are dancing. But there is something else that must be considered here in addition, and that is the attitude or desire of the husband. If you danced with someone's wife, her husband might not approve, so you must take into consideration his feelings and wishes in this matter of dancing and not feel you have the right to ask a married sister to dance without consulting her husband about it. As the head of his wife, the husband has the right to determine whether she should dance with someone else, just as he has the right to determine this for his minor children.

So while we cannot arbitrarily say that under any and all circumstances it would be wrong for persons who are not married to each other to dance together, quite likely, in the majority of cases, that would be true. Close dancing or any other sexually suggestive dancing by single

persons, or such dancing with a person who is someone else's marriage mate is not suitable so far as a Christian is concerned. One who is a Christian should remember that in all things he should act in a way that will honor God. —1 Cor. 10:31.

Of course, it is possible to do group dancing in which single boys and girls are not all paired off to dance with their arms around each other, which group dancing could also be shared by married persons. Such group dancing, properly conducted, can be both enjoyable and wholesome. It would eliminate the difficulty of trying to determine what constitutes dancing too close and what is not dancing too close, especially since not all individuals will see the matter the same way.

Some who are overly concerned about this might do well to ask themselves if they would be so concerned if the custom was for men to dance only with men, and for women to dance only with women. Then there would be no question of sex involved and perhaps the desire for dancing might not be so pronounced, since there would not be any opportunity at all to put one's arms around a member of the opposite sex in the name of dancing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIELD MINISTRY

Spiritually fortified as a result of Bible study, Jehovah's witnesses will be active during January in helping others to acquire spiritual strength. This they will do by discussing with them Bible truths and by offering them a year's subscription for this magazine, *The Watchtower*, along with three Scriptural booklets, on a contribution of \$1.

BEGIN EACH DAY REFRESHED

A daily period of thinking on God's Word not only refreshes, but it builds strong faith for the future. You can make the most of ten or fifteen minutes each day by considering the Daily Text and Comments published in the 1965 *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*. At the

same time you will be making a valuable review of *The Watchtower*, because comments on the texts consist of quotations from issues of *The Watchtower* for 1964. Also, you will enjoy the report of worldwide preaching done by Jehovah's witnesses this past year. Send for the 1965 *Yearbook*. It is only 50c. Send also for the encouraging calendar for 1965. It is 25c.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

January 31: Does Your Worship to God Come First? ¶1-31. Page 4.

February 7: Does Your Worship to God Come First? ¶32-43, and Your Final Decision Being Forced Today. Page 11.

February 14: Worship the God of Resurrection. Page 18.