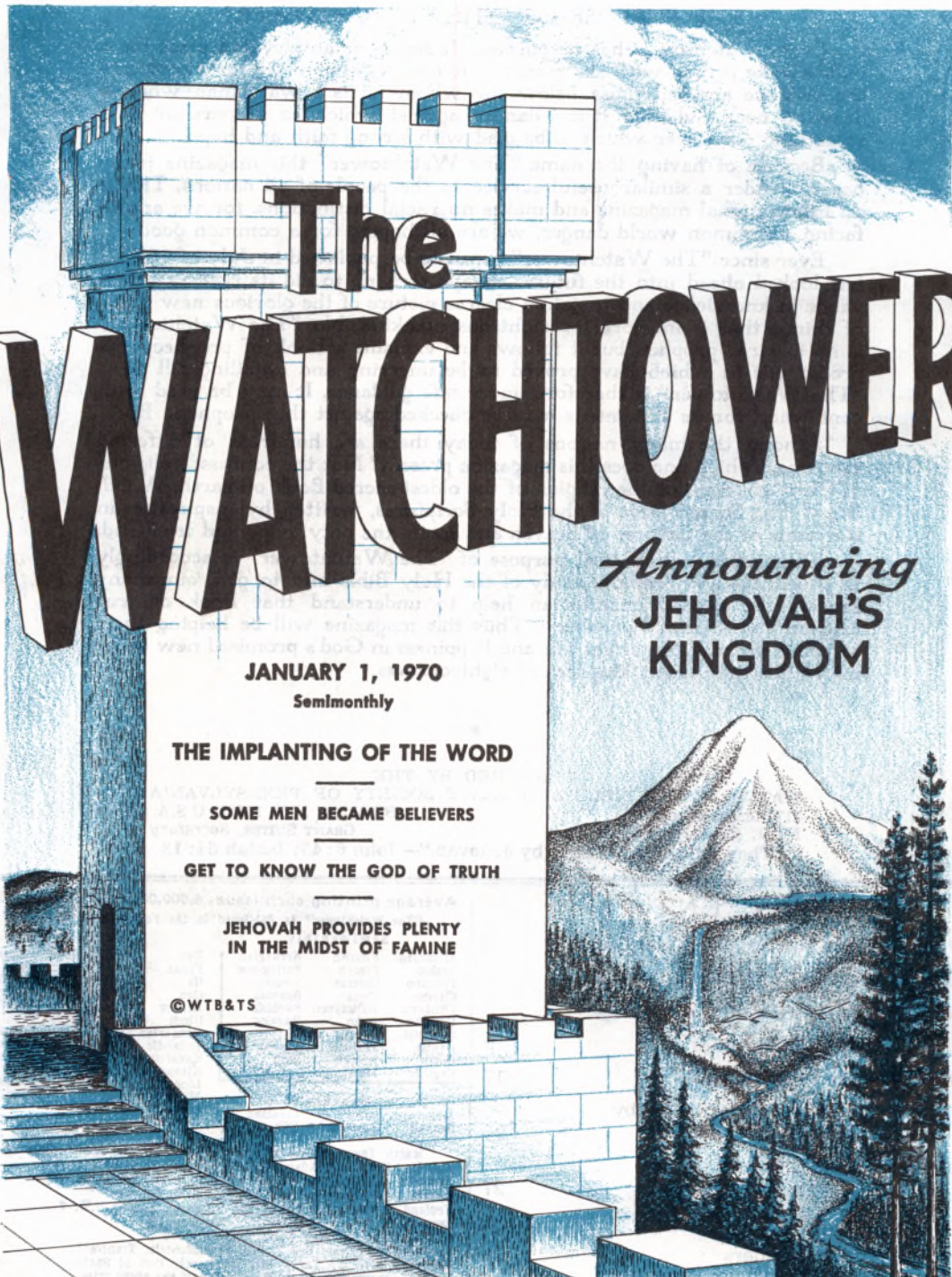




The WATCHTOWER

Announcing
**JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM**

JANUARY 1, 1970

Semimonthly

THE IMPLANTING OF THE WORD

SOME MEN BECAME BELIEVERS

GET TO KNOW THE GOD OF TRUTH

**JEHOVAH PROVIDES PLENTY
IN THE MIDST OF FAMINE**

©WTB&TS

"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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AV - Authorized Version (1611)
Dy - Catholic Douay version
JP - Jewish Publication Soc.

Le - Isaac Leeser's version
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Ro - J. B. Rotherham's version
RS - Revised Standard Version
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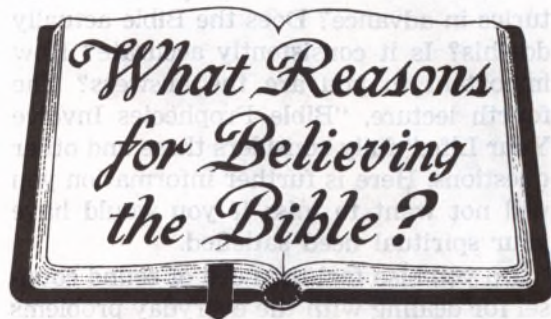
January 1, 1970

Number 1

HAVE you ever asked, How can I be certain that the Bible is not merely another good book written by wise men of ancient times? How can I benefit from something that was written thousands of years ago? How practical is the Bible for people who need to spend their time working hard to feed and clothe their families? If the Bible's influence really is for good, why have the nations of Christendom wreaked such havoc in lives and property in two world wars?

If you have such questions you are not alone. Nor are you to be censured for asking them. Ever so many persons are asking these very questions and many related ones. Persons who ask such questions in all sincerity are likely to be conscious of their spiritual need, and Jesus Christ said, "Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need." You may be happy to know that the Christian witnesses of Jehovah have prepared a series of lectures that will carefully consider such questions.—Matt. 5:3.

There will be six of these lectures, two each month for January, February and March in the United States. They will be given at the local Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in many lands in the months to come. You are welcome to attend, seats are free and no collection will be taken. If you do not know the location of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses nearest you, feel free to write the publishers of this journal. (See page 2.)



The first of these lectures is entitled "Bible Accounts of Creation and Flood—Fact or Fiction?" This lecture deals directly with attacks that critics have made on the Bible accounts of creation and the Deluge. It carefully weighs these objections. This lecture will help you to distinguish between what is mythical or theory and what is fact. It will produce evidence that shows what is true regarding creation and the Flood.

The second talk is entitled "Is the Bible Record Really Historical Fact?" It goes into such questions as, Do reliable secular history and the Bible, where they touch each other or overlap, harmonize with each other? What factors must one take into account when considering ancient secular history?

The next lecture in the series is entitled "The Bible—Contradictory or Consistent?" What about the charges that the Bible repeatedly contradicts itself? that it is not consistent? Can the seeming incon-

sistencies and apparent contradictions be satisfactorily explained? These questions you will want to have answered.

You may also be among the many persons today who are interested in the future. In their desire to know it, some turn to astrology and other methods of divination, only to experience frequent failures. But did you know that the Bible claims to foretell the future many, many centuries in advance? Does the Bible actually do this? Is it consistently accurate? How important to you are the answers? The fourth lecture, "Bible Prophecies Involve Your Life," fully considers these and other questions. Here is further information you will not want to miss if you would have your spiritual need satisfied.

Do you also feel the need of sound counsel for dealing with the everyday problems of life? If so, then you will surely want to hear the fifth talk in this series: "Practical Counsel Provided by God for Man." Just what is right and what is wrong? Are ethics matters for each individual to determine for himself? Among other things, this lecture will show how sound Bible principles are; that following them is conducive to both mental and physical health as well as to happiness in your family.

And finally, calling for a decision on your part if you would take the truly wise

course is the last lecture of this series: "The Churches or the Bible—Which Do You Choose?" This question may sound rather strange to your ears, especially if you are a churchgoer whose pastor professes to have great regard for the Bible as the Word of God. But after hearing all the evidence as to whether the churches of Christendom really stand foursquare upon the Bible or prefer their creeds and have their own gospel, it may well be that you will appreciate the need of making a choice in favor of the Bible.

So, if you are interested in reasons for believing the Bible; if you are conscious of your spiritual need; if you would take the truly wise course, then be sure to attend these lectures, all of them. Do not miss a one.

Learn the answers to the questions that may have been puzzling you, such as, How can we be certain that the Bible is not the work of mere men? How practical is the Bible for our day? You will find a warm welcome and friendly greeting awaiting you at the local Kingdom Hall. And remember, such knowledge is of the greatest value to you, for as Jesus Christ said, taking in knowledge of Jehovah God and of his Son, Jesus Christ, means everlasting life.—John 17:3.

Keen Interest in the Bible

On November 16, an enthusiastic crowd of 15,443 overflowed the facilities of the Honolulu International Center to hear the stirring Bible discourse "The Road Back to Peace in Paradise." This was the high point of the twenty-fourth in a series of international assemblies of Jehovah's witnesses during 1969, which have now recorded a total attendance of 986,926.

Many Filipinos came to the "Peace on Earth" assembly at Manila, October 22-26, at great personal sacrifice. A program of Bible dramas and lectures was the attraction. Several sold tracts of land, one sold his house, another his jeep, so as to pay for the trip. Some even sold their water buffaloes, a real necessity among poor farmers. Bible understanding was more precious to them.

At Tokyo, Japan, delegates to the assembly there heard that many are grasping and appreciating the Bible's message of peace, and as a result there have been remarkable increases in the number of active witnesses of Jehovah in that land.

Get To Know the

GOD OF TRUTH

**Who is God?
Why is it urgent to know him now?**

THERE is an urgent need to know the truth about God. Today, confusion in the churches mounts. Godlessness increases. Crime and violence grow. Nuclear weapons threaten all life.

As a result, many persons, likely you too, ask such questions as: Who is God? Does he care what happens to us here on earth? Will he ever intervene in human affairs to set matters straight? What does the future hold?

To each of these questions, and many more, there is an answer, a basic truth. There are not several conflicting answers all of which are correct.

A GOD OF TRUTH

God has given man the ability to learn certain basic truths about His physical creation. For example, we know that the earth is a sphere. We know that the atom contains tremendous energy. We know that air, water and food are needed to sustain human life.

Now, is it reasonable to think that God gave man the ability to find out truths about creation, but not about the Creator? A loving human father wants his children to know him, to bear his name, to learn the vital things of life. Since "God is love," would He be any less interested in teach-

ing His children about himself?
—1 John 4:8.

Actually, our eternal destiny depends upon our getting to know the truth about God. Jesus Christ himself said: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ."—John 17:3.

"The only true God" is a God of truth. Indeed, the Bible assures us that "God is not a man that he should tell lies," and that "it is impossible for God to lie." So the truth-seeker can confidently approach God, knowing that there are fundamental truths about Him that he can learn.—Num. 23:19; Heb. 6:18.

Since God is always truthful, it is reasonable that our worship must also be in harmony with the truth if it is to be acceptable to God. We cannot believe and support falsehood and still please God. "God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth."—John 4:24.

A LOVING CREATOR

This God of truth is the loving Creator of heaven and earth. His written Word informs us that he 'created all things, and because of his will they existed and were created.' (Rev. 4:11) "He himself gives to all persons life and breath."—Acts 17:25.

So it is God who designed our marvelous body and mind. It is He who made the vegetation, trees and flowers that provide food and are a delight to man. He made available the water and air that sustain life. Obviously, God has shown great love for humankind by giving us life as well as the things needed to sustain and enjoy it.

Yet, people logically ask: If God is such a loving Creator, why has he not stopped wickedness and suffering? Only the Bible

provides the truthful answers. (2 Tim. 3: 16, 17) It tells us of the various issues that were raised after man's creation, including man's desire to be like God, that is, independent, determining for himself what was right or wrong. (Gen. 3:1-7) Lovingly, God did not at once destroy the first man Adam for his violation of divine law, thus destroying us as his unborn offspring. Rather, He has allowed us, the offspring of Adam, an opportunity to live and even to gain eternal life by means of Jesus Christ. (2 Pet. 3:9) At the same time, the events of history during this time of divine patience have answered the issue raised as to rulership, proving that no government that tries to be independent from God can bring true happiness to its subjects.—Jer. 10:23, 24.

But God's permission of wickedness will not continue forever. We are now nearing the time long ago foretold in God's Word when He will use his awesome power to end wickedness! (2 Tim. 3:1-5; Matt. 24: 34) For this we can rejoice!

Not only will God soon bring wickedness to an end, but he has made loving provisions to turn this entire earth into a Paradise. No doubt you yourself have prayed for the time when God's will would be done "*in earth*, as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10, AV; Luke 23:43) In that new order, sickness, sorrow, war, injustice, poverty, suffering and even death will become things of the past. Of the many Bible prophecies concerning these conditions in God's new order, the one at Revelation chapter 21, verse 4, clearly states that "death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be any more."

This new order is a certainty, for it is true of all God's promises: "I have even spoken it; I shall also bring it in." (Isa. 46:11) To demonstrate what would take place in that new order, God gave Jesus Christ, when he was a man on earth, the

power to perform some of the miracles that he would perform earth wide in God's new order. Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cured the maimed, even raised the dead! This was visible proof of what God would accomplish by means of his Son in His new order. (Matt. 15:30, 31; Luke 7:11-17; 8:49-56) Were you familiar with these marvelous truths about the Creator's loving purpose for man?

Of course, for you personally to be among those who will gain life in God's new order you must meet his requirements. These requirements include knowing and believing what God says about himself in his Word the Bible. How well do you know God? For example: Does God have a name? If so, what is it?

DOES GOD HAVE A NAME?

Jesus often referred to God as "Father," life-giver. (Matt. 5:16) Does your earthly father have a name? Since man is created in God's image, is it unusual that God also would have a name?

Does he? Jesus said to his Father in prayer: "I have made your *name* known to them and will make it known." (John 17:26) He taught his followers to pray: "Our Father in the heavens, let your *name* be sanctified." (Matt. 6:9) God himself says: "I shall certainly sanctify my *great name*." (Ezek. 36:23) Yes, God has a name.

What is the name? Is it "God" or "Lord" or "Eternal," as some claim? No, for these are not personal names, but are titles. "God" means "mighty one," "Lord" means "master," and "Eternal" means "everlasting."

If someone asked you what the name of the President or King or Ruler of your country is, would you answer "President," "King," "Ruler," or perhaps "Commander in Chief," or "Chief Executive"? No, for these are not personal names, but titles.

He still has his own personal name in addition to those titles.

What, then, is God's personal name? He himself answers plainly: "I am Jehovah. That is my name." (Isa. 42:8) And Psalm 83:18, in the *King James Version*, states: "That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth."

True, various Bible versions do not use the name "Jehovah." But this is not because the name is missing in the original languages of the Bible text. Actually, the name appears about 7,000 times in the Bible! The fault lies with translators who substituted words such as "God" and "Lord" when they came to the name in the text.

HOW IS IT PRONOUNCED?

In Hebrew, God's name comes from the four letters יהוה, which are all consonants, since ancient written Hebrew had no vowels. The reader had to supply the vowel sounds. However, over the centuries, the correct pronunciation became uncertain.

Some clergymen contend that we should stop using God's name because we do not know the exact Hebrew pronunciation today. But these same persons will use the word "Jesus" without hesitation. Yet, that is not the way Jesus' name was pronounced in Hebrew. It was more like *Yeshu'a*, or *Ye-ho'shwa*. Today, in Spanish, it is pronounced *Hay-soos'*; in Italian, *Jeh-zoo'*; in German, *Yea'zoos*. Should we stop using the name Jesus because it was not pronounced that way in Hebrew or because it is pronounced differently in other languages today?

So too with God's name. In English it is Jehovah. In Spanish it is pronounced *Hay-oh-vah'*; in Italian, *Jeh-oh'vah*; in German, *Yeh-ho'vah*. Which is correct? All are usable. What is wrong is to suppress

the name of God by failing or refusing to use it.

Acts 2:21 says: "Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved." Do you 'call on the name of Jehovah'? Do you regularly use that name in prayer to God and talk about him to others? What about your church? Does it officially highlight God's name, Jehovah? Does it encourage you to call on God by his own name? If not, is the church really leading you in the way of the truth?

JESUS CHRIST—WAS HE GOD?

Another basic truth has to do with Jesus. Was he Jehovah God who came to earth in human form?

If Jesus was God, then the Creator of the entire universe was in a woman's womb for nine months. It means that the Almighty crawled on his hands and knees as an infant. Do you really believe this to be the case?

When Jesus prayed, to whom was he praying—himself? Would he teach his followers to pray to someone else and thus deceive them? (Matt. 6:9, 10) Also, when Jesus died, did God Almighty die?

The truthful answers are in God's own Word. It says of Jehovah that he is "King of eternity," without beginning or end. (1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 90:2) But Jesus is called "the beginning of the creation by God." (Rev. 3:14) That is why Jesus said: "The Father is greater than I am." (John 14:28) Repeatedly Jesus called God his Father, his life-giver. Was he lying? Also, Jesus often declared: "I seek, not my own will, but the will of him that sent me." (John 5:30) About whom was he talking, if not about another superior personality?

What does your church teach? Does it teach that Jesus was God, part of a Trinity? Why not get a copy of the Athanasian Creed, which sets out the Trinity doctrine, and read for yourself what the Trinity

doctrine is. Then ask your minister if your church uses that creed. Compare it with what your own Bible says. If what any church teaches is not in harmony with God's Word of truth, then as long as a person is a member of that church he is not worshiping God "with spirit and truth."—John 4:24.

While Jesus was not Jehovah, neither was he merely a "good man." He was much more: "Jesus is the Christ the Son of God." (John 20:31) Yes, it was Jehovah who implanted the life force of Jesus in Mary's womb so that she as a virgin could give birth.—Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:26-35.

Also, Jesus plays a vital and loving role in God's purpose. After his death, he was resurrected to heavenly life as a powerful immortal spirit creature. (1 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 6:4, 9) He is the King of God's heavenly kingdom, the government for which Christians are taught to pray. (Matt. 6:9, 10) That heavenly government, with Christ as its chief administrator, will be the instrument God uses to crush out of existence this wicked system of things.—Dan. 2:44; Rev. 19:11-21.

That destruction will usher in God's new order here on earth. Then peace, justice, health and eternal life will become the rule.

GET TO KNOW GOD NOW

To survive the end of this wicked system into God's new order, we need to know and advocate the truth about God now. (1 John 2:17; Zeph. 2:3) It does not please Jehovah for a person to remain part of any religious system that misrepresents God.—Rev. 18:4.

What is the best way to get to know God? By a systematic search of his Word, the Bible. So why not begin immediately to take in this knowledge that leads to eternal life? (John 17:3) Jehovah's witnesses will be glad to help you, free of charge.

Write to the publishers of this magazine, or contact Jehovah's witnesses near your

home, and a qualified minister will call. For one hour a week, at a time mutually convenient and in the privacy of your own home, he will

show you what your own Bible says about God.

In a matter of weeks you will find that a large number of your questions have been answered. You will learn such things as where the dead are and what hope there is for them. You will find out what is required in order for one's prayers to be answered. You will examine evidence proving that the end of this wicked system is very near. You will also learn what God requires of you.

Already, this six-month free home Bible-study course is being held in well over a million homes, in over 200 lands throughout the entire world. This is by far the largest Bible-study program in existence. You can share with this growing multitude of persons who are learning the truth that comes from God. As you get to know the loving Creator, you will come to appreciate that wisdom from God "is a tree of life to those taking hold of it, and those keeping fast hold of it are to be called happy."—Prov. 3:18.

THE NEXT ISSUE

- The Coming "Great Tribulation" Foreshadowed.
- Which Comes First—Your Church or God?
- What Kind of Husband Are You?

THE *Implanting* OF THE WORD

A FEW decades ago mankind in general gave good attention to religion. But times are changing! Most people in Christendom seem quite pleased with the new sophisticated attitude that the clergy have taken toward the changing world. The "new morality" idea is generally accepted as old standards become passé, and many religious leaders support the "God is dead" theory. Logically this raises in the minds of the parishioners of Christendom's churches the question: If God is dead, God's law is null and void too, is it not? So why follow the counsel set forth in the Bible? "Live the way YOU want to live," is the thinking of most people in the world today.

² On the other hand, there are great crowds of people from many nations who are very much interested in the Bible and in the God it tells us about. Such ones still want to cling to Bible teachings, though their faith may have been shaken by their religious teachers. They know things are bad because of the way people are conducting themselves today, in adultery, fornication, homosexuality, thievery, extortion and almost every other wicked act. These things are looked upon by many persons as not out of line with the normal procedure

*"Accept with mildness the implanting of the word which is able to save your souls."
--Jas. 1:21.*



of life. "If you can get away with it, who cares?" is the attitude of the majority. However, Jehovah's witnesses hold that the Bible is the Word of God and that the moral code set out in the Holy Scriptures is the proper and right one to follow. Nineteen centuries ago Jesus Christ lived according to God's perfect law, and his teachings and actions showed that there was the implanting of Jehovah's written word in his heart and mind.

³ Jehovah's witnesses believe that Jesus is the Son of God as the Bible says, and is therefore the One that God, his Father, sent into this world "in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) Jehovah's witnesses believe that Christ Jesus will take away the sin of the world during his peaceful reign of one thousand years. Worldly-wise men will say

1. How has the "new morality" caused many to lose confidence in the Bible?

2. Yet how do others feel about the Bible, and how is their attitude like that of Jesus Christ?

3. (a) How do Jehovah's witnesses feel about Jesus Christ and his reason for coming to earth? (b) What is the hope Jehovah's witnesses have as to the future?

that Christians with such faith are naïve or that Jehovah's witnesses are strange people. However, it did not sound strange to the followers of Christ Jesus who lived at the time when Jesus was walking in the flesh here upon the earth. His faithful followers preached his message through much opposition. For some of these it even meant losing their lives for the sake of Christ. Nor has it seemed strange to millions of persons who have lived during the nineteen hundred years since the days of Christ Jesus' earthly sojourn. But in these days in which we now live, and which are described in the Bible as the "last days" or the "critical times" of this system of things, there are relatively few people who truly accept the teachings of the Bible and who have the hope of living eternally because of the redeeming value of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for mankind. This is a strange teaching indeed to some, but it is nevertheless true. Jesus said: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ."—2 Tim. 3:1; John 17:3.

⁴ Due to believing that "all Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching," Jehovah's witnesses follow the advice of James 1:21, where it says: "Put away all filthiness and that superfluous thing, moral badness, and accept with mildness the implanting of the word which is able to save your souls." (2 Tim. 3:16) There is much said in the Bible about moral badness. The Bible writer James, the half brother of Jesus, was fully convinced that, if a teacher expects to sound down the truth successfully into the heart and the mind of an individual, then there must be a putting away of that which is bad, wrong, contrary to God's Word; the individual must take the time and accept

with mildness the implanting of the Word of God. When God's Word is really implanted in one's heart and mind it is able to save one's soul or very life. As Jesus said to the Tempter: "Man must live, not on bread alone, but on every utterance coming forth through Jehovah's mouth." (Matt. 4:4; Prov. 3:13-18) Can you accept that saying?

⁵ Jesus had some comments on the real food on which man must live. One day after talking with the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said of them: "Let them be. Blind guides is what they are. If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit." Continuing, in conversation with Peter, Jesus next said: "Are you not aware that everything entering into the mouth passes along into the intestines and is discharged into the sewer? However, the things proceeding out of the mouth come out of the heart, and those things defile a man. For example, out of the heart come wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, fornications, thieveries, false testimonies, blasphemies. These are the things defiling a man; but to take a meal with unwashed hands does not defile a man."—Matt. 15:14-20.

⁶ If a man's heart is not right, but is filled with moral badness, then his reasoning will be wholly out of line with that which is decent, upright and righteous. Therefore his thinking ability will be of no benefit to him or to his fellowman. Due to his moral badness his reasoning will be absolutely contrary to the laws of Jehovah. Accordingly, the wise man, in Proverbs 18:7, said: "The mouth of the stupid one is the ruin of him, and his lips are a snare for his soul." Just as Jesus said, it is not what goes into the mouth that is important, for that is disposed of easily through the digestive organs, but it is what

4. How only can one who wants to teach others the truth of God's Word conduct himself in regard to the counsel of James 1:21?

5, 6. (a) How did Jesus show that it is what comes out of a man's mouth that defiles him? (b) Show how Proverbs 18:7 and 5:1, 2 corroborate Jesus' words.

comes out of the mouth, what one says, that shows what the individual really is! Usually one says what one is going to do. So Proverbs 6:12 records: "A good-for-nothing man, a man of hurtfulness, is walking with crookedness of speech." When men discard God's Word and think that they can work out life's problems without God's help, they are all wrong. Listen to the wise man, Solomon: "My son, to my wisdom O do pay attention. To my discernment incline your ears, so as to guard thinking abilities; and may your own lips safeguard knowledge itself." —Prov. 5:1, 2.

⁷ The best thing any individual can do is to go to the highest authority so as to get a proper understanding of a matter. Therefore we should listen to the One who has all wisdom, namely, Jehovah God. Pay attention to what this one has to say and enjoy the benefits of adherence to such counsel. What God wants us to know now He has had recorded in his written Word. A reasonable person will incline his ear toward Jehovah's expressions and try to discern exactly what God wants him to do. That is the way to guard one's thinking abilities. Knowing the right course and thinking about it is a fine safeguard to protect one from letting one's thinking abilities turn toward wicked reasonings, fornication, adultery, thievery and other wrong things. A wise person will keep his heart and mind on the high principles of truth and righteousness. When one's thinking ability is correctly directed then one's lips will say the right things, the things that are upbuilding, righteous and pure.

NEED FOR MENTAL CLEANSING

⁸ It is evident, therefore, that there must be a cleaning out of the mind if there is

to be an implanting of right thinking. There must be a putting away of all filthiness of the flesh, and that superfluous thing, moral badness, so one can give one's time and energies to accepting the implanting of the Word of God in one's mind. One just cannot do both things at the same time. Sweet water and bitter water cannot come out of the same spring. (Jas. 3:11) It is absolutely necessary for one to change one's ways of thinking and doing things if the truth of God's Word is going to be implanted in one and grow.

⁹ Some nineteen hundred years ago when Jesus was sitting by the Sea of Galilee, great crowds came to hear his words of wisdom. He spoke differently from the way anyone else had ever spoken. As the crowd grew in numbers, Jesus went aboard a boat and rowed offshore. Then, using the surface of the water as a sounding board, he addressed a great crowd of people on the seashore. Very often Jesus used illustrations to make his points, and it is recorded in Matthew, chapter thirteen, that this was the method he used on this occasion. One of several illustrations that Jesus presented to the crowd concerned a sower of seed. In quite some detail he told of the sower dropping some seed along the roadside, also in rocky places and among thorns. He went on to say that other seed fell on some fine soil and began to yield much fruit. The persons listening to this parable, of course, could draw conclusions as to its meaning if they wanted to use their thinking ability. But if Jesus would explain the illustration, telling what he had in mind, the true meaning could be grasped by his hearers.

¹⁰ The disciples of Jesus were curious as to just what he meant, and so they ques-

7. How does an individual safeguard his thinking ability?

8. In order to think properly, what must a person put away from himself?

9. What illustration of Jesus are we now concerned with, and who could best explain this illustration?

10. How were the disciples of Jesus different from the Jewish people in general in their desire for knowledge of Jesus' teachings?

tioned him: "Why is it you speak to them by the use of illustrations?" In reply Jesus said: "To you it is granted to understand the sacred secrets of the kingdom of the heavens, but to those people it is not granted. For whoever has, more will be given him and he will be made to abound; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him." (Matt. 13:10-12) The twelve disciples of Jesus had already gained much good information, but they wanted more. They used their thinking abilities to get the understanding of "the sacred secrets of the kingdom of the heavens." The apostles already had knowledge, and 'more would be given so as to make them abound' in knowledge. But as for the rest of the Jewish race, the indifferent ones, the unappreciative ones, even what they had as to knowledge about God and his Word would be taken away from them. By the year 70 C.E. they even lost their holy city Jerusalem, their temple, and any favor they thought they had with Jehovah God. How true that "whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

¹¹ Similar to the people in Christendom today, probably the greater number of those who were on the seashore listening to Jesus did not have great respect for his words even though they were in a covenant relationship with God. That is why Jesus went on to say: "For the heart of this people has grown thick, and with their ears they have heard with annoyance, and they have shut their eyes; that they might never see with their eyes and hear with their ears and get the sense of it with their hearts and turn back, and I heal them." (Matt. 13:15) It certainly was not the fault of Christ Jesus that the people's hearts had grown thick so that they would not listen. People today do not want to

listen to God's word either. They do not want to get the sense of it in their hearts. However, in Jesus' day his disciples wanted to get the sense of Jesus' words. Do you want to? Then listen to what he said: "Happy are your eyes because they behold, and your ears because they hear. For I truly say to you, Many prophets and righteous men desired to see the things you are beholding and did not see them, and to hear the things you are hearing and did not hear them. You, then, listen to the illustration of the man that sowed." —Matt. 13:16-18.

JESUS EXPLAINS

¹² How kind and merciful it was of Jesus Christ to go into detail and explain to his disciples just what this illustration of the sower meant. You, too, if you are truly interested in the Word of God, can open your Bible and read it and get the sense of it. If you have discernment you will be able to see just what Jesus meant by the parable. Today we are in a very favored position, just as favored as Jesus' first disciples were, because we can read, not only the illustration, but also Jesus' explanation of it. We must take the time, though, to study the Word of God, using our thinking abilities. Let us see how Jesus explained the parable.

¹³ Persons who have taken the time to read the Christian Greek Scriptures, commonly called the "New Testament," know that Jesus continually proclaimed the message concerning God's kingdom. So this parable of the sower had something to do with the Kingdom. That is why in the 19th verse of Matthew 13 Jesus said: "Where anyone hears the word of the kingdom but does not get the sense of it, the wicked

12. What is required of us if we are to get the sense of Jesus' illustration?

13. (a) With what theme was Jesus' illustration of the sower concerned? (b) Why do so many not get the sense of the illustrations of Jesus?

11. What similarity exists today among people when it comes to using thinking ability?

one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart; this is the one sown alongside the road." Millions upon millions of people throughout the world, both inside and outside of Christendom, have heard the proclamation of God's kingdom, but they did not get the sense of it. The reason is quite simple. "The wicked one comes and snatches away what has been sown." Who is that wicked one? The Bible clearly points out that Satan is the god of this wicked system of things, and that he "has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, that the illumination of the glorious good news about the Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine through." (2 Cor. 4:4) So the wicked one, Satan the Devil, the god of this system of things, is going to keep in darkness everyone that he possibly can. Are you going to let Satan do that to you? If you never read and study your Bible, Satan will keep you in his darkness. He is not going to let this good word of the Kingdom sink down into a person's heart if he has a chance to stop it. Satan is at work snatching away what has been sown. He is determined to keep the peoples of all nations in darkness. Even in Christendom he has his clergy and priests degrading God's Word. They say it is a myth, just a story written by men, not by God.

¹⁴ There is no question about the Devil and his demons as being very active at this time during the "last days" of this system of things. He does not want to have anyone getting the sense of the Kingdom message. Therefore, as the "god of this system of things," he promotes nationalism. He does not want mankind to appreciate what God's kingdom is. He tries to keep all peoples busy glorifying and worshiping the rulers and nations, being involved in the "establishment," rather than looking to the Supreme One of all the universe, Jehovah God. It can be clearly seen that people are kept busy on the broad road leading to destruction with little time to get the sense or meaning of God's Word. Even though Jehovah's witnesses call often each year at the homes of the people, the people do not want to get the sense of the message being brought to them. Have you listened and gotten the sense of what Jehovah's witnesses are saying?

¹⁵ Jesus went on to explain about the seed "sown upon the rocky places." He says: "This is the one hearing the word and at once accepting it with joy. Yet he has no root in himself but continues for a time, and after tribulation or persecution has



**The preaching of
God's word is like
the sowing of seed**

14. For what reasons is the Devil extremely active in these days?

15. Explain what happens to seed sown on rocky soil.



**The wicked one
snatches it away
from some**



**Others give way
under the heat
of persecution**



**Some allow the
anxieties of life
to choke its growth**



**Those who get
the sense of it
bear much fruit**

arisen on account of the word he is at once stumbled." (Matt. 13:20, 21) How often have you as a Christian witness of Jehovah found individuals who hear the word, get the sense of it, and at once accept it with joy? They say, "Here is the answer to all of the world's problems," and they start telling everyone they know about what they have learned. The truth from God's Word brings light and understanding to them, and it appears that they will be learners and become disciples. But there was no place for the seed to take root in the rocky places. It is just as Jesus said: "After tribulation or persecution has arisen on account of the word he is at once stumbled." Many have encountered the burning heat of opposition over the truth, just as Jesus foretold. In his prophecy about the time of the end, at Luke 21:16, 17, he declared: "Moreover, you will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death; and you will be objects of hatred by all people because of my name." It is this intense opposition to the truth even from relatives and friends that stumbles some.

¹⁶ As the Bible shows, the one hearing the word is full of joy, but he has no root in himself due to being sown on rocky places. He tells his relatives, friends and neighbors—everyone he can, about his newly found hope. Then the persecution and tribulation begin, and they do not stop until he gives up his belief in the truth from God's Word. Every possible obstacle is put in his way. Even if he goes to a clergyman and tells him what joy he has found in the Word of God, he most likely will find that he will be discouraged from studying

the Bible. He may be told, "You had better be very careful with those Jehovah's witnesses. They will lead you astray." So from relatives, friends and religious sources the opposition grows. The hard underlying self-interest will not let the seed of truth take root. At once the individual is stumbled, with no deep implanting of the Word. The rocky places are much too rough and hard for roots and for growth.

¹⁷ Then Jesus went on to say: "As for the one sown among the thorns, this is the one hearing the word, but the anxiety of this system of things and the deceptive power of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful." (Matt. 13:22) Even though the seed took root and sprouted, there were just too many thorns around to allow for its maturing. Perhaps for a short period of time in the individual's life he was able to hear the word and get the sense of it, but he keeps himself so involved with this system of things and its anxieties, and in particular with the deceptive power of riches, which seem to be the things that everyone is taught to reach out for, that these things, like thorns, just choke out the word, and the individual never produces fruit. Remember, we are in a system of things today that is wicked, selfish and unloving. It is true that each man's hand is against his neighbor, and the love of the greater number of professed Christian persons has grown cold. So it does not take long to choke out the words of truth in one when the anxiety of this system of things and the deceptive power of riches get a stranglehold on a person. So this one too is unproductive. There was no room in the person's life for the real "implanting of the word"; he is choked to death spiritually.

16. In what ways are those stumbled who are like seed sown on rocky soil?

17. Explain what happens to seed sown among thorns.

THE ONES LIKE FINE SOIL

¹⁸ However, Jesus went on to say: "As for the one sown upon the fine soil, this is the one hearing the word and getting the sense of it, who really does bear fruit and produces, this one a hundredfold, that one sixty, the other thirty." (Matt. 13:23) It is quite evident that there must be a 'hearing of the word and getting the sense of it.' There must be personal study in order for one to get the sense of God's Word. In order to promote personal study Jehovah's witnesses did conduct 1,097,237 home Bible studies every week during 1969, where it appeared that they had found fine soil. A great number of these private home Bible studies brought results. Jehovah's witnesses help people to hear the word of the Kingdom. They spent 239,769,076 hours talking to people of all nations and started tens of thousands of home Bible studies with interested persons. Not all persons continue with weekly Bible studies, but the 1969 field service report shows that over one million Bible studies were conducted regularly every week. These studies in God's Word are necessary because they help to clean out the wicked reasonings of the heart. This will allow the truth to grow. One certainly cannot grow, figuratively speaking, on the busy roadside or on rocky places or in among thorns. There has to be good soil for fine growth. What kind of soil are you? We hope you are an individual who will accept with mildness the implanting of the Word and "put away all filthiness and that superfluous thing, moral badness." If the seed of truth is going to sprout, there has to be good soil, something for the roots of the plant to go down into.

¹⁹ You can prove yourself good soil by

18. (a) Explain the results of seed sown on fine soil. (b) How have many been aided to get the sense of God's Word during the past year?

19. (a) How can one prove oneself to be like good soil? (b) What proof have we that many have been like good soil during the 1969 service year? (c) How do baptism figures for the past four years compare?

getting rid of the wicked reasonings in the heart, like murders, adulteries, fornications, thievery, and so forth. (Matt. 15: 19) God's Word implanted in one will send up a strong plant, there to bear fruit. Are you growing as a Christian? Is the truth, the word of the Kingdom, deep down in you? Are the roots taking hold and sending up a plant that will bear fruit? In encouragement of all this, Jesus finished his illustration by saying: "This is the one hearing the word and getting the sense of it, who really does bear fruit and produces, this one a hundredfold, that one sixty, the other thirty." (Matt. 13:23) Many of the interested people that Jehovah's witnesses talked to and then studied with proved themselves to be fine soil. They dedicated their lives to Jehovah and in 1969 alone 120,905 persons were baptized and became Jehovah's Christian witnesses. Can we say the dedicated, baptized persons known as Jehovah's witnesses are bearing fruit, this one a hundredfold, that one sixty and the other thirty? Admittedly someone is producing fruit! Just look back over the past few years: in 1966 there were 58,904 baptized; 1967 produced 74,981 baptized; in 1968 the number was 82,842; and now in 1969 the fruitage came to be 120,905 dedicated, baptized Christians taking up the preaching of "the word of the kingdom." Marvelous! And we thank Jehovah for his rich blessing.

²⁰ To implant something, whether a seed or the Word of God, means, first of all, to plant or set securely or deeply. The word "implant" literally means to plant in the soil so that the seed will take root and grow. Similarly, teaching is what makes for one's performance of that which is learned. When the truth is implanted in good soil the learner is going to produce something, and this product is due to learn-

20. (a) What is meant by the word "implant"? (b) How can we apply this to our teaching work?

ing. Centuries ago when the Jews were so well protected by Jehovah and they were his chosen people, he gave the parents of all Israelite children instruction, namely, that they should inculcate the truth of God's Word into their children's minds. Jehovah wanted them to have knowledge and understanding. His command to parents was: "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."—Deut. 6:6, 7.

²¹ However, the Jews as a nation failed to accept the sound counsel that was given to them by their fathers, and so they went astray, and the anxieties of the nations and the deceptive power of riches choked out the word and they lost their relationship with God. In that respect there is no difference today with Christendom. Her church members do not accept God's Word either. Most people do not want to be real Christians. The apostle Paul was cognizant of this matter in his day when he wrote: "For we have had the good news declared to us also, even as they also had; but the word which was heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who did hear." (Heb. 4:2) From what Paul says it is evident that many Hebrews had the word of God declared to them; in fact, he describes two kinds of people, those who heard and did nothing about the good news, and others who heard and were united by faith with those who were declaring the good news. Today in Christendom, Jehovah's witnesses keep going from house to house declaring good news, but most of the people have hearts that have "grown thick, and with their ears

they have heard with annoyance." (Matt. 13:15) It is not as though the people of the earth have not been given the opportunity of hearing the truth. They have! Why, for the past fifty years the good news of God's kingdom has been preached, and with greater intensity world wide, especially in the last twenty-five years. But relatively few have responded. Yet, what must those persons do that do hear and get the sense of the word of the Kingdom?

"WITH MILDNESS"

²² Jesus' half brother James very likely was well acquainted with Jesus' parable of the sower, and as he commented on this matter of planting he may have had in mind that which Jesus spoke about. He really epitomizes the entire illustration by saying: "Put away all filthiness and that superfluous thing, moral badness, and accept with mildness the implanting of the word which is able to save your souls." We want to keep in mind that the implanting of the word must be accepted with mildness. It is not going to be sounded down orally by Christian teachers into the minds of haughty and high-minded individuals. A person who has a know-it-all attitude cannot show humility. The soil must not be so hard that it is like a rock, impenetrable. When the Bible truth enters a mind that is searching for knowledge and understanding and it settles into the heart and mind of a person that has deep respect for the great Creator, then the seed will sprout and grow, and there will in due season be a coming to maturity. As Jesus said: 'It will really bear fruit.' Some persons produce a hundredfold, others sixty and still others thirty. How very true this is! When we see the accomplishments of individuals who have the truth

21. (a) What failure on the part of the Jewish nation of Jesus' day is noted in Christendom today? (b) Can the claim be made in Christendom today that it has not had the opportunity to hear?

22. (a) What fruitage of the spirit is needed in order for God's Word to be implanted in an individual? (b) What type of persons does this thus eliminate?

and spend time preaching from door to door and conducting Bible studies we know that these persons are doing just what they should do. Did not Jesus say: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them"? (Matt. 28:19) In their lifetime Jehovah's witnesses individually may bring as many as thirty persons to a knowledge of the truth, others sixty and still others a hundred. If "the word of the kingdom" is sown in good soil it will bring forth good fruit in time. Have you tried to be a Bible teacher? Have you responded to Jesus' command, "Go . . . make disciples . . . baptizing them"?

²³ There are more than a million Christian witnesses of Jehovah today that have taken the proper steps to save their lives by putting away the superfluous thing, moral badness, and all filthiness of the flesh. They believe Paul when he said: "You should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted ac-

23, 24. As regards personality changes, what have over one million Christian witnesses of Jehovah done?

cording to his deceptive desires; but . . . you should be made new in the force actuating your mind, and should put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty." (Eph. 4:22-24) The only way that one could put on this new personality, "which was created according to God's will," would be by first getting rid of the old personality. Then a change can begin to take place. That new force actuating your mind would result from your accepting "with mildness the implanting of the word which is able to save your souls." Paul was very interested in putting on this new personality, and that was why he said at 1 Corinthians 9:27: "I browbeat my body and lead it as a slave, that, after I have preached to others, I myself should not become disapproved somehow."

²⁴ The "word of the kingdom" was planted in this Saul of Tarsus, who became the apostle Paul. He proved himself to be good soil. He wanted to bear much fruit. He went—he preached—he baptized. In all this he was a good example for us today.

Some Men Became Believers

THE apostle Paul was a great evangelizer! He was willing to go to the ends of the earth to declare the good news of God's kingdom. When he was in Athens he got into quite a few discussions with the more learned men, the Epicureans and the Stoic philosophers. Quite a controversy was stirred up. "Some would say [of

1. What was the apostle Paul's attitude toward declaring the good news?

Paul]: 'What is it this chatterer would like to tell?' Others: 'He seems to be a publisher of foreign deities.' This was because he was declaring the good news of Jesus and the resurrection." (Acts 17:18) It was not long before these men hurried Paul off to the judicial hill, the Areopagus, so that they could learn more about what he had to say. While Paul was standing in the midst of the Areopagus he said:

"Men of Athens, I behold that in all things you seem to be more given to the fear of the deities than others are."—Acts 17:22.

² As we read on through the 17th chapter of Acts, from verses 22 to 34, we learn much of what Paul had to say about God. Paul told the Athenians that they had an altar on which were inscribed the words "To an Unknown God." Paul seized upon the situation to make his point, for he told the crowd that was surrounding him that they were unknowingly giving godly devotion to the "God that made the world and all the things in it." This was the very One that Paul was now going to publish to them. This "Unknown God" that Paul worshiped does not need anything, "because he himself gives to all persons life and breath and all things." Paul continues and says: This God "made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire surface of the earth." These people could find God, for he was not far off so that he could not be reached. Paul pointed out to these Athenians that by Jehovah God we have life and move and exist, even as certain ones of the poets among them had said: "For we are also his progeny."

³ Paul really stirred up the people when he told them that the God of the universe had set a "day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and he has furnished a guarantee to all men in that he has resurrected him from the dead." (Acts 17:22-31) That was something new! The men and women present to hear Paul's discourse in the Areopagus certainly had something to think about. 'In fact, all Athenians and foreigners sojourning there would spend their leisure time at doing nothing but telling something or listening to something new.' Well, Paul certainly had something new to tell

them, and some of them reacted favorably and became believers. But others, "when they heard of a resurrection of the dead, . . . began to mock, while others said: 'We will hear you about this even another time.'"—Acts 17:21, 32.

⁴ One never knows what impression the "word of the kingdom" will make on another's mind, or on what kind of soil the seed of truth may have fallen. Will it fall along the roadside, on rocky places or in among thorns? On the other hand, the seed can fall on good soil and produce fruitage. The apostle Paul was made very happy. He saw fruitage. The Bible account tells us that, when Paul went out from among their midst, "some men joined themselves to him and became believers, among whom also were Dionysius, a judge of the court of the Areopagus, and a woman named Damaris, and others besides them." (Acts 17:33, 34) So the seed that Paul sowed brought forth fruitage; in this instance, a judge, a woman and others. Paul himself had earlier proved to be fine soil, for, when the "word of the kingdom" was sounded down into his own heart and mind, he became a real preacher, a producer of a hundredfold. Remember, he established the Corinthian congregation and he wrote to them: "You yourselves are our letter, inscribed on our hearts and known and being read by all mankind. For you are shown to be a letter of Christ written by us as ministers, inscribed not with ink but with spirit of a living God, not on stone tablets, but on fleshly tablets, on hearts."—2 Cor. 3:2, 3.

⁵ True Christians keep in mind the command of Jesus: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them." (Matt. 28:19, 20) Paul certainly tried to do this in his ministry, and

2. How did Paul give testimony about the true God?
3. How did Paul really stir up the people's minds when talking about a judgment of the earth?

4. What were the results of Paul's preaching activity in Athens and in Corinth?

5. How do true Christians today show themselves to be like Paul?

he had fine success. That is what all people who have come to know Jehovah and his beloved Son, Christ Jesus, are required to do now. Real Christians today, like the apostles, must help people to whom they preach so that such ones can understand God's Word. They must be teachers and help each disciple or learner to get the sense of the "word of the kingdom." Jesus said: "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) This, Jehovah's witnesses are really trying to do. When they do make disciples it is necessary for these to dedicate their lives and be baptized in water so as to make a full expression before Jehovah and Christ Jesus and their brothers that they are going to do the will of God henceforth as that will is set forth in his written Word.

⁶ But the discipling work does not stop there. Each one of Jehovah's baptized witnesses must continue to be a learner. He keeps on studying God's Word, the Holy Bible. He wants to observe all the things that Jesus commanded of his followers. This, of course, takes time. But we do not have to wait until we know all things before we ourselves begin the discipling work. Once we have learned of the wonderful things that Jehovah has done for mankind in providing his Son as our redeemer, and what he is doing through his kingdom, then certainly we should want others to hear the "word of the kingdom" too. We should want to implant the Word of God in the hearts and minds of others because we know the word is able to save one's life. Remember what Paul told the disciple Timothy: "Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching. Stay by these things, for by doing this you will

save both yourself and those who listen to you."—1 Tim. 4:16.

⁷ Thus the baptized believers who engage in the discipling work must go on bringing forth fruitage, some a hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty. Is that asking too much of a real Christian? When Jesus ascended into the heavens there were 120 baptized Jews dedicated to Jehovah who were ready to do the work Jesus started, and anxious to know what they should do. On the day of Pentecost all 120 of them were anointed by holy spirit to preach the Kingdom. There were thousands of others that had heard about Jesus and his message but had not taken a stand, and these had to make a decision. When Peter stood up before them and said, "Get saved from this crooked generation," then "those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added." (Acts 2:40, 41) Think of the work that Jesus did in his day and of the fruitage that he brought forth! Think, too, of the apostles Peter, John, Paul and the others in the early church, and think of the fruitage they produced! When we think, too, of the fruitage being brought forth now, it is very evident that many are becoming believers. What share have you had in all this?

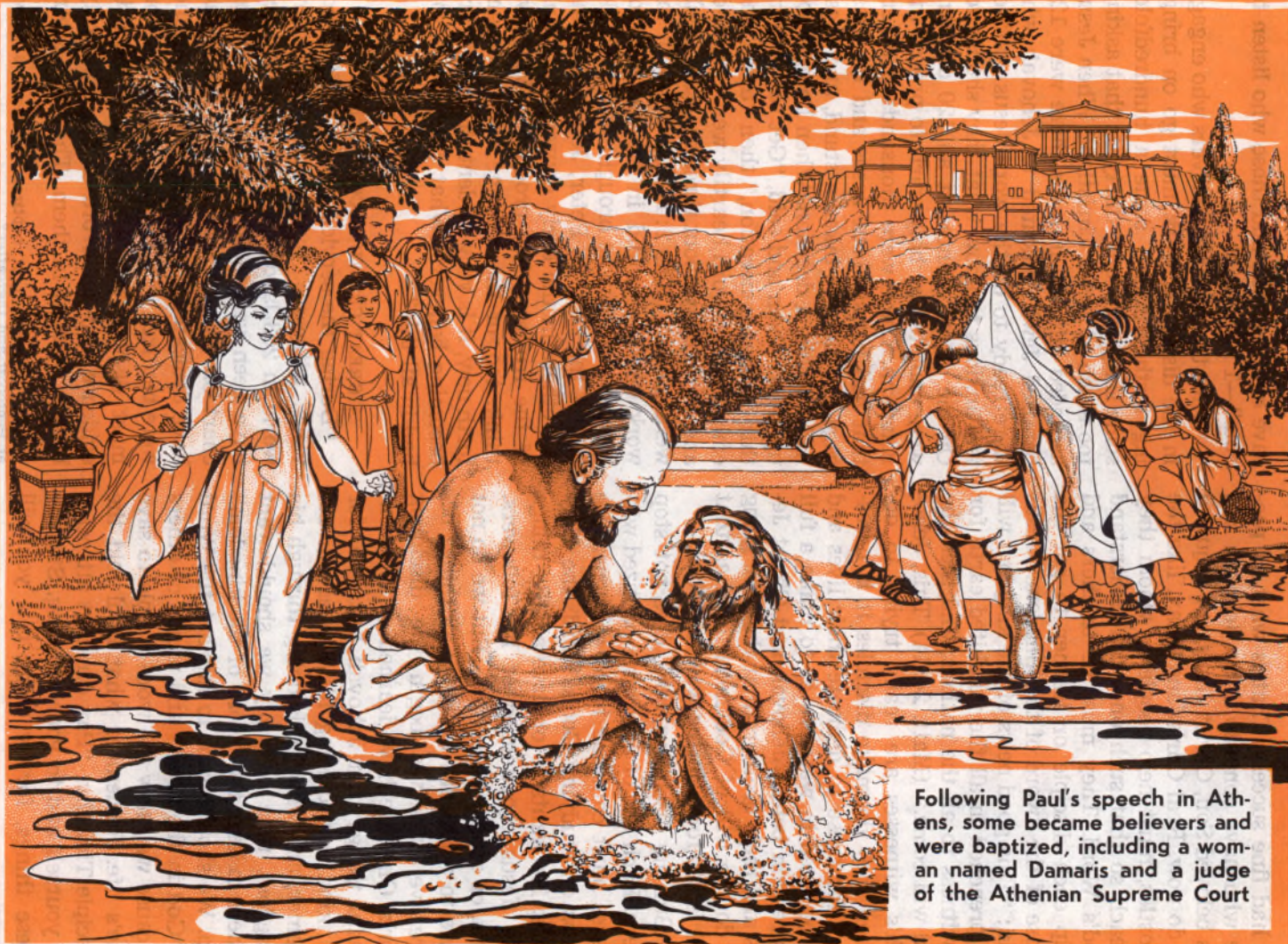
A GREAT CROWD BECOME BELIEVERS

⁸ During the service year of 1969 Jehovah's witnesses throughout the entire world in 203 lands and islands of the sea have been very active, as shown on the chart on pages 22 to 25. All those who have dedicated their lives to Jehovah and were baptized in symbol of that dedication must display their faithfulness. This is evidence that the Word of God has truly been implanted in them. They are deter-

6. Does the discipling work stop after one makes his dedication and is baptized? Why?

7. What is required of baptized believers, as shown at Pentecost and thereafter?

8, 9. How do Jehovah's people display their faithfulness, and as a result, how have others been affected?



Following Paul's speech in Athens, some became believers and were baptized, including a woman named Damaris and a judge of the Athenian Supreme Court

mined to put away all filthiness and that superfluous thing, moral badness, and they are accepting with mildness the implanting of the word, which they know is able to save them. The good that has already been done for them they now want to do for others. So Jehovah's witnesses continue faithfully preaching the good news world wide.—Matt. 24:14.

⁹ As one reads the annual report that has been compiled by the Society from its branches around the world one sees a marvelous thing that has happened. Jesus told his disciples to make disciples of others and Jehovah's witnesses have done that very thing during the past year. (Matt. 28: 19, 20) Just consider the number of persons baptized (none infants) during the past service year of 1969 and you will realize that Jehovah's witnesses have been preaching and teaching at all times, seeking to do the will of Jehovah God. In twelve months 120,905 persons made a fine decision and were baptized. They wanted the Word of God implanted in their hearts and minds just as it is implanted in the minds and hearts of all of God's dedicated people. They have taken a decisive stand on Jehovah's side. Henceforth they will do Jehovah's will as set forth in his written Word.

¹⁰ This has been a most joyful year for Jehovah's witnesses because Jehovah God has blessed their efforts so much in preaching this good news in all parts of the earth. One of the outstanding events of the year was the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses held in North America and Europe in July and August at which 840,572 persons were in attendance. These, along with others who were not able to get to one of the assemblies, are determined to keep on with the preaching of this Kingdom good news. All

are lovers of peace because they worship the God of peace. (2 Cor. 13:11) We still have work to do, and we find that, in the midst of their doing that work, Jehovah has blessed the efforts of his people so that a new peak in publishers of 1,336,112 was reached in the 1969 service year. Throughout the year there were on the average 1,256,784 ministers who could be counted on to spend time in the field ministry every month. Of course, these publishers of the Kingdom good news cannot all be in the work of spreading the message full time, but the dedicated, baptized disciples certainly are all ordained ministers. Out of all of these persons, however, there were 76,515 baptized ministers preaching full time as missionaries, special, regular and vacation pioneers. These spent anywhere from 100 to 150 hours per month spreading the good news of the Kingdom. The remaining number of persons, constituting a great congregation world wide, averaged each from ten to fifteen hours each month in the preaching of God's kingdom and implanting the word of truth in the hearts and minds of other people.

¹¹ In order to do this successfully it took a lot of time, and it is amazing to think that all of these 1,336,112 publishers together spent 239,769,076 hours in the preaching of the Kingdom good news. In what features of the ministry did they spend this time? Mainly in the house-to-house ministry, back-call and Bible-study activity, along with magazine distribution and public talks. What a joy it has been for these publishers of the Kingdom! They have indeed been striving to implant the word of the Kingdom in the minds of others. What a blessing for the people who have listened!

¹² During the past service year 1,097,237 home Bible studies were conducted on the

10, 11. In what ways was the 1969 service year a blessing to Jehovah's people?

12. (a) How did the home Bible-study activity help people? (b) What does the Memorial attendance figure show as far as interest in God's Word is concerned?

1969 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLD WIDE

Country	1968 Av. Pubs.	1969 Av. Pubs.	%Inc. over 1968	Peak Pubs. 1969	No. Bptzd.	Av. Plo. Pubs.	No. of Congrs.	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Av. Bible Studies
U.S. of America	323,688	343,673	6	359,146	29,730	20,943	5,384	9,622,498	63,098,871	1,215,357	74,804,772	29,691,893	303,420
Bermuda	94	102	9	112	5	6	1	3,883	16,876	643	21,447	7,527	113
Alaska	604	672	11	728	50	45	13	13,841	121,053	2,199	127,213	58,041	586
Argentina	14,087	15,698	11	16,583	1,618	1,058	303	367,382	3,279,101	25,760	2,860,583	1,692,237	16,385
Australia	18,305	19,838	8	20,624	1,633	1,727	456	383,891	4,761,366	29,991	3,946,412	1,957,434	17,616
Austria	8,176	8,648	6	9,081	803	399	172	167,872	1,501,978	5,307	1,740,639	762,549	6,394
Bahamas	326	353	8	380	24	21	7	15,062	63,204	2,046	84,785	32,563	360
Barbados	735	755	3	804	35	27	14	13,758	105,088	658	78,558	46,894	584
Bequa	26	24	-8*	28	2	3	1	282	6,419	2	3,249	3,213	25
Carriacou	23	23		24	1	2	1	437	5,328	21	1,800	2,328	30
Grenada	158	163	3	171	9	15	5	3,626	38,395	194	25,723	18,303	210
St. Lucia	105	110	5	117	11	18	3	3,399	35,672	197	25,334	19,808	219
St. Vincent	96	100	4	116	4	15	2	2,981	34,364	104	18,199	15,632	181
Belgium	10,162	11,360	12	12,061	1,267	520	197	227,002	2,018,618	17,968	2,111,318	1,015,860	7,860
Bolivia	714	840	18	869	124	177	24	51,421	367,654	2,643	272,723	139,527	1,617
Brazil	46,957	53,716	14	57,641	6,261	2,303	1,021	884,979	8,904,943	49,063	5,286,227	3,599,894	46,375
British Honduras	342	359	5	396	22	30	10	7,825	77,386	376	60,214	32,427	457
British Isles	52,805	55,876	6	58,096	5,563	4,263	883	880,200	11,194,720	44,655	11,025,534	5,660,423	49,586
Malta	32	34	6	37	4	4	1	353	8,617	18	1,051	3,558	40
Burma	341	431	26	469	82	87	14	4,601	182,223	2,235	77,046	76,740	636
Cameroun	9,585	11,153	16	12,240	1,069	707	262	108,017	2,900,637	3,770	309,461	1,321,337	12,625
Equatorial Guinea	206	278	35	321	66	41	7	5,555	115,538	279	9,271	50,705	535
Gabon	136	180	32	248	49	13	3	8,255	49,462	249	20,958	18,161	240
Tchad	25	42	68	58	2	8	1	1,805	21,067	95	7,621	9,789	112
Canada	41,458	43,265	4	44,700	3,621	2,536	814	631,400	7,789,506	70,829	7,045,408	3,454,319	29,794
Central Afr. Rep.	895	1,039	16	1,197	63	97	27	10,164	301,375	209	19,884	127,453	1,512
Ceylon	265	261	-2*	275	11	56	8	10,858	109,792	1,739	89,123	40,163	410
Chile	5,086	5,910	16	6,450	675	386	109	231,990	1,226,195	10,026	1,119,714	552,438	7,410
Colombia	4,626	5,485	19	6,004	588	552	124	149,228	1,465,386	4,574	862,421	677,339	7,384
Congo (Brazzaville)	1,136	1,258	11	1,366	129	94	27	13,826	337,495	294	35,515	129,800	1,442
Congo (Kinshasa)	7,351	10,908	48	13,799	1,116	665	153	100,777	2,942,819	2,178	403,453	1,074,508	13,262
Costa Rica	2,770	2,850	3	3,011	127	132	81	37,539	490,759	615	203,082	201,038	2,724
Cyprus	440	485	10	538	23	18	12	5,059	72,056	319	28,465	32,752	278
Dahomey	1,411	1,509	7	1,608	176	247	53	15,791	543,070	385	49,459	196,753	1,863
Denmark	10,730	11,164	4	11,932	960	625	212	198,156	1,699,555	6,740	2,399,504	785,858	6,384
Faroe Islands	26	41	58	45	4	11	2	1,841	16,012	83	25,807	6,216	46
Greenland	17	24	41	27	1	5	1	2,647	6,238	18	7,418	3,557	15
Dominican Republic	2,715	2,911	7	3,144	301	395	58	106,913	938,633	5,032	595,562	468,075	5,485
Ecuador	1,880	2,213	18	2,501	300	278	43	72,001	682,402	3,085	463,128	326,000	3,494
El Salvador	1,121	1,290	15	1,376	167	114	24	32,448	321,274	1,597	226,983	136,925	1,865
Fiji	311	366	18	403	18	41	8	13,162	107,767	1,214	101,549	38,526	531
American Samoa	34	39	15	46	1	4	1	3,167	11,323	275	13,834	5,258	55
Cook Islands	7	7	New	9				115	487	35	273	382	9
Gilbert & Ellice Isls.	5	7	40	10				2	886		10	662	3
New Caledonia	108	118	9	137	5	5	1	5,700	22,449	140	2,031	10,534	138
New Hebrides	9	11	22	12	1	1	1	240	1,312	45	544	953	12
Niue	13	13		15			1	205	1,339	2	1,119	687	9
Tahiti	123	124	1	132	2	4	1	6,537	27,193	624	32,143	12,446	157
Tonga	14	16	14	19	1			324	3,231	20	1,367	702	15
Western Samoa	77	87	13	97	14	8	1	2,797	25,548	103	16,084	10,017	120
Finland	9,562	9,869	3	10,232	629	556	301	210,606	1,547,931	15,904	1,882,923	826,420	6,172
France	26,614	29,754	12	32,171	4,583	1,024	555	652,068	5,246,591	73,198	5,380,259	2,934,243	25,949
Algeria	61	62	2	70	6	10	3	1,851	22,786	406	12,139	10,405	55
Tunisia	33	30	-9*	32	1	3	1	398	8,514	33	2,882	4,950	55
Germany, West	78,771	81,051	3	83,450	6,678	3,953	1,061	1,373,551	13,497,676	37,581	18,878,130	6,817,035	47,691

West Berlin	5,273	5,297		5,412	216	206	44	95,996	832,530	1,995	1,446,658	532,795	2,947
Ghana	10,385	11,937	15	12,678	1,249	887	279	159,786	2,982,243	6,243	671,741	1,260,906	13,141
Ivory Coast	220	294	34	341	38	50	7	22,540	125,169	977	80,726	65,960	903
Upper Volta	1	1		1				14	53		43	43	2
Greece	11,293	12,653	12	13,194	595	390	379	50,716	1,955,162	17	72,979	1,174,668	6,644
Guadeloupe	935	1,090	17	1,155	123	56	16	22,727	209,361	1,550	188,005	116,089	1,120
French Guiana	82	105	28	115	7	3		3,445	19,594	346	18,364	10,134	149
Martinique	297	404	36	462	67	26	4	16,359	84,513	1,368	87,765	42,119	560
Guatemala	1,571	1,752	12	1,883	142	173	36	51,794	449,118	1,560	305,970	173,721	2,348
Guyana	1,039	1,076	4	1,140	59	111	28	29,492	268,821	1,496	169,615	114,914	1,246
Haiti	1,388	1,561	12	1,674	72	168	31	23,979	474,320	315	93,053	216,002	3,012
Hawaii	2,608	2,866	10	2,980	174	373	37	90,545	809,460	11,149	751,593	403,555	3,821
Guam	37	44	19	50	2	4	1	2,170	10,639	311	11,833	4,790	49
Marshall Islands	30	44	47	50	6	9	1	843	17,621	43	5,766	5,893	95
Palau	2	7	250	13		4		866	6,953	12	4,979	4,275	37
Ponape	23	34	48	38	10	10	1	1,007	15,847	22	3,777	6,341	70
Salpan	4	7	75	9		2		454	5,782	14	3,338	2,370	19
Truk	8	7	-13*	9		2		267	3,368	6	674	2,040	30
Yap		4	New	6	1	3		446	5,177	2	778	2,287	21
Honduras	943	1,096	16	1,300	182	138	19	41,641	344,169	2,116	229,115	135,282	1,728
Hong Kong	218	218		225	16	35	8	17,748	81,783	2,716	96,214	33,047	368
Macao	8	6	-25*	7		1		106	2,271	325	1,442	994	16
Iceland	122	128	5	133	9	20	3	3,380	44,647	444	37,905	20,828	169
India	2,337	2,693	15	2,831	299	297	70	79,343	711,257	5,994	268,160	246,992	2,558
Indonesia	1,570	1,802	15	2,117	412	515	72	457,528	975,612	2,029	51,877	372,872	3,842
Ireland	773	825	7	876	37	173	19	23,764	324,001	997	215,257	120,114	694
Israel	153	155	1	170	16	18	4	26,433	41,468	439	21,557	16,605	175
Italy	12,266	14,343	17	15,346	3,050	720	345	872,474	2,866,842	36,182	2,803,857	1,530,573	14,694
Libya	36	40	11	46			1	272	3,805	7	254	1,622	25
San Marino		8	New	10				273	1,011	14	910	498	6
Somalia	1	1		1				41	123		74	31	
Jamaica	4,908	5,099	4	5,437	254	184	153	70,279	718,487	3,444	535,130	291,783	3,860
Cayman Islands	10	11	10	15		1	1	157	1,027	8	920	508	3
Japan	5,472	6,861	25	7,637	1,023	1,384	203	659,006	2,823,885	81,793	3,676,010	1,290,595	12,215
Kenya	450	632	40	731	161	88	16	60,306	229,656	2,032	98,182	95,722	990
Burundi	11	14	27	25				160	3,546	15	240	1,431	26
Ethiopia	275	334	21	384	19	9	4	2,322	87,995	274	4,452	50,486	631
Seychelles	3	6	100	7	3			125	1,183		797	949	14
Sudan	32	41	28	49		6	1	969	10,516	45	948	3,372	42
Tanzania	986	1,044	6	1,116	72	100	30	20,048	312,504	462	17,156	97,784	1,093
Uganda	59	64	8	75	6	13	2	7,311	31,503	289	18,263	17,568	144
Korea	7,403	9,379	27	10,610	2,226	1,304	227	242,586	2,880,288	30,130	2,071,536	1,154,780	13,468
Lebanon	972	1,073	10	1,130	70	66	23	76,294	237,788	21	474	96,766	1,053
Abu Dhabi	1	2	100	3				136			2	45	1
Iran	14	15	7	19		1	1	1,721	2,435	95	2,165	1,237	29
Iraq	3	3		3				85				28	1
Jordan	19	26	37	33	3	4	1	3,174	8,384	19	160	3,453	39
Kuwait	4	5	25	7				12	310			244	5
Qatar	1	1	New	1				10	8			8	
Saudi Arabia	2	2		3				15	232	2	23	142	2
Syria	122	126	3	146	12	4	5	396	21,164		10	8,929	145
Leewards (Antigua)	104	109	5	119	4	14	3	4,444	29,118	378	20,458	11,475	148
Anguilla	13	13		15		2	1	404	3,655	19	2,629	1,764	15
Dominica	159	169	6	177	8	17	7	2,537	39,432	122	15,116	16,192	146
Montserrat	26	29	12	31	4	5	2	1,423	9,086	69	5,925	3,701	47
Nevis	30	27	-10*	30	2	2	2	179	3,836	1	1,872	1,504	19
St. Eustatius	2	1	-50*	1				23	199		71	138	3
St. Kitts	86	92	7	96	7	9	4	2,338	22,562	102	12,976	11,387	103
St. Martin	37	47	27	55		6	2	1,076	13,342	89	7,545	5,962	77
Liberia	459	511	11	537	68	81	12	31,352	199,363	1,172	77,622	73,715	878

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Luxembourg	451	490	9	513	34	34	13	15,840	102,749	877	116,447	48,355	407
Malagasy Republic	295	345	17	370	49	80	10	35,686	167,288	2,239	130,379	73,704	692
Mauritius	158	181	15	199	22	24	4	4,422	56,566	217	41,086	21,056	293
Réunion	312	358	15	367	55	24	6	8,754	81,524	570	35,930	34,423	318
Rodrigues	9	12	33	15		4		420	6,569	26	1,516	2,220	27
Mexico	35,201	39,825	13	42,802	3,292	2,952	1,214	763,674	7,699,617	39,245	5,006,550	2,885,875	38,014
Morocco	115	135	17	153	37	16	4	5,112	39,070	1,087	36,053	17,325	149
Gibraltar	32	33	3	38	2	2	1	898	5,529	65	3,407	2,668	35
Netherlands	15,549	16,784	8	17,405	1,583	835	229	194,843	2,699,923	12,480	2,262,942	1,227,555	9,792
Neth. Ant. (Curaçao)	273	297	9	307	25	16	4	9,621	59,542	1,713	59,020	30,956	315
Aruba	146	143	-2*	150	1	4	4	2,619	21,830	824	23,864	11,893	111
Bonaire	20	18	-10*	24	1	1	1	126	2,416	22	1,861	1,276	18
Newfoundland	714	783	10	832	43	83	32	20,199	201,605	2,324	218,176	90,548	646
New Zealand	4,719	5,051	7	5,266	272	314	102	70,013	969,246	5,817	961,337	453,764	4,083
Nicaragua	965	1,097	14	1,166	94	104	23	29,219	283,915	900	212,222	151,615	1,513
Nigeria	41,238	49,342	20	54,179	5,390	5,188	972	613,290	14,210,566	14,330	1,167,479	5,164,120	57,285
Niger	15	22	47	31	4	12	1	1,148	25,871	55	2,602	10,569	111
Norway	4,404	4,810	9	5,075	389	224	145	142,851	727,889	7,780	943,512	345,449	2,750
Okinawa	288	355	23	374	43	60	9	36,983	129,514	2,629	182,539	52,340	585
Pakistan	135	142	5	151	9	24	3	7,030	49,285	2,003	39,418	20,191	214
Afghanistan	5	6	20	6			1	108	948	16	540	564	4
Panama	1,487	1,612	8	1,711	148	149	44	48,296	403,300	1,792	316,986	189,504	2,249
Papua	387	431	11	486	33	39	16	5,364	99,251	132	34,311	37,127	503
Bougainville Is.		2	New	2				23	30		48	24	2
Manus Island	12	13	8	15	2	2	1	200	3,667	9	857	1,672	20
New Britain	82	88	7	96	2	14	2	2,225	32,055	16	12,252	13,079	144
New Guinea	265	295	11	351	28	36	10	3,307	87,750	82	18,934	34,103	381
New Ireland	8	21	163	28		6	1	907	12,516	20	3,660	6,095	54
Solomon Islands	415	465	12	503	90	46	13	1,862	133,730			66,859	700
Paraguay	573	641	12	681	53	71	19	12,673	169,562	1,162	131,444	83,574	643
Peru	2,946	3,385	15	3,852	435	346	76	140,203	1,015,391	6,471	769,809	420,565	4,742
Philippine Republic	39,733	45,479	14	49,257	6,381	5,023	1,264	399,998	10,991,822	30,978	4,436,115	3,343,509	34,932
Portugal	4,323	5,487	27	6,037	926	270	86	134,097	1,078,608	16	29,797	492,242	7,143
Angola	126	179	42	203	55	1	3	1,246	39,374		177	32,928	371
Azores	84	93	11	100	11	5	2	1,083	13,496	6	585	6,458	91
Cape Verde Islands	3	5	67	5	3			43	751		78	376	3
Madeira	42	57	36	64	6	2	1	1,530	9,666		504	4,664	61
Portuguese Guinea		1	New	1				36	125		28	126	5
Puerto Rico	4,289	5,042	18	5,442	405	286	93	286,313	1,036,491	32,632	1,336,247	469,835	6,373
Tortola	22	33	50	40			1	977	2,733	44	3,623	963	17
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	173	199	15	219	8	8	6	10,028	31,890	954	46,519	14,963	220
Rhodesia	9,645	10,147	5	11,131	793	639	332	120,629	2,166,482	4,029	291,212	800,493	9,654
Malawi	13,568	14,594	8	17,201	1,144	680	407	978	2,156,741	50	1,229	849,767	8,304
Mozambique	1,565	2,090	34	2,838	278	56	34	3,228	385,987	53	2,498	154,266	1,650
Senegal	123	141	15	158	12	30	2	8,988	63,930	739	41,505	30,366	329
Gambia	8	6	-25*	7		3	1	776	5,743	71	4,883	3,495	27
Mali	5	4	-20*	6		1		115	2,347	25	1,683	762	18
Mauritania	1	1		2				17	54		44	48	1
Sierra Leone	592	744	26	819	96	151	25	31,274	306,311	2,039	142,431	121,245	1,460
Guinea	70	98	40	118	27	26	5	3,534	50,791	99	8,731	20,932	231
Singapore	183	189	3	201	18	21	4	7,702	49,349	2,218	55,891	18,530	243
Malaysia	134	142	6	164	17	30	6	46,531	61,829	191	15,494	23,306	294
South Africa	18,284	19,233	5	20,445	1,535	1,213	403	468,403	4,079,022	29,020	2,023,116	1,447,103	17,535
Ascension Island	1	4	300	7		1		193	741		1,441	357	5
Botswana	179	167	-7*	187	9	19	4	4,910	46,212	64	6,635	14,651	207
Lesotho	255	304	19	343	43	35	10	5,679	88,329	252	8,780	31,620	378
St. Helena	30	23	-7*	36		1	1	175	3,950	6	2,763	2,010	36
South-West Africa	150	162	8	179	13	16	5	10,442	44,065	759	48,798	17,052	208

Swaziland	580	601	4	640	50	45	9	6,902	155,345	330	35,352	55,812	716
Spain	6,252	7,800	25	8,392	1,460	643	96	281,629	2,038,230	3,437	1,037,171	1,138,085	12,411
Andorra	11	11		14				239	1,019	30	479	566	13
Canary Islands	194	234	21	269	42	23	3	8,141	59,778	67	47,920	35,921	333
Surinam	464	490	6	520	19	56	9	15,900	130,880	1,253	100,161	49,913	580
Sweden	10,248	10,758	5	11,150	634	663	230	322,474	1,861,293	27,104	2,409,104	1,012,934	7,702
Switzerland	6,497	6,841	5	7,071	398	162	138	161,605	951,003	11,160	1,391,922	511,458	5,280
Liechtenstein	6	7	17	7	48	96	35	115	565	9	578	321	4
Taiwan	1,059	1,023	-3*	1,087	22	52	18	13,961	205,546	3,558	109,281	65,338	864
Thailand	309	342	11	353	22	52	18	16,720	108,286	3,422	115,571	38,097	397
Cambodia	1	2	100	4			2	2	109	286	6,111	50	1
Laos	18	20	11	21	1	11	1	4,282	17,356	197	6,111	6,531	79
Vietnam	24	40	67	46	6	11	1	25,584	19,519	1,102	11,747	8,886	104
Togo	846	1,099	30	1,229	236	175	22	25,081	441,530	962	61,454	208,855	1,915
Trinidad	1,974	1,990	1	2,030	135	145	39	42,019	411,352	2,756	324,137	193,530	2,377
Tobago	55	66	20	77	6	8	2	1,803	20,313	130	14,964	8,876	117
Uruguay	2,462	2,737	11	2,940	288	288	54	64,982	722,995	4,691	332,555	318,666	4,073
Falkland Islands	2	2	14	2	618	325	103	185	411	14	139	162	8
Venezuela	5,067	5,770	13	6,333	7,168	1,031	859	183,565	1,240,776	7,125	847,888	569,695	6,521
Zambia	37,338	42,149	13	46,478	7,168	1,031	859	236,128	7,570,786	14,585	397,066	3,037,539	32,922
193 Countries	1,038,889	1,138,622	9.4	1,208,943	114,403	74,910	21,847	25,093,600	227,913,272	2,131,492	185,525,186	101,645,635	1,019,298
† 10 Other Countries	116,937	120,162	2.8	127,169	6,502	1,605	3,947	493,005	11,855,804	175	732,682	5,237,864	77,939
GRAND TOTAL (203)	1,155,826	1,256,784	8.7	1,336,112	120,905	76,515	25,694	25,586,605	239,768,076	2,131,667	186,257,878	106,883,499	1,097,237
MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE WORLD WIDE													
MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLD WIDE													
1968													
2,493,519													
1969													
2,719,860													
10,619													

* Percentage of decrease
Work banned and reports are incomplete

* Percentage of decrease
† Work banned and reports are incomplete

average each month throughout the entire year. Really, that is an amazing thing. Jehovah's witnesses are truly anxious to disciple people of all nations and to help them get a knowledge of God's truth from his Word so that they can take their stand on the right side, on the side of God's kingdom, which is mankind's only hope. On April 1, after 6 p.m., Jehovah's witnesses, along with others who have expressed interest in God's purpose, gathered for the annual Memorial of the death of Jesus Christ, and it is wonderful to know that 2,719,860 were present world wide that evening. Of this number, just 10,368 partook of the emblematic bread and wine, indicating that they were looking forward to being joint heirs with Jesus Christ in heavenly glory.

¹³ There are many other interesting things about the work that Jehovah's witnesses are doing. For example, in the field of Bible and Bible literature distribution we find many things to cause rejoicing in the heart. Jehovah's witnesses fully appreciate that they cannot spend all of their time with people in their homes studying the Bible. But they can leave literature in the homes for people to read so that they can learn more about Jehovah God. During the past year, in more than 160 languages, Jehovah's witnesses distributed 14,474,862 bound books and Bibles, 11,111,743 booklets and 186,257,878 *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Additionally, they obtained 2,131,667 subscriptions to these magazines.

¹⁴ In order to keep up with this wide distribution of literature at all of the Society's printing plants throughout the world, of which they have large ones in the United States, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, South Africa, England, Switzerland, Australia and Canada, they were able to produce 27,936,033 Bibles and bound books in 160 languages. They also produced 159,395-

13, 14. Tell of some interesting statistics in literature placements and production during the 1969 service year.

598 *Watchtower* magazines and 166,356,-756 *Awake!* magazines.

¹⁵ The thousands of people who have dedicated their lives to Jehovah have been willing to spend time distributing this important Bible literature to aid in implanting the Word of God in the minds and in the hearts of others.

¹⁶ Jehovah's witnesses feel the urgency of getting this work done under Jehovah God's guidance. They feel the time is near at hand for the end of this wicked system of things. Upon seeing the perplexity of the nations, that do not know the way out, they rejoice to have a message of peace and hope for the people, one based on a sure foundation, the Word of God. Prophecies are being fulfilled now, and these are

15, 16. (a) How do Jehovah's witnesses feel about the present-day state of affairs, causing them to do what? (b) But before any individual can become a baptized disciple what must his attitude be?

clearly explained in the publications of the Watch Tower Society. That is why Jehovah's witnesses feel the urgency of telling everyone that he should become a disciple of Christ Jesus. During the years ahead we can assure you that Jehovah's witnesses will make many more calls at the homes of the people as they continue to preach the good news of God's kingdom and at the same time declare the vengeance of our God. Jehovah's witnesses want to disciple people of all nations and teach them to observe all of the things commanded in the Scriptures so that they can be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the holy spirit. But before this can happen in the life of any person he must "accept with mildness the implanting of the word which is able to save your souls."—Jas. 1:21.



Acquainting Ourselves with God by His Revelations

Who had unique opportunities for getting acquainted with Jehovah God by means of awe-inspiring, miraculous visions of his glory?

The first servants of Jehovah God to be thus favored were Moses and Aaron his brother, Aaron's two sons, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy representative older men of Israel; Moses further received an even more intimate vision of Jehovah. Later, similarly to be favored were the prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and the apostle John.—Ex. 24:9-11; 33:17-34:7; Isa. 6:1-4; Ezek. 1:1-28; Dan. 7:9, 10; Rev. 4:1-11.*

What means has Jehovah provided for us to get acquainted with him?

The very 'Book' of visible creation helps us to get acquainted with our Creator, Jehovah God, in that it gives eloquent testimony regarding his power, wisdom and benevolence.

But in particular does the revelation of himself in his inspired Word, the Holy Bible, help us to get acquainted with our God and Maker. Among other things it tells us of God's unique name, Jehovah, and what his basic qualities or attributes are: love, justice, wisdom and power. It also tells us about his unique characteristics, such as his being the universal Sovereign, the Most High and King of eternity.

What effect should our getting acquainted with Jehovah by his revelations have upon us?

It should help us to grow in appreciation of Jehovah God. We should be able to pray to him with more accurate knowledge, with more freeness of speech and yet with befitting humility. We should be able to rely upon him with more confidence, "as seeing the One who is invisible." (Heb. 11:27) And it should help us to make this only adorable God evermore a part of our daily experience.

* For details see *The Watchtower*, November 1, 1969.

JEHOVAH PROVIDES PLENTY in the MIDST OF FAMINE



A FAMINE? What kind of famine? Of course, many persons see little evidence of a literal famine in their own countries. However, throughout the world there is a serious food shortage, a famine as regards spiritual food. More than 2,700 years ago an ancient inspired Hebrew prophet foretold this famine: "Look! There are days coming," is the utterance of the Lord Jehovah, 'and I will send a famine into the land, a famine, not for bread, and a thirst, not for water, but for hearing the words of Jehovah.'"—Amos 8:11.

Why should such a famine afflict also Christendom, where year after year the Word of Jehovah, the Bible, is a best seller? A prominent factor is the attitude of so many of its religious leaders toward the Bible. Typical is Lutheran professor Robert H. Smith, who holds that every Christian is as much inspired as is the Bible. And according to a professor of Christian ethics, J. C. Hough, Jr., "The Ten Commandments were not given as direct pronouncements from God Almighty; they were the deliberations of a very brilliant man," Moses.—*The Christian Century*, January 29, 1969.

That such opinions are typical and widespread is recognized by other leaders of Christendom. Thus the executive editor of *Christianity Today* (June 6, 1969) complained: "In looking over the advertisements of major theological seminaries in America, one observes that with few exceptions theological education today might be said to major in the world's secular and material needs. Who will enter in to help the spiritual needs of the people?" In a like vein a New York editor lamented the fact that the World Council of Churches at a recent gathering

had been preoccupied with mundane "issues of the day rather than with a far greater human hunger—the spiritual starvation of mankind."

But perhaps someone will ask, If the famine is due to the teachings of such men, why does the Bible say that God is sending this famine? He can be said to send it in that he does not permit these faithless religious leaders to understand and appreciate the truths of the Bible. As Jesus told such men in his day: "How can you believe, when you are accepting glory from one another and you are not seeking the glory that is from the only God?"—John 5:44.

In the midst of this spiritual famine Jehovah has provided plenty. Where? Among his faithful Christian witnesses. This is even as he foretold: "Look! My own servants will eat, but you yourselves will go hungry. Look! My own servants will drink, but you yourselves will go thirsty."—Isa. 65:13.

FORETOLD IN A PROPHETIC DRAMA

This contrasting situation was accurately foretold by a prophetic drama enacted some 3,700 years ago, and it is recorded

in the Bible book of Genesis, chapters 37 through 47.

Due to envy, his ten half brothers sold Joseph, the specially loved son of the Hebrew patriarch Jacob, into slavery. Eventually he became the slave of Potiphar, an Egyptian official, who placed Joseph over all his household. Then, because of not cooperating with the immoral desires of Potiphar's wife, Joseph was unjustly accused of immorality and was cast into prison. It was while he was in this prison that Pharaoh, ruler of Egypt, had two dreams, which none of his 'wise' men were able to interpret. This circumstance caused Pharaoh's chief cupbearer to remember that while he was in prison Joseph had correctly interpreted two dreams. So the chief cupbearer told Pharaoh about this. The Egyptian ruler promptly summoned Joseph to appear before him.

Just as Joseph had earlier observed that "interpretations belong to God," so now, too, he directed honor to God, thereby showing himself to be a true witness for his Maker. (Gen. 40:8; 41:16) Upon being told the dreams, Joseph explained that they foretold that there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. He counseled Pharaoh to put a man in charge of storing grain during the years of plenty in preparation for the years of famine. Impressed by this obviously correct explanation of his dreams, Pharaoh made Joseph his prime minister and put him in charge of that work. During the seven years of plenty "Joseph continued piling up grain in very great quantity."—Gen. 41:49.

Eventually Joseph's own half brothers also came down from the land of Canaan to Egypt for grain. Some twenty years having passed since they sold Joseph into slavery, the ten brothers did not recognize him. Besides, Joseph spoke to them through an interpreter to hide his identity.

Then Joseph skillfully contrived matters so as to put a real test upon his brothers. However, these men now showed that they had repented of the wrongs they had done to Joseph and his father. He then revealed himself to them and arranged for his father and all his large household to come to live in Egypt. As the famine continued, peoples from many lands came to Egypt for grain, and the Egyptians gradually exchanged all their belongings and even sold themselves and their land to Pharaoh for grain.

Were all these detailed events recorded solely to give us Bible history and to illustrate Bible principles? No, they were also recorded because they constituted a prophetic drama of things that were to occur many centuries later. That such events of ancient times might have prophetic significance is repeatedly noted in the Christian Scriptures.—1 Cor. 10:11.

For example, the inspired apostle Paul shows that the two wives of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, were prophetic. Hagar, the bondwoman, and her son were typical of the fleshly nation of Israel, which was in bondage because of inability to keep the Law covenant. Sarah and her son were typical of Jehovah's heavenly organization and Jesus Christ, together with his anointed footstep followers, who, like Sarah and her son, are free persons.—Gal. 3:16, 29; 4:21-26.

THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

In the drama there were certain characters who played the more prominent roles, and there were also many lesser prophetic roles. Since Joseph was a faithful and obedient son who was instrumental in saving the lives of so many persons, whom would Joseph picture? He would well picture Jesus Christ, the most faithful and obedient Son of God and who is the Savior of humankind. (1 John 4:14)

And since Jesus stated that that which was done to his followers was as done to him, we find that in this drama at times Joseph pictures Christ's anointed footstep followers.—Matt. 25:40.

Whom would Jacob, the Hebrew patriarch and father of Joseph and his brothers, picture? He would well picture the great Father of Jesus Christ and of Christ's followers, namely, Jehovah God.—John 20:17; Rom. 8:15, 16.

And what about Pharaoh, ruler of Egypt? He would well picture Jehovah God. How so? In that he was the one who empowered or authorized Joseph to serve as prime minister and food administrator, even as Jehovah God authorized and empowered Jesus Christ to be spiritual Food Administrator, giving life to the people. And did not Pharaoh also provide a daughter of a priestly family to be the wife of Joseph, even as Jehovah is providing a priestly bride for his Son, the Greater Joseph, Jesus Christ? Most assuredly!—1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 14:1, 3; 20:4, 6.

What about Joseph's ten half brothers who bore him an envious hatred and who brought so much suffering to their father? Would they not well picture those who at one time persecuted the Greater Joseph himself or his anointed footstep followers, but who then had a change of heart? That also would be a reasonable conclusion.

THE DRAMA UNFOLDS

The drama unfolds with Jacob sending Joseph to see how his half brothers are doing in the work of caring for his father's flocks. So also Jehovah God sent the Greater Joseph, Jesus Christ, to earth to look after his Father's interests. Similarly, in modern times God has sent out Christ's anointed followers world wide to care for God's interests.—2 Cor. 5:20; Matt. 24:14.

The ten envious half brothers conspired to put Joseph to death, but then sold him into slavery. They thought that they had gotten rid of Joseph for all time. Those to whom Jesus came might be said to be his half brothers in that Jesus was born of a Jewish mother, though God was his Father. They behaved toward Jesus in a manner similar to that of Joseph's half brothers. Out of envy the Jewish religious leaders successfully conspired to put Jesus to death and so thought that they had gotten rid of Jesus for all time.—Mark 15:10.

Similarly, in modern times many in Christendom were envious of the favor that Jehovah bestowed upon his faithful anointed servants and conspired to get them out of the way. When these religious opposers succeeded, back in 1918, in causing the leading ones of Christ's true followers to be put in prison and their work stopped, they thought they had gotten rid of Jehovah's true servants and they would never hear of them anymore.—Rev. 11:7-10.

In ancient times Jehovah God so maneuvered events that Joseph was exalted to become the prime minister of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. Likewise, in the first century of our Common Era Jehovah God caused Jesus to be raised from the dead and exalted to the highest place in the universe, second only to Jehovah himself. (Phil. 2:9-11) And in a similar way in modern times God caused the anointed remnant of Christ's followers to arise from their deathlike and captive condition to become free and exalted to a position of favor with God for all to see.—Rev. 11:11-13.

In the prophetic drama the seven years of plenty were followed by seven years of famine. However, in the fulfillment the years of plenty and famine run contemporaneously. Why this difference? Because

while all people who suffer from a literal famine are keenly aware of their lack of food, this is not so with most of those afflicted by a spiritual famine. Only a few, comparatively speaking, of all of earth's thousands of millions who are suffering from a spiritual famine are conscious of their spiritual need.—Matt. 5:3.

For those who are aware of their need for spiritual food Jehovah God has provided plenty in the midst of earth-wide famine. The Greater Joseph, Jesus Christ, has upon earth a "faithful and discreet slave" organization through whom he is dispensing "food supplies at the proper time," just as was foretold.—Matt. 24:45-47; Luke 12:42-44.

And even as in the prophetic drama "people of all the earth came to Egypt to buy [grain] from Joseph," so today a "great crowd, . . . out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues" have come to Jesus Christ the Greater Joseph for spiritual grain or bread. As a result, it is true of them, even as foretold: "They will hunger no more nor thirst any more, . . . because the Lamb [the Greater Joseph], who is in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them, and will guide them to fountains of waters of life."—Rev. 7:9-17.

And as the ten half brothers of Joseph were restored to his favor upon their manifesting true repentance and were provided with an abundance of food, so also in apostolic times. Some who had at one time persecuted Jesus and his followers became believers, such as "a great crowd of priests" and Saul of Tarsus. And similarly in modern times, some of those who had once persecuted Jehovah's faithful servants have repented of their misdeeds and have been brought into the favor of Jesus Christ. Now they, too, no longer hunger from spiritual famine but rejoice in plenty of spiritual food.—Acts 6:7; John 10:16; Gal. 1:23; Rev. 7:9.

The fact that the Egyptians finally sold their land and themselves, Joseph buying them for Pharaoh, so as to get food from Joseph is of striking prophetic significance. (Gen. 47:23) Thus all those today who would get life-sustaining spiritual food from the Greater Joseph must dedicate themselves and all that they have to Jehovah God. They must make a complete and unequivocal vow to do God's will and to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. They thereby become Jehovah's bond servants even as the Egyptians back there became the bond servants of Pharaoh.

Does the fact that those who today come to the Greater Joseph to dedicate their all to Jehovah mean that they will ever after be fed spiritually without any effort on their part? By no means! Jehovah's principle ever is: "If anyone does not want to work, neither let him eat." (2 Thess. 3:10) In fact, God provided that Adam should work.—Gen. 2:15.

And so it is in this prophetic drama of how Jehovah provides plenty in the midst of famine. Back there the Egyptians were given seed by Joseph so that they could plant and till their land. Upon harvesting their crops they were permitted to keep four-fifths of it and return but one-fifth for the seed and the use of the land—a most equitable arrangement. Likewise today, those who have been spiritually fed by the Greater Joseph have the obligation to help others who are also conscious of their spiritual need.

No doubt about it, today there is a spiritual famine world wide. But Jehovah has provided an abundance of spiritual food through his dedicated, faithful servants, the anointed Joseph class and their devoted companions. Happy are all those that come to them to get their spiritual hunger and thirst satisfied! Still happier are all those ministering to the hungry and thirsty ones!—Acts 20:35; Isa. 25:6.

Do You Remember?

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

● What are some of the tactics that Satan the Devil uses to draw God's dedicated people away from the true faith?

He tries to tempt them to have illicit relations by playing upon their sex impulses; he also uses materialism and bad associations. —Pp. 534, 535.*

● What are the ways in which a person can use God's name, Jehovah, in a worthy way?

He can use it in his prayers. When he reads the Bible or any related material in which God's name appears he can read it aloud. He can use it in conversation with others and in the field ministry. —P. 552.

● Why is it practical for Christians not to seek vengeance upon those who may persecute them?

Because there is always the hope that a persecutor may someday learn the facts about the ones whom he is persecuting, and if he has a good heart, he may also take up pure worship. —P. 559.

● How is the statement at John 7:39 that "as yet there was no spirit" to be understood?

It means that at that time none of Jesus' disciples had been anointed with the holy spirit and called to heavenly life. —P. 575.

● To what divine provision did the scarlet cord that Rahab the harlot tied to the window of her house point (Josh. 2:21)?

It pointed to Jehovah's provision for the salvation of the "great crowd," which provision centers in Jesus' sacrifice. —P. 594.

● According to Jesus the sabbath-day law that

* All references are to *The Watchtower* of 1969.

Jehovah gave to Israel pointed forward to what (Matt. 12:8)?

It pointed forward to the thousand-year reign of Christ, the seventh in a series of thousand-year periods or millennia. —P. 623.

● Did Moses actually see Jehovah God's form on Mt. Sinai in 1513 B.C.E. (Ex. 34:6)?

No, he just saw the afterglow of the passing manifestation of Jehovah's glory, and this only after Jehovah had taken special precautions to insulate Moses against being hurt or killed. —P. 652.

● How can *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures* serve as a safeguard against error today?

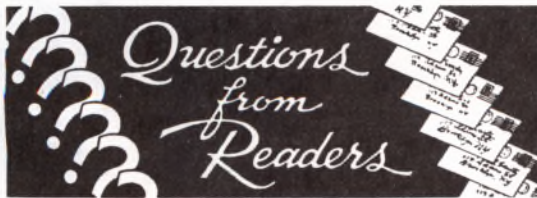
A Bible student can learn the literal meaning of expressions in the original Bible Greek by referring to the interlinear translation and thereby check up on those who claim to know Greek as to whether a matter is true or false. —P. 696.

● What is a basic requirement for genuine success in marriage?

It is to consult regularly the counsel of the Originator of marriage, Jehovah God, as found in his holy Word, the Bible, and for both marriage partners to apply it in their lives. —P. 739.

● Does Jesus' command at Matthew 28:19 indicate that certain dedicated persons are baptized as members of the "little flock" while others are baptized as members of the "great crowd"?

No, they are baptized as disciples of Jesus Christ, and God in due time can be expected to indicate to each baptized Witness whether he has been assigned to the "little flock" or to the "great crowd." —Pp. 756, 757.



● What did Jesus mean when he said that "it is not admissible for a prophet to be destroyed outside of Jerusalem"? —J. B., U.S.A.

Some time after Passover of 32 C.E. "Jesus Christ commenced showing his disciples that

he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the older men and chief priests and scribes, and be killed." (Matt. 16:21) He knew ahead of time that he was to be sentenced to death and killed in and around Jerusalem, not in Corinth, Rome, Samaria or any other city. He had been sent to the house of Israel, and he would die at the capital city of the Jews. —Matt. 15:24.

Later in that same Jewish lunar year Christ referred again to his approaching death at Jerusalem and said: "It is not admissible for a prophet to be destroyed outside of Jerusalem [or "away from Jerusalem," RS]. Jerusalem,

Jerusalem, the killer of the prophets and stoner of those sent forth to her—how often I wanted to gather your children together . . . , but you people did not want it! Look! Your house is abandoned to you.”—Luke 13:33-35.

Even though Jerusalem could be called the “killer of the prophets,” in saying that it was not admissible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem, Jesus could not have meant that no Jewish prophet had ever been killed elsewhere. According to Josephus, John the Baptist was beheaded in Machaerus, on the Perea side of the Dead Sea. Evidently, the point that Jesus was making was that it was appropriate and to be expected that if the Jews were to kill a prophet, and especially the Messiah, it would be in Jerusalem.

One reason for this was that Jerusalem was the location of the seventy-one member Sanhedrin or high court. According to God's law, a false prophet was to die. (Deut. 18:20) The Jewish *Mishna* explains: “He was not condemned to death either by the court that was in his own city or by the court that was in Jabneh, but he was brought up to the Great Court [Sanhedrin] that was in Jerusalem.” (Sanhe-

drin, sec. 11, par. 4) So, since the Sanhedrin met only at Jerusalem, and it was before this body that “false” prophets would be tried, condemned and killed, Jesus could make the comment he did, knowing that the Jewish religious leaders did not accept him as a true prophet of God.

Further, Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would be brought just like a sheep to the slaughtering. (Isa. 53:7) John the Baptist called Jesus “the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) Where, then, would be the appropriate place for Jesus to be sacrificed just like a lamb, like the Passover lamb? (1 Cor. 5:7) Would it not be in Jerusalem where the regular sacrifices were offered to God and where the Passover lamb was slaughtered? Yes, and this gives us another logical reason for Jesus to point to Jerusalem as the location of his death.

As things worked out, what Jesus said came true. He was taken before the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem and condemned. And it was there at Jerusalem, just beyond the city walls, that he died.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIELD MINISTRY

We are living at a time when many persons pride themselves on being well informed on important matters. However, despite the great strides made in scientific knowledge, the majority of the people have not been brought closer to God. To the contrary, we live in an age when the vast majority know very little about God and his loving purposes. How fitting it would be for such ones to acquaint themselves with God! (Job 22:21) Many fine provisions are available to help sincere persons who want to get acquainted with God. During the month of January those who are already acquainted with God will be extending the invitation to others to learn about his grand purposes by offering a year's subscription for the *Watchtower* magazine, along with three booklets, for \$1.



“WATCHTOWER” STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

- January 18: The Implanting of the Word, [1-19. Page 9. Songs to Be Used: 10, 68.
January 25: The Implanting of the Word, [20-24, and Some Men Became Believers, [1-16. Page 15. Songs to Be Used: 38, 101.