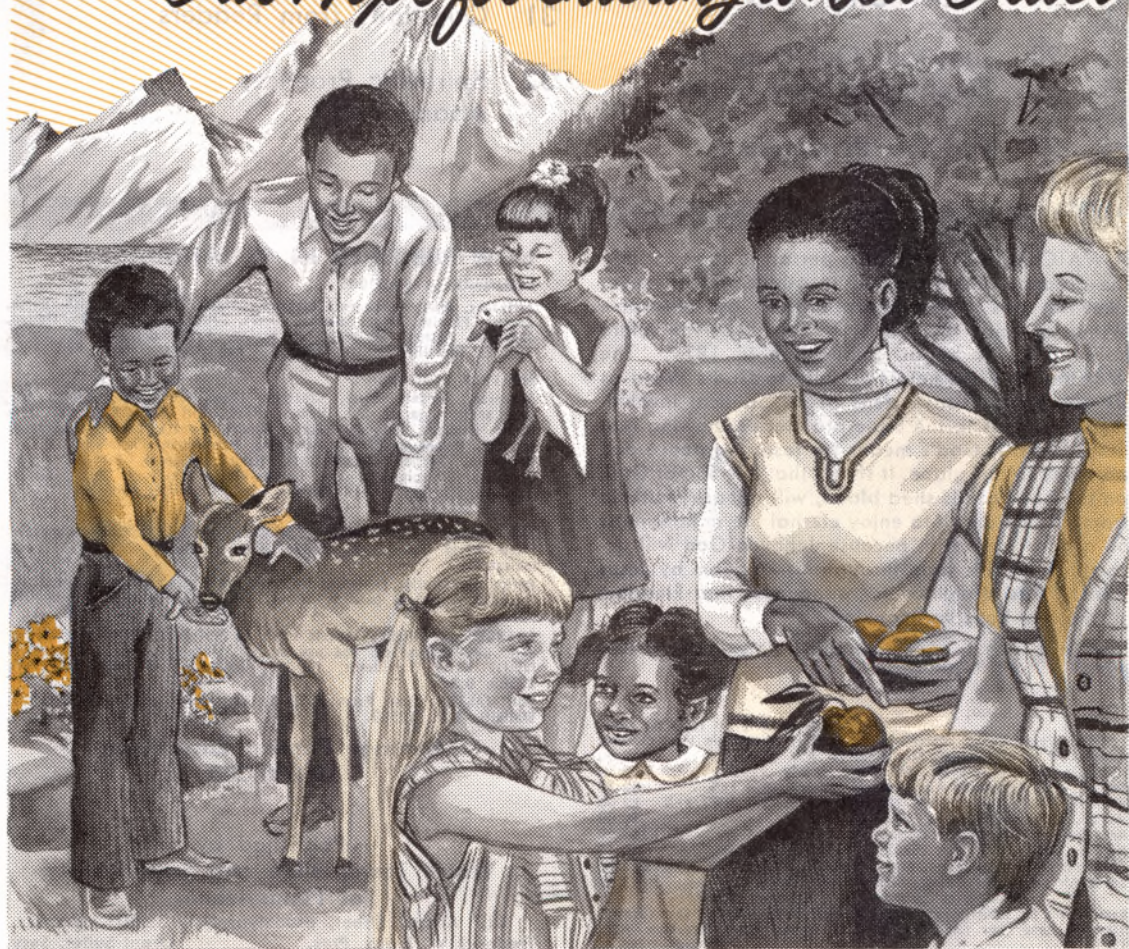


AUGUST 15, 1979

THE **WATCHTOWER**
Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom

JEHOVAH

Our Hope for Entering a New Order



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A WATCHTOWER enables a person to look far into the distance and announce to others what is seen. Likewise, this magazine, published by Jehovah's Witnesses, aids the reader to see what the future holds. Since it began publication in 1879, "The Watchtower" has held faithfully to God's Word as its authority. It stays clear of all political involvement. It points to the Bible prophecies showing that Jesus Christ is God's means for restoring peace and harmony to this globe. It shows that this Son of God, on the basis of his shed blood, will release mankind from sin and death to enjoy eternal life in happiness on a paradise earth. Because Jehovah God will accomplish all this soon through his kingdom by Jesus Christ, "The Watchtower" announces that kingdom as the real hope for mankind.

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"THERE are the pronouncing of curses and practicing of deception and murdering and stealing and committing of adultery that have broken forth, and acts of bloodshed have touched other acts of bloodshed." (Hos. 4:2) 'Why,' the casual Bible reader may say, 'that certainly describes ungodly persons today.'

True, the world of mankind alienated from God has for centuries engaged in such sinful acts. But reflect on that statement recorded by God's prophet Hosea. To whom does it apply?

A WARNING AGAINST SPIRITUAL DECLINE

The preceding verse states: "Hear the word of Jehovah, O sons of Israel, for Jehovah has a legal case with the inhabitants of the land [in which the Israelites resided], for there is no truth nor loving-kindness nor knowledge of God in the land." (Hos. 4:1) So the strong words of Hosea 4:1, 2 applied principally to whom? To people in a covenant relationship with God. They had failed to live up to his righteous requirements.

Since 'all Scripture is beneficial for teaching and reproving,' a Christian will be wise if he does not view these words as of concern only as they relate to the world in general. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) Rather, if he recognizes that they were originally directed to God's people of that time, he will benefit personally. Not only will he realize that he must avoid such wrongdoing as the practicing of deception, but he will accept Hosea's words as a *personal*

warning against spiritual decline through departure from godly ways.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

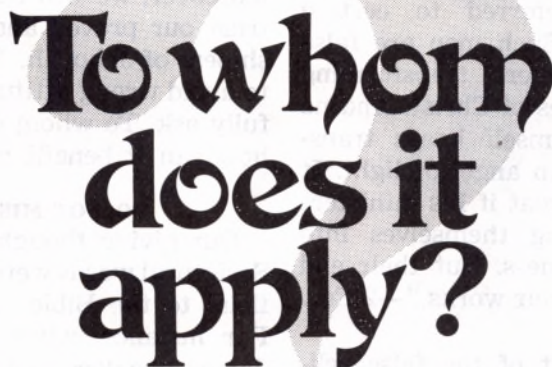
The psalmist David said: "O Jehovah, why have my adversaries become many? Why are many rising up against me? Many are saying of my soul: 'There is no salvation for him by God.'" (Ps. 3:1, 2) To whom did that statement apply? To worldly enemies of God's people?

Jehovah's people do have adversaries among those having no personal relationship with God. But these words of King David applied to adversaries among his own people, the Israelites. Many of them were saying, 'God is not going to save David.' In fact, as the superscription

of the third Psalm shows, it is "a melody of David when he was running away on account of Absalom his son." David's enemies included a member of his own household, a man

belonging to a nation of God's people. Absalom had conspired against his own father and had driven him from the throne. This conspiracy ended in failure. (2 Sam. 15:1-18:33) Nevertheless, we may derive increased personal benefit from this psalm if we ask, How can I apply this information in my own service to God?

Since Absalom's rebellion took place among God's people of ancient times, the incident may alert a Christian to a personal need to guard his own spirit. It may serve as a warning against yielding to yearnings for personal prominence, perhaps by devious actions that are intended



To whom does it apply?

to exalt him and harm others devoted to Jehovah. Then, again, fully realizing to whom the words of the third Psalm applied in David's time may impress on a Christian the need for personal fidelity to family members and others who are whole-souled in their devotion to Jehovah. For example, even after becoming an adult, a child may thus be reminded that he should be loyal to aging Christian parents.—Prov. 19:26.

ATTITUDES TO BE AVOIDED

Centuries after David's day, the Christian apostle Paul referred to certain enemies and wrote: "Such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself keeps transforming himself into an angel of light. It is therefore nothing great if his ministers also keep transforming themselves into ministers of righteousness. But their end shall be according to their works."—2 Cor. 11:13-15.

"What an indictment of the false religious clergy of Christendom!" someone may exclaim. But, in reading Paul's scathing statement, ask yourself, To whom did it apply?

The apostle was writing to the Christian congregation in Corinth. His inspired letter was directed to believers—to God's people. Some prominent men among them showed animosity toward Paul, were 'false apostles, deceitful workers, ministers of Satan.' And those unscrupulous men professed to be spirit-begotten followers of Jesus Christ. They evidently entertained the hope of one day ruling with Christ in heaven. In fact, those arrogant men apparently had already sought such prominence among fellow believers that it was as though they had already "begun ruling as kings"—of course, without the apostle

Paul, whom they despised. (1 Cor. 4:8-14) Men with such attitudes would never be accepted as heavenly associate rulers with Christ, no matter how great and righteous they considered themselves to be. "God opposes the haughty ones, but he gives undeserved kindness to the humble ones."—Jas. 4:6.

By reflecting upon Paul's words at 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, and by not applying them exclusively to worldly clergymen, Christians will be alerted to the personal danger of becoming haughty and deceitful. Moreover, we will be moved to accept and trust our proved and faithful fellow worshipers of Jehovah. Yes, we can be helped to avoid wrong attitudes when we thoughtfully ask, To whom did it apply then, and how can it benefit me now?

DO NOT MISS THE POINT

Our giving thought as to whom certain Scriptural words were directed can be beneficial to the Bible reader in many ways. For instance, when reading the book of James, one does well to realize that it dealt with problems *inside* the Christian congregation, "the Israel of God." (Jas. 1:1; Gal. 6:16) This leads the present-day Christian to apply *personally* such counsel as that found in chapter two of that inspired letter. And this should prompt him to avoid showing favoritism and making class distinctions. This, in turn, will aid him to act with impartiality.

Of course, persons of the world engage in wrongdoing. They often lack fidelity to family members, as did Absalom. Also, they make false claims and show favoritism. Yet, how vital it is to consider the context when reading the Scriptures! Then a person is less likely to miss the full force of what he reads. Rather, he may realize true *personal* benefit if he pauses to ask, To whom does it apply?



what does RIGHTEOUS RULE mean to you?



HOW desirable would be a rulership that is distinguished by an active concern for all its subjects! If poverty, oppression and injustices could be removed, this would surely mean refreshing relief for earth's inhabitants.

In the 72nd Psalm, evidently written by David (verse 20), we find the description of a rulership that will accomplish this. It is the kingdom of God by Jesus Christ. A foregleam of this rulership was provided by the peaceful and prosperous reign of King Solomon during the period of his remaining a faithful servant of Jehovah God. Pointing forward to the initial fulfillment, the superscription of Psalm 72 says, "Regarding Solomon."

The opening verse reveals that righteous rule cannot exist apart from the eternal principles of divine justice. We read: "O God, give your own judicial decisions to the king, and your righteousness to the son of the king." (Ps. 72:1) These words constitute a prayerful appeal that the king, in rendering decisions, might express Jehovah's judgments. Moreover, the righteousness that distinguishes the true God

should also be an attribute of the king's son.

The expression "son of the king" fits both Solomon and Jesus Christ. Solomon was the son of King David, whereas Jesus is the Son of the great King Jehovah God. (Isa. 33:22) Regarding Solomon, his subjects came to recognize "that the wisdom of God was within him to execute judicial decision." (1 Ki. 3:28) And Jesus Christ said: "I cannot do a single thing of my own initiative; just as I hear, I judge; and the judgment that I render is righteous, because I seek, not my own will, but the will of him that sent me."—John 5:30.

Of course, for righteousness to flourish, all persons must receive the benefits of impartial justice. The psalm continues: "May he plead the cause of your [God's] people with righteousness and of your afflicted ones with judicial decision. Let the mountains carry peace to the people, also the hills, through righteousness. Let him judge the afflicted ones of the people, let him save [deliver from oppression] the sons of the poor one, and let him crush the defrauder." (Ps. 72:2-4) When justice

is administered impartially to all, including the afflicted and the poor and their offspring, the result is peace and security. Then no one has to live in fear of being defrauded or of having his rights denied. For the mountains and hills that dominate the landscape to "carry peace to the people" would mean that such peace would extend throughout the land. It is just as when the streams and rivers that have their sources in hills and mountains carry life-sustaining water to the valleys and plains. Those who commonly suffer under corrupt rule will enjoy security, as all oppressive, fraudulent men will be 'crushed,' punished or brought to justice.

Such a righteous rule would bring great honor to Jehovah God. As the psalm says: "They will fear you as long as there is a sun, and before the moon for generation after generation." (Ps. 72:5) Since the king expresses the judgments of Jehovah, the subjects will have a wholesome fear of the Most High. This fear would last as long as the sun and moon continue, throughout all generations. When, for example, Solomon judged the case of two prostitutes, the people, seeing the evidence of divine wisdom in action, did 'become fearful.' (1 Ki. 3:28) It may also be noted that the miracles performed by Jesus Christ while on earth filled many persons with a wholesome fear and moved them to praise Jehovah God.—Matt. 9:8; Luke 7:16.

The refreshing effect of righteous rule is described as follows: "He will descend like the rain upon the mown grass, like copious showers that wet the earth. In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abundance of peace until the moon is no more. And he will have subjects from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth." (Ps. 72:6-8) The king's righteous rule would be as refreshing as abundant showers that are needed to make

the mown grass flourish. In view of the existing peace and security, the righteous person could "sprout," that is, flourish or prosper. Sooner would the moon pass away than would peace end under this righteous rule.—Compare Matthew 5:18.

It is noteworthy that Solomon's reign was outstandingly peaceful. The Bible reports: "Peace itself became his in every region of his, all around. And Judah and Israel continued to dwell in security, everyone under his own vine and under his own fig tree, from Dan to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon." (1 Ki. 4:24, 25) Under the rulership of Jesus Christ, the "Prince of Peace," we can expect even a grander fulfillment of the psalmist's words.—Isa. 9:6.

Solomon's dominion extended from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the Euphrates River to the land lying to the south and the west. (Compare Exodus 23:31.) But Jesus Christ will rule over the entire earth.—Zech. 9:9, 10; compare Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45; Matthew 21:4-9; John 12:12-16.

Regarding the peoples who would come under the king's authority, Psalm 72 states: "Before him the inhabitants of waterless regions will bow down, and his very enemies will lick the dust itself. The kings of Tarshish and of the islands—tribute they will pay. The kings of Sheba

In Coming Issues

- How Genuine Is Your Love?
- "Figs" That Give Pleasure even to God
- "The Keys of the Kingdom"

and of Seba—a gift they will present. And to him all the kings will prostrate themselves; all the nations, for their part, will serve him.” (Vss. 9-11) What do these words indicate? The tent-dwelling nomads inhabiting the wilderness region to the east of the land of Israel would submit to this king. His enemies would submissively prostrate themselves before him, with their faces touching the dust itself. Tribute would be brought from far and wide. You may read at First Kings 10:22-25 the extent to which the psalm was fulfilled during Solomon’s reign.

However, compared with the rule of Jesus Christ, the dominion and glory of Solomon will pale into insignificance. Not only has the Son of God inherited dominion over the whole earth, but even the angels of heaven acknowledge his lordship.—Phil. 2:9, 10; Heb. 1:3-9; 2:5-9.

The greatness of the king’s dominion does not mean that he would have no time for giving individual attention to the needs of his subjects. He was to be accessible to all and to have depth of concern for them. Verses 12 through 14 of Psalm 72 tell us: “For he will deliver the poor one crying for help, also the afflicted one and whoever has no helper. He will feel sorry for the lowly one and the poor one, and the souls of the poor ones he will save. From oppression and from violence he will redeem their soul, and their blood will be precious in his eyes.”

Yes, even the lowliest subjects could have an audience with this king, and he would come to the rescue of all needing help. He would take pity on the poor and the needy, delivering them from the wrong that is being done to them. To him, blood, representing human life, would have a very high value, would not be something to be shed without genuine cause. During Solomon’s reign, the subjects did have access to the throne for judgment. This is clear

from the fact that two prostitutes were able to come before him with their case, and heard a just decision pronounced on that very day. (1 Ki. 3:16-27) How different he was from the Persian kings of a later period! Not even a queen could come uninvited before her husband without jeopardizing her life. (Esther 4:11) On earth, the one greater than Solomon, Jesus Christ, repeatedly demonstrated his active concern for humankind. When he saw the crowds, “he felt pity for them, because they were skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matt. 9:36) Why, he even gave up his life for humankind.—Matt. 20:28.

With reference to such a king as described by the psalmist, it would only be right to exclaim: ‘Long live the king!’ He should receive tribute and, in behalf of such a ruler, prayers should be offered up. He would be deserving of blessing, not cursing. These thoughts are emphasized in verse 15 of Psalm 72: “And let him live, and to him let some of the gold of Sheba be given. And in his behalf let prayer be made constantly; all day long let him be blessed.”

How can we act in harmony with the spirit of Psalm 72:15 toward Jesus Christ? This is done by loyally submitting to him, ‘openly acknowledging him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.’ (Phil. 2:11) Note how the sentiments of Psalm 72:15 parallel the following words of Revelation 5: 13, 14: “Every creature that is in heaven and on earth and underneath the earth [the dead who will be resurrected] and on the sea, and all the things in them, I heard saying: ‘To the One [Jehovah God] sitting on the throne and to the Lamb [Jesus Christ] be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.’ And the four living creatures [the cherubs] went saying: ‘Amen!’ and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

Describing the prosperity that would attend righteous rule, Psalm 72 continues: "There will come to be plenty of grain on the earth; on the top of the mountains there will be an overflow. His fruit will be as in Lebanon, and those who are from the city will blossom like the vegetation of the earth."—Vs. 16.

Being free from the devastations of war and the insecurity brought about by injustice and oppression, the subjects could peacefully pursue agriculture. With God's blessing, the ground would produce abundantly. It would be as if grain were growing along the sides of the mountain, clear to the top. Since mountaintops are not generally places for there to be an overflow of grain, the words "on the top of the mountains there will be an overflow" present a beautiful picture of how great the abundance would be. The fruitage would be flourishing as Lebanon, yes, like the massive cedars of Lebanon that are luxurious in their growth. This may indicate that the stalks of grain would be tall and thick, able to support heavy ears of grain. Even the inhabitants of the city would flourish, becoming numerous as the vegetation. This proved to be true during Solomon's reign, for we read: "Judah and Israel were many, like the grains of sand that are by the sea for multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing." (1 Ki. 4:20) Even better conditions will exist in the "new earth" under the rule of Jesus Christ.

Truly, righteous rule and its accompanying blessings should give rise to deep gratitude, the kind of appreciation described in Psalm 72:17: "Let his name prove to be to time indefinite; before the sun let his name have increase, and by means of him let them bless themselves; let all nations pronounce him happy." The name of a king who rules in righteousness deserves

to continue for time indefinite. In the case of Solomon, the psalmist's words express the wish that his dynasty continue and flourish. For the name to "have increase" would point to the king's having offspring to continue the dynasty. And for the people to bless themselves by the name of the king would mean to mention him in wishing like blessings on others. That people of other nations must have pronounced Solomon happy is evident from the expression made by the queen of Sheba: "Happy are your men; happy are these servants of yours who are standing before you constantly, listening to your wisdom!"—1 Ki. 10:8.

The words of the psalmist are grandly fulfilled in Jesus Christ to whom Jehovah God gave "the name that is above every other name." (Phil. 2:9) Being the immortal Son of God, he needs no successors. Since he has life-giving power, he can restore the dead to life and thus become the father to many millions. (Isa. 9:6, 7; John 5:26, 28; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16) What great increase that will mean for his name! As the primary 'seed of Abraham,' he is the one by means of whom "all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves."—Gen. 22:18.

How desirable will be the righteous rule of the Son of God! The queen of Sheba said to Solomon: "May Jehovah your God come to be blessed, who has taken delight in you by putting you upon the throne of Israel; because Jehovah loves Israel." (1 Ki. 10:9) May we likewise bless Jehovah for designating his Son as king, taking up the words of the psalmist: "Blessed be Jehovah God, Israel's God, who alone is doing wonderful works. And blessed be his glorious name to time indefinite, and let his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen."—Ps. 72:18, 19.



Joyful, despite my handicap

As told by Lee Doo-yong



It was a cold wintry day in February 1951 when retreating fellow soldiers left me for dead in a foxhole. I was severely wounded in both legs. With only snow to eat, by the third day the pains from hunger were greater than the pains from my wounds. On the seventh day enemy soldiers found me, only to leave me to die. During this time I prayed to "God," whoever he might be. If he would help me now, I promised I would serve him.

THE war that burst forth in June 1950 changed the lives of all of us on the Korean peninsula. I was inducted into the military forces of South Korea later that year, and within four months I lay terribly wounded in a foxhole. This gave me time to think, since that was all there was to do.

I was brought up in the Buddhist religion but it never instilled any real hope in me. In addition, my parents believed in many teachings of Con-

fucius, ancestor worship being a big thing in our family life. But now, when I needed help, I looked elsewhere, praying to "God," called *Ha-nanim* in Korean.

Finally, Red Chinese soldiers captured me and took me to an abandoned house where a few of my fellow soldiers were being held. Not wanting to be taken by the North Korean forces, I escaped, dragging myself along the ground. But I was captured again by the Red Chinese, who soon abandoned me as not alive enough to be taken as a prisoner of war.

By now about 50 days had passed since I had been wounded.

I fell into a deep sleep. Sometime later, because of the seesaw nature of the war, friendly South Korean soldiers found me. The field hospital in Wonju, Korea, where I was taken, was not equipped to take care of the gangrene that had set in, so I was moved to the hospital in Pusan. My left leg was amputated at the upper thigh, and my right leg was cut off below the knee. I was depressed and discouraged, feeling that I had no reason to live.

HOPE IN RELIGION?

During my hospitalization an army chaplain visited me. Since I had already prayed to God, I wondered now whether this "Christian" religion would bring substance and joy to my life. But any hope I had soon faded.

The chaplain was a nice person. He told me

that I had served my country well, and would consequently go to heaven. Yet I could not relate to that. My attendance at their services in no way enhanced my knowledge of God or gave me reason to live. In fact, it convinced me that the "Christian" belief in eternal torment not only was unreasonable, but could not be from the true God.

ATTEMPTS AT REHABILITATION

My two years in the hospital were painful, bitter and empty. The first time the nurses helped me to walk with my new artificial limbs, an airplane flew over and, as I looked up at it, I fell over backward. This completely unnerved and frustrated me. The nurses worked hard to encourage me, even suggesting that in time I would be able to dance with my new legs. But I found no comfort in what they said.

Shortly thereafter the nurse caught me taking 15 tranquilizer tablets that I had secretly saved up in an attempt to take my life. She made me vomit them up. I lived through three such suicide attempts.

In the spring of 1953, at age 23, I was discharged with a very small pension. My life had no direction to it. Both my parents were killed in the war, and the only place I had to go was to my older brother's. In the Orient, the older brother becomes the head of the house in such situations, and all the younger brothers and sisters become subject to him, especially in family matters. I wanted freedom from this tradition and an independent life. I thought that having a wife would help me to attain this.

But here in Korea one does not just go to another and propose marriage. There must be a go-between, one who arranges the marriage, either a relative or a close friend. My friend's wife took on this obligation and found a young girl who had a will to help. Marriage brought me a measure of independence, but life still

proved to be difficult. Together, my wife and I passed through many hardships, including economic problems.

TOUCHED BY RELIGION PERMANENTLY

It was a very hot day in August 1955 when the question was presented to me: Can You Live Forever in Happiness on Earth? One of Jehovah's Witnesses called at my door and offered a booklet with that title. The question was a good one for me. That Witness was to become a great influence in my life.

On one of his first return visits I was very much relieved to hear him explain from the Bible that there is no burning hell. In time I began to see that there is a God of love. This, along with the prospect of enjoying a happy life on earth forever, opened up to me something that I could relate to. (Ps. 37:29) And in my condition, with my lower limbs missing, you can imagine how happy I was when prophecies were read to me from the Bible about the lame ones leaping as animals do. This indeed was real hope and encouragement!—Isa. 35:6.

After the third or fourth visit of the Witness I found myself praying to Jehovah and expressing appreciation for what I was getting to know. I was so thrilled by what I was learning from the Bible that some nights I lost sleep just thinking about these things. Now, for the first time, I had a real reason to live. It was not just to get life, but to use my life to serve our loving Creator, Jehovah God.

I was so happy about what was happening that my enthusiasm bubbled over to fellow handicapped veterans with whom I was in business. Three of them soon joined in our weekly Bible study.

CONGREGATION ASSOCIATION

Attending my first meeting at the Kingdom Hall was not easy for me. I was very sensitive about my condition, crutches and

all, and I disliked having people show me pity. So I usually avoided gatherings. The only excuse I gave for not going to the Kingdom Hall was that I could not climb the two flights of stairs, even though that was not the real problem.

Then, within a few weeks of his first visit, the Witness brought with him an American missionary who regularly visited congregations in Korea. He also encouraged me to attend meetings at the Kingdom Hall, pointing out the need and the benefits. I was deeply impressed to have him visit my humble place and speak my language, which I knew was difficult for him. So it was hard to say No to his invitation.

When the day came, I was there at the Kingdom Hall. What a profound effect it had on me! Never had I experienced a gathering of such people, eager to learn more about God's purposes and to serve Him. This was so different from religious gatherings either in Buddhist temples or in any church I had attended. From that time on regular attendance at the Kingdom Hall was part of my life. The hour and twenty minutes it took me to walk the two and a half miles (4 km) was well worth the effort.

OTHER CHANGES AND DEDICATION

After I was wounded in the war, excessive drinking and smoking had become very important in my life. They were the only things at the time that seemed to ease the pain, both mental and physical. But after about three months of Bible study and association with the Witnesses, who neither use tobacco nor get drunk, I saw the need to give up these unclean habits. My physical and mental condition no longer required these props. Bible truth was treating not the symptoms of my problems, but the causes of them. As a result, the quality of my life became richer.

According to Korean custom, the head

of the family takes the lead in ancestor worship, and all the younger brothers and their wives are expected to follow his lead. The occasions for ancestor worship arise a number of times each year. After realizing that God's Word shows the dead to be unconscious and unable to help or hinder us, I refused to share in this false worship. (Eccl. 9:5, 10) This came as a shock to my older brother. Because I would not participate, his opposition grew against my wife. It was extremely difficult for her to stand up against this opposition and to become a Witness.

About nine months after my first contact with the Witnesses, a national assembly was held in Seoul. For the first time a member of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses was present, N. H. Knorr. I was thrilled by his encouraging Scriptural talks. This large assembly reinforced my faith as I saw the organization and orderliness of the people and their care for one another. On this occasion, in April 1956, I was baptized in symbol of my dedication to serve Jehovah God, along with over 300 other assembly delegates.

TRUSTING IN JEHOVAH

My first partners in business were fellow veterans, one of whom was baptized with me. However, other partners, because I devoted so much time to Christian meetings, Bible study and preaching to others, took advantage of me. They eventually took all my customers and set up their own business. To pay off our debts, I had to sell the small house I had, and for a while our family lived in a temporary shelter under a tarpaulin roof.—Matt. 6:33.

Being a veteran, well-paying jobs were available to me. However, taking these jobs would have required my violating my Christian conscience, because the jobs were connected with activity described in the Bible as unacceptable for God's servants.—Isa. 2:4.

Yet help came from an unexpected source when a director of a hospital for the handicapped approached me and asked if I would make knitted items for use in his hospital. Although I had no experience in this, I trusted in Jehovah and looked at my secular work as his means of providing for our necessities. For the past five years, with my son's help, we have been able to make a reasonably comfortable living without interrupting our responsibilities and privileges in the Christian congregation.

JOINED BY MY FAMILY IN TRUE WORSHIP

I regularly took my children to the Kingdom Hall, and remember some trying times when the young ones were mischievous while I was on the platform. Even though my wife was opposed to any physical discipline, I felt that there was a time and place for it. On the way home from the meetings I took advantage of a vacant lot to sit down and reason with them on why they should behave. Sometimes, when they knew they were going to get spanked, they took off and ran faster than my crutches could carry me and escaped this aspect of their training. Now we all look back and laugh about it, but at the time I surely envied parents who had whole bodies.

After my wife began studying the Bible, and became spiritually strong enough to stand up to my older brother in matters of ancestor worship, she was baptized in 1969. This added to the richness of our family life, and training the children was no longer the problem it had been. We were happy when our first daughter married a ministerial servant in another congregation.

We have had a goal in training our children. This has been to cultivate in their hearts a desire to serve Jehovah. We have

held before them as highly desirable the full-time preaching and teaching activity. And all our children have tasted this grand service. Since 1974 our second daughter, Mee-hee, has been in this full-time service, which has helped our family spiritually.

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITY

About four years after my baptism a congregation was formed near our house, and I was appointed the congregation servant (presiding overseer). We have since formed three other congregations from that one. I have especially been interested in giving attention to unbelieving husbands of our Christian sisters, thus far being able to help over 30 of them to become Witnesses. These later admitted that, because of my physical condition, they could not refuse to talk to me. Others, who have not accepted the truth, have at least been more understanding toward their Christian wives, who have appreciated this.

One husband was a believer in the teachings of Confucius and opposed his wife very much, mainly because he thought a woman's place was in the home and that she should be there all the time. This, of course, meant that she would be unable to attend Christian meetings or share in preaching to others outside the home. I called on him on several occasions, getting friendly with him. Finally, at his wife's persuasion, he consented to attending a session of one of our assemblies. He was so impressed with the program and people there that on his way home he visited me and asked for a Bible study. He is now an elder in the Christian congregation.

It has been almost a quarter of a century since I began learning the Bible truths that have given such meaning and hope to my life. I have never lost my confidence in the precious promises of God, and this is what has given me such joy in living, despite my handicap.

Bible translations—

does it matter which one?



TODAY all the Bible manuscripts we have are only valuable copies of the originals in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek—and most of them are in museums. In any event, few of us are able to read these ancient languages. So we have no alternative but to use modern translations. It is essential, therefore, to use good discernment in assessing Bible translations to be sure that we are reading a faithful and accurate reflection of the original writings.

THE GENERALITY OF PARAPHRASE

What do you look for in a Bible translation? Basically, there are two types: a literal rendition and a paraphrase. The first clings as closely as possible to the original language, that is, as much as idioms and word choice will allow. In contrast, the paraphrase is a “free” translation in which the translator seeks to express the original writer’s thoughts as he may interpret them rather than the exact words used in the text. Evidently these two lines of approach are quite different,

and the looseness of the paraphrased Bible does hold hidden dangers, as we shall see.

In the Preface to the paraphrased *Living Bible*, the following statement is made: “Whenever the author’s exact words are not translated from the original languages, there is a possibility that the translator, however honest, may be giving the English reader something that the original writer did not mean to say. . . . For when the Greek or Hebrew is not clear, then the theology of the translator is his guide.” Let us consider just one example to illustrate this problem.

In Acts, chapter 15, we have recorded for us the important meeting of the apostles and older men held in Jerusalem to decide on the issue of circumcision. The outcome of this gathering was also the settling of the matter of Christian doctrine on the vital issue of blood and its uses, along with the prohibition on fornication. Notice, however, how *The Living Bible* interprets the words of James at Acts 15: 19 and the declaration of the letter as

recorded in verse 28: "And so my judgment is that we should not insist that the Gentiles who turn to God must obey our *Jewish laws*." "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden of *Jewish laws* on you." (Italics ours)

A check on Greek manuscripts clearly shows that the references to the "Jewish laws" are interpolations, added as a direct result of the free translation. Does that matter, bearing in mind that James and all those in his company were of Jewish lineage and that the Jewish laws did prohibit the things mentioned? Indeed, it does! In fact, if accepted, this rendering could put Christians in a state of dangerous compromise, for the simple reason that the prohibition on blood and its uses was imposed centuries earlier by Jehovah upon the patriarch Noah and his family. (Gen. 9:1-6) Although that prohibition later was incorporated in the Mosaic law, which did pass away, it has never been repealed and its application to the entire human family today is beyond question.

Paraphrase Bibles are often colorful and easy to read. But, in their use, caution needs to be exercised at all times. For rapid reading, to get the overall feel of a passage of Scripture, they may have some merit. However, guard against taking what you read in detail as being completely reliable and accurate. Kenneth N. Taylor, in his Preface to the *Living Gospels* paraphrase translation, summed up the situation well in saying: "For study purposes, a paraphrase should be checked against a rigid translation." It is essential to follow such good advice if we are to "come to an accurate knowledge of truth."—1 Tim. 2:4.

TRANSLATION OR INTERPRETATION?

During the Church of England's Synod in July 1978, an altercation developed between bishops concerning the value of the popular *Good News Bible*. The Bishop of

Chichester criticized the translation as being 'too full of paraphrases,' and particularly for its rendering of the Greek word *sarx* at Galatians 5:19. *Sarx* means "flesh." Instead of translating *erga tis sarkos* as "works of the flesh," the *Good News Bible* paraphrases the three Greek words, attributing the vices listed at Galatians 5:19-21 simply to "human nature."

By following the thinking of such an interpretation, we could well justify and excuse unchristian conduct. How easy, but how wrong, to blame our "human nature" instead of ourselves! Paul's argument continues (in Galatians, chapter 5) to show what fruitage of God's holy spirit can be expected in a Christian life. Yes, in spite of our fleshly tendencies, we can change and bear such fruitage as love, joy, peace and self-control.

According to *The Living Bible*, Job's sons celebrated their birthdays. (Job 1:4) Yet the *Good News Bible*, in full harmony with the original Hebrew, merely speaks of a feast, with no allusion to birthdays at all. The first rendering is a clear case of interpretation. This example also illustrates the extreme variations existing between paraphrased translations.

The Living Bible paraphrases the words of Ruth 1:1 as follows: "Long ago when judges ruled in Israel." Yet, is it correct to imply that judges *rule* as do kings? No. In further contrast, the *Good News Bible* loosely states: "Long ago, in the days before Israel had a king." To an inexperienced Bible reader the continuity of Jehovah's purpose in directing the nation of Israel through the turbulent times of the judges is thereby lost, and there is no gain from the paraphrase. But a literal and meaningful translation reads: "Now it came about in the days when the judges administered justice." (*New World Translation*) Thus the historical picture is clearly presented.

One of the first translations to make its

mark after World War II was clergyman J. B. Phillips' *Letters to Young Churches*, first published in the year 1947. Expressly stated as not being a version for close meticulous study, it has the acceptable flow of a paraphrase. Of unusual interest, however, is the rendering of 1 Corinthians 14:22, which says that tongues are a sign "not for those who are *unbelievers* but to those who already believe." Likewise, "preaching the word of God" is said to be a sign "to those who do *not* believe rather than to believers." (Italics ours) This is the exact opposite of what the Greek manuscripts say.

In his Translator's Preface (Twelfth Edition), J. B. Phillips explains why he so deliberately departed from the accepted text. "I felt bound to conclude that we have here either a slip of the pen on Paul's part or a textual corruption, and I have therefore been bold enough to alter the verse in order to make good sense." The serious Bible student is naturally glad for this honest explanation. Indeed, a weighty responsibility rests on any translator of the inspired Scriptures to convey facts accurately.—2 Tim. 3:15-17.

SCHOLARSHIP AND LITERAL TRANSLATIONS

The complete *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* is now printed in seven languages and has been circulated world wide in 23 million copies. In the foreword to the 1950 first edition of the Christian Greek Scriptures, it is stated: "We offer no paraphrase of the Scriptures. Our endeavor all through has been to give as literal a translation as possible, where the modern English idiom allows and where a literal rendition does not for any clumsiness hide the thought. In that way we can best meet the desire of those who are scrupulous for getting, as nearly as possible, word for word, the exact statement of the original." In view of such integrity, a Bible student can, in full confidence, ap-

proach this translation and measure the thoughts of the original inspired writings. Let us take some examples.

In the Christian Greek Scriptures, the quality of love is mentioned nearly 200 times (over 250 times, if related words such as "loving-kindness" are included). What is not generally realized is that Greek has four basic words for the English equivalent "love." In the Christian Greek Scriptures, three of these words are employed: *Storgé*, relating to the special love existing between parents and children; *philia*, denoting personal attachment and tender affection among friends; and *agápe*, often described as the love that is governed or guided by principles—such as Jehovah's love for the human family.—John 3:16.

To differentiate between these words calls for skilled translating—a fine point not always acknowledged by those who undertake the task. The conversation between Jesus and Peter, recorded at John 21:15-17, is a clear example. Here most translations use the simple word "love" seven times. But not so the *New World Translation*. This is because the Gospel writer John, in quoting Jesus, twice used *agápe*, calling for Peter's unselfish love in ministering to others ("Simon son of John, do you *love* me?"). However, in giving Peter's answers, John used *philia*, denoting very personal affection for Jesus. The use of *philia* when citing Christ's third question ("Simon son of John, do you *have affection* for me?") underlines the warmth of affection that existed between Jesus and Peter.

You may recall that, according to Matthew chapter six, Jesus condemned in a very forthright way those who hypocritically made a showing of their gifts of mercy. Most translations are content to say that such ones already 'have their reward.' The Greek verb *apécho*, however, carries the distinct thought, conveyed by the *New World Translation*, that they

were "having their reward in full." (Matt. 6:5) They sought the praise of men and that was all they would receive. How pointed were Jesus' remarks!

The *King James Version* of 1611 always uses the word "hell" to translate three distinct Greek words, *Hades*, *Gehenna* and *Tartarus*. Modern translations often differentiate between these words, but not consistently so, as does the *New World Translation*. *Hades*, transliterated from the Greek, literally means "the unseen place." Peter's use of it, as noted at Acts 2:27, shows that it is equivalent to the Hebrew word *Sheol* (the common grave of mankind), whereas *Gehenna*, descriptive of the Valley of Hinnom to the southwest of Jerusalem, denotes everlasting destruction. *Tartarus* occurs but once, at 2 Peter 2:4, and applies only to the fallen angelic spirits.

For many sincere people, the word "hell" is an emotive one on account of their religious training. A concise and accurate translation of the Greek clears out false teachings. Not all translators desire this, however, as seems apparent from this paraphrase of Matthew 7:13: "Go in through the narrow gate, because the gate

to hell is wide and the road that leads to it is easy, and there are many who travel it." (*Good News Bible*) The introduction of "hell" here for the Greek *apóleia*, meaning "destruction," is quite misleading. The precision of the literal *New World Translation* dispels any ambiguity, in stating: "Go in through the narrow gate; because broad and spacious is the road leading off into destruction, and many are the ones going in through it." (Compare the use of the Greek "Apollyon" as transliterated at Revelation 9:11 along with the Hebrew "Abaddon," meaning "Destroyer" and "Destruction" respectively.)

When Paul wrote to the Christian congregation at Colossae, he spoke of the need to have "accurate knowledge" and the 'riches of the full assurance of our understanding.' (Col. 2:2) The *New World Translation* has undertaken to draw its readers as closely as possible to the original divinely inspired writings. It merits serious study. Jehovah's Witnesses are grateful to have this translation for use at their meetings, in their public preaching activity and for vital personal research. Yes, it really does matter which Bible translation you use.

God's Name in the Bible

Increasing evidence points to the conclusion that God's personal name (written in Hebrew with the consonants "yhwh," but usually written in English "Jehovah") was originally included in what is called the New Testament. Summarizing an article on this in another scholarly journal, a recent publication said:

"In pre-Christian Greek [manuscripts] of the O[ld] T[estament], the divine name (yhwh) was not rendered by 'kyrios' [lord] as has often been thought. Usually the Tetragram was written out in Aramaic or in paleo-Hebrew letters. . . . At a later time, surrogates [substitutes] such as 'theos' [God] and 'kyrios' replaced the Tetragram . . . There is good reason to believe that a similar pattern evolved in the N[ew] T[estament], i.e. the divine name was originally written in the NT quotations of and allusions to the OT, but in the course of time it was replaced by surrogates."—"New Testament Abstracts," 3, 1977, p. 306.



OF THE NATIONS"



—Our Only Help

"HELP! HELP!"

From every quarter of the globe this cry arises. It ascends from persons who see the course that the world keeps taking and the disastrous consequences in which it will end very shortly. The outlook horrifies them and moves them to great sadness. They incline to say, just as the prophet Jeremiah did not long before the destruction of Jerusalem, which he predicted: "O that my head were waters, and that my eyes were a source of tears! Then I could weep day and night for the slain ones of the daughter of my people [Israel]."—Jer. 9:1.

1. From whom does the cry for help arise world wide, and why?

² Why should not a sympathetic person today weep? For now there impends over mankind what was long ago foreshadowed by the national calamity concerning which Jeremiah was told to say: "Teach your daughters a lamentation, and each woman [teach] her companion a dirge. For death has come up through our windows [into our very homes]; it has come into our dwelling towers, in order to cut off the child from the street, the young men from the public squares. . . . 'The dead bodies of mankind must also fall like manure upon the face of the field [spread out as

2. Because of what outlook might the sympathetic person well weep today?

"Who should not fear you, O King of the nations, for to you it is fitting; because among all the wise ones of the nations and among all their kingships there is in no way anyone like you."—Jer. 10:7.

fertilizer] and like a row of newly cut grain after the reaper, with no one to do the gathering up.'"—Jer. 9:20-22.

³ Who is it that cannot see worldwide trouble ahead, the worst in all human history? We do not need to have the prophetic foresight of Jeremiah of old to see this. So, then, how can any of us survive what even uninspired observers of world trends today predict? At the menacing outlook, even irreligious persons are involuntarily driven to call upon some higher and more than human factor to step in and save the human family. The political rulers, even those of Christendom, consult spirit mediums and clairvoyants anxiously. In their uncertainty about making a single move of importance, they seek astrologers to consult their horoscopes and read the portents of the heavens. Others appeal to their gods, their images made of wood and covered over with silver and gold and decked with gorgeous handmade or machine-made garments. Are such features of popular custom the things to which to look for help now as the world situation becomes more threatening and forebodes world catastrophe in the near future? No!—Jer. 10:1-5.

⁴ Where does true help lie? What or who is our only help? It is not some blind, unintelligent "kind providence." It must be some real person who sees the dangers of our situation as much as our wise political forecasters do, yes, even better than those highly intelligent men do. For certainly unintelligence cannot precisely help intelligent persons such as we are. Our only help is the One who was intelligent enough to make the whole universe, including us intelligences. He is "on top" of the situation. He is the One whom the prophet calls the "King of the nations."

3. In view of the world trouble plainly foreseen, what or whom do people consult for guidance?

4. Why is now some sightless, unintelligent "kind providence" not our only help, and where does true help lie?

⁵ Do we ask who that One is? He is the One beyond all comparison, for Jeremiah says: "In no way is there anyone like you, O Jehovah. You are great, and your name is great in mightiness. Who should not fear you, O King of the nations, for to you it [such fear] is fitting; because among all the wise ones of the nations and among all their kingships there is in no way anyone like you. And at one and the same time they [the nations and their kingships] prove to be unreasoning and stupid. A tree [a wooden image overlaid with silver and gold and decked with garments like a god] is a mere exhortation of vanities."—Jer. 10:6-8.

⁶ In what way was Jehovah God the "King of the nations" in Jeremiah's day? Did the non-Jewish or Gentile nations recognize him as their King? Had he set up their kingdoms or their kingships, their royalties? Did he give them their form of government and laws or enter into a covenant with them so as to put them in a binding relationship with him? Well, the first nations that the Bible mentions after the deluge of Noah's days are Babylon (Babel) and Assyria. Are we to understand that Jehovah was their King? How could such a thing be? For Genesis 10:8-12 tells us:

"And Cush [Noah's grandson] became father to Nimrod. He made the start in becoming a mighty one in the earth. He displayed himself a mighty hunter in opposition to Jehovah. That is why there is a saying: 'Just like Nimrod a mighty hunter in opposition to Jehovah.' And the beginning of his kingdom came to be Babel [Babylon] and Erech and Accad and Calneh in the land of Shinar. Out of that land he went forth into Assyria and set himself to building Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah and Resen between Nineveh and Calah: this is the great city."—Note Genesis 2:14; 1 Chronicles 1:10.

5. At Jeremiah 10:6-8, how does the prophet describe our only help?

6. What were the first two nations mentioned after the deluge of Noah's day, and what does the Bible indicate as to whether Jehovah was their King?

⁷ When the builders of Babylon (Babel) were engaged in building their 'tower of Babel,' or ziggurat, for religious worship, what happened to hinder them from finishing the job? Why, Jehovah proceeded to do as he said: "Confuse their language that they may not listen [understandingly] to one another's language." What resulted? Nations, speaking different languages; for we read: "Accordingly Jehovah scattered them from there [Babel] over all the surface of the earth, and they gradually left off building the city. That is why its name was called Babel [Confusion], because there Jehovah had confused the language of all the earth." (Gen. 11:7-9) Obviously, then, Jehovah was not the King of that first Babylonian Empire any more than he was the King of the neo-Babylonian Empire of Jeremiah's day. The god of that neo-Babylonian Empire was Bel or Mero-dach (Marduk), whom Emperor Nebuchadnezzar worshiped. (Jer. 50:1, 2) Jehovah was no Babylonian god.

⁸ Other Gentile peoples had their national gods, whom they regarded as their rulers and in representation of whom they made idolatrous images. For example, the nation of Ammonites worshiped a false god whom they called Molech, a name meaning "Reigning One," or "King." (Lev. 18:21; 20:2-5; 1 Ki. 11:7; Acts 7:43) Such nations really worshiped spirit demons or devils. (1 Cor. 10:20) Over all these invisible demons is Satan the Devil. At 2 Corinthians 4:4 he is called "the god of this system of things."

⁹ Claiming kingship over all the worldly nations, Satan the Devil tried to tempt Jesus Christ by saying: "I will give you all this authority and the glory of them [all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth], be-

cause it has been delivered to me, and to whomever I wish I give it. You, therefore, if you do an act of worship before me, it will all be yours." (Luke 4:5-7) But Jesus refused to become a human king under God's great adversary. Hence, shortly before his death, Jesus spoke of Satan the Devil as "the ruler of this world." (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) The Bible's last book, written seven centuries after Jeremiah's day, says that "all the earth" was worshiping Satan the Devil and his visible political organization, pictured as a seven-headed beast.—Rev. 13:3, 4.

¹⁰ Anciently the Israelites acknowledged Jehovah God as their Lord and King. In harmony with that the inspired psalmist went on to say: "He is telling his word to Jacob, his regulations and his judicial decisions to Israel. He has not done that way to any other nation; and as for his judicial decisions, they have not known them. Praise Jah, you people [or, Hallelujah]!" (Ps. 147:5, 19, 20; 145:1, 12, 13) Consequently, the worldly Gentile nations were not the kingdoms of Jehovah God. The theocratic government that he set up over ancient Israel in the days of the prophet Moses was God's only earthly kingdom until the nation of Israel rejected the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as the Messiah from God. (Ex. 15:18-21; Deut. 33:2-5; 1 Chron. 29:11, 12, 23; Matt. 21:43) First since the end of the Gentile Times in 1914 C.E. "the kingdom of the world did become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ"; and yet the worldly nations still refuse to have Jehovah as their King.—Rev. 11:15-18.

HOW "KING OF THE NATIONS"?

¹¹ From what standpoint, then, could Jeremiah address Jehovah as "King of the

7. What ancient background would indicate whether Jehovah was the King of the neo-Babylonian Empire of Jeremiah's day?

8, 9. (a) Whom did the other Gentile nations worship as their superhuman rulers? (b) How did Satan indicate to Jesus that he was what Jesus called him, "the ruler of this world"?

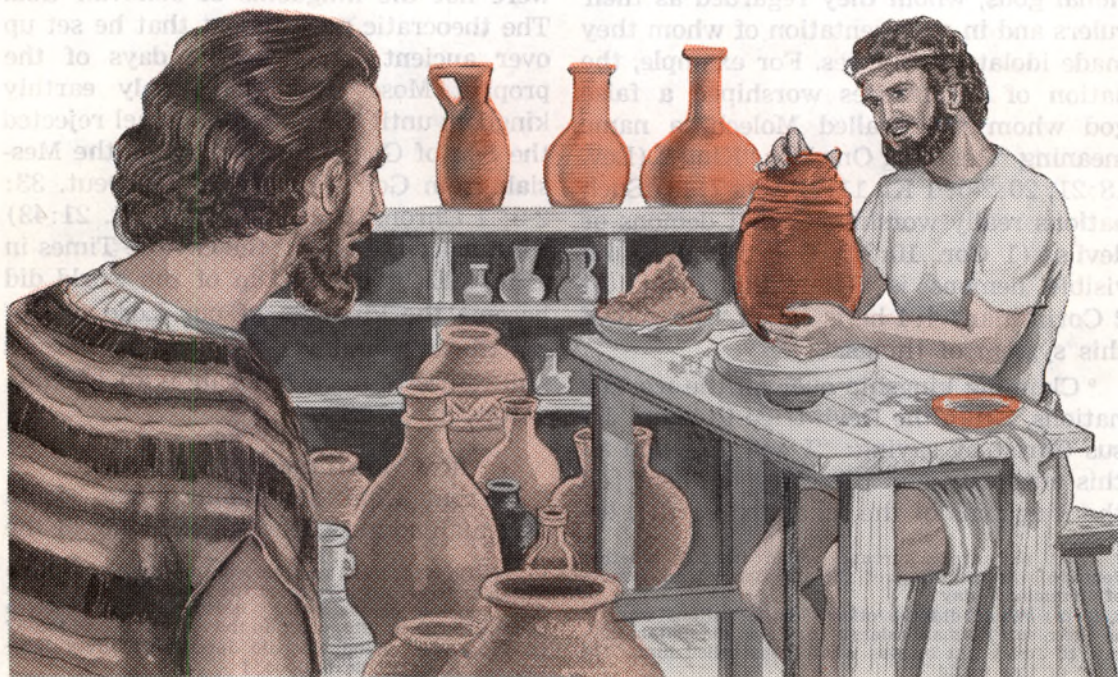
10. (a) On what basis was Jehovah the King of only the nation of Israel till it rejected the Messiah? (b) Though the "kingdom of the world" became that of Jehovah and his Christ in 1914, what do the nations refuse to do?
11. From what standpoint did Jeremiah address Jehovah as "King of the nations"?

nations"? From the standpoint that among all those who were kings of the nations and who thus held kingship He was the outstanding King. He ruled as King of kings, the Superlative King, the One who dominates all other kings. "For," said Moses to Israel back in 1473 B.C.E., "Jehovah your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the God great, mighty and fear-inspiring." (Deut. 10:17) Later, the inspired psalmist said to Jehovah's people: "Give thanks to the God of the gods: for his loving-kindness is to time indefinite; give thanks to the Lord of the lords: . . . to the One striking down great kings: . . . and who proceeded to kill majestic kings: . . . even Sihon the king of the Amorites: . . . and Og the king of Bashan: . . . and who gave their land as an inheritance: . . . an inheritance to Israel his servant." (Ps. 136:2, 3, 17-22) In this way he dominates "all the nations," in spite of their having their own demon and human kingdoms.—Jer. 9:25, 26.

¹² So, then, Jehovah could tell Jeremiah: "See, I have commissioned you this day to be over the nations and over the kingdoms." (Jer. 1:10) That Jeremiah addressed him aright as "King of the nations," Jehovah illustrated to him. Jehovah commanded him to go down to the house of a potter. After the potter made a vessel that proved to be spoiled and then remolded the clay into a vessel meeting his approval, Jehovah said:

"Am I not able to do just like this potter to you people, O house of Israel? . . . Look! As the clay in the hand of the potter, so you are in my hand, O house of Israel. At any moment that I may speak against a nation and against a kingdom to uproot it and to pull it down and to destroy it, and that nation actually turns back from its badness against which I spoke, I will also feel regret over the calamity that I had thought to execute upon it. But at any moment that I may speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom to build it up and to plant it, and it actually

12. How did Jehovah illustrate and explain to Jeremiah that He was "King of the nations"?



does what is bad in my eyes by not obeying my voice, I will also feel regret over the good that I said to myself to do for its good."—Jer. 18:1-10; also note Jeremiah 1:10.

¹³ Centuries previous to this statement, Jehovah had favored the land of Egypt in the days when Joseph the son of Jacob was made its food administrator. But some time after Joseph's death, when Egypt's Pharaohs began to oppress Joseph's people, the descendants of Jacob (or, Israel), and even tried to wipe them out of existence, Jehovah intervened. He plagued the land of Egypt and destroyed Pharaoh and his military hosts and freed His chosen people, the Israelites. (Ps. 136:10-16; Rom. 9:17, 18, 21-24) According to that same rule of action, when the kingdom of Judah rebelled against the God of its covenant and persisted in its bad ways, Jehovah the Great Potter purposed to overthrow that Israelite kingdom. (Jer. 18:11-17) Those rebels even returned bad to Jehovah's prophet Jeremiah for the good that he was seeking to do to them. Why, they even schemed to kill Jeremiah. (Jer. 18:18-20, 23) Hence, finally, it became agreeable to Jeremiah for Jehovah's adverse judgments to be executed upon those rebels.—Jer. 18:21, 22.

¹⁴ These historical examples are something for all nations, especially those of Christendom, to take to heart today. At least we common people, as individuals, ought to do so. Jehovah the Great Potter is still supreme, and he is about to show to all mankind that he is still the "King of the nations." Today, more than ever before, the following words of Jeremiah still hold true:

"But [in contrast with the false gods described just before this] Jehovah is in truth God. He is the living God and the

King to time indefinite. Because of his indignation the earth will rock, and no nations will hold up under his denunciation. This is what you men will say to them [to the nations]: 'The gods that did not make the very heavens and the earth are the ones who will perish from the earth and from under these heavens.'* He is the Maker of the earth by his power, the One firmly establishing the productive land by his wisdom, and the One who by his understanding stretched out the heavens."—Jer. 10:10-12.

¹⁵ Is there real reason for Jehovah God the Creator to have indignation today? Well, let us just think of the widespread disregard for his laws, the contempt for his name, the crime, the love of pleasures rather than the love of God, the immorality, the religious hypocrisy, the persecution upon those who form a modern-day Jeremiah class, the refusal of the nations to submit to Jehovah's kingdom by Christ. Certainly, in the face of all these things, there is every good reason for Jehovah God the Great Potter to have indignation. Soon he will express it, just as he did in Jeremiah's day by destroying Jerusalem and the kingdom of Judah.

¹⁶ In his written Word, the Bible, Jehovah has denounced all wickedness. Shortly he will destroy the things that he has denounced. Under his expressed denunciation "no nations will hold up." Their "gods," the things that they have deified and idolized, will prove helpless and perish. Their worshipers will perish with them.

¹⁷ Logically, our only help is the one living and true God, the "King of the nations." Cries for help go up to him from everywhere, from those who, like Jeremiah, deplore the godless conditions and from all others who are "sighing and

* This verse, Jeremiah 10:11, with its quoted words, is especially distinguished by being written in the Aramaic language, whereas all the rest of Jeremiah's prophecy is written in the Hebrew language.

13. How did Jehovah the Great Potter follow that same stated rule of action toward ancient Egypt and toward Israel?

14. Why should we today, as individuals, take to heart those historical examples of the dealings of the Great Potter?

15. Why does Jehovah have good reason for indignation against the nations, and how will he express it?

16. Why will the wicked nations not "hold up" under Jehovah's expressed denunciation?

17. From whom do cries for help go up to our only Help, and why?

groaning over all the detestable things that are being done," especially in hypocritical Christendom. (Ezek. 9:4) Their hearts are rent because a "breakdown" like that described by Jeremiah impends over all the nations due to the fact that their rulers have not searched for Jehovah as our only help. (Jer. 10:19-22) Their United Nations organization will fail as an agency for world peace and security. All human schemes for directing the course of history and for warding off destruction at the hands of the Great Potter will prove futile.

¹⁸ After we examine the warning examples of history, we have to agree with Jeremiah when he said: "I well know, O Jehovah, that to earthling man his way does not belong. It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step."—Jer. 10:23.

¹⁹ Because a man can walk he may think that he can walk in whatever way he desires and still reach his destination. He may feel that Jehovah God has nothing to do with the matter. So the political rulers try to steer national affairs while ignoring the lessons of Bible history. They scoff at the modern-day Jeremiah class for predicting world calamity in a "great tribulation." (Matt. 24:3, 21, 22) They pay no attention to Bible prophecy and think that they can determine the outcome of matters, directing their steps to

18, 19. How do the political rulers try to direct their official steps, and how will it be proved that it does not belong to them to do so?

lasting peace and prosperity. Still, though they walk politically, economically and religiously as they desire, Jehovah as "King of the nations" will make them stumble into the foretold destruction during the unavoidable "great tribulation."

²⁰ Correction from God is something that we all need. So we will want to pray as Jeremiah did, in a desire to avoid being reduced to nothing along with mankind: "Correct me, O Jehovah, however with judgment [that is, measured by my need]; not in your anger [during the great tribulation], that you may not reduce me to nothing. Pour out your rage upon the nations who have ignored you [or, who have not come to know you], and upon the families who have not called even upon your name. For they [the Babylonians and their allies] have eaten up Jacob. Yes, they have eaten him up, and they keep at exterminating him; and his abiding place they have desolated."—Jer. 10:24, 25, marginal reading; Ps. 79:6, 7.

²¹ That prayer is directed to the "King of the nations." To him we can leave the matter of executing his righteous judgment upon those who ignore him and vengefully try to exterminate all who acknowledge and loyally uphold his universal sovereignty. We raise our cries for aid to him who is our only help.

20. Like Jeremiah, we pray Jehovah to correct us to what extent, and why?

21. To whom can we leave the matter of executing righteous judgment upon those who try to exterminate us for our course of action?

"But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell."—2 Pet. 3:13.

JEHOVAH

Our Hope for Entering a New Order



WHO DOES not want a new order of things here on earth? Many persons would like to have a righteous, healthier order of things but they now have little hope of such a thing's being possible. Mankind's worsening moral condition furnishes them no basis for hoping in an improvement of things. They have practically lost hope because no true, reliable hope has been made known to them. Not yet have they learned that this desired new order has been promised by someone fully competent and that it is now about to be realized. The aforesaid competent one is our hope. He is the Hope of all those who sincerely yearn to enter into a righteous new order.

² Now, amid deepening worldwide gloom,

1. Why have many practically lost hope of a new order as a possibility?

2. According to Jeremiah 14:8, 9, what was Jehovah to the nation of Israel, but what appeared to be the case?

is the advisable time for us to turn to this only Hope, just as the prophet Jeremiah did when things did not look bright for his own nation. In his cry for help, Jeremiah said: "O you the hope of Israel, the Savior of him in the time of distress, why do you become like an alien resident in the land, and like a traveler that has turned aside to spend the night? Why do you become like a man astounded, like a mighty man that is unable to do any saving? Yet you yourself are in the midst of us, O Jehovah, and upon us it is that your own name has been called. Do not let us down."—Jer. 14:8, 9.

³ There is sound reason for us to make this same God our Hope today. Why him, and not something else? Because he is the

3. According to Jeremiah 14:22, why is there sound reason for us to direct ourselves to Jehovah as our only Hope?

Creator and is in control of all the natural forces and operations on and about our earth. It is just as Jeremiah points out when he addresses God and says: "Do there exist among the vain idols of the nations any that can pour down rain, or can even the heavens themselves [on which the astrologers rely] give copious showers? Are you not the One, O Jehovah our God? And we hope in you, for you yourself have done all these things."—Jer. 14:22.

⁴ The people of ancient Israel had God's own name called upon them, and so we should imagine that they would have had his divine presence with them. Why, then, had he become like one who could not be "the hope of Israel," like an alien resident who dwelt only temporarily among them, or like a traveler that was merely passing through their land, who was there today and gone tomorrow? Why had he become like a man who is perplexed at the problem that faces him, he being in no position to cope with it? Or like a mighty man who is nevertheless unable to help people needing to be saved from the consequences of their own course of action? Well, what reason did Jehovah state to Jeremiah?

⁵ The cause of the trouble with the Israelites was not superficial. Disregard for their covenant with the Rainmaker Jehovah had become deep-seated, also their contempt for his name and their mixing his pure form of worship with the religion of the pagan nations round about them. Not strange, then, that they were told: "'Can a Cushite [Ethiopian or Nubian] change his skin? or a leopard its spots? You yourselves would also be able to do good, who are persons taught to do

bad. So I shall scatter them like stubble that is passing along in the wind from the wilderness. This is your lot, your measured portion from me,' is the utterance of Jehovah, 'because you have forgotten me and you keep putting your trust in falsehood. . . . your acts of adultery and your neighings, your loose conduct in prostitution. Upon the hills, in the field, I have seen your disgusting things. Woe to you, O Jerusalem! You cannot be clean—after how much longer?'"—Jer. 13:23-27.

⁶ Does such a statement of fact indicate that Jehovah had a case against Israel? Does it denote also that he has a case against Christendom, which claims to be the people of the God of the Holy Bible? Most certainly Yes! Hence, he states that he will make a due settlement of the case, for he is the Supreme Justice.

⁷ Because of her claim to be Christian, Christendom ought to be a good example to all the world. However, she has made for herself a record of religious apostasy and worldliness that is inerasible. Her record is like that of ancient Jerusalem and the land of Judah:

"The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus. With a diamond point it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars [of false worship], when their sons remember their altars and their sacred poles [of idolatry] beside a luxuriant tree, upon the high hills, on the mountains in the field. Your resources, all your treasures, I shall give for mere plunder [to my executioners of judgment]—your high places because of sin throughout all your territories. And you let loose, even of your own accord, from your hereditary possession that I had given you [in the Promised Land]. I also will make you serve your enemies in the land that you have not known [namely, Babylon]; for as a fire you people have been ignited in my anger. To time indefinite it will keep kindled."—Jer. 17:1-4.

4. Since God's name was called upon the nation of Israel, what were the seeming appearances of things that raised questions in Jeremiah?

5. What reasons did Jehovah give for his apparent desertion of Israel, and why did he call into the comparison the Cushite and the leopard?

6. What does that statement of facts indicate as to matters between Jehovah and Israel and also Christendom?
7. In line with Jeremiah 17:1-4, Christendom's record of apostasy and worldliness has become how deeply inscribed, with what consequences to follow?

**NO INTERVENING
FOR HYPOCRITICAL
CHRISTENDOM**

⁸ Christendom parades the name of Christ. But will he intercede for such a religious system that has persisted in mixing Bible teachings with pagan religion for more than 16 centuries? No, indeed, for he is in perfect accord with his Heavenly Father, Jehovah God. Said he: "I cannot do a single thing of my own initiative; just as I hear, I judge; and the judgment that I render is righteous, because I seek, not my own will, but the will of him that sent me." (John 5:30) Six centuries before Christ, in the days of Jeremiah, Jehovah said with reference to the prototype of Christendom:

⁹ "If Moses and Samuel were standing before me, my soul would not be toward this people [Israel]. There would be a sending of them away from before my face, that they might go out."—Jer. 15:1.

8, 9. Although Christendom bears the name of Christ, why could he not intercede for her, as in ancient Israel's case?



¹⁰ Moses, who had been used to give the Ten Commandments to Israel, had interceded with success for them. As for Samuel of four centuries later, he began a special line of prophets that included Jeremiah and that continued till the prophet Malachi. (Acts 3:22-24) Samuel also interceded for the nation of Israel, especially after they asked for a visible human king. But now, more than four centuries after Samuel, not even intervention by him or by Moses would avail with Jehovah. So away with unrepentant Israel!

¹¹ Away to where? a person sympathizing with Christendom might ask. We have a prophetic indication of whereto in what Jehovah said to Jeremiah: "And it must occur that should they say to you, 'Where shall

10. Why would intercession by Moses and Samuel have been considered effective with God, but now what was Jehovah's attitude toward unrepentant Israel?

11. To encounter what death-dealing agents were the unrepentant Israelites to go out from before Jehovah's face?

we go out to?' you must also say to them, 'This is what Jehovah has said: "Whoever is for deadly plague, to deadly plague! And whoever is for the sword, to the sword! And whoever is for the famine, to the famine! And whoever is for the captivity, to the captivity!"' 'And I will commission over them four families [or, four kinds], is the utterance of Jehovah, '[1] the sword to kill, and [2] the dogs to drag away, and [3] the flying creatures of the heavens and [4] the beasts of the earth to eat and to bring to ruin. And I will give them for a quaking to all the kingdoms of the earth on account of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem. For who will show compassion upon you, O Jerusalem, and who will sympathize with you, and who will turn aside to ask about your welfare?' 'You yourself have deserted me,' is the utterance of Jehovah. 'Backwards [from me] is the way you keep walking.'"—Jer. 15:2-6; also 16:4.

¹² Deadly plague (or, pestilence), sword (or, war), famine (or, food shortage) and captivity! These words spoken to Jeremiah regarding Jerusalem during her time of the end (647-607 B.C.E.) in his day were words also used by Jesus Christ in his prophecy concerning the "time of the end" of Jerusalem in the first century of our Common Era. (Matt. 24:3-7, 21, 22; Luke 21:10, 11, 20-24) Also, in his prophecy in the last book of the Bible the same things are called to our attention by the use of illustrations, including the wild beasts of the field. (Rev. 6:1-8) That last prophecy carries the fulfillment of those calamitous predictions beyond the writing of Revelation in 96 C.E. down to our own "time of the end," from 1914 C.E. onward. (Dan. 12:4) So the prophecy, in its final fulfillment, applies to the present doomed

12. When and by whom were references to similar death-dealing things made concerning first-century Jerusalem and the present system of things?

system of things, including apostate Christendom.

¹³ Should any of us blind our eyes to the fact that since the end of the Gentile Times in 1914 we have had war (the sword), famine, pestilence, also earthquakes in undue measure? It has been just as predicted, as illustrated in the case of the Jerusalem of Jeremiah's day and the Jerusalem of the days of Jesus' apostles.

¹⁴ Christendom, the modern antitype of apostate Jerusalem and Judah, has not been any exception to the suffering of such calamitous things. The prayers of her clergymen have not availed for her. The reason for this is the same as that in the case of the Israelites of Jeremiah's days: "'I have taken away my peace from this people,' is the utterance of Jehovah, 'even loving-kindness and mercies.' For this is what Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, has said, 'Here I am causing to cease out of this place before the eyes of you people and in your days the voice of exultation and the voice of rejoicing, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.'"—Jer. 16:5, 9.

HOPING FOR PEACE IN VAIN!

¹⁵ For Christendom during this "time of the end," the situation has been just as it was with the Israelites during the days when Jeremiah declared Jehovah's judgment message to them: "There was a hoping for peace, but no good came; and for a time of healing, and, look! terror!" (Jer. 14:19) Nevertheless, Christendom's clergy persist in contradicting what the Jeremiah class, the "faithful and discreet slave" class, have been declaring as a warning to all people. These anointed witnesses of Jehovah meet up with the same situation that Jeremiah did and that he described,

13. Since when have we had similar things in undue measure?

14. Why has Christendom been no exception to the suffering of such calamitous things?

15. For what was there a hoping with regard to Israel in Jeremiah's day, and what assurances were the other prophets giving to the Israelites?

saying: "Alas, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah! Here the prophets are saying to them, 'You will see no sword [in the hand of Jehovah's executioner], and there will be no famine to happen to you, but true peace is what I shall give you in this place.'"—Jer. 14:13; Matt. 24:45-47.

¹⁶ Such prophesying that there is no likelihood of calamity at God's hand is designed to quiet the fears of the people. It raises false hopes in the bosoms of Christendom's church members. It throws them off guard as far as any sudden outbreak of the "great tribulation" is concerned. Consequently, like a thief in the night it will come upon them, and they will suffer eternal loss. Inasmuch as the clergy discredit the Jeremiah class and discount their timely message, it makes the self-complacent church members more heedless of the warning that Jehovah is giving by his witnesses.

¹⁷ To deepen the impression made by their guarantees of peace, the religious leaders persecute the Jeremiah class and their supporters. They sic the political authorities upon them. The persecution and reproach that the Jeremiah class continue to endure has become like something chronic with them, like an unhealable infection of them by Jehovah's permission, as if he were denouncing them. They cannot compromise with the clergy class and enter into their intimate group. Jehovah is the only One to whom to present their case, and in his provision they rejoice, as Jeremiah said:

¹⁸ "You yourself have known. O Jehovah, remember me and turn your attention to me and avenge me upon my persecutors. In your slowness to anger do not take me away. Take note of my bearing re-

proach on account of your own self. Your words were found, and I proceeded to eat them; and your word becomes to me the exultation and the rejoicing of my heart; for your name has been called upon me, O Jehovah God of armies. I have not sat down in the intimate group of those playing jokes and begun exulting [with those jokesters who think peace is assured]. Because of your hand I have sat down all by myself, for it is with denunciation [bitterness, LXX; gloom, JP] that you have filled me."—Jer. 15:15-17, NW; *Septuagint Version*, Bagster's edition, also Charles Thomson; *The Jewish Publication Society of America*, 1973 edition.

¹⁹ The persecution that cleaves to the Jeremiah class like a chronic ailment is not pleasant in itself. (Jer. 15:18) But the persecuted ones can exult in Jehovah's Word, the Holy Scriptures, that have been preserved for our comfort. (Rom. 15:4) We can rejoice because of finding in those Scriptures the prophetic words that explain our difficult times and that give us a bright hope for a new order after Har-Magedon. For this we can boast in Jehovah.—Jer. 9:23, 24.

²⁰ During this "conclusion of the system of things," when lawlessness increases and Jehovah awaits his time to punish rampant wickedness, the human heart proves to be most "treacherous," yes, "desperate," as humanity finds itself hard pressed. If we try to satisfy the heart in ways contrary to God's counsel and standards of righteousness, it will bring on us his adverse judgment. (Jer. 17:9-11) Under today's pressures toward taking a wrong course of action, let not our hearts deceive us and move us to do unscriptural, senseless things. Remember: the course of action that we take will determine

16. What words and deeds of the clergy make Christendom's church members more heedless of the warning given by Jehovah's Witnesses?

17, 18. (a) Due to the clergy of Christendom, what has become like a chronic, unhealable condition with the Jeremiah class? (b) What attitude has the Jeremiah class been obliged to maintain toward intimacy with the clergy?

19. In spite of the persecution upon the Jeremiah class, why can the persecuted ones exult and boast?

20, 21. (a) Why does the human heart today prove to be most "treacherous," yes, "desperate"? (b) According to Jeremiah 17:5-8, which course of action leads to God's curse and which to his blessing?

whether we deserve to receive a curse or a blessing. Jehovah sets forth the course that will lead to his curse and the course that will lead to his blessing, saying:

²¹ "Cursed is the able-bodied man who puts his trust in earthling man and actually makes flesh his arm, and whose heart turns away from Jehovah himself. And he will certainly become like a solitary tree in the desert plain and will not see when good comes; but he must reside in parched places in the wilderness, in a salt country that is not inhabited. Blessed is the able-bodied man who puts his trust in Jehovah, and whose confidence Jehovah has become. And he will certainly become like a tree planted by the waters, that sends out its roots right by the water-course; and he will not see when heat comes, but his foliage will actually prove to be luxuriant. And in the year of drought he will not become anxious, nor will he leave off from producing fruit."—Jer. 17: 5-8.

²² People who are able-bodied themselves are prone to trust in earthling man and to depend upon an arm of flesh to deliver them. Little wonder that they become like a lone tree in a parched, salt-impregnated desert. They do like the Israelites of Jeremiah's day: When enemy forces, roaring like lions, threatened these Israelites, they did not appeal to the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. They turned to earthling men of mighty arm, skilled in violent warfare, for military aid. So they did not draw close to Jehovah to drink the water of salvation from him as the Source of deliverance. Instead, they ran down to Egypt to drink the water of salvation from the Nile River. Or they ran up to Assyria to drink the water of salvation from the Euphrates River, for a time dominated by Assyria.

22. How did the Israelites of Jeremiah's day show that they made 'flesh their arm'?

²³ In that way, figuratively speaking, the faithless Israelites proceeded to "hew out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that cannot contain the water." They forsook Jehovah, "the source of living water." Consequently, no salvation came from him. Disappointingly, the highly militarized world powers of Egypt and Assyria did not fill the "broken cisterns" of the Israelites with the water of salvation from their political enemies. So they got no life-giving water from the Shihor, the Nile River, or from the Euphrates River when under Assyrian domination. For abandoning Jehovah their God as the Source of deliverance, the renegade Israelites came under a soul-parching curse.—Jer. 2:13-18.

²⁴ Unlike those Israelites, those of the Jeremiah class of today have made Jehovah their Hope. They respect his throne of universal sovereignty. They worship him as their God at his spiritual temple or sanctuary. They hope in him, not in any earthling man or human world power with nuclear weapons. They lead a "great crowd" today in putting trust and confidence in Jehovah. Shunning the way of apostate Christendom, they wisely say: "There is the glorious throne on high from the start; it is the place of our sanctuary. O Jehovah, the hope of Israel, all those who are leaving you will be put to shame [disappointment]. Those apostatizing from me will be written down even in the earth, because they have left the source of living water, Jehovah."—Jer. 17:12, 13.

²⁵ Let us leave, then, the man-made "broken cisterns" that hold no water of salvation from world disaster. Let us turn to Jehovah. He can protect us during the "great tribulation" and bring us safely into his new order under Jesus the Messiah.

23. How did the Israelites 'hew out for themselves cisterns that cannot contain the water,' and with what outcome?

24. Where, however, do the Jeremiah class and the "great crowd" direct their respect and hope, and where do they worship the true source of living water?

25. By what course, then, shall we get into the New Order under Jesus the Messiah?

Do You Remember?

Have you read recent issues of *The Watchtower* carefully? If so, you will doubtless recall these points:

- How does Jehovah God draw individuals to himself?

He does this by making it possible for them to hear about his arrangement for salvation through Jesus Christ. Then the Most High enables individuals to develop heart appreciation for the grand benefits that result from being in union with the Son.—4/15 p. 14.

- For a congregation of God's people to be happy, how should every member of it be viewed?

Every member needs to feel that he is a necessary and valuable part of the congregation as he shares in Christian activities within the framework of his limitations.—4/15 p. 27.

- As shown at Psalm 49:20, when is a man "comparable with the beasts"?

The man who does not understand or appreciate spiritual things and makes no room for the Creator in his life can be compared to an unreasoning animal that has no capacity for worshipping God.—5/1 p. 11.

- What factors determine whether a person can acceptably approach God in prayer?

The approach must be made in sincerity, in harmony with the divine will and through Jesus Christ, God's appointed high priest.—5/15 pp. 14, 15.

- During what period may David have experienced the sickness referred to in Psalm 41?

This may have been while his son Absalom was plotting to seize the throne. The fact that Psalm 41 refers to a trusted companion who turned against David lends support to this conclusion. David's personal adviser Ahithophel traitorously cast in his lot with Absalom.—6/1 pp. 30, 31.

- What proves that infants will be resurrected?

According to Matthew 2:17, 18 the prophecy about Rachel's weeping for her children was fulfilled when Herod directed the killing of all male children two years of age and younger in and around Bethlehem. (Jer. 31:15) The

prophecy says further: "'Hold back your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there exists a reward for your activity,' is the utterance of Jehovah, 'and they will certainly return from the land of the enemy.'" (Jer. 31:16) Only by being raised from the dead could those slaughtered infants return from Sheol, to the comfort of the mothers who lost them in death.—6/15 pp. 18, 19.

- What identifies true Christians today?

It is their love for one another, their upright conduct, their being a people for God's name, their proclaiming God's kingdom and their being neutral as regards the world's political affairs and conflicts.—7/1 pp. 23, 24.

ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 1, 1979

The annual meeting of the members of Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania on October 1, 1979, will be held at Jehovah's Witnesses Assembly Hall, 44-17 Greenpoint Avenue in the Borough of Queens, New York city. The meeting will be at ten o'clock in the forenoon of Monday, October 1, 1979.

It will be appreciated if the members of the corporation will now see to it that the Secretary's office has their present mailing addresses so that the regular letters of notice and proxies can reach them shortly after September 1.

The proxies, which will be sent to the members along with the notice of the annual meeting, are to be returned so as to reach the office of the Secretary of the Society not later than September 15. As each member knows, he should complete and return his proxy promptly whether he is going to be at the meeting personally or not. The information given on each proxy should be definite on this point as it will be relied upon in determining in advance those who will actually be personally present.

It is expected that the entire session, including the formal business meeting and any remarks by members or officers, will be concluded at 12 noon or shortly thereafter. There will be no afternoon session. No arrangements will be made for tying in the annual meeting by telephone line to any other locations.

INSIGHT ON THE NEWS

● In explaining the recent decision by the Anglican bishops of Canada to ordain admitted homosexuals as priests, the bishop of Toronto declared that "we have faced realistically the fact that throughout the history of the church there have been those in ministry with . . . homosexual orientation." However, in their decision the bishops said that new homosexual priests must promise to "abstain from sexual acts with persons of the same sex" in order to be ordained.

"Anglican Lunacy"

"Isn't that nice," remarked a Toronto "Sun" editorial entitled "Anglican lunacy." "And how do the bishops intend to see that this is adhered to? . . . No wonder the church is losing support among the masses. Sure homosexuality is a 'reality,' as the church points out. So are incest, child-molesting, bestiality. Should a religion go out of its way to show broad-mindedness and awareness by inviting those suffering from strange obsessions, passions, aberrations, to be ministers? Apparently the Anglican church thinks so. Madness . . ."

● Just how thousands of great mammoths came to be frozen in Siberia's ice has perplexed scientists for decades. In considering one new theory, Britain's "New Scientist" magazine noted that the frozen mammoths "are evidence that the last ice age came upon the Earth very suddenly." Professor Fred Hoyle of University College, Cardiff, and Elizabeth Butler of Oxford University "suggest that if the last ice age . . . had taken thousands of years to take hold on the Earth, the mammoths would have had time to migrate south to a warmer climate. Their excellent state of preservation is also evidence that they were quickly frozen after death—otherwise they would have begun to decompose."

Frozen Mammoths' Testimony

To explain how such a sudden freeze could have come about, Hoyle and a colleague "suggested that a large mass . . . of dust from comets entered the Earth's upper atmosphere" and reflected the sun's light so that the earth cooled in "only a few years."

But is such a tortuous and unlikely explanation

necessary? No. The Bible account in Genesis offers a simple, clear solution that fits all the facts. It indicates the existence of "waters . . . above the expanse" of "Heaven" prior to the Flood, which could have caused a more uniformly warm climate earth wide, allowing mammoths and other life to thrive in northern reaches. The 'opening of the flood-gates of heaven' at the time of the Flood could well have been accompanied by great temperature changes that plunged these areas into an icy deep freeze, preserving the mammoths and other life in the condition in which they have been found.—Gen. 1:7, 8; 7:11, 12.

● "Newsweek" magazine reports that a group called the Greater New Orleans BB Warriors "stage monthly, eight-to-twelve-hour-long war games in and around the bayous and levees of Louisiana." Just children at play? No. "The BB Warriors are all in their 20s and 30s." The 30

Adult War Games"

men and women who "play" try to "kill" members of the opposing team with three hits from their BB rifles, which shoot small metal balls. Hence, elaborate protective gear is worn, including plexiglass or wire face masks. A hit from a "flour grenade" or a stab from a rubber bayonet is also a "kill." "The casualties pass on to the dead zone, where they . . . talk about their plans when, after an hour, they are born again and allowed to return to the fray," says "Newsweek." One 28-year-old "Warrior" said enthusiastically: "This is the only game I've played where your imagination gets totally involved. Mostly, though, I don't intellectualize about it. I just like to get wasted [killed] and go out there and kill people."

Many view with horror the attitudes conveyed by such a game. But are not worldwide preparations for war also a sinister "game" with people as pawns? The reality of the "game" often does not strike home until a bullet does. Others, though, seeing through the "game," are now fulfilling the Bible prophecy: "They will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears . . . neither will they learn war anymore."—Isa. 2:4.

QUESTIONS from READERS

● In saying that Jesus was “tested,” does Hebrews 4:15 indicate that God was not sure whether his Son would be faithful?

No, for nothing in the Scriptures points to a view other than that Jehovah was certain that his Son would keep integrity. It is quite a different point that is being made at Hebrews 4:15, which reads: “For we have as high priest, not one who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tested in all respects like ourselves, but without sin.”

Jehovah had foretold that, as the Messiah, his Son would keep integrity despite suffering. (Ps. 118:22; Isa. 53:3-7, 10-12) God had good reasons for confidence that his only-begotten Son, though remaining a free moral agent, would be faithful under test.

Through millenniums of association and experience with his Son, Jehovah came to know him as no one else did. (Matt. 11:27; John 10:14, 15) God was thoroughly familiar with his Son’s mental attitude and heart condition. (Rom. 15:5) For example, though the Word was the preeminent created one, he did not seek to be worshiped, as did the spirit creature who became Satan. (Phil. 2:5, 6) Unlike the lawless angels who rebelled before the Flood, the Son seeks always to please his Father. Hence, the apostle Paul applies to him the psalmist’s words, saying: “God is your throne forever, and the scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of uprightness. You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness.” (Heb. 1:8, 9; Ps. 45:6, 7) Moreover, he has always been interested in humans for their good. (Prov. 8:30, 31) And he repeatedly manifested his reliance on the Father, whose will he earnestly desired to do. (Jude 9; compare John 12:27, 28.) So even before Jesus was born as a human, Jehovah could be certain that he would keep integrity.

Some have asked: “What if Jesus *had* sinned?” But that actually is profitless speculation. It is contrary to the facts. The reality is that he did not sin. Jehovah’s confidence in him, reflecting God’s perfect knowledge and wisdom, was justified.

Hebrews 4:15 focuses our attention on Jesus’ qualification as heavenly High Priest. By becoming a perfect man equal to Adam and by proving faithful till death, Jesus served as the ransom. (Heb. 2:9) But also as a human he experienced the sort of trials and frustrations befalling humans striving to be faithful, including those to be taken to heaven as Jesus’ “brothers” and corulers. (Heb. 2:14-17) He experienced natural weariness and disappointments. Even more, he faced the tests of suffering and hardship. Paul could rightly say that Christ is “one who has been tested in all respects like ourselves.” Jesus was thereby perfected or made qualified for his role as a High Priest who can “sympathize with our weaknesses.” Though other high priests had to offer sacrifices for their own sins, Christ as High Priest is “without sin.” Still, through his becoming flesh and blood like us, he is “able to deal moderately” with us.—Heb. 4:15, 16; 5:1, 2, 8; 7:28.

Consequently, Hebrews 4:15 should encourage us. Instead of suggesting that God lacked confidence in his Son, it should build our confidence that humans can be faithful to Jehovah. And it should make us confident that in approaching Jehovah we have a tender, sympathetic and understanding High Priest serving in our behalf.

A CORRECTION

In making the *New World Translation* of Leviticus 23:21, the Hebrew יהיה (“it will be”) was misread as יהוה (“Jehovah”). Hence, the first sentence of this verse should read: “And you must make a proclamation on this very day; there will be a holy convention for yourselves.”

Spiritistic Practices Abandoned

Some years ago, on the island of Ometepe in the middle of Lake Nicaragua in Central America, there lived a young girl whose father was a practitioner of occult arts, spiritistic healing and witchcraft. He had a reputation for healing cases of paralysis by calling on evil spirits. After his death, however, his daughter herself became paralyzed and bedridden.

The woman received treatment from a person who also dabbled in spiritism. But one day a traveling Christian overseer called at her home and presented her with a gift—a copy of the "New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures." Reading it, the woman discovered God's command against spiritistic practices, as recorded in Deuteronomy chapter 18. At that, she stopped the treatment that she had been receiving from a practitioner of spiritism.

Another Witness followed up the initial visit on this woman and a home Bible study was started with her. Eventually, she was asked if her deceased father had left any books or papers associated with his spiritistic practices, and the woman replied that several desk drawers were full of such material. So they burned these items. (Acts 19:18, 19) Also, the woman was urged to pray to Jehovah for aid. Shortly thereafter, she began walking again.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

September 23: The "King of the Nations"—Our Only Help. Page 17. Songs to Be Used: 13, 11.

September 30: Jehovah, Our Hope for Entering a New Order. Page 23. Songs to Be Used: 6, 105.