

January 1, 1986

The Watchtower

Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom



**THE HORSEMEN
OF THE APOCALYPSE**

The Mystery Solved

The Watchtower[®]

Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom

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In This Issue

The Mysterious Horsemen of the Apocalypse	3
Solving the Mystery of the Horsemen	4
Teaching a Samaritan Woman	8
Days Like "the Days of Noah"	10
Building for an Eternal Future	15
Kingdom Proclaimers Report	27
Jehovah—Simply Grand!	28
Questions From Readers	31

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THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER" is to exalt Jehovah God as the Sovereign of the universe. It keeps watch on world events as they fulfill Bible prophecy. It comforts all peoples with the good news that God's Kingdom will soon destroy those who oppress their fellowmen and that it will turn the earth into a paradise. It encourages faith in the now-reigning King, Jesus Christ, whose shed blood opens the way for mankind to gain eternal life. "The Watchtower," published by Jehovah's Witnesses continuously since 1879, is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

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February 2: Days Like "the Days of Noah." Page 10.
Songs to Be Used: 83, 215.

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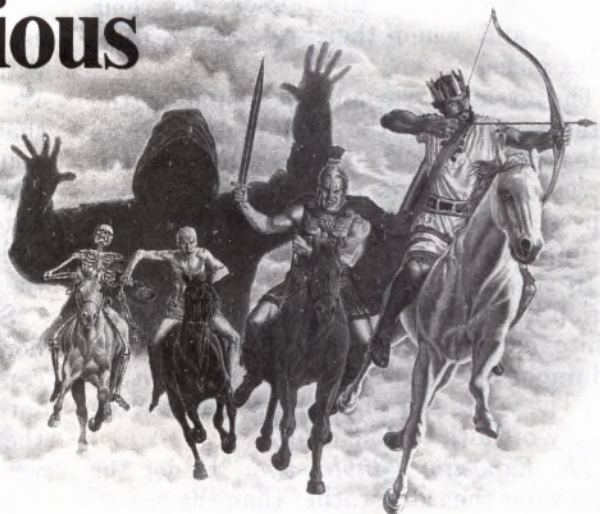
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The Mysterious Horsemen of the Apocalypse



YOU watch fascinated as, with mane and tail flying and nostrils flaring, the horse pounds down a rocky slope. The rugged rider seems glued to the saddle as though he were part of this moving, pulsating horseflesh.

Whether visiting a high-country Australian cattle station or, half a world away, the plains of an American ranch, the sight of a horseman who really knows his mount is indeed a fascinating one. Equally spectacular is the splendor of a parade of highly trained horses and riders.

Such horsemen and their mounts leave us impressed. However, the horses and riders witnessed by the writer of the book of Revelation (the Apocalypse) are thrilling to behold! They are mysterious as well as awesome. These horsemen have become widely known as the Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Imagine that now, thundering toward you, are four skilled riders, one even brandishing a sword! Notice the color of their horses. Each one is different. One horse is white, one red, one black, and one a sickly greenish-yellow color. They are indeed a strange, mysterious sight.

Follow the fast-moving account of what the Bible writer, the apostle John, saw. He states: "Then I saw a white horse, and its rider carried a bow. He was given a crown, and he rode forth as a victor to conquer. . . . And another horse came forth, bright red, and its rider was given power to take peace away from the earth, and make men slaughter one another; he was given a great sword. . . . And there I saw a black horse, and its rider had a pair of scales in his hand, and I heard a voice . . . say, 'Wheat at a [day's wage for] a quart, and barley three quarts for a [day's wage]' . . . And there I saw a horse the color of ashes, and its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. They were given power over one quarter of the earth, to kill the people with sword, famine, death, and the wild animals of the earth."—Revelation 6:2-8, *An American Translation*.

Since this vision was first written down, its meaning has puzzled countless readers. What is represented by these mysterious horses and their riders? When did their ride begin? Does their ride have any bearing on life today? A wide variety of explanations has been offered as to what could

be represented by the horses and their riders, and when their ride, in reality, takes place.

The greatest variance is found in the interpretations of the white horse and its rider. For instance, the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* explains that the white horse represents 'either the victory of the gospel or imperialism.'

In the book *Daniel and the Revelation*, Uriah Smith gives this interpretation: "A white horse . . . is a fit emblem of the triumphs of the gospel in the first century . . . The whiteness of the horse denotes the purity of faith in that age."

The Expositor's Bible says: "Under the first rider the cause rather than the person

of Christ is introduced to us, in the earliest stage of its victorious progress, and with the promise of its future triumph. . . . We learn that this cause is in the world, that this kingdom is in the midst of us, and that they who oppose it shall be overwhelmed with defeat." However, Woodrow Kroll, of The Christian Jew Foundation, feels that the rider on the white horse is the Antichrist.

Some have suggested that there are five horses and riders, not just four. So how can we know which of the many interpretations is correct? How can we be sure that there is a correct understanding? Just who are these mysterious horsemen of the Apocalypse, and when did their ride begin?

Solving the Mystery of the Horsemen

WHO can solve the mystery of the horsemen of the Apocalypse? In the Bible, at Daniel 2:47, Jehovah God is called "a Revealer of secrets." Since he is the one who inspired the Bible, including the vision about the horsemen, he can provide the answers we need. Therefore, by searching his revealed Word for information, we are able to unravel the meaning of the colored horses and their riders.—Amos 3:7; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.

The three opening verses of Revelation, or the Apocalypse, provide a key to help unlock the mystery. They show that this series of visions had to do with future events, that is, future to the year 96 C.E. when the apostle John saw all these things

and wrote them down. This harmonizes with his statement at Revelation 1:10 that the things seen in these visions were to take place only after "the Lord's day" began.—Compare 1 Corinthians 1:8; 5:5.

With this in mind, we shall examine the horses and their riders. At the outset, it is vital to have the correct understanding of the white horse and its rider. Then the meaning of the other horsemen will fit into place.

Interpretations Examined

In the previous article, it was noted that one interpretation of the white horse and its rider was that they represented 'either the victory of the gospel or imperialism.' But the world has not been converted to

the gospel (good news) about Christ and God's purposes surrounding him. And, surely, imperialism has not ridden forth in triumph. Rather, it has been breaking down, fragmenting, in this century.

What of the interpretation that the white horse represents the victory of the gospel and the purity of faith in the first century? This ignores the fact that the vision was of *things to come in the future*. And since John wrote the vision as a prisoner in exile on the island of Patmos in the year 96 of our Common Era, it could not possibly represent anything having to do with the first century.

Another explanation was that the white horse introduces the cause rather than the person of Christ and that his Kingdom 'is in the midst' of us, that is, in our hearts. But the cause of Jesus Christ and Christianity did not begin at some time future to the writing of Revelation. Rather, this cause was already in great evidence among first-century Christians before John wrote.

Also, when Jesus said that "the kingdom of God is in your midst," he was speaking to the hypocritical religious Pharisees in answer to a question they had raised. Jesus was not speaking to his faithful followers and telling them that the Kingdom was something 'in their midst' in the sense of being in their hearts. Instead, he was telling the disbelieving Pharisees that he, Jesus, as the representative of the future Kingdom of God, was present among them *on that occasion*.—Luke 17:21; see also *The Jerusalem Bible* and *The New English Bible*.

How about the thought that the rider on the white horse is the Antichrist? Nowhere does the Bible say that the Antichrist will make such inroads that it could be said of him that "he went forth conquering and to complete his conquest," as



1914—The "King of kings" rides forth on his white horse

was said of the rider on the white horse. (Revelation 6:2) It is clear that whoever is seated on the white horse will ride forth completely conquering. His conquest will not fail. All his enemies will be destroyed.

Bible Clues Help Identification

Unmistakable identification of the rider on the white horse is given by the "Revealer of secrets" later in the same series of visions. At Revelation 19:11-16, a white horse is again seen, this time with clear identification of the rider.

The fact that a white horse is seen twice in these prophetic visions indicates that it is the same horse and that various duties or activities of the rider are being depicted. In the latter scene, the rider is named. He is called "Faithful and True," "The Word of God," and "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Those designations leave no doubt as to the identity of the rider on the white horse. It is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself! (Compare Revelation 17:

14.) But at what time of his life? It has to be some time after the end of the first century, when the Revelation vision was given. Notice, too, that now a royal crown is given to him. So at some future time Jesus Christ was to begin a special role as King, or Ruler. And in that capacity, he is also depicted as a warrior armed with a bow, to ride forth "conquering and to complete his conquest."

Also showing that this had to be future is this fact: By the time of the apocalyptic vision, more than 60 years had passed since Jesus finished his earthly life, was resurrected from the dead, and had ascended to heaven. When he returned to heaven, Jesus was told to wait at the right hand of God until that future time when his enemies would be made "a stool for his feet."—Hebrews 10:12, 13.

The Ride Begins

So the ride on the white horse was to begin at some future time when Jesus Christ would be enthroned as the heavenly King of God's Kingdom. At that time God would send him forth with the command: "Go subduing in the midst of your enemies." (Psalm 110:2) But when does this take place?

The crowning of Jesus Christ as heavenly King is described at Psalm 45:3-7. Then in Hebrews 1:8, 9 the apostle Paul quotes from this psalm and applies verses 6 and 7 to the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Detailed information and Scriptural proofs published by Jehovah's Witnesses show that the coronation of Jesus Christ in heaven took place at the close of the Gentile Times, "the appointed times of the nations," in the year 1914.—Luke 21:24.*

* See *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*, pages 134-41, published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

Hence, any interpretation that puts the horsemen's ride earlier than the year 1914 could not be correct. Also, since the rider of the white horse was in the lead, the other horses and riders following would represent events that would take place along with, or some time after, his ride begins. The ride of these four horsemen, therefore, must occur from and after the beginning of "the time of the end" in 1914. It has been since then that "the last days" have been seen to be in evidence.—Daniel 12:4; 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13.

The Other Horses and Riders

The second horse is "bright red," or "fiery-colored." (Revelation 6:3, 4, *An American Translation*) Its rider "was granted to take peace away from the earth so that they should slaughter one another." He was given "a great sword." This proved true when 1914 saw the beginning of the worst war in all human history, the first global war. Back then it was called the Great War. Just 21 years later World War II began, and it was even more devastating than World War I. Since then there have been constant wars. Altogether, since 1914, wars have taken some one hundred million lives.

The third horse is a black one, and its rider has a pair of scales in his hand. (Revelation 6:5, 6) A voice calls out that it would require an entire day's wage just to buy one quart (1.1 L) of wheat or three quarts of the cheaper grain barley. This fittingly describes food shortages on a scale greater than ever before. That has proved to be true since 1914. Right from the outbreak of World War I, food prices soared. Millions died from hunger. Since then, food shortages have continued without letup. It is estimated that now some 450 million people are hungry to the point of starvation, and up to one billion

do not have enough to eat. From time to time the gloomy picture is emphasized by such famines and extreme loss of life as reported from Ethiopia in recent years.

As for the fourth horse, we notice that it is "pale," sickly looking. The rider's name is "Death." (Revelation 6: 7, 8) It well symbolizes the vast number of deaths since 1914 by unnatural causes, such as food shortages and famines, wars and violence, plagues and diseases.

The Spanish influenza that broke out worldwide at the close of World War I caused over 20 million deaths. Now heart disease, cancer, and many other sicknesses take their toll of millions in untimely deaths.

The events symbolized by these horses and riders are also noted in a parallel prophecy Jesus gave about our time. He said that in "the conclusion of the system of things," where we now live, there would be global war as 'nation would rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.' He foretold "the increasing of lawlessness" and "in one place after another pestilences and food shortages." —Matthew 24:3-12; Luke 21:10, 11.

Was There a Fifth Horse?

Revelation 6:8 reads: "And I saw, and, look! a pale horse; and the one seated upon it had the name Death. And Hades was closely following him." On the basis of this, some have suggested that since the first four characters mentioned are riding horses, would not the fifth also be mounted on a horse?



Since 1914, Hades has reaped a grim harvest in the wake of the horsemen of War, Famine, and Pestilence

The Bible does not say that. In the Greek text the word for "horse" does not appear at Revelation 6:8 in connection with Hades. Hence, most Bible translations do not include the word "horse" with reference to this fifth character. So it is sufficient to note that Hades, the common grave of mankind, was following the previous three horses and riders, gathering up all their victims.

How Does the Vision Affect You?

To be living at the time when this vision of the ride of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse is having its dramatic fulfillment is certainly a thrilling experience. But it is also a time of great seriousness, calling for self-examination. Why is this so? Because every person on earth is affected by this symbolic ride. Yes, you and your loved ones are all involved. How?

This question raises a serious aspect of the matter that will be answered in the next issue of *The Watchtower*: "How Their Ride Affects You." Do not miss the absorbing answer.



Teaching a Samaritan Woman

ON THEIR way from Judea to Galilee, Jesus and his disciples travel through the district of Samaria. Tired from the journey, about noon they stop to rest by a well near the city of Sychar. This well was dug centuries before by Jacob, and it remains even down until today, near the modern-day city of Nablus.

While Jesus rests here, his disciples go into the city to buy some food. When a Samaritan woman comes to draw water, he requests: "Give me a drink."

Jews and Samaritans generally have no dealings with one another because of deep-seated prejudices. So, in astonishment, the woman asks: "How is it that you, despite being a Jew, ask me for a drink, when I am a Samaritan woman?"

Jesus answers that if she knew who he was, she would ask him for "living water." This water, he says, will become "a fountain of water bubbling up to impart everlasting life."

"Sir, give me this water," the woman responds.

Jesus now says: "Go, call your husband."

"I do not have a husband," she answers.

Jesus verifies her statement. "You said well, 'A husband I do not have.' For you have had five husbands, and the

man you now have is not your husband."

"Sir, I perceive you are a prophet," the woman says in amazement. Revealing her spiritual interests, she notes that the Samaritans worshiped at Mount Gerizim, but the Jews in Jerusalem.

Yet the place of worship is not the important thing, Jesus points out. "God is a Spirit," he explains, "and those worshipping him must worship with spirit and truth."

The woman is deeply impressed. "I know that Messiah is coming, who is called Christ," she says. "Whenever that one arrives, he will declare all things to us openly."

"I who am speaking to you am he," Jesus declares. Think of it! This woman who comes at midday to draw water, perhaps in order to avoid contact with townswomen who despise her for her way of life, is favored in a wonderful way by Jesus. Point-blank he tells her what he has not confessed openly to anyone else. With what consequences? The article in our next issue will explain.

John 4:3-26.

♦ Why was the Samaritan woman surprised that Jesus spoke to her?

♦ What does Jesus teach her about living water and where to worship?

♦ How does Jesus reveal to her who he is, and why is this disclosure so amazing?

**Jesus' Life and
Ministry**



Days Like “the Days of Noah”

“The earth became filled with violence . . . it was ruined, because all flesh had ruined its way on the earth.”—GENESIS 6:11, 12.

VIOLENCE! As in Noah’s day, so today, violence has become a household word. Even those who walk with the true God, as did Noah, are not immune to violence. This was forcefully drawn to the world’s attention when, on July 21 of last year, a Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Sydney, Australia, was demolished by a bomb during a public Bible talk about loyalty to God and family. One Witness was killed. More than 40 were hospitalized. All of these have recovered, though some carry heavy scars as a result of this criminal outrage. A police detective commented: “There were 110 people inside and it is simply a miracle that we don’t have 110 dead.”

² In other parts of the earth—such as Northern Ireland, Lebanon, and El Salvador—Jehovah’s Witnesses proclaim the “good news” in a continuing environment of violence. A few have been killed, some while engaging in the ministry. In many lands “unforeseen occurrence,” such as accidents and earthquakes, has also claimed precious lives, on which occasions Jehovah’s people have been comforted by the resurrection hope.—Ecclesiastes 9:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14.

1, 2. (a) With what kinds of violence do Jehovah’s Witnesses have to contend today? (b) In what circumstances have God’s people been comforted by the resurrection hope?

³ Recently in Mexico, altogether 23 Witnesses and associates were among the more than 5,000 killed by a disastrous earthquake. In Puerto Rico, seven others were numbered among the 300 who lost their lives in floods and landslides. Does this mean that Jehovah failed to provide protection for some of his servants? Not at all. We are not immune to accidents and disasters. And as to persecution, Jesus forewarned his disciples, saying: “They will put some of you to death.” Hundreds of our brothers died at the violent hands of Nazi Hitler. Jehovah will remember all of such in the resurrection. However, when the foretold “great tribulation” sweeps the earth, Jehovah will show that he is able to save those who call upon his name, even as he did in the days of Noah.—Luke 21:16-19; Matthew 24:14, 21, 22, 37-39; Isaiah 26:20, 21; Joel 2:32; Romans 10:13.

⁴ Since 1914 violence has been on a global rampage. A hundred million humans have been killed in the wars and holocausts of this century. Mankind has been scourged by air and sea hijackings, terrorist bombings, mass murders, and interracial hatreds, and has been menaced by the

3. (a) What may happen to some of Jehovah’s people, as indicated by recent events and Luke 21:16? (b) What assurance do we have of God’s protection during the “great tribulation”?

4. How do present-day conditions compare with those described in Genesis 6:11, 12?

proliferation of nuclear arms. Truly, these are "critical times" with "anguish of nations, not knowing the way out." (2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13; Luke 21:25) However, Jehovah's people today live in the midst of a scourge that presents a far greater danger than violence, though it is often linked with violence. It dates back more than 4,300 years to Noah's day. What is that?

Noah's Faith Amid Depravity

⁵ From the rebellion in Eden onward, Satan the Devil has been bent on "misleading the entire inhabited earth." (Revelation 12:9) Jehovah had commanded man and woman to use their God-given sexual powers honorably within the marriage arrangement, in order to "fill the earth" with their kind. (Genesis 1:28; Hebrews 13:4) But the Devil turned to contaminating humanity with unnatural sex. How? Spirit sons of God joined Satan in his rebellion. These became "demons," with Satan as their "ruler." (Luke 11:15) And of what did the demons' activity then consist? They came down to earth, materialized human bodies, and cohabited with the good-looking daughters of men. The outcome was appalling!

⁶ Hybrid offspring were thus produced, fleshly giants that were half demon, half human. These were the Nephilim, murderous "Fellers" of mankind, as the record shows: "And the earth came to be ruined in the sight of the true God and the earth became filled with violence. So God saw the earth and, look! it was ruined, because all flesh had ruined its way on the earth." Violence and sexual depravity became so widespread that only of Noah could it be said: "He proved himself faultless among his generations. Noah walked with the

5, 6. (a) How did Satan proceed to contaminate mankind? (b) In what ways did Noah and his family stand out as being no part of that world?

LIKE 'NOAH'S DAY'—

"Only 40 percent of college religion teachers . . . believe it is immoral for an unmarried man and woman to have sex."

—*Saturday Oklahoman & Times*, December 29, 1984

true God." His wife, his sons, and their wives—alone of all mankind—showed faith and godly fear. Apparently, Noah's family line was not contaminated by the sexual depravity of his day.—Genesis 6:4, 9-12, *Ref. Bi.*, footnote.

⁷ Jehovah obliterated that violent, sex-crazed, demonistic world. Sending the great Deluge, he flushed out everything that was bad. Hybrid Nephilim and corrupted humans were swept into oblivion, while the demonistic former sons of God made their escape back to the spirit realm—to await God's judgment of them. But there were survivors! Noah and his immediate family were spared. And why? Because of their faith, backed up by works in building the ark and preaching righteousness to that condemned world.—2 Peter 2:4, 5.

Moderns, Beware!

⁸ Noah's day prefigured our day. How do we know this? Well, Jesus foretold a similar time of violence, lawlessness, and lovelessness as part of "the sign" that we stand at the brink of a "great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again." He also said: "Concerning that day

7. As demonstrated in Noah's day, how does Jehovah judge the bad and the righteous? (Compare Matthew 25:40, 45, 46.)

8. In what respects did Noah's day prefigure our day?

and hour nobody knows, . . . only the Father.” Then he added: “Just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be. For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, men marrying and women being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark; and they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be.” —Matthew 24:3-21, 36-39.

⁹ Yes, “they took no note.” But you do not have to be like them. You can escape when the Lord Jesus is revealed from

9. How do we avoid the destiny of those who ‘take no note’?

Do Bible Principles Count?

An Episcopalian priest listened to a funeral service conducted by one of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Afterward, at the priest’s invitation, two ministers from the Watch Tower Society attended a discussion with several clergymen in Brooklyn Heights, New York City.

The question of homosexuality came up. The Witnesses made it plain that the Bible forbids this and that the Witnesses disfellowship persons who practice any kind of immorality. (Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; Jude 7) The Witnesses asked the clergymen about their stand on this matter and received the following replies:

A Congregational minister: “I think we have the excommunication rule somewhere in the bylaws of our church, but for the life of me, I can’t remember when we ever invoked that law!”

The Episcopalian priest: “If we invoked that law, we wouldn’t have any parishioners [left].”

A Catholic monsignor: “If we invoked that law, we wouldn’t have any priests [left].”

Though these clergymen’s comments may exaggerate matters, Jehovah’s Witnesses are happy about their own firm stand in keeping the congregation clean. They are “no part of the world.”—John 15:19.

heaven, executing God’s vengeance by everlastingly destroying “those who do not know God and those who do not obey the good news about our Lord Jesus.” (2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8) You do not have to be like worldly people whose main interest in life is pleasing self, pursuing a prestigious career or material wealth, with no thought of God. Truly, “their god is their belly.”—Philippians 3:19.

“Hate What Is Bad”

¹⁰ In these final days, the lives of so many people revolve around sex, with or without the benefit of marriage. And for many of those who are married, divorce or annulment has become a norm. Disregarding clear-cut warnings by Jesus’ disciples, many in Christendom indulge in homosexuality. Already, some of these are “receiving in themselves the full recompense” in the form of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. However, there could be hope of salvation even for such persons. Remember, Jesus spoke favorably of prostitutes who cleaned up their lives and believed in him, in contrast with the proud, unrepentant religious leaders of his day.—Romans 1:26, 27; 2 Peter 2:9, 10; Jude 6, 7; Matthew 21:31, 32.

¹¹ Any of Jehovah’s people who may have become tainted with, or who are tempted to indulge in, immoral practices must awaken and put on the full armor that God provides! (Ephesians 6:11-18) These days are truly “just as the days of Noah were.” That “roaring lion,” the Devil, and his depraved demons are working around the clock to isolate and entrap God’s servants. We must take our stand against those enemies, solid in the faith.—1 Peter 5:8, 9.

10, 11. (a) To gain God’s approval, what vices must be avoided? (b) What armor must we put on, and why?

¹² Shocking as it is, even some who have been prominent in Jehovah's organization have succumbed to immoral practices, including homosexuality, wife swapping, and child molesting. It is to be noted, also, that during the past year, 36,638 individuals had to be disfellowshipped from the Christian congregation, the greater number of them for practicing immorality. Jehovah's organization must be kept clean! (1 Corinthians 5:9-13) This is a time for congregation elders, ministerial servants, and indeed all our brothers and sisters to avoid any circumstances that could lead to immorality. Loyalty to Jehovah's standards will be rewarded, as Psalm 97:10 states: "O you lovers of Jehovah, hate what is bad. He is guarding the souls of his loyal ones; out of the hand of the wicked ones he delivers them."

¹³ At the latest, the "great tribulation" will clear out all those "who are disgusting in their filth." How concerned we must be to hate, yes, abhor, and avoid worldly depravity! We must "flee from fornication"! (Revelation 21:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10, 18) The apostle Peter, after warning against doubt-sowing apostates and about the reality of "Jehovah's day," exhorts us to "holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion." He adds: "But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell. Hence, beloved ones, since you are awaiting these things, do your utmost to be found finally by him spotless and unblemished and in peace." What a joy thus to attain to the "new earth," where God will 'make all things new' and clean!—2 Peter 3:3-7, 10-14; Revelation 21:1, 4, 5.

12. Why is it important to follow the counsel of Psalm 97:10?

13. What sound advice is given by the apostles Paul and Peter?

LIKE 'NOAH'S DAY'—

"A New York City public school for homosexual high school students has opened in Manhattan." Its teacher said: "We wanted an environment where gay and lesbian kids would not be subject to immature teen-agers."—*The New York Times*, June 6, 1985

Heed Further 'Warning Examples'

¹⁴ After the great Deluge had cleansed the earth of all demonic and human filth, Jehovah repeated the mandate originally given to Adam, by saying to Noah and his sons: "Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth." (Genesis 9:1) In a token way they did this, 70 "families"—a figuratively perfect number—being listed in Genesis chapter 10. But mankind was still suffering the effects of sin inherited from Adam. And apparently demonic influence again led humans to sink into sexual depravity.

¹⁵ In time, Jehovah's "friend," Abraham, and Abraham's nephew Lot moved to the area of Canaan. Lot chose to transfer to the District of the Jordan, which was "like the garden of Jehovah." But was it that way morally? Far from it! The city of Sodom, where Lot took up residence, and neighboring Gomorrah were steeped in homosexuality. Not even ten righteous men could be found there. For this reason, Jehovah brought upon those cities "the judicial punishment of everlasting fire." Never will those depraved cities be restored! Jesus

14. Why was the cleansing by the Flood only temporary?

15. What do we learn from God's judgment of Sodom?

LIKE 'NOAH'S DAY'—

“Members of the Riverside Church yesterday approved a pro-gay policy that accepts homosexual relationships as part of the concept of Christian family life.”—*New York Post*, June 3, 1985

cited God's judgment on Sodom, along with what occurred “in the days of Noah,” in underlining the need for us to be on guard!—Genesis 13:10; 18:32; Jude 7; Luke 17:26-30.

¹⁶ Make no mistake! Satan and his demons are still on the rampage! Though thrown into figurative “pits of dense darkness” and restricted from taking on fleshly bodies, those depraved spirits are intent upon corrupting humans, and especially Jehovah's servants. (2 Peter 2:4-6) No doubt the demons influenced Canaan to commit his immoral act toward his grandfather Noah. (Genesis 9:22-25) Certainly they must have spawned the perversions that became ‘the way of the land of Canaan,’ so that it finally vomited out its inhabitants. (Leviticus 18:3-25) Likewise, the demons foster the unnatural sex practices that afflict so many communities today. In putting up a hard fight for the faith, we must resist any attacks by those fallen angels that impel humans to ‘commit fornication excessively and to go out after flesh for unnatural use.’—Jude 3, 6, 7.

Build for Preservation

¹⁷ In view of the seriousness of our

16. What demon activity calls for us to put up a hard fight for the faith?

17. Like Noah and his family, how may we show ourselves to be no part of the world?

times, how can we find the way of deliverance? Well, how did Noah and his family survive? “By faith Noah . . . condemned the world.” (Hebrews 11:7) Likewise today, Jehovah's Witnesses are “no part” of the wicked world. Moreover, we have demonstrated our faith by dedicating our lives to Jehovah and undergoing baptism in water in order to become disciples of Jesus Christ.—John 17:14, 16; Matthew 28:19.

¹⁸ Further, we share in Jehovah's work for this day, a spiritual building work directed by the Greater Noah, Jesus Christ. As a place of security and survival, the ark represents the spiritual paradise that Jehovah has been building up among his worshipers since 1919. It is the condition of a restored peaceful relationship with God. It is His arrangement for preservation of the Greater Noah's antitypical family through the “great tribulation.”—Matthew 24:21; 1 Corinthians 3:9, 11; 2 Corinthians 12:3, 4; Revelation 7:13, 14.

¹⁹ “Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah.” How well he pictures Jesus Christ, who walked humbly with God here on earth, doing nothing of his own initiative! (Genesis 6:8; Matthew 17:1, 5; John 8:28) Both were preachers of righteousness—a

18. What is typified by the building of the ark?
19. Noah, his family members, and their work foreshadow what?

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- ☐ How should pre-Flood events forewarn us?
- ☐ What lessons should we draw from Matthew 24:37-39?
- ☐ Why is it so important to “hate what is bad”?
- ☐ How may we share in building the antitypical ark?

fine example for all witnesses of Jehovah. And we can be sure that Noah's wife, foreshadowing the remaining anointed ones on earth today, was a model of submissiveness. (2 Peter 2:5; Luke 4:14-19; Ephesians 5:21-24) When we consider how gigantic the task of building the ark of preservation was, we can imagine how happy the aging Noah must have been in having as his assistants three energetic sons and their wives! Aptly these picture the present-day "great crowd" who are shouldering the bulk of the spiritual building work during the final countdown to the antitypical Flood.—Revelation 7:9, 15.

²⁰ When this earth has been washed clean, ready to be transformed into a lit-

20, 21. (a) What bright prospects await Jehovah's worshipers in the cleansed earth? (b) What joy is to be experienced even now?

eral paradise, those pictured by Noah's sons and daughters-in-law may for a time have children born to them in righteousness. Then the miracle of the resurrection will bring to completion the filling of the earth with humans. All who accept the privilege of becoming Jesus' "other sheep" will be restored to perfection, and on surviving the final test after Christ hands over the Kingdom to his Father, these will be declared righteous for life eternal.—John 5:28, 29; 10:16; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Psalm 37:29; Revelation 20:7, 8.

²¹ What joys lie ahead for Jehovah's faithful worshipers! But great joy is to be found even now by wholeheartedly sharing in the building of the modern-day ark for survival. How is that work prospering? Our next study will provide the answer.

Building for an Eternal Future

"Every house has a builder, the Builder of all things being God."—HEBREWS 3:4, Weymouth.

SOME 4,400 years ago Jehovah commanded Noah to build the ark for preservation of life. But God did not leave it to Noah to build just any kind of structure that might float. Rather, he gave specific instructions as to materials, lay-

1, 2. (a) Who designed the ark, and how detailed were the instructions that were given? (b) Why is it vital that we obey, as Noah did?

out, length, width, height, ventilation, and interior and exterior finishing. "And Noah proceeded to do according to all that God had commanded him. He did just so."—Genesis 6:13-16, 22.

² What a fine example for modern-day witnesses of Jehovah! Like Noah, we are entrusted with a lifesaving work but this time looking to the salvation of 'millions

GLOBAL BUILDING BY

**Worldwide, 322,821
pioneers were
reporting each
month (increase of
24.7 percent)**

*Pioneers depart for the
house-to-house
ministry, Brooklyn,
New York*



**Publishers worldwide grew to
a peak of 3,024,131
(increase of 6.4 percent)**

*Fourteen-language convention,
Montreal, Quebec, Canada*

**Return visits on interested
ones totaled 224,725,918
for the year (increase of
14.8 percent)**

*Witnessing, Castle Comb,
Wiltshire, England*



**Home Bible studies
conducted each month
were 2,379,146 (increase
of 16.2 percent)**

*Study group in Yap,
Micronesia*

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES



Some buildings used in support of the global spiritual building activity.

At Brooklyn, the shipping of Bibles and Bible literature is handled from this 1,000,000-square-foot structure at 360 Furman Street

This Kingdom Hall (Downpatrick, Northern Ireland) was built in 31 hours



This Assembly Hall in Rome is one of scores of such halls in use around the earth

This addition to Japan's Bethel Home is now under construction



now living who may never die.' How important that we be obedient, as was Noah! How urgent that we follow the pattern of the One greater than Noah, Jesus Christ, in serving as 'preachers of righteousness'! —2 Peter 2:5.

A Spiritual Building Work

³ It has now been 1,956 years since Jesus startled the Galilean countryside with his declaration: "Repent, you people, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near." He likened everyone who obeyed his sayings and built upon them to "a discreet man, who built his house upon the rock-mass." That man's faith is firm, unshakable, immovable. It will not cave in under pressure. Jesus' preaching was faith building. It reached people's hearts, being so different from the sanctimonious mouthings of the Jewish religious leaders. The common people were astounded at Jesus' way of teaching. Even soldiers that were sent to arrest him returned empty-handed, declaring: "Never has another man spoken like this."—Matthew 4:17; 7:24, 25, 28; John 7:46.

⁴ Jesus was building for the future. He gathered fellow workers, such as Peter, who was also called Cephas, meaning "a stone." To this disciple, Jesus said: "You are Peter, and on this rock-mass I will build my congregation." In time Peter became one of many "living stones" built upon Jesus, the congregation's "foundation cornerstone." That congregation was established at Pentecost of 33 C.E. when the resurrected Jesus, at God's right

3. (a) What will result from building on Jesus' sayings? (b) Why was Jesus' preaching faith building?

4. (a) How did Jesus build for the future? (b) What major building development took place at Pentecost of 33 C.E.?

hand in heaven, poured out holy spirit upon the waiting disciples.—Matthew 16:18; 1 Peter 2:4-6; Acts 2:2-4, 32, 33.

⁵ Today, the Christian congregation is deeply involved in the outworking of Jehovah's purposes. It is the time of "apocalypse," or "disclosure," when "things that must shortly take place" are being revealed to God's "slaves" on earth. (Revelation 1:1-3, *Ref. Bi.*, footnote) It is the time when these slaves must 'preach the good news of God's Kingdom in all the earth for a witness,' before he executes judgment on Satan's wicked system. It is the time for the King, Jesus Christ, now enthroned in the heavens, to separate meek, sheeplike people from obstinate, goatish people who do not want that Kingdom, and to gather these "sheep" to his congregation of spiritual "brothers" before the "great tribulation" strikes.—Matthew 24:14, 21; 25:31-40.

⁶ What is the modern-day ark of survival? It is the spiritual situation in which Jehovah's Witnesses have found themselves since 1919, a spiritual paradise. Like Noah's family members, the remnant of anointed Christians and their companions must keep within its confines, working obediently, wholeheartedly, in completing the great spiritual project that Jehovah has purposed. This project is "to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the heavens [starting from 33 C.E. with heaven-bound anointed ones] and the things on the earth [beginning notably from 1935 with the international "great crowd" destined for everlasting life on earth]."—Ephesians 1:10; Revelation 7:9, 14.

5. What modern-day developments deeply involve the Christian congregation?

6. What today is the "ark," and how may we survive?

'Building and Planting'

⁷ Jehovah has commissioned the remaining anointed Christians on earth, just as he did the prophet Jeremiah, "to be over the nations and over the kingdoms, in order to uproot and to pull down and to destroy and to tear down, to build and to plant." So a twofold work is now in progress: (1) announcing Jehovah's judgment against Satan's wicked world system and (2) building and establishing a society of God's own people for preservation. (Jeremiah 1:10; 24:6, 7; Isaiah 26:20, 21) How happy the remnant of anointed ones and the growing throng of their companions are as they share in this work today! It is the kind of happiness that industrious Noah and his family must have experienced in their day.

⁸ Will millions survive the day of Jehovah's anger? There is fine prospect for that, as the 1985 Service Year Report of Jehovah's Witnesses indicates. Details of this report appear herein on pages 20-3. It is most thrilling to note the splendid increase in the peak number of field

7. What twofold work is now in progress, and how may we share in happiness as did Noah and Jeremiah?

8. (a) What publisher increase over the past 22 years is to be noted? (b) Referring to pages 20-3, what are some countries that enjoyed outstanding increase during 1985?

In Our Next Issue

- **The Horsemen
of the Apocalypse
—How Their Ride Affects You**
- **Jehovah Fulfills His Promises!**
- **Do You "Follow
the Course of Hospitality"?**

workers. This has now grown to a total of 3,024,131 Kingdom preachers. The 1,000,000 mark was first reached in 1963, 2,000,000 in 1974, and now more than 3,000,000 in 1985. In those 22 years, there has been a 200-percent increase. How grateful we are to Jehovah who, by his spirit, makes things grow! —Zechariah 4:6; 1 Corinthians 3:6.

⁹ Even more outstanding during those years has been the increase in full-time Kingdom proclaimers. Despite worsening economic conditions worldwide, the number of this valiant group of "pioneers" has shot up from a monthly average of 38,573 in 1963 to 322,821 in 1985—a 737-percent increase! What does this indicate? It shows that a splendid spirit of self-sacrifice exists among God's people, in line with Jesus' words at Luke 9:23. Usually, careful planning and self-denial are needed to make a success of pioneer service. But the rewards are great.—Romans 12:1, 2; Malachi 3:10.

¹⁰ The millions of congregation publishers also have to battle against the pressures brought upon them by Satan and his world. But they, too, are offering to God their "sacrifice of praise." (Hebrews 13:15; Romans 10:9, 10) Those hours, whether many or few, that you faithful publishers reported each month became part of the new peak of 590,540,205 hours of field service for 1985. This is a 16.8-percent increase over 1984! New peaks of 224,725,918 return visits and of 2,379,146 home Bible studies with interested persons indicate that Kingdom proclaimers everywhere are striving to be

9. (a) Why is the pioneer increase even more remarkable? (b) What is recommended to all who can make room for it, and why?

10. (a) Congregation publishers are to be commended for what? (b) What three new peaks of activity are here observed, and what do they indicate?

1985 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLDWIDE

Country or Territory	Population	1985 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Pub- lisher to:	1985 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 1984	1984 Av. Pubs.	1985 No. Bptzd.	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Atten- dance
Alaska	532,154	1,917	278	1,777	7	1,654	97	196	25	333,519	1,077	4,744
Algeria	21,000,000	41	512,195	34	17	29		1	3	2,036	32	75
American Samoa	35,600	86	414	80		80	6	14	1	21,449	108	304
Andorra	42,712	97	440	86	2	84	1	3	1	10,689	56	271
Anguilla	6,524	18	362	16	14	14		2	1	3,683	10	39
Antigua	70,794	212	334	198	1	196	6	28	4	46,700	218	563
Argentina	30,000,000	56,585	530	53,395	11	48,282	5,136	6,233	811	11,703,717	62,902	135,379
Aruba	67,328	324	208	300	5	287	37	20	5	49,228	206	921
Australia	15,636,600	42,453	368	41,299	6	39,052	2,152	3,954	595	8,037,231	20,588	82,238
Austria	7,551,842	15,861	476	15,738	3	15,317	824	1,062	229	2,693,212	7,651	27,502
Azores	260,000	330	788	291	13	257	36	35	12	66,147	283	905
Bahamas	209,505	753	278	686	13	607	62	117	11	189,419	1,098	2,354
Bangladesh	100,000,000	19	5,263,158	17	13	15		4	1	5,031	29	86
Barbados	265,000	1,516	175	1,411	4	1,356	67	142	16	267,750	1,412	4,275
Belau	13,000	58	224	42	35	31	5	10	1	17,308	94	193
Belgium	9,788,023	21,695	451	20,838	4	20,043	1,009	1,559	294	3,700,818	8,854	42,536
Belize	145,000	712	204	690	4	666	35	81	17	159,504	820	3,257
Benin	3,792,000	1,586	2,391	1,386	11	1,248	76	55	64	209,081	1,220	5,545
Bermuda	55,000	328	168	309	2	302	16	37	4	68,298	278	750
Bolivia	6,500,000	4,207	1,545	4,017	10	3,639	418	742	86	1,287,429	6,673	17,169
Bonaire	9,977	47	212	44	10	40	2	3	1	8,348	50	157
Botswana	936,600	423	2,214	392	1	390	35	46	17	90,625	463	1,185
Brazil	135,065,474	177,904	759	166,925	11	150,732	14,243	15,382	2,845	29,570,941	165,782	483,880
Britain	54,985,900	103,522	531	97,370	5	92,616	5,280	9,610	1,195	18,394,121	49,368	193,898
Brunei	190,300	8	23,788	6	20	5		1		664	15	35
Burkina Faso	7,318,695	268	27,309	247	18	209	25	57	12	96,853	520	1,123
Burma	35,500,000	1,352	26,257	1,284	7	1,197	75	200	68	343,693	947	3,597
Burundi	4,700,000	382	12,304	340	14	298	41	56	11	100,421	665	1,092
Canada	25,295,200	84,241	300	80,614	5	76,866	4,085	7,522	1,165	14,524,600	40,037	157,236
Cape Verde Rep.	301,500	221	1,364	193	16	166	29	22	7	51,475	339	1,090
Cayman Islands	16,821	62	271	55	2	54	1	7	1	12,421	62	140
Central Afr. Rep.	2,657,128	1,320	2,013	1,244	9	1,144	111	193	43	340,118	1,527	7,271
Chad	4,000,000	137	29,197	133	1	132	14	36	11	59,781	262	923
Chile	12,074,477	26,924	448	24,691	12	21,983	2,378	2,601	299	5,338,012	34,627	84,543
Colombia	30,324,906	26,536	1,143	24,669	15	21,442	2,253	2,584	338	5,363,474	33,583	114,777
Congo	1,650,000	1,078	1,531	1,029	10	936	59	62	39	185,030	1,250	3,409
Cook Islands	17,000	75	227	67	10	61	9	9	4	15,293	57	217
Costa Rica	2,416,809	9,210	262	8,578	10	7,811	657	665	163	1,590,895	9,817	25,850
Curaçao	169,438	1,211	140	1,130	11	1,021	103	125	13	245,927	1,496	3,465
Cyprus	620,000	1,083	572	1,068	2	1,047	51	88	14	179,751	518	2,165

Denmark	5,111,108	14,903	343	14,453	4	13,903	539	902	237	1,991,868	4,823	24,231
Djibouti	400,000	12	33,333	9	29	7		1	1	1,381	10	37
Dominica	81,000	222	365	205	-1	207	8	25	7	47,949	174	816
Dominican Rep.	5,647,977	8,930	632	8,596	9	7,904	660	1,057	133	2,021,339	14,256	29,990
Ecuador	9,000,000	9,311	967	8,846	13	7,814	672	1,140	127	2,244,150	14,731	45,764
El Salvador	5,385,969	14,250	378	13,640	8	12,583	1,330	1,810	239	3,492,215	20,292	51,783
Equatorial Guinea	300,000	139	2,158	123	46	84	38	38	4	60,961	357	542
Falkland Islands	1,900	4	475	4	33	3			1	499	5	11
Faeroe Islands	45,392	94	483	88	5	84	2	17	4	17,176	36	148
Fiji	700,125	1,049	667	981	16	849	82	183	24	271,634	1,027	3,740
Finland	4,893,878	15,334	319	15,033	3	14,600	604	1,540	262	2,646,534	7,112	25,149
France	55,061,000	87,278	631	84,925	7	79,568	5,523	6,037	1,243	16,110,201	49,392	178,473
French Guiana	73,022	385	190	355	20	297	54	42	5	92,703	679	1,155
Gabon	900,000	498	1,807	464	7	435	22	26	13	95,854	784	2,005
Gambia	695,886	18	38,660	17	13	15		5	1	9,280	45	84
Germany, F. R.; W. Berlin	61,009,400	115,604	528	114,188	2	112,386	4,066	6,532	1,588	18,278,268	46,543	194,719
Ghana	12,522,918	28,635	437	26,388	9	24,112	2,153	3,556	511	6,438,007	39,211	101,926
Gibraltar	28,339	130	218	119	14	104	6	7	1	16,247	41	197
Greece	9,740,417	22,466	434	22,240	2	21,715	762	1,824	362	3,873,834	8,020	39,001
Greenland	52,940	104	509	90	20	75	7	15	7	23,630	54	160
Grenada	112,000	353	317	331	-1	334	23	45	7	74,001	375	1,075
Guadeloupe	328,000	4,064	81	3,828	14	3,352	455	193	47	714,442	5,021	11,658
Guam	118,338	241	491	224	6	211	28	47	1	69,258	361	782
Guatemala	7,500,000	8,135	922	7,787	11	7,047	603	622	124	1,508,444	8,482	27,912
Guinea	5,143,284	204	25,212	153	-1	155	7	33	11	55,824	218	732
Guinea-Bissau	530,000	5	106,000	3	-25	4			1	277	6	16
Guyana	842,000	1,360	619	1,281	5	1,219	72	249	29	345,278	1,598	4,792
Haiti	6,000,000	4,048	1,482	3,922	11	3,537	137	395	77	920,152	6,147	21,058
Hawaii	1,038,700	5,304	196	5,117	2	5,013	232	792	66	1,246,218	4,487	14,918
Honduras	4,236,819	4,065	1,042	3,799	10	3,450	251	460	73	943,598	5,902	20,003
Hong Kong	5,300,000	1,284	4,128	1,248	7	1,169	72	296	15	454,033	1,865	2,896
Iceland	240,443	167	1,440	151	7	141	5	18	2	32,101	100	374
India	775,000,000	7,410	104,588	6,805	11	6,132	515	689	273	1,354,324	4,150	18,930
Ireland	5,097,157	2,447	2,083	2,403	5	2,278	126	411	79	670,649	1,112	4,821
Israel	5,535,500	316	17,517	303	3	295	11	30	6	67,713	236	655
Italy	56,556,911	127,526	443	123,253	10	111,951	10,465	17,716	1,831	31,882,038	82,652	275,902
Ivory Coast	9,273,167	2,143	4,327	2,056	12	1,828	85	323	57	616,296	3,477	8,349
Jamaica	2,200,000	7,737	284	7,375	4	7,110	479	694	168	1,338,285	6,807	21,250
Japan	120,007,812	103,117	1,164	97,823	12	87,460	10,290	39,384	1,722	46,483,981	142,547	258,728
Jordan	3,500,000	98	35,714	55	28	43	4	1	2	4,681	36	145
Kenya	19,750,000	3,570	5,532	3,422	10	3,101	394	728	102	1,217,492	5,172	10,971
Kiribati	63,843	16	3,990	15	25	12	2	3	1	4,838	33	88
Korea	41,209,000	39,654	1,039	37,263	10	33,794	3,770	10,855	643	13,510,411	39,710	86,907
Kosrae	6,005	24	250	23	-4	24		5	1	6,517	46	170
Lebanon	3,000,000	2,178	1,377	2,087	8	1,930	133	151	50	377,587	1,462	4,638
Lesotho	1,518,635	784	1,937	746	10	681	43	84	40	160,116	635	3,266
Liberia	1,800,000	1,272	1,415	1,211	5	1,151	68	200	32	362,547	2,099	6,149
Libya	3,224,000	18	179,111	9	13	8	2	1		2,504	12	28

Country or Territory	Population	1985 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Pub- lisher to:	1985 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 1984	1984 Av. Pubs.	1985 No. Bptzd.	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Cong.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Atten- dance
Liechtenstein	26,680	45	593	43	5	41		4	1	7,356	33	89
Luxembourg	430,000	1,230	350	1,178	7	1,103	52	99	21	220,324	820	2,784
Macao	400,000	17	23,529	16	23	13		5	1	9,326	28	51
Madagascar	9,866,113	1,994	4,948	1,884	13	1,672	197	198	36	434,239	3,636	9,028
Madeira	264,200	496	533	456	6	429	37	26	11	75,832	401	1,322
Malaysia	15,445,000	763	20,242	725	11	654	63	113	18	213,673	1,127	1,964
Mali	7,000,000	51	137,255	48		48	1	27	1	39,595	166	194
Malta	355,173	301	1,180	276	14	243	39	33	3	64,608	206	570
Marshall Islands	31,042	174	178	156	1	155	5	46	2	53,652	358	915
Martinique	328,566	1,885	174	1,545	14	1,545	196	159	24	369,598	2,146	4,848
Mauritius	984,200	747	1,318	706	10	642	93	77	9	152,982	701	1,637
Mayotte	58,000	17	3,412	16	78	9	5	4	1	5,848	37	35
Mexico	78,558,031	173,037	454	162,130	14	141,876	17,450	19,557	5,244	36,811,419	235,927	781,904
Montserrat	13,076	30	436	22	10	20		2	1	4,192	29	118
Morocco	22,100,000	90	245,556	84	8	78		10	3	19,951	56	206
Nauru	6,000	7	857	5	25	4				228	3	27
Nepal	16,000,000	35	457,143	35	21	29		6	1	8,357	25	102
Netherlands	14,453,833	28,689	504	27,745	2	27,263	986	2,057	302	4,400,908	8,426	48,374
Nevis	15,482	41	378	34	17	29		8	1	13,643	53	118
New Caledonia	152,600	738	207	683	15	593	113	84	8	167,739	865	2,079
New Zealand	3,254,400	9,143	356	8,621	5	8,203	519	821	136	1,582,671	5,161	18,587
Niger	6,083,000	82	74,183	72	20	60	11	17	5	30,582	116	232
Nigeria	95,689,500	121,729	786	115,074	6	108,425	4,255	10,013	2,318	22,013,425	109,087	371,854
Niue	2,200	19	116	14		14		3	1	2,410	22	72
Norway	4,147,647	7,938	523	7,684	4	7,420	356	369	175	973,622	2,586	14,590
Pakistan	96,000,000	241	398,340	225	5	215	20	44	6	69,830	324	719
Panama	2,180,500	4,355	501	4,207	11	3,804	283	443	90	885,462	5,966	15,532
Papua New Guinea	3,006,799	1,704	1,765	1,644	3	1,601	119	174	84	345,630	1,821	7,276
Paraguay	3,277,962	2,173	1,508	2,092	9	1,923	57	283	33	484,898	2,363	4,695
Peru	19,900,000	21,389	930	19,638	9	17,944	2,041	3,449	376	5,879,502	29,155	84,448
Philippines	54,000,000	83,670	645	78,867	13	69,869	7,319	13,145	2,381	18,462,384	49,773	268,526
Ponape	28,000	78	359	69		69	2	23	1	27,701	126	418
Portugal	9,401,000	28,984	324	27,751	8	25,705	2,029	2,029	410	4,502,686	20,068	73,135
Puerto Rico	3,350,000	20,413	164	19,891	5	18,917	811	1,535	254	3,602,549	16,001	57,411
Réunion	542,000	1,012	536	938	16	806	157	76	12	192,108	723	2,493
Rodrigues	34,800	23	1,513	20	25	16	1	3	1	6,024	24	62
Rota	1,274	13	98	10	43	7	3	4		5,376	23	52
Rwanda	5,950,000	455	13,077	424	16	367	61	52	14	133,667	772	1,175
St. Eustatius	1,335	4	334	2		2		1		328	2	19
St. Helena	6,000	102	59	97	14	85		3	2	11,260	35	236
St. Kitts	36,538	143	256	132	6	124	7	16	2	29,310	143	388
St. Lucia	120,000	310	387	285	2	279	14	42	5	64,884	370	990
St. Maarten	15,926	83	192	78	-3*	80	6	6	1	13,786	75	290
St. Pierre & Miquelon	6,000	13	462	12	9	11		1	1	1,615	4	24

St. Vincent	110,000	139	791	130	2	128	11	15	4	29,555	108	394
Saipan	15,519	32	485	28	40	20	6	11	1	15,499	78	103
San Marino	21,240	88	241	85	8	79	7	8	1	19,009	48	179
São Tomé	80,000	11	7,273	9	-36 *	14	2	1	1	1,730	37	71
Senegal	6,000,000	439	13,667	423	6	400	37	87	10	158,772	760	1,161
Seychelles	70,000	52	1,346	46	-10 *	51		6	1	11,895	60	157
Sierra Leone	3,354,000	689	4,868	637	2	624	33	128	31	200,920	943	3,096
Solomon Islands	265,680	648	410	619	5	591	26	71	30	130,938	632	2,673
South Africa	32,281,729	36,963	873	35,326	7	32,882	2,156	3,541	956	7,315,761	29,060	93,563
South-West Africa	1,032,000	355	2,907	328	2	323	24	29	12	69,136	342	777
Spain	38,601,795	61,110	632	59,514	8	55,251	4,063	6,491	888	12,929,498	41,684	134,605
Sri Lanka	15,825,000	886	17,861	842	10	762	111	134	27	246,934	994	2,975
Sudan	22,500,000	200	112,500	191	18	162	16	37	3	71,302	527	654
Suriname	350,000	1,128	310	1,063	11	957	100	140	17	250,620	1,211	3,660
Swaziland	638,419	814	784	761	15	659	63	76	42	187,739	729	2,804
Sweden	8,353,124	20,299	412	19,612	3	19,029	828	2,001	318	3,417,674	9,534	34,407
Switzerland	6,437,300	13,013	495	12,785	5	12,119	659	633	241	2,065,103	7,455	24,182
Syria	9,700,000	148	65,541	97	-28 *	134	11	6	5	16,108	67	250
Tahiti	172,100	622	277	596	6	561	44	59	10	129,310	762	1,883
Taiwan	19,200,000	1,077	17,827	1,050	8	975	70	224	23	333,404	1,222	3,206
Tanzania	21,000,000	2,402	8,743	2,420	18	2,056	102	317	82	618,919	2,080	6,881
Thailand	51,182,184	860	59,514	841	3	814	26	140	28	229,841	802	2,068
Togo	2,874,028	2,799	1,027	2,517	16	2,169	8	226	64	488,468	4,098	8,845
Tokelau Islands	1,627	4	407	3	New				1	73	1	21
Tonga	100,230	41	2,445	35	-13 *	40		7	2	11,905	53	186
Trinidad	1,128,600	4,198	269	3,948	8	3,663	250	610	46	933,069	4,726	12,054
Truk	38,650	39	991	38		38	1	13	2	18,862	123	416
Tunisia	7,150,000	48	148,958	42	8	39		1	1	3,966	19	91
Turkey	50,000,000	805	62,112	768	-3 *	790	9	45	10	131,564	457	1,262
Turks & Caicos Isls.	8,000	34	235	30	-3 *	31		6	1	10,363	46	108
Tuvalu Islands	8,222	31	265	23		23	4	4	1	5,437	33	99
Uganda	15,000,000	320	46,875	297	13	262	45	56	11	103,485	608	1,220
U.S. of America	238,574,282	723,220	330	678,510	5	648,704	34,348	74,715	8,129	130,224,261	447,298	1,657,753
Uruguay	2,990,000	5,329	561	5,033	5	4,789	289	656	90	1,151,768	6,610	15,243
Vanuatu	139,500	83	1,681	70	19	59	11	9	2	16,867	134	359
Venezuela	18,000,000	29,265	615	27,528	16	23,699	2,899	3,806	268	7,250,588	43,629	107,606
Virgin Isls. (Brit.)	12,000	91	132	86	8	80	1	10	3	19,351	153	399
Virgin Isls. (U.S.)	96,000	473	203	454	1	449	10	43	8	90,893	455	1,691
Western Samoa	159,488	166	961	148	5	141	24	26	2	42,023	133	486
Yap	9,320	48	194	37	-16 *	44	1	10	1	14,529	69	185
Zaire	30,200,000	35,602	848	34,207	16	29,435	5,573	6,794	999	10,970,410	60,985	153,356
Zambia	6,440,000	58,250	111	55,007	1	54,605	3,707	4,642	1,535	9,843,120	64,703	311,314
Zimbabwe	8,001,500	14,247	562	13,236	5	12,640	978	1,126	499	2,461,104	10,604	36,946
175 Countries	2,763,239		2,621,412	7.3	2,444,167	178,097	314,773	45,059	562,178,980	2,231,189	7,331,281	
* 30 Other Countries	260,892		243,771	3.2	236,107	11,703	8,048	4,657	28,361,225	147,957	460,828	
GRAND TOTAL (205 countries)	3,024,131		2,865,183	6.9	2,680,274	189,800	322,821	49,716	590,540,205	2,379,146	7,792,109	

During the 1985 service year the Watch Tower Society spent \$20,827,314.57 in caring for special pioneers, missionaries, and traveling overseers in their field service assignments.

MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLDWIDE: 9,051
 * Percentage of decrease
 # Work banned and reports are incomplete

A congregation in an African country where Jehovah's work is banned has 95 publishers, all of whom share in service each month. They average 130 at their meetings but 160 at their public talks. They have three regular pioneers and recently eight auxiliary pioneers. In just six months, 21 new publishers started in field service.

good teachers as well as zealous preachers.—Matthew 28:19, 20.

Building for True Peace and Security

¹¹ Late in 1985, the United Nations proclaimed 1986 as the International Year of Peace. In recent times, the UN has been saying much about peace and security. But a more important proclamation, that of the Scriptural hope for peace and security, gained great momentum during 1985 as Jehovah's Witnesses placed in the world field 38,805,561 Bibles, books, and booklets, as well as 300,545,609 magazines, and obtained 1,719,930 subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* By printed page and by word of mouth, the established Kingdom of the real "Prince of Peace" has received its grandest witness to date. Truly, "of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end."—Isaiah 9:6, 7, *King James Version*.

¹² The tremendous growth in the field has called for growth in support organization. During 1985 the number of congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide grew from 47,869 to 49,716. This has

11. How is the true hope for peace and security being advertised, and to what extent?

12. Expansion has resulted in what great need, and how have Jehovah's people united in trying to meet that need?

called for hundreds of new meeting places. How fine it is that, in many lands, the Witnesses have been blessed in their efforts to finance Kingdom Halls! Where there has been a need, individuals and congregations have unselfishly supported one another's building programs, so that an "equalizing" has taken place among the worldwide brotherhood.—2 Corinthians 8:14, 15.

¹³ In countries where circumstances are favorable, branch offices of the Watch Tower Society have also given backing to Kingdom Hall projects. In the United States and in Canada, many individuals are contributing to a special Kingdom Hall Fund, which has made possible loans for increased Kingdom Hall construction. Others have contributed their energies and skills, so that even quickly built Kingdom Halls are erected during just one weekend. By working at such projects "whole-souled as to Jehovah," his Witnesses can accomplish what worldly men consider impossible.—Colossians 3:23.

¹⁴ In a number of countries, a lack of facilities suitable for semiannual circuit assemblies of Jehovah's Witnesses has presented a major problem. Again, the Witnesses have joyfully met the challenge through construction programs, in the same spirit as shown by God's servants in ancient times. For example, when it became necessary to find materials for the construction of the tabernacle, the assembly of Israel unitedly heeded God's command: "From among yourselves take up a contribution for Jehovah. Let every willing-hearted one bring it as Jehovah's contribution." That assembly provided far more than was needed, and the work was

13. How may individuals contribute to Kingdom Hall building projects?

14. How have Assembly Hall needs been met?

accomplished quickly.—Exodus 35:5-19; 36:7.

¹⁵ As the need for Bibles and Bible-based publications increases, many of the 94 Watch Tower branches throughout the world have had to expand their facilities. The Brooklyn and Watchtower Farms printing operation is still by far the largest, but 36 branches of the Society are now taking care of their own magazine printing, and 6 branches are also equipped to print and bind books. Of these, Germany, Italy, and Japan are manufacturing Bibles. The new factory at Selters, Germany, is working to capacity. At Ebina, Japan, construction is under way on a six-story factory addition and an eight-story Bethel Home annex to accommodate another 280 workers. Just as Jehovah's people supported the construction of Solomon's temple "with a complete heart," so today God's people in various lands make "voluntary offerings to Jehovah," and he adds his blessing so that the work is accomplished.—1 Chronicles 22:14, 15; 29:7, 9; see *Ref. Bi.*, footnotes.

¹⁶ Is all this construction and organizing really necessary? It is, if "the faithful and discreet slave" is to continue providing spiritual "food at the proper time." Such food is vitally necessary for the growth of "the household of God" and for global preaching in upwards of 200 languages. (Matthew 24:45; Ephesians 2:19; 4:15, 16) Jehovah's people themselves have contributed their skills in developing a multilanguage electronic phototypesetting system (MEPS), now supplied to 26 Watch Tower branches. This has made possible a unified global offset-printing operation and has

15. (a) What expansion has been taking place in Watch Tower Society branches? (b) How has the work been accomplished?

16. Why has this additional building and organizing been necessary?

Eight countries reported a peak of more than 100,000 publishers in 1985

U.S.A.	723,220
Brazil	177,904
Mexico	173,037
Italy	127,526
Nigeria	121,729
Germany	115,604
Britain	103,522
Japan	103,117

helped toward publishing the Kingdom message simultaneously in many parts of the earth.—Compare Isaiah 52:7-9.

¹⁷ There appears to be no end to the modern-day expansion of Jehovah's organization. Even now, the Bethel family at the Brooklyn, New York, headquarters of the Society has grown to the extent of filling all available accommodations. If it should be Jehovah's will, a high-rise building to accommodate a thousand additional Bethel workers may be erected on the Society's property on Columbia Heights. But if this does not eventuate, we will look for Jehovah's further direction in the matter. The prayers and loyal support of the worldwide brotherhood in connection with all this expansion are indeed appreciated.—Compare Acts 21:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:1.

¹⁸ 'But why,' someone may ask, 'are there so many expansion projects when we stand face-to-face with Armageddon?' The answer is that Jehovah's organization does not 'close up shop' with the approach

17. What need exists at Brooklyn headquarters, and how is this being handled?

18. Why are there so many building projects today, despite the nearness of Armageddon?

of Armageddon. That is 'closing time' only for Satan's organization. Jehovah's organization is building for an eternal future. Whether or not man-made structures weather the storm of Armageddon, we know that God's organization will survive as a going concern and that Jehovah will use it and those who loyally support it, establishing eternal peace and security in the glorious earthly Paradise of God's promise.—Revelation 7:9, 14-17; 21:1, 4, 5.

Building With a Purpose

¹⁹ Noah built with a purpose in view, and so must we. One feature of the 1985 Service Year Report provides much food for thought. It is that very wonderful attendance of 7,792,109 at the Memorial of Jesus' death on April 4, 1985—an increase of 375,135 over the 1984 total. Marvelous indeed! But that figure contains a challenge. With a peak of 3,024,131 publishers sharing in Kingdom service, there are well over 4,000,000 others associating with us, at least to some extent, who have yet to build for the future by sharing in the Christian ministry. How can we help them?

²⁰ Most of these interested persons are known to us personally. They may be family members, people with whom we conduct Bible studies, subscribers to our magazines, or others. Some may even have become interested since the last Memorial. Can we now make special efforts to nurture these, building them up through Bible study, so that they may find refuge in Jehovah's arrangement "until the adversities pass over"? (Psalm 57:1) The "great tribulation" will be Jehovah's act of vindication,

19. What challenge is to be seen in the Memorial report for 1985?

20. What urgent need is there to meet the challenge, and how may we go about it in a practical way?

even more meaningful and conclusive than the Noachian Flood. We want to build up these interested ones with life-giving truths, so that they will "call upon the name of Jehovah" and not be swept away. (Matthew 24:21, 22, 39; Zephaniah 2:3; 3:8, 9) Let us study God's Word with them, using the textbook *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* or other faith-building Bible literature.

²¹ Jehovah God is the Master Builder and Grand Provider for mankind. (Psalm 127:1; 145:16; Ecclesiastes 3:10-13) He it was who directed Noah as to the design and building of the ark. By the willing cooperation of the Greater Noah, Jesus Christ, he has arranged to ransom obedient humans from sin and death. Through this Son he has also built up the modern-day "ark," the flourishing spiritual paradise wherein men and women of faith may find preservation, with everlasting life in view. (Matthew 20:26-28; John 3:16; 17:3) May we help many others to build faith and forge a bond of intimacy with Jehovah and his Son. May we help them to love righteousness and hate wickedness. (Hebrews 1:9) Thus, with faith like Noah's, we can keep on building together for an eternal future.—1 Timothy 4:15, 16.

21. How can we build faith like Noah's in ourselves and in others?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW—

- ☐ How did Jesus build for the future?
- ☐ What did you find outstanding in the 1985 report?
- ☐ Why are theocratic building programs needed?
- ☐ How may all of us build with a purpose?

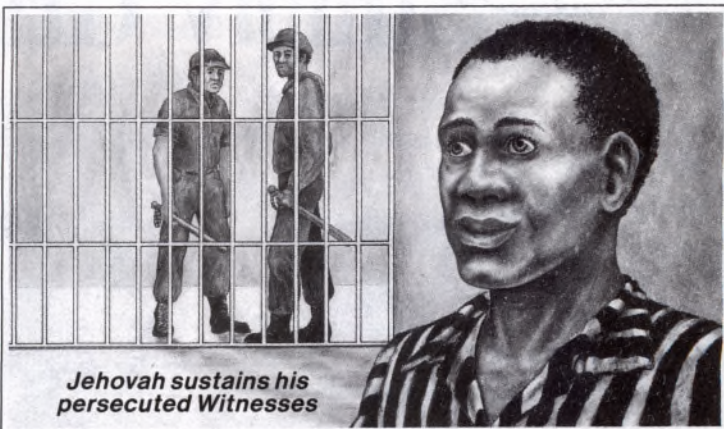
Kingdom Proclaimers Report

"They Will Not Prevail Against You"

IN A Central American country, 15 armed men took two of Jehovah's Witnesses from their home by force and brought them to a group of 75 men armed with clubs and machetes. They insulted the Witnesses with obscenities and turned them over to another group of about 350 similarly armed men. They expected that the two brothers would become fearful and would compromise their Christian neutrality by joining their patrol. (Isaiah 2:4) But the Witnesses stood fast and refused to join the military operation. So they were thrown into prison, while members of many of the churches compromised and went off to the hills with the patrol.

The next day the brothers were taken to the main town for another hearing. As they walked along, the guards told them they were brainwashed. The brothers replied: "It is certainly true that we have been brainwashed! Now we do not do harm to anyone; we are not thieves, drunkards, adulterers." When the official gave them a hearing, he showed kindness and congratulated them, saying, "If everyone was like you, things would be different . . . and may your God Jehovah protect you." They were then released.

Why the persecution of harmless, peaceful Christians who are upholding God's standards of righteousness? It is because they are "no part of the world" and its political activities. (John 17:16) What a comfort to know that although Satan and his world will fight against servants



Jehovah sustains his persecuted Witnesses

of Jehovah, they will *not* prevail (Jeremiah 1:19) This was proved true in this country, and the official in charge is to be commended for understanding the neutral position of Jehovah's Witnesses.

□ The words of Jeremiah also proved true in an experience from an African land where the work of Jehovah's Witnesses is restricted. After describing the hardships the brothers undergo in trying to help people learn more about Jehovah's wonderful purposes, the report says: "Due to the neutral position of Jehovah's people, scores of our brothers are imprisoned, frequently for successive terms. They are severely beaten, whipped, and pressured in every way to violate their Christian consciences. In one case, after brutal beatings failed to break a brother's integrity, some soldiers conspired to murder him. When a superior officer learned of their plot, he personally intervened and secretly had him transferred

to another city, thus saving his life."

This persecution has not stopped Jehovah's Witnesses from preaching the good news as God has commanded. (Matthew 24:14) Jehovah sustains them by his spirit and blesses their faithful stand. The report from this country also states: "In spite of extreme physical hardships, hunger, disease, a fierce civil war, and persecution, there has been a 17-percent increase in the average number of publishers." Memorial attendance increased 21 percent, and 21 percent of all publishers served as pioneers during April 1984.

So our brothers are happy even though they are persecuted. They trust in Jehovah and are reminded of the words of Jeremiah: "They will be certain to fight against you, but they will not prevail against you, for 'I am with you,' is the utterance of Jehovah, 'to deliver you.'"—Jeremiah 1:19.

JEHOVAH —Simply Grand!



MAJESTIC, dignified, elevated, noble, illustrious, and awe-inspiring. These are but a few of the many synonyms for the word “grand” that are listed in a popular thesaurus. And, of a truth, any of them could be used to describe the “Grand Creator,” as Jehovah God is called at Ecclesiastes 12:1.

‘But just a minute,’ you may say, ‘my translation of the Bible does not use this descriptive word “grand.”’ Is the *New World Translation* correct in doing so?

In no way is this an example of adding to God’s Word—something it expressly condemns. (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18) Rather, it is an attempt to convey in modern English the exact and complete meaning of the original Hebrew text. The rendering “Creator,” while basically correct, does not go far enough. A footnote to this text in the 1984 Reference Edition of the *New World Translation* explains: “‘Your **Grand Creator.**’ Heb[rew], *Boh-re’ey’kha*. The participle of the Heb[rew] verb ‘create’ is pl[ural] to denote grandeur or excellence.”

Thus Bible writers, under divine inspiration, sometimes used plural verb forms or nouns to describe God. This does not mean, however, that they believed in a plural, or perhaps triune, God. On the contrary. “There is actually to us one God

the Father,” wrote the apostle Paul, adding, “and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 8:6) Their use of the plural was simply to point up Jehovah’s incomparable position. He is majestic, dignified, elevated, noble, illustrious, and awe-inspiring—all of this and more. Yes, simply stated, he is grand!

God, a Creator and an Instructor Par Excellence

“For who in the skies can be compared to Jehovah?” asked the psalmist. “Who can resemble Jehovah among the sons of God?” (Psalm 89:6) Not even the firstborn Son who served at creation as His “master worker” can measure up to Jehovah’s degree of greatness. He himself admitted this, saying when on earth as the man Jesus Christ: “The Father is greater than I am.” (John 14:28) And despite being his Father’s “master worker,” he never laid claim to the title of co-Creator. He glorified God as being the one and only Creator.—Compare Genesis 1:26, 27; Proverbs 8:30; and Matthew 19:4.*

Jehovah is not just a mighty one, or god, of which there are many, but he is the Almighty God, of which there is only one. (Psalm 82:6; Revelation 11:17) In view of his unique position, it is most appropriate to refer to him as “the grand God.” That is what the prophet Daniel called him when he was asked to interpret a dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had. He said: “The grand God himself has made known to the king what is to occur after this. And the dream is reliable, and

* It is significant that Genesis 1:26, when referring to Jehovah and his “master worker” together, says “let us *make*,” whereas the next verse uses the word “*create*” when referring to Jehovah alone. Of this Hebrew word for “create,” “A Dictionary of the Hebrew Old Testament in English and German,” by Koehler and Baumgartner, says: “In the O[ld] T[estament] [this] is a theological term the subject of which is God exclusively.”

the interpretation of it is trustworthy.” To which the king replied: “Truly the God of you men is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a Revealer of secrets.” —Daniel 2:45, 47.

A Grand God with the ability to foreknow the future and to reveal secrets is obviously capable of guiding his people properly, instructing them on how to avoid dangers. He is an Instructor without equal, the “Grand Instructor,” as Isaiah 30:20, 21 calls him. This is true, first of all, because of the ultimate wisdom embodied in what he teaches. For example, God issued warnings that alerted his people to the dangers inherent in tobacco, drug abuse, blood transfusions, and sexual immorality long before these were fully recognized by scientists and doctors.*

Second, he is without equal in his method of teaching. It is always positive, offered in a loving way with patience and a perfect grasp of the student’s individual needs and capabilities. It is therefore most effective. No wonder an ancient servant of God once asked, for reasons of comparison, the question: “Look! God himself acts exaltedly with his power; who is an instructor like him?”—Job 36:22.

A King, a Maker, and a Master

Jerusalem, seat of government for Jehovah’s typical theocracy, was called “the town of the grand King.” (Psalm 48:1, 2) Psalm 135:21 identifies this “grand King” as being “Jehovah, who is residing in Jerusalem.” (See also Psalm 47:8; Matthew 5:35.) Of course, as universal Sovereign upon a heavenly throne, the Grand King never did literally reside in Jerusalem, but the human kings who ruled as his repre-

* Decades ago these dangers were Scripturally explained in the *Watchtower* issues of July 1, 1942, pages 205-7; July 1, 1945, pages 198-201; December 1, 1949, page 367, and in the *Awake!* issue of July 22, 1950, pages 13-15.

sentatives did.—Psalm 10:16; 29:10; Jeremiah 10:10; Daniel 4:34.

Now, since 1914, Jehovah is once again ruling through a representative King, this time his Son, Christ Jesus, who is installed in the “heavenly Jerusalem.” (Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 11:15; 12:10) His Messianic Kingdom will permanently establish the rightfulness of Jehovah’s sovereignty and rid the universe of all challengers to the rule of the Grand King.

According to Job 35:10, Psalm 149:2, and Isaiah 54:5, Jehovah is also the “Grand Maker.” The latter two texts refer to Jehovah’s making Israel into a nation to serve his interests. Thus, besides being able to create, Jehovah is also able to cause his creations to become whatever he desires them to be in order for his purposes to see fulfillment. This is in harmony with the very meaning of the divine name: “He Causes to Become.”

Such a Grand King and Grand Maker is worthy of our trust and confidence. More than that, he is worthy of our love, devotion, and—above all—our worship. He is entitled to be called our “grand Master.” (Hosea 12:14) We should avoid acting like unfaithful Israel, who foreshadowed modern-day Christendom. Of such apostates Malachi wrote: “‘A son, for his part, honors a father; and a servant, his grand master. So if I am a father, where is the honor to me? And if I am a grand master, where is the fear of me?’ Jehovah of armies has said to you, O priests who are despising my name.” (Malachi 1:6) We should honor our Grand Master with a godly fear, not despising his name by trying to hide it—as some modern translators have done—or eradicate it from the Bible as though it is shameful to mention it. On the contrary, we should be proud to bear it in identifying ourselves as His witnesses.

Fully Recognizing Jehovah’s Grandness

God is the personification of love, as well as of every other good and positive quality. (1 John 4:8) So it does not surprise us that Isaiah describes this “true God, Jehovah, . . . the Creator of the heavens” simply as “the Grand One.” He is the very personification of grandness.—Isaiah 42:5.

If we fully recognize him as being a Grand King now ruling since 1914 in a very special sense, we will maintain strict Christian neutrality in political affairs. We will avoid taking sides, even in a passive way. And in a positive way we will support God’s rule by “seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness,” actively preaching “this good news of the kingdom” to others.—Matthew 6:33; 24:14.

If we fully recognize him as being a Grand Master, we will refrain from contradicting in speech or action his approved way of doing things. We will be quick to obey him. In view of his unique position as the Grand God, the Grand Creator, and the Grand Maker, we will appreciate his right to exclusive devotion. We will not balk at his requirements, even those that may appear to us to be overly restrictive. We will readily accept his arrangements for maintaining peace and unity in the congregation and within our own families.—See Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 6:1-3.

If we fully recognize him as being a Grand Instructor, we will not doubt or criticize the methods of instruction Jehovah’s “faithful and discreet slave” class is using today. Rather, we will support disciplinary actions that are sometimes necessary in instructing, and at the same time attempt to derive as much benefit as possible from the fine teaching aids God’s visible organization provides.—Matthew 24:45-47.

Yes, in summary, if we fully recognize Jehovah as being the Grand One, we will be eager to grasp every opportunity to serve him. Positions of power, fame, and wealth, as enjoyed by politicians, entertainment personalities, or financiers, are as nothing when compared to the privilege of being in the service of the Grand One.

Many people might be willing to accept

Jehovah as their Creator and Maker. But when it comes to accepting him as their God, their Instructor, their King, and their Master—at this they rebel. Let us never make that mistake. Remember, whether as Creator, Maker, God, Instructor, King, or Master, Jehovah is majestic, dignified, elevated, noble, illustrious, and awe-inspiring—all of this and more. Yes, Jehovah is simply grand!

Questions From Readers

■ Since Psalm 37:29 has been translated "The righteous shall inherit *the land*, and dwell therein for ever," does it refer simply to Israel's permanently occupying the Promised Land?

No, that interpretation would be an unfounded limitation of this inspired promise. Psalm 37 holds before righteous ones the prospect of living forever on our earth.

The above rendering of Psalm 37:29 is from the *King James Version*. As is true of many other versions, it renders the Hebrew *'e'rets* as "land." *'E'rets* can refer to a distinct region or to the territory of a nation, such as "the land of Shinar" or "the land of Egypt."—Genesis 10:10, 11; 21:21; Psalm 78:12; Jeremiah 25:20.

So Psalm 37:11, 29 might indicate that the Israelites could have been and should have been permanent occupants of the Promised Land. In accord with God's covenant with Abraham, they could have remained in that territory that God gave them, with generation after generation enjoying his blessings there. However, it did not work out that way, for the Isra-

elites became unfaithful to God.—Genesis 15:18-21; 17:8; Deuteronomy 7:12-16, 22; 28:7-14; 31:7; Joshua 21:43-45.

However, there is no Scriptural reason to limit *'e'rets* at Psalm 37:11, 29 to just the *land* given to the Israelites.

According to *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Gesenius, Brown, Driver, and Briggs; 1951) *'e'rets* means: "1. a. *earth*, whole earth ([as opposed] to a part) . . . b. *earth*, [as opposed] to heaven, sky . . . c. *earth*=inhabitants of earth . . . 2. *land*=a. country, territory . . . b. district, region . . . 3. a. *ground*, surface of ground . . . b. *soil*, as productive." *Old Testament Word Studies* by William Wilson says of *'e'rets*: "The earth in the largest sense, both the habitable and uninhabitable parts; with some accompanying word of limitation, it is used of some portion of the earth's surface, a land or country." So the first and primary meaning of the

Hebrew word is our planet, or globe, the earth.

Significantly, when Psalm 37:11, 29 was translated into Greek in the *Septuagint*, the Hebrew *'e'rets* was rendered by the Greek *ge*, which "denotes earth as arable land or soil." *Ge* is the word that is used in Jesus' significant prophecy at Matthew 5:5: "Happy are the mild-tempered ones, since they will inherit the *earth*."

Surely Jesus, in quoting the promise of Psalm 37:11, was not speaking merely of the Promised Land. His anointed followers will become heavenly king-priests with him to share a rulership over the entire earthly globe. (Revelation 5:10) Similarly, mild-tempered ones gaining everlasting life as humans will help to restore Paradise conditions over the entire earth. (Revelation 21:4; Genesis 1:28) Thus, all of us can look to the marvelous future fulfillment of the promise: "For the good will inherit the earth, and upon it for ever will dwell."—Psalm 37:29, *Fenton*.

1986 YEARBOOK OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

BEARING UP UNDER SUPERHUMAN PRESSURE

Do you feel that this is what you are doing?

Many people do. And they are helped by knowing how others cope. A woman from Bettendorf, Iowa, writes that she relates experiences from the *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* to persons with whom she studies the Bible, "helping them to see that 'the same things in the way of sufferings are being accomplished in the entire association of your brothers in the world.'"

—1 Peter 5:9.