

THE **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

DECEMBER 15, 1995



**DO YOU HAVE
THE SPIRIT OF GIVING?**

THE WATCHTOWER®

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

December 15, 1995

Average Printing Each Issue: 16,100,000

Vol. 116, No. 24

THE PURPOSE OF *THE WATCHTOWER* is to exalt Jehovah God as Sovereign Lord of the universe. It keeps watch on world events as these 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 God's 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Giving—Is It Expected?
- 4 Do You Have the Spirit of Giving?
- 8 The Ammonites—A People That Repaid Kindness With Hostility
- 11 They "Did Just So"
- 16 Joyful "Doers of the Word"
- 22 Look! A Kingdom Hall in Niue
- 24 "I Am Precious to Jehovah!"
- 26 Righteousness Exalts a Nation

- 30 Do You Remember?
- 31 Subject Index for *The Watchtower* 1995
- 32 Case Against Jehovah's Witnesses Decided

WATCHTOWER STUDIES

JANUARY 22-28: They "Did Just So." Page 11. Songs to be used: 35, 18.

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 4: Joyful "Doers of the Word." Page 16. Songs to be used: 215, 123.

Now published in 121 languages.

SEMI-MONTHLY LANGUAGES AVAILABLE BY MAIL: Afrikaans, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Bicol, Bislama, Bulgarian, Cebuano, Chichewa, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Cibemba, Croatian, Czech, * Danish, ** Dutch, ** Efik, English** (also Braille), Estonian, Ewe, Fijian, Finnish, ** French, ** Ga, German, ** Greek, * Gujarati, Hiligaynon, Hindi, Hiri Motu, Hungarian, * Igbo, Iloko, Indonesian, Italian, ** Japanese* (also Braille), Kannada, Korean* (also Braille), Lingala, Macedonian, Malagasy, Malayalam, Marathi, Myanmar, Nepali, New Guinea Pidgin, Norwegian, Pangasinan, Papiamentu, Polish, Portuguese, * Rarotongan, Romanian, * Russian, Samar-Leyte, Samoan, Sepedi, Serbian, Sesotho, Shona, Sinhalese, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, ** Swahili, Swedish, ** Tagalog, Tahitian, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tshiluba, Tsonga, Tswana, Turkish, Twi, Ukrainian, Venda, Vietnamese, Wallisian, Xhosa, Yoruba, Zulu

MONTHLY LANGUAGES AVAILABLE BY MAIL: Armenian, Cambodian, Georgian, Greenlandic, Gun, Hausa, Hebrew, Icelandic, Kinyarwanda, Kwanama/Ndonga, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luganda, Maltese, Marshallese, Moore, Niuean, Palauan, Persian, Ponapean, Punjabi, Sango, Silizi, Solomon Islands Pidgin, Sranantongo, Tongan, Trukese, Tuvaluan, Urdu, Yapese

* Study articles also available in large-print edition.
* Audiocassettes also available.

© 1995 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. All rights reserved. Milton G. Henschel, President

If you would like to learn about Jehovah's Witnesses or their publications, please write to Watch Tower at the appropriate address below.

America, United States of: Wallkill, NY 12589. **Australia:** Box 280, Ingleburn, N.S.W. 2565. **Bahamas:** Box N-1247, Nassau, N.P. **Barbados:** Fontabelle Rd., Bridgetown. **Canada:** Box 4100, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 4Y4. **England:** The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN. **Germany:** Niederselters, Am Steinfels, D-65618 Selters. **Ghana:** Box 760, Accra. **Guyana:** 50 Brickdam, Georgetown 16. **Hawaii 96819:** 2055 Kam IV Rd., Honolulu. **Hong Kong:** 4 Kent Road, Kowloon Tong. **India:** Post Bag 10, Lonavla, Pune Dis., Mah. 410 401. **Ireland:** 29A Jamestown Road, Finglas, Dublin 11. **Jamaica:** Box 180, Kingston 10. **Japan:** 1271 Nakashinden, Ebina City, Kanagawa Pref., 243-04. **Kenya:** Box 47788, Nairobi. **Liberia:** P.O. Box 10-0380, 1000 Monrovia 10. **New Zealand:** P.O. Box 142, Manurewa. **Nigeria:** P.M.B. 1090, Benin City, Edo State. **Philippines, Republic of:** P.O. Box 2044, 1099 Manila. **South Africa:** Private Bag X2067, Krugersdorp, 1740. **Trinidad and Tobago, Republic of:** Lower Rapsey Street & Laxmi Lane, Curepe. **Zambia:** Box 33459, Lusaka 10101. **Zimbabwe:** 35 Fife Avenue, Harare.

The Bible translation used is the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References, unless otherwise indicated.

Would you welcome more information or a free home Bible study? Please send your request to Watch Tower, using the appropriate address above.

Publication of "The Watchtower" is part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations.

Changes of address should reach us 30 days before your moving date. Give us your old and new address (if possible, your old address label).

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) is published semi-monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Watchtower, Wallkill, NY 12589.

Printed in U.S.A.

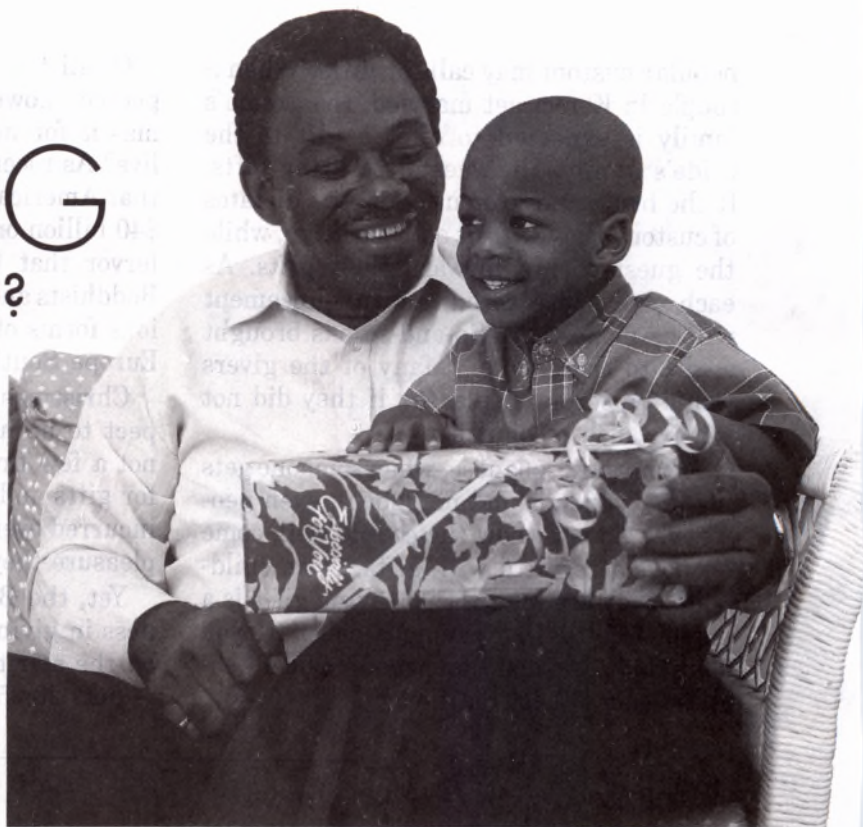
GIVING

IS IT EXPECTED?

YOU may well know that the giving of presents is frequently dictated by custom. In most cultures there are occasions when gifts are expected. Such gifts may be meant as tokens of respect or expressions of love. Many of them are never used by the recipient; others help to fill real needs and are deeply appreciated.

In Denmark when a baby is born, friends and relatives will visit and bring along gifts that they hope will be useful for the infant. In other lands, friends may have a party at which such gifts are given in anticipation of the birth.

Occasions when gifts are expected are, in many instances, annual affairs. Though such celebrations were not a practice among early Christians, they have become very popular among most professed Christians and non-Christians alike. The practice of giving birthday gifts may fade in other cultures as children grow older, but custom among the Greeks dictates otherwise. In Greece much attention is given to birthdays. They also give presents to a person on his "name day." What is that? Well, religious custom attaches a different "saint" to each day of the year, and many



people are named after "saints." When the "saint's" day arrives, those who bear that name receive gifts.

In addition to birthday celebrations for their children, Koreans have a national holiday known as Children's Day. It is a time when there are family outings and when presents are given to children no matter what the date of their birth. Koreans also have a Parents' Day, when children give to their parents, and a Teachers' Day, when students honor their teachers and give them gifts. According to Korean custom, when a person reaches 60 years of age, a big party is held. Family and friends join in extending wishes for longevity and happiness, and gifts are presented to the one who has reached that point in life.

A wedding is another occasion when

popular custom may call for gifts. When a couple in Kenya get married, the groom's family is expected to offer a gift to the bride's family. The guests too bring gifts. If the bride and groom follow the dictates of custom, they will sit on a platform, while the guests bring forward their gifts. As each one is presented, an announcement will be made that "So-and-so has brought a gift to the couple." Many of the givers would be sorely displeased if they did not receive such recognition.

Among the Lebanese, when someone gets married, friends and neighbors, even people who do not know the couple well, come for days afterward with gifts. From childhood, they are taught that giving gifts is a responsibility, like paying a debt. "If you don't do it, you don't feel good," said a Lebanese man. "It is tradition."

Of all the occasions when giving is expected, however, in many lands Christmas is foremost. Is that not so where you live? As recently as 1990, it was estimated that Americans annually spend upwards of \$40 billion on Christmas gifts. With great fervor that holiday is also celebrated by Buddhists and Shintoists in Japan, and various forms of the celebration are found in Europe, South America, and parts of Africa.

Christmas is a season when people expect to be happy, but many are not. And not a few find that the frenzied shopping for gifts and anxiety over paying the bills incurred overshadow whatever moments of pleasure they experience.

Yet, the Bible says that there is happiness in giving. Indeed there is, depending on the spirit in which the giving is done. —Acts 20:35.

DO YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT OF GIVING?

HAVE you observed that there is more than one spirit that prompts people to give? A gift may be an expression of love, of generosity, of appreciation. Yet have you not noted that a gift may also come from a person's desire to be viewed with favor? Or it may be given simply out of a feeling of obligation or because the giver wants something in return.

The gift may be in a package tied with a pretty ribbon. But is it not true that a fine gift may also be a bouquet of flowers, a dish of food, or a kind act? In fact, the gifts that

are most deeply appreciated often involve giving of oneself.

Is There Someone Whose Favor You Seek?

It is not unusual for a person to give a gift to one whose favor is sought. In some lands a young man who is seeking to win the heart of a prospective bride may bring her flowers. The wise woman sees beyond the gift though. She considers whether the spirit behind the young man's gift is a loving one that will also make him a good husband. Such a gift, if it reflects a godly spir-

it, can lead to much happiness for both the giver and the recipient.

The Bible tells of an occasion when Abigail, the wife of Nabal, quickly prepared a generous gift for David, whom she recognized to be the one chosen by God to be the future king of Israel. She too sought favor. Her husband had spurned David and had screamed rebukes at David's men. At the head of a band of some 400 armed men, David had set out to bring Nabal and his household to ruin. Abigail intervened, quickly sending to David a generous gift of food supplies for his men. She herself arrived following her gift, and after humbly apologizing for what her husband had done, she gave evidence of great discernment as she reasoned with David.

Her objective was noble, and the outcome was good. David accepted her gift and said to her: "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have listened to your voice that I may have consideration for your person." Later, after Nabal died, David even proposed marriage to Abigail, and she gladly accepted. —1 Samuel 25:13-42.

In some cases, however, the favor that a person seeks might involve the showing of partiality, even the perversion of justice. In such a case, the gift is a bribe. The giver thinks he will benefit, but he robs himself of peace of mind. There is always the danger that others will find out, that he will be called to account. Even if the desired favor is granted, the one who sought it may find that he now has a reputation of one whose motives are open to question. Reflecting godly wisdom, the Bible warns against such gifts.—Deuteronomy 16:19; Ecclesiastes 7:7.

Does the Gift Come From a Willing Heart?

There is no doubt about it—giving to someone you love because you want to do it

brings much more joy than giving because others make you feel that you should.

Concerning the gathering of relief supplies for fellow Christians who were in need materially, the apostle Paul set out some excellent principles of godly giving. "If the readiness is there first," he wrote, "it is especially acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what a person does not have." He added: "Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 8:12; 9:7) Thus, much depends on you. Instead of going into debt on a gift-giving spree, do you stay within your means? Rather than feeling compelled to give mainly because of social or commercial pressure, do you do what you have resolved in your heart? Of early Christians who applied such godly principles, Paul wrote: "They of their own accord kept begging us with much entreaty for the privilege of kindly giving and for a share in the ministry destined for the holy ones."—2 Corinthians 8:4.

In contrast with that, the *Royal Bank Letter* of November/December 1994 said concerning the weeks leading up to Christmas: "The season may be seen as a state of artificial excitement whipped up by business interests to hustle consumers into buying things they otherwise would not buy." If the buying is done on credit, whatever satisfaction comes from giving the gifts may well be quickly overshadowed when the bills fall due.

Your Main Concern—The Occasion? Or an Expression of Love?

Do you find that your giving of gifts is done largely on occasions that seem to require it? If so, you may be missing much of the joy that spontaneous giving can bring.

There are many people who are not

pleased with the results of gift giving on specified days. A mother who is also a writer acknowledged that greed surfaced in her children as the day neared when gifts were expected. She admitted that her own enjoyment of a lovely gift was marred because she had hoped for something else. Numerous reports say that holidays that feature festivities and the exchanging of gifts are also times when there is much emotional depression and alcohol abuse.

Having observed that the emphasis on gift giving at holiday time sometimes adversely affects children, a professor of psychology quoted in *The New York Times* recommends: "Consider giving some gifts on other days as a way of reducing the stress." Do you think that would have a good effect?

Tammy, a 12-year-old in a household that does not celebrate Christmas and birthdays, wrote: "It's more fun getting a gift when you're least expecting it." She said that instead of giving presents just once or twice a year, her parents give such to her and her brother all year round. But there is something that is more important to her than those gifts. As she puts it, "I have a very happy family life."

The book *Secrets of Strong Families* frankly states: "Most of us spend time and money several times a year selecting perfect gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, or holidays for the people we love. The very best gift of all would take nothing from the bank account. And you wouldn't have to wrap it. If you believe, like most people, that your life is the most valuable possession you have, then a piece of your life is the most precious gift you have to offer. We give that precious gift in the chunks of our time we give to our loved ones."

You can let that giving reach beyond your own family. Spontaneous giving to fill an

evident need that others have can bring special satisfaction. Jesus Christ urged us to show such loving concern for the poor, the lame, and the blind, adding: "You will be happy, because they have nothing with which to repay you."—Luke 14:12-14.

The *Rockland Journal-News* (U.S.A.) recently reported an example of that sort of giving. When the home of an elderly blind woman collapsed, friends built her a new house. Donations were made by several local businesses, and a monetary grant was made by a local government agency. "Most important, though," said the newspaper, "the 150 or so people, most of whom attend the Haverstraw Jehovah's Witnesses congregation, donated time to construct the house."

The article continued: "At the building site there were piles of materials next to tables filled with food. In two days the workers raised a two-family home, three stories high. . . . Jehovah's Witnesses are known for their ability to build structures quickly. . . . Such quickness, though, is in contrast with the permanence of their mission: to provide durability in a work of love. Ms. Blakely may not be able to see her new home, but her hands can feel it, and her heart knows the depths to which it has been moved by this selfless action."

A Year-Round Spirit of Generosity

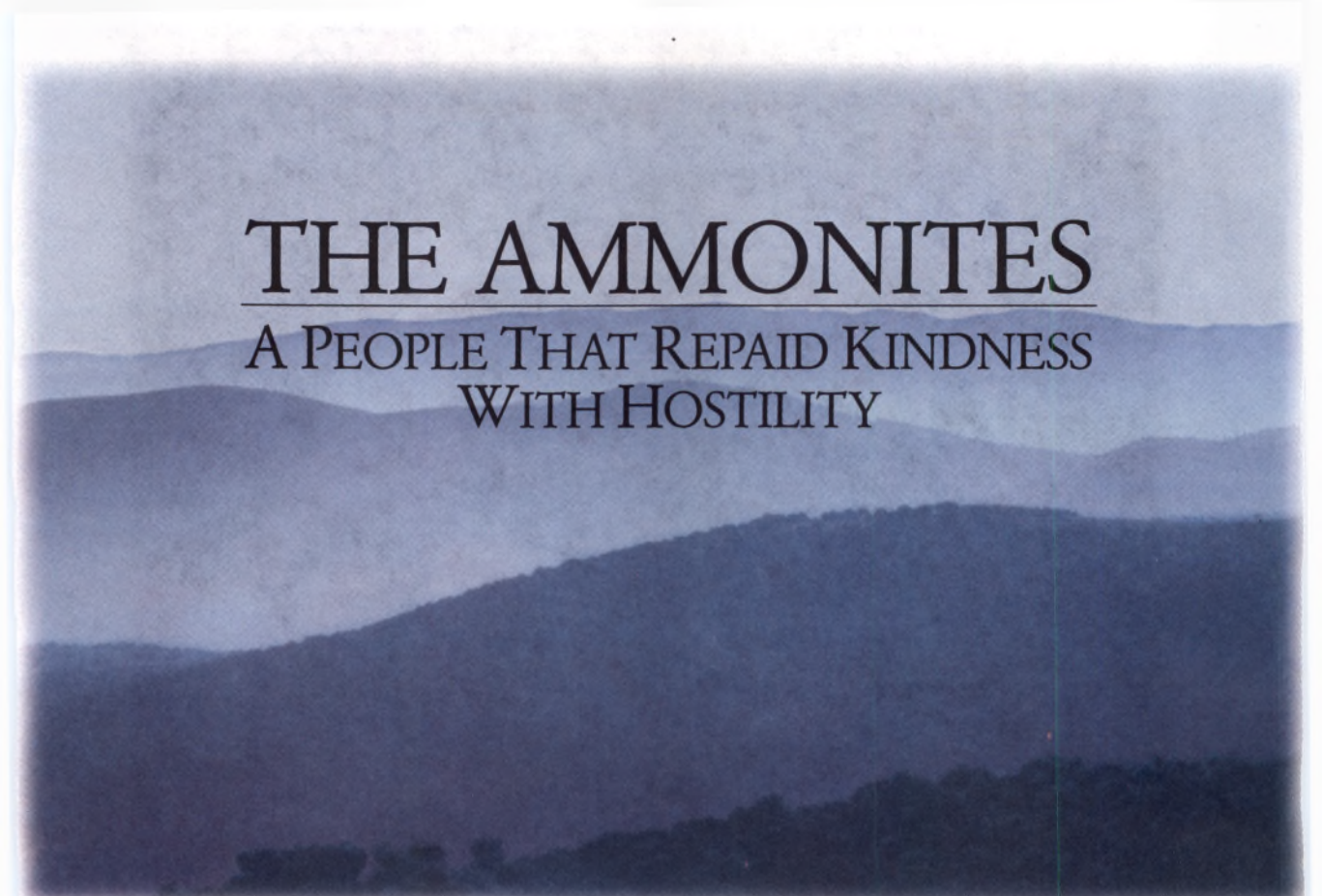
Those who are truly generous in spirit do not wait for special days. Their lives are not built simply around self. When they receive something good, they enjoy sharing it with others. This does not mean that they are compulsive gift givers. It does not mean that they give to such an extent that their families are deprived. It does not mean that they give without thought as to the effect on the recipient. Yet, they are people who "practice giving," as Jesus taught his disciples to do.—Luke 6:38.



**Some of the most precious
gifts cost no money**

They are aware of the circumstances of friends and neighbors who are elderly, ill, or otherwise in need of encouragement. Their "gift" may be a trip to the store or help with housework. It may be the chopping of wood or the shoveling of snow. It may be a bowl of prepared food or an hour of time in which to visit and read together. Their own lives may be busy but not too busy to help. They have learned from experience that there truly "is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving."—Acts 20:35.

The greatest Giver of all, of course, is our Creator, Jehovah God. He "gives to all persons life and breath and all things." (Acts 17:25) In the Bible, he also provides us with insight as to his purpose to put an end to wickedness, sickness, and death, and to make this earth a paradise. (Psalm 37: 10, 11; Revelation 21:4, 5) Upon learning about this, those who are generous of spirit do not keep that good news to themselves. One of their greatest pleasures is to share it with others. Theirs truly is a godly spirit of giving. Is that the spirit that you are cultivating?



THE AMMONITES

A PEOPLE THAT REPAID KINDNESS WITH HOSTILITY

Pictorial Archive (Near Eastern History) Est.

THE modern city named Amman, capital of the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan, preserves the memory of a people who have vanished from the earthly scene. They were called the Ammonites. Who were they, and what lessons can we learn from their downfall?

The Ammonites were descendants of the righteous man Lot. (Genesis 19:35-38) Since Lot was a nephew of Abraham, you might say that the Ammonites were cousins to the Israelites. Lot's offspring, however, turned to the worship of false gods. Still, Jehovah God maintained an interest in them. As the nation of Israel approached the Promised Land, God warned them: "Do not molest [the Ammonites] or engage in strife with them, because I shall not give you any of the

land of the sons of Ammon as a holding, for it is to the sons of Lot that I have given it as a holding."—Deuteronomy 2:19.

Did the Ammonites appreciate such kindness? On the contrary, they refused to acknowledge that Jehovah had given them anything. They repaid God's kindly interest in them with relentless hostility toward God's people, the Israelites. Though the Israelites honored Jehovah's command and made no aggressive moves against them, the Ammonites and their Moabite brothers felt threatened. True, the Ammonites made no military attack, but they did hire a prophet named Balaam and asked that he curse Israel!—Numbers 22:1-6; Deuteronomy 23:3-6.

Something strange then happened. The Bible reports that Balaam was unable to ut-

ter his curse. He could pronounce only blessings upon them, saying: "Those blessing you are the ones blessed, and those cursing you are the ones cursed." (Numbers 24:9) Those involved, including the Ammonites, should have learned a powerful lesson from this: When God's people were involved, he was well prepared to intervene in their behalf!

The Ammonites, though, continued looking for ways to oppose Israel. During the era of the Judges, Ammon teamed up with Moab and Amalek and invaded the Promised Land, advancing as far as Jericho. Victory was short-lived, however, as Israelite Judge Ehud drove the invaders back. (Judges 3: 12-15, 27-30) An uneasy truce lasted until the days of Judge Jephthah. By then the na-

tion of Israel had fallen into idolatry, so Jehovah withdrew his protection. For some 18 years, God had thus "sold them . . . into the hand of the sons of Ammon." (Judges 10:6-9) Again the Ammonites suffered a bitter defeat as the Israelites renounced idolatry and rallied under the leadership of Jephthah. —Judges 10:16-11:33.

Israel's era of rule by judges ended with the coronation of its first king, Saul. No sooner had Saul begun to rule than Ammon's hostility again erupted. King Nahash made a surprise attack on the Israelite city of Jabesh-gilead. When the men of that city sued for peace, Nahash the Ammonite made this outrageous demand: "On this condition I shall conclude it with you, on the condition of boring out every right eye of yours." Historian Flavius Josephus claims that this was done partially as a defensive measure,

Roman ruins in Amman, the site of Rabbah, the Ammonites' capital



Pictorial Archive (Near Eastern History) Est.



Pictorial Archive (Near Eastern History) Est.

so that "when their left eyes were covered by their shields, they might be wholly useless in war." Yet, the real purpose of this heartless ultimatum was to make a humiliating example of these Israelites.—1 Samuel 11:1, 2.

Again the Ammonites had repaid Jehovah's kindness with hostility. Jehovah did not ignore this vicious threat. "The spirit of God became operative upon Saul on his hearing these words [of Nahash], and his anger got very hot." Under the direction of God's spirit, Saul mustered a force of 330,000 fighting men that so thoroughly routed the Ammonites that "there were not left over among them two together."—1 Samuel 11:6, 11.

The Ammonites' selfish preoccupation with their own interests, their ruthlessness, and their greediness eventually led to their complete ruin. As Jehovah's prophet Zephaniah had foretold, they became "like Gomor-

The Ammonites lived in this area

rah . . . a desolate waste, even to time indefinite . . . because they reproached and kept putting on great airs against the people of Jehovah of armies."—Zephaniah 2:9, 10.

World leaders today should take notice of what happened to Ammon. God has similarly shown the nations a measure of kindness in allowing them to live on his footstool, the earth. But instead of caring for the earth, selfish nations are ruining it, even having threatened the planet with nuclear destruction. Rather than show kindness to worshipers of Jehovah on earth, often the nations show hostility, subjecting them to harsh persecution. The lesson of the Ammonites therefore is that Jehovah does not take lightly repaying his kindness with hostility. And in his due time, he will take action, just as he did in ancient times.—Compare Psalm 2:6-12.

THEY “DID JUST SO”

“This is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments.”

—1 JOHN 5:3.

“GOD IS LOVE.” All who come to know God and obey his commandments gain a deep appreciation for the depth of that love. “The love is in this respect, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent forth his Son as a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins.” As we exercise faith in Jesus’ precious ransom sacrifice, we ‘remain in God’s love.’ (1 John 4:8-10, 16) Thus we may enjoy a wealth of spiritual blessings now and in the system of things to come, everlasting life. —John 17:3; 1 John 2:15, 17.

² The Bible record abounds with examples of those who have observed God’s commandments and have been richly blessed as a result. These include pre-Christian witnesses, concerning some of whom the apostle Paul wrote: “In faith all these died, although they did not get the fulfillment of the promises, but they saw them afar off and welcomed them and publicly declared that they were strangers and temporary residents in the land.” (Hebrews 11:13) Later, devoted Christian servants of God benefited from “the undeserved kindness and the truth [that] came to be through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17) Throughout some 6,000 years of human history, Jehovah has rewarded faithful witnesses who have obeyed his commandments, which truly “are not burdensome.”—1 John 5:2, 3.

1. What can be said as to the extent of God’s love?

2. How has observing God’s commandments benefited his servants?

In the Days of Noah

³ The Bible record states: “By faith Noah, after being given divine warning of things not yet beheld, showed godly fear and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; and through this faith he condemned the world, and he became an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith.” As “a preacher of righteousness,” Noah obeyed God implicitly, warning the violent pre-Flood world about the impending divine judgment. (Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5) In building the ark, he carefully followed the divinely provided blueprint. Then he brought in the designated animals and food supplies. “Noah proceeded to do according to all that God had commanded him. He did just so.”—Genesis 6:22.

⁴ Noah and his family had to contend with the sinister influence of disobedient angels. These sons of God materialized and cohabited with women, producing a super-human hybrid offspring that bullied mankind. “The earth came to be ruined in the sight of the true God and the earth became filled with violence.” Jehovah sent the Deluge to wipe out that wicked generation. (Genesis 6:4, 11-17; 7:1) Since Noah’s day demonic angels have not been permitted to materialize in human form. Nevertheless, ‘the whole world continues to lie in the

3. In what ways did Noah do “just so”?

4, 5. (a) How has a sinister influence affected mankind to this day? (b) Why should we do “just so” in obeying divine instructions?

power of the wicked one,' Satan the Devil. (1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9) Prophetically, Jesus compared that rebellious generation of Noah's day to the generation of mankind that has rejected him since the sign of his "presence" began to become evident in 1914.—Matthew 24:3, 34, 37-39; Luke 17:26, 27.

⁵ Today, as in Noah's day, Satan is trying to bring mankind and our planet to ruin. (Revelation 11:15-18) Hence it is urgent that we heed the inspired command: "Put on the complete suit of armor from God that you may be able to stand firm against the crafty acts of the Devil." (Ephesians 6:11, footnote) In this, we are fortified by studying God's Word and applying it in our lives. Further, we have Jehovah's caring organization, with its anointed "faithful and discreet slave" and its loving elders, to shepherd us patiently in the way that we should go. We have a global preaching work to accomplish. (Matthew 24:14, 45-47) Like Noah, who so carefully obeyed divine instructions, may we always do "just so."

Moses—The meekest of Men

⁶ Consider another man of faith—Moses. He could have enjoyed a self-sparing life amid the luxuries of Egypt. But he chose "to be ill-treated with the people of God rather than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin." As Jehovah's commissioned servant, "he looked intently toward the payment of the reward [and] continued steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible."—Hebrews 11:23-28.

⁷ At Numbers 12:3, we read: "The man Moses was by far the meekest of all the men who were upon the surface of the ground."

6, 7. (a) What rewarding choice did Moses make? (b) What courageous pattern did Moses leave for us?

Conversely, Pharaoh of Egypt acted like the proudest of all men. When Jehovah commanded Moses and Aaron to declare his judgment on Pharaoh, how did they respond? We are told: "Moses and Aaron went ahead doing as Jehovah had commanded them. They did just so." (Exodus 7:4-7) What a courageous pattern for us who declare God's judgments today!

⁸ Did the Israelites lend Moses loyal support? After Jehovah had afflicted Egypt with nine of the ten plagues, he gave Israel detailed instructions on celebrating the Passover. "Then the people bowed low and prostrated themselves. Subsequently the sons of Israel went and did just as Jehovah had commanded Moses and Aaron. They did just so." (Exodus 12:27, 28) At midnight of that eventful day, Nisan 14, 1513 B.C.E., God's angel proceeded to slay all of Egypt's firstborn but passed over the Israelite homes. Why were the firstborn of Israel spared? Because they had found protection under the blood of the Passover lamb, splashed on their doorways. They had done just as Jehovah had commanded Moses and Aaron. Yes, "they did just so." (Exodus 12:50, 51) At the Red Sea, Jehovah performed a further miracle in saving his obedient people while destroying Pharaoh and his mighty military machine. How the Israelites exulted! Likewise today, many who have obeyed Jehovah's commandments will rejoice to be eyewitnesses of his vindication at Armageddon.—Exodus 15:1, 2; Revelation 15:3, 4.

⁹ When Jehovah commanded Israel to

8. How were the Israelites required to do "just so," and how will the rejoicing that resulted be paralleled in the near future?

9. What modern-day privileges are foreshadowed by the Israelites' doing "just so" in connection with the tabernacle?

take up a contribution and build a tabernacle in the wilderness, the people generously gave their full support. Then, even to the minutest detail, Moses and his willing coworkers followed the architectural plans provided by Jehovah. "So the work for the tabernacle of the tent of meeting all came to its completion, in that the sons of Israel kept doing according to all that Jehovah had commanded Moses. They did just so." Similarly, at the inauguration of the priesthood, "Moses proceeded to do according to all that Jehovah had commanded him. He did just so." (Exodus 39:32; 40:16) In modern times, we have the opportunity to give wholehearted support to the preaching work and to programs for Kingdom expansion. It is our privilege thus to unite in doing "just so."

Joshua—Courageous and Very Strong

¹⁰ When Moses commissioned Joshua to lead Israel into the land of promise, likely Jehovah's inspired written Word was available only in the five books of Moses, one or two psalms, and the book of Job. Moses had instructed Joshua to congregate the people when they reached the Promised Land and to "read this law in front of all Israel in their hearing." (Deuteronomy 31:10-12) Moreover, Jehovah himself commanded Joshua: "This book of the law should not depart from your mouth, and you must in an undertone read in it day and night, in order that you may take care to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way successful and then you will act wisely."—Joshua 1:8.

¹¹ The daily reading of Jehovah's "book" equipped Joshua to handle the trials ahead,

10, 11. (a) What equipped Joshua for success? (b) How may we be strengthened to cope with modern-day trials?

just as daily reading of Jehovah's Word, the Bible, strengthens His modern-day Witnesses to cope with the trials of these critical "last days." (2 Timothy 3:1) Surrounded as we are by a violent world, let us also take to heart God's admonition to Joshua: "Be courageous and strong. Do not suffer shock or be terrified, for Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) After conquering Canaan, Israel's tribes were richly rewarded when settling into their inheritance. "Just as Jehovah had commanded Moses, so the sons of Israel did." (Joshua 14:5) A similar reward awaits all of us today who read God's Word and apply it in our lives, obediently doing "just so."

Kings—Faithful and Disobedient

¹² What of the kings in Israel? Jehovah had laid upon the king this requirement: "When he takes his seat on the throne of his kingdom, he must write in a book for himself a copy of this law from that which is in the charge of the priests, the Levites. And it must continue with him, and he must read in it all the days of his life, in order that he may learn to fear Jehovah his God so as to keep all the words of this law and these regulations by doing them." (Deuteronomy 17:18, 19) Did Israel's kings obey that command? For the most part, they failed miserably, so that they suffered the maledictions foretold at Deuteronomy 28:15-68. Finally, Israel was scattered "from the one end of the earth to the other end of the earth."

¹³ However, David—the first faithful human king in Israel—showed exceptional devotion to Jehovah. He proved to be 'a lion

12. (a) What command was given to the kings in Israel? (b) The kings' failure to obey resulted in what?

13. How may we be benefited, as was David, by showing love for Jehovah's Word?

cub in Judah,' foreshadowing Christ Jesus, the conquering 'lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David.' (Genesis 49:8, 9; Revelation 5:5) Wherein did David's strength lie? He had deep appreciation for Jehovah's written Word and lived by it. In Psalm 19, "a melody of David," we read: "The law of Jehovah is perfect." After referring to the reminder, orders, commandment, and judicial decisions of Jehovah, David goes on to state: "They are more to be desired than gold, yes, than much refined gold; and sweeter than honey and the flowing honey of the combs. Also, your own servant has been warned by them; in the keeping of them there is a large reward." (Psalm 19: 7-11) If daily reading of Jehovah's Word and meditating on it were rewarding 3,000 years ago, how much more this is so today! —Psalm 1:1-3; 13:6; 119:72, 97, 111.

¹⁴ Still, it is not sufficient simply to gain knowledge. It is also essential for God's servants to act upon that knowledge, to apply it according to the divine will—yes, to do "just so." This can be illustrated in the case of David's son Solomon, whom Jehovah chose "to sit upon the throne of the kingship of Jehovah over Israel." Solomon re-

14. In what way does Solomon's course show the need for more than knowledge?

Do You Recall?

- ☐ What should "the love of God" mean for us?
- ☐ What do we learn from the examples of Noah, Moses, and Joshua?
- ☐ To what extent did the kings in Israel obey God's "word"?
- ☐ How is Jesus our Exemplar in doing "just so"?

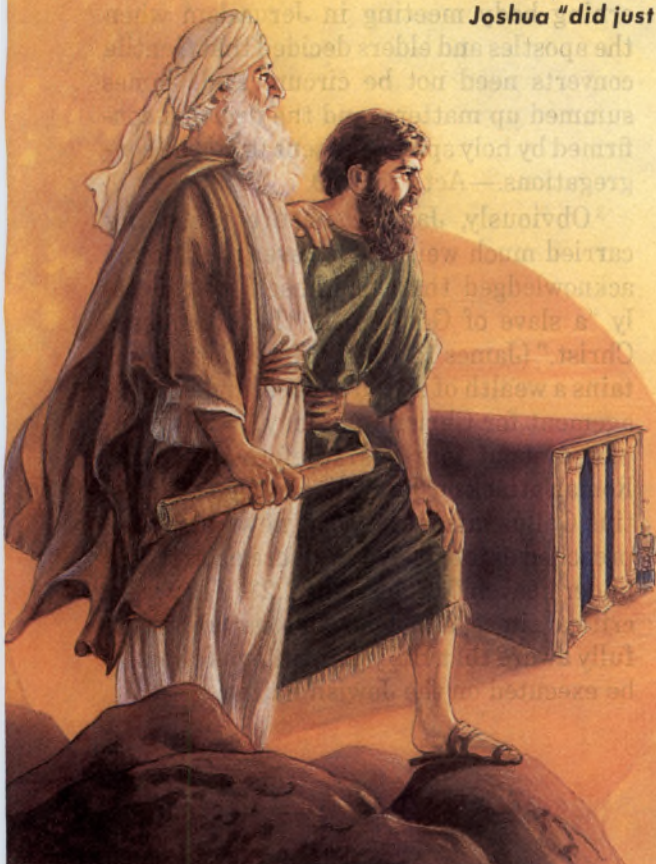
ceived the assignment to build the temple, using the architectural plans that David received "by inspiration." (1 Chronicles 28:5, 11-13) How could Solomon accomplish this tremendous task? In answer to a prayer, Jehovah granted him wisdom and knowledge. With these, and by adhering to the divinely provided plans, Solomon was able to construct that magnificent house, which came to be filled with Jehovah's glory. (2 Chronicles 7:2, 3) Later, though, Solomon failed. In what respect? Jehovah's law had stated concerning the king in Israel: "He should also not multiply wives for himself, that his heart may not turn aside." (Deuteronomy 17:17) Yet Solomon "came to have seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives gradually... inclined his heart to follow other gods." In his later years, Solomon turned aside from doing "just so."—1 Kings 11:3, 4; Nehemiah 13:26.

¹⁵ There were a few obedient kings in Judah, the last of whom was Josiah. In the year 648 B.C.E., he started to clean idolatry out of the land and to renovate Jehovah's temple. It was there that the high priest found "the book of Jehovah's law by the hand of Moses." What did Josiah do about this? "The king now went up to the house of Jehovah with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites and all the people, the great as well as the small; and he began to read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant, which had been found at the house of Jehovah. And the king kept standing in his place and proceeded to conclude the covenant before Jehovah to go following Jehovah and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his

15. How did Josiah do "just so"?



**Noah, Moses, and
Joshua "did just so"**



regulations with all his heart and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book." (2 Chronicles 34:14, 30, 31) Yes, Josiah "did just so." As a result of his faithful course, the execution of Jehovah's judgment on faithless Judah was stayed until the days of his delinquent sons.

Living by God's Word

¹⁶ Of all the men who ever lived, the finest example of meditating on God's Word and living by it is the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Word was as food to him. (John 4:34) He told his listeners: "The Son cannot do a single thing of his own initiative, but only what he beholds the Father doing. For whatever things that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner." (John 5:19, 30; 7:28; 8:28, 42) Jesus "did just so," declaring: "I have come down from heaven to do, not my will, but the will of him that sent me." (John 6:38) We who are dedicated Witnesses of Jehovah are called upon to do "just so" by following in Jesus' footsteps.—Luke 9:23; 14:27; 1 Peter 2:21.

¹⁷ Doing God's will was always uppermost in Jesus' mind. He was thoroughly familiar with God's Word and was thus equipped to give Scriptural answers. (Matthew 4:1-11; 12:24-31) By paying constant attention to God's Word, we too can become "fully competent,

16, 17. (a) In what respects must we follow in Jesus' footsteps? (b) What other faithful servants of God provide examples for us?

completely equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16, 17) Let us follow the example of faithful servants of Jehovah in ancient times and in later times and above all that of our Master, Jesus Christ, who said: “In order for the world to know that I love the Father, even as the Father has given me commandment to do, so I am doing.” (John 14:31) May we also show our love for God by continuing to do “just so.”—Mark 12:29-31.

¹⁸ As we meditate upon the obedient course of God’s servants in Bible times, are we not encouraged to perform faithful service during the closing days of Satan’s wicked system? (Romans 15:4-6) We should indeed be stimulated to “become doers of the word” in the fullest sense, as the following article will discuss.—James 1:22.

18. What should stimulate us to “become doers of the word,” and what will be discussed next?

JOYFUL “DOERS OF THE WORD”

“Accept with mildness the implanting of the word which is able to save your souls. However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only.”

—JAMES 1:21, 22.

“BECOME DOERS OF THE WORD.” This simple statement carries a powerful message. It is taken from “The Letter of James” in the Bible, and it will be displayed in Kingdom Halls as the yeartext of Jehovah’s Witnesses throughout 1996.

² James, a half brother of the Lord Jesus, was prominent in the early Christian congregation. On one occasion after Jesus’ resurrection, our Lord appeared personally to James and then to all the apostles. (1 Corinthians 15:7) Later, when the apostle Peter was miraculously released from prison, he told an assembled Christian group: “Report these things to James and the brothers.” (Acts 12:17) It appears that James, though not himself an apostle, presided at the gov-

erning body meeting in Jerusalem when the apostles and elders decided that Gentile converts need not be circumcised. James summed up matters, and the decision confirmed by holy spirit was sent to all the congregations.—Acts 15:1-29.

³ Obviously, James’ mature reasoning carried much weight. However, he humbly acknowledged that he himself was merely “a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.” (James 1:1) His inspired letter contains a wealth of sound counsel and encouragement for Christians today. It was completed about four years before the initial Roman attack on Jerusalem by General Cestius Gallus, after the good news had been preached extensively “in all creation that is under heaven.” (Colossians 1:23) They were critical times, and Jehovah’s servants were fully aware that His judgment was about to be executed on the Jewish nation.

1. How is our yeartext for 1996 to be regarded?
- 2, 3. Why was it appropriate that James should write the letter that bears his name?

**May we too open our hearts
to divine teaching**

⁴ Those Christians already had the entire Hebrew Scriptures and much of the Greek Scriptures. As indicated by their numerous references to the earlier writings, the Christian Bible writers obviously had great confidence in God's Word. Likewise, we today need to study God's Word earnestly and apply it in our lives. In order to endure, we need the spiritual strength and courage that the Holy Scriptures provide.—Psalm 119:97; 1 Timothy 4:13.

⁵ Today mankind stands at the brink of "great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again." (Matthew 24:21) Our survival depends on having divine guidance. How may we find this? By opening our hearts to the teachings of God's spirit-inspired Word. This will lead us to "become doers of the word," like loyal servants of Jehovah in former times. We must read and study God's Word diligently and use it to Jehovah's praise.—2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16, 17.

Endurance With Joy

⁶ In opening his letter, James mentions

4. What indicates that the early Christians had great confidence in God's Word?
5. Why do we need special guidance today, and where will we find it?
6. Why should we find joy in meeting up with trials?



joy, the second fruit of God's spirit. He writes: "Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you meet with various trials, knowing as you do that this tested quality of your faith works out endurance. But let endurance have its work complete, that you may be complete and sound in all respects, not lacking in anything." (James 1:2-4; Galatians 5:22, 23) How may it be said that it is "all joy" to meet up with many trials? Well, even Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount: "Happy are you when people reproach you and persecute you and lyingly

Job's integrity was rewarded by his being restored to a full, happy life with loved ones

say every sort of wicked thing against you for my sake. Rejoice and leap for joy, since your reward is great in the heavens." (Matthew 5:11, 12) There is joyful satisfaction in seeing Jehovah's blessing on our efforts as we press on toward the goal of everlasting life. —John 17:3; 2 Timothy 4:7, 8; Hebrews 11:8-10, 26, 35.

⁷ Jesus himself endured "for the joy that was set before him." (Hebrews 12:1, 2) Looking intently at Jesus' courageous example, we too can endure! As James mentions toward the end of his letter, Jehovah richly rewards integrity keepers. "Look! We pronounce happy those who have endured," says James. "You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome Jehovah gave, that Jehovah is very tender in affection and merciful." (James 5:11) Recall how Job's integrity was rewarded when he was restored to good health and to the enjoyment of a full, happy life with loved ones. Endurance in integrity can bring you similar rejoicing in the promised Paradise of God's new world, as a climax to the joy of serving Jehovah right now.

Seeking Wisdom

⁸ Our diligent study of God's Word, together with its practical application, will result in godly wisdom, enabling us to endure trials amid the corruption of Satan's

7. (a) How may we be helped to endure? (b) Like Job, how may we be rewarded?

8. How may we find true, practical wisdom, and what part does prayer play in this?



dying system. How may we be assured of finding such wisdom? James tells us: "If any one of you is lacking in wisdom, let him keep on asking God, for he gives generously to all and without reproaching; and it will be given him. But let him keep on asking in faith, not doubting at all, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about." (James 1:5, 6) We should pray earnestly, with unwavering confidence that Jehovah will hear our petitions and that he will answer them in his own good time and way.

⁹ Godly wisdom is a gift from Jehovah. Describing such gifts, James says: "Every good gift and every perfect present is from above, for it comes down from the Father of the celestial lights, and with him there is

9. How does James describe godly wisdom and its application?

not a variation of the turning of the shadow." Later in his letter, James explains the result of gaining true wisdom when he says: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show out of his fine conduct his works with a mildness that belongs to wisdom. . . . The wisdom from above is first of all chaste, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, not making partial distinctions, not hypocritical."—James 1:17; 3:13-17.

¹⁰ In the world empire of false religion, whether in Christendom or in other lands, it is often the custom for worshipers to sing some hymns, listen to repetitious prayers, and perhaps hear a discourse. No encouragement is given toward proclaiming a message of hope, for most religions see no bright prospect for the future. The glorious hope of God's Messianic Kingdom either is never mentioned or is completely misunderstood. Jehovah says prophetically of Christendom's adherents: "There are two bad things that my people have done: They have left even me, the source of living water, in order to hew out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that cannot contain the water." (Jeremiah 2:13) They have no waters of truth. Heavenly wisdom is lacking.

¹¹ How different it is among Jehovah's Witnesses today! With God-given dynamic energy, they are flooding the earth with the good news of His incoming Kingdom. The wisdom that they speak is based solidly on the Word of God. (Compare Proverbs 1:20; Isaiah 40:29-31.) Indeed, they make practical use of true knowledge and understanding in proclaiming the grand purposes of our God and Creator. It should be our desire

10. How does false religion contrast with the true?

11, 12. (a) How should divine wisdom motivate us? (b) Concerning what does divine wisdom warn us?

that all in the congregation "be filled with the accurate knowledge of [God's] will in all wisdom and spiritual comprehension." (Colossians 1:9) Having this foundation, both young and old will be motivated always to "become doers of the word."

¹² "The wisdom from above" warns us about sins that could result in divine disapproval. "Know this, my beloved brothers," says James. "Every man must be swift about hearing, slow about speaking, slow about wrath; for man's wrath does not work out God's righteousness." Yes, we must be swift, eager, to listen to divine counsel and apply it. However, we must guard against the misuse of that "little member," the tongue. Through bragging, unwise gossip, or self-opinionated talk, the tongue can figuratively set a 'great woodland' afire. We therefore need to cultivate pleasantness and self-control in all of our associations. —James 1:19, 20; 3:5.

¹³ "Hence," writes James, "put away all filthiness and that superfluous thing, badness, and accept with mildness the implanting of the word which is able to save your souls." (James 1:21) This greedy world, with its showy, materialistic, me-first lifestyle and degraded morals, is about to pass away. "But he that does the will of God remains forever." (1 John 2:15-17) How important it is, then, that we accept "the implanting of the word"! The wisdom provided by God's Word stands in clear contrast to the badness of this dying world. We want none of that badness. (1 Peter 2:1, 2) We need to have love of the truth and strong faith implanted in our hearts, so that we will be determined never to deviate from Jehovah's righteous ways. But is it enough to hear God's Word?

13. Why is it important that we accept "the implanting of the word"?

Becoming "Doers of the Word"

¹⁴ At James 1:22, we read: "Become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning." "Become doers of the word"! This theme is certainly highlighted in James' letter. We must listen, then do "just so"! (Genesis 6:22) Many people today claim that it is sufficient to hear a sermon or share in some formalistic worship occasionally, but they leave it at that. They may think that as long as they live a 'good life' according to their standards, that will suffice. Yet Jesus Christ stated: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and continually follow me." (Matthew 16:24) Self-sacrificing action and endurance in following Jesus' pattern of *doing* God's will are clearly required of true Christians. For them, God's will today is the same as it was in the first century when the resurrected Jesus commanded: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations." (Matthew 28:19) How are you doing in this respect?

¹⁵ If we keep peering into God's Word, it can be like a mirror in reflecting to us just what kind of persons we are. James says: "He who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in it, this man, because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing it." (James 1:23-25) Yes, he will be a happy 'doer of the word.' Moreover, it is important to be a "doer" in every detail of our Christian lives. We should never deceive ourselves into thinking that mere formal worship is enough. James counsels

14. How can we become both "hearers" and "doers" of the Word?

15. (a) What illustration does James give, showing how we may become happy as "doers of the word"? (b) Why is mere formal worship not enough?

us to observe some aspects of true worship that even zealous Christians may have neglected. He writes: "The form of worship that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their tribulation, and to keep oneself without spot from the world."—James 1:27.

¹⁶ It is not sufficient just to say, 'I believe in God,' and leave matters at that. As James 2:19 notes: "You believe there is one God, do you? You are doing quite well. And yet the demons believe and shudder." James emphasizes that "faith, if it does not have works, is dead in itself," and refers to Abraham, saying: "His faith worked along with his works and by his works his faith was perfected." (James 2:17, 20-22) Abraham's works included providing relief for his kinsfolk, showing hospitality, preparing to sacrifice Isaac, and 'publicly declaring' unshakable faith in God's promise of "the city having real foundations," the future Messianic Kingdom. (Genesis 14:16; 18:1-5; 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:8-10, 13, 14; 13:2) Appropriately, Abraham "came to be called 'Jehovah's friend.'" (James 2:23) We too may be counted as 'friends of Jehovah' as we actively proclaim our faith and hope in his incoming Kingdom of righteousness.

¹⁷ Those who "become doers of the word" are indeed "declared righteous by works, and not by faith alone." (James 2:24) Rahab was one who added works to her faith in the "word" that she had heard concerning Jehovah's mighty acts. She concealed the Is-

16. In what ways did Abraham become "Jehovah's friend," and how may we gain His friendship?

17. (a) Why was Rahab "declared righteous," and how was she rewarded? (b) What long list does the Bible provide of those who 'became doers of the word'? (c) How was Job rewarded, and why?

raelite spies and helped them to escape, and then she gathered her father's household for preservation. In the resurrection, how she will rejoice to learn that her faith, backed up by works, led to her becoming an ancestress of Messiah! (Joshua 2:11; 6:25; Matthew 1:5) Hebrews chapter 11 provides a long list of others who 'became doers' in demonstrating their faith, and they will be richly rewarded. Nor must we forget Job, who under severe trial said: "Let the name of Jehovah continue to be blessed." As we have already noted, his faith and works resulted in a grand reward. (Job 1:21; 31:6; 42:10; James 5:11) Likewise, our endurance today as "doers of the word" will bring Jehovah's smile of approval.

¹⁸ Among those who have endured much over the years are our brothers in Eastern Europe. Now that many restrictions have been removed, these have truly "become doers of the word" in their new environment. Missionaries and pioneers from neighboring lands have moved in to assist in teaching and organizing. The Finland branch and other nearby branches of the Watch Tower Society have sent in expert builders, and the generous worldwide brotherhood has financed construction of new branch offices and Kingdom Halls.—Compare 2 Corinthians 8:14, 15.

¹⁹ How zealously those long-oppressed brothers have responded in the field! They 'are working hard and exerting themselves' to catch up, as it were, on opportunities not available during the "troublesome season." (1 Timothy 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:2) For example, this past April in Albania, where suppression had been very cruel, the entire supply of the *Kingdom News* entitled "Why Is Life So Full of Problems"

18, 19. How have long-oppressed brothers "become doers of the word," and what blessing has their activity brought?

was distributed in only three days. This was a splendid follow-up to the Memorial of Jesus' death, attended by 3,491 persons—many more than their 538 active publishers.

²⁰ Other lands too have made a significant contribution to Memorial attendances, which have increased in recent years to well over 10,000,000. In many places new ones, their faith strengthened by attending and observing the Memorial, are 'becoming doers of the word.' Can we encourage more new associates to qualify for that privilege?

²¹ Like those zealous Christians in the first century, and so many since then, let us be determined to exert ourselves in "pursuing down toward the goal" of everlasting life, whether that is to be in the heavenly Kingdom or in its earthly realm. (Philippians 3:12-14) It is worth our every effort to attain that goal. This is no time to relapse into being hearers only, but the time of all times to 'be strong and work.' (Haggai 2:4; Hebrews 6:11, 12) Having 'accepted the implanting of the word,' may we 'become joyful doers of the word' now and on into the eternity to come.

20. What do recent Memorial attendances indicate, and how may many be helped?

21. In line with our yeartext, what course should we pursue, and with what goal?

How Would You Answer?

- ☐ How may we endure with joy?
- ☐ What is "the wisdom from above," and how may we pursue it?
- ☐ Why must we "become doers of the word, and not hearers only"?
- ☐ What reports should stimulate us to be "doers of the word"?

LOOK! A KINGDOM HALL IN NIUE

NIUE is a small coral island in the South Pacific, 1,340 miles north-east of New Zealand. According to a travel brochure, the name Niue comes from two words, *Niu*, meaning “coconut tree,” and *e*, meaning “behold,” or “look.” The brochure says: “Legend has it that the first Polynesian settlers uttered these words upon their arrival when seeing the coconut trees growing on the land.”

Today, Jehovah’s Witnesses in Niue are proud to tell visitors, “*E! Fale he Kautu ha mautolu!*” meaning, “Look! Our Kingdom Hall!” Why do they have such deep feelings about this hall? Jehovah’s Witnesses everywhere are proud of their Kingdom Halls, especially if they themselves were the builders. But to build a Kingdom Hall on a remote island in the middle of the vast South Pacific is quite another matter. After all, Niue covers only 100 square miles, and there are only 2,300 people on the entire island.

There was the question of who would build the Kingdom Hall. The one congregation in Niue has only 32 Witnesses. All the major equipment needed, such as trucks, bulldozers, and cranes, is owned by the government. Furthermore, virtually all the essential building materials—steel, concrete blocks, roofing, electrical and plumbing materials, sound equipment, and chairs—would have to be shipped in from New Zealand on a service that operates only once every five weeks. Finally, the island’s rocky surface would make construction difficult, and the hall would have to be built to withstand tropical hurricanes. Indeed, a formidable task for anyone!

There was, however, a major difference here. For Jehovah’s Witnesses, a Kingdom Hall is the center of true worship local-

ly, and they look to Jehovah God for direction and help. (Psalm 56:11; 127:1) Christian brothers in New Zealand, including members of a Niuean congregation in Auckland, came to the aid of the small group of Witnesses in Niue, lending wholehearted support to the building project.

The Decision to Proceed

In June 1994 at a Kingdom Hall construction site in Rotorua, New Zealand, a call went out for those interested in sharing in the Niue project. Amazingly, 200 Christian brothers and sisters volunteered. From these, 80 persons were selected, including carpenters, steel workers, plumbers, roofers, plasterers, painters, electricians, sound technicians, concrete workers, bricklayers, and laborers.

The brothers drew up plans and moved ahead, trusting in Jehovah. One of the two congregation elders in Niue, a local businessman, started on the arrangements for shipping in all needed materials. A special air-travel/accommodation fare was negotiated for the overseas workers, who volunteered to pay their own expenses, and the building dates were set. The project was to be completed in 20 days, from March 4 to March 23, 1995, when the Kingdom Hall would be dedicated.

“I had my first-ever panic attack when I saw the site,” said the project director, who came over from New Zealand one week ahead to set things up. “The ground is all rock. It will take two weeks just to dig the footings.” But he had underestimated the local Witnesses, he later admitted. “The Niuean brothers can read rocks,” he said. “They know where to hit a rock so that big pieces will fall off.” The footings were completed in two days!



construction worker. In addition to the hot noon meal every day,

On March 4 the first planeload of New Zealand Witnesses arrived, and the concrete work was done. As successive groups of workers came, various phases of the project were completed. Workdays began at 7:00 a.m. with a brief discussion of the daily Bible text. Some brothers worked 12-hour days in temperatures up to 97 degrees Fahrenheit. Finally, by March 23, the grounds had been landscaped. An attractive sign made from a mango tree identified the building as the "Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses."

Spirit of Cooperation and Hospitality

A vital factor that contributed to the success of the project was the cooperation of the people of Niue. Local villagers, caught up in the spirit of the occasion, donated food and money. Many viewed the hall construction as *their* project. Government officials and businessmen rendered services that went beyond the call of duty. Needed equipment was made available, as was a woodwork factory. The shipping company even rerouted its ship to make sure that needed materials would arrive at just the right time.

The visitors truly appreciated the hard work and hospitality of the Niuean Witnesses, who shared their homes and possessions. "Local sisters were wonderful," said one

the sisters served a cooked breakfast each morning at 6:30. Some got up at 4:30 a.m. to prepare the food. Said one construction worker: "I think we have lived better over here in Niue than we do in our own homes."

On March 10 the *Niue Star* reported on the event in a front-page story with the headline "The First Kingdom Hall in Niue" and a picture of New Zealanders and Niueans working at the site. It related that the hall is 3,000 square feet in size and seats from 70 to 100 people. The article added: "The task can actually be completed in two [weeks], but in this case it will be extended. At this stage, only two days after work commenced, the foundation, frames, rafters and roof have been erected, ahead of time."

A local businessman expressed the wish that all on Niue Island have a look at the project and learn a lesson from it. He said that he hoped it would show everyone what can be done with love and cooperation.

A crowd of 204 came to the dedication. What proved to be a very moving experience for all in attendance was a special presentation in which the Niuean brothers, sisters, and children depicted in song and dance the building of the Kingdom Hall. Expressions of thanks were made to the construction team and to Jehovah, whose spirit moved minds, hearts, and hands to accomplish the task.—Isaiah 40:28-31.

“I AM PRECIOUS TO JEHOVAH!”

IN THESE “critical times hard to deal with,” many faithful servants of Jehovah endure a constant battle with feelings of worthlessness. (2 Timothy 3:1) This is not surprising, for one of Satan’s “crafty acts” is to make us feel that we are unloved, even by our Creator! (Ephesians 6:11, footnote) Appropriately, the April 1, 1995, issue of *The Watchtower* contained two articles for congregation study entitled “You Are Precious in God’s Eyes!” and “Incite to Love and Fine Works—How?” These articles were designed to remind us that Jehovah *treasures* our efforts. Following are some comments of appreciation that were received:

“Never in my 27 years as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses has a magazine so affected me. I couldn’t help but cry—these articles brought me such relief. I now feel so loved by Jehovah. It is as if a huge burden is removed from my shoulders.”—C. H.

"I went over this magazine four times in one day. I enjoyed the way the article said that *you were taught a lie* if you believe you are of no worth. I'm going to use this article for shepherding and door-to-door preaching."—*M. P.*

“Satan has done an excellent job of making even those who love Jehovah feel worthless and unlovable. To be reminded by the ‘faithful slave’ class that Jehovah loves us deeply and that he appreciates all the small things we do for him is one of the most encouraging things I have read. For many years I have had the feelings you spoke of in these articles. I never felt worthy of Jehovah’s love, so I tried to do more and more



YOU ARE PRECIOUS
IN GOD'S EYES!

"With a love to time indefinite I have loved you. That is why I have drawn you with loving-kindness."—HURDMAN 11-2

[illegible]

in his service

as a way of earning that love.

But I was motivated by guilt and shame. So no matter how many hours I spent in the ministry, or how many people I helped, I felt it was not enough. I saw only the lack in me. Now when I serve Jehovah out of love, I imagine he is smiling and that he is proud of me. This makes my love for him swell even more and makes me want to do more. Now I experience tremendous joy from my service to Jehovah.”—*R. M.*

“These are absolutely the finest, most up-building, yes, outstanding articles to touch our hearts that I have ever read! I have been reading *The Watchtower* for 55 years, and there have been many landmark issues. But this issue surpasses anything we have ever had to allay our misgivings, apprehensions, and fears that we are ‘worthless’ and ‘unloved’ and can never do enough to ‘earn’ Jehovah’s love. This *Watchtower* contains the kind of spiritual help our brothers desperately need. It is my intention to use these

articles over and over again when shepherding.”—*F. K.*

“For those of us who struggle with low self-esteem, or even with feelings of self-loathing, it can be so difficult to gather our strength to continue in the truth. This article reflected such a depth of compassion and understanding, it was like an application of soothing, healing balm, right to the heart. How comforting to read such words in *The Watchtower* and to know without a doubt that Jehovah *does* understand! Thank you for reminding us that Jehovah doesn’t try to motivate his people through guilt, shame, or fear. Even though my contribution to the preaching work has been severely limited recently by financial troubles and health problems in our family, I am still finding fulfillment in what I am able to do. I find I am much happier in service when I try to let love be my compelling force.”—*D. M.*

“I have just finished reading ‘You Are Precious in God’s Eyes!’ Every paragraph brought tears to my eyes. I came from a family that showed little love. I was belittled, teased, and laughed at. So, early in life I felt worthless. I still carry entrenched feelings from my past that beat me down when I experience calamity. When I stopped serving as a congregation elder, I felt like a failure as usual—to God, my family, and my brothers in the congregation. These feelings don’t go away overnight, but this timely article has helped me regain a measure of balance. It has brightened my outlook.”—*D. L.*

“Thank you for the article ‘You Are Precious in God’s Eyes!’ I deal with intense self-hatred and deep feelings of worthlessness, which have their roots in childhood abuse. It is definitely appropriate to view this distorted thinking as a crafty act of Satan himself. It can even crush one’s will to live. I truly must work every day to resist the lie that I

am unlovable. This article means more to me than you could possibly know.”—*C. F.*

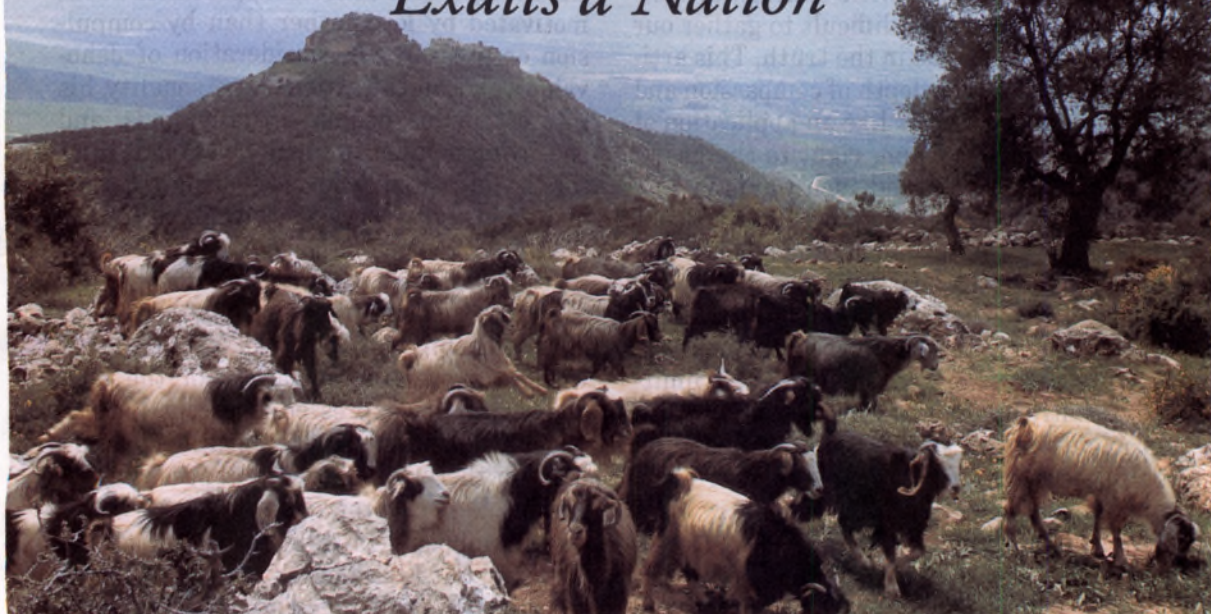
“Today the brothers especially respond to the thought that Jehovah appreciates deeds motivated by love rather than by compulsion or pressure. A consideration of Jehovah’s warm and affectionate personality, his interest in his people as individuals, and the loving manner in which he extends himself is refreshing and motivating. In view of this, as soon as we received the article ‘You Are Precious in God’s Eyes!’ many expressed appreciation. It seems to be opening the way for many to develop a more personal relationship with Jehovah. My wife and I wish to express appreciation for the tone and sensitivity expressed in recent *Watchtower* magazines. We are working to apply many of these points as we visit the congregations.”—*From a traveling overseer.*

“I have been a faithful reader for nearly 30 years, but I have never read anything so inspiring, so uplifting. The powerful, skillfully applied scriptures have helped me to root out the lies concealed in my own feelings, allowing me to draw closer to Jehovah. For many years I served Jehovah out of guilt. I had only a cerebral understanding of the ransom and God’s love. Thank you for such insightful and thoughtful articles. I hope to read many more like them.”—*M. S.*

“In all my 29 years of being in the truth, I cannot remember when an article has caused in me such a reaction of gratefulness and deep emotion. Though I was reared with great love and by a caring family, I have never felt worthy of being alive, let alone worthy of serving Jehovah. After this article, I got down on my knees, and with deep sobbing I thanked Jehovah. I will cherish this article forever. I will look at myself differently because now I have the understanding that I *am* precious to Jehovah.”—*D. B.*

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Exalts a Nation



Gero Naibandian

AFTER days of rain, what a pleasure it is to wake up and see the sun shining in a cloudless sky! The earth has been refreshed, and now the vegetation can grow luxuriantly. Jehovah God once used such a picture to illustrate the blessings of righteous rule. To King David he said: "When one ruling over mankind is righteous, ruling in the fear of God, then it is as the light of morning, when the sun shines forth, a morning without clouds. From brightness, from rain, there is grass out of the earth."—2 Samuel 23:3, 4.

God's words proved true during the righteous rule of David's son, King Solomon. The Bible reports: "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 Kings 4:25.

Ancient Israel was God's chosen nation. He gave them his laws and told them that if they obeyed his voice, he would place them "high above all other nations of the earth." (Deuteronomy 28:1) It was not Israel's own righteousness but Jehovah's righteousness that exalted them. The commandments that God gave them were far superior to the laws of the nations around them. As a people, they were just as imperfect as all those nations. Hence, to Jehovah's superior Law and their strict adherence to it go the credit for their being lifted up above the nations. When they obeyed Jehovah's laws, they enjoyed his favor and blessing. King Solomon experienced this during his reign. He could say: "Righteousness is what exalts a nation, but," he warned, "sin is something disgraceful to national groups."—Proverbs 14:34.

Sadly, through frequent acts of disobedi-

ence, the nation of Israel was brought to a low standing. They suffered national disgrace. This eventually led to their permanent rejection in favor of a new spiritual nation.—Matthew 21:43.

Spiritual Israel

At a meeting of the Christian governing body in Jerusalem, James, born a Jew, said under inspiration that God had “turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name.” (Acts 15:14) The apostle Paul called this new Christian nation “the Israel of God.” (Galatians 6:16) Respecting the purpose of their calling, Peter wrote: “You are ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies’ of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9) As God’s chosen people, they were to shine as illuminators in the world. Jehovah’s righteousness would set them on high.—Philippians 2:15.

The selection of these spiritual Israelites can be compared to diamond mining. When rich diamond-bearing ore is brought to the surface, it may yield only 1 carat (.007 ounce) per 3 tons of earth. A method once used to separate the diamonds involved mixing the ore with water and flowing the mixture over tables of grease. Diamonds are water-repellent, and they stuck to the grease while the unwanted material was washed away. At this stage the diamonds were rough. However, when cut and polished, they reflected light in all directions.

Like water-repellent diamonds that are no part of the matter around them, Jehovah’s people have been separated from the world. (John 17:16) When first drawn to the light, they may have lacked luster. But Jehovah’s Word and spirit create within them a new personality, and they shine as illumi-

nators in this world. It is because of Jehovah’s righteousness that they are set on high and reflect the glorious light of Kingdom truth in all directions, not because of their own righteousness.

Yet, from the latter part of the first century C.E., apostasy crept into the congregations and affected many. So-called Christians became integrated with the nations of the world and could not be distinguished from the world around them.

Today a faithful remnant of spiritual Israelites have been restored to Jehovah’s favor. They have separated themselves from the world and have cleansed themselves “of every defilement of flesh and spirit.” (2 Corinthians 7:1) Being clean and upright before Jehovah, they uphold his righteousness. This has elevated them to a high position of favor above the nations of the world. Through their zealous preaching of the good news of the Kingdom, a great international crowd has been drawn to Jehovah and has become part of his people.—Revelation 7:9, 10.

The World Can See the Difference

Worldly authorities at times praise the conduct of God’s servants. Some time ago, the chief security officer of the Pretoria Show Grounds, South Africa, commented on the behavior of Jehovah’s Witnesses, from all races, who use those facilities for their annual conventions. Among other things, he wrote: “Everyone was and is courteous, people speaking nicely to one another, the attitude displayed the past few days—it all testifies to the calibre of the members of your society, and that all live together like one happy family.”

Jehovah’s people can contribute to the righteousness of his nation not only at such large gatherings but also in their private lives. For example, the South Africa branch of the Watch Tower Society received a letter

from a lady in Johannesburg, saying: "Last week I drove away with my purse on top of my car. It fell off in Jan Smuts Avenue and was picked up together with all its contents by a member of your congregation, Mr. R—, who phoned and returned it to me. . . . I very much appreciate this honesty which has become a rare commodity in present times and commend your congregation for setting down the principles which your members adhere to."

Yes, by adhering to Jehovah's righteous principles, his people are made to stand out as different from the world. Because these exhibit Jehovah's righteousness, honest-hearted ones are drawn to the Christian congregation. It is natural to be attracted to something clean and pure. For example, a stranger once came to a meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses in Zurich, Switzerland, and said that he wanted to become a member of the congregation. He explained that his sister had been disfellowshipped for immorality and added that he wanted to join an organization that "does not tolerate bad conduct." Even the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* acknowledges that Jehovah's Witnesses are known as "one of the best-behaved groups in the world."

While righteousness uplifts, sin can bring disgrace upon one's good name, especially if serious wrongdoing becomes known in the community. The Christian congregation at times has to bear the shame heaped upon it when individual members commit gross sin. Understandably, the faithful members of the congregation can defend the good name of the congregation by showing that the wrongdoer has been disciplined in a merciful way, that is, in harmony with Scriptural principles. If someone practices sin and will not repent, he will be excluded from the congregation—disfellowshipped.—1 Corinthians 5:9-13.

Why Some Are Disfellowshipped

Though some thousands are disfellowshipped from the Christian congregation each year, it is only a small percentage of the nearly five million Witnesses in the world. Why should such a drastic step be taken against anyone in the Christian congregation? The nature of the wrongdoing is one of the determining factors. But a more important factor is whether the wrongdoer is genuinely repentant over the serious wrong committed. If he truly has been cut to the heart, has turned to Jehovah in heartfelt prayer, begging forgiveness for the sin committed against Him, and has sought the help of the responsible men in the congregation, he may be assisted to regain God's favor and remain a part of the congregation.—Proverbs 28:13; James 5:14, 15.

When a child who has a good, healthy relationship with his father does something that grieves the father, both should be quick to restore that precious relationship. Likewise, when we dedicate our lives to Jehovah, we enter into a most precious relationship with him. Hence, when we do something that grieves him, we should act quickly in seeking to restore that relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Happily, some who were in a disfellowshipped state have taken to heart the illustration of the prodigal son. Jehovah is there likened to a loving Father ready to receive a repentant sinner back if that one turns around and seeks God's forgiveness. (Luke 15:11-24) Genuine, heartfelt repentance and a turning away from what is bad has been a way to return to Jehovah's favor and the Christian congregation. Some repentant wrongdoers who have felt crushed under the burden of their guilt have been moved to repent and take steps to return to the loving environment of the Christian

congregation. Thus they have come to appreciate Jehovah's words at Isaiah 57:15.

To keep individuals from returning to Jehovah's loving care, Satan would like to pretend that there is no forgiveness for sins that have been committed. But the ransom sacrifice of Christ Jesus is adequate to cover the sins of any who repent—yes, even “the whole world's” inherited sinfulness. (1 John 2:1, 2) The one sin that is not covered by the ransom is sin against God's holy spirit, which amounts to deliberate rebellion against the operation of God's spirit, such as the gross sins of Judas Iscariot and many scribes and Pharisees.—Matthew 12:24, 31, 32; 23:13, 33; John 17:12.

Upholding Jehovah's Righteousness

Since the remnant of spiritual Israelites were restored to Jehovah's favor in 1919, they have become more and more elevated from the surrounding world. This is not because of any goodness on their part but because of their willing submission to Jehovah's laws and standards. As a result, millions of Christ's “other sheep” have been drawn into association with spiritual Israel as loyal companions. (John 10:16) These people bring glory and honor to Jehovah in a world that is far removed from God's righteous standards. It is as the South African magazine *Personality* once observed: “Jehovah's Witnesses seem to be bursting with good qualities and to be almost free from the bad.”

To maintain this elevated position in an ungodly world, each individual member of the Christian congregation needs to live a clean, upright life before Jehovah. In the Bible, Jehovah's heavenly organization is pictured by clean things. It is seen as a beautiful woman arrayed with the sun and having the moon under her feet. (Revelation 12:1) The New Jerusalem is described as a holy

city, beautiful in appearance. (Revelation 21:2) The faithful members of the bride of Christ are given “bright, clean, fine linen.” (Revelation 19:8) Those of the great crowd are seen “dressed in white robes.” (Revelation 7:9) People inclined toward righteousness are drawn to a clean organization. By contrast, Satan's organization is unclean. His religious system is pictured as a harlot, and those outside the holy city are described as dirty, unclean.—Revelation 17:1; 22:15.

Everlasting life is promised to righteous ones. The congregated people upholding Jehovah's righteousness have the prospect of surviving the end of this wicked system. “The one listening to me . . . will reside in security and be undisturbed from dread of calamity,” God promises at Proverbs 1:33.

How exhilarating it will be when the Greater Solomon, Christ Jesus, rules over that new world in righteousness, in the fear of Jehovah! (2 Peter 3:13) It will be as the light of morning when the sun shines forth, a morning without clouds. All earth's inhabitants will dwell in security, each one sitting under his own vine and fig tree, as it were. Righteous human society will beautify the earth and occupy its rightful place in the universe to the everlasting praise of our God, Jehovah.—Micah 4:3, 4; see also Isaiah 65:17-19, 25.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Finding Peace in a Troubled World

**Jehovah Gives Peace
and Truth in Abundance**

**“Handling the Word
of the Truth Aright”**

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Have you given careful thought to recent issues of *The Watchtower*? You may find it interesting to recall the following:

□ **How does one 'come to Jesus' in harmony with his invitation at Matthew 11:28?** Jesus said: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and continually follow me." (Matthew 16:24) Hence, to come to Jesus implies submitting one's own will to the will of God and Christ, accepting a certain load of responsibility and doing so continually.—8/15, page 17.

□ **Why do only a "few" find the 'cramped road leading off into life' that Jesus mentioned at Matthew 7:13, 14?** The narrow road is restricted by God's laws and principles. Hence, it would appeal only to someone sincerely desiring to conform his life to God's standards. Although appearing restrictive, the 'cramped road' sets a person free in every important respect. Its boundaries are set by "the perfect law that belongs to freedom." (James 1:25)—9/1, page 5.

□ **How can discernment be cultivated?** Discernment does not come easily or naturally. But with patience, prayer, earnest effort, wise association, study of and meditation on the Bible, and reliance on Jehovah's holy spirit, discernment can be cultivated.—9/1, page 21.

□ **How can human jealousy be a force for good?** It can move a person to protect a loved one from bad influences. Moreover, humans can properly show jealousy for Jehovah and his worship. (1 Kings 19:10)—9/15, pages 8, 9.

□ **What is meant by the expression at Genesis 50:23 concerning Joseph's grandsons: "They were born upon Joseph's knees"?** This could simply mean that Joseph acknowledged the children as his descendants. It could also indicate that he affectionately played with the children, dandling them upon his knees. Fathers today do well to show their children similar affection.—9/15, pages 20, 21.

□ **What is vitally important to a successful marriage and family life?** To achieve such desirable results, marriage partners must always put God's will first. Doing so, marriage mates try to stick together and work out their problems by applying the counsel of God's Word. They thus avoid all sorts of heartaches that result when God's will is ignored. (Psalm 19:7-11)—10/1, page 11.

□ **How crucial today is a godly sense of urgency?**

A godly sense of urgency is an integral part of whole-souled service to Jehovah. It wards off and helps thwart the Devil's attempts to cause God's servants to 'get tired and give out in their souls.' (Hebrews 12:3) It protects them from unnecessary involvement with the world and its materialism, keeping their minds on the things above—"the real life." (1 Timothy 6:19)—10/1, page 28.

□ **In the parable of the sheep and the goats, when does Jesus sit down on his throne and why? (Matthew 25:31-33)** The parable does not show him sitting down in the sense of becoming King. Rather, he sits down as Judge. That judging is not something extending over a period of many years. Instead, the parable points to the future when Jesus will in a limited time pronounce and execute judgment on the nations.—10/15, pages 22, 23.

□ **What is the "generation" so frequently referred to by Jesus?** Jesus applied the term "this generation" to the contemporary masses with their "blind guides" who made up the Jewish nation. (Matthew 11:16; 15:14; 24:34)—11/1, page 14.

□ **In the final fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy at Matthew 24:34-39, to what does the expression "this generation" refer?** Jesus apparently refers to the peoples on earth who see the sign of Christ's presence but fail to mend their ways.—11/1, pages 19, 31.

□ **How did the arrangement of refuge cities and their restrictions benefit the people in ancient Israel?** It impressed upon the Israelites that they should not be careless or indifferent about human life. It also emphasized the need to show mercy when doing so is warranted. (James 2:13)—11/15, page 14.

□ **What is the antitypical city of refuge?** This is God's provision for protecting us from death for violating his commandment about the sanctity of blood. (Genesis 9:6)—11/15, page 17.

□ **How can the Christian brotherhood help us to "regain power"? (Isaiah 40:31)** Among our Christian brothers and sisters, there are some who may be facing similar pressures and trials and who may be experiencing feelings much like our own. (1 Peter 5:9) It is reassuring and faith strengthening to know that what we are going through is not uncommon and that our feelings are not unusual.—12/1, pages 15, 16.

SUBJECT INDEX FOR THE WATCHTOWER 1995

Indicating date of issue in which article appears

BIBLE

How Much Is a Bible Worth? 3/15
New World Translation Impresses a Scholar, 4/15
 "Old Testament" or "Hebrew Scriptures"? 3/1
 What Is the Masoretic Text? 5/15
 When They Read It, How They Benefit, 5/1

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND QUALITIES

Can You Cultivate More Discernment? 9/1
 Comfort for Those With "Stricken Spirit," 11/1
 Determining Weakness, Wickedness, and Repentance, 1/1
 Disfellowshipping—Loving Provision? 7/15
 "Do Not Become Unevenly Yoked," 11/15
 Godly Families of the Past, 9/15
 Godly Obedience in Religiously Divided Family, 6/1
 Guard Your Sense of Urgency, 10/1
 Have You Encouraged Anyone Lately? 1/15
 How Can You Enrich Your Prayers? 3/15
 How Christians Cope With Public Reproach, 4/1
 Keep Integrity and Live! 1/1
 Lesson in How to Handle Problems, 2/15
 Patience—Why So Rare? 6/15
 Resist Ungodly Traditions! 8/15
 Rewards of Persistence, 8/1
 Righteousness Exalts a Nation, 12/15
 Singleness in Hard Economic Times, 6/15
 Spirit of Giving, 12/15
 Watch Out for Self-Righteousness! 10/15
 Whose Fault Is It? 2/1
 Would You Extinguish a Smoldering Wick? 11/15
 You Can Break Through These Barriers! 7/15

JEHOVAH

Coins That Bear God's Name, 5/15

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Ascending Mountain Higher Than Himalayas (Nepal), 6/15
 Athens, Greece, 10/15
 Brazil, 7/15
 Case Against Witnesses Decided (Greece), 12/15
 Dominican Republic, 2/15
 Gilead Graduation, 6/1, 12/1
 "Godly Fear" District Conventions, 1/15
 "I Am Precious to Jehovah!" 12/15
 India, 9/15
 Kingdom Hall in Niue, 12/15
 New Zealand, 11/15
 No Retirement for Us! (Japan), 3/15
 "Oh, That Everyone Had Been Like Them!" 9/1
 "Out of the Mouth of Babies," 1/1
 Puerto Rico, 1/15
 "Selling Salt" in Mozambique, 4/15
 Singapore Tramples on Freedom of Worship, 10/1
 Sri Lanka, 8/15
 Sweden, 5/15
 They Did It for Love (widow's home repaired), 10/15
 "Where Does the Money Come From?" 12/1
 Zambia, 3/15

JESUS CHRIST

Doubts About Jesus Justified? 8/15
 Jesus' Miracles, 3/1

KINGDOM PROCLAIMERS REPORT

1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1, 5/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 11/1, 12/1

LIFE STORIES

Alone but Never Abandoned (A. Lewis), 7/1
 Best Thing to Do With My Life (B. Anderson), 3/1

Following in My Parents' Footsteps (H. Padgett), 10/1
 Hundred Years Old and Going Strong (R. Mitchell), 12/1
 "Love Never Fails" (S. Ladesuyi), 9/1
 My Decision to Advance to Maturity (C. Dochow), 4/1
 Our Rich Spiritual Heritage (F. Smith), 8/1
 Perseverance Leads to Progress (J. Maglovsky), 5/1
 Priceless Treasure to Share (G. Malaspina), 1/1
 "Since We Have This Ministry, We Do Not Give Up" (R. Taylor), 2/1
 "Thrown Down, but Not Destroyed" (U. Helgesson), 11/1
 We Were Given a Pearl of Very High Value (R. Gunther), 6/1

MAIN STUDY ARTICLES

Accept the Bible for What It Really Is, 5/1
 Although Grieving, We Are Not Without Hope, 6/1
 A Time to Keep Awake, 11/1
 Benefiting From Daily Bible Reading, 5/1
 Benefits of Fearing the True God, 3/15
 Christian Witnesses for Divine Sovereignty, 9/1
 Christian Witnesses With Heavenly Citizenship, 7/1
 Christian Women Deserve Honor and Respect, 7/15
 Cities of Refuge—God's Merciful Provision, 11/15
 Consolation From "the God of All Comfort," 6/1
 Day That "Burns Like a Furnace," 4/15
 Dedicated—To Whom? 3/1
 Dignified Role of Women Among God's Early Servants, 7/15
 Does God Come First in Your Family? 10/1
 Do Not Give Up! 12/1
 Dwellers Together in a Restored "Land," 7/1
 Flashes of Light—Great and Small (Parts 1 and 2), 5/15
 Flashes of Light in Apostolic Times, 5/15
 Great Crowd of True Worshipers—From Where Have They Come? 2/1
 Great Crowd Rendering Sacred Service, 2/1
 "Have No Fear, Little Flock," 2/15
 How Will You Stand Before the Judgment Seat? 10/15
 Incite to Love and Fine Works—How? 4/1
 Jealous for the Pure Worship of Jehovah, 9/15
 Jehovah—A God Who Teaches, 8/1
 Jehovah Gives to the Tired One Power, 12/1
 Jehovah's Fear-Inspiring Day Is Near, 4/15
 Joyful "Doers of the Word," 12/15
 Joy of Jehovah Is Our Stronghold, 1/15
 Learning to Find Enjoyment in the Fear of Jehovah, 3/15
 Living Up to Our Dedication "Day After Day," 3/1
 Love Conquers Improper Jealousy, 9/15
 Loving Invitation to the Tired Ones, 8/15
 "My Yoke Is Kindly and My Load Is Light," 8/15
 Parents and Children: Put God First! 10/1
 "Sacred Service With Your Power of Reason," 6/15
 Saved Alive Through the Great Tribulation, 2/15
 Saved From a "Wicked Generation," 11/1
 Serve Jehovah With Joy of Heart, 1/15
 Stay in the "City of Refuge" and Live! 11/15
 Taught by Jehovah Down Till This Day, 8/1
 The Integrity-Keeping Nation, 1/1
 "The Israel of God" and the "Great Crowd," 7/1

There Will Be a Resurrection of the Righteous, 2/15
 They "Did Just So," 12/15
 Triumphant Over Satan and His Works, 1/1
 What Future for the Sheep and the Goats? 10/15
 What Motivates You to Serve God? 6/15
 Why Fear the True God Now? 10/15
 Witnesses Against the False Gods, 9/1
 You Are Precious in God's Eyes! 4/1

MISCELLANEOUS

Ammonites Repaid Kindness With Hostility, 12/15
 Angels, 11/1
 Better Life Soon! 11/15
 Better Times Ahead, 8/1
 Blood Transfusions Reconsidered, 8/1
 Cathari—Christian Martyrs? 9/1
 Creativity—Gift From God, 2/1
 Fear—Common Now but Not Forever! 10/15
 Fear—Friend or Foe? 10/15
 Fifty Years of Frustrated Efforts (United Nations), 10/1
 Goddesses of Fertility and War, 11/15
 God Rule the World? 7/15
 Has God Fixed Our Destiny? 2/15
 Hatred Ever End? 8/15
 He Accepted Divine Direction (Joseph, Jesus' Adoptive Father), 1/15
 He Was the Messiah's Forerunner (John the Baptist), 5/15
 How Precious Is Life to You? 1/15
 Jealousy, 9/15
 Jealousy Nearly Ruined My Life, 9/15
 Karaites and Their Quest for Truth, 7/15
 Leaven of Pharisees and Sadducees, 3/15
 Maimonides—Man Who Redefined Judaism, 3/1
 Masoretes, 9/15
 Meaningless Ritual? (Confession), 9/15
 Mountain That "Moves" (Ireland), 4/15
 New Life for Our Ancestors, 5/15
 Predestination, 2/15
 Printer Who Left His Mark (Robert Estienne), 4/15
 Religion—A Taboo Subject? 4/1
 Religious Truth Attainable? 4/15
 Road to Freedom, 9/1
 Rulers in Spirit Realm, 7/15
 The Envious Man, 9/15
 Their Light Did Not Go Out, 11/15
 Theological Dilemma (immortal soul), 3/1
 "What Is Truth?" 7/1
 What Will Your Business Cost You? 5/1
 When No One Will Be Poor, 5/1
 When Tradition Conflicts With Truth, 12/1
 When Will Fear End? 8/15
 William Tyndale—Man of Vision, 11/15
 Will You Praise Jehovah? 3/15
 Women Around the Globe, 6/15
 World Without Corruption, 6/1
 World Without War—When? 10/1
 Your Religion—Never Abandoned? 2/1

QUESTIONS FROM READERS

Attitude displayed at baptism, 4/1
 "Generation" (1 Pe 2:9; Mt 24:34), 11/1
 God partial since early governing body all Jews? 7/1
 Jesus high priest for "other sheep" now? 6/1
 Mary pregnant when visiting Elizabeth? 7/15
 "Name above every other" (Php 2:9), 11/15
 "No fear in love" (1 Jo 4:18), "be in fear of God" (1 Pe 2:17), 8/1
 "Not many should be teachers" (Jas 3:1), 9/15
 "Other sheep" and "great crowd" differ? 4/15
 "Spirit" in Galatians 6:8, 6/15
 Who were the Philistines? 2/1



CASE AGAINST JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES DECIDED

AFTER repeated postponements, the Court of Appeals in Thessalonica, Greece, finally met on June 8, 1995, to hear the case against four female Jehovah's Witnesses. The charge brought against them? Proselytism, which Greek law has prohibited for more than five decades.

However, by the time the court convened, the prime witness for the prosecution—the priest who instigated the case against the four women—was no longer living. Another priest tried to testify in his place, but the court did not accept his plea. Thus, it is not surprising that the hearing lasted only 15 minutes! The judge examined the other prosecution witnesses and found the defendants not guilty of practicing unlawful proselytism. This decision indicates that the Greek courts are willing to respect and abide by the deci-

sion reached in 1993 by the European Court of Human Rights.

It was especially surprising to see the three women who testified for the prosecution approach the Witness defendants, wholeheartedly congratulating them. "We apologize for all these things that happened," said one of them. She added: "It wasn't our fault. The priest forced us to prosecute you. Now that he is no longer living, we want you to come to our village and to our homes."

Thus, Jehovah has once again granted a wonderful victory to his people in Greece. Proselytism laws were passed in Greece in 1938 and 1939. In 1993 the European Court of Human Rights ruled that using this law to persecute Jehovah's Witnesses is wrong. —See *The Watchtower*, September 1, 1993, pages 27-31.

