

DECEMBER 2022

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JANUARY 30–FEBRUARY 26, 2023

SONG 147

Life Everlasting
Is Promised

PREVIEW

Do you look forward to living forever? Jehovah has promised us that one day we will be able to live without ever worrying about dying. This article will examine just some of the reasons why we can have complete confidence that Jehovah will fulfill his promise.

We Can Live Forever

“This means everlasting life.”—JOHN 17:3.

JEHOVAH promises that those who obey him will have “everlasting life.” (Rom. 6:23) When we meditate on what Jehovah is offering us, our love for him certainly grows stronger. Just think: Our heavenly Father loves us so deeply that we will never be separated from him.

² God’s promise of everlasting life helps us to endure our current trials. Even when our enemies threaten us with death, we will not compromise. Why? In part because we know that if we die faithful to Jehovah, he will raise us from the dead with the prospect of never dying. (John 5:28, 29; 1 Cor. 15:55-58; Heb. 2:15) Why can we be certain that it is possible for us to live forever? Consider the following reasons.

JEHOVAH LIVES FOREVER

³ We know that Jehovah is able to keep us alive forever because he is the Source of life and he lives forever. (Ps. 36:9) Note just a few Bible passages that confirm that Jehovah has always existed and will always exist. Psalm 90:2 says that Jehovah is “from everlasting to everlasting.” Psalm 102 makes a similar point. **(Read Psalm 102: 12, 24, 27.)** And the prophet Habakkuk wrote regarding our heavenly Father: “Are you not from everlasting, O Jehovah? O my God, my Holy One, *you do not die.*” —Hab. 1:12.

1. How does meditating on Jehovah’s promise of everlasting life affect us?
2. How does the promise of everlasting life help us?
3. Why can we be sure that Jehovah is able to keep us alive forever? (Psalm 102:12, 24, 27)

⁴ Do you find it difficult to grasp the idea that Jehovah has existed “for all eternity”? (Isa. 40:28) That is not unusual. Elihu said of God: “The number of his years is beyond comprehension.” (Job 36:26) But just because we do not understand something does not mean that it is untrue. For example, though we may not understand fully how light works, does this mean that light does not exist? Not at all! Similarly, we humans may never fully comprehend how it is that Jehovah has always existed and will always exist. But this does not mean that God does not live eternally. The Creator is not limited by what we can or cannot understand. (Rom. 11:33-36) And he existed before the material universe—including light sources such as the sun—came to be. We are assured that Jehovah is “the Maker of the earth by his power.” Yes, he existed before he “stretched out the heavens.” (Jer. 51:15; Acts 17:24) What is another reason why we can be sure that it is possible for us to live forever?

WE WERE CREATED TO LIVE FOREVER

⁵ Jehovah created living things on earth with a limited life span, except for humans. He gave them the unique prospect of never dying. However, Jehovah warned Adam: “As for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad, you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will certainly die.” (Gen. 2:17) Had Adam and Eve obeyed Jehovah,

4. Should we worry if it is difficult to grasp the idea that Jehovah has always existed? Explain.

5. What prospect did the first human couple have?

“Forever” in the Bible

The most common Hebrew word often translated “forever” is *’oh-lam’*. As used in the Bible, it can refer to something that existed for a long time in the past or will exist long into the future, with no stated beginning or ending point. (Josh. 24:2; Ps. 24:7, 9) It can also refer to something that is absolutely never-ending. It is in this sense that Jehovah is forever. (Ps. 102:12, 24, 27) The *New World Translation* renders this Hebrew word with such terms as “forever,” “lasting,” “everlasting,” or “long ago.” The context determines which expression is used.

they would not have died. It is reasonable to conclude that at some point, Jehovah would have allowed them to eat from “the tree of life.” This would have meant that they had his assurance that they would “live forever.”*—Gen. 3:22.

⁶ It is intriguing that some researchers point to scientific evidence that our brain has the capacity to store far more information than we can gather during our present life span. In 2010 an article in the journal *Scientific American Mind* said that one estimate of the capacity of our brain was approximately

* See the box “‘Forever’ in the Bible.”

6-7. (a) What else indicates that humans were not meant to die? (b) What interests do you long to pursue? (See pictures.)



With everlasting life before us, we enjoy imagining things we will be able to do in the future
(See paragraph 7)

2.5 million gigabytes, the equivalent of three million hours (over 300 years) of recorded TV. That figure may turn out to be a gross underestimation. However, it illustrates that Jehovah designed our brain to handle much more information than we acquire in just 70 or 80 years.—Ps. 90:10.

⁷ Jehovah has also created within us a strong desire to keep living. The Bible says regarding humans that God has “put eternity in their heart.” (Eccl. 3:11) That is one reason why we view death as an enemy. (1 Cor. 15:26) If we become seriously ill, do we just accept the condition and give up? No. Usually, we visit a physician and perhaps take medicine to combat the disease. In fact, we do all we reasonably can to avoid dying.

And when someone we love dies, whether that person is young or old, do we not feel deep and lasting emotional pain? (John 11:32, 33) Certainly, our loving Creator would not give us the desire and the capacity to keep living unless his purpose was for humans to keep living. But we have further compelling reasons to believe that we can have unending life. Let us consider some of Jehovah’s past and present actions that prove he has not changed his original purpose.

JEHOVAH’S PURPOSE HAS NOT CHANGED

⁸ Even though Adam and Eve sinned and brought death to their children, Jehovah did not change his mind regard-

8. Regarding Jehovah’s purpose for us, what assurance do we gain from Isaiah 55:11?

ing his purpose. **(Read Isaiah 55:11.)** His purpose is still that faithful humans live forever. Such a conclusion is evident when we consider the things Jehovah has said and done in order to fulfill his purpose.

⁹ Jehovah has promised that he will resurrect the dead and make everlasting life available to them. (Acts 24:15; Titus 1:1, 2) The faithful man Job was certain that Jehovah longs to resurrect those who have died. (Job 14:14, 15) The prophet Daniel was aware that humans have the prospect of being resurrected with the opportunity to live forever. (Ps. 37:29; **read Daniel 12:2, 13.**) Jews in Jesus' day also knew that Jehovah could grant his faithful servants "everlasting life." (Luke 10:25; 18:18) Jesus repeatedly spoke of this promise, and he himself was resurrected by his Father.—Matt. 19:29; 22:31, 32; Luke 18:30; John 11:25.

¹⁰ Jehovah is the Life-Giver and has the power to bring people back to life. He empowered the prophet Elijah to resurrect the son of the widow of Zarephath. (1 Ki. 17:21-23) Later, with God's help, the prophet Elisha restored the life of the son of a Shunammite woman. (2 Ki. 4:18-20, 34-37) Those and other resurrections prove that Jehovah has the power to bring people back to life. While on earth, Jesus proved that his Father had given him that power. (John 11:23-25, 43, 44) Now Jesus is in heaven and has been given "all authori-

ty . . . in heaven and on the earth." Thus, he is in position to fulfill the promise that "all those in the memorial tombs" will be raised to life with the prospect of remaining alive forever.—Matt. 28:18; John 5:25-29.

¹¹ Why did Jehovah allow his beloved Son to die a painful death? Jesus revealed the reason, saying: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) By giving his Son as a ransom to cover our sins, God makes it possible for us to gain everlasting life. (Matt. 20:28) The apostle Paul summed up this important part of God's purpose when he wrote: "Since death came through a man, resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive."—1 Cor. 15:21, 22.

¹² Jesus taught his followers to pray for God's Kingdom to come and for God's will to take place on earth. (Matt. 6:9, 10) Part of God's purpose is for humans to live forever on the earth. To accomplish that, Jehovah has appointed his Son as King of the Messianic Kingdom. God has been gathering 144,000 people from the earth to work with Jesus in fulfilling God's will.—Rev. 5:9, 10.

¹³ Jehovah is now drawing together "a great crowd" of people and training

9. What has God promised? (Daniel 12:2, 13)

10. What do resurrections in the past prove? (See picture.)

11. How does the ransom make it possible for us to live forever?

12. How will the Kingdom help to accomplish Jehovah's purpose for us?

13. What is Jehovah doing now, and how are you involved?

them as subjects of his Kingdom. (Rev. 7: 9, 10; Jas. 2:8) Despite living today in a world divided by fear and war, those making up this group strive to overcome all national, tribal, and personal hatreds. They are already symbolically beating their swords into plowshares. (Mic. 4:3) Instead of participating in wars that cause so much death, they are helping people to find “the real life” by teaching them about the true God and his purposes. (1 Tim. 6:19) Family members may turn against them or they may suffer financially because they support God’s Kingdom, but Jehovah makes sure that they have the things

they need. (Matt. 6:25, 30-33; Luke 18: 29, 30) Those facts assure us that God’s Kingdom is a reality and that it will continue to fulfill Jehovah’s purpose.

A BEAUTIFUL FUTURE AHEAD

¹⁴ Jesus is now in position in heaven and will fulfill all the promises that Jehovah has made. (2 Cor. 1:20) Since 1914, Jesus has been subduing his enemies. (Ps. 110:1, 2) He and his corulers will soon complete their conquest and will destroy the wicked.—Rev. 6:2.

¹⁵ During Jesus’ Thousand Year Reign,

14-15. How will Jehovah’s promise to eliminate death forever finally be fulfilled?

The resurrection performed
by Elijah assures you of what?
(See paragraph 10)



the dead will be raised and obedient mankind will be brought to perfection. After the final test, those whom Jehovah judges to be righteous “will possess the earth, and they will live **forever** on it.” (Ps. 37:10, 11, 29) Happily, “the last enemy, death,” will be “brought to nothing.”—1 Cor. 15:26.

¹⁶ As we have seen, our hope of living forever is solidly based on God’s Word. That hope can help us to remain loyal during these difficult last days. But to please Jehovah, we must be motivated by more than just a desire to stay alive. Our primary reason for remaining loyal to Jehovah and Jesus is that we love them deeply. (2 Cor. 5:14, 15) That love motivates us to imitate them

16. What should be our primary motive for serving Jehovah?

and to share with others the hope we have. (Rom. 10:13-15) As we learn to be unselfish and generous, we become the type of people whom Jehovah wants as his friends forever.—Heb. 13:16.

¹⁷ Will we be among those who gain everlasting life? Jehovah has opened the door to that possibility. Now it is up to us to stay on the path that leads to life. **(Read Matthew 7:13, 14.)** What will life be like when we live forever? We will discuss the answer to that question in the next article.

17. What personal responsibility do we have? (Matthew 7:13, 14)

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 4: An elderly brother imagines some of the things he can experience in the everlasting future.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ■ What proof do we have that humans were designed to live forever? | ■ How do we know that Jehovah has not changed his purpose that humans live forever? | ■ What should be our primary motive for wanting to live forever? |
|--|---|--|

SONG 145

God's Promise of Paradise

PREVIEW

Do you often think about what life in Paradise will be like? It is encouraging to do so. The more we think about what Jehovah has in store for us, the more enthusiastic we will be when we are teaching others about the new world. This article will help to strengthen our faith in Jesus' promise of a paradise to come.

"You Will Be With Me in Paradise"

"Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in Paradise."

—LUKE 23:43.

JESUS and the two criminals beside him were suffering as they felt their life draining away. (Luke 23:32, 33) Both of the criminals had been speaking abusively of Jesus, so they clearly were not his disciples. (Matt. 27:44; Mark 15:32) But one of them had a change of heart. He said: "Jesus, remember me when you get into your Kingdom." Jesus replied: "Truly I tell you today, you will be with me **in Paradise.**" (Read Luke 23:39-43.) Nothing suggests that this criminal had accepted the message about "the Kingdom of the heavens," which Jesus preached during his ministry. And Jesus never did say that the man would get into the Kingdom. (Matt. 4:17) Jesus was speaking about the future earthly Paradise. Why can we say that?

² The repentant criminal was likely a Jew. That criminal said to the other: "Do you not fear **God** at all, now that you have received the same judgment?" (Luke 23:40) The Jews worshipped one God, but people from the nations believed in many gods. (Ex. 20:2, 3; 1 Cor. 8:5, 6) Had those criminals been men of the nations, the question asked might have been, "Do you not fear the **gods** at all?" Furthermore, Jesus was sent, not to people of the nations, but to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matt. 15:24) God had revealed to the Israelites that he would raise the dead. The repentant criminal may have known about this, and as his words suggest, he assumed that Jehovah would resurrect Jesus to rule in God's

1. Shortly before Jesus died, what did he say to a criminal who was beside him? (Luke 23:39-43)

2. What indicates that the repentant criminal was a Jew?

Kingdom. The man apparently hoped that God would also resurrect him.

³ As a Jew, the repentant criminal would have known about Adam and Eve and the Paradise in which Jehovah had placed them. So the criminal could well have realized that the Paradise that Jesus mentioned would be a beautiful garden here on earth.—**Read Genesis 2:15.**

⁴ Jesus' words to the criminal should move us to think about what life in Paradise will be like. Actually, we can learn something about Paradise from the peaceful rule of King Solomon. And we can expect that Jesus, the one greater than Solomon, will work along with his corulers to bring wonderful conditions to the earth. (Matt. 12:42) Understandably, the "other sheep" should be interested in what they need to do to qualify to live forever in Paradise.—John 10:16.

WHAT WILL LIFE IN PARADISE BE LIKE?

⁵ What comes to your mind when you think about life in Paradise? Perhaps you envision a beautiful park like the garden of Eden. (Gen. 2:7-9) You may recall the prophecy recorded by Micah that God's people will sit "each one under his vine and under his fig tree." (Mic. 4:3, 4) The Bible's indications that there will be plenty of food may come to your mind. (Ps. 72:16; Isa. 65:21, 22) So you may

3. What likely came to the repentant criminal's mind when Jesus mentioned Paradise? Explain. (Genesis 2:15)

4. What should Jesus' statement to one of the criminals move us to consider?

5. What are your expectations regarding life in Paradise?



What can we conclude about the criminal who spoke with Jesus and about what this criminal knew?
(See paragraphs 2-3)

see yourself in a beautiful garden, sitting at a table full of delicious food. You may imagine the air filled with the clean scent of plants and flowers. And you very likely hear the sound of laughter as family and friends—including resurrected ones—enjoy one another's company. All that is no mere dream. Without doubt, scenes like these will take place on earth. However, life in Paradise will also include refreshing work.

⁶ Jehovah has created us to find enjoyment in our work. (Eccl. 2:24) We will be especially busy during the Thousand Year Reign of Christ. Those who survive the great tribulation, as well as the millions who are resurrected, will need clothing, food, and a place to live. Filling those needs will mean a lot of

6. What will we be doing in Paradise? (See picture.)

rewarding work. Just as Adam and Eve were to cultivate their garden home, we will have the privilege of cultivating the Paradise earth. Imagine also how enjoyable it will be to educate the millions of resurrected ones who know little about Jehovah and his purpose and to help faithful ones who lived long before Jesus' time to learn more!

⁷ We can be confident that life in the future Paradise will be peaceful, prosperous, and well-organized. Why? Because Jehovah has already given us a glimpse of what life under his Son's rulership will be like. We can see that in the account of King Solomon's rule.

KING SOLOMON'S RULE —A TASTE OF PARADISE

⁸ King David was inspired to write about what life would be like when

7. Of what can we be confident, and why?

8. How did the words found at Psalm 37:10, 11, 29 have a fulfillment after King David recorded them? (See "Questions From Readers" in this issue.)

a future wise and faithful king would sit on the throne. **(Read Psalm 37: 10, 11, 29.)** We often read Psalm 37: 11 to others when discussing the coming Paradise. That is certainly justified because Jesus quoted that text in his Sermon on the Mount, indicating that it will have a future fulfillment. (Matt. 5:5) But David's words also revealed what life would be like in King Solomon's day. When Solomon ruled Israel, God's people enjoyed special peace and prosperity in a land "flowing with milk and honey." God had said: "If you continue walking in my statutes . . . , I will put peace in the land, and you will lie down with no one making you afraid." (Lev. 20:24; 26:3, 6) Those promises came true during Solomon's reign. (1 Chron. 22:9; 29:26-28) And there was the prospect that wicked ones would "be no more." (Ps. 37:10) Hence, the words found at Psalm 37:10, 11, 29 had an ancient fulfillment and will also be fulfilled in the future.

We will have the important work of educating resurrected ones (See paragraph 6)



⁹ News of the peace and prosperity enjoyed by the Israelites under Solomon's rule reached the queen of Sheba. That sovereign from a distant land traveled to Jerusalem to see the situation for herself. (1 Ki. 10:1) After inspecting Solomon's kingdom, she said: "I had not been told the half. . . . Happy are your men, and happy are your servants who stand before you constantly, listening to your wisdom!" (1 Ki. 10:6-8) But the conditions under Solomon's rule were just a taste of what Jehovah will do for mankind under the rule of His Son, Jesus.

¹⁰ Jesus is superior to Solomon in every way. Solomon was an imperfect man who made serious errors in judgment that eventually brought hardship on God's people. Jesus, on the other hand, is a perfect Ruler who makes no mistakes. (Luke 1:32; Heb. 4:14, 15) Jesus passed extremely difficult tests that Satan brought on him. Christ has proved that he will never sin or do anything that would harm his loyal subjects. It truly is an honor to have him as our King.

¹¹ Jesus will have 144,000 corulers working with him to care for mankind and to fulfill Jehovah's purpose for the earth. (Rev. 14:1-3) These ones experienced many trials and sufferings when they were men and women, so they will be sympathetic corulers. Specifically, what role will these corulers play?

9. What did the queen of Sheba say about the rule of King Solomon?

10. In what ways is Jesus superior to Solomon?

11. What assistance will Jesus have?

WHAT ROLE WILL THE ANOINTED PLAY?

¹² The task assigned to Jesus and his corulers is far greater than the task given to Solomon. That Israelite king had to care for millions of people in just one land. However, those ruling in God's Kingdom will help to care for billions of people living across the globe. What an awe-inspiring privilege Jehovah grants to the 144,000!

¹³ Like Jesus, the 144,000 will serve as kings and priests. (Rev. 5:10) Under the Mosaic Law, the priests were primarily responsible for protecting the people's physical health while making sure that they were spiritually healthy. The Law was "a shadow of the good things to come," so it is reasonable to conclude that Jesus' corulers will assist in the unique role of caring for the physical and spiritual needs of God's people. (Heb. 10:1) We will have to wait and see just how these kings and priests will communicate with subjects of the Kingdom who are on earth. Whatever Jehovah arranges, we can be confident that in the Paradise to come, those on earth will receive the guidance they need.—Rev. 21:3, 4.

WHAT MUST THE "OTHER SHEEP" DO TO QUALIFY TO LIVE IN PARADISE?

¹⁴ Jesus referred to those who will rule with him as a "little flock." (Luke 12:32) He also spoke of a second group, which

12. What work will Jehovah assign to the 144,000?

13. The work of Jesus' corulers will include what unique role?

14. What is the relationship between the "other sheep" and Christ's brothers?

Even now we can show
that we are preparing
to live in the coming
Paradise
(See paragraph 15)



he referred to as “other sheep.” These two groups make up one united flock. (John 10:16) The two groups are already working together, and that will continue as the earthly Paradise is established. By then, of course, those of the “little flock” will be in heaven and those of the “other sheep” will have the prospect of enjoying life on earth forever. But there are things that the “other sheep” need to do now to qualify to live in Paradise.

¹⁵ The repentant criminal died before he had the opportunity to manifest his appreciation for Christ to the fullest extent. In contrast, we of the “other sheep” have many opportunities now to show how we feel about Jesus. For instance, we show our affection for him by the way we treat his spirit-anointed brothers. Jesus said that he would judge the sheep on that basis. (Matt. 25:31-40) We can

15. (a) How do the “other sheep” cooperate with Christ’s brothers? (b) How can you imitate the example of the brother in the store? (See picture.)

support Christ’s brothers by enthusiastically helping them in the preaching and disciple-making work. (Matt. 28:18-20) To that end, we want to make good use of the Bible study aids that are provided, such as the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book. If you are not yet conducting a Bible study with someone, why not make it a goal to offer a Bible study to as many people as you can?

¹⁶ We do not need to wait until we are living in Paradise to become the kind of person that Jehovah wants there. Right now we can work at being honest in our speech and actions and moderate in our habits. And we can be loyal to Jehovah, to our marriage mate, and to fellow Christians. The more closely we conform to God’s standards while living in this wicked world, the easier it will be for us to live by them in Paradise. We can also develop skills and traits to show that

16. What is involved in living as subjects of God’s Kingdom?

we are preparing to live then. See the article “Are You Ready to ‘Inherit the Earth’?” found in this issue.

¹⁷ We should also strive to let go of guilt that we may feel because of serious sins committed in the past. Of course, we would never consider the ransom sacrifice to be an excuse to “practice sin willfully.” (Heb. 10:26-31) But we can rest assured that if we truly have repented of a serious sin, have sought the help Jehovah provides, and have changed our conduct, he has forgiven us in a large way. (Isa. 55:7; Acts 3:19) Remember Jesus’ words to the Pharisees: “I came to call, not righteous people, but sinners.” (Matt. 9:13) The ransom sacrifice is powerful enough to cover all our sins.

YOU CAN LIVE FOREVER IN PARADISE

¹⁸ Can you picture yourself in Paradise, talking with the criminal who spoke to Jesus? No doubt you both would express your appreciation for Jesus’ sacri-

17. Should we feel crushed by our past sins? Explain.

18. What would you like to talk about with the criminal who died alongside Jesus?

fice. You might very well ask him to tell you more about what happened during the last few hours of Jesus’ life on earth and how it felt to have Jesus answer his request. On the other hand, he might ask you what it was like to live through the last days of Satan’s system. What an honor it will be to study God’s Word with people like that man!—Eph. 4:22-24.

¹⁹ Life in Paradise will never be boring. We will always have interesting people to meet and meaningful work to do. Best of all, each day we will be able to come to know our heavenly Father better and enjoy what he has provided. We will never run out of things to learn about him, and there will be so much to learn about his creation. The longer we live, the deeper our love for God will be. How grateful we are to Jehovah and to Jesus for giving us the promise that we can live forever in Paradise!

19. Why will life in Paradise not be boring? (See cover picture.)

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 12: A brother who hopes to share in educating resurrected ones is already teaching others.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ■ What will life in Paradise be like? | ■ What role will Jesus’ anointed brothers play in making the earth a paradise? | ■ What do the “other sheep” need to do now to qualify to live in Paradise? |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|



Was the psalmist David exaggerating or unrealistic in writing that he would praise God's name "forever," as recorded at Psalm 61:8?

■ No. What David wrote there was valid and realistic.

Consider what he penned in that verse and similar texts: "I will sing praises to your name forever as I pay my vows day after day." "I praise you, O Jehovah my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify your name forever." "I will praise your name forever and ever."—Ps. 61:8; 86:12; 145:1, 2.

David was not exaggerating, thinking that he would never die. He knew that Jehovah had decreed that human sin would result in death, and David admitted to being a sinner. (Gen. 3:3, 17-19; Ps. 51:4, 5) He was aware that even men whom God approved, such as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, had died. And David could see that his own life

would end. (Ps. 37:25; 39:4) But his words found at Psalm 61:8 reflected his desire and determination to praise God forever, that is, for as long as David lived.—2 Sam. 7:12.

Some of David's writings dealt with his life back then, as we can see from the superscriptions of Psalms 18, 51, and 52. In Psalm 23, David described Jehovah as a shepherd who provides guidance, refreshment, and protection. David was such a shepherd. And he wanted to serve God 'all the days of his life.'—Ps. 23:6.

Bear in mind, too, that it was Jehovah who inspired David to write. What he wrote included prophecies about what was to come much later. For example, in Psalm 110, David pointed to a time when his Lord would "sit at [God's] right hand" in heaven and receive great power. To do what? To subdue God's enemies and "execute judgment against the nations" on earth. David was an ancestor of the Messiah, the one who would rule from heaven and who would be "a priest forever." (Ps. 110:1-6) Jesus confirmed that the prophecy found at Psalm 110 was about him and that it would have a future fulfillment.—Matt. 22:41-45.

Yes, David was inspired to write about both his time and a future time when he would be resurrected and could enjoy praising Jehovah forever. That helps us to see that Psalm 37:10, 11, 29 can be understood as a description of the conditions that prevailed in ancient Israel as well as the conditions that will come about globally in the future when God fulfills his promises.—See paragraph 8 of the article "You Will Be With Me in Paradise" in this issue.

Psalm 61:8 and similar verses thus show that David wanted to glorify Jehovah in ancient Israel until he died. And they reflect realistically what David will be able to do in the future once Jehovah brings him back to life.

Have you carefully read this year's issues of *The Watchtower*? Well, see if you can answer the following questions:

How will we be rewarded if we spend time talking to, listening to, and thinking about Jehovah?

We will make better decisions, be better teachers, have stronger faith, and grow in our love for Jehovah.—w22.01, pp. 30-31.

How will we be helped if we learn to trust in Jehovah and his representatives?

Now is the time to learn to trust in God's way of doing things by not second-guessing the direction and the decisions of the elders. When the great tribulation strikes, we will be ready to obey even if we receive instructions that seem strange or illogical.—w22.02, pp. 4-6.

What was the angel's point in telling Zechariah about a "plumb line in the hand of [Governor] Zerubbabel"? (Zech. 4:8-10)

This vision assured God's people that the modest temple being built would be completed and would meet God's standards.—w22.03, pp. 16-17.

How can we be "an example . . . in speaking"? (1 Tim. 4:12)

We speak with kindness and respect in our ministry, sing wholeheartedly, comment regularly at meetings, and speak truthfully and build others up, avoiding abusive speech.—w22.04, pp. 6-9.

Why are the characteristics of the four beasts (kingdoms) mentioned in Daniel chapter 7 combined into one beast as described at Revelation 13:1, 2?

The beast of Revelation 13 does not represent just one specific kingdom, such as Rome. Rather, it represents all political powers that have dominated mankind.—w22.05, p. 9.

What is a key way to show our confidence in God's justice?

If someone has insulted us, offended us, or sinned against us, we try to let go of anger and

resentment, leaving matters in Jehovah's hands. He will undo all the harm caused by sin.—w22.06, pp. 10-11.

A brother who is offering a prayer at a meeting should keep what in mind?

Prayer is not to be used to counsel the congregation or to make an announcement. Especially at the beginning of a meeting, the use of "many words" is not needed. (Matt. 6:7)—w22.07, pp. 24-25.

In what way will "those who practiced vile things" experience "a resurrection of judgment"? (John 5:29)

They will not face a negative judgment based on their past life. They will be evaluated according to their attitude and conduct after their resurrection.—w22.09, p. 18.

What exciting exhortation did J. F. Ruth-erford give at a convention in September 1922?

At a convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, U.S.A., he declared: "The King reigns! You are his publicity agents. Therefore, advertise, advertise, advertise, the King and his Kingdom!"—w22.10, pp. 3-5.

Isaiah chapter 30 highlights what three ways in which God helps us to endure?

This chapter shows that he (1) listens to and responds to our prayers, (2) provides us with guidance, and (3) blesses us now and will do so in the future.—w22.11, p. 9.

Why can we conclude that the words of Psalm 37:10, 11, 29 had an ancient fulfillment and will be fulfilled in the future?

David's words aptly describe the blessed conditions that prevailed in Israel, such as during Solomon's rule. Jesus pointed to a future paradise and quoted verse 11. (Matt. 5:5; Luke 23:43)—w22.12, pp. 8-10, 14.

SONG 112

Jehovah, God of Peace

PREVIEW

Jehovah promises to give peace to those who love him. What is the peace that God gives, and how can we find it? How can having “the peace of God” help us when we face disease outbreaks, disasters, or persecution? This article will answer those questions.

Find Peace During a Crisis

“Do not let your hearts be troubled nor let them shrink out of fear.” —JOHN 14:27.

THERE is a kind of peace that this world knows nothing about. It is “the peace of God,” the calmness that comes from having a precious relationship with our heavenly Father. When we have the peace of God, we feel secure. **(Read Philippians 4:6, 7.)** We enjoy close friendships with others who love him. And we enjoy a warm, personal relationship with “the God of peace.” (1 Thess. 5:23) When we know, trust, and obey our Father, the peace of God can calm our anxious heart when we are facing a troubling situation.

² Is it really possible to find the peace of God when we are faced with a crisis, such as a disease outbreak, a disaster, civil unrest, or persecution? Any one of these crises can fill us with fear. Yet, Jesus counseled his followers: “Do not let your hearts be troubled nor let them shrink out of fear.” (John 14:27) Happily, brothers and sisters have followed Jesus’ advice. With Jehovah’s help, they have been able to find peace while coping with severe trials.

FINDING PEACE DURING DISEASE OUTBREAKS

³ An epidemic or a pandemic can drastically change almost every part of life. Consider the impact COVID-19 had on many. In one study, more than half of the people reported having trouble sleeping during that pandemic. The outbreak contributed to a sharp increase in anxiety,

1. What is “the peace of God,” and how do we benefit from having it? (Philippians 4:6, 7)
2. Why can we be sure that it is possible to have the peace of God?
3. How might an epidemic or a pandemic disturb our peace?

depression, alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence, and attempted suicide. If there is a disease outbreak where you live, how can you control your anxiety and enjoy the peace of God?

⁴ Jesus foretold that during the last days, there would be pestilences, or widespread diseases, “in one place after another.” (Luke 21:11) How does knowing that bring us peace? We are not surprised by disease outbreaks. We realize that events are proceeding as Jesus said they would. We thus have reason to follow the advice Jesus gave to those living during the time of the end: “See that you are not alarmed.”—Matt. 24:6.

⁵ A disease outbreak can easily lead to uncertainty and even panic. That happened to a sister named Desi.* After her uncle, cousin, and doctor all died of COVID-19, she was afraid that she would get the virus herself and pass it on to her elderly mother. The pandemic also put her job at risk, so she wondered how she would pay for food and housing. These worries began to fill her mind and keep her awake at night. But Desi regained her peace. How? She prayed specifically that Jehovah help her to be calm and to think positive thoughts. **(Read Philippians 4:8, 9.)** She listened to Jehovah “speak” to her through audio recordings of the Bible. She says, “The readers’ soothing voices

* Some names have been changed.

4. Why does knowing Jesus’ prophecy about the last days bring us peace?

5. (a) In harmony with Philippians 4:8, 9, what should we pray for while facing a disease outbreak? (b) How can listening to audio recordings of the Bible benefit you?



Listening to audio recordings of the Bible can help you to have peace of mind during a disease outbreak
(See paragraph 5)

calmed my anxiety and reminded me of Jehovah’s mercy.”—Ps. 94:19.

⁶ A disease outbreak will no doubt disrupt some aspects of your routine, but do not let it interfere with your personal study or meeting attendance. The real-life experiences found in our publications and videos will remind you that your brothers and sisters are keeping their integrity despite similar challenges. (1 Pet. 5:9) Meetings will help you to fill your mind with positive Scriptural thoughts. They will also give you opportunities to encourage others and to be encouraged. (Rom. 1:11, 12) As you reflect on how Jehovah has supported his worshippers when they were ill, fearful, or lonely, your faith will be

6. How will personal study and congregation meetings help you?

strengthened and you will be convinced that he will support you too.

⁷ Reach out to your brothers and sisters. A disease outbreak may require that we maintain physical distancing even when we are with our fellow worshippers. At a time like that, you might feel as did the apostle John. He wanted to see his friend Gaius face-to-face. (3 John 13, 14) Still, John recognized that for a time, he could not see Gaius. So John did what he could; he wrote Gaius a letter. If it is not always possible for you to visit with your brothers and sisters in person, try to contact them via telephone, video calls, or electronic messaging. When you keep in touch with fellow Christians, you will feel more secure and at peace. Reach out to the elders if you feel especially anxious, and accept their loving encouragement.—Isa. 32:1, 2.

FINDING PEACE IN THE FACE OF A DISASTER

⁸ If you have ever experienced a flood, an earthquake, or a fire, some intense anxiety may have lingered long after the crisis. If you lost loved ones or your possessions were destroyed, you may have felt a sense of grief, hopelessness, or even anger. This does not mean that you are materialistic or that you lack faith. You went through a difficult trial, and some might expect you to react negatively. (Job 1:11) But despite distressful circumstances, you can find peace. How?

7. What lesson can you learn from the apostle John?

8. How might a disaster disturb your peace?

⁹ Remember what Jesus prophesied. Unlike some in the world who do not imagine that a disaster will ever affect them personally, we expect an increase in disastrous events, some of which could affect us. Jesus told his followers that “great earthquakes” and other disasters would occur before the end comes. (Luke 21:11) He also prophesied that there would be an “increasing of lawlessness,” which is evident in crime, violence, and terrorist attacks. (Matt. 24:12) Jesus never said that these calamities would impact only those whom Jehovah has abandoned. In fact, many of Jehovah’s faithful servants have been victims of disasters. (Isa. 57:1; 2 Cor. 11:25) Jehovah may not miraculously protect us from all disasters, but he will give us whatever we need to remain calm and at peace.

¹⁰ We will find it easier to remain calm in an emergency if we have planned in advance how to respond. But does preparing indicate that we lack faith in Jehovah? Not at all. In fact, preparing for a disaster shows that we **do** have faith in his ability to care for us. How so? God’s Word advises us to prepare for potential disasters. **(Read Proverbs 22:3.)** And through magazine articles, congregation meetings, and timely announcements, God’s organization has repeatedly urged us to prepare for an emergency.* Do we trust Jehovah? If so,

* See the article “When Disaster Strikes—Steps That Can Save Lives” in *Awake!* No. 5 2017.

9. How did Jesus prepare us for catastrophic events?

10. Why is preparing now for a disaster an expression of faith? (Proverbs 22:3)

we will follow that advice **now**—before a disaster strikes.

¹¹ Consider the experience of a sister named Margaret. She was ordered to evacuate her home after a brush fire broke out in her area. Because so many people were trying to flee all at once, the roads were blocked and traffic came to a halt. The air became thick with black smoke, and Margaret was trapped in her vehicle for a time. However, she survived because she was prepared. In her purse she kept a map that she could consult to find an evacuation route. She had even driven along the route in advance so that she could easily follow it in an emergency. Thanks to her preparation, Margaret survived the experience.

¹² To protect us and restore order, the authorities may ask us to obey a curfew, to evacuate, or to take other practical steps. Some people are slow to obey or they procrastinate because they want to hold on to the things they own. How do

Christians respond? The Bible tells us: “For the Lord’s sake subject yourselves to every human creation, whether to a king as being superior or to governors as sent by him.” (1 Pet. 2:13, 14) God’s organization also gives us direction to keep us safe. We are regularly reminded to give the elders our current contact information so that they can reach us during an emergency. Have you done so? We may also receive direction about sheltering in place, evacuation, and obtaining relief supplies or about how and when to assist others. If we fail to obey, we could put in jeopardy our life and the lives of the elders. Remember that these faithful men are keeping watch over us. (Heb. 13:17) Margaret commented, “I firmly believe that following the direction of the elders and the organization saved my life.”

¹³ Many brothers and sisters who were displaced by a disaster or by war or civil unrest have done their best to adapt to

11. What do you learn from Margaret’s example?

12. Why do we follow safety precautions?

13. What has given many displaced Christians joy and peace?



Advance preparation
can help you to survive
a disaster
(See paragraph 11)

What will contribute to your peace even during difficult times?
(See paragraph 17)



their new situation and become involved right away in theocratic activities. Like the early Christians who were scattered by persecution, they continue “declaring the good news of the word.” (Acts 8:4) Preaching helps them to focus on the Kingdom rather than on difficult circumstances. As a result, they have maintained their joy and peace.

FINDING PEACE WHILE PERSECUTED

¹⁴ Persecution can rob us of many things that normally bring peace. We are happy and satisfied when we meet together freely, preach openly, and carry on in our daily routine without fear of being arrested. If those freedoms are taken away, we may become anxious, fearing what will happen next. These feelings are normal. Still, we must be careful. Jesus indicated that persecution could cause his followers to stumble. (John 16:1, 2) So how can we maintain our peace while being persecuted?

14. How can persecution disturb our peace?

¹⁵ God’s Word tells us: “*All* those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted.” (2 Tim. 3:12) A brother named Andrei struggled to accept that fact after the work was banned in his country. He reasoned: ‘There are too many Witnesses here. How could the authorities arrest all of us?’ But instead of bringing Andrei peace, this thinking made him constantly anxious. Other brothers left the outcome in Jehovah’s hands, not trying to convince themselves that they would escape arrest. They acknowledged that they might be arrested, but they were less anxious than Andrei was. So he decided to adopt their attitude and entrust himself to God. Soon he felt at peace, and he now finds joy despite challenges. The same can be true of us. While Jesus did tell us to expect persecution, he also assured us that we can remain faithful. —**Read John 15:20; 16:33.**

15. Why should we not fear persecution? (John 15:20; 16:33)

¹⁶ When our work is banned or greatly restricted, we may receive instructions from the branch office and the elders. These are meant to protect us, to make sure that we keep receiving spiritual food, and to help us continue preaching to the extent possible. Do your best to obey the direction you receive, even if you do not fully understand why it is being given. (Jas. 3:17) Also, never reveal information about our brothers and sisters or about congregation activities to those who are not entitled to it. —Eccl. 3:7.

¹⁷ One of the primary reasons why Satan wages war against God’s people is that they “have the work of bearing witness concerning Jesus.” (Rev. 12:17) Do not let Satan and his world intimidate you. Preaching and teaching despite opposition brings us joy and peace. In the first century when the Jewish authorities commanded the apostles to stop preaching, those faithful men chose to obey God. They kept preaching, and that work made them happy. (Acts 5:27-

16. What direction do we need to obey while under persecution?

17. Like the apostles in the first century, what are we determined to do?

29, 41, 42) Of course, when our work is restricted, we must be discreet while preaching. (Matt. 10:16) But if we do our best, we will have the peace that comes from pleasing Jehovah and from sharing a lifesaving message.

“THE GOD OF PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU”

¹⁸ Be confident that even during the most difficult times, we can have peace. At such times, we must remember that the peace we need is the peace of **God**, that is, the peace that only Jehovah can give. Rely on him when you face a disease outbreak, a disaster, or persecution. Stick close to his organization. Look ahead to the marvelous future that awaits you. As you do, “the God of peace will be with you.” (Phil. 4:9) In the next article, we will consider how we can help fellow Christians who face tribulation to have the peace of God.

18. What should we remember about the Source of the peace we need?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS **Page 19:** A sister prepared in advance to evacuate her home. **Page 20:** A brother who lives where our preaching work is restricted continues to witness discreetly.

HOW CAN YOU FIND PEACE DESPITE . . .

■ a disease outbreak?

■ a disaster?

■ persecution?

SONG 38

He Will Make You Strong

SONG 103

Shepherds—Gifts in Men

PREVIEW

Jehovah often uses his faithful servants to help those who are going through difficult times. He can use you to become a source of encouragement to your brothers and sisters. Let us see how we can help when others are in need.

Help Others to Endure Difficult Times

“Do not withhold good from those to whom you should give it if it is within your power to help.”—PROV. 3:27.

DID you know that you can be used by Jehovah to answer someone’s fervent prayer? That is true whether you are an elder, a ministerial servant, a pioneer, or a congregation publisher. It is true whether you are young or old or whether you are a brother or a sister. When someone who loves Jehovah calls out to him for help, our God often uses the elders and other faithful servants to become “a source of great comfort” to that person. (Col. 4:11) What a privilege it is to serve Jehovah and our brothers in that way! We may be able to do so when there is a disease outbreak, a disaster, or persecution.

HELP OTHERS DURING A DISEASE OUTBREAK

² A disease outbreak can make it difficult for us to help one another. For example, we may wish to visit our friends, but it is not safe to do so. We may want to invite those who are struggling financially to join us for a meal, but this too is not possible. We may want to help others, but that can be challenging if our own family members are suffering. Still, we want to help our brothers, and Jehovah is pleased when we do what we can for them. (Prov. 3:27; 19:17) What can we do?

1. How does Jehovah often answer his servants’ prayers?
2. Why might it be challenging to help others during a disease outbreak?



The brother conducting a part is happy to hear encouraging comments from the many present at the meeting and from a sick brother who has to participate by means of videoconferencing (See paragraph 6)

³ **What elders can do.** If you are an elder, get to know the sheep well. (**Read Jeremiah 23:4.**) Desi, a sister quoted in the preceding article, says, “The elders in my service group have in the past joined me and others in the ministry and for social activities.”* The efforts of those shepherds made it easier for them to help Desi after the COVID-19 pandemic broke out and she lost some family members to the virus.

⁴ Desi explains, “Because I already knew the elders as friends, it was easy for me to tell them how I felt and what my concerns were.” The lesson for elders? Shepherd those under your care **before** there is a crisis. Be a friend to them. If there is a disease outbreak that prevents you from making personal visits, reach out in other ways. “Sometimes several different elders called or

sent me messages on the same day,” says Desi. “The scriptures they shared touched me, even though I knew those verses well.”

⁵ One way that you can learn what your brothers and sisters need is by drawing them out with tactful questions. (Prov. 20:5) Do they have enough food, medicine, and other supplies? Are they at risk of losing their job or even their home? Do they need assistance with applying for government aid? Desi received material help from fellow believers. But it was the emotional and spiritual support from the elders that especially helped her to get through her trials. She says: “The elders prayed with me. Even though I can’t remember exactly what they said, I remember how I felt. It was Jehovah’s way of saying, ‘You are not alone.’”—Isa. 41:10, 13.

⁶ **What others can do.** We rightly expect the elders to take the lead. But

* Some names have been changed.

3. What do we learn from the example of the elders in Desi’s congregation? (Jeremiah 23:4)

4. Why were the elders able to help Desi, and what is the lesson?

5. How can elders learn what the brothers and sisters need and be of help to them?

6. What can many in the congregation do to help others? (See picture.)

Jehovah invites all of us to encourage and help others. (Gal. 6:10) Even a small expression of our love can have a powerful effect on someone who is ill. A child could send a card or a drawing to encourage a brother. A young adult might be able to run an errand or shop for a sister. What about preparing a meal that can safely be left at the home of someone who is ill? Of course, when a disease is widespread, everyone in the congregation needs encouragement. Perhaps we can stay a little longer after meetings to visit with the brothers and sisters, whether in person or via videoconferencing. And the elders need encouragement too. Some Witnesses have sent a thank-you note to the elders, who are often busier than ever during a disease outbreak. How good it is when we do our part to “keep encouraging one another and building one another up”—1 Thess. 5:11.

HELP OTHERS IN THE FACE OF A DISASTER

⁷ A disaster can upset a person’s life in the blink of an eye. Victims may lose their possessions, their home, or even their loved ones. Our Christian brothers and sisters are not shielded from such tragic events. What can we do to help?

⁸ **What elders can do.** Elders, help your brothers to be prepared before a disaster strikes. Make sure that all in the congregation know what steps to take to stay safe and to contact the elders. Margaret, quoted in the preceding arti-

cle, says: “Our elders presented a local needs part, warning us that the wildfire season was not over. They said that should the authorities order an evacuation or should conditions become dangerous, we must leave immediately.” That was timely information because a life-threatening wildfire broke out five weeks later. During family worship, family heads can review what each family member will do. If you and your children are prepared, you will be more likely to remain calm if a disaster occurs.

⁹ If you are a group overseer, do not wait for a disaster to occur before making sure that you have accurate contact information of all in your field service group who offer it. Make a list and keep it up-to-date. Then in the event of a disaster, you will be in a position to contact each publisher to assess his needs. Forward this information immediately to the coordinator of the body of elders, who will contact the circuit overseer. The combined effort can make a difference. After the fire, Margaret’s circuit overseer stayed awake for 36 hours, coordinating the elders’ efforts to contact and to care for some 450 displaced brothers and sisters. (2 Cor. 11:27) Thus, all who needed a place to stay were provided with shelter.

¹⁰ Providing spiritual and emotional help is part of the work done by Christian elders. (1 Pet. 5:2) In the face of a disaster, elders should first make sure

7. What might be challenging after a disaster?

8. What can elders and family heads do before a disaster strikes?

9. How can elders organize their efforts before and after a disaster?

10. Why do elders consider shepherding to be important? (John 21:15)

that each brother and sister is safe and has food, clothing, and shelter. But for many months thereafter, survivors will likely need spiritual and emotional support. **(Read John 21:15.)** “It takes time to recover,” says Harold, who serves on a Branch Committee and who has met with many brothers and sisters affected by disasters. “They may begin to get over their losses, but memories of a lost loved one, a treasured heirloom, or a narrow escape can persist. These memories may trigger feelings of grief all over again. That is not a lack of faith but a normal human reaction.”

¹¹ Elders take to heart the counsel to “weep with those who weep.” (Rom. 12:15) Survivors may need reassurance that they have not lost Jehovah’s love or that of their Christian brothers. Elders will want to help families to maintain their spiritual routine, including prayer, study, meeting attendance, and engaging in the preaching work. Elders can also encourage parents to help their

11. What ongoing needs may families have?

children to focus on things that no disaster can destroy. Parents, remind your children that Jehovah will always be their Friend and that he will always be there for them. And be sure to explain that they can remain part of a worldwide family of brothers and sisters who are ready to come to their aid.—1 Pet. 2:17.

¹² **What others can do.** If a disaster occurs nearby, ask the elders how you can help. Perhaps you can offer temporary accommodations, either for those who are displaced or for construction volunteers. You may be able to deliver food and supplies to publishers in need. If a disaster occurs in a more distant location, you can still help. How? By praying for those affected. (2 Cor. 1:8-11) You may be able to support the relief work financially by donating to the worldwide work. (2 Cor. 8:2-5) If you are able to travel to an affected area to help, ask the elders about volunteering. If you are invited to do so, you will

12. What can others do to assist with disaster relief? (See picture.)



Could you volunteer to help after a disaster in your area?
(See paragraph 12)

How can you prepare
your family now for
persecution?
(See paragraph 17)



likely receive some training so that you can be used where and when you are most needed.

HELP BROTHERS ENDURE PERSECUTION

¹³ In lands where our work is banned, persecution makes life more complicated. Brothers in those lands still face economic challenges, get sick, and lose loved ones in death. But because of the ban, elders may not be able to move about or to communicate freely with those who need encouragement. That was true of Andrei, referred to in the preceding article. A sister in his field service group was struggling financially. Then she was in a car accident. She needed several surgeries and could not work. Despite the restrictions and the pandemic, the brothers did what they could to help, and Jehovah was watching.

¹⁴ ***What elders can do.*** Andrei prayed

13. What challenges do our brothers face in lands where our work is banned?

14. How can elders set the example by relying on Jehovah?

and did what he could. How did Jehovah respond? He provided fellow believers who had more freedom of movement. Some gave the sister a ride to medical appointments. Others offered money to help her. Jehovah moved them to do what they could, and he blessed their united, courageous efforts. (Heb. 13:16) Elders, when the work is restricted, delegate. (Jer. 36:5, 6) Above all, rely on Jehovah. He can help you to fill the needs of our brothers and sisters.

¹⁵ ***What others can do.*** While under ban, we may have to limit our association to smaller groups. So it is more important than ever to maintain peaceful relations. Fight Satan, not one another. Overlook your brothers' mistakes, or try to settle any differences quickly. (Prov. 19:11; Eph. 4:26) Take the initiative to help one another. (Titus 3:14) The help that others gave to the sister in need had a positive impact on the service group. They became closer, like a family.—Ps. 133:1.

15. How can we preserve our Christian unity under persecution?

¹⁶ Tens of thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters serve Jehovah despite governmental restrictions. Some of them are imprisoned for their faith. We can pray for them, for their families, and for those risking their own freedom to provide these brothers and sisters with spiritual, physical, and legal support.* **(Read Colossians 4:3, 18.)** Never underestimate the power of your prayers!—2 Thess. 3:1, 2; 1 Tim. 2:1, 2.

¹⁷ You and your family can prepare now for persecution. (Acts 14:22) Do not try to imagine all the bad things that could happen. Instead, strengthen your friendship with Jehovah and help your children to do the same. If at times you feel anxious, pour out your heart to God. (Ps. 62:7, 8) As a family, discuss all the reasons why you can trust in him.[#]

* It is not possible for the branch office or for those at world headquarters to forward letters from individuals to brothers and sisters who are in prison.

[#] See the article “Prepare Now for Persecution” in the July 2019 issue of *The Watchtower*.

16. In harmony with Colossians 4:3, 18, how can we help our persecuted brothers and sisters?

17. How can you prepare now for persecution?

As in the case of a disaster, your personal preparation and your trust in Jehovah will instill in your children courage and peace.

¹⁸ The peace of God makes us feel secure. (Phil. 4:6, 7) By means of it, Jehovah calms our heart despite the diseases, disasters, and persecution that can affect us today. He uses hardworking elders to shepherd us. And he gives all of us the privilege of helping one another. The peace that we enjoy now will equip us to face greater trials to come, even the “great tribulation.” (Matt. 24:21) At that time, we will need to maintain our peace and to help others do the same. But after that event, we will not face crises that make us anxious. We will at last enjoy what Jehovah has always wanted for us—perfect and lasting peace.—Isa. 26:3, 4.

18. What future awaits us?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 25: A couple bring some food to a family who are temporarily in a shelter after a disaster.

HOW CAN YOU HELP OTHERS FIND PEACE DESPITE . . .

■ a disease outbreak?

■ a disaster?

■ persecution?



Are You Ready to “Inherit the Earth”?

WE ALL cherish Jesus’ promise: “Happy are the mild-tempered, since they will inherit the earth.” (Matt. 5:5) The anointed will inherit the earth by reigning in heaven as kings with Jesus. (Rev. 5:10; 20:6) Most true Christians today look to inherit the earth and live on it forever in perfection, peace, and happiness. To realize that prospect fully, they will face several tasks. Consider three: subduing the earth, accommodating the resurrected, and teaching the resurrected. Consider also how even now you can show that you desire to share in doing those things.

READY TO SUBDUE THE EARTH

When Jehovah commissioned humans to “fill the earth and subdue it,” he indicated that the whole globe would eventually be a paradise. (Gen. 1:28) That original command awaits those who inherit the earth. They will not have a paradise to start with though—the garden of Eden no longer exists. There will be much to do right from the outset in cleaning up areas that are now ruined. That will certainly be a daunting task!

This brings to mind the task that the Israelites faced when returning from Babylon. Their land had basically been uninhabited for 70 years. But Isaiah foretold that with Jehovah’s blessing, they would be able to restore it. The prophecy stated: “He will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert plain like the garden of Jehovah.” (Isa. 51:3) The Israelites succeeded. Likewise, with Jehovah’s blessing, those who will inherit the earth will succeed in subdu-

ing it. And even now you can show that you desire to participate.

One way is by doing what you reasonably can to keep your home and surroundings clean and orderly. You can do that regardless of what your neighbors do. You can expand your role by helping to clean and maintain the local Kingdom Hall and the Assembly Hall. If your circumstances allow, you can also apply to be a local volunteer to share in disaster relief. You thus show that you are likely ready to assist if there is a need. Ask yourself, ‘Might I pick up some skills that I could use if I am blessed to inherit the earth?’

READY TO ACCOMMODATE THE RESURRECTED

Immediately after resurrecting the daughter of Jairus, Jesus said that the child should be given something to eat. (Mark 5:42, 43) It may not have been a difficult task to care for that 12-year-old girl. Think, though, of what will be involved when Jesus fulfills his promise that “all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out.” (John 5:28, 29)

Though the Bible does not provide many details, we can imagine that resurrected ones will need help to obtain food, lodging, and clothing. Even now, can you show that you want to be ready to help? Here are some questions to consider.

What can you do today to show that you are ready to inherit the earth?

When the announcement is made that the circuit overseer will visit your congregation, do you offer to have him over for a meal? When special full-time servants are reassigned from Bethel to the field or when a circuit overseer ends his service in the traveling work, could you be of assistance by helping to find accommodations? If a regional or special convention will be held in your area, could you volunteer to work before or after the convention or to be on hand to welcome delegates?





READY TO TEACH THE RESURRECTED

In line with Acts 24:15, we expect that billions of people will be resurrected. Many will be those who did not previously have the opportunity to know Jehovah. That opportunity will be open to them after they are resurrected.* Faithful, experienced servants of God will share in such a teaching work. (Isa. 11:9) Charlotte, who has preached in Europe, South America, and Africa, is looking forward to it. She happily says: “I look forward to teaching people in the resurrection. When I read about someone who lived in the past, I often think: ‘If only this person had known Jehovah, his life could have been so different.’ I can’t wait to tell resurrected people what they missed out on.”

Even faithful servants of Jehovah who lived before Jesus came to earth will have much to learn. Reflect on what a joy and privilege it will be to explain to Daniel the fulfillment of the prophecies he wrote down but did not understand. (Dan. 12:8) Or what about helping Ruth and Naomi to learn how their family was part of the line leading to the Messiah? What a joy it will be to share in that global teaching pro-

* See the article “Bringing the Many to Righteousness” in *The Watchtower* of September 2022.

gram, free of the pressures and distractions of today’s wicked world!

How can you presently show that you want to be ready to share in that program? One obvious way is by striving to improve your teaching skills and by having a regular share in today’s global preaching work. (Matt. 24:14) Even if age or other circumstances limit your activities at this time, your efforts can reflect your readiness to teach the resurrected.

Yes, a fundamental question is, Are you truly looking forward to inheriting the earth? Are you excited at the prospect of subduing the earth, as well as accommodating and teaching those who are resurrected? You can show that you are ready by seizing opportunities today to participate in tasks that are similar to those awaiting you when you will inherit the earth!



FOR THE WATCHTOWER AND AWAKE! 2022

Indicating the issue in which each article appears

STUDY EDITION OF THE WATCHTOWER

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND QUALITIES

Are You Ready to “Inherit the Earth”? **Dec.**

Biscuits for the Terriers (cart witnessing), **Apr.**

Coping Successfully With Anxiety, **Apr.**

Let “the Law of Kindness” Motivate You, **June**

The Ancient Israelites Fought Wars—Why Don’t We? **Oct.**

DID YOU KNOW?

How were years and months determined in Bible times? **June**

Was Mordecai a historical figure? **Nov.**

Why beneficial that both turtledoves and pigeons could be offered? **Feb.**

Why did Israelites pay a bride-price? **Feb.**

Would the Romans permit a normal burial for someone executed on a stake? **June**

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES

1922—One Hundred Years Ago, **Oct.**

LIFE STORIES

Allowing Jehovah to Direct My Path (K. Eaton), **July**

I Found Something Better Than Medicine (R. Ruhlmann), **Feb.**

I Have Enjoyed Learning and Teaching About Jehovah (L. Weaver, Jr.), **Sept.**

“I Wanted to Work for Jehovah” (D. van Mar), **Nov.**

QUESTIONS FROM READERS

How could David ‘show compassion for Mephibosheth’ but then hand him over for execution? (2Sa 21:7-9), **Mar.**

Status of previous marriage and new marriage when person is not Scripturally free, **Apr.**

Was David unrealistic in writing that he would praise God’s name “forever”? (Ps 61:8), **Dec.**

What did Jesus mean when he said: “Do not think I came to bring peace”? (Mt 10:34, 35), **July**

What did the apostle Paul mean when he referred to himself as “one born prematurely”? (1Co 15:8), **Sept.**

What does the Bible say about taking oaths? **Apr.**

Who will be resurrected on earth, and what type of resurrection will they experience? **Sept.**

STUDY ARTICLES

An Ancient Prophecy That Affects You, **July**

Are You “an Example . . . in Speaking”? **Apr.**

“Bringing the Many to Righteousness,” **Sept.**

Continue Putting On “the New Personality” After Baptism, **Mar.**

Does Your Counsel “Make the Heart Rejoice”? **Feb.**

Do You See What Zechariah Saw? **Mar.**
Do You Trust in Jehovah’s Way of Doing Things? **Feb.**

Elders—Continue to Imitate the Apostle Paul, **Mar.**

Find Joy in Giving Jehovah Your Personal Best, **Apr.**

Find Peace During a Crisis, **Dec.**

“Go On Walking in the Truth,” **Aug.**

“Happy Are Those Who Keep Integrity” to Jehovah, **Oct.**

Help Others to Endure Difficult Times, **Dec.**

“Hope in Jehovah,” **June**

How Jehovah Helps Us to Carry Out Our Ministry, **Nov.**

How Jehovah Helps Us to Endure With Joy, **Nov.**

How Love Helps Us to Overcome Fear, **June**

How to Set and Reach Spiritual Goals, **Apr.**

Imitate Jesus by Serving Others, **Feb.**
Is Your Name in “the Book of Life”? **Sept.**

Jehovah Blesses Those Who Forgive, **June**

Jehovah’s People Love Righteousness, **Aug.**

Jehovah—The Greatest Forgiver, **June**
Jehovah Watches Over His People, **Aug.**

Keep “Building One Another Up,” **Aug.**
Keep Your Christian Hope Strong, **Oct.**

Keep Your Senses When Your Loyalty Is Tested, **Nov.**

Learn From Jesus’ Younger Brother, **Jan.**
Lessons We Can Learn From Jesus’

Tears, **Jan.**

Let Nothing Separate You From Jehovah, **Nov.**

“Listen to the Words of the Wise,” **Feb.**
Make “the Best Use of Your Time,” **Jan.**

Mothers—Learn From the Example of Eunice, **Apr.**

Parents—Help Your Children to Love Jehovah, **May**

Prove Yourself Trustworthy, **Sept.**

Revelation—What It Means for God’s Enemies, **May**

Revelation—What It Means for Your Future, **May**

Revelation—What It Means for You Today, **May**

Support Our Overseer Jesus, **July**
The Kingdom Is in Place! **July**

“Those Seeking Jehovah Will Lack Nothing Good,” **Jan.**

Treasure Your Privilege of Prayer, **July**
True Wisdom Is Crying Aloud, **Oct.**

True Worship Will Add to Your Happiness, **Mar.**

We Can Live Forever, **Dec.**

Why We Attend the Memorial, **Jan.**
Wisdom to Guide Our Lives, **May**

You Can Find True Happiness, **Oct.**
You Can “Strip Off the Old Personality,” **Mar.**

You Can Trust Your Brothers, **Sept.**
Young Ones—Continue to Make Progress

After Baptism, **Aug.**

“You Will Be With Me in Paradise,” **Dec.**

PUBLIC EDITION OF THE WATCHTOWER

Breaking the Cycle of Hatred, **No. 1**

AWAKE!

A World in Turmoil—How You Can Cope, **No. 1**

IN THIS ISSUE

Study Article 49: January 30–February 5 We Can Live Forever	2
Study Article 50: February 6-12 “You Will Be With Me in Paradise”	8
QUESTIONS FROM READERS	14
DO YOU REMEMBER?	15
Study Article 51: February 13-19 Find Peace During a Crisis	16
Study Article 52: February 20-26 Help Others to Endure Difficult Times	22
Are You Ready to “Inherit the Earth”?	28
SUBJECT INDEX FOR <i>THE WATCHTOWER</i> AND <i>AWAKE!</i> 2022	31

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. To make a donation, please visit donate.jw.org.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) December 2022 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2022 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

FEATURED CONTENT IN
JW LIBRARY AND ON [JW.ORG](https://www.jw.org)

MORE TOPICS

Should Religion Be Involved in Politics?

Throughout the world, many people who claim to follow Jesus Christ are deeply involved in politics. Should they be?

EXPERIENCES OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

They Offered Themselves Willingly —In Albania and Kosovo

What joys have helped these need-greaters endure despite the challenges?

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE USED

Songs That Draw Us Closer to God

Do you have a favorite original song? Have you ever wondered how it was produced?

COVER PICTURE:

During the Millennium, a brother finds delight in working on a talent that he had looked forward to developing (See study article 50, paragraph 19)

Visit the [jw.org](https://www.jw.org) website, or scan code



w22.12-E
220602