OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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For United States of America

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The Bible Teach Book —Our Primary Bible Study Aid

1 How thrilling it was to witness the release of the book What Does the Bible Really Teach? at the "Godly Obedience" District Convention! Delegates rejoiced to receive a personal copy at the close of the Saturday program. How will this new teaching tool be utilized? It is designed to be our primary Bible study aid. Although the new book will first be featured as the literature offer in March, publishers are encouraged to begin using it immediately to start and conduct Bible studies.

² **Current Bible Studies:** Publishers conducting Bible studies in the *Knowledge* book or *Require* brochure should use good

judgment in deciding how and when to begin using the new publication during the study. If a study was started recently, you could simply start from the beginning of the new book. If you are further along in the *Knowledge* book, you might continue the study in the corresponding chapter of the *Bible Teach* book. If you are toward the end of the *Knowledge* book, you may decide to complete that publication.

³ No doubt all of us know many people who would benefit from studying the *Bible Teach* book. Why not offer each person a Bible study in this progressive study aid? For example, those who have studied the Require brochure or the Knowledge book but who did not progress to dedication and baptism may wish to resume their study using the new book. Parents may decide to use the publication as they impart accurate knowledge of God's will to their children.—Col. 1:9, 10.

4 Studying a Second Book: Is there a provision for a Bible student to study a second book after completing What Does the Bible Really Teach? Yes. If it is evident that a student is making progress, although slowly, and is developing appreciation for what he is learning, the Bible study may be continued using the book Worship the Only True God. We are confident that the Bible Teach book will be a powerful tool in our hands as we carry out the commission to make disciples.-Matt. 28:19, 20.

Show Personal Interest—By Asking Questions and Listening

¹ Most people enjoy expressing their views but dislike being lectured or interrogated. As Christian ministers, therefore, we need to learn the art of drawing people out with questions.

—Prov. 20:5.

² Our questions should invite, not intimidate. When preaching from house to house, one brother asks, "Do you feel that there will ever be a time when people treat one another with dignity and respect?" Depending on the response, he follows with, "What do you think it will take to accomplish this?" or "Why do you feel that way?" When witnessing informally and in public places, another brother asks

those who have children, "What do you enjoy most about being a parent?" Then he asks, "What are your greatest concerns?" Notice that these questions allow people to express their views without putting them on the spot. Since circumstances vary, we may need to adjust the topic and tone of our questions to fit those in our territory.

³ **Drawing People Out:** If people are willing to share their thoughts, patiently listen without needlessly interrupting. (Jas. 1:19) Graciously acknowledge their comments. (Col. 4:6) You might simply say: "That's interesting. Thank you for sharing that with me." Commend

them if you can do so sincerely. Kindly ask additional questions to find out what they think and why they feel as they do. Seek common ground. When you want to direct their attention to a scripture, you might say, "Have you ever considered this as a possibility?" Avoid being dogmatic or argumentative. —2 Tim. 2:24, 25.

⁴ How others respond to our questions may depend much on how we listen. People can tell if we are listening with our heart. A traveling overseer observed, "When you show patient willingness to listen to people, it has the amazing power to attract and is a wonderful expression of warm personal interest." Listening to others accords them honor, and it may move them to listen to the good news that we seek to share.—Rom. 12:10.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting January 9

Song 10

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to present the January 15 Watchtower and the January Awake! In one of the demonstrations, show a publisher working business territory.

15 min: "The Bible Teach Book
—Our Primary Bible Study Aid."
Generate enthusiasm for starting
Bible studies in the new book.

20 min: "How to Start Studies in the Bible Teach Book." Audience discussion with demonstrations based on page 3 of the insert. We can begin using the Bible Teach book immediately to start and conduct Bible studies with those who show interest. Arrange for three wellprepared demonstrations showing how to use (1) pages 4-5, (2) page 6. and (3) the first paragraph on page 7 to start a Bible study when making a return visit. Outline each presentation beforehand, and review it afterward. The consideration of the paragraphs in the Bible Teach book may be abbreviated as needed. Conclude each demonstration with the publisher arranging the next visit. Song 125 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 16

Song 178

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from Our Kingdom Ministry. Encourage everyone to view the video Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights in preparation for the discussion that will be held in two weeks at the Service Meeting.

15 min: Organized to Do Jehovah's Will. Talk and audience discussion based on pages 4-7 of the book *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.* Following an introduction of less than three minutes based on page 4, conduct an audience discussion of page 5 to the subheading on page 7. Further portions of the *Organized* book

will be considered at future Service Meetings.

20 min: "Young People Who Are Shining as Illuminators." Invite youths to comment on how they have been able to witness at school. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 107 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 23

Song 60

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to present the February 1 Watchtower and the February Awake! Have a youth give one of the presentations.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Show Personal Interest—By Asking Questions and Listening." When discussing paragraph 2, ask the audience what questions they have found to be effective for starting conversations. Demonstrate how to draw a person out by using tactful questions and listening attentively.

Song 205 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 30

Song 197

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for January. Mention the literature offer for February, and have one presentation demonstrated.

15 min: Loving Provisions for Our Benefit. To be handled by an elder. Read and discuss the January 3, 2006, letter from the branch office to all congregations concerning ways to benefit from the activities of the Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) and the Patient Visitation Group (PVG).

20 min: "A Video That Highlights an Important Medical Trend." Read Acts 15:28, 29, and briefly emphasize that the principal reason why Christians refuse blood transfusions is to honor God's law on the sanctity of

blood. Then get right into a discussion of the *Patient Needs and Rights* video, using the questions that are provided in the article. Conclude by reading the last paragraph.

Song 45 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 6

Song 74

10 min: Local announcements.

25 min: Getting to Know Our New Teaching Tool. Talk and audience discussion. Invite audience to comment on features of the Bible Teach book that they appreciate, such as the introductory questions and review box that highlight the main points of each chapter (pp. 106, 114), the visual aids (pp. 122-3, 147, 198), and the appendix (p. 197, pars. 1-2). The book's tone is warm and appealing (p. 12, par. 12). It gives simple, clear explanations (p. 58, par. 5) and uses effective word pictures (p. 159, par. 12). The preface is designed to help us start Bible studies (pp. 3-7). Demonstrate how to use the box on page 7 with a new Bible student. Relate experiences that have been enjoyed using the new book.

10 min: Auxiliary Pioneering Brings Blessings. (Prov. 10:22) Invite those who served as auxiliary pioneers last spring to relate how they arranged to do so and what joys and blessings they experienced as a result. Encourage all to consider prayerfully whether they can auxiliary pioneer during March, April, and May.

Song 16 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

Number of	1	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	AV. Bi.S
Sp'l Pios.	185	101.3	83.7	44.5	4.7
Pios.	95,094	67.3	45.6	20.6	1.9
Aux. Pios.	24,664	50.8	37.1	13.0	1.1
Pubs.	881,640	9.4	8.4	3.5	0.3

How to Start Studies in the Bible Teach Book

Many of us would be delighted to conduct a Bible study if only we could get the study started. The new book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* can help us. The preface on pages 3-7 is designed to get the householder into a Bible discussion using the publication. Even those with limited experience in the ministry will find it easy to use to start studies.

■ You might try this approach using page 3:

After mentioning a news item or a problem that is on the minds of people in your territory, direct the householder's attention to the questions in bold type on page 3, and invite him to comment. Then turn to pages 4-5.

■ Or you might prefer to start by highlighting pages 4-5:

You could say, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if the changes pictured here actually took place?" Or you might ask, "Which of these promises would you like to see fulfilled?" Listen carefully to the response.

If the householder shows a special interest in one of the scriptures, show him what the Bible teaches on that subject by considering the paragraphs in the book that discuss that text. (See box on this page of insert.) Consider the material just as you would on a Bible study. This can be done in five to ten minutes on the initial call right at the doorstep.

■ Another approach is to draw the person out using page 6:

Direct the householder's attention to the questions at the bottom of the page, and ask, "Have you ever wondered about any of these questions?" If he expresses interest in one of the questions, turn to the paragraphs in the book that answer the question. (See box on this page of insert.) As you consider the information together, you are conducting a Bible study.

■ Page 7 may be used to lead into a demonstration of a Bible study:

Read the first three sentences on the page, and then turn to chapter 3 and demonstrate

a study using paragraphs 1-3. Arrange to return to discuss the answers to the questions in paragraph 3.

■ How to arrange to return:

When concluding the initial study, arrange to continue the discussion. You might simply say: "In just a few minutes, we learned what the Bible teaches on an important subject. Next time, we can discuss [leave a question that will be considered]. May I stop by at this same time next week?"

As we draw closer to Jehovah's appointed time, he continues to equip us for the task at hand. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 2 Tim. 3:17) Let us make good use of this marvelous new tool to start Bible studies.

Discussion of Scriptures on Pages 4-5

- ☐ Revelation 21:4 (pp. 27-8, pars. 1-3)
- □ Isaiah 33:24; 35:5, 6 (p. 36, par. 22)
- □ John 5:28, 29 (pp. 72-3, pars. 17-19)
- □ Psalm 72:16 (p. 34, par. 19)

Answers to Questions on Page 6

- □ Why do we suffer? (pp. 108-9, pars. 6-8)
- ☐ How can we cope with life's anxieties? (pp. 184-5, pars. 1-3)
- ☐ How can we make our family life happier? (p. 143, par. 20)
- □ What happens to us when we die? (pp. 58-9, pars. 5-6)
- □ Will we ever see our dead loved ones again? (pp. 72-3, pars. 17-19)
- How can we be sure that God will fulfill his promises for the future? (p. 25, par. 17)

How to Offer the Bible Teach Book

This insert includes a variety of suggestions for offering the *Bible Teach* book. To be most effective, put them in your own words, tailor your approach to the people in your territory, and become familiar with talking points in the book. Other presentations that are practical for your territory may also be used. —See the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, p. 8.

Armageddon

"When people hear the word 'Armageddon,' many think of mass destruction. Would it surprise you to learn that Armageddon is actually something to look forward to? [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 16:14, 16.] Notice this comment on what life will be like after Armageddon." Turn to pages 82-4, and read paragraph 21.

Bible

- "People often refer to the Bible as God's Word. Have you ever wondered how a book that was penned by men could rightly be called the Word of God? [Allow for response. Then read 2 Peter 1: 21 and paragraph 5 on pages 19-20.] This publication gives the Bible's answers to these questions." Show the questions on page 6.
- "Nowadays, people have access to more information than ever before. But where do you think we can find sound counsel that can help us to lead happy, successful lives? [Allow for response. Then read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 and paragraph 12 on page 23.] This publication explains how we can live in a way that pleases God and benefits us." Show the chart and the picture on pages 122-3.

Death/Resurrection

- "Many people wonder what really happens at death. Do you think it is possible for us to know? [Allow for response. Then read Ecclesiastes 9:5 and paragraphs 5-6 on pages 58-9.] This book also explains what the Bible's promise of a resurrection will mean for those who have died." Show the picture on page 75.
- "When someone we love dies, it's natural to want to see that person again. Wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response.] Many have found comfort in the Bible's promise of a resurrection. [Read John 5:28, 29 and paragraphs 16-17 on pages 71-2.] This chapter also answers these questions." Show the introductory questions on page 66.

Everlasting Life

■ "Most people desire good health and a long life. But if it was possible, would you want to live forever? [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 21:3, 4 and paragraph 17 on page 54.] This book discusses how we can gain everlasting life and what life will be like when that promise becomes a reality."

Family

■ "All of us are interested in having a happy family life. Wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response.] The Bible speaks of something that everyone in the family can do to contribute to family happiness—imitate God in showing love." Read Ephesians 5:1, 2 and paragraph 4 on page 135.

Housing

■ "In many places, finding a decent place to live that is affordable has become more difficult. Do you think that one day there will be adequate housing for everyone? [Allow for response. Then read Isaiah 65:21, 22 and paragraph 20 on page 34.] This publication explains how this promise from God will be fulfilled."

Jehovah God

- "Many people who believe in God would like to feel closer to him. Did you know that the Bible invites us to draw close to him? [Allow for response. Then read James 4:8a and paragraph 20 on page 16.] This publication has been prepared to help people to learn more about God, using their own copy of the Bible." Show introductory questions on page 8.
- "Many people pray for God's name to be sanctified, or hallowed. Have you ever wondered what that name is? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 83:18 and paragraphs 2-3 on page 195.] This book explains what the Bible really teaches about Jehovah God and his purpose for mankind."

Jesus Christ

■ "People around the earth have heard of Jesus Christ. Some say he was no more than an outstanding man. Others worship him as God Almighty. Do you think it matters what we believe about Jesus Christ?" Allow for response. Then read John 17:3 and paragraph 3 on pages 37-8. Direct attention to the introductory questions below the chapter title.

Prayer

"Have you ever wondered how God answers prayers? [Allow for response. Then read 1 John 5:14, 15 and paragraphs 16-18 on pages 170-2.] This chapter also explains why we should pray to God and what we must do to be heard by him."

Religion

• "Many people are beginning to view the world's religions as a cause of mankind's problems rather than a solution. Do you think religion is leading people in the right direction? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 7:13, 14 and paragraph 5 on pages 145-6.] This chapter examines six features that identify the worship that God approves." Show list on page 147.

Tragedy/Suffering

"When a tragedy occurs, many question whether God really cares about people and notices their suffering. Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response. Then read 1 Peter 5:7 and paragraph 11 on page 11.] This publication explains how God will completely eliminate mankind's suffering." Show introductory questions on page 106.

War/Peace

■ "People everywhere long for peace. Do you think that the hope of peace on earth is just a dream? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 46:8, 9.] This publication discusses how God will fulfill his purpose and bring about global peace." Show the picture on page 35, and consider paragraphs 17-21 on pages 33-4.

Ways to Mention the Donation Arrangement

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"If you would like to make a small donation today toward our worldwide work, I will gladly accept it."

"Although our literature is offered without charge, we do accept modest donations for our worldwide work."

"You may wonder how we can afford to do this work. It is because our worldwide work is supported by voluntary donations. If you wish to make a small donation today, I will be pleased to accept it."

(1) Question, (2) Scripture, and (3) Chapter

A simple way to present What Does the Bible Really Teach? is to (1) raise a viewpoint question, (2) read an appropriate scripture, and (3) feature a chapter in the book that discusses that subject by reading the introductory questions under the chapter title. If the householder shows interest, you may be able to demonstrate a Bible study using the opening paragraphs of that chapter. This approach can be used to start a study when making the initial call or a return visit.

- "Do you think it is possible for mere humans to come to know our almighty Creator, as stated here in the Bible?" Read Acts 17:26, 27, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 1.
- "With the challenges we face today, do you think it is possible to find the comfort and hope described here?" Read Romans 15:4, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 2.
- "If you had the power to do so, would you bring about these changes?" Read Revelation 21:4, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 3.
- "Do you think our children will ever be able to enjoy the conditions described in this ancient song?" Read Psalm 37:10, 11, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 3.
- "Do you think the day will ever come when these words are fulfilled?" Read Isaiah 33:24, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 3.
- "Have you ever wondered if the dead know what the living are doing?"

Allow for response. Then read Ecclesiastes 9:5, and feature chapter 6.

- "Do you think it is possible that we will one day see our dead loved ones again, as Jesus stated in these verses?" Read John 5:28, 29, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 7.
- "What do you think it would take for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, as mentioned in this famous prayer?" Read Matthew 6:9, 10, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 8.
- "Do you think we are living in the time period that is described in this prophecy?" Read 2 Timothy 3:1-4, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 9.
- "Many people wonder why mankind's problems seem to be getting worse. Have you ever considered this as a possibility?" Read Revelation 12:9, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 10.
- "Have you ever wanted to know the answer to a question like this?" Read Job 21:7, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 11.
- "Do you think that applying this advice from the Bible would help people to enjoy a happy family life?" Read Ephesians 5:33, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 14.

A Bible study may be reported when it has been conducted two times after the study arrangement was demonstrated and if there is reason to believe that the study will continue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for January: Any book published prior to 1991 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer Worship the Only True God. February: Draw Close to Jehovah. If this publication is not available, you may use the Revelation Climax book as an alternative offer. March: What Does the Bible Really Teach? Make a special effort to start Bible studies. April: The Watchtower and Awake! magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the Bible Teach book.

- Since April has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.
- Starting in February, and no later than March 5, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "You Can Enjoy Life in Peace Now—And Forever!"
- Congregations should make appropriate arrangements to observe the Memorial this year on Wednesday, April 12, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the emblems should not begin until after sundown. Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Each congregation should try to hold its own Memorial observance. However, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we would suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs
- so that all may benefit fully from the occasion. Consideration should also be given to traffic conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.
- As a reminder, the return address of the branch office should never be used on any personal correspondence. This includes all letters and items of literature that are mailed to give a witness to interested people, to not-at-homes, or to those who live in inaccessible places. A publisher may wish to use his personal return address, since his ministry involves his personal service to God. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Rom. 10:14, 15) However, if he feels that it would be unwise to use his own return address when witnessing by letter, he may use his name and the return address of the Kingdom Hall.—See the May 2002 Our Kingdom Ministry Question Box.

A Video That Highlights an Important Medical Trend

Legal and health-care professionals are giving increased attention to the ethical views and rights of medical patients. This has promoted new therapies and approaches from which Jehovah's Witnesses can benefit. (Acts 15:28, 29) That is the focus of the video Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights. Watch it, and then review what you learned.-Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in viewing the video with young children.

(1) Why are some in the medical community reevaluating the use of blood transfusions? (2) Give three examples of complex surgeries that

may be performed without blood transfusions. (3) How many physicians and surgeons worldwide have indicated their willingness to treat patients without blood transfusions? Why are they willing to do so? (4) What have recent hospital studies revealed about blood use? (5) What are the medical risks associated with blood transfusions? (6) What conclusion have many experts reached regarding the benefits of transfusion alternatives? (7) What causes anemia? How tolerable is it in humans? What can be done to compensate for it? (8) How can redcell production be stimulated in a patient's body? (9) What techniques are being used to minimize blood loss during surgery? (10) Can transfusion alternatives work for young children or for people involved in life-threatening emergencies? (11) What is one of the primary ethical principles of good medical care? (12) Why is it important for Christians to make nonblood treatment choices in advance? How can we do this?

Acceptance of some treatments featured in the video is a matter for private decision in accord with each one's Bibletrained conscience. Have you decided which transfusion alternatives you are willing to accept for yourself and your children? Non-Witness family members should also be fully informed of your decisions and the reasons for them. —See "Questions From Readers" in the June 15, 2004, and October 15, 2000, issues of The Watchtower.

Young People Who Are Shining as Illuminators

¹ Jesus told his disciples: "You are the light of the world." (Matt. 5:14, 16) Like a city situated on a hilltop, gleaming in the sunlight, they would stand out. Today, many young Christians are "shining as illuminators in the world" by their upright conduct and zealous witnessing.—Phil. 2:15: Mal. 3:18.

² At School: How might you give a witness at school? Some youths have taken advantage of class discussions on such subjects as drugs, evolution, and the Holocaust—to name just a few. One sister used an assigned essay on terrorism to give a witness about God's Kingdom as the real hope for mankind. The teacher was impressed by the well-thought-out report, and this opened the way for a further witness.

3 Another way to shine as an illuminator is by your conduct and modest dress and grooming. (1 Cor. 4:9; 1 Tim. 2:9) When students and teachers see that your deportment is different, some may be drawn to the truth as a result of your fine conduct and give you an opportunity to share Bible truths. (1 Pet. 2:12; 3: 1, 2) Displaying godly conduct may not be easy, but Jehovah will bless you richly. (1 Pet. 3:16, 17; 4:14) To arouse interest in the good news, you may read Bible literature during breaks or leave it where others can see it.

1. How does the Bible indicate that Christians would stand out, and how do those words apply to Christian youths today?

2. What are some ways you can witness to teachers and class-mates?

3. How can you let your light shine at school through your conduct?

⁴ Letting your light shine at school strengthens your faith and helps you build a wholesome pride in serving Jehovah. (Jer. 9:24) It likewise serves as a protection. One sister said, "One benefit of speaking about my beliefs is that students do not try to pressure me into doing things that are not in harmony with what the Bible says."

⁵ Expanded Service: Another way in which many youths are shining as illuminators is by expanding their ministry. After finishing high school, one brother moved to serve where there was a greater need for Kingdom proclaimers. He was part of a small congregation with only one elder. "I am having the time of my life here." he wrote to a friend. "The ministry is so refreshing! We talk for about 20 minutes at each door because people want to hear all you can tell them." He added: "I just wish that every young person would do something like this and feel what I feel. There is nothing better than to serve Jehovah with all we have."

⁶ How proud we are of you young people who are shining as illuminators in the world! (1 Thess. 2:20) As you serve Jehovah with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, you will reap "a hundredfold now in this period of time... and in the coming system of things everlasting life."—Mark 10:29, 30; 12:30.

4. What are some benefits of witnessing at school?

5. (a) How are some youths expanding their ministry? (b) What are your spiritual goals?

6. What do you appreciate about the young people in your congregation?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® Jan. 15

"In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in angels. Have you ever wondered who they are and how they affect our lives? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 34:7.] This magazine considers what the Bible says about the activities of the angels—past, present, and future."

Awake! Jan.

"Advice is available today on virtually every subject. How much of it do you think we can trust? [Allow for response. Then read 2 Timothy 3:16.] This issue of Awake! shows why we can look to the Bible as a reliable source of practical wisdom." Feature the article that begins on page 18.

WATCHTOWER® Feb. 1

"All of us need money in order to live. But would you agree that there is a need to guard against the danger mentioned here? [Read 1 Timothy 6:10, and allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* helps us to identify some of the common pitfalls of material prosperity and discusses how to avoid them."

Awake! Feb.

"Many of us who have elderly relatives and friends wonder how we can help them meet the challenges of old age. Isn't that so? [Allow for response.] This magazine suggests things that we can do to make growing older more bearable. It also explains how this prophecy will be fulfilled." Read Job 33:25.