

# References for *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook*

## OCTOBER 7-13

### TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | JAMES 3-5

#### “Display Godly Wisdom”

**(James 3:17)** But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, not hypocritical.

#### c/ 221-222 ¶9-10

#### Is “the Wisdom From Above” at Work in Your Life?

<sup>9</sup> “*First of all chaste.*” To be chaste means to be pure and undefiled not just outwardly but inwardly. The Bible associates wisdom with the heart, but heavenly wisdom cannot enter into a heart that is defiled by wicked thoughts, desires, and motives. (Proverbs 2:10; Matthew 15:19, 20) However, if our heart is chaste—that is, as far as is possible for imperfect humans—we will “turn away from what is bad and do what is good.” (Psalm 37:27; Proverbs 3:7) Is it not fitting that chasteness is the first quality of wisdom listed? After all, if we are not morally and spiritually clean, how can we truly reflect the other qualities of the wisdom from above?

<sup>10</sup> “*Then peaceable.*” Heavenly wisdom moves us to pursue peace, which is a fruit of God’s spirit. (Galatians 5:22) We strive to avoid disrupting the “bond of peace” that unites Jehovah’s people. (Ephesians 4:3) We also do our best to restore peace when it is disturbed. Why is this important? The Bible says: “Continue . . . to live peaceably; and the God of love and of peace will be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11) So as long as we continue to live peaceably, the God of peace will be with us. The way we treat fellow worshipers has a direct bearing on our relationship with Jehovah. How can we prove ourselves to be peacemakers? Consider an example.

**(James 3:17)** But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, not hypocritical.

#### c/ 223-224 ¶12

#### Is “the Wisdom From Above” at Work in Your Life?

<sup>12</sup> “*Reasonable.*” What does it mean to be reasonable? According to scholars, the original Greek word rendered “reasonable” at James 3:17 is difficult to translate. Translators have used such words as “gentle,” “forbearing,” and “considerate.” A footnote in the *New World Translation* indicates that the literal meaning is “yielding.” How can we demonstrate that this aspect of the wisdom from above is at work in us?

#### c/ 224-225 ¶14-15

#### Is “the Wisdom From Above” at Work in Your Life?

<sup>14</sup> “*Ready to obey.*” The Greek word rendered “ready to obey” is not found elsewhere in the Christian Greek Scriptures. According to one scholar, this word “is often used of military discipline.” It conveys the idea of “easy to be persuaded” and “submissive.” One who is governed by the wisdom from above readily submits to what the Scriptures say. He is not known as one who makes up his mind and then refuses to be influenced by any facts that contradict him. Rather, he is quick to change when he is presented with clear Scriptural evidence that he has taken a wrong stand or has drawn erroneous conclusions. Is that how you are known by others?

#### “Full of Mercy and Good Fruits”

<sup>15</sup> “*Full of mercy and good fruits.*” Mercy is an important part of the wisdom from above, for such wisdom is said to be “*full of mercy.*” Notice that “mercy” and “good fruits” are mentioned together. This is fitting, for in the Bible, mercy most often refers to an active concern for

others, a compassion that produces a rich crop of kindly deeds. One reference work defines mercy as “a feeling of sorrow over someone’s bad situation and trying to do something about it.” Hence, godly wisdom is not dry, heartless, or merely intellectual. Instead, it is warm, heart-felt, and sensitive. How can we show that we are full of mercy?

**(James 3:17)** But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, not hypocritical.

#### **c/ 226-227 ¶18-19**

#### **Is “the Wisdom From Above” at Work in Your Life?**

<sup>18</sup> *“Not making partial distinctions.”* Godly wisdom rises above racial prejudice and national pride. If we are guided by such wisdom, we endeavor to root out of our hearts any tendency to show favoritism. (James 2:9) We do not give preferential treatment to others on the basis of their educational background, financial standing, or congregational responsibility; nor do we look down on any of our fellow worshipers, regardless of how lowly they may seem to be. If Jehovah has made such ones recipients of *his* love, we should certainly deem them worthy of *our* love.

<sup>19</sup> *“Not hypocritical.”* The Greek word for “hypocrite” can refer to “an actor who played a role.” In ancient times, Greek and Roman actors wore large masks when performing. Hence, the Greek word for “hypocrite” came to apply to one putting on a pretense, or one playing false. This aspect of godly wisdom should influence not just how we treat fellow worshipers but also how we feel about them.

#### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**(James 4:5)** Or do you think that for no reason the scripture says: “The spirit that has taken up residence within us keeps enviously longing”?

#### **w08 11/15 20 ¶6**

#### **Highlights From the Letters of James and of Peter**

#### **4:5—What scripture is James quoting here?**

James is not quoting any specific verse. However, these divinely inspired words are possibly based on the general thought behind such scriptures as Genesis 6:5; 8:21; Proverbs 21:10; and Galatians 5:17.

**(James 4:11, 12)** Stop speaking against one another, brothers. Whoever speaks against a brother or judges his brother speaks against law and judges law. Now if you judge law, you are not a doer of law but a judge. <sup>12</sup> There is only one who is Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and to destroy. But you, who are you to be judging your neighbor?

#### **w97 11/15 20-21 ¶8**

#### **Faith Makes Us Patient and Prayerful**

<sup>8</sup> It is sinful to speak against a fellow believer. (James 4:11, 12) Yet some are critical of fellow Christians, perhaps as a result of their own self-righteous attitude or because they want to exalt themselves by downgrading others. (Psalm 50:20; Proverbs 3:29) The Greek term rendered ‘speak against’ denotes hostility and implies making an exaggerated or false accusation. This amounts to judging a brother adversely. How is this ‘speaking against and judging God’s law’? Well, the scribes and the Pharisees ‘adroitly set aside God’s commandment’ and judged by their own standards. (Mark 7:1-13) Similarly, if we condemned a brother that Jehovah would not condemn, would we not be ‘judging God’s law’ and sinfully imply that it is inadequate? And by unjustly criticizing our brother, we would not be fulfilling the law of love.—Romans 13:8-10.

#### **Bible Reading**

**(James 3:1-18)** Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive heavier judgment. <sup>2</sup> For we

all stumble many times. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle also his whole body. <sup>3</sup> If we put bridles in the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide also their whole body. <sup>4</sup> Look also at ships: Although they are so big and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the man at the helm is inclined to go. <sup>5</sup> So, too, the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it makes great brags. See how small a fire it takes to set a great forest ablaze! <sup>6</sup> The tongue is also a fire. The tongue represents a world of unrighteousness among our body members, for it defiles all the body and sets the whole course of life on fire, and it is set on fire by Ge-hen'na. <sup>7</sup> For every kind of wild animal and bird and reptile and sea creature is to be tamed and has been tamed by humans. <sup>8</sup> But no human can tame the tongue. It is unruly and injurious, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we praise Jehovah, the Father, and yet with it we curse men who have come into existence "in the likeness of God." <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, it is not right for things to happen this way. <sup>11</sup> A spring does not cause the fresh water and the bitter water to bubble out of the same opening, does it? <sup>12</sup> My brothers, a fig tree cannot produce olives, or a grapevine figs, can it? Neither can salt water produce fresh water. <sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him by his fine conduct demonstrate works performed with a mildness that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and contentiousness in your hearts, do not be bragging and lying against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This is not the wisdom that comes down from above; it is earthly, animalistic, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For wherever there are jealousy and contentiousness, there will also be disorder and every vile thing. <sup>17</sup> But

the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, not hypocritical. <sup>18</sup> Moreover, the fruit of righteousness is sown in peaceful conditions for those who are making peace.

## OCTOBER 14-20

### TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | 1 PETER 1-2

#### "You Must Be Holy"

**(1 Peter 1:14, 15)** As obedient children, stop being molded by the desires you formerly had in your ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all your conduct,

#### w17.02 9 ¶5

#### The Ransom—A "Perfect Present" From the Father

<sup>5</sup> How can we show that we love Jehovah's name? By our conduct. Jehovah requires that we be holy. **(Read 1 Peter 1:15, 16.)** This means that we worship only Jehovah and that we obey him with our whole heart. Even when we are persecuted, we do our best to live according to his righteous principles and laws. By performing righteous deeds, we let our light shine and thus bring glory to Jehovah's name. (Matt. 5:14-16) As holy people, we prove by the way we live our lives that Jehovah's laws are good and that Satan's accusations are false. When we make mistakes, as we all do, we genuinely repent and turn away from practices that dishonor Jehovah.—Ps. 79:9.

**(1 Peter 1:16)** for it is written: "You must be holy, because I am holy."

#### lvs 77 ¶6

#### How to Choose Our Entertainment

<sup>6</sup> Jehovah tells us: "You must be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:14-16; 2 Peter 3:11) Jehovah

will accept our worship only if it is holy, or clean. (Deuteronomy 15:21) Our worship cannot be clean if we do things Jehovah hates, such as things that are immoral, violent, or connected with demonism. (Romans 6:12-14; 8:13) But it would also displease Jehovah if we allowed ourselves to be entertained by such things. This could make our worship unclean and unacceptable to Jehovah and could seriously damage our relationship with him.

## Digging for Spiritual Gems

**(1 Peter 1:10-12)** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the undeserved kindness meant for you made a diligent inquiry and a careful search. <sup>11</sup> They kept on investigating what particular time or what season the spirit within them was indicating concerning Christ as it testified beforehand about the sufferings meant for Christ and about the glory that would follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were ministering, not to themselves, but to you, regarding what has now been announced to you by those who declared the good news to you with holy spirit sent from heaven. Into these very things, angels are desiring to peer.

w08 11/15 21 ¶10

## Highlights From the Letters of James and of Peter

**1:10-12.** Angels desired to peer into and understand the deep spiritual truths that God's prophets of old times wrote concerning the anointed Christian congregation. However, these things became clear only when Jehovah began dealing with the congregation. (Eph. 3:10) Should we not follow the example of the angels and strive to search into "the deep things of God"?—1 Cor. 2:10.

**(1 Peter 2:25)** For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.

## it-2 565 ¶3

### Overseer

**The Supreme Overseer.** First Peter 2:25 evidently quotes Isaiah 53:6 as to those who 'like sheep went astray,' and Peter then says: "But now you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls." The reference must be to Jehovah God, since those to whom Peter wrote had not gone astray from Christ Jesus but, rather, *through him* had been led back to Jehovah God, who is the Grand Shepherd of his people. (Ps 23:1; 80:1; Jer 23:3; Eze 34:12) Jehovah is also an overseer, the one who makes inspection. (Ps 17:3) The inspection (Gr., *e-pi-sko-pe'*) could be associated with expression of adverse judgment by him, as in the first century C.E. in the case of Jerusalem, which did not discern the time of her "being inspected [Gr., *e-pi-sko-pes'*]." (Lu 19:44) Or it could bring favorable effect and benefits, as in the case of those glorifying God in the day "for his inspection [Gr., *e-pi-sko-pes'*]."—1Pe 2:12.

## Bible Reading

**(1 Peter 1:1-16)** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the temporary residents scattered about in Pon'tus, Ga-la'ti-a, Cap-pa-do'ci-a, Asia, and Bi-thyn'i-a, to those chosen <sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, with sanctification by the spirit, for the purpose of being obedient and sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ: May undeserved kindness and peace be increased to you. <sup>3</sup> Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for according to his great mercy he gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an incorruptible and undefiled and unfading inheritance. It is reserved in the heavens for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being safeguarded by God's power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last period of time. <sup>6</sup> Because of this you are greatly rejoicing, though for a short time, if it must

be, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup> in order that the tested quality of your faith, of much greater value than gold that perishes despite its being tested by fire, may be found a cause for praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you never saw him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet you exercise faith in him and are greatly rejoicing with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> as you attain the goal of your faith, your salvation. <sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the undeserved kindness meant for you made a diligent inquiry and a careful search. <sup>11</sup> They kept on investigating what particular time or what season the spirit within them was indicating concerning Christ as it testified beforehand about the sufferings meant for Christ and about the glory that would follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were ministering, not to themselves, but to you, regarding what has now been announced to you by those who declared the good news to you with holy spirit sent from heaven. Into these very things, angels are desiring to peer. <sup>13</sup> So brace up your minds for activity; keep your senses completely; set your hope on the undeserved kindness that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, stop being molded by the desires you formerly had in your ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> for it is written: “You must be holy, because I am holy.”

## OCTOBER 21-27

### TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD | 1 PETER 3-5

#### “The End of All Things Has Drawn Close”

**(1 Peter 4:7)** But the end of all things has drawn close. Therefore, be sound in mind, and be vigilant with a view to prayers.

**w13 11/15 3 ¶1**

#### “Be Vigilant With a View to Prayers”

“THE most difficult time of the night to stay awake is just before the dawn of a new day,” says a former night worker. Very likely, others who have to remain awake all night would agree. Present-day Christians face a similar challenge because the long night of Satan’s wicked system of things is now at the darkest point in its history. (Rom. 13:12) How dangerous it would be for us to fall asleep at this late hour! It is imperative that we “be sound in mind” and heed the Scriptural exhortation to “be vigilant with a view to prayers.”—1 Pet. 4:7.

**(1 Peter 4:8)** Above all things, have intense love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

**w99 4/15 22 ¶3**

#### How to Recognize and Overcome Any Spiritual Weakness

Finally, keep firmly in mind the apostle Peter’s loving admonition: “The end of all things has drawn close. Be sound in mind, therefore, and be vigilant with a view to prayers. Above all things, have intense love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:7, 8) It is so easy to let human imperfections—other people’s and our own—work their way into our hearts and minds and become obstacles, stumbling blocks. Satan well knows this human weakness. Divide and conquer is one of his wily tactics. We must, therefore, be quick to cover over such sins with intense love for one another and not “allow place for the Devil.”—Ephesians 4:25-27.

**(1 Peter 4:9)** Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

**w18.03 14-15 ¶2-3**

#### The Delightful Course of Hospitality—So Needed!

<sup>2</sup> Among other things, Peter urged his brothers: “Be hospitable to one another.” (1 Pet. 4:9)

The word “hospitality” in Greek literally means “fondness for, or kindness to, strangers.” Note, however, that Peter urged his Christian brothers and sisters to be hospitable “to one another,” to those whom they already knew and associated with. How would being hospitable help them?

<sup>3</sup> It would draw them together. Consider your own experience. Have you had the pleasure of being invited to someone’s home? Did that occasion not leave you with warm memories? When you entertained some from your congregation, was your friendship not deepened? By extending hospitality, we get to know our brothers and sisters in a more personal way than we can in other settings. Christians in Peter’s day needed to draw ever closer as conditions grew worse. The same is true for Christians in these “last days.”—2 Tim. 3:1.

## **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**(1 Peter 3:19, 20)** And in this state he went and preached to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who had formerly been disobedient when God was patiently waiting in Noah’s day, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water.

**w13 6/15 23**

### **Questions From Readers**

**The Bible says that Jesus “preached to the spirits in prison.” (1 Pet. 3:19) What does this mean?**

■ The apostle Peter identifies these spirits as those who had “once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah’s days.” (1 Pet. 3:20) Clearly, Peter was referring to spirit creatures who chose to join Satan’s rebellion. Jude mentions the angels who “did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place,” saying that God “has reserved [them] with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day.”—Jude 6.

In what way were spirit creatures disobedient in Noah’s day? Before the Deluge, these wicked spirits materialized in human form—something that God had not purposed for them. (Gen. 6: 2, 4) Furthermore, those angels who had sex with women were practicing a perversion. God did not create spirit creatures to engage in sexual relations with women. (Gen. 5:2) These wicked, disobedient angels will be destroyed in God’s due time. For now, as Jude notes, they are in a condition of “dense darkness”—a spiritual prison, so to speak.

When and how did Jesus preach to these “spirits in prison”? Peter writes that this occurred after Jesus was “made alive in the spirit.” (1 Pet. 3:18, 19) Note, too, that Peter says that Jesus “preached.” Peter’s use of the past tense suggests that the preaching occurred before Peter wrote his first letter. It seems, then, that sometime after his resurrection, Jesus made a proclamation to the wicked spirits regarding the fully justified punishment they are due to receive. It was not a preaching that held out any hope for them. It was a preaching of judgment. (Jonah 1:1, 2) Once Jesus had demonstrated his faith and loyalty to death and then was resurrected—proving that the Devil indeed had no hold on him—Jesus had the basis for making such a condemnatory proclamation.—John 14: 30; 16:8-11.

In the future, Jesus will bind and throw into the abyss both Satan and those angels. (Luke 8:30, 31; Rev. 20:1-3) Until that time, these disobedient spirits are in a condition of dense spiritual darkness, and their final destruction is certain.—Rev. 20:7-10.

**(1 Peter 4:6)** In fact, this is why the good news was declared also to the dead, so that although they are judged in the flesh from the standpoint of men, they might live in harmony with the spirit from God’s standpoint.

w08 11/15 21 ¶8

## Highlights From the Letters of James and of Peter

**4:6—Who were “the dead” to whom “the good news was declared”?** These were ones who were ‘dead in their trespasses and sins,’ or who were spiritually dead, before they heard the good news. (Eph. 2:1) After putting faith in the good news, though, they began to “live” spiritually.

### Bible Reading

**(1 Peter 3:8-22)** Finally, all of you have unity of mind, fellow feeling, brotherly affection, tender compassion, and humility. <sup>9</sup> Do not pay back injury for injury or insult for insult. Instead, repay with a blessing, for you were called to this course, so that you might inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For “whoever would love life and see good days must guard his tongue from bad and his lips from speaking deception. <sup>11</sup> Let him turn away from what is bad and do what is good; let him seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of Jehovah are on the righteous, and his ears listen to their supplication, but the face of Jehovah is against those doing bad things.” <sup>13</sup> Indeed, who will harm you if you become zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are happy. However, do not fear what they fear, nor be disturbed. <sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense before everyone who demands of you a reason for the hope you have, but doing so with a mild temper and deep respect. <sup>16</sup> Maintain a good conscience, so that in whatever way you are spoken against, those who speak against you may be put to shame because of your good conduct as followers of Christ. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer because you are doing good, if it is God’s will to allow it, than

because you are doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ died once for all time for sins, a righteous person for unrighteous ones, in order to lead you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. <sup>19</sup> And in this state he went and preached to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who had formerly been disobedient when God was patiently waiting in Noah’s day, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water. <sup>21</sup> Baptism, which corresponds to this, is also now saving you (not by the removing of the filth of the flesh, but by the request to God for a good conscience), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> He is at God’s right hand, for he went to heaven, and angels and authorities and powers were made subject to him.

## OCTOBER 28–NOVEMBER 3

### TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD | 2 PETER 1-3

#### “Keep Close in Mind the Presence of the Day of Jehovah”

**(2 Peter 3:9, 10)** Jehovah is not slow concerning his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire anyone to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But Jehovah’s day will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be exposed.

w06 12/15 27 ¶11

#### Jehovah Will “Cause Justice to Be Done”

<sup>11</sup> How, though, should we understand Jesus’ assurance that Jehovah will cause justice to be done “speedily”? God’s Word shows that “even though [Jehovah] is long-suffering,” he will quickly execute justice when the time is ripe.

(Luke 18:7, 8; 2 Peter 3:9, 10) In Noah's time, when the Flood arrived, the wicked were destroyed without delay. Likewise, in Lot's day, when fire rained from heaven, the wicked perished. Jesus said: "The same way it will be on that day when the Son of man is to be revealed." (Luke 17:27-30) Again, the wicked will experience "sudden destruction." (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3) Indeed, we can be fully confident that Jehovah will not allow Satan's world to exist for one day longer than justice requires.

**(2 Peter 3:11, 12)** Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, consider what sort of people you ought to be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion,<sup>12</sup> as you await and keep close in mind the presence of the day of Jehovah, through which the heavens will be destroyed in flames and the elements will melt in the intense heat!

**w06 12/15 19 ¶18**

**"The Great Day of Jehovah Is Near"**

<sup>18</sup> No wonder the apostle Peter admonishes us to keep close in mind "the presence of the day of Jehovah"! How can we do this? One way is by being involved "in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion." (2 Peter 3:11, 12) Keeping busy in such activities will help us to anticipate eagerly the arrival of "the day of Jehovah." The Greek word translated "keeping close in mind" literally means "speeding up." We cannot actually speed up the time that remains until the arrival of Jehovah's day. Yet, as we wait for that day, the time will seem to pass much more quickly if we are busy in God's service. —1 Corinthians 15:58.

### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**(2 Peter 1:19)** So we have the prophetic word made more sure, and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place (until day dawns and a daystar rises) in your hearts.

**w08 11/15 22 ¶2**

**Highlights From the Letters of James and of Peter**

**1:19—Who is the "daystar," when does he rise, and how do we come to know that this has happened?** The "daystar" is Jesus Christ in Kingdom power. (Rev. 22:16) In 1914, Jesus rose before all creation as the Messianic King, heralding the dawn of a new day. The transfiguration provided a visionary foreview of Jesus' glory and Kingdom power, underscoring the dependability of God's prophetic word. Paying attention to that word illuminates our hearts, and we are thus made aware that the Daystar has risen.

**(2 Peter 2:4)** Certainly God did not refrain from punishing the angels who sinned, but threw them into Tar'ta-rus, putting them in chains of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment.

**w08 11/15 22 ¶3**

**Highlights From the Letters of James and of Peter**

**2:4—What is "Tartarus," and when were the rebellious angels thrown into it?** Tartarus is a prisonlike condition to which only spirit creatures—not humans—are consigned. It is a state of dense mental darkness regarding God's bright purposes. Those in Tartarus have no hope for the future. God threw the disobedient angels into Tartarus in Noah's day, and they will remain in that abased condition until they are destroyed.

### **Bible Reading**

**(2 Peter 1:1-15)** Simon Peter, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have acquired a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and the Savior Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> May undeserved kindness and peace be increased to you by an accurate knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> for



his divine power has granted us all the things that contribute to life and godly devotion through the accurate knowledge of the One who called us by his own glory and virtue. <sup>4</sup> Through these things he has granted us the precious and very grand promises, so that through these you may become sharers in divine nature, having escaped from the world's corruption produced by wrong desire. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, put forth all earnest effort to supply to your faith virtue, to your virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to your knowledge self-control, to your self-control endurance, to your endurance godly devotion, <sup>7</sup> to your godly devotion brotherly affection, to your brotherly affection love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things exist in you and overflow, they will prevent you from being either inactive or unfruitful regarding the accurate knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For anyone lacking these things is blind, shutting his eyes to the light, and has become forgetful of his cleansing from his sins of long ago. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and choosing sure for yourselves, for if you keep on doing these things, you will by no means ever fail. <sup>11</sup> In fact, in this way you will be richly granted entrance into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> For this reason I intend always to remind you of these things, although you know them and are well-established in the truth that is present in you. <sup>13</sup> But I consider it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you with reminders, <sup>14</sup> knowing as I do that my tabernacle is soon to be removed, just as also our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. <sup>15</sup> I will always do my utmost so that after my departure, you may be able to recall these things for yourselves.