

References for *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook*

NOVEMBER 4-10

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | 1 JOHN 1-5

“Do Not Love the World or the Things in the World”

(1 John 2:15, 16) Do not love either the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him; ¹⁶ because everything in the world—the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the showy display of one's means of life—does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world.

w05 1/1 10 ¶13

Hold to the Pattern Jesus Set

¹³ Some might reason that not everything in the world is wrong. Even so, the world and its attractions can easily distract us from serving Jehovah. And nothing the world provides is designed to draw us closer to God. Hence, if we grow to *love* the things in the world, even things that may not in themselves be wrong, we are on a dangerous course. (1 Timothy 6:9, 10) Besides, much in the world truly is bad and can corrupt us. If we watch movies or television programs that highlight violence, materialism, or sexual immorality, those things can become acceptable—and then tempting. If we mix with people whose main interest is in improving their life-style or cultivating business opportunities, those things can become of chief importance to us too.—Matthew 6:24; 1 Corinthians 15:33.

(1 John 2:17) Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

w13 8/15 27 ¶18

Consider What Kind of Person You Ought to Be

¹⁸ Another factor that helps us to resist “the things in the world” is that we keep in mind

John's inspired words: “The world is passing away and so is its desire, but he that does the will of God remains forever.” (1 John 2:17) Satan's system seems to be permanent and real. Nevertheless, one day it will come to an end. Nothing that Satan's world has to offer has permanence. Remembering that fact will help us not to be seduced by the Devil's enticements.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

(1 John 2:7, 8) Beloved ones, I am writing you, not a new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning. This old commandment is the word that you heard. ⁸ Again, I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in his case and in yours, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

w13 9/15 10 ¶14

Jehovah's Reminders Are Trustworthy

¹⁴ The Christian Greek Scriptures are replete with reminders for us to show love for one another. Jesus said that the second greatest commandment is to “love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matt. 22:39) Similarly, Jesus' half brother James called love “the kingly law.” (Jas. 2:8) The apostle John wrote: “Beloved ones, I am writing you, not a new commandment, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning.” (1 John 2:7, 8) To what was John referring as the “old commandment”? He was referring to the command to love. It was “old” in the sense that Jesus had given it decades earlier, “from the beginning.” But it was also “new” in that it called for self-sacrificing love, which the disciples might need as they faced new circumstances. As disciples of Christ, do we not appreciate warnings that help us to guard against developing the selfish spirit so

characteristic of this world, which can erode our love of neighbor?

(1 John 5:16, 17) If anyone catches sight of his brother committing a sin that does not incur death, he will ask, and God will give life to him, yes, to those not committing sin that incurs death. There is a sin that does incur death. It is concerning that sin that I do not tell him to make request. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, and yet there is a sin that does not incur death.

it-1 862 ¶5 **Forgiveness**

It is proper to pray for God's forgiveness in behalf of others, even for an entire congregation. Moses did so respecting the nation of Israel, confessing their national sin and asking forgiveness, and he was favorably heard by Jehovah. (Nu 14:19, 20) Also, Solomon, at the dedication of the temple, prayed that Jehovah might forgive his people when they sinned and then turned back from their wrong course. (1Ki 8:30, 33-40, 46-52) Ezra acted representatively in confessing publicly the sins of the repatriated Jews. His heartfelt prayer and exhortation had the result that the people took action in order to receive Jehovah's forgiveness. (Ezr 9:13-10:4, 10-19, 44) James encouraged the spiritually sick one to call for the older men of the congregation to pray over him, and "if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him." (Jas 5:14-16) However, there is "a sin that does incur death," sin against the holy spirit, a deliberate practice of sin for which there is no forgiveness. A Christian should not pray for those sinning in this way.—1Jo 5:16; Mt 12:31; Heb 10:26, 27; see SIN, I; SPIRIT.

Bible Reading

(1 John 1:1-2:6) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have felt, concerning the word

of life, ² (yes, the life was made manifest, and we have seen and are bearing witness and reporting to you the everlasting life that was with the Father and was made manifest to us), ³ that which we have seen and heard we are reporting also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us. And this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵ This is the message that we heard from him and are announcing to you: God is light, and there is no darkness at all in him. ⁶ If we make the statement, "We are having fellowship with him," and yet we go on walking in the darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. ⁷ However, if we are walking in the light as he himself is in the light, we do have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we make the statement, "We have no sin," we are misleading ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so as to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we make the statement, "We have not sinned," we are making him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2 My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not commit a sin. And yet, if anyone does commit a sin, we have a helper with the Father, Jesus Christ, a righteous one. ² And he is a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, yet not for ours only but also for the whole world's. ³ And by this we realize that we have come to know him, namely, if we continue observing his commandments. ⁴ The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet does not observe his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in this person. ⁵ But whoever does observe his word, in this person the love of God has truly been made perfect. By this we know that we are in union with him.

⁶ The one who says he remains in union with him is himself under obligation to go on walking just as that one walked.

NOVEMBER 11-17

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | 2 JOHN 1-JUDE

"We Must Fight to Stay in the Truth"

(Jude 3) Beloved ones, although I was making every effort to write you about the salvation we hold in common, I found it necessary to write you to urge you to put up a hard fight for the faith that was once for all time delivered to the holy ones.

w04 9/15 11-12 ¶8-9

"Go On Acquiring Power in the Lord"

⁸ We are not ignorant of Satan's designs because the Scriptures reveal his basic tactics. (2 Corinthians 2:11) Against the righteous man Job, the Devil used severe economic problems, the death of loved ones, family opposition, physical suffering, and unfounded criticism from false friends. Job became depressed and felt that God had abandoned him. (Job 10:1, 2) Although Satan may not directly cause these problems today, such hardships do affect many Christians, and the Devil can use them to his advantage.

⁹ Spiritual dangers have proliferated in this time of the end. We live in a world where material pursuits override spiritual goals. The media constantly portray illicit sex as a source of happiness rather than heartache. And the majority have become "lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God." (2 Timothy 3:1-5) This way of thinking can threaten our spiritual balance unless we "put up a hard fight for the faith." —Jude 3.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

(Jude 4) My reason is that certain men have slipped in among you who were long ago ap-

pointed to this judgment by the Scriptures; they are ungodly men who turn the undeserved kindness of our God into an excuse for brazen conduct and who prove false to our only owner and Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Jude 12) These are the rocks hidden below water at your love feasts while they feast with you, shepherds who feed themselves without fear; waterless clouds carried here and there by the wind; fruitless trees in late autumn, having died twice and having been uprooted;

it-2 279

Love Feasts

The Bible does not describe these love feasts nor does it indicate how often they were held. (Jude 12) They were not commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ or his apostles, and it is apparent that they are not to be considered mandatory or permanent. Some say they were occasions when materially prosperous Christians held banquets to which their poor fellow believers were invited. Together, the fatherless, the widows, the rich, and the less fortunate shared a bountiful table in a spirit of brotherhood.

it-2 816

Rock

Another Greek word, *spi-las'*, evidently has reference to a rock or reef that is hidden beneath the water. It is used by Jude to illustrate certain men who had slipped into the Christian congregation with corrupt motives. As hidden rocks were a menace to ships, so these men constituted a real danger to others in the congregation. He says of such men: "These are the rocks hidden below water in your love feasts while they feast with you."—Jude 12.

(Jude 14, 15) Yes, the seventh one in line from Adam, E'noch, also prophesied about them when he said: "Look! Jehovah came

with his holy myriads ¹⁵ to execute judgment against all, and to convict all the ungodly concerning all their ungodly deeds that they did in an ungodly way, and concerning all the shocking things that ungodly sinners spoke against him.”

wp17.1 12 ¶1

“He Had Pleased God Well”

What was Enoch’s prophecy? It went as follows: “Look! Jehovah came with his holy myriads to execute judgment against all, and to convict all the ungodly concerning all their ungodly deeds that they did in an ungodly way, and concerning all the shocking things that ungodly sinners spoke against him.” (Jude 14, 15) Now, the first thing you may notice is that Enoch spoke in the past tense, as if God had already done what the prophecy describes. That is a pattern that many prophecies thereafter followed. The idea is this: The prophet is speaking of something that is so certain to occur that it may be described as if it has already happened!—Isaiah 46:10.

wp17.1 12 ¶3

“He Had Pleased God Well”

Enoch’s faith may move us to ask ourselves whether we see the world in which we live as God sees it. The judgment that Enoch bravely proclaimed still stands; it applies to today’s world just as it did to the world of Enoch’s day. In harmony with Enoch’s warning, Jehovah brought the great Deluge against that ungodly world in Noah’s day. But that destruction set the pattern for a greater destruction yet to come. (Matthew 24:38, 39; 2 Peter 2:4-6) Today, as then, God stands poised with his holy myriads to bring a righteous judgment against an ungodly world. Each of us needs to take Enoch’s warning to heart and share it with others. Our family and friends might stand apart from us. We may feel alone at times. But Jehovah never abandoned Enoch; neither will he abandon his faithful servants today!

Bible Reading

(2 John 1-13) The older man to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I truly love, and not only I but also all those who have come to know the truth, ² because of the truth that remains in us and will be with us forever. ³ There will be with us undeserved kindness, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, with truth and love. ⁴ I rejoice very much because I have found some of your children walking in the truth, just as we received commandment from the Father. ⁵ So now I request you, lady, that we love one another. (I am writing you, not a new commandment, but one that we had from the beginning.) ⁶ And this is what love means, that we go on walking according to his commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should go on walking in it. ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those not acknowledging Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸ Look out for yourselves, so that you do not lose the things we have worked to produce, but that you may obtain a full reward. ⁹ Everyone who pushes ahead and does not remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God. The one who does remain in this teaching is the one who has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. ¹¹ For the one who says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works. ¹² Although I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink, but I am hoping to come to you and to speak with you face-to-face, so that your joy may be in full measure. ¹³ The children of your sister, the chosen one, send you their greetings.

NOVEMBER 18-24

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | REVELATION 1-3

“I Know Your Deeds”

(Revelation 1:20) As for the sacred secret of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars mean the angels of the seven congregations, and the seven lampstands mean the seven congregations.

w12 10/15 14 ¶18

What Kind of Spirit Do You Show?

⁸ To avoid that kind of spirit, we can remember that Jesus is pictured in the Bible as having “in his right hand seven stars.” The “stars” represent the anointed overseers and, by extension, all the overseers in the congregations. Jesus can direct the “stars” in his hand in any way he feels appropriate. (Rev. 1:16, 20) Thus, as Head of the Christian congregation, Jesus has full control of the bodies of elders. If someone on a body truly needs correction, the One who has “eyes as a fiery flame” will see to it that this is done in His own time and way. (Rev. 1:14) In the meantime, we maintain proper respect for those appointed by holy spirit, for Paul wrote: “Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will render an account; that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for this would be damaging to you.”—Heb. 13:17.

(Revelation 2:1, 2) “To the angel of the congregation in Eph’e-sus write: These are the things that he says who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: ² ‘I know your deeds, and your labor and endurance, and that you cannot tolerate bad men, and that you put to the test those who say they are apostles, but they are not, and you found them to be liars.

w12 4/15 29 ¶11

Jehovah Safeguards Us for Salvation

¹¹ In the vision recorded in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, the glorified Jesus Christ inspects the seven congregations of Asia Minor. The vision reveals that Christ sees not just general trends but specific situations. In some instances, he even mentions individuals, and in each case, he gives appropriate commendation or counsel. What does this indicate? In the fulfillment of the vision, the seven congregations represent anointed Christians after 1914, and the counsel given to the seven congregations applies in principle to all the congregations of God’s people today earth wide. Thus, it is safe to conclude that Jehovah by means of his Son is actively leading his people. How can we benefit from that guidance?

w01 1/15 20-21 ¶20

Keep in Step With

Jehovah’s Organization

²⁰ Keeping in step with Jehovah’s progressive organization requires that we recognize the God-assigned role of Jesus Christ as “head of the congregation.” (Ephesians 5:22, 23) Noteworthy, too, is Isaiah 55:4, where we are told: “Look! As a witness to the national groups I [Jehovah] have given him, as a leader and commander to the national groups.” Jesus certainly knows how to lead. He also knows his sheep and their deeds. In fact, when he inspected the seven congregations in Asia Minor, five times he said: “I know your deeds.” (Revelation 2:2, 19; 3:1, 8, 15) Jesus also knows our *needs*, as does his Father, Jehovah. Before giving the Model Prayer, Jesus stated: “God your Father knows what things you are needing before ever you ask him.”—Matthew 6:8-13.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

(Revelation 1:7) Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those

who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen.

kr 226 ¶10

God's Kingdom

Removes Its Enemies

¹⁰ **Pronouncement of judgment.** All enemies of God's Kingdom will then be forced to witness an event that will intensify their agony. Jesus states: "They will see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." (Mark 13:26) This supernatural display of power will signal that Jesus has come to pronounce judgment. In another part of this same prophecy about the last days, Jesus gives more details about the judgment that will be pronounced at this time. We find that information in the parable of the sheep and the goats. **(Read Matthew 25:31-33, 46.)** Loyal supporters of God's Kingdom will be judged as "sheep" and will "lift up [their] heads," realizing that their "deliverance is getting near." (Luke 21:28) However, Kingdom opposers will be judged as "goats" and will "beat themselves in grief," realizing that "everlasting cutting-off" awaits them.—Matt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7.

(Revelation 2:7) Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations: To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

w09 1/15 31 ¶1

Highlights From the

Book of Revelation—I

2:7—What is "the paradise of God"? Since these words are addressed to anointed Christians, the paradise here must refer to the paradisaic heavenly realm—the very presence of God himself. The faithful anointed will be rewarded with eating "of the tree of life." They will receive immortality.—1 Cor. 15:53.

Bible Reading

(Revelation 1:1-11) A revelation by Jesus Christ, which God gave him, to show his slaves the things that must shortly take place. And he sent his angel and presented it in signs through him to his slave John, ² who bore witness to the word God gave and to the witness Jesus Christ gave, yes, to all the things he saw. ³ Happy is the one who reads aloud and those who hear the words of this prophecy and who observe the things written in it, for the appointed time is near. ⁴ John to the seven congregations that are in the province of Asia: May you have undeserved kindness and peace from "the One who is and who was and who is coming," and from the seven spirits that are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, "the Faithful Witness," "the firstborn from the dead," and "the Ruler of the kings of the earth." To him who loves us and who set us free from our sins by means of his own blood— ⁶ and he made us to be a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—yes, to him be the glory and the might forever. Amen. ⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen. ⁸ "I am the Al'pha and the O-me'ga," says Jehovah God, "the One who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty." ⁹ I John, your brother and a sharer with you in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in association with Jesus, was on the island called Pat'mos for speaking about God and bearing witness concerning Jesus. ¹⁰ By inspiration I came to be in the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a strong voice like that of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying: "What you see, write in a scroll and send it to the seven congregations: in Eph'e-sus, in Smyr'na, in

Per'ga-mum, in Thy-a-ti'ra, in Sar'dis, in Philadelphia, and in La-o-di-ce'a."

NOVEMBER 25–DECEMBER 1

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | REVELATION 4-6

"The Ride of the Four Horsemen"

(Revelation 6:2) And I saw, and look! a white horse, and the one seated on it had a bow; and a crown was given him, and he went out conquering and to complete his conquest.

wp17.3 4 ¶3

The Four Horsemen—Who Are They?

Who is the rider of the white horse? The key to his identity is found in the same Bible book, Revelation, which later identifies this heavenly rider as "The Word of God." (Revelation 19:11-13) That title, The Word, belongs to Jesus Christ, for he acts as God's spokesman. (John 1:1, 14) In addition, he is called "King of kings and Lord of lords" and is described as "Faithful and True." (Revelation 19:16) Clearly, he has authority to act as a warrior-king, and he does not wield his power in any corrupt or abusive way. Yet, some questions arise.

wp17.3 4 ¶5

The Four Horsemen—Who Are They?

When did the horsemen begin their ride? Note that the first rider, Jesus, begins his ride when he receives a crown. (Revelation 6:2) When was Jesus crowned as King in heaven? It was not when he returned to heaven after his death. The Bible shows that a period of waiting began back then. (Hebrews 10:12, 13) Jesus gave his followers a means of recognizing the end of that waiting period and the beginning of his reign in heaven. He said that at the beginning of his rule, world conditions would take a decisive turn for the worse. There would be warfare, food shortages, and pestilences. (Matthew 24:3, 7; Luke 21:10, 11) Soon after World War I broke out

in 1914, it became apparent that mankind had entered that era, a troubled time on earth that the Bible calls "the last days."—2 Timothy 3:1-5.

(Revelation 6:4-6) Another came out, a fiery-colored horse, and it was granted to the one seated on it to take peace away from the earth so that they should slaughter one another, and he was given a great sword. ⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say: "Come!" And I saw, and look! a black horse, and the one seated on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ I heard what sounded like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures say: "A quart of wheat for a de-nar'i-us and three quarts of barley for a de-nar'i-us; and do not harm the olive oil and the wine."

wp17.3 5 ¶2

The Four Horsemen—Who Are They?

This rider represents warfare. Notice that he takes peace away from not just a few nations but the whole earth. In 1914, for the first time in history, a global war erupted. It was followed by a second world war, which was even more destructive. Some estimates place the total number of deaths due to wars and armed conflicts since 1914 at more than 100 million! In addition, vast numbers of other individuals suffered debilitating injuries.

wp17.3 5 ¶4-5

The Four Horsemen—Who Are They?

"I saw, and look! a black horse, and the one seated on it had a pair of scales in his hand. I heard what sounded like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures say: 'A quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the olive oil and the wine.'"—Revelation 6:5, 6.

This rider represents famine. We find here a picture of food rationing so severe that a quart (1.08 L) of wheat would cost one denarius, a

whole day's wage in the first century! (Matthew 20:2) The same coin could purchase three quarts (3.24 L) of barley, a grain viewed as inferior to wheat. How far would that go to feed a large family? People are then warned to be frugal even with daily foodstuffs, aptly pictured by such basic staples of that time and culture as olive oil and wine.

(Revelation 6:8) And I saw, and look! a pale horse, and the one seated on it had the name Death. And the Grave was closely following him. And authority was given them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with a long sword and with food shortage and with deadly plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.

wp17.3 5 ¶8-10

The Four Horsemen—Who Are They?

The fourth rider represents death due to plague and other causes. Soon after 1914, the Spanish flu killed tens of millions. Possibly some 500 million people were infected, about 1 out of every 3 humans then alive!

But the Spanish flu was just the beginning. Experts estimate that hundreds of millions died of smallpox during the 20th century. To this day, the lives of millions are cut short by AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, despite intensive medical research.

The result is the same, death—whether due to war, famine, or plague. The Grave relentlessly gathers up the victims, offering no hope.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

(Revelation 4:4) All around the throne were 24 thrones, and on these thrones I saw seated 24 elders dressed in white garments, and on their heads golden crowns.

(Revelation 4:6) Before the throne was something resembling a glassy sea, like crystal. In the midst of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures that were full of eyes in front and behind.

re 76-77 ¶8

The Magnificence of Jehovah's Celestial Throne

⁸ John knew that priests were appointed to serve in the ancient tabernacle. So he may have been surprised at seeing what he describes next: ***“And round about the throne there are twenty-four thrones, and upon these thrones I saw seated twenty-four elders dressed in white outer garments, and upon their heads golden crowns.”*** (Revelation 4:4) Yes, instead of priests, there are 24 elders, enthroned and crowned like kings. Who are these elders? They are none other than anointed ones of the Christian congregation, resurrected and occupying the heavenly position Jehovah promised them. How do we know that?

re 80 ¶19

The Magnificence of Jehovah's Celestial Throne

¹⁹ What do these creatures picture? A vision reported by another prophet, Ezekiel, helps us to find the answer. Ezekiel saw Jehovah enthroned on a celestial chariot, which was accompanied by living creatures embodying characteristics similar to those described by John. (Ezekiel 1:5-11, 22-28) Later, Ezekiel again saw that chariot throne accompanied by the living creatures. This time, however, he referred to the living creatures as cherubs. (Ezekiel 10:9-15) The four living creatures that John sees must represent the many cherubs of God—creatures of high rank in His spirit organization. John would not think it unusual to see cherubs positioned so close to Jehovah's person, since in the ancient tabernacle arrangement, two cherubs of gold were displayed upon the lid of the ark of the covenant, which represented Jehovah's throne. From between these cherubs, Jehovah's voice issued commandments to the nation.—Exodus 25:22; Psalm 80:1.

(Revelation 5:5) But one of the elders said to me: “Stop weeping. Look! The Lion of the tribe

of Judah, the root of David, has conquered so as to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

cf 36 ¶5-6

“Look! The Lion That Is of the Tribe of Judah”

⁵ The lion is often linked to courage. Have you ever stood face-to-face with an adult male lion? If you have, most likely you were safely separated from the beast, perhaps by the fence of his enclosure at a zoo. Still, such an experience can be daunting. As you look into the face of this huge and powerful creature and he gazes steadily back at you, you can hardly imagine the lion ever fleeing in fear from anything. The Bible speaks of “the lion, which is the mightiest among the beasts and which does not turn back from before anyone.” (Proverbs 30:30) Such is the courage of Christ.

⁶ Let us discuss how Jesus displayed lionlike courage in three ways: in standing up for the truth, in upholding justice, and in facing opposition. We will see, too, that all of us—whether naturally brave or not—can imitate Jesus in showing courage.

Bible Reading

(Revelation 4:1-11) After this I saw, and look! an opened door in heaven, and the first voice that I heard speaking with me was like a trumpet, saying: “Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place.” ² After this I immediately came to be in the power of the spirit, and look! a throne was in its position in heaven, and someone was seated on the throne. ³ And the One seated had the appearance of a jasper stone and a sardius stone, and all around the throne was a rainbow like an emerald in appearance. ⁴ All around the throne were 24 thrones, and on these thrones I saw seated 24 elders dressed in white garments, and on their heads golden crowns. ⁵ From the throne were coming lightning and voices and thunders; and there were

seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, and these mean the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Before the throne was something resembling a glassy sea, like crystal. In the midst of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures that were full of eyes in front and behind. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, and the second living creature was like a young bull, and the third living creature had a face like a man’s, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ As for the four living creatures, each one of them had six wings; they were full of eyes all around and underneath. And continuously, day and night, they say: “Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming.” ⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanksgiving to the One seated on the throne, the One who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the 24 elders fall down before the One seated on the throne and worship the One who lives forever and ever, and they cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹ “You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they came into existence and were created.”