

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



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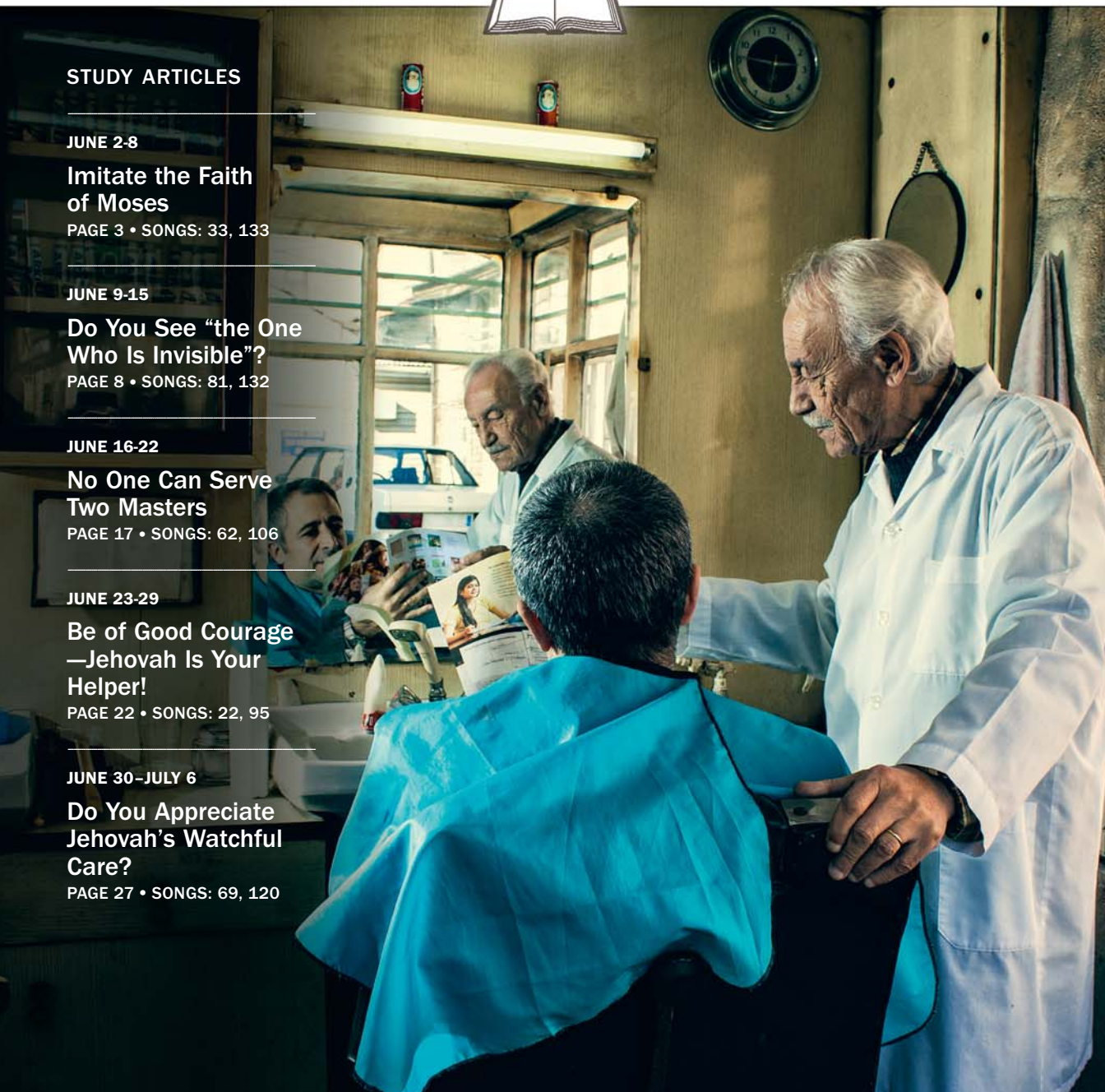
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TURKEY

COVER: In Istanbul a brother witnesses informally to his barber, offering him the *Good News* brochure

POPULATION

75,627,384

PUBLISHERS

2,312

BIBLE STUDIES

1,632

RATIO

1 WITNESS TO 32,711
OF THE POPULATION

SINCE 2004 THE NUMBER OF
REGULAR PIONEERS IN TURKEY
HAS INCREASED BY

165%

STUDY ARTICLES

- **Imitate the Faith of Moses**
- **Do You See “the One Who Is Invisible”?**

By faith, Moses was able to see more than what appeared to his physical eyes. These articles will examine how we can exercise faith like that of Moses and continue “steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible.”—Heb. 11:27.

- **No One Can Serve Two Masters**
- **Be of Good Courage—Jehovah Is Your Helper!**

Millions of people around the world choose to emigrate in search of work. Many leave behind a marriage mate and children. These articles will help us to understand how Jehovah wants us to view family obligations and how he helps us to fulfill them.

- **Do You Appreciate Jehovah’s Watchful Care?**

When we read that “the eyes of Jehovah are everywhere,” some of us may feel that God is merely interested in enforcing his laws, which may even engender an unwholesome fear in us. (Prov. 15:3) Yet, this article will show us five ways that we can benefit from Jehovah’s watchful care.

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THE **WATCHTOWER**®
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

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Imitate the Faith of Moses

“By faith Moses, when grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.”—HEB. 11:24.

MOSES knew what Egypt had to offer. He saw the spacious villas of the wealthy. He belonged to the royal household. He “was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians,” likely including the arts, astronomy, mathematics, and other sciences. (Acts 7:22) Within his grasp were the wealth, power, and privilege that a common Egyptian could only dream of!

² Yet, when he was 40 years of age, Moses made a decision that must have baffled the royal Egyptian family who had adopted him. He chose, not even the “normal” life of a common Egyptian, but a life among slaves! Why? Moses had faith. **(Read Hebrews 11:24-26.)** By faith, Moses saw far more than the physical world around him. As a spiritual man, Moses had faith in “the One who is invisible,” Jehovah, and in the fulfillment of God’s promises.—Heb. 11:27.

³ We too need to see more than what appears to our physical eyes. We must be “the sort who have faith.” (Heb. 10:38, 39) To help us strengthen our faith, let us examine what is written about Moses at Hebrews 11:24-26. As we do so, look for the answers to these questions: How did faith motivate

WHAT DOES MOSES’ EXAMPLE TEACH US ABOUT . . .

the difference between material and spiritual treasures?

how Jehovah will equip us to fulfill theocratic assignments?

why we need to look intently toward our reward?

1, 2. (a) At the age of 40, what decision did Moses make? (See opening image.) (b) Why did Moses choose to be ill-treated with God’s people?

3. What three questions will be answered in this article?

Moses to reject fleshly desires? When he was reproached, how did faith help him to appreciate his privileges of service? And why did Moses look “intently toward the payment of the reward”?

HE REJECTED FLESHLY DESIRES

⁴ With eyes of faith, Moses recognized that the “enjoyment of sin” was temporary. Others might have reasoned that even though Egypt was steeped in idolatry and spiritism, it had risen to become a world power, while Jehovah’s people suffered as slaves! Yet, Moses knew that God could change matters. Although self-indulgent ones seemed to be thriving, Moses had faith that the wicked would shrivel away. As a result, he was not enticed by “the temporary enjoyment of sin.”

⁵ How can you resist “the temporary enjoyment of sin”? Never forget that sinful pleasure is fleeting. With eyes of faith, see that “the world is passing away and so is its desire.” (1 John 2:15-17) Meditate on the future of unrepentant sinners. They are “on slippery ground . . . as they come to a terrible end!” (Ps. 73:18, 19) When tempted to engage in sinful conduct, ask, ‘What future do I want for myself?’

⁶ Moses’ faith also shaped his choice of career. “By faith Moses, when grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.” (Heb. 11:24) Moses did not reason that he could serve God as a member of the royal court and then use his wealth and privilege to help his Israelite brothers. Rather, Moses was deter-

mined to love Jehovah with *all* his heart, soul, and strength. (Deut. 6:5) Moses’ decision saved him much heartache. Many of the treasures of Egypt that he gave up were soon plundered—by the Israelites themselves! (Ex. 12:35, 36) Pharaoh was humiliated and executed. (Ps. 136:15) Conversely, Moses was spared and was used by God to lead an entire nation to safety. His life had real meaning.

⁷ If you are a young servant of Jehovah, how can faith help you to choose a career? You are wise if you plan for the future. But will faith in God’s promises move you to store up for a *temporary* future or an *everlasting* one? (**Read Matthew 6:19-21.**) That question faced a talented ballet dancer named Sophie. She was offered scholarships and coveted positions at ballet companies across the United States. “It was thrilling to be adored. In fact, I felt superior to my peers,” she admits. “But I was unhappy.” Then Sophie watched the video *Young People Ask—What Will I Do With My Life?* “I realized that the world had given me success and the adoration of fans in exchange for my wholehearted worship of Jehovah,” she says. “I prayed fervently to him. Then I quit my dancing career.” How does she feel about her decision? “I don’t miss my old life. Today, I am 100 percent happy. I pioneer with my husband. We’re not famous, and we have very little materially. But we have Jehovah, Bible students, and spiritual goals. I don’t have any regrets.”

⁸ Jehovah knows what is best for you.

4. What did Moses recognize about the “enjoyment of sin”?

5. What will help us to resist “the temporary enjoyment of sin”?

6. (a) Why did Moses refuse “to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter”? (b) Why do you think that Moses made the right decision?

7. (a) According to Matthew 6:19-21, why should we look beyond the immediate future? (b) Relate an experience that highlights the difference between material and spiritual treasures.

8. What Bible counsel can help a young person to decide what to do with his life?

Moses said: “What is Jehovah your God asking of you? Only this: to fear Jehovah your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of Jehovah that I am commanding you today for your own good.” (Deut. 10:12, 13) While you are young, choose a career that will enable you to love Jehovah and serve him “with all your heart and all your soul.” You can be confident that such a course will be “for your own good.”

HE APPRECIATED HIS PRIVILEGES OF SERVICE

⁹ Moses “considered the reproach of the Christ to be riches greater than the treasures of Egypt.” (Heb. 11:26) Moses was commissioned as “the Christ,” or “Anointed One,” in that he was selected by Jehovah to lead Israel out of Egypt. Moses knew that carrying out this commission would be difficult, even a “reproach.” One of the Israelites had earlier sneered: “Who appointed you as a prince and a judge over us?” (Ex. 2:13, 14) Later, Moses himself asked Jehovah: “How will Pharaoh ever listen to me?” (Ex. 6:12) To prepare for and deal with reproach, Moses shared his fears and concerns with Jehovah. How did Jehovah help Moses to fulfill his difficult assignment?

¹⁰ First, Jehovah assured Moses: “I will prove to be with you.” (Ex. 3:12) Second, Jehovah inspired confidence by explaining one aspect of the meaning of his name: “I Will Become What I Choose

to Become.”* (Ex. 3:14) Third, he endowed Moses with miraculous power that proved that Moses was indeed sent by God. (Ex. 4:2-5) Fourth, Jehovah gave Moses a partner and spokesman, Aaron, to help him carry out his assignment. (Ex. 4:14-16) By the end of his life, Moses was so convinced that God equips His servants to fulfill any assignment He gives them that he could confidently tell his successor, Joshua: “Jehovah is the one marching before you, and he will continue with you. He will neither desert you nor abandon you. Do not be afraid or be terrified.”—Deut. 31:8.

¹¹ With Jehovah’s backing, Moses highly esteemed his daunting assignment, viewing it as “greater than the treasures of Egypt.” After all, what was serving Pharaoh compared with serving Almighty God? Of what value was being a prince in Egypt compared with being “the Christ,” or anointed of Jehovah? Moses was rewarded for his appreciative attitude. He enjoyed special intimacy with Jehovah, who enabled him to display “awesome power” as he led the Israelites to the Promised Land.—Deut. 34:10-12.

¹² We likewise have a commission. Through his Son, Jehovah has assigned us to a ministry, as he did the apostle Paul and others. (**Read 1 Timothy 1:12-14.**) All of us have the privilege of declaring the good news. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) Some serve as full-time ministers.

* Regarding God’s words found at Exodus 3:14, one Bible scholar wrote: “Nothing can hinder him from performing his will . . . This name [Jehovah] was to be Israel’s fortress, an infinite storehouse of hopes and consolations.”

9. Explain why it may have been difficult for Moses to carry out his assignment.

10. How did Jehovah equip Moses for his assignment?

11. Why did Moses highly esteem his assignment?

12. What privileges from Jehovah should we appreciate?

Mature baptized brothers serve others in the congregation as ministerial servants and elders. However, your unbelieving family and others may question the value of these privileges or even reproach you for your self-sacrifice. (Matt. 10:34-37) If they succeed in discouraging you, you could begin to wonder whether your sacrifices are worthwhile or if you can really carry out your assignment. If that happens to you, how will faith help you to persevere?

How exciting it will be to talk to faithful servants like Moses!
(See paragraph 16)



¹³ In faith, beg Jehovah for his support. Share your fears and concerns with him. After all, it is Jehovah who commissioned you, and he will help you to succeed. How? In the same ways that he helped Moses. First, Jehovah reassures you: “I will fortify you, yes, I will help you, I will really hold on to you with my right hand of righteousness.” (Isa. 41:10) Second, he reminds you that his promises are trustworthy: “I have spoken, and I will bring it about. I have purposed it, and I will also carry it out.” (Isa. 46:11) Third, Jehovah endows you with “power beyond what is normal” to accomplish your ministry. (2 Cor. 4:7) Fourth, to help you endure in your assignment, our caring Father gives you a global brotherhood of true worshippers who “keep encouraging one another and building one another up.” (1 Thess. 5:11) As Jehovah equips you to fulfill your assignments, your faith in him will grow and you will appreciate that your privileges in his service are riches greater than any earthly treasure.

“HE LOOKED INTENTLY TOWARD THE PAYMENT OF THE REWARD”

¹⁴ Moses “looked intently toward the payment of the reward.” (Heb. 11:26) Yes, Moses allowed his knowledge of the future, though such knowledge was then limited, to shape his outlook. Like his forefather Abraham, Moses was confident that Jehovah can resurrect the dead. (Luke 20:37, 38; Heb. 11:17-19) The prospect of future blessings helped Moses not to view his 40 years as a fugitive and his 40 years in the wilderness as a wasted life. Although he did not have all

13. How does Jehovah equip us to fulfill theocratic assignments?

14. Why was Moses certain that he would be rewarded?

the details regarding the outworking of God's promises, his eyes of faith could see the unseen reward.

¹⁵ Do you look "intently toward the payment of" your reward? Like Moses, we still do not have all the details regarding God's promises. For example, we "do not know when the appointed time is" for the great tribulation. (Mark 13:32, 33) Yet, we know far more about the future Paradise than Moses knew. Even without all the details, we have enough divine promises about life under God's Kingdom to look "intently" toward it. A clear mental image of the new world will move us to seek that Kingdom first. How so? Consider: Would you purchase a house if you knew very little about it? Of course not! Similarly, we would not invest our lives in pursuit of a vague hope. By faith, we must see a clear, focused picture of life under Kingdom rule.

¹⁶ To sharpen your mental image of God's Kingdom, look "intently" toward *your life* in Paradise. Use your imagination. For example, when you study the lives of pre-Christian Bible characters, consider what you might ask them when they are resurrected. Imagine what they might ask you about your life during the last days. Envision how excited you will be to meet your ancestors from centuries ago and to teach them about all that God has done for them. Picture your delight as you learn about many wild animals by observing them in peaceful surroundings. Reflect on how much closer you will feel to Jehovah as you progress to perfection.

¹⁷ A clear picture of our unseen re-

15, 16. (a) Why do we need to focus on our reward? (b) What blessings under Kingdom rule are you eager to enjoy?

17. How can a clear picture of our unseen reward help us today?

ward helps us to keep going, to have joy, and to make decisions based on a secure eternal future. Paul wrote to anointed Christians: "If we hope for what we do not see, we keep eagerly waiting for it with endurance." (Rom. 8:25) That applies in principle to all Christians with the hope of everlasting life. Although we have not yet received our reward, our faith is so strong that we keep on waiting patiently for "the payment of the reward." Like Moses, we do not view any years in Jehovah's service as wasted time. Rather, we are convinced that "the things seen are temporary, but the things unseen are everlasting."—**Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.**

¹⁸ Faith allows us to discern "the convincing evidence of realities that are not seen." (Heb. 11:1; ftn.) A physical person does not see the precious value of serving Jehovah. To such a person, spiritual treasures "are foolishness." (1 Cor. 2:14) We, however, hope to enjoy everlasting life and witness the resurrection, things unseen by the world. Like the philosophers of Paul's day who called him an ignorant "chatterer," most people today think that the hope we preach is sheer nonsense.—Acts 17:18.

¹⁹ Since we are surrounded by a faithless world, we must fight to maintain our faith. Supplicate Jehovah that "your faith may not give out." (Luke 22:32) Keep your eyes open to the consequences of sin, the excelling value of serving Jehovah, and your hope of eternal life. Yet, Moses' faith enabled him to see far more than those things. In the next article, we will examine how faith helped Moses to see "the One who is invisible."—Heb. 11:27.

18, 19. (a) Why must we fight to maintain our faith? (b) What will we consider in the next article?



Do You See “the One Who Is Invisible”?

“He continued steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible.”—HEB. 11:27.

HOW WILL “SEEING THE ONE WHO IS INVISIBLE” . . .

protect you from fear of man?

motivate you to have a full share in the field ministry?

help you to remain steadfast during the great tribulation?

PHARAOH was a formidable ruler and a living god to the Egyptians. In their eyes, he “surpassed all mundane creatures in wisdom and power,” states the book *When Egypt Ruled the East*. To inspire fear in his subjects, Pharaoh wore a crown with the image of a cobra ready to strike—a reminder that the king’s enemies would quickly be annihilated. Imagine, then, how Moses felt when Jehovah told him: “I will send you to Pharaoh, and you will bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”—Ex. 3:10.

² Moses went to Egypt, proclaimed God’s message, and incurred Pharaoh’s wrath. After nine plagues struck the land, Pharaoh warned Moses: “Make sure that you do not try to see my face again, for on the day you see my face, you will die.” (Ex. 10:28) Before Moses left Pharaoh’s presence, he prophesied that the king’s firstborn son would die. (Ex. 11:4-8) Finally, Moses instructed every Israelite family to slaughter a goat or a ram—an animal sacred to the Egyptian god Ra—and to splash its blood on their doorways. (Ex. 12:5-7)

1, 2. (a) Explain why Moses appeared to be in danger. (See opening image.) (b) Why did Moses not fear the anger of the king?

How would Pharaoh react? Moses was not afraid. Why not? In faith he obeyed Jehovah, “not fearing the anger of the king, for he continued steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible.”—**Read Hebrews 11:27, 28.**

³ Is your faith so strong that it is as if you could “see God”? (Matt. 5:8) To help us sharpen our spiritual vision so that we can see “the One who is invisible,” let us consider Moses. How did his faith in Jehovah protect him from fear of man? In what way did he exercise faith in God’s promises? And how did Moses’ ability to see “the One who is invisible” strengthen him when he and his people were in peril?

HE DID NOT FEAR “THE ANGER OF THE KING”

⁴ To the physical eye, Moses was no match for Pharaoh. Moses’ life, welfare, and future seemed to be in Pharaoh’s hands. Moses himself had asked Jehovah: “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” (Ex. 3:11) Some 40 years earlier, Moses had fled from Egypt as a fugitive. He may have wondered, ‘Is it really wise for me to go back to Egypt and risk angering the king?’

⁵ Before Moses returned to Egypt, God taught him a vital principle, the same principle that Moses later recorded in the book of Job: “The fear of Jehovah—that is wisdom.” (Job 28:28) To help Moses to acquire such fear and act wisely, Jehovah drew a contrast between humans and Almighty God. He asked:

3. What will we examine about Moses’ faith in “the One who is invisible”?

4. To the physical eye, what was Moses’ position before Pharaoh?

5, 6. What helped Moses to fear Jehovah, not Pharaoh?

“Who made a mouth for man, or who makes them speechless, deaf, clear-sighted, or blind? Is it not I, Jehovah?” —Ex. 4:11.

⁶ What was the lesson? Moses did not need to be afraid. He was sent by Jehovah, who would give Moses whatever he needed to deliver God’s message to Pharaoh. Besides, Pharaoh was no match for Jehovah. After all, this was not the first time God’s servants had been in danger under Egyptian rule. Perhaps Moses meditated on how Jehovah had protected Abraham, Joseph, and even Moses himself during the reigns of past Pharaohs. (Gen. 12:17-19; 41:14, 39-41; Ex. 1:22-2:10) With faith in Jehovah, “the One who is invisible,” Moses courageously appeared before Pharaoh and proclaimed every word that Jehovah commanded Moses to speak.

⁷ Faith in Jehovah likewise protected a sister named Ella from succumbing to fear of man. In 1949, Ella was arrested in Estonia by the KGB, stripped naked, and then gawked at by young police officers. “I felt humiliated,” she said. “Yet, after I prayed to Jehovah, peace and calmness of heart came over me.” Next, Ella was placed in solitary confinement for three days. She relates: “The officials shouted: ‘We are going to make it so that even the name Jehovah will not be remembered in Estonia! You are going to a camp, and the others are going to Siberia!’ Tauntingly, they added, ‘Where is your Jehovah?’” Would Ella fear men or trust in Jehovah? When interrogated, she spoke up fearlessly, telling her taunters: “I have given this matter much thought, and I would rather live in prison with my relationship with God intact than be free and lose his approval.” To

7. How did faith in Jehovah protect one sister?

Ella, Jehovah was just as real as the men standing before her. By means of her faith, she maintained her integrity.

⁸ Faith in Jehovah will help you to conquer your fears. If powerful officials try to restrict your freedom to worship God, it may seem that your life, welfare, and future are in human hands. You might even wonder if it is wise to continue serving Jehovah and angering the authorities. Remember: The antidote to fear of man is faith in God. **(Read Proverbs 29:25.)** Jehovah asks: “Why should you be afraid of a mortal man who will die and of a son of man who will wither like green grass?”—Isa. 51:12, 13.

⁹ Focus your attention on your almighty Father. He sees, empathizes with, and acts in behalf of those who suffer under unjust rulers. (Ex. 3:7-10) Even if you must defend your faith before powerful officials, “do not become anxious about how or what you are to speak, for what you are to speak will be given you in that hour.” (Matt. 10:18-20) Human rulers and government officials are no match for Jehovah. By strengthening your faith now, you can come to see Jehovah as a real Person who is eager to help you.

HE EXERCISED FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISES

¹⁰ In the month of Nisan 1513 B.C.E., Jehovah told Moses and Aaron to convey these unusual instructions to the Israelites: Select a healthy male sheep or goat, slaughter it, and splash its blood on your doorways. (Ex. 12:3-7) How did Moses

respond? The apostle Paul later wrote of him: “By faith he observed the Passover and the splashing of the blood, so that the destroyer might not harm their firstborn.” (Heb. 11:28) Moses knew that Jehovah is trustworthy, and he exercised faith in Jehovah’s promise to execute the firstborn sons in Egypt.

¹¹ Moses’ own sons were apparently in Midian, far away from “the destroyer.”* (Ex. 18:1-6) Yet, he obediently instructed other Israelite families whose firstborn sons were in danger. Lives were at stake, and Moses loved his fellow man. “Promptly,” the Bible states, Moses “called all the elders of Israel and said to them: . . . ‘Slaughter the Passover sacrifice.’”—Ex. 12:21.

¹² Under angelic direction, Jehovah’s people are conveying an important message: “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of judgment by him has arrived, so worship the One who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and the springs of water.” (Rev. 14:7) Now is the time to declare that message. We must warn our neighbors to get out of Babylon the Great, so that they do not “receive part of her plagues.” (Rev. 18:4) The “other sheep” join anointed Christians in begging those who are alienated from God to “become reconciled” to him.—John 10:16; 2 Cor. 5:20.

¹³ We are convinced that “the hour of judgment” has, indeed, arrived. We also have faith that Jehovah has not exaggerated the urgency of our preach-

* Jehovah evidently sent angels to execute judgment on the Egyptians.—Ps. 78:49-51.

8, 9. (a) What is the antidote to fear of man?
(b) If you are tempted to yield to fear of man, on whom should you focus your attention?

10. (a) What instructions did Jehovah give the Israelites in the month of Nisan 1513 B.C.E.?
(b) Why did Moses obey God’s instructions?

11. Why did Moses warn others?

12. Jehovah has instructed us to convey what important message?

13. What will nurture our desire to share the good news?

ing and disciple-making work. In vision, the apostle John “saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding tight the four winds of the earth.” (Rev. 7:1) By faith, do you see those angels poised to release the destructive winds of the great tribulation on this world? If you see those angels with your eyes of faith, you will be able to share the good news with confidence.

¹⁴ True Christians already enjoy a friendship with Jehovah and the hope of eternal life. Yet, we recognize that it is our responsibility to “warn the wicked one to turn from his wicked course so that he may stay alive.” **(Read Ezekiel 3:17-19.)** Of course, we do not preach merely to avoid bloodguilt. We love Jehovah, and we love our neighbor. Jesus illustrated what love and mercy really mean in his parable of the neighborly Samaritan. We might ask ourselves, ‘Am I, like the Samaritan, “moved with pity” to give a witness?’ After all, we would never want to be like the priest and the Levite in the parable, excusing ourselves and going by “on the opposite side.” (Luke 10:25-37) Faith in God’s promises and love for neighbor will motivate us to have a full share in the preaching work before time runs out.

“THEY PASSED THROUGH THE RED SEA”

¹⁵ Moses’ faith in “the One who is invisible” helped him when the

14. What moves us to “warn the wicked one to turn from his wicked course”?

15. Why did the Israelites feel trapped?

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**Faith in Jehovah's promises will nurture
your desire to share the good news**
(See paragraph 13)

Israelites were in peril after they left Egypt. The Bible reports: “The Israelites raised their eyes and saw the Egyptians pursuing them. The Israelites became terrified and began to cry out to Jehovah.” (Ex. 14:10-12) Was this predicament unexpected? Not at all. Jehovah had foretold: “I will allow Pharaoh’s heart to become obstinate, and he will chase after them, and I will glorify myself by means of Pharaoh and all his army; and the Egyptians will certainly know that I am Jehovah.” (Ex. 14:4) Nevertheless, the Israelites saw only what appeared to their physical eyes—the impassable Red Sea in front of them, Pharaoh’s swift war chariots behind them, and an 80-year-old shepherd to lead them! They felt trapped.

¹⁶ Yet, Moses did not waver. Why not? Because his eyes of faith saw something far more powerful than a sea or an army. He could “see the salvation of Jehovah,” and he knew that Jehovah would fight for the Israelites. (**Read Exodus 14:13, 14.**) Moses’ faith inspired God’s people. “By faith they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land,” the Bible says, “but when the Egyptians attempted it, they were swallowed up.” (Heb. 11:29) Thereafter, “the people began to fear Jehovah and to put faith in Jehovah and in his servant Moses.”—Ex. 14:31.

¹⁷ Soon, our lives will seem to be in peril. By the climax of the great tribulation, the governments of this world will have devastated and completely destroyed religious organizations that were larger and more numerous than ours. (Rev. 17:16) Jehovah prophetically describes our vulnerable condi-

tion as “the land of unprotected settlements . . . , unprotected by walls, bars, or gates.” (Ezek. 38:10-12, 14-16) With our physical eyes, it will appear that we have no chance of survival. How will you react?

¹⁸ We need not waver in fear. Why not? Because Jehovah has foretold that attack on God’s people. He has also foretold the outcome. “‘On that day, the day when Gog invades the land of Israel,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘my great rage will flare up. In my zeal, in the fire of my fury, I will speak.’” (Ezek. 38:18-23) God will then destroy all those who want to harm Jehovah’s people. Your faith in the outcome of “the great and awe-inspiring day of Jehovah” will help you to “see the salvation of Jehovah” and to maintain your integrity.—Joel 2:31, 32.

¹⁹ Prepare now for those thrilling events by continuing “steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible”! Strengthen your friendship with Jehovah God through regular study and prayer. Moses had such a close friendship with Jehovah and was used so powerfully by him that the Bible says that Jehovah knew Moses “face-to-face.” (Deut. 34:10) Moses was an extraordinary prophet. By faith, however, you too can know Jehovah as intimately as you would if you could actually see him. If you constantly take notice of him “in all your ways,” as God’s Word encourages you to do, “he will make your paths straight.”—Prov. 3:6.

18. Explain why we can be steadfast during the great tribulation.

19. (a) How close was the relationship between Jehovah and Moses? (b) If you take notice of Jehovah in all your ways, what blessing will you enjoy?

16. How did faith strengthen Moses at the Red Sea?

17. What future event will test our faith?



The Full-Time Ministry Where It Has Led Me

AS TOLD BY ROBERT WALLEN

Reflecting on 65 years in the full-time ministry, I can truly say that my life has been filled with pleasurable days. That does not mean that there have not been any sad days as well as days of discouragement. (Ps. 34:12; 94:19) But overall, it has been a most rewarding and purposeful life!

ON September 7, 1950, I became a member of the Brooklyn Bethel family. At the time, 355 brothers and sisters of numerous nationalities and ranging in age from 19 to 80 made up the Bethel family. Many of them were anointed Christians.

HOW I CAME TO SERVE JEHOVAH

I learned to serve our “happy God” from my mother. (1 Tim. 1:11) She began serving Jehovah when I was a young boy. On July 1, 1939, at ten years of age, I was baptized at a zone assembly (now called a circuit assembly) in Columbus, Nebraska, U.S.A. About a hundred of us met at a rented facility to listen to a recording of the lecture “Fascism or Freedom,” delivered by Joseph Rutherford. Halfway through the talk, a mob formed outside the small hall in which we were meeting. They forced their way inside, broke up our meeting, and drove us out of town. We gathered at a brother’s farm not far from town and heard the rest of the program. As you can imagine, I have never forgotten the date of my baptism!

My mother tried diligently to raise me in the truth. Although my father was a good man and a good father, he took little interest in religion or in my spiritual welfare. Mother, along with other Witnesses in the Omaha Congregation, gave me much-needed encouragement.

A CHANGE IN DIRECTION

When I was about to graduate from high school, I had to make a decision about what I would do with my life. During each summer vacation from school, I served as a vacation pioneer (now called an auxiliary pioneer), along with others of my age.

Two young single brothers who had just graduated from the seventh class of Gilead School—John Chimiklis and Ted Jaracz—were assigned to the traveling work in our area. I was surprised to learn that they were only in their early 20’s. I was then 18 and was soon to graduate from high school. I can still recall when Brother Chimiklis asked me what I was going to do with my life. When I told him, he urged



At my baptism,
age 10

me: "Yes, get right into the full-time ministry. You never know where it may lead you." That advice, along with the example of those brothers, deeply impressed me. So after graduating, I began pioneering in 1948.

HOW I CAME TO BETHEL

In July 1950, my parents and I traveled to the international convention at Yankee Stadium in New York City. While at the convention, I attended the meeting for those who were interested in serving at Bethel. I submitted a letter, saying that I would be pleased to serve there.

Although my father was not opposed to my pioneering and living at home, he felt that I should pay a reasonable amount toward my room and board. So one day in early August, while I was on my way to look for a job, I first stopped at our mailbox. There I found a letter for me from Brooklyn. It was signed by Nathan H. Knorr, who wrote: "Your application for Bethel service is at hand. I understand that you agree to remain in Bethel until the Lord takes you away. I would therefore like you to report to Bethel at 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York, on September 7, 1950."

When my father came home from work that day, I told him that I had found a job. He said, "Good, where will you work?" I answered, "Brooklyn Bethel, at \$10.00 a month." That was a

bit of a shock to him, but he said that if that was what I had chosen to do, I should strive to make a success of it. Not long afterward, at the convention at Yankee Stadium in 1953, he was baptized!

Happily, my pioneer partner, Alfred Nussralah, was invited to Bethel at the same time, and we traveled there together. He later married, and he and his wife, Joan, went to Gilead, into the missionary service in Lebanon, and then into the traveling work back in the United States.

BETHEL ASSIGNMENTS

My first assignment at Bethel was in the Bindery, sewing books together. The first publication I worked on was the book *What Has Religion Done for Mankind?* After about eight months in the Bindery, I was assigned to the Service Department to work under the direction of Brother Thomas J. Sullivan. It was a pleasure to work with him and to benefit from the spiritual wisdom and insight he had gained over the years in the organization.

After I had spent almost three years in the Service Department, Max Larson, the factory overseer, told me that Brother Knorr would like to see me. I wondered if I had done something wrong. It was a relief when Brother Knorr said that he wanted to know whether I was planning to leave Bethel in the foreseeable future. He needed someone to work in his office temporarily and wanted to see if I could handle the assignment. I said that I had no plans to leave Bethel. As it turned out, I was privileged to work in his office for the next 20 years.

I have often said that I could never have paid for the education I received working with Brothers Sullivan and Knorr, as well as with others in Bethel, such as Milton Henschel, Klaus Jensen, Max Larson, Hugo Riemer, and Grant Suiter.*

The brothers with whom I have served were very well-organized for the work they performed

* For the life stories of some of these brothers, see the following issues of *The Watchtower*: Thomas J. Sullivan (August 15, 1965); Klaus Jensen (October 15, 1969); Max Larson (September 1, 1989); Hugo Riemer (September 15, 1964); and Grant Suiter (September 1, 1983).



With my pioneer partner,
Alfred Nussrallah



Our wedding day. From left: Nathan H. Knorr, Patricia Brookes (Lorraine's sister), Lorraine and me, Curtis Johnson, Faye and Roy Wallen (my parents)

in behalf of the organization. Brother Knorr was a tireless worker who wanted to see the Kingdom activity progress to the greatest extent possible. Those serving in his office found him to be easy to talk to. Even if we had a different point of view on a matter, we could express ourselves freely and still have his confidence.

On one occasion, Brother Knorr spoke to me about the need for caring for what might be called small matters. To illustrate, he told me that when he was the factory overseer, Brother Rutherford would call him on the phone and say: "Brother Knorr, when you come over from the factory for dinner, bring me some pencil erasers. I need them at my desk." Brother Knorr said that the first thing he did was go to the supply room, get the erasers, and put them in his pocket. Then at noon he would take them to Brother Rutherford's office. It was such a little thing, but it was useful to Brother Rutherford. Then Brother Knorr told me: "I like to have sharpened pencils on my desk. So please have them there each morning." For many years, I made sure his pencils were sharpened.

Brother Knorr often spoke about the need to listen carefully when we were asked to perform a particular task. Once, he gave me explicit instruction on how to handle a certain matter, but I failed to listen carefully. As a result, I caused him much embarrassment. I felt terrible, so I wrote a

brief letter saying that I deeply regretted what I had done and felt that it would be best for me to be transferred out of his office. Later that morning, Brother Knorr came to my desk. "Robert," he said, "I have your note. You made a mistake. I spoke to you about it, and I am sure you will be more careful in the future. Now let's both get back to work." I deeply appreciated his kind consideration.

A DESIRE TO GET MARRIED

After having served at Bethel for eight years, I had no plans other than to continue in Bethel service. That changed, however. About the time of the international convention at Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds in 1958, I saw Lorraine Brookes, whom I had met in 1955 when she was pioneering in Montreal, Canada. I was impressed with her attitude about full-time service and her willingness to go wherever Jehovah's organization might send her. Lorraine's goal had been to go to Gilead School. At age 22, she was accepted to attend the 27th class, in 1956. After graduation she was assigned to Brazil as a missionary. Lorraine and I renewed our acquaintance in 1958, and she accepted my proposal of marriage. We planned to get married the following year and hopefully enter missionary service together.

When I told Brother Knorr about my intentions, he suggested we wait for three years, then

get married, and serve at Brooklyn Bethel. At that time, for a couple to remain at Bethel after they got married, one of them had to have served at Bethel for ten years or more and the other for at least three years. So Lorraine agreed to serve two years in Brazil Bethel and then one year in Brooklyn Bethel before we got married.

Our only contact during the first two years of our engagement was by mail. It was too costly to telephone, and there was no e-mail in those days! When we got married on September 16, 1961, we had the honor of having Brother Knorr give our wedding talk. True, those few years of waiting seemed a long time. But now, as we look back with much satisfaction and joy on well over 50 years of marriage, we agree that the wait was well worth it!

PRIVILEGES OF SERVICE

In 1964, I was given the privilege to visit other countries as a zone overseer. At the time, wives were not assigned to accompany their husbands on those trips. In 1977 that was adjusted, and

wives began to travel with their husbands. That year Lorraine and I accompanied Grant and Edith Suiter on visits to branch offices in Germany, Austria, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, and Israel. Altogether, I have visited some 70 countries around the world.

On one such trip to Brazil in 1980, our itinerary took us to Belém, a city on the equator where Lorraine had served in the missionary work. We also stopped to visit the brothers in Manaus. At a talk that was given in a stadium, we saw a group sitting together that did not follow the usual custom among Brazilians of women kissing on the cheeks and brothers shaking hands with one another. Why not?

They were our dear fellow Witnesses from a leper colony located in the interior of the Amazon rain forest. For safety reasons, they avoided direct contact with others in attendance. However, they certainly touched our hearts, and we will never forget the joy reflected in their faces! How true the words of Isaiah: “My servants will shout joyfully because of the good condition of the heart.” —Isa. 65:14.

A REWARDING AND PURPOSEFUL LIFE

Lorraine and I frequently reflect on our more than six decades in dedicated service to Jehovah. We are very happy with the ways we have been blessed by allowing Jehovah to direct us through his organization. Although I am not able to travel around the world as in former years, I am able to keep up my daily work as a helper to the Governing Body, working with the Coordinators’ Committee and the Service Committee. I greatly appreciate the privilege of having a small share in supporting the worldwide brotherhood in this way. It continues to amaze us to see the large number of young men and women who have taken up the full-time service with the attitude of Isaiah, who said: “Here I am! Send me!” (Isa. 6:8) This multitude of individuals echo the truthfulness of the words of the circuit overseer who long ago said to me: “Get right into the full-time ministry. You never know where it may lead you.”





No One Can Serve Two Masters

*“No one can slave for two masters . . .
You cannot slave for God and for Riches.”—MATT. 6:24.*

“JAMES, my husband, returned home from work exhausted every day, but his income covered little more than our daily needs,” explains Marilyn.* “I wanted to lighten his load and to help buy our son, Jimmy, some of the nice things his schoolmates enjoyed.” Marilyn also wanted to help their extended family and to save up for the future. Many of her friends had moved to other countries in order to earn more money. But when she personally contemplated such a move, she had mixed emotions. Why?

² Marilyn dreaded leaving her precious family and their stable spiritual routine. Still, she reasoned, others had gone abroad for a time, and their families seemed to survive spiritually. But she wondered how she could raise Jimmy from a distance. Could she successfully help bring up her son “in the discipline and admonition of Jehovah” over the Internet? —Eph. 6:4.

³ Marilyn sought guidance. Her husband did not want her to leave, although he said that he would not try to stop her. Elders and some others in the congregation advised her not to move away, but several sisters urged her to go abroad.

* Names have been changed.

1-3. (a) What financial problems do many face today, and how do some attempt to solve them? (See opening image.) (b) What concerns arise in regard to child rearing?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How do Bible principles help us to have the right view of family obligations?

How can our decisions show that we serve only Jehovah?

In what ways does Jehovah bless our decisions when we put him first?

"If you love your family, you'll go," they told her. "You can still serve Jehovah." Despite her misgivings, Marilyn kissed James and Jimmy good-bye and left for a job overseas. "I won't be gone for long," she promised.

FAMILY OBLIGATIONS AND BIBLE PRINCIPLES

⁴ Jehovah does not want his servants to live in abject poverty, and migration is one of the oldest remedies for poverty. (Ps. 37:25; Prov. 30:8) To avoid starvation, the patriarch Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food.* (Gen. 42:1, 2) Today, most who choose to emigrate do not leave their homes because they are starving. They may, however, be laboring under crushing debt. Others simply desire to raise their family's standard of living. To reach their goals in a weakening economy, many end up living apart from their immediate family, either inside or outside of their own country. Often, they leave their minor children in the care of one parent, an older sibling, grandparents, other relatives, or friends. Though it grieves emigrants to leave behind a mate or children, many who go abroad feel that they have no choice.

⁵ In Jesus' day, many people were likewise poor and disadvantaged, and they may have felt that they would be happy

* On each of their trips to Egypt, Jacob's sons may have spent no more than three weeks away from their families. When Jacob and his sons later moved to Egypt, they brought their wives and children with them.—Gen. 46:6, 7.

4. Why do many emigrate, but who often end up caring for the children of such ones?

5, 6. (a) What did Jesus teach about happiness and security? (b) For what material things did Jesus teach his followers to pray? (c) In what way does Jehovah bless us?

er and more secure if only they had more money. (Mark 14:7) But Jesus wanted people to place their hope elsewhere. He wanted them to rely on the Source of *lasting* riches—Jehovah. In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he explained that real happiness and security do not depend on material things, nor on our own efforts, but on our friendship with our heavenly Father.

⁶ In his model prayer, Jesus taught us to pray, not for financial security, but for our *daily needs*, "our bread for *this day*." He pointedly told his listeners: "Stop storing up for yourselves treasures on the earth . . . Rather, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." (Matt. 6:9, 11, 19, 20) We can trust that Jehovah will bless us as he promises. God's blessing is not merely a nod of approval; it is his active share in providing what we really need. Indeed, the only way to attain true happiness and security is to trust in our caring Father rather than in money. —**Read Matthew 6:24, 25, 31-34.**

⁷ 'Seeking first God's righteousness' includes viewing family obligations as Jehovah does. The Law of Moses contains this principle that applies to Christians: Parents need to give their own children spiritual training. (**Read Deuteronomy 6: 6, 7.**) God has assigned this responsibility to the parents, not to grandparents or to anyone else. King Solomon stated: "Listen, my son, to the discipline of your *father*, and do not forsake the instruction of your *mother*." (Prov. 1:8) Jehovah intended that both parents be physically present to share in guiding and teaching their children. (Prov. 31:

7. (a) To whom has Jehovah assigned the responsibility of raising children? (b) Why do both parents need to be actively involved with their children?



You cannot hug your child over the Internet
(See paragraph 10)

10, 27, 28) Much of what children learn from their parents, especially in spiritual matters, comes from hearing them converse about Jehovah on a daily basis and from observing their example firsthand.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

⁸ Before going abroad, emigrants try to weigh the risks and sacrifices involved, but few foresee all the consequences of leaving their family behind. (Prov. 22:3)* As soon as Marilyn left, she began to suffer the gnawing pain of separation from her family. So did her husband and son. Young Jimmy kept asking her, “Why did you leave me?” And as the months that Marilyn had planned to

* See “Immigration—Dreams and Realities” in the February 2013 issue of *Awake!*

8, 9. (a) What changes often occur when a parent lives apart from the family? (b) What emotional and moral damage can separation cause?

be away turned into years, she noticed disturbing changes in her family. Jimmy was becoming withdrawn and was growing emotionally distant from her. With sadness, she recalls, “His love for me went away.”

⁹ When parents and children do not live together as a family, they can suffer emotional and moral damage.* The younger the children and the longer the separation, the deeper the harm. Marilyn explained to Jimmy that she was sacrificing for his benefit. But to Jimmy, it felt as if his mother had abandoned him. In the beginning, he resented her absence. But later, when she returned for visits, he resented her presence. As is common among left-behind children, Jimmy felt that she had forfeited her right to his obedience and affection. —**Read Proverbs 29:15.**

¹⁰ Although Marilyn tried to compensate for her absence by sending money and gifts, she saw that she was alienating her son and unintentionally training him to put material things ahead of spiritual interests and family relationships. (Prov. 22:6) “Don’t come back,” Jimmy would tell her. “Just keep sending presents.” Marilyn began to realize that she could not raise her son by “teleparenting” through letters, telephone calls, or video chats. She explains, “You cannot

* Reports from various countries indicate that living apart from a mate or children in order to work abroad is a factor that for some has contributed to serious problems. These include infidelity on the part of one or both mates, homosexuality, or incest, and among children, increased behavioral and academic problems, aggression, anxiety, depression, or suicidal tendencies.

10. (a) How can substituting material gifts for a parent’s presence affect children? (b) What is lacking when a parent tries to raise his or her children from a distance?

hug your child or kiss him good-night over the Internet.”

¹¹ Marilyn’s relationship with Jehovah and with her husband, James, were suffering too. Her Christian association and ministry were limited to one day a week or less, and she had to fend off her employer’s sexual advances. With no mate nearby to lean on when facing problems, both Marilyn and James became emotionally involved with others and nearly gave in to sexual immorality. Marilyn came to see that even though she and her husband did not commit adultery, while living apart they could not follow the Bible’s direction to fill each other’s emotional and sexual needs. They could not share a spontaneous thought, glance, or smile, the gentle touch of a hand, a warm embrace, intimate “expressions of affection,” or the marital “due.” (Song of Sol. 1:2; 1 Cor. 7:3, 5) And they could not fully worship Jehovah together with their son. “When I learned at a convention that regular family worship is vital for us to survive Jehovah’s great day, I understood that I needed to go home,” Marilyn recalls. “I had to start rebuilding my spiritual and family life.”

GOOD ADVICE—BAD ADVICE

¹² Marilyn’s decision to return home met with mixed reactions. The elders in her overseas congregation commended her for her faith and courage. But some others who were also living away from their mate and family did not. Rather than following her good example, they tried to dissuade her. “You’ll be back here in a short time,” they said. “How

11. (a) How does a couple’s living apart for secular work affect their marriage? (b) How did one sister come to realize that she should rejoin her family?

12. What Scriptural advice can be given to those who are living apart from their family?



While living apart from your mate, what danger could you face?

(See paragraph 11.)

will you make ends meet if you go back home?” Instead of making such discouraging comments, fellow Christians should “advise the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be . . . working at home,” their *own* home, “so that the word of God may not be spoken of abusively.”—**Read Titus 2:3-5.**

¹³ Many emigrants have grown up in cultures that place tradition and duty to family, especially to parents, above all else. For a Christian to go against popular practice or the wishes of family in order to please Jehovah is truly an act of faith.

¹⁴ Consider Carin’s story: “When my son Don was born, my husband and I

13, 14. Why does it take faith to put Jehovah ahead of family expectations? Illustrate.

were working abroad, and I had recently begun to study the Bible. Everyone in my family expected me to send Don back home to be raised by my parents until we were financially stable." When Carin insisted on raising Don herself, her relatives, including her husband, called her lazy and laughed at her. "Frankly, at the time, I could not fully understand what was wrong with leaving Don with my parents for a few years," Carin says. "But I knew that Jehovah gave the job of raising our son to us—his parents." When Carin became pregnant again, her unbelieving husband demanded that she have an abortion. Carin's earlier good decision had strengthened her faith, and again she stood firm for Jehovah. Now she, her husband, and their children are happy that they all stayed together. If Carin had sent away one or both of her children to be raised by others, the outcome could have been very different.

¹⁵ A Witness named Vicky relates: "For a few years, I was raised by my grandmother, while my parents kept my younger sister with them. By the time I rejoined my parents, my feelings for them had changed. My sister felt free to express herself to them, to hug them, and to enjoy a close relationship with them. I felt distant from my parents, and even into adulthood, I found it hard to show them my true feelings. My sister and I have assured our parents that we will take care of them in their old age. But I will do so more out of duty, while my sister will care for them more out of love.

¹⁶ "Now my mother wants me to send my daughter to her for her to raise, just

as she sent me back to her mother. I tactfully refused," Vicky says. "My husband and I want to raise our own child in Jehovah's ways. And I do not want to damage my future relationship with my daughter." Vicky has seen that the only successful course is to put Jehovah and his principles ahead of financial goals and family expectations. Jesus plainly said: "*No one* can slave for two masters," for God and for Riches.—Matt. 6:24; Ex. 23:2.

JEHOVAH MAKES OUR EFFORTS "SUCCESSFUL"

¹⁷ Our Father, Jehovah, has committed himself to helping us obtain the things we really need *if* we put the Kingdom and his righteousness first in our lives. (Matt. 6:33) Thus, true Christians *always* have a choice. Jehovah promises to provide a "way out" that does not require compromising Bible principles, no matter what challenges we face. (**Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.**) When we "wait expectantly" for Jehovah, when we "rely on him" by praying for his wisdom and direction and by following his commands and principles, then "he will act in [our] behalf." (Ps. 37:5, 7) He will actively bless our sincere efforts to serve only him as the one true Master. If we put him first, he will make our lives "successful." —Compare Genesis 39:3.

¹⁸ What can be done to help repair the damage caused by separation? What practical steps can we take in order to provide for our families without living apart from them? And how can we lovingly encourage others to make right decisions in this regard? The following article will consider these questions.

15, 16. (a) Describe one sister's experience as a child left behind. (b) Why did she decide to follow a different course with her own daughter?

17, 18. (a) In what do Christians always have a choice? (b) What questions will we consider in the next article?



Be of Good Courage Jehovah Is Your Helper!

*“Be of good courage and say:
‘Jehovah is my helper.’”—HEB. 13:6.*

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What must parents do to help their families stay spiritually strong?

How can family heads provide materially for their households while remaining with them?

How can Christians combat the pressure to move abroad to make more money?

“WORKING abroad, I had a responsible job and made good money,” recalls Eduardo.* “But when I began to study the Bible with Jehovah’s Witnesses, I came to see that I had a more important responsibility—to care for my family spiritually, not just physically. So I returned home to them.”—Eph. 6:4.

² Eduardo knew that by rejoining his family, he pleased Jehovah. But like Marilyn, mentioned in the preceding article, Eduardo had to begin the long process of repairing family relationships. He also faced the challenge of supporting his wife and children in a much weaker economy. How would he make a living? What help could he expect from others in the congregation?

REPAIRING DAMAGE TO SPIRITUAL AND FAMILY LIFE

³ “I understood that I had neglected my children when they most needed my guidance and affection,” admits Eduardo. “I had not been there to read them Bible stories, to pray with them, to cuddle them, and to play with them.” (Deut. 6:7)

* Names have been changed.

1, 2. What challenges do many emigrants face when they return home? (See opening image.)

3. How does a parent’s absence affect the children?

His oldest daughter, Anna, recalls: "I felt emotionally insecure not having our father at home with us. When he returned, we knew him only by his face and voice. It didn't feel natural when he hugged me."

⁴ A father's absence also erodes his ability to fulfill his role as family head. Eduardo's wife, Ruby, explains: "I had to play two roles—Mom and Dad—and I got used to making most of the family decisions. When Eduardo came home, I had to learn what Christian subjection really means. Even now, I sometimes have to remind myself that my husband is here." (Eph. 5:22, 23) Eduardo adds: "The girls were used to going to their mother for permission to do things. As parents, we realized that we needed to present a united front to our children, and I had to learn to take the lead in a Christian way."

⁵ Eduardo was determined to do all he could to mend his relationship with his family and to build up their spiritual strength. "My goal was to inculcate the truth in my children by word and example—not just to *say* I love Jehovah but to *show* it." (1 John 3:18) Did Jehovah bless Eduardo's acts of faith? "Seeing all his efforts to be a good father and to draw close to us again made a big difference," answers Anna. "When we saw him reaching out in the congregation, we felt proud. The world was trying to pull us away from Jehovah. But we saw our parents focused on the truth, so we tried to do the same. Papa promised never to leave us again, and he didn't. If he had, I probably wouldn't be in Jehovah's organization today."

4. How does a husband's absence affect his ability to fulfill his role as family head?

5. How did one father begin to repair the damage his absence had caused, and with what result?

ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

⁶ Some experiences show that during the war in the Balkans, the children of Jehovah's Witnesses who lived there were happy despite the harsh living conditions. Why? Parents, who could not leave to go to work, stayed home and studied with, played with, and talked with their children. The lesson? More than money or gifts, children need their parents to be with them. Indeed, as God's Word states, children will benefit if they receive parental attention and training.—Prov. 22:6.

⁷ Sadly, some returning parents, upon encountering resentment or indifference in their children, respond, "How can you be so ungrateful for all the sacrifices I have made for you?" However, their children's negative attitude may be largely due to the parents' having been absent. What can a parent do to heal the breach?

⁸ Ask Jehovah to help you show your family members extra understanding. Then, when speaking with your family, acknowledge and accept your share of responsibility for the problem. A genuine apology may help. As your mate and children observe that you are consistently trying to make things right, they will sense your sincerity. With determination and patience, you may gradually regain your family's love and respect.

'PROVIDING FOR ONE'S OWN'

⁹ The apostle Paul directed that when

6. What lesson did some parents learn during wartime?

7, 8. (a) What mistake do some returning parents make? (b) How may parents help their children to overcome negative feelings?

9. Why should 'providing for our own' not require that we constantly strive for more material things?

older Christians cannot make ends meet, their children and grandchildren should “repay their parents and grandparents what is due them.” But Paul went on to urge all Christians to be content with their daily necessities—food, clothing, and shelter. We should not constantly be striving for a higher standard of living or for future financial security. **(Read 1 Timothy 5:4, 8; 6:6-10.)** To ‘provide for one’s own,’ a Christian does not need to seek material riches in this world, which will soon pass away. (1 John 2:15-17) We must not let “the deceptive power of riches” or “anxieties of life” put at risk our family’s “firm hold on the real life” in God’s righteous new world!—Mark 4:19; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Tim. 6:19.

¹⁰ Jehovah knows that we need *some* money. But money cannot protect and sustain us the way godly wisdom can. (Eccl. 7:12; Luke 12:15) In many cases, individuals underestimate the cost of going overseas to work, and there are no guarantees that they will make money abroad. In fact, there are grave dangers. Many emigrants return with even greater debt. Rather than being freer to serve God, they end up serving those to whom they owe money. **(Read Proverbs 22:7.)** The wise course is to avoid going into debt in the first place.

¹¹ Eduardo knew that to make a success of his decision to remain with his family, he had to be practical about money. He and his wife established a budget based on what material things they really needed. Naturally, the budget was much more restrictive than his

family was used to. But all of them cooperated and did not spend money on nonessentials.* “For example,” Eduardo says, “I took my children out of private schools and found good public schools for them.” He and his family prayed that he would find secular work that would not interfere with their spiritual routine. How did Jehovah answer their prayers?

¹² “For the first two years, we barely got by,” Eduardo recalls. “My funds were dwindling, my meager income did not always cover expenses, and I was physically tired. But we could attend all the meetings and go in service together.” Eduardo made up his mind not even to consider job offers that would keep him away from his family for months or years at a time. “Instead,” he says, “I learned to do various jobs so that when one type of work was not available, I could do another.”

¹³ Because Eduardo had to pay off his debts gradually, he had to pay more interest on the money that he had borrowed. But he considered this a small price to pay in order for him to share with his family in all aspects of their lives, as Jehovah desires parents to do. “I now make less than 10 percent of what I made overseas,” Eduardo says, “but we don’t go hungry. ‘The hand of Jehovah is not short.’ In fact, we decided to pioneer. Remarkably, after that the economic pressure lessened and obtaining our material necessities became much easier.”—Isa. 59:1.

* See the series “How to Manage Money” in the September 2011 issue of *Awake!*

10. How can we show godly wisdom in regard to amassing debt?

11. How can holding to a budget help families to reduce financial pressure?

12, 13. What practical steps did one father take to support his family, and how did Jehovah bless his determination to keep life simple?



Can you learn to do a variety of jobs to help support your family?
(See paragraph 12)

DEALING WITH FAMILY PRESSURE

¹⁴ In many places, people feel obliged to give money and gifts to relatives and friends. “It is part of our culture, and we enjoy giving,” explains Eduardo, but he adds: “There is a limit. I tactfully explain to my extended family that I will give as much as I can without endangering my immediate family’s spiritual needs and routine.”

¹⁵ Returning emigrants as well as those who decline opportunities to leave their family to go abroad often face the anger, scorn, and disappointment of relatives who may have looked to them as breadwinners. Some call them unloving. (Prov. 19:6, 7) “Nevertheless,” notes Eduardo’s daughter Anna, “when we refuse to sacrifice spiritual things for material advantage, some of our relatives may eventually realize how important our Christian life really is. But how will they ever understand if we give in

14, 15. How can families deal with the pressure to put material things ahead of spiritual pursuits, and what may result from their setting a good example?

to their demands?”—Compare 1 Peter 3: 1, 2.

EXERCISING FAITH IN GOD

¹⁶ Upon arriving in a more prosperous country without her mate and children, one sister told the elders: “We had to make great sacrifices for me to come here. My husband even had to step down from serving as an elder. So I really hope that Jehovah will bless this move.” Jehovah always blesses decisions based on faith in him, but how can he bless a decision that is contrary to his will, especially when it involves needlessly giving up sacred privileges?—**Read Hebrews 11:6; 1 John 5:13-15.**

¹⁷ Seek Jehovah’s direction *before* you make decisions and commitments, not after making them. Pray for his holy spirit, wisdom, and guidance. (2 Tim. 1:7) Ask yourself: ‘Under what circumstances am I willing to obey Jehovah? Even

16. (a) How might a person ‘deceive himself with false reasoning’? (Jas. 1:22) (b) What kinds of decisions does Jehovah bless?

17. Why should we seek Jehovah’s direction *before* making decisions, and how can we do so?

under persecution?’ If so, are you willing to obey him when it may mean having to lower your standard of living? (Luke 14:33) Ask the elders for Scriptural advice, and show your faith and trust in Jehovah’s promise to help you by following his counsel. The elders cannot make decisions for you, but they can help you make choices that will lead to happiness in the long run.—2 Cor. 1:24.

¹⁸ Jehovah charges a family head with the day-to-day “load” of supporting the family. We should commend and pray for those who fulfill that responsibility without leaving their mate or children, despite pressure and temptation to do so. Unexpected circumstances, such as disasters or medical emergencies, present an opportunity for us to show true Christian love and fellow-feeling for one another. (Gal. 6:2, 5; 1 Pet. 3:8) Can you provide funds in an emergency or help a fellow Christian to find work locally? If so, you can reduce the pressure that he or she may feel to leave the family to find work elsewhere.—Prov. 3:27, 28; 1 John 3:17.

REMEMBER THAT JEHOVAH IS YOUR HELPER!

¹⁹ The Scriptures urge us: “Let your way of life be free of the love of money, while you are content with the present things. For [God] has said: ‘I will never leave you, and I will never abandon you.’ So that we may be of good courage and say: ‘Jehovah is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’” (Heb. 13:5, 6) How does this work out in practice?

18. Who is responsible for supporting a family, but what circumstances may afford others an opportunity to help?

19, 20. Why can Christians be content with knowing that Jehovah will help them?

²⁰ “People often comment about how happy Jehovah’s Witnesses are,” says a longtime elder in a developing country. “They also notice that even poor Witnesses are always nicely dressed and appear to be better off than others.” This harmonizes with the promise Jesus made to those who put the Kingdom first. (Matt. 6:28-30, 33) Yes, your heavenly Father, Jehovah, loves you and wants only the best for you and your children. “The eyes of Jehovah are roving about through all the earth to show his strength in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward him.” (2 Chron. 16:9) He has given us his commandments—including those relating to family life and material needs—for our benefit. When we follow them, we show that we love him and trust in him. “This is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments; and yet his commandments are not burdensome.” —1 John 5:3.

²¹ “I know that the time I was apart from my wife and children can never be regained,” says Eduardo, “but I do not dwell on my regrets. Many of my old colleagues are rich but unhappy. Their families have serious problems. However, our family is very happy! And I am impressed to see how other brothers in this country, even though poor, keep spiritual things first in their lives. We all are experiencing the truth of Jesus’ promise.” —**Read Matthew 6:33.**

²² Be of good courage! Choose to obey Jehovah and trust in him. Let your love for God, for your marriage mate, and for your children move you to fulfill your spiritual responsibility to your family. As a result, you will experience that ‘Jehovah is your helper.’

21, 22. Why are you determined to show your trust in Jehovah?



Do You Appreciate Jehovah's Watchful Care?

"The eyes of Jehovah are everywhere, watching both the bad and the good."—PROV. 15:3.

IN MANY countries, surveillance cameras are increasingly used to monitor the flow of traffic and to capture images of accidents. If cameras record a hit-and-run accident, the recorded images can help the authorities to find and arrest the driver who fled the scene. Indeed, with electronic eyes everywhere, it is becoming more difficult for people to escape the consequences of their actions.

² However, should the widespread use of surveillance cameras in any way remind us of our loving Father, Jehovah? The Bible does say that his eyes "are everywhere." (Prov. 15:3) But does this mean that he is constantly scrutinizing what we are doing? Does God watch over us merely to enforce his laws, with punishment in mind? (Jer. 16:17; Heb. 4:13) Not at all! Jehovah observes us primarily because he loves each one of us and is interested in our welfare.—1 Pet. 3:12.

³ What will help us to appreciate that God watches over us because he loves us? Let us consider how he shows this. He does so (1) by warning us when we show bad inclinations,

1, 2. How does Jehovah's watchful care differ from the scrutiny of surveillance cameras?

3. What five areas of God's loving care will we consider?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER

Why does Jehovah keep his eyes on you?

In what ways can you receive Jehovah's warnings, correction, and guidance?

Why does Jehovah sometimes hold off from rescuing us from adversities?

(2) by correcting us when we take wrong steps, (3) by guiding us through principles found in his Word, (4) by helping us when we face various trials, and (5) by rewarding us when he notices the good in us.

A WATCHFUL GOD WARNS US

⁴ First, let us consider how God warns us when we are developing bad inclinations. (1 Chron. 28:9) To appreciate this aspect of God's watchful care, consider how he dealt with Cain, who "grew hot with anger" when he did not meet with divine approval. **(Read Genesis 4:3-7.)** Jehovah urged Cain to "turn to doing good." If he did not, Jehovah warned, sin was "crouching at the door." God asked him: "Will you get the mastery over it?" He wanted Cain to respond to the warning and to "be restored to favor." Having divine favor would preserve a good relationship with God.

⁵ What about us today? Jehovah's eyes penetrate our heart; we cannot conceal our true inclinations and motivations from him. Our loving Father wants us to follow the pathways of righteousness; yet, he does not force us to change the course we are on. Through his Word, the Bible, he warns us when we are headed in the wrong direction. How? In our daily Bible reading, we often come across a passage that helps us to overcome bad tendencies and unwholesome inclinations. In addition, our Christian publications may shed light on a problem with which we may have been struggling and show us how we can overcome it. And at our congregation meetings, all

4. What was Jehovah's intention in warning Cain that sin was "crouching at the door"?

5. In what ways does Jehovah warn us about unwholesome inclinations that we might have?

of us receive counsel that comes at just the right time!

⁶ All such warnings are really evidence of Jehovah's loving, watchful care for us as individuals. True, the words of the Bible have been there for centuries, the publications prepared by God's organization are written for millions, and the counsel at the meetings is intended for the whole congregation. Still, in all these cases, Jehovah directed *your* attention to his Word so that you could adjust your inclinations. Thus it can be said that this is evidence of Jehovah's loving personal care for you.

⁷ To benefit from God's warnings, we must first realize that he is truly concerned about us. Then we must respond positively to his Word, striving to eliminate any thoughts that are displeasing to God. **(Read Isaiah 55:6, 7.)** If we heed the warnings we are given, we will spare ourselves a lot of heartache. Suppose, however, that we give in to our bad inclinations. What help does our loving Father then provide?

OUR CARING FATHER CORRECTS US

⁸ We may become especially aware of Jehovah's care when we receive correction. **(Read Hebrews 12:5, 6.)** True, we do not enjoy being counseled or disciplined. (Heb. 12:11) Yet, think of what the one who is offering us counsel must consider. He needs to be aware of what we are doing that could affect our relationship with Jehovah God, he must be concerned about our feelings, and he has to be willing to devote the time and

6, 7. (a) Why may it be said that material that is prepared for millions is evidence of God's loving care for you? (b) How can you benefit from Jehovah's caring personal attention?

8, 9. How does the counsel that Jehovah provides through his servants show the depth of his care? Illustrate.

effort needed to show us from the Bible how we can adjust our course to be pleasing to God. No less concerned is the Source of such counsel, Jehovah.

⁹ Let us consider an example of how human counselors can reflect God's concern. Before coming into the truth, one brother regularly viewed pornography, but he overcame the habit. Yet, his old inclination was still there, smoldering like the embers of a fire. When he obtained a new cell phone, his bad craving was reignited. (Jas. 1:14, 15) He used the phone to access pornographic Internet sites. One day, while telephone witnessing, he lent his phone to an elder to enable him to look up some addresses. When the elder began using the phone, questionable sites appeared. This turned out to be a blessing for our spiritually imperiled brother. He received timely counsel, benefited from the correction given, and eventually overcame the bad tendencies. How grateful we can be to our caring heavenly Father, who sees even our hidden sins and corrects us before we go too far!

WE BENEFIT BY APPLYING BIBLE PRINCIPLES

¹⁰ The psalmist sang to Jehovah: "You guide me with your advice." (Ps. 73: 24) Whenever we need guidance, we can "take notice of" Jehovah by consulting his Word to find out his view of matters. Applying Bible principles not only benefits us spiritually but sometimes helps us to care for our material needs.—Prov. 3:6.

¹¹ An example of how Jehovah has guided some can be seen in the expe-

10, 11. (a) In what way can you look to God for guidance? (b) How did one family experience the wisdom of following Jehovah's guidance?



Our Bible-trained conscience helps us to avoid the dangers around us
(See paragraphs 6, 7)

rience of a tenant farmer living in the mountainous region of Masbate in the Philippines. Both he and his wife have served as regular pioneers while raising a large family. One day, they were shocked to receive an eviction notice from their landlord. What was the reason? They had been falsely accused of dishonest behavior. Though the brother was concerned about where he would find a place for his family to live, he said: "Jehovah will provide. He always cares for our needs, no matter what happens." The brother's confidence was

not misplaced. Some days later, the family learned to their relief that they would not have to leave the land. What had happened? The landowner had observed that despite the accusation, the Witness family, guided by Bible principles, maintained a respectful and peaceful spirit. This impressed the landowner so much that not only did he allow them to stay but he gave them additional land to cultivate. (**Read 1 Peter 2:12.**) Yes, Jehovah guides us through his Word to help us cope with life's difficulties.

A FRIEND WHO HELPS US ENDURE TRIALS

¹² Sometimes, though, a trialsome situation lingers. We may be struggling with a chronic illness, with prolonged opposition from close family members, or with constant persecution. And what about those grievous personality conflicts we occasionally experience with someone in the congregation?

¹³ For instance, you may be hurt by a remark that you consider to be unkind. 'This should not happen in God's organization!' you exclaim. Yet, the brother who made the remark receives privileges in the congregation and seems to be well-thought-of by others. 'How can this be?' you wonder. 'Does Jehovah not see? Will he not act?'—Ps. 13:1, 2; Hab. 1:2, 3.

¹⁴ Jehovah may have valid reasons for not stepping in. For instance, while you may feel that the other party bears most of the blame, God may view things differently. From his standpoint, you may be more at fault than you realize. The

comment that you considered to be so hurtful may, in fact, have been well-deserved counsel that you ought to give thought to. In his life story, Brother Karl Klein, who served on the Governing Body, told of an occasion when he received frank reproof from Brother J. F. Rutherford. Later, Brother Rutherford greeted Brother Klein with a cheerful, "Hello, Karl!" However, Brother Klein, still stinging from the reproof he had received, muttered only a halfhearted greeting. Realizing that Brother Klein was nursing hard feelings, Brother Rutherford warned him against falling prey to the Devil. Brother Klein later wrote: "When we harbor resentment against a brother, especially for saying something he has a right to say in the line of duty, we leave ourselves open to the Devil's snares."^{*}

¹⁵ Still, we may become impatient when a trialsome period seems to have no end. How can we cope? Suppose you are driving a car on a highway and get stuck in traffic. You do not know how long the delay will continue. If you get irritated and try to find another route, you might get lost. You could end up taking more time to reach your destination than you would had you patiently remained on course. Similarly, if you stick to the paths outlined in God's Word, in time you will arrive at your destination.

¹⁶ Jehovah may hold off from inter-

^{*} Brother Klein's life story was published in the October 1, 1984, issue of *The Watchtower*.

12, 13. In what situations might some wonder if God really notices their suffering?

14. What might be one of the reasons why God does not intervene in solving our personal problems?

15. What realization will help you to avoid becoming impatient when waiting for Jehovah to help you through a trialsome situation?

16. What is another reason why Jehovah might choose to hold off from intervening in our trials?

vening in our trials because he wants us to receive vital training. **(Read 1 Peter 5:6-10.)** No, God does not cause trials. (Jas. 1:13) “Your adversary, the Devil,” is causing most adversities. Yet, God can use a difficult situation to help us grow spiritually. He sees our suffering, and “because he cares” for us, he will make sure that it will continue only for “a little while.” Do you appreciate Jehovah’s watchful care when you suffer trials, confident that he will provide a way out? —2 Cor. 4:7-9.

BE BLESSED WITH GOD’S SMILE OF APPROVAL

¹⁷ Finally, God examines our life for a most reassuring reason. By means of Hanani the seer, He declared to King Asa: “The eyes of Jehovah are roving about through all the earth to show his strength in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward him.” (2 Chron. 16:9) While God did not see a complete heart in Asa, he will “show his strength” toward you if you keep on doing what is right.

¹⁸ God wants us to “*search* for what is good,” “*love* what is good,” and “*do* what is good” so that he may “show favor” to us. (Amos 5:14, 15; 1 Pet. 3:11, 12) Jehovah takes note of the righteous ones and blesses them. (Ps. 34:15) Think, for example, of the Hebrew midwives Shiphras and Puah. When Israel was under the yoke of slavery in Egypt, these two women feared God more than they feared Pharaoh, who had ordered them to kill all the male Hebrew children at birth. Evidently, their godly conscience

moved them to preserve the lives of the babies. Shiphras and Puah were later given families of their own. (Ex. 1:15-17, 20, 21) Their good deeds did not escape Jehovah’s roving eyes. Occasionally, we may feel that no one cares about the good we do. But Jehovah cares. He takes note of every good deed we have done, and he will repay us.—Matt. 6:4, 6; 1 Tim. 5:25; Heb. 6:10.

¹⁹ A sister in Austria learned that her hard work did not escape God’s attentive eyes. Being of Hungarian descent, she received the address of a Hungarian-speaking person for her to contact in the ministry. She immediately called at the address, but no one was at home. She called back again and again. At times, she sensed that someone was there, but no one answered. She left literature, personal letters, her contact information, and so forth. After a year and a half of repeated visits, the door finally opened! The sister was greeted by a friendly lady, who said: “Please come in. I read everything you brought and have been waiting for you.” The householder had been going through chemotherapy treatments and had not been up to meeting people. A Bible study was started. Yes, God rewarded the sister for her diligent efforts!

²⁰ Jehovah sees whatever you are doing and will eventually repay you. When you become aware of God’s eyes on you, do not feel as if you were under the scrutiny of some impersonal surveillance camera. Rather, may you feel ever closer to the caring God who is truly concerned about you!

17. For whom is Jehovah searching, and why?

18. When you feel that you are not appreciated, what should you remember about Jehovah? (See opening image.)

19. How did one sister learn that good deeds do not escape Jehovah’s notice?

20. How do you feel about Jehovah’s watchful care?

DID YOU KNOW?

In Bible times, what was the significance of a person's deliberately ripping apart his garments?



THE Scriptures describe a number of situations in which individuals tore their own clothes. Such an action may seem strange to modern-day readers, yet among the Jews it was an expression of strong emotion caused by despair, grief, humiliation, indignation, or mourning.

For example, Reuben “ripped his garments apart” when he found that his plan to deliver his brother Joseph was foiled because Joseph had been sold into slavery. Their father, Jacob, “ripped his garments apart” when he assumed that Joseph had been devoured by a wild animal. (Gen. 37:18-35) Job “ripped apart his garment” when he was told that all his children were killed. (Job 1:18-20) A messenger “with his garments ripped apart” appeared before High Priest Eli to inform him that the Israelites had been defeated in battle, Eli’s two sons had been killed, and the ark of the covenant had been captured. (1 Sam. 4:12-17) When Josiah heard the words of the Law being read to him and recognized the errors of his people, “he ripped his garments apart.”—2 Ki. 22:8-13.

At Jesus’ trial, High Priest Caiaphas “ripped his outer garments” when he heard what he wrongly judged as blasphemy. (Matt. 26:59-66) A rabbinic tradition dictated that any who heard the divine name being blasphemed were obliged to rend their garments. Another rabbinic opinion postdating the destruction of Jerusalem’s temple, however, stated that “he who hears the Divine Name blasphemed nowadays need not rend his garments, for otherwise one’s garments would be reduced to tatters.”

Of course, the act of ripping one’s clothing was of no value in God’s eyes unless the person’s grief was genuine. Thus, Jehovah told his people to ‘rip apart their hearts, and not their garments, and return to him.’—Joel 2:13.

