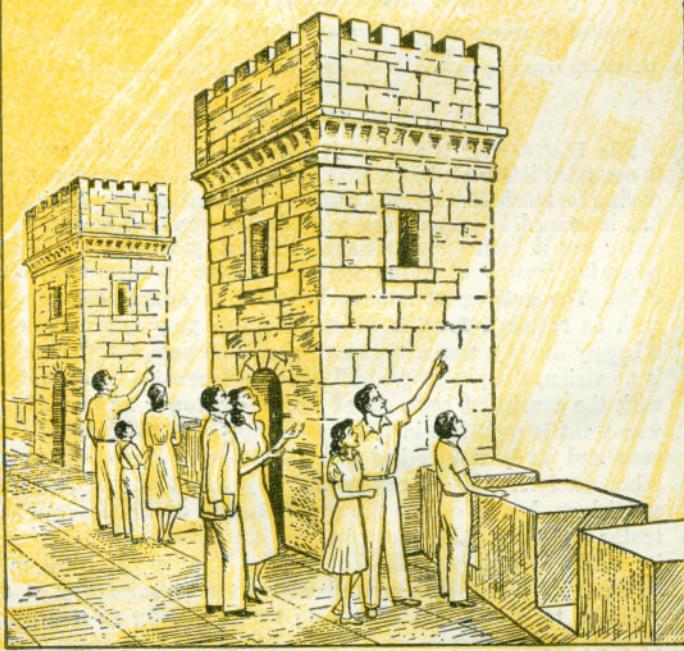


Announcing
Jehovah's Kingdom



"They shall know that I am Jehovah."

-Ezekiel 35:15.

VOL. LXXI SEMIMONTHLY No. 15

AUGUST 1, 1950

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"YE ARE MY WITNESSES, SAITH JEHOVAH, THAT I AM GOD." - Isa.43:12.

The WATCHTOWER

PUBLISHED SEMIMONTHLY BY

WATCH TOWER BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY
117 Adams Street - - Brooklyn 1, N.Y., U.S.A.

OFFICERS

N. H. KNORR, President

GRANT SUITER, *Secretary*

"And all thy children shall be taught of Jehovah; and great shall be the peace of thy children." - Isaiah 54:13.

THE BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES

THAT JEHOVAH is the only true God, from everlasting to everlasting, and is the Maker of heaven and earth and Giver of life to his creatures; that the Word or Logos was the beginning of his creation and his active agent in creating all other things; and that a cherub son of God rebelled against Jehovah and raised the issue of His universal sovereignty:

THAT GOD created the earth for man, made perfect man for the earth and placed him upon it; that man yielded to the unfaithful cherub, or Satan, and willfully disobeyed God's law and was sentenced to death; that by reason of Adam's wrong act all men are born sinners and without the right to life.

THAT THE LOGOS was made human as the man Jesus and suffered death in order to produce the ransom or redemptive price for obedient men; that God raised up Christ Jesus divine and exalted him to heaven above every other creature and clothed him with all power and authority as head of God's new capital organization:

THAT GOD'S CAPITAL ORGANIZATION is a Theocracy called Zion, and that Christ Jesus is the Chief Officer thereof and is the rightful King of the new world; that the faithful anointed followers of Christ Jesus are Zion's children, members of Jehovah's organization, and are His witnesses whose duty and privilege it is to testify to Jehovah's supremacy and declare his purposes toward mankind as expressed in the Bible;

THAT THE OLD WORLD of Satan began its "time of the end" A.D. 1914, and Christ Jesus has been placed by Jehovah upon the throne, has ousted Satan from heaven, and now proceeds to vindicate His name and establish the "new earth";

THAT THE RELIEF and blessings of the peoples can come only by Jehovah's kingdom under Christ, which has begun; that His next great act is to destroy Satan's organization and establish righteousness completely in the earth; and that under the Kingdom the people of good-will surviving Armageddon will carry out the divine mandate to "fill the earth" with righteous offspring, and that the human dead in the graves will be raised to opportunities of life on earth.

“THEOCRACY’S INCREASE” TESTIMONY PERIOD

The International Assembly for 1950 at New York city! This starts off the Testimony Period entitled "Theocracy's Increase". And so many from all parts of the earth will begin August, the Testimony month, with attendance at the assembly. But whether at the assembly or not, all adherents of The Theocratic Government will loyally take part in the world-wide testimony. The book "*Let God Be True*", now published in 20 languages, will be the leading offer for the month, on a contribution of 35c. Where it is not available, another bound book to correspond should be offered to the people. Surely our readers will want to work for The Theocracy to increase its devoted subjects by circulating the literature which advertises that Government and thus help others to come under its benign sway. Let any reader write us who wants assistance to get started witnessing and needs references and instructions. We count on the report of every participant in the Testimony Period. So make your report at the close of August and thus give proof in your case of The Theocracy's general increase.

“WATCHTOWER” STUDIES

Week of September 3: "Serving with the Servant,"

¶ 1-17 inclusive, *The Watchtower* August 1, 1950.

Week of September 10: "Servant's Care of the Master's Goods,"

¶ 1-19 inclusive, *The Watchtower* August 1, 1950.

ITS MISSION

THIS journal is published for the purpose of enabling the people to know Jehovah God and his purposes as expressed in the Bible. It publishes Bible instruction specifically designed to aid Jehovah's witnesses and all people of good-will. It arranges systematic Bible study for its readers and the Society supplies other literature to aid in such studies. It publishes suitable material for radio broadcasting and for other means of public instruction in the Scriptures.

It adheres strictly to the Bible as authority for its utterances. It is entirely free and separate from all religion, parties, sects or other worldly organizations. It is wholly and without reservation for the kingdom of Jehovah God under Christ his beloved King. It is not dogmatic, but invites careful and critical examination of its contents in the light of the Scriptures. It does not indulge in controversy, and its columns are not open to personalities.

Notice to Subscribers: Remittances should be sent to office in your country in compliance with regulations to guarantee safe delivery of money. Remittances are accepted at Brooklyn from countries where no office is located, by international money order only. Subscription rates in different countries are stated below in local currency. *Notice of expiration* (with renewal blank) is sent at least two issues before subscription expires. *Change of address* when sent to our office may be expected effective within one month. Send your old as well as new address.

Please address the Watch Tower Society in every case.

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ALL SINCERE STUDENTS OF THE BIBLE who by reason of infirmity, poverty or adversity are unable to pay the subscription price may have *The Watchtower* free upon written application to the publishers, made once each year, stating the reason for so requesting it. We are glad to thus aid the needy, but the written application once each year is required by the postal regulations.

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"THE WATCHTOWER"

The Watchtower is a magazine without equal in the earth, and is conceded this rank by all that have been faithful readers thereof during its more than seventy years of publication. *The Watchtower* has increased in importance with the progress of the years, and never has it been more valuable than today, at this world crisis, when the destiny of each intelligent human creature is being decided. The getting of correct information and instruction, just such as required for the times, to decide your course wisely to a happy destiny, was never more vital than now, for "where there is no vision, the people perish". Informed persons well acquainted with the consistent contents of *The Watchtower* agree that those who want to gain life in peace and happiness without end should read and study it together with the Bible and in company with other readers. This is not giving any credit to the magazine's publishers, but is due to the great Author of the Bible with its truths and prophecies, and who now interprets its prophecies. He it is that makes possible the material that is published in the columns of this magazine and who gives promise that it shall continue to publish the advancing truths as long as it continues to exist for the service of the interests of his Theocratic Government. Carefully and prayerfully read this issue of *The Watchtower*. Then do not delay to mail in your subscription, that you may receive it regularly, twice a month, twenty-four copies the year. Subscription rates are shown above.

The WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

VOL. LXXI

AUGUST 1, 1950

No. 15

SERVING WITH THE SERVANT

"Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods."—Matt. 24: 46, 47.

J EHOVAH is the omnipotent Ruler of the universe. At his right hand is the loyal and faithful King, Christ Jesus, who serves for evermore. The kingdom of the appointed ruler will exercise authority over this earth until everything therein praises and magnifies the Creator's holy name. Into this marvelous service 144,000 have been called to participate, and such called ones will, by making their "calling and election sure", be the bride of the King, and will be "joint heirs" with him. As Kingdom inheritors they know that by promise they are to share the throne with the glorified Bridegroom. And what is of more immediate concern, that royal Spouse has revealed to them that during this world's *syntéleia* and before completing their earthly course the sign of his favor toward them would be marked by his entrusting them with special Kingdom responsibilities. Such Kingdom interests must be guarded, watched and increased amid the turbulence of this world's closing years. Nor would any human or demon attraction or the confused events occurring in these fateful days succeed in diverting the faithful stewards from their service. These very events now coming to pass supply further evidence of the fulfillment of prophecy pertaining to the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, the nearness of the final end of this evil world, and the requirements now laid upon the true servants of the kingdom of heaven.

² That kingdom of God, with its appointed Ruler, is of the greatest importance, and centuries have been used in its preparation. The King will rule in righteousness, enforcing God's law and breaking down every power opposing truth and justice. "Then will come the end—when he surrenders the Kingdom to his God and Father, having overthrown all other rule and all other authority and power. For he must reign until God 'has put all his enemies under his feet.'" (1 Cor. 15: 24-26, *Twentieth Century*) Christ Jesus receives this kingdom from his Father. No man or earthly powers could possibly give it to him, for it is not theirs. "For every beast of the forest

is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof." (Ps. 50: 10-12) "I will tell of the decree: Jehovah said unto me, Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I will give thee the nations for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." (Ps. 2: 7, 8, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) Satan, the god of this evil world, never had the possession of the earth with its mountains, oceans, lakes, rivers, trees, flowers, animals, birds, fish and other created things. These were not his to give to anyone. Adam did not come into this glorious dominion. The apostle Paul states at Hebrews 2: 5-8 that this dominion will be given to Christ Jesus. Paul here was quoting from Psalm 8, which clearly teaches that the Universal Sovereign has put all such created works in the charge of his beloved Son. "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."—Eph. 1: 20-23, *Am. Stan. Ver.*; see also Dan. 7: 13, 14, *Am. Stan. Ver.*; Dan. 2: 44; Ps. 89: 34-37.

³ Thus the everlasting kingdom belongs to Christ Jesus even as he himself declared: "I appoint unto you a kingdom, even as my Father appointed unto me." (Luke 22: 29, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) Further, as to his sharing it with his faithful disciples, we read, "As you know how we . . . warned you to walk worthily of that God who is inviting you into his own glorious kingdom."—1 Thess. 2: 11, 12, *Diaglott*; see also Rom. 8: 17; Phil. 3: 10-14; 2 Tim. 2: 12.

⁴ When Jesus Christ was on earth he committed many things to his disciples. There were his Word,

1. Jehovah and Christ Jesus being rulers means what to his people on earth today?
2. Who receives the dominion, and what scriptural proof do we have?

3. With whom does Christ Jesus share his kingdom?
4. What were some of the interests he committed to the care of his church?

the feeding of the sheep, "my peace," preaching of the Kingdom, the honor of the Father's name. Later at Pentecost, through the operation of the holy spirit and the ministrations of the apostles, more interests were placed in the church's care. "Every one of us, however, has been entrusted with some charge, each in accordance with the extent of the gift of the Christ." (Eph. 4:7, *Twentieth Century*) Many of these gifts are mentioned in verse 11: "He it is who gave to the church apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, and teachers." All these gifts were for a specified purpose: "For the complete qualification of the saints for the work of service, in order to the building up of the body of the Anointed one." (Verse 12, *Diaglott*) The apostles faithfully performed these services, and loyal service has been rendered at the end of the world where we now are. There have been among the millions of professing Christians a few who have fed the flock of God, kept the good and true Word of God before the people, who have strengthened those of the household of the Lord and preached "the kingdom of heaven is at hand", all to the honor of the heavenly Father's name. When the Lord Jesus Christ returned in power and glory to establish his Kingdom rule over all the earth, he was to find the faithful servant discharging his responsibilities in a manner pleasing to him. When with his disciples, he gave a parable which is also a prophecy pertaining to this very servant's work, and showing what would happen. A consideration of this parable and appreciation of its fulfillment now brings joy, comfort and strength to God's own people.

PARABLE OF "FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANT"

⁵ "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath set over his household, to give them their food in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he will set him over all that he hath." (Matt. 24:45-47, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) It will be observed that the prophecy does not pertain to just any servant, but to one who has been specially chosen, one "whom the master hath appointed over his household" (*Roth.*); "whom his master put in charge of his household." (*An Amer. Trans.*) The chief service mentioned which had to receive attention was 'to give food in due season', or "to give the members of it their supplies at the proper time". (*An Amer. Trans.*) By this servant's faithfully, thoughtfully, loyally and prudently carrying out his assigned duties he received the approval of the master. "Happy that servant, whom his master, on coming, shall find thus employed!" (Matt. 24:46, *Diaglott*) Well pleased is the Lord and so is the servant. Following

⁵. Who appointed the "faithful and wise servant", and what was it that so pleased the Lord on his return?

this commendation of the servant the master rewards him by entrusting much greater responsibilities to his care. "He will set him over all that he hath." (Verse 47, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) "He will put him in charge of all his property." (*An Amer. Trans.*) "He shall make him ruler over all his goods."—*King James Version*.

⁶ This parable's prophetic fulfillment comes to pass at the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, at the end of the world. It is now being fulfilled, and therefore can be understood. Who then is the "faithful and wise servant"? Where is the "household"? How and when did the "master" come and approve the "servant"? What is meant by the "goods", "property", "possessions"? What is meant by being made "ruler over all his goods"? These questions and many more come to the mind of the reader. It is possible to understand the fulfillment of this parable now, and blessed are your eyes if you see.

⁷ First, let us locate the time of the fulfillment. Verse 46 says 'when his master returns', and verse 44 states "the Son of Man is coming at a time when you do not expect him". (*An Amer. Trans.*) It will be appreciated that the prophecies recorded in this 24th chapter of Matthew pertain to the end of the world. The Lord uses one of his own titles, "Son of man," therefore making it obvious that he was referring to himself as the "master" of the household. The time is that of the second appearing of Christ, and in this evil world's "time of the end", or *syn-téleia*, when his kingdom is due to commence its rule.

⁸ Who is responsible for seeing to it that the household is fed? On another occasion Jesus said to his followers, "Do you understand all this?" They said to him, 'Yes.' He said to them, 'Then remember that every scribe who has become a disciple of the Kingdom of Heaven must be like a householder who can supply from his storeroom new things as well as old.' (Matt. 13:51,52, *An Amer. Trans.*) These therefore are the "kingdom of heaven" class, the prospective members of the "bride of Christ", those who are "in Christ", as mentioned in Romans 12:5 (*Am. Stan. Ver.*): "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another." "For all the promises of God have their 'Yes' in Him; and therefore through Him also we utter the 'Amen' to the glory of God. But He who confirms us as well as you in union with Christ, and has anointed us, is God, and He has also set His seal upon us, and has put His spirit into our hearts as a guarantee." (2 Cor. 1:20-22, *Weymouth*) They are of "the anointed". This company is made up of 144,000 members (Rev. 14:1), whose calling began with the

⁶. When is this parable due for fulfillment, and what are some of the questions which come to the mind?

⁷. Which portions of scripture in the parable help us to locate the time of fulfillment?

⁸. Who are the "anointed"? and what is meant by "anointed remnant"?

apostles and nears its completion at the second appearing of Jesus Christ. It is now about complete. Indeed only a small remnant of this company, generally known as the "anointed remnant", is now left on earth. Such a class would be on the earth when the Lord returned, for so he taught.

⁹ The Lord Jesus Christ was enthroned as the new world's King in 1914, as all the prophecies of old and facts of today testify. Earth's greatest event then took place, for that is when the Most High God instructed his Son to 'rule in the midst of his enemies'. (Ps. 110:1, 2) Then it was that action commenced in heaven to bring forward the Kingdom rule, this new power which will rule all nations. (Ps. 2; Rev. 12:5) Before this all-important date, there had been a preparatory work going on for years. The 40-year period of time (from 1878 to 1918) was foretold in Scripture prophecy, and generally has been referred to as the "Elijah" or "John the Baptist" work, and so named because it constitutes a large-scale, modern-day fulfillment of their prophetic works. "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Even as it is written in Isaiah the prophet, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ye ready the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Mark 1:1-3, *Am. Stan. Ver.*; Matt. 3:1-12) "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Jehovah come. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." (Mal. 4:5, 6, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) "And if ye are willing to receive it, this [John the Baptist] is Elijah, that is to come." (Matt. 11:14, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) The way must be 'prepared' before the King appears. During the 40 years before 1918, as in the days of John the Baptist, the message delivered was strong, clear, comforting to the poor in spirit, denunciatory of proud doers and testifying to the Christ of God. The anointed people of God for more than 30 years before 1914 were announcing the nearness of the end of the "Gentile times", and called upon the professed people of God to be ready for Jehovah's service. Message after message was publicly announced, several millions of textbooks were published, many more millions of tracts were circulated—all to call the people's attention to the fulfillment of prophecy and the urgency of being awake and watchful. The untiring, unselfish, wholehearted ministry of these faithful Christians was known to the "master" of the household, and he recognized them.

¹⁰ It was in the year 1884 that these faithful servants organized and established the Watch Tower

Bible & Tract Society, and began conducting through it all their ministrations. When the first president of this Society ended his earthly course in 1916, some who had been associated with the Lord's anointed rebelled against the servants of God. Their covetous hearts found expression in evilspeaking against God's loyal children, saying that the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society was no longer being used by the Lord, that they had the light and the servants of God should follow them. Amidst all this contention, evilspeaking, hard sayings, treacherous actions, betrayals and the persecutions and trials of World War I the faithful anointed continued to feed the household with proper spiritual food; and not once did they fail to publish the *Watch Tower* magazine.

¹¹ The church was certainly being tried, from without and from within. Then in 1918 the Lord Jesus Christ appeared at the temple for judgment. His angels gathered out of his Kingdom class those who were offending and working iniquity. "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that cause stumbling, and them that do iniquity, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He that hath ears, let him hear." (Matt. 13:41-43, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) The great invisible Judge quickly disposed of these wicked ones, and at the same time brought forth his faithful ones. "Then will the righteous shine out like the sun in their Father's Kingdom." (Verse 43, *Weymouth*) By getting the rebels and wicked ones out of the way he could use his own people and let them 'shine forth, for their light had come'. He approved these loyal servants, for regardless of all the problems, hindrances, trials and persecutions the anointed had gone right on with the work of feeding the sheep—and this always through the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society.

THE "FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANT"

¹² The master of the household said, 'Happy is that servant . . . He shall make him ruler over all his goods.' This servant's privileges and responsibilities are now greatly enlarged, for, whereas he had been caring for the household in general, now added duties were laid upon him. He was appointed to have the complete management of all the master's goods, the administration of all the property, possessions, lands and wealth. What could this now mean? What were the "goods", "possessions," "property" entrusted to this "faithful and wise servant"? Surely we immediately think of the greatest and

9. Why is 1918 an important date? Explain the work prior to 1918.
10. When was the Society organized, and what difficulties were experienced shortly after 1916?

11. What other great event happened in the year 1918, and with what results to the servants of God?
12. The faithful servant's being approved resulted in what?

most precious possession of the new world's King, and that is, the Kingdom. But how could the Kingdom be given into the servant's custody? Certainly it could not be that part of the Kingdom in heaven itself, for the anointed remnant is yet on earth. We find that this is exactly what it has to do with, the interests of the glorious Kingdom as they pertain now to this earth. That is, those Kingdom interests which are visible. Can it therefore really mean that the returned master who comes as earth's new ruler has made this "faithful and wise servant" ruler over *all* the present earthly interests of his kingdom? That is exactly what it states, and certainly no less. 'He shall make him ruler over all his possessions.' Not only do we believe this, but give thanks to God and Christ day and night for his loving-kindness to the children of men.

¹³ How are these interests cared for and administered? The answer, clearly, is by his anointed remnant through the organization he has so richly and unmistakably blessed during these 66 years, the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society. Some readers may question this fact, but you are invited to consider the evidences and see for yourself it is true. Even at this point, can you think of another organization being used by God's people wholly and solely in the doing of his work? Here is a company of anointed servants of the Lord God who have devoted their all to his holy service, and are now acting in complete faith, honoring his name, preaching the King and the Kingdom, feeding the flock, and using this same organization to accomplish these purposes. It may be comparatively easy to just say, 'It is not so'; but can you name one other organization on earth today so engaged? You will find it is not possible. However, you will note that these statements are not mere assertions, but are facts and true. The Lord's "faithful and wise servant" has proof to show that it is "the servant", and once this has been established then those realizing it are compelled to make decisions as to their service. Can you, will you, continue to engage in services not authorized by or in harmony with the "ruler over all his goods", or will you learn God's way? You cannot do both. The "faithful and wise servant" is loyal and true, is blind and deaf to everything and everyone that would seek to cause division or hurt among the household, and this "servant" met with the Master's favor. Then make your decision.

¹⁴ Jesus Christ is the head of this "faithful servant", and all must recognize it. These most vital Kingdom interests are not just passed over or simply given away to the servant class to do with just as they wish. No, it is not like that at all. The "goods"

still belong to Christ Jesus, the "ruler", and he puts them in the servant's care, in his custody. They are handed over as a trust. Furthermore, would it not be a strange thing if Christ had more than one "faithful and wise servant"? Suppose he had two, or more, and each contended he had the rulership over the possessions. There would be confusion; and God is not the author of confusion.

¹⁵ There is only one Most High Jehovah, one Lord Jesus Christ, one holy spirit, one anointed company, one company of the Lord's "other sheep". There are not two Christs, and neither are there two anointed companies. So today there is only one "faithful and wise servant" class. Consider Jehovah's past dealings. For example, Noah: He was the one chosen for that preflood work. To Abraham God gave the promise that his seed should possess the land and bless all families of the earth, not to two or three Abrahams. He used one man Moses to deliver, lead and give the law to Israel—not several men. The same can be said for Aaron the high priest, and for Jeremiah and his work. Of course, two can work in unison, like Elijah and Elisha, but certainly not with different commissions and against each other. By example and reason then we are forced to the conclusion that only one "faithful and wise servant" class has been entrusted with these all-important Kingdom possessions.

¹⁶ Following the assigning of these goods to this "faithful servant" class after 1918, some disputed and said to those officers of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, who were representing the anointed remnant, "You are taking too much on yourselves. Who appointed you to this position?" "Where do you get your authority to assume you can now direct all the Lord's work on earth?" Or, "We also are God's people and have some rights, and we believe God still reveals his purposes through individuals irrespective of the servant body." Such rebellious ones tried to organize all God's people to act against the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, and hence against the "servant" body. They urged the children of God to separate and find their own paths or at least join them and *they* would feed and show them truths. And just where are those rebellious ones today? They are not to be found. It is just as though the earth opened her mouth and swallowed them up, as it did with Korah and the 250 princes of the congregation who joined in his rebellion against Moses, the servant of God. (Num. 16:1-35) Furthermore, at that time to settle the question of the appointment of high priest, Jehovah commanded a rod to be brought before him for each tribe, twelve in all, and he would cause one of the rods to bud, showing his appointment, and so

13. (a) How are the "goods" administered, and through which organization? (b) What does this mean?

14. To whom do these interests really belong? Why so?

15. By what examples and reasons may we be sure there is only one "faithful and wise servant"?

16. How did some view the "servant" receiving rulership over all the master's "goods"? And what has happened?

put an end to the murmuring. It was Aaron's rod that produced blossoms and bore ripe almonds. (Num. 17:1-11) It is the same today. The anointed remnant of Christ's followers have not taken this responsibility upon themselves. Neither did they choose it. They were faithful to their duties and Christ rewarded them with added privileges and services. Anyone who questions who is the one appointed by the Master should look for the fruits. Whose "rod" has "budded"? Whose authority is bringing forth results? Surely the answer must be obvious; it is none other than this "faithful and wise servant". Some may not have realized this, but the testimony is there and is sure.

¹⁷ Continually and with promptness is the food from the storehouse supplied to the household. It is good, wholesome and nourishing, and the steady revealment of truths has made the household very happy and contented. It will keep on to the end, for the Great Provider, Jehovah, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Greater-than-Joseph, are the ones supplying the food. It is good to remember there is

17. Why should we eat only at the Lord's table?

only one table of the Lord. Ample supply of excellent food is prepared and served there, and, if you know such to be the case, then why go nibbling at the table of those who are opposed to this wise steward of the Master's provisions? You might get spiritual poison, for their food has not been Theocratically tested. Why be concerned with the meager dishes of those outside of God's faithful household when there is so much to digest in the Lord's house? Those who are without are not cooperating with the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society and therefore cannot help you, for they do not have the Lord's blessing, and you will be dishonoring God the Provider. There are those who try serving up meals for the Lord's people on their own tables independent of the Lord's, but it is of no use, for once they have left the Lord's household and set up housekeeping their food gets stale, and so do they; and, besides, consider the fateful results to those who treat the Lord's table with contempt. (Mal. 1, 2) The safest way for the members of God's household is to be content with the food of the Master's providing and as served out by his "faithful and wise servant". Masticate the food well, and you will rejoice and be strong.

SERVANT'S CARE OF THE MASTER'S GOODS

WHY are all the Master's "goods" placed in the care of the "faithful and wise servant"? It is because he would look after them well. Just as the servant in the parable would see that everything was in a good state of repair, lands cultivated, good storage, plenty of fruit, vegetables and grain, members well clothed, so it has been today with this approved servant class, with the Kingdom interests. The household of the Master is well fed and equipped. The "servant" sees that the commandments of God and Christ Jesus are carried out, some of which are: "And in that day shall ye say, Give thanks unto Jehovah, call upon his name, declare his doings among the peoples, make mention that his name is exalted." (Isa. 12:4, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) "Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak; behold, it is I. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! The voice of thy watchmen! they lift up the voice, together do they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when Jehovah returneth to Zion." (Isa. 52:6-8, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) "Ye are my witnesses, saith Jehovah, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand

that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am Jehovah; and besides me there is no saviour." (Isa. 43:10, 11, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." (Matt. 24:14, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit." (Matt. 28:19, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand."—Ezek. 3:17, 18, *Am. Stan. Ver.* See also Ezek. 9:1-11; Zeph. 2:1-3.

² The name of Jehovah is being made known in all the world. Everywhere the good tidings of the Kingdom are being preached. Multitudes are being taught the commandments. The warning to the wicked is being given and the end of this world proclaimed. The marking of those to be spared at Armageddon goes on. Hundreds of thousands are turning to righteousness and seeking meekness. The "other sheep" are being gathered into one fold. The King-

1, 2. How has the faithful servant looked after the "goods"?

dom Signal is raised on high, the road prepared for the returning exiles. The sheep are protected against aggressive and ruthless men, and those who would harm their eternal interests. The barren places in the world are blossoming, for where only a few years ago one or two persons were praising Jehovah now there are hundreds, yes, and thousands. The eyes of the blind are being opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped, the tongue of the dumb loosened, and the lame can leap. These miracles are now being wrought in the spiritual sense, but in the new world they will be realized in a very literal manner.

³ Other interests ("goods") of the Kingdom are also receiving the most careful, thoughtful and thorough attention, for the whole structure of the Lord's visible organization is watched and weak parts continually strengthened. The very charter of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society was brought up to date, and so the Society was made a more direct, living part and a powerful, usable instrument. Then there are the interests of organizing and directing all the branches, missionary homes, Watchtower School of Gilead, radio station, Kingdom farms, circuits and districts, all the assemblies, companies, pioneers, public witness service, Bible studies, Theocratic ministry school. There are many more new world interests which are "goods" or "possessions" placed in the care of the "servant".

⁴ Yes, these "goods" have been placed under the jurisdiction of the anointed remnant with its legal governing body operating through the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society. No one else in the whole world has been given or made responsible for these possessions, nor given the authority to direct and handle such interests. To some readers this may seem a hard statement; but it is the truth, and is made for the protection of the Lord's "other sheep", that they may recognize this "faithful and wise servant" and know the "master" has confidence in his discharging faithfully what has been entrusted. Therefore, see now the progressive works of the returned Master in using his faithful people. If we see these things it becomes our bounden duty to cooperate with this servant to receive favor.

THE MASTER'S CONFIDENCE

⁵ Beyond all human comprehension is the marvelous arrangement made by the Lord Jesus Christ to entrust to his servant all the tremendous responsibilities on earth pertaining to the new world. The happiness of those who have the Master's confidence goes far beyond human pleasures. It is that inward consciousness of realizing the Lord's approval on the loyal and faithful ministry performed thus far.

3. What are some other interests cared for?

4. Who only has been made responsible for the "goods"?

5. The Lord's confidence means what to the servant?

It is refreshing and certainly beneficial for all to learn why the Lord has confidence in his people at this end of the world. Then, when understood, it sets the example for all to follow if they too would have his confidence.

⁶ The Lord knows they have held out his Word of life, have preached 'in season and out of season', guided his people in the right paths, never allowing his Word to be pushed into the background behind human philosophy, traditions of men, worship of creatures and the propaganda of this world. The servant has kept aloft the purposes and kingdom of God, yes, higher than all the schemes of men, above the insults, slanders and revilings of this evil generation. God will preserve his Word, and no one can destroy it; but how he rejoices and finds pleasure in those he can trust, the ones who have his spirit, who are as 'men after God's own heart'! (1 Sam. 13:14) The Lord knows from past service that his "faithful and wise servant" will be a loyal custodian of the Word, guarding it well, treating it as the most precious trust, magnifying it, suffering for it and even dying for it. He knows his own and has his confidence well placed.

⁷ The servant has not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), regardless of whether announcing the peaceful, millennial reign or the destructive, terrible disaster of Armageddon, the exaltation of God's name, or the denunciation of the Devil's world. (Rev. 20:6; 16:12-16; Isaiah 12; Rev. 18:4,5) They have continually fought forward against all odds, through evil or good report. Through two world wars they have ministered, yet never stopping or pausing by the way. Onward, ever onward, completing their task and always caring for the Kingdom interests. Warning proclamations against the nations and the entire world have been delivered, and they have not hesitated to go before the highest courts of the land for the gospel's sake, or before rulers and many of the officials to testify to the Kingdom. All the way this "faithful servant" class has been deeply concerned with the new world interests. To everything else they have been blind. Yes, blind to everything but the doing of Jehovah's will and obeying the King! Their desire has been to serve and please the new world's King, and not men. This one thing they have done. This servant class has been absolutely dependable and thoroughly reliable. No opportunities have been allowed to slip by that could be used to further the Kingdom interests. Complete performance has been rendered. Not only have they cared for these "goods", but have sought always to advance them. The new world's King has confidence in his servant that he will hold these

6. What brings about this confidence in his servant?

7. (a) Has the "faithful and wise servant" shrunk from service? (b) How is the servant "blind"?

"goods" faithfully now and will continue to do so in the years ahead. There is much to be accomplished, and by Jehovah's goodness the great work will be done.

⁸ It is true and a fact that the Lord has shown his trust in this "faithful and wise servant", but how about all the individuals making up the anointed remnant and now the thousands of "other sheep" of good-will? Does this "ruler" express his pleasure and confidence in these individuals, or does he reckon and deal only with groups? Unquestionably he judges and approves or disapproves individuals. Of course, such persons do not operate independently of the "faithful servant". Some of these individual responsibilities are shown by the "parable of the talents".

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

⁹ This parable is recorded at Matthew 25:14-30, and pertains to Kingdom interests, privileges and opportunities. When giving this and the other preceding parables the Lord said, 'The kingdom of heaven is like unto.' This does not mean that first when the church enters into heaven such a parable will be fulfilled, neither is he saying what heaven is like by those parables. No, he is not teaching that. Note Matthew 25:1, "*Then* shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto . . ." This indicates a time feature, and is at the time when the Lord returns, but before he destroys this evil world and commences the 1,000-year reign among men. It is in the "time of the end" (*syntéleia*). So with the parable of the talents; the master is going on a long journey and calls his servants together and delivers to them his goods. One gets five talents, another two, and the third gets one, "each according to his several ability," which ability really is depth of devotion.

¹⁰ The Lord returns and has a reckoning, and learns that the servant with "five talents" has increased to ten, he with two increased to four, and the third hid his one talent and therefore it was just as it was. The first and second servants are congratulated and rewarded. "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." This clearly teaches that to be trustworthy, faithful and excellent servants we must not only hold and preserve what we have entrusted to us, but increase by doubling. Devotion and performance are required of all those who would hear the "Well done!" (Matt. 25:23) The Lord said, "You have been trustworthy in the management of a little, I will put you in charge of much." (Weymouth) This is a rule of action upon which the Lord acts; that is, faithfulness in the smallest matters indicates, yes, deter-

mines whether one would be faithful in large matters. On another occasion Jesus said, "He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much: and he that is unrighteous in a very little is unrighteous also in much." (Luke 16:10, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) "He who is trustworthy in the smallest matter is trustworthy in a great one also."—*Twentieth Century*.

¹¹ There are those who enthusiastically tackle the seemingly big tasks, especially if it brings them into the limelight, but how about smaller, insignificant tasks, perhaps menial ones, not seen by others? These may seem to be so unimportant that they could easily be left for someone else to do. A servant shows his degree of faithfulness and trustworthiness by the care and diligence he devotes to these small things. The servant must prove his own dependability. Think of the servants of God who gained his complete approval. Moses, for example, the visible leader of approximately two million persons, with all his tremendous responsibilities; yet note the thoroughness with which he attended to every minute detail when building the tabernacle and its furnishings. The record is, "And Moses indeed was faithful in all his [God's] house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were afterward to be spoken." (Heb. 3:5, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) Jehovah could safely trust Moses to do whatever He commanded. Moses proved himself to be reliable, thoroughly dependable, and it is true today that if we want the Master's confidence and approval, also increased privileges, then individually we must be dependable and trustworthy.

¹² The Creator himself supplies the pattern for all his creatures to follow. Note how carefully and with what thoroughness he has provided for all. The animals, birds, fish, trees, mankind—nothing is missed. The desire of every living thing is satisfied. (Psalm 104) Observe too all the careful preparation for the new world's rule. The Lord Jesus is a perfect example of one caring for the smallest details. Let us remember that any service we are called upon to do by the Lord's "faithful and wise servant" is important, whether it be large or small, seen or unseen. Do it as unto the Lord. All such work is important and honorable if we count it so. The psalmist said on one occasion, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." (Ps. 84:10, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) Therefore let us not shirk any assigned tasks. Accept the responsibility and do not seek the easy way out of it as do those of this world. Rather, let us enter into it with all our hearts and be faithful.

¹³ To be faithful in our service we must use our

11. (a) What Theocratic rule is here taught? (b) Moses is an example of what? and how can this be applied now?

12. What does Jehovah's thoroughness teach us?

13, 14. What are some of the Kingdom talents entrusted to the individual? and what must be done with them?

8. Does the "ruler" show his confidence in individuals?

9, 10. What does the parable of the talents show, and when is it due for fulfillment?

"talents", or Kingdom interests, so they will increase. Try to double them. How can this be accomplished? From what has already been stated, it will be appreciated what are the Kingdom interests committed into the custody of the "faithful and wise servant", and therefore it will be easy to see how individuals may handle the same interests. All servants of God are entrusted with some Kingdom service, large or small. Why, the very knowledge of the truth itself is a trust, for it has been given to us by the Lord, and it can also be taken away from us by the Lord. We do not keep ourselves in the truth by human methods, such as the mere human will-power. No, for it is the loving-kindness of God that grants this treasured knowledge. God pushes the proud away, and the meek he shows his covenant. This being so, then what are we doing with this interest? Are we increasing in knowledge and understanding? It grows with use, it does not increase by hiding it. Then we have interests in magazine advertising, back-calls on interested persons, Bible studies and other field service. Then the congregational services must be attended to. Every servant, every pioneer, and all the brethren serving in the Society's institutions have "talents" or "interests".

¹⁴ Regardless of where we are, if our service has been assigned to us by and through the "faithful and wise servant" then it must be a Kingdom service, because that servant is "ruler over all the goods". Then, are we developing the service given into our custody? Are we merely going through the routine, as it were, with no enthusiasm, zeal, eagerness and joy behind it? Are we performing our service with promptitude? Do not aspire to be in the limelight, but let the Lord and his "faithful servant" assign you the tasks. Remember that promotion comes from the Lord. (Ps. 75:5-7) Be grateful and appreciative for even the smallest service you can perform. Another Theocratic rule that must be borne in mind is, "To whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required." (Luke 12:48, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he hath." (Matt. 13:12, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) There must be an increase of what has been entrusted.

INCREASE

¹⁵ How does a man increase his worldly business? He will first become well acquainted with the product he is selling. It may be he is convinced it will do a certain amount of good, and he becomes optimistic and enthusiastic. Then he commences advertising and provides for demonstrations, learns how to meet

15. (a) How should each servant handle his talents? (b) What would a person do to increase his worldly business, and what to increase the King's business?

and to treat opposition and competition. He gets good, reliable assistants, and spends his money where it will bring the best results. He must work hard, be untiring in efforts, boundless in patience, if he wants the desired results. If all these things are accomplished for secular business, for goods which are transitory and perishable, then how much more should we do for Kingdom "business", which is eternal. In this new world you have a personal interest; for do you not expect to live in it and enjoy its blessings? If so, then be one of those servants expending yourself on its behalf. Add something to your service. Do not be trying to show the 'ruler of all the interests' how to do his business, but get busy with those committed to your care. If only all the Lord's servants would put the same thought, planning, enthusiasm, hard work, alacrity, in the new world's service as they do in their own worldly affairs, then they would reap 100-percent increase. Then greater and wider opportunities of service would come to mind, opening out wider fields. Neglect toward these interests brings disaster. "The slave who knows his master's wishes, but does not get ready or act upon them, will be severely punished." —Luke 12:47, *An Amer. Trans.*

¹⁶ To be approved by the new world's Rulers we must increase the interests we have, large or small. Therefore concentrate on the Lord's work and do not permit your personal business matters and other affairs to hinder your handling the Lord's interests so they will increase. Accept your responsibilities and do not wait for someone to urge you on, but go forward yourself. You are one of the Lord's servants. Make the King's business the most important, and force your own into second or even third place. Never be indifferent, careless, unreliable, escaping responsibilities. Rather, copy the "faithful and wise servant", who now has charge of all the Lord's visible Kingdom services.

COMMENDATION AND JOY

¹⁷ Esteem above all else the obtaining of the highest praise and commendation from the King of all kings, the Ruler chosen by Almighty Jehovah. "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matt. 25:21, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) Faithful service brings the reward, for more responsibilities are placed on the shoulders of such servant, and this happens before the old world is destroyed. These approved ones are also entering into the joy of their Lord. The great joy of the new world's ruler is to do the heavenly Father's work, to see that his name, Jehovah, is

16. How can we make sure we increase our Kingdom interests?
17. How are the commendation and "joy of the Lord" given to his servant in these days?

praised forever and ever, and to have part now in vindicating it before all the world. That joy knows no limits. Then there is the destruction of this evil world, removing evildoers for all time. Oh, that the day might even be hastened! It cannot come quickly enough. Then the Devil, his demons, his rulers of darkness, will be gone. Does not even this prospect bring abounding joy to your heart? And there is still more to follow.

¹⁸ Can you not begin to enter into the "joy of thy Lord"? Yes, it is possible, and *that* to the extent of your faithful service. This joy is not given to the slackers, murmurers and idlers, but only to those who are ever alert, awake and seeking to increase at all times. The greater the service and approval, the more we enter into the joy. All the joys of Kingdom service, belonging to the King, we may enter into, and the immediate future holds many more. This is our day of prosperity. Let us rejoice and be glad that now we are in it. (Ps. 118: 23-29) Be joyful in the King of the new world. There has never been a time like this in the history of man, and there will never be such a time again. Share the King's service now, and share the King's joy. Now is the time to work hard and work with a will. The work is joyful and will continue so, bringing its increase in talents (Kingdom interests). The promise has been made, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; in thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."—Ps. 16: 11, *Am. Stan. Ver.*

18. How can we begin to enter into the joy of our Lord?

¹⁹ Then everlasting blessings in the glorious new world. "And the ransomed of Jehovah shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." "For the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life: and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Isa. 35: 10 and Rev. 7: 17, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) No time now to slack the hand, but be busy in the Kingdom service, improving, increasing, always expanding your talents (Kingdom interests). The time is short. All loyal, faithful servants of God, enter fully into your present service. Greater responsibilities, which may require all the strength we have, lie ahead, but the rewards are also great. Therefore let all be sober, be vigilant, be energetic. Foes will come up against us, but Jehovah will push them back, so that we can get ahead with his precious work. Watch the "faithful and wise servant" and receive with meekness and gratitude the counsel and instructions issued. Keep away from the tables of those opposed. Watch well your present interests in the Kingdom. Do not spare yourself, but increase more and more, and you will be conscious of the Lord's approval and those sweet, delightful, satisfying words of approval by the Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Our eternal existence depends upon faithful performance of duty.

19. What future rewards are in store for those who increase their talents?

GOD'S GOVERNMENT

THE government of Jehovah God is of paramount importance to all who are seeking the way to life. By and through his government or kingdom Jehovah will vindicate his name and establish lasting peace in the universe, and never again shall affliction rise up. (Nah. 1: 9) In all periods of time honest men have desired such a government and have had some vague knowledge of its coming. Now God's kingdom or government is here, and every person of good-will toward God will be anxious to learn about that government. The government of Jehovah God is a Theocracy because under the immediate direction and administration of Almighty God. It is a righteous government because all of Jehovah's ways are right and righteous. Jehovah is supreme; and all who have a part in his government must be in full accord with him and joyfully obey his commandments.

Following the rebellion in Eden the first ray of hope set before man was God's promise to establish a righteous government on earth. Abel had faith and hope in that coming government. Likewise Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and a few others desired that government and by faith looked forward to it. (Heb. 11: 1-16) With the descendants of Abraham God set up a typical Theocracy. He used the

Israelites to make prophetic pictures of his coming real Theocratic government. Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Samuel were representatives on the earth of God's Theocratic government. When the Jews requested a man for king they displeased God, and concerning this it is written: "And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee." —1 Sam. 8: 7, 8.

Demon religion, brought in by the Devil, was the reason for the Jews' rejecting God as King. They wanted to be like other people. Because of Saul's unfaithfulness he was rejected by the Lord. God then made David king over Israel; and David was a type foreshadowing Christ Jesus, the Beloved of Jehovah, and who is the world's real and true King under Jehovah, the "king of eternity".—Jer. 10: 10, margin.

The last typical king of Israel was Zedekiah, the unfaithful and wicked one. He was overthrown, and God declared

that the kingdom should be "no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him". (Ezek. 21:27) Thereafter the Devil continued as the invisible lord of the Gentile nations and carried on his wickedness without interruption, God suffering him to do so in order that the Devil might have full opportunity to carry out his boasted challenge. God's expressed purpose is to have a righteous world, and concerning this he said: "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy."—Isa. 65:17, 18.

"Jerusalem" as used in this text refers to his great government of righteousness under Christ the King, and the prophecy here recorded is about completely fulfilled. All of God's holy prophets prophesied concerning the restoration of all things pertaining to the Kingdom, and which prophecies must come true. (Acts 3:20, 21) God's prophet wrote foretelling the birth of the King and of his righteous and glorious reign. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." (Isa. 9:6, 7) That prophecy must be completely fulfilled.

Approximately four thousand years after the rebellion in Eden Jesus was born at Bethlehem. There the prophecy of Isaiah above quoted was beginning to have fulfillment. It was then and there that the messengers of Jehovah declared: "Glory in the highest unto God! and on earth peace, among men of good-will." (Luke 2:14, *Rotherham*) Clearly now it is seen that the birth of the child Jesus shall in due time be 'glory to Almighty God' for all creatures that live, and that through him and his government peace shall come to stay and shall be a blessing to all men of good-will, and to none other. The above-quoted text from *Rotherham* emphasizes the fact that peace on earth is to men of good-will only. Why should the kingdom of Jehovah God under Christ ever be a blessing and a joy to anyone who is not of good-will toward God? All the enemies of God shall perish forever, and hence to them the Kingdom will be nothing. (Pss. 21:8; 37:20) After the coming battle of Armageddon never again shall Satan and his wicked rule be in vogue. Never again will his religious agents and their organization be in existence. Then the memory of those wicked ones shall perish forever; as it is written: "The memory of the just is blessed; but the name of the wicked shall rot." (Prov. 10:7; Isa. 26:14) Today the people on earth that are of good-will toward God and his kingdom have reason to rejoice, and should rejoice, because the time of complete deliverance and peace everlasting is near. For that reason God is now making clear his purpose to those who desire his righteous government.

At the time of the baptism of Jesus he was anointed to be King. (Matt. 3:16; John 18:37) His first public proclamation when he thereafter returned to Galilee was: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." He instructed all persons

of good-will to continue to pray to God: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10) Because he was and is the King under the immediate command of the almighty Theocrat, Jehovah, that beloved One, Jesus, was impaled on a stake by Satan's religious agents. It was their hope to destroy him, but God defeated his enemies by raising Jesus out of death and exalting him to the highest place in the universe next to God himself. Christ Jesus is the "heir of all things", and he is the "express image" of his Father, Jehovah; and concerning the beloved Son God commands 'all the angels to worship him'. (Heb. 1:6) Furthermore Jehovah commands that 'every knee to him shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God'.—Phil. 2:10, 11.

PERIOD OF WAITING

Although fully clothed with power and authority as King when he ascended into heaven, Jesus the King must wait to begin his reign until Jehovah selected the 144,000 body members of his royal organization from among men, and when that is finished the enemy shall be put down. So Satan continued his wicked course without interruption. Hence it is written: "The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." (Ps. 110:1) "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool." (Heb. 10:12, 13) Those who shall be associated with Christ Jesus in his kingdom must first be selected, and they must prove their integrity under the test. Such faithful ones are taken into the covenant for the Kingdom. (Luke 22:28-30) After the return of Christ Jesus in his Kingdom power the faithful are 'made kings and priests unto God' to reign with Christ Jesus. (Rev. 1:6; 5:10) As the typical kingdom of Israel was made up of twelve tribes, so in the antitype the associates with Christ Jesus are of twelve clans or tribes, all of one family and all together constituting the 144,000. (Rev. 7:4) That favored body of creatures composing "the body of Christ", the anointed ones, must, every one of them, be put to the test, prove faithful and true, be baptized into the death of Christ, and experience the resurrection change from human to spirit, and be forever with Christ Jesus in his kingdom.—Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 15:51-55; Rev. 20:4.

The period of Christ's waiting, according to God's good pleasure, has been approximately 1900 years, during which time the members of the body of Christ have been selected, and the death and resurrection change of the remnant yet on earth of the 144,000 soon shall take place. Those of these elect ones who died in Christ have already been resurrected. (1 Thess. 4:15-17; 2 Tim. 4:1) The period of waiting ended A.D. 1914, and the King assumed his high office under the command of Jehovah, the great Theocrat. "The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion [saying]: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." (Ps. 110:2, 3) "We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time

of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth."—Rev. 11: 17, 18.

The first work of the enthroned King is to oust the rebel Satan, and therefore the "war in heaven" began in 1914. (Rev. 12: 1-17) The battle of Armageddon yet to come will dispose definitely of all those who oppose Christ the King, and that will be the end of Satan's reign.

The kingdom of heaven is God's capital organization called Zion. It consists of Christ Jesus, the Head, together with 144,000 associates, who are designated as kings and priests unto God and Christ. All of such are spirits in the likeness of Christ Jesus. The number will be no more and no less than 144,000 members. The Kingdom is the creation of Jehovah God, and he is over all and above all. He is the great and almighty Theocrat. The King, Christ Jesus, will fully and completely carry out Jehovah's purpose. The kingdom or government of peace is The Theocracy.

But what about the men of faith that lived before Jesus, who devoted themselves to God, refused to compromise with Satan or worldly governments, and looked to the promised rule of Almighty Jehovah? None of them can ever be members of the heavenly kingdom or government of Jehovah, for the manifest reason that they all died before the ransom sacrifice was provided by Jesus and paid over.

Those men are held forth in the Scriptures as examples of faith and true devotion. (Heb. 12: 1) Being faithful, they received at God's hand a "good report". They were witnesses to the name and majesty of Almighty God, and he approved them, and concerning them the inspired apostle, who is a member of the Kingdom, wrote: "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us [Christians], that they without us should not be made perfect." (Heb. 11: 13, 39, 40) The apostle Paul spoke also of himself when he said "us", and he knew that he could not be made perfect until the coming of Christ Jesus, the King of glory (2 Tim. 4: 8);

and therefore the faithful men of old could not be made perfect until the setting up of the Kingdom. It is certain, then, from the Scriptures that these men will be brought back from death as participants in a "better resurrection" following the Kingdom's establishment. (Heb. 11: 35) What, then, shall be their place in Jehovah's arrangement and under his Theocratic government?

The kingdom or government of Jehovah is spiritual; therefore invisible to human eyes. God had his representatives on earth during the tenure of his typical kingdom of Israel and so he will have his representatives on earth during the reign of Christ the King of glory. And those visible representatives, acting with authority, will be made up of the faithful men of old mentioned at Hebrews chapter eleven, as well as others not there mentioned by name; and concerning them it is written: "Instead of thy [Christ's] fathers shall be thy children whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth."—Ps. 45: 16.

The King, Christ Jesus, is the Ruler, and the earthly representatives of that great Ruler are called the "princes", who shall represent the Kingdom on the earth. As Samuel the prophet, under the typical kingdom, went about among the people delivering to them the commands of Jehovah, so under the reign of Christ the faithful men of old, the princes in the earth, shall go among the people directing them according to the commands of the Lord. That is the Theocratic government in operation toward the paradise earth to come.

The abundance of Scriptural evidence, together with the physical facts that have come to pass showing the fulfillment of prophecy, conclusively proves that the time for Armageddon, the battle of the great day of God Almighty, is very near and that in that battle all of God's enemies will be destroyed and the earth cleared of wickedness, preparatory to the complete establishment of righteousness. The affairs of earth then will be under the complete control of Christ Jesus; and the faithful men of old above mentioned will act as representatives of the heavenly Theocratic government. They will inhabit the glorified earth with men of good-will preserved through the battle of Armageddon. Such "great multitude" of Armageddon survivors will marry and multiply and fill the earth with offspring devoted to God; and thus an inhabited earth will rejoice under the righteous administration of God's heavenly government.

NEHEMIAH MAKES MOST OF OPPORTUNITIES

MAKE the most of your opportunity, for these are evil times," the apostle Paul counseled the Ephesians, as recorded at 5: 16, *An Amer. Trans.* The servants of Jehovah today have particular reason for taking this Theocratic admonition to heart, for never before have they had so many opportunities for service as now and never have the times been so evil. All such will therefore note with interest and profit the example of one who zealously made the most of his opportunities, and that in evil times, namely, Nehemiah.

The record of Nehemiah is in the form of an autobiography. Its simplicity and straightforwardness stamp it as truth. Without doubt God's active force directed him to

write such things as God wanted recorded for the benefit of his servants now. And though it does not appear that Jehovah displayed any supernatural phenomenon in Nehemiah's time, as he did in the days of Moses, Joshua and others, neither can there be any doubt that he was active on behalf of Nehemiah, guiding and blessing his efforts, even as Jehovah is guiding and blessing the efforts of his servants today.

Little is known of Nehemiah's genealogy, aside from the fact that his father's name was Hacaliah. However, it is quite apparent that his parents were God-fearing Jews, for the name they gave their son means "Jah is comfort"; and from Nehemiah's own course it is clear that he had been

brought up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord".—Eph. 6:4.

Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king Artaxerxes III, ruler of the Persian world empire in the middle of the fifth century B.C. While Nehemiah could hardly have wished for a more honorable and lucrative position, he was one of those faithful exiles who preferred Jerusalem 'above his chief joy'. (Ps. 137:5, 6) Receiving word that some Jews had returned from Jerusalem, including his kinsman Hanani, he eagerly made inquiry, and to his sorrow learned that the survivors there were in great misery and reproach and that the walls and gates of Jerusalem were still in ruins. Hearing this bad news, Nehemiah wept, fasted, and prayed to Jehovah. In his prayer he recounted what Jehovah had promised to do for his people if, after having been scattered because of disobedience, they repented and obeyed his commandments. He claimed this promise and asked Jehovah to bless his efforts to bring this matter to the attention of the king. How Nehemiah longed to go to Jerusalem and rebuild those walls!

Unexpectedly, the opportunity came one day as the king noticed that Nehemiah was sad, and he inquired why. He told the king of the sorry state of affairs in Jerusalem, the city of his fathers. The king gave him a sympathetic ear, and asked what he could do for him. Nehemiah, first inwardly praying to God, requested: "If it please the king, . . . send me to Judah . . . that I may rebuild it . . . and [give me] a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's park, that he may give me timber to furnish beams for the gates of the citadel, which belongs to the temple, and for the walls of the city, and for the house that I shall enter." (Neh. 2:1-8, *An Amer. Trans.*) Alert Nehemiah certainly made the most of this opportunity; also note that his first concern was the temple, then the walls of the city, and then his own dwelling. God answered his silent prayer, causing the king not only to grant his requests but also to provide him with an escort of army officers and horsemen.

In this Nehemiah, though doubtless without realizing it, was being used by Jehovah to bring about a fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel (9:25) regarding the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, and which was to mark the beginning of the seventy weeks relative to the Messiah's coming. Thus that year, 455 B.C., became an outstanding one in Bible chronology.

Three days after his arrival in Jerusalem, Nehemiah made a night inspection tour of the city's walls, carefully examining in detail their condition. He did this secretly, for he had not yet told any man what God had put in his heart to do for Jerusalem. Gossip might misrepresent the matter. Then, evidently to a gathering of the rulers and the people, he first revealed his purpose to rebuild the walls, told of God's blessing upon it, and of the king's cooperation with it. Their enthusiastic response was: "Let us arise and build." And "they took courage for the good work". When envious neighbors questioned his motive Nehemiah replied, "The God of the heavens, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build."—Neh. 2:11-20, *An Amer. Trans.*

Such an extensive construction project required efficient organization, and Nehemiah made the most of this opportunity also. In the third chapter of his book he records the

details of all the assignments made; each group going forward with the work given to them, with the exception of the nobles of the Tekoites, who refused to bend their necks in the service of the Lord.

Noting all this activity the envious neighbors, Sanballat the Samaritan, and Tobiah the Ammonite, began to ridicule: "Will they revive the stones out of the rubbish heaps? . . . if a fox should go up he would break down their stone wall." Looking to God, Nehemiah prayed: "Hear, O our God—for we are despised—and turn back their reproach upon their own head." So the building work continued and soon the walls were joined together to half of their height, "for the people had a mind to work."—Neh. 4:1-6, *An Amer. Trans.*

Seeing that ridicule did not discourage the builders, their enemies, Sanballat, Tobiah, and others, conspired to make war on Jerusalem. Ten times Nehemiah received reports to that effect from the Jews living in the outskirts of the city. But instead of quitting because of fear, Nehemiah states: "We made supplication to our God, and set a watch as a protection against them day and night." Arming all the workmen, organizing a corp of guards and an alarm system, he encourages them: "Remember the LORD, who is great and terrible, and fight for your kinsmen," further assuring them that "our God will fight for us". So they continued to build in troublous times, even as was foretold, each man with a tool in one hand, and with the other he held a weapon.—Neh. 4:9-23, *An Amer. Trans.*

Though occupied with directing such a great building project, and commanding an army as well, Nehemiah was not too busy to show his love for his humbler Jewish brethren. Hearing their complaints that they were being oppressed by the rich Jews in the matter of usury, he took action. Calling a great assembly he exposed this evil and admonished, "Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God?" Then he made them go on record that they would no longer exact interest from their poor brethren. In striking contrast with the course of these rich nobles and rulers was that of Nehemiah. "Because of the fear of God" he bore all the expenses of maintaining the governor's mansion, which among other things involved the feeding of more than 150 men daily.—Nehemiah chapter 5, *An Amer. Trans.*

Obviously the Lord was blessing Nehemiah, and his enemies, noting that neither sly innuendo nor ridicule nor even threat of war had any effect on him, schemed to lure him away from his work and assassinate him. But alert Nehemiah answered them: "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down." After four such vain attempts his foes sent a letter telling that rumors were abroad that he was plotting sedition against the king, and suggesting that he meet with them to take counsel. Immediately seeing through their schemes, he plainly told them that this was just one of their inventions. Trying still another trick, his enemies hired a Jew to warn Nehemiah that a plot was afoot to kill him and that therefore he should hide in the temple. But Nehemiah would not hear of such a thing. "Should a man like me flee?"—Neh. 6:1-11, *An Amer. Trans.*

Nehemiah, by being alert and fearless, made the most of his opportunities, permitting absolutely nothing to interfere with the great building work. As a result, in the incredibly short time of less than two months, fifty-two days, to be exact, the entire wall around Jerusalem was completed.

And all to Jehovah's glory: "When all our enemies heard of it, all the nations round about us feared and fell decidedly in their own esteem; for they perceived that this work had been done with the help of our God."—Neh. 6:15, 16, *An Amer. Trans.*

The wall being completed, Nehemiah then gave his attention to the work of organizing the temple servants. Next he placed two men in charge of the city, one of whom he describes as "a faithful man" and one who "feared God more than many". He also gave instructions regarding the opening and the closing of the city's gates and the guarding of them.—Neh. 7:1-3, *An Amer. Trans.*

Now was a suitable time for assemblies, and so Nehemiah arranged for a series of these to be held in a comparatively short period of time. Each of these furnished an opportunity to advance the worship of Jehovah; and Nehemiah made good use of them. At the first one he checked the genealogies and arranged for contributions for the temple service. Nehemiah set a good example, and the heads of the families and the rest of the Jews responded to the extent of more than one-third of a million dollars. (Neh. 7:5-72) Another assembly featured instruction from the law of God. The people were told to rejoice for "the joy of Jehovah is your strength" (*Am. Stan. Ver.*). This assembly led to the celebration of the feast of tabernacles, which lasted for eight days.—Nehemiah 8.

Two days later Nehemiah called the people together for another assembly, to which they came clothed in sackcloth, and fasting. In a prayer to Jehovah the people heard the record of his loving-kindness and mercy from Abraham's time to their own day, and a covenant was proposed to which they all subscribed. They bound themselves to faithfully keep the law of God, not to intermarry with the heathen, to observe the sabbath day and year, and to bring their offerings to the temple. (Nehemiah 9 and 10) After this lots were cast and one out of ten dwelt in Jerusalem.

The dedication of the walls called for another assembly. For this Nehemiah summoned all the Levite musicians, both singers and instrumentalists with their harps, cymbals and lyres. Two groups were appointed to give thanks to Jehovah, each under the direction of a leader. "They offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced; for God had made them rejoice with great joy; . . . so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away."—Neh. 12:27-43, *An Amer. Trans.*

After twelve years of governorship Nehemiah returned to Shushan the palace, but not to stay there. "After some days" he again asked leave of the king and came back to Jerusalem. And what a condition he found! Israel had backslid; the temple was being polluted, its service neglected, the sabbath was being profaned and there was intermarrying with the heathen. He cast all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the great temple chamber that that enemy of the Jews had appropriated for himself with the connivance of a priestly relative; had the temple chambers cleansed and the vessels and offerings returned to them. Noting that the Levites had gone back to their farms because of lack of support, he brought this to the attention of the rulers, recalled the Levites and provided for the faithful distribution of the tithes. He also enforced the keeping of the sabbath and took punitive measures against those who intermarried with the heathen, especially the priests and Levites, not minding matters one bit.—Neh. 13:4-30.

Nehemiah was indeed an alert, discreet, fearless and unselfish servant of Jehovah God. With zeal he 'made the most of his opportunities' to build and to fight, and to organize the true worship and to keep it pure. At all times he looked to God to direct his ways and ascribed all honor to him. Soon God will answer his prayer, "Remember me, O my God, for good," by giving him a resurrection to life on earth, with princely service in the new world. (Neh. 13:31) Are you, as Nehemiah did, making the most of your opportunities?

LETTERS

"LIKE LIGHTNING"

September 16, 1949

Dear Brother:

Answering yours of September 6 concerning the article "Like Lightning and Noah's Days" appearing in the July 15 issue of *The Watchtower*:

The book "*The Time Is at Hand*", published in 1889, explained the Greek word "astrapé" in Matthew 24:27 to mean the sun as the 'bright shiner', because there Jesus mentioned the "astrapé" as coming out of the east and shining even to the west. (See said book at pages 155-157.) However, never in sacred Scripture nor in classical Greek literature is "astrapé" used to refer to the sun of our solar system. At Luke 17:24 Jesus makes a parallel statement, but does not designate any particular direction from which the lightning flashes, saying: "As the lightning [astrapé], that lightens [verb astrápto] out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day." Notice that expression "under heaven", which befits lightning which occurs under the sun in the heavens obscured by the clouds. In this verse

Jesus uses the verb-form from which "astrapé" is drawn. In classical Greek this verb is used to mean "lighten, hurl lightnings, flash or glance like lightning, consume with lightning". Hence at Luke 24:4 this verb is used in describing the flashing garments of the two angels that appeared at Jesus' tomb after his resurrection. Matthew 28:3 says the countenance of the angel that descended and rolled the stone away was "like lightning", and not shining like the sun as is said of another angel at Revelation 10:1. Luke 11:36 speaks of the flashing light of a lamp of those days as "astrapé"; in other literature it is used of the flashing of the human eyes, and is also combined with a verb to mean "hurl lightnings" or "carry lightnings".

Jesus said he saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (Luke 10:18) And at Revelation 4:5; 8:5; 11:19, and 16:18 "astrapé" is always spoken of in the plural number and is associated with thunders: For example, Revelation 4:5 says: "Out of the throne proceeded lightnings [astrapé] and thunderings and voices."

It would therefore be wresting the sense and associations of the word "astrapé" to interpret it to mean the sun at

Matthew 24: 27. The mere mention of the east in this verse does not determine matters.

Yours in the light of his lightnings,
WATCH TOWER BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY

"ATTAINING TO THAT WORLD"

February 3, 1950

Dear Brother:

Answering yours of December 18 [re letter "Neither Can They Die Any More", page 320 of *The Watchtower* October 15, 1949]:

(1) Yes, "that world" and the "world without end" are identical.

(2) No; "that world" or "world without end" does not begin after the 1000-year restoration of Paradise and uplifting of humankind to perfection, but begins after Armageddon is over.

(3) Hence "that world" or "world without end" does include the 1000-year reign of Christ for mankind's perfecting. However, for a person to survive Armageddon into that world or for a person to come up in the resurrection to life on the earth during the 1000 years does not mean he has "attained" to that world. If he does not take a course of action that God rewards with the right to everlasting life at the end of the thousand years and the test by the loosing of Satan for a little season, he does not "attain" to that world, because that world is a "world without end" and for him to attain it he would have to live on without end himself. If he does "attain" it by God's justifying of him for his faithfulness and integrity after the test by Satan's loosing, then by virtue of God's justification of him to endless life he 'cannot die anymore'.—Luke 20: 34-36.

Yours in devoted service of the Kingdom,
WATCH TOWER BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY

FIELD EXPERIENCES

PUBLISHER BORN IN A HOSPITAL

The Lord is now gathering the "sheep", even in hospitals and despite opposition. About eight months ago I was confined in a hospital superintended by a former religious medical missionary who forbade Jehovah's witnesses to enter and preach. Nevertheless, Jehovah's arm was not shortened. One day a fellow patient asked what I thought about eternal life, and told me some new things he'd recently learned from another patient, one of Jehovah's witnesses, and recommended that I talk to him. He was a pioneer, and gave me *The Kingdom Hope of All Mankind*. When he later asked for a comment I said, "I can't see that it is anything new." He merely replied, "No, the Bible is an old book." But he thereafter gave me "*Let God Be True*". I read it through twice before I began to understand how very new it was, in comparison with all the religious misinformation I'd collected. My first thought was that it was wrong; but my resistance could not withstand the Scriptural facts. I studied in my free time, of which I had much. Later a girl from the Lima company started a Bible study with me.

I cannot say when my own ministry began, for I'd discussed the truth with another patient almost immediately, and later began a study with that patient. Sometimes others were drawn into the discussion, and witnessing opportunities grew. I was privileged to report my ministry time, and did so until my hospital discharge in November. My first real contact was with the man who conducted the hospital Sunday-school class. He returned the "*Let God Be True*" I gave him, with the admonition, "Burn it." In our conversation that followed he wanted me to believe that he had read the book, yet said that Jehovah's witnesses didn't believe in Christ, didn't believe in being saved, used only the so-called Old Testament, and that he would not waste time talking to the witnesses as he was not qualified—nor did he know who was! I continued attending his class till my discharge, but my comments there were deliberately ignored. He charged that the witnesses jumped here and there in the Bible, and that anything could be proved that way. Hence I was quite surprised to find that our Sunday-school lesson was taken from eight different sections of

Scripture with no more than three verses from any one division. The Lima company had been refused permission to enter and preach at this hospital because its teaching was not orthodox; other religious organizations were allowed to enter. One patient overheard me preaching to another, and called me to her room to say, "I'm with you, Kid. Yes, indeed, you were really talking the truth. Do you mind my asking what church you belong to?" When I replied that I was one of Jehovah's witnesses she declined to discuss the matter with me further, because she didn't believe what they taught. Today I am home, and am associated with the local company in declaring these new things to others. It is a great privilege to share in the ever-increasing song of praise; it is too wonderful to bear in silence. So it is with grateful heart that I join you in His vindication by preaching the true word.—Publisher in Ohio.

"LADIES' PRAYER MEETING" UNDERGOES A CHANGE

One of the Dixon, Illinois, publishers recently placed a "*Let God Be True*" book with a lady, who on the return visit asked him to address the "Ladies' prayer meeting", consisting of about nine women from the local Baptist church. This the witness did, and delivered a talk on God's purposes in this day. The ladies' questions were also answered and he was invited back the next week. Again more Bible questions were answered, and then the proper method of conducting a home Bible study was introduced, using the "*Let God Be True*" as a Bible study help. Result: the study continues and participants really enjoy it. All admit they never learned as much in their church. Two of the attendants dropped out, for obvious reasons. "*Earth's New Rulers*" was a talk enjoyed by the group. They are now telling their friends and neighbors the good things of the Kingdom. With the ladies on the offensive in declaring the truth, the local pastor has been having difficulty maintaining his poise while on the defensive. "*Earth's New Rulers*" was given in two parlor talks to groups in the rurals, with 21 in attendance in addition to 45 at the public lecture.—Circuit servant in Illinois.