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THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

STUDY EDITION

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE, *The Watchtower*, is to honor Jehovah God, the Supreme Ruler of the universe. Just as watchtowers in ancient times enabled a person to observe developments from afar, so this magazine shows us the significance of world events in the light of Bible prophecies. It comforts people with the good news that God's Kingdom, which is a real government in heaven, will soon bring an end to all wickedness and transform the earth into a paradise. It promotes faith in Jesus Christ, who died so that we might gain everlasting life and who is now ruling as King of God's Kingdom. This magazine has been published by Jehovah's Witnesses continuously since 1879 and is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

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PURPOSE OF STUDY ARTICLES

Study Articles 1, 2 PAGES 3-11

These articles discuss why Jehovah allowed Satan to subject Job to a series of trials and what helped Job to keep his integrity. They also explain how we, like Job, can remain faithful and thus make Jehovah's heart rejoice.

Study Article 3 PAGES 15-19

The creative works of Jehovah reveal various aspects of his personality. By considering created things, we can learn valuable lessons. In this article, we will consider four examples of Jehovah's creation and discuss what lessons they contain.

Study Articles 4, 5 PAGES 24-32

Bible accounts of the lives of certain faithful men who lived before Jesus show that there are striking similarities between those men and Jesus. In these two articles, we will consider Moses, David, and Solomon and see how the accounts of their lives deepen our appreciation for Jesus' role in God's purpose.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

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JOB HELD HIGH THE NAME OF JEHOVAH

“Let the name of Jehovah continue to be blessed.”—JOB 1:21.

MOSES was about 40 years old when he fled from Egypt to escape the wrath of Pharaoh and took up residence in Midian. (Acts 7:23) During his stay in that land, he could have heard of the trials of Job, who was living nearby in the land of Uz. Years later, when Moses and the nation of Israel were near Uz toward the end of their wilderness journey, Moses may have learned about Job’s final years. Jewish tradition holds that Moses wrote the book of Job sometime after Job’s death.

² The book of Job strengthens the faith of God’s servants in modern times. In what ways? The narrative opens our eyes to events of far-reaching importance that occurred in heaven and underscores the paramount issue of God’s universal sovereignty. The account of Job also deepens our understanding of what is involved in keeping integrity and helps us to grasp why Jehovah sometimes allows his servants to suffer. Furthermore, the book of Job identifies Satan the Devil as Jehovah’s chief Adversary and mankind’s enemy. The book also shows that imperfect humans like Job can remain loyal to Jehovah despite intense testing. Let us examine some of the events described in the book of Job.

Job Tested by Satan

³ Job was a wealthy and influential man, a patriarch of good moral character. He was ev-

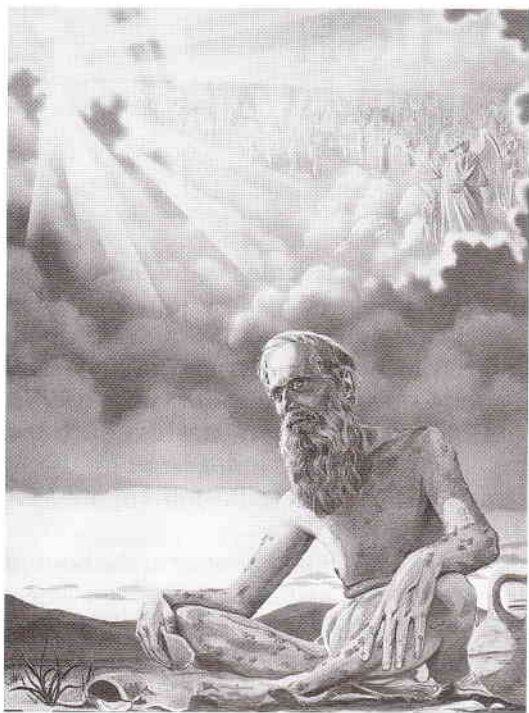
idently a highly regarded counselor who befriended the needy. Most important, Job feared God. Job is described as a man who “proved to be blameless and upright, and fearing God and turning aside from bad.” It was Job’s godly devotion—not his wealth and influence—that made him a target for the attacks of Satan the Devil.—Job 1:1; 29:7-16; 31:1.

⁴ The introductory narrative of the book of Job describes a gathering in heaven where the angels took their station before Jehovah. Satan was also present, and he leveled charges against Job. (Read Job 1:6-11.) Although Satan mentioned Job’s possessions, he focused his attention on challenging Job’s integrity. The term “integrity” carries the thought of being upright, blameless, righteous, and faultless. As used in the Bible, human integrity denotes a completeness of heart devotion to the person of Jehovah.

⁵ Satan claimed that Job’s worship of God was based on selfishness, not integrity. Satan alleged that Job would be loyal to Jehovah only as long as God continued to reward and protect him. To provide an answer to Satan’s charge, Jehovah allowed Satan to attack that faithful man. As a result, within the course of one day, Job learned that his livestock had been stolen or destroyed, his attendants had been killed, and his ten children had lost their lives. (Job 1:13-19) Did Job cave in to Satan’s attack? The inspired record describes Job’s reaction to his misfortune: “Jehovah

1. Who likely wrote the book of Job, and when?
2. In what ways is the book of Job an encouragement to Jehovah’s servants in modern times?
3. What do we know about Job, and why did Satan target him?

4. What is integrity?
5. What did Satan claim about Job?



The narrative of Job alerts us to the paramount issue of God's universal sovereignty

himself has given, and Jehovah himself has taken away. Let the name of Jehovah continue to be blessed."—Job 1:21.

⁶ Later, there was another gathering in heaven. Again Satan leveled charges against Job, saying: "Skin in behalf of skin, and everything that a man has he will give in behalf of his soul. For a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch as far as his bone and his flesh and see whether he will not curse you to your very face." Notice that Satan expanded his accusations. By saying, "Everything that *a man* has he will give in behalf of his soul," the Devil challenged the integrity not only of Job but of any "man" who worships Jehovah. Thereafter, God per-

6. (a) What happened during another gathering in heaven? (b) Whom did Satan have in mind when he challenged Job's integrity to Jehovah?

mitted Satan to strike Job with a painful disease. (Job 2:1-8) But that was not the full extent of Job's trials.

Taking Stock of Job's Position

⁷ Initially, Job's wife suffered the same blows that her husband suffered. The loss of her children and the family wealth must have devastated her. It must have hurt her to see her husband suffering a painful disease. She cried out to Job: "Are you yet holding fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" Then, three men arrived—Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar—ostensibly to offer Job comfort. Instead, they used deceptive reasoning and proved to be "troublesome comforters." For example, Bildad suggested that Job's children had engaged in wrongdoing and deserved their fate. Eliphaz insinuated that Job's suffering was punishment for past sins. He even questioned whether those who keep integrity are of any value to God! (Job 2:9, 11; 4:8; 8:4; 16:2; 22:2, 3) Under such heavy pressure, Job kept his integrity. True, he could be faulted when he turned to "declaring his own soul righteous rather than God." (Job 32:2) Still, he remained faithful through it all.

⁸ Next, we read of Elihu, who had also come to visit Job. Elihu first listened to the arguments presented by Job and his three companions. Although younger than the other four men, Elihu showed greater wisdom. He addressed Job considerably, using Job's personal name. Elihu commended Job for his upright course. But he also said that Job had focused too much on trying to prove his own faultlessness. Then Elihu assured Job that serving God faithfully is always worthwhile. (Read Job 36:1, 11.) What a fine example for those who need to offer counsel today!

7. In what ways did Job's wife and his visitors put pressure on Job?

8. What good example did Elihu provide for counselors today?

Elihu showed patience, listened carefully, commended where possible, and offered up-building counsel.—Job 32:6; 33:32.

⁹ Finally, Job had a truly awe-inspiring visitor! The record says: “Jehovah proceeded to answer Job out of the windstorm.” Using a series of questions, Jehovah kindly but firmly helped Job to correct his thinking. Job willingly accepted the reproof, admitting: “I have become of little account . . . I do repent in dust and ashes.” After Jehovah had spoken to Job, He expressed His anger against the three companions because they had not spoken “what is truthful.” Job was to pray for them. Then “Jehovah himself turned back the captive condition of Job when he prayed in behalf of his companions, and Jehovah began to give in addition all that had been Job’s, in double amount.”—Job 38:1; 40:4; 42:6-10.

How Deeply Do We Love Jehovah?

¹⁰ Jehovah is the Creator of the universe, Sovereign of all creation. Why did he not ignore the Devil’s challenge? God knew that neither ignoring Satan nor destroying him would resolve the issue that had been raised. The Devil had claimed that Job, an outstanding servant of Jehovah, would not remain loyal if he lost his favored economic situation. Job’s loyalty withstood the test. Then Satan claimed that any human would turn away from God if he suffered physically. Job suffered, but his integrity was not broken. Hence, Satan was proved to be a liar in the case of that faithful though imperfect man. What of other worshippers of God?

¹¹ In effect, each servant of God who keeps his integrity despite whatever Satan brings against him demonstrates that in his own

personal case, the accusations of that remorseless enemy are false. Jesus came to earth and gave a complete answer to Satan’s challenge. Jesus was a perfect man, like our first father, Adam. Jesus’ faithfulness to the death conclusively demonstrated that Satan is a liar and that his accusations are false.—Rev. 12:10.

¹² Nevertheless, Satan keeps testing Jehovah’s worshippers. Each of us has the opportunity and the responsibility to demonstrate by our personal integrity that we serve Jehovah because we love him—not for selfish reasons. How do we view that responsibility? We see it as a privilege to be loyal to Jehovah. It also comforts us to know that Jehovah gives us the strength to endure and, as in the case of Job, that He sets limits to the trials we face.—1 Cor. 10:13.

Satan—A Defiant Adversary and Apostate

¹³ The Hebrew Scriptures provide details about Satan’s shameful role in challenging Jehovah and leading mankind astray. In the Christian Greek Scriptures, we find more information about Satan’s opposition to Jehovah, and in the book of Revelation,

12. Each servant of Jehovah has what opportunity and responsibility?

13. What details does the book of Job reveal about Satan?

Do You Recall?

- Why did Job attract the attention of Satan the Devil?
- What tests did Job endure, and how did he react?
- What will help us to maintain integrity as Job did?
- What do we learn about Satan from the book of Job?

9. How did Jehovah help Job?

10. Why did Jehovah not ignore or destroy Satan?

11. How did Jesus give a complete answer to Satan’s challenge?

*Under what circumstances
might your integrity be
put to the test?*

we learn of the vindication of Jehovah's sovereignty and Satan's final destruction. The book of Job adds to our knowledge of Satan's rebellious course. When Satan was present at the gatherings in heaven, he did not attend with the intention of praising Jehovah. The Devil had a malicious attitude and a sinister objective. After he accused Job and received permission to test him, "Satan went out away from the person of Jehovah."—Job 1:12; 2:7.

¹⁴ Hence, the book of Job identifies Satan as mankind's merciless enemy. Between the gathering in heaven mentioned at Job 1:6 and the one described at Job 2:1, an unspecified period of time passed, during which Job was cruelly put to the test. Job's faithfulness enabled Jehovah to say to Satan: "Even yet [Job] is holding fast his integrity, although you incite me against him to swallow him up without cause." But Satan did not admit that his claims had been proved wrong. On the contrary, he demanded that Job be put to another severe test. Thus, the Devil tested Job both when he was prosperous and when he was destitute. Clearly, Satan has no compassion for the needy or for victims of calamity. He hates people of integrity. (Job 2:3-5) Nevertheless, Job's faithfulness showed that Satan is a liar.

¹⁵ Satan was the first creature to turn apostate. Modern-day apostates display characteristics similar to those of the Devil. Their

14. Satan showed what attitude toward Job?

15. What do modern-day apostates have in common with Satan?



mind may be poisoned by a critical attitude toward individuals in the congregations, Christian elders, or the Governing Body. Some apostates oppose the use of the divine name, Jehovah. They are not interested in learning about Jehovah or in serving him. Like their father, Satan, apostates target people of integrity. (John 8:44) No wonder servants of Jehovah avoid all contact with them!—2 John 10, 11.

Job Held High the Name of Jehovah

¹⁶ Job used and praised the name of Jehovah. Even when crushed by the news of the death of his children, Job did not ascribe anything improper to God. Although Job wrongly attributed his loss to God, he nevertheless upheld the name of Jehovah. In one of his later proverbial utterances, Job declared: "Look! The fear of Jehovah—that is wisdom, and to turn away from bad is understanding."—Job 28:28.

¹⁷ What helped Job to maintain his integrity? Clearly, before the calamities struck, he

16. Job displayed what attitude toward Jehovah?

17. What helped Job to maintain his integrity?

had already cultivated a close relationship with Jehovah. Although we have no evidence that he knew that Satan had challenged Jehovah, Job was determined to stay loyal. He said: “Until I expire I shall not take away my integrity from myself!” (Job 27:5) How did Job develop this close relationship? No doubt, he cherished what he had heard about God’s dealings with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who were his distant relatives. And by observing creation, Job could discern many of Jehovah’s qualities.—*Read Job 12:7-9, 13, 16.*

¹⁸ What Job learned aroused in him the desire to please Jehovah. In case his family

18. (a) How did Job show his devotion to Jehovah?
(b) In what ways do we imitate Job’s fine example?

members might have done something displeasing to God or “have cursed God in their heart,” he regularly offered sacrifices. (Job 1:5) Even when being severely tested, Job still said positive things about Jehovah. (Job 10:12) What a fine example! We too must regularly take in accurate knowledge of Jehovah and his purposes. We hold to a healthy routine in such spiritual activities as study, meeting attendance, prayer, and the preaching of the good news. Moreover, we do everything in our power to make known the name of Jehovah. And just as Job’s integrity pleased Jehovah, so the integrity of God’s servants today makes Jehovah’s heart rejoice. This subject will be considered in the following article.

YOUR INTEGRITY MAKES JEHOVAH’S HEART REJOICE

*“Be wise, my son, and make my heart rejoice,
that I may make a reply to him that is taunting me.”—PROV. 27:11.*

JEHOVAH permitted Satan to test the integrity of God’s loyal servant Job. As a result, Job lost his livestock, his children, and his health. But when Satan challenged Job’s integrity, he had more in mind than just the man Job. “Skin in behalf of skin, and everything that a man has he will give in behalf of his soul,” claimed Satan. This challenge raised an issue that went far beyond Job as an individual and that has continued long after his death.—Job 2:4.

² About 600 years after Job’s trials, Solo-

mon was inspired to write: “Be wise, my son, and make my heart rejoice, that I may make a reply to him that is taunting me.” (Prov. 27:11) Clearly, at that time Satan was still challenging Jehovah. Moreover, in a vision given to the apostle John, Satan was seen accusing God’s servants following his eviction from heaven some time after the establishment of God’s Kingdom in 1914. Yes, even today, so deep into the last days of this wicked system, Satan is still challenging the integrity of God’s servants!—Rev. 12:10.

³ Consider, then, three of the important

- 1, 2. (a) The book of Job describes what challenge made by Satan? (b) What indicates that Satan continued taunting Jehovah after the days of Job?

3. What valuable lessons can we learn from the book of Job?



Do you feel impelled to share the precious knowledge that you have?

ceived Eve into rebelling against God. He is the one who has developed among imperfect, dying mankind a world system under his control. Because Satan is “the god of this system of things,” human society displays the same basic characteristics that he does—pride, contentiousness, jealousy, greed, deception, and rebelliousness. (2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Tim. 2:14; 3:6; *read James 3:14, 15.*) Such characteristics have led to political and religious conflicts, hatred, corruption, and disorder,

which contribute much to mankind’s misery.

lessons that we learn from the book of Job. First, the trials of Job expose the real enemy of mankind and the source of opposition against God’s people. That enemy is Satan the Devil. Second, no matter what trials we may encounter, having a close relationship with God will enable us to maintain our integrity. Third, when trials occur and we are tested in some way, God supports us just as he did Job. Today, Jehovah does this by means of his Word, his organization, and his holy spirit.

Keep the Real Enemy in Mind

⁴ Many do not believe that Satan exists. Thus, although they might be alarmed about world conditions, they do not discern the real cause—Satan the Devil. True, much of the responsibility for mankind’s woes rests with humans themselves. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, chose independence from their Creator. And since then, successive generations have acted very unwisely. Still, it was the Devil who de-

which contribute much to mankind’s misery.

⁵ What precious knowledge we as Jehovah’s servants have! Yes, we understand who is to blame for deteriorating world conditions. Do we not, then, feel impelled to share in the field ministry so as to inform people of the identity of the chief troublemaker? And are we not happy to stand up for the true God, Jehovah, and to explain to others how he will put an end to Satan and to mankind’s woes?

⁶ Satan is responsible not only for many of the world’s sorrows but also for the opposition that God’s people experience. He is determined to put us to the test. Jesus Christ told the apostle Peter: “Simon, Simon, look! Satan has demanded to have you men to sift you as wheat.” (Luke 22:31) Similarly, each of us who follows in Jesus’ foot-

5. What do we want to do with the precious knowledge we possess?

6, 7. (a) Who is responsible for the persecution of true worshippers? (b) How can we imitate the example of Elihu of old?

4. Who is to blame for present world conditions?

steps will experience trials in some way or other. Peter compared the Devil to “a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone.” And Paul said: “All those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted.”—1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Tim. 3:12.

⁷ How can we show that we keep the real enemy in mind when a tragedy befalls a fellow believer? Instead of distancing ourselves from the affected brother, we act like Elihu of old, who spoke to Job as a true friend. We join our brother in the struggle against our common enemy, Satan. (Prov. 3:27; 1 Thess. 5:25) Our goal is to help our fellow servant to maintain his integrity, come what may, and thus make Jehovah’s heart rejoice.

⁸ The first asset that Satan caused Job to lose was his livestock. Those animals were valuable, likely his livelihood. But Job also used them in worship. After Job had sanctified his children, “he got up early in the morning and offered up burnt sacrifices according to the number of all of them; for, said Job, ‘maybe my sons have sinned and have cursed God in their heart.’ That is the way Job would do always.” (Job 1:4, 5) Thus, Job sacrificed animals to Jehovah on a regular basis. Once the trials began, that was no longer possible. Job had no “valuable things” with which to honor Jehovah. (Prov. 3:9) But he could—and did—honor Jehovah with his lips!

8. Why did Satan not succeed in getting Job to stop honoring Jehovah?

We can help fellow worshippers to maintain their integrity

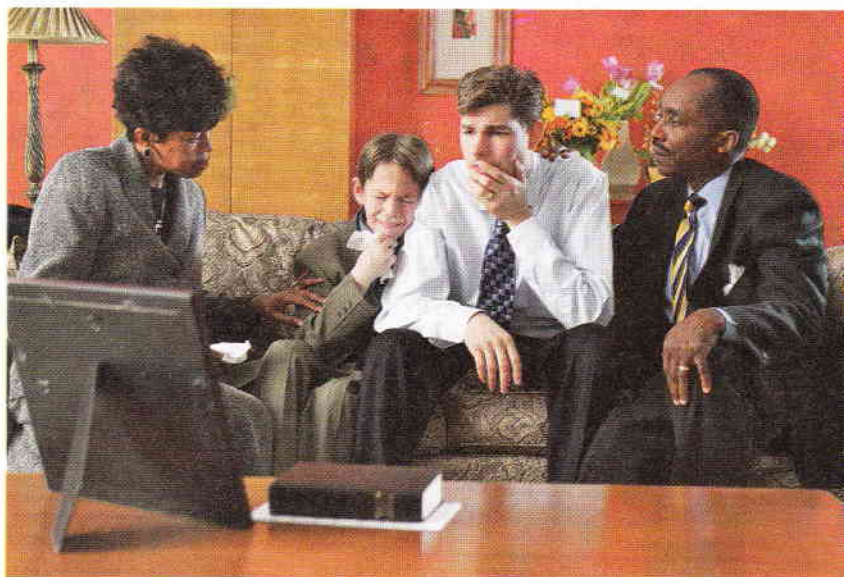
Cultivate a Close Relationship With Jehovah

⁹ Whether we are rich or poor, young or elderly, in good health or bad, we can cultivate a close relationship with Jehovah. Regardless of the trials we face, having a close bond with God will enable us to maintain our personal integrity and make Jehovah’s heart rejoice. Even some individuals who had limited knowledge of the truth took a courageous stand and kept their integrity.

¹⁰ Consider the example of Sister Valentina Garnovskaya, one of many Witnesses in Russia who like faithful Job kept their integrity despite severe trials. In 1945, when she was about 20 years old, a brother witnessed to her. He returned two more times to talk about the Bible, but then she never saw him again. Even so, Valentina began to preach to her neighbors. As a result, she was arrested and sentenced to eight years in a camp. In 1953 she was released and right away resumed her preaching work.

9. What is our most precious possession?

10, 11. (a) How did one of our sisters react to tests of integrity? (b) What powerful answer did this sister give to Satan?



Again she was arrested and imprisoned—this time for ten years. After spending several years in one camp, she was moved to another. In that camp, there were some sisters who had a copy of the Bible. One day a sister showed the Bible to Valentina. What a thrilling moment! Imagine, the only other Bible that Valentina had ever seen was the one in the hands of the brother who witnessed to her in 1945!

¹¹ In 1967, Valentina was set free and was finally able to symbolize her dedication to Jehovah by water baptism. She zealously used her freedom to participate in the ministry until 1969. That year, however, she was again arrested, and this time she was sentenced to serve three years in prison. Still, Valentina kept on preaching. Before she died in 2001, she had helped 44 people to learn the truth. She had spent 21 years in prisons and camps. She had been willing to give up everything, including her freedom, in order to maintain her integrity. At the end of her life, Valentina said: “I never had my own place to live. All my possessions were in a single suitcase, but I was happy and content in serving Jehovah.” What a powerful answer Valentina gave to Satan, who claimed that humans will not remain loyal to God in the face of trials! (Job 1:9-11) We can be sure that she made Jehovah’s heart rejoice and that he eagerly looks forward to the time when he will bring Valentina and all others who died faithful back to life by means of the resurrection.—Job 14:15.



Valentina was willing to sacrifice everything to maintain her integrity

¹² Our friendship with Jehovah is based on our love for him. We admire God’s qualities and do whatever we can to live in harmony with his purposes. Contrary to what the Devil claims, we give our love to Jehovah voluntarily and unconditionally. This heartfelt love strengthens us to maintain integrity under test. For his part, Jehovah “will guard the very way of his loyal ones.” —Prov. 2:8; Ps. 97:10.

¹³ Love moves us to honor the name of Jehovah, no matter how limited we may feel. He sees our good motives and does not judge us if we cannot do all we would like to do. What counts is not only what we do but also why we do it. Even though Job was grief-stricken and had endured much, he spoke to his accusers about his love for Jehovah’s ways. (Read Job 10:12; 28:28.) In the final chapter of the book of Job, God expressed his anger toward Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar because they had not spoken the truth. At the same time, Jehovah indicated his approval of Job by referring to him four times as “my servant” and by instructing him to intercede in behalf of the wrongdoers. (Job 42:7-9) May we too act in such a way that Jehovah views us with favor.

Jehovah Supports His Faithful Servants

¹⁴ Job maintained his integrity even though he was imperfect. Sometimes, under

12. What role does love play in our relationship with Jehovah?

13. How does Jehovah view what we do for him?

14. How did Jehovah help Job to correct his thinking?

extreme pressure, he had the wrong perspective. For instance, he said to Jehovah: “I cry to you for help, but you do not answer me . . . With the full might of your hand you harbor animosity toward me.” Moreover, Job attached undue importance to justifying himself when he said: “I am not in the wrong” and “there is no violence upon my palms, and my prayer is pure.” (Job 10:7; 16:17; 30:20, 21) Nevertheless, Jehovah kindly helped Job by posing a series of questions that directed attention away from Job. They also enabled Job to see more clearly God’s supremacy and the insignificance of man. Job accepted the direction and corrected himself.—*Read Job 40:8; 42:2, 6.*

¹⁵ Jehovah also offers kind, firm guidance to his servants today. Moreover, we enjoy important benefits. For instance, Jesus Christ provided the ransom sacrifice and thus laid the groundwork for forgiveness of sins. On the basis of that sacrifice, we can have a close relationship with God despite our imperfection. (Jas. 4:8; 1 John 2:1) When facing trials, we also pray for the support and strengthening aid of God’s holy spirit. Additionally, we have the complete Bible, and if we read it and meditate on its contents, we prepare ourselves for tests of faith. Study helps us to understand the issues of universal sovereignty and personal integrity.

¹⁶ Further, we benefit greatly from being part of the earth-wide brotherhood that Jehovah supplies with spiritual food by means of “the faithful and discreet slave.” (Matt. 24:45-47) In each of the approximately 100,000 congregations of Jehovah’s Witnesses, meetings are conducted that instruct us and strengthen us to face possible tests of faith. This can be illustrated by the experience of Sheila, a teenage Witness living in Germany.

15, 16. In what ways does Jehovah provide help to his servants today?

¹⁷ One day at school, Sheila’s class was temporarily left without supervision. Her classmates decided to experiment with a Ouija board. Sheila immediately left the classroom, and what she later heard made her glad she had done so. While using the Ouija board, some of the students felt the presence of demons and fled in panic. What, though, had helped Sheila to decide to leave the room so quickly? “Shortly before this incident, we had discussed at a meeting at the Kingdom Hall the dangers of Ouija boards. So I knew what to do,” explains Sheila. “I wanted to please Jehovah, just as the Bible says at Proverbs 27:11.” How good that Sheila was at the meeting and listened attentively to the program!

¹⁸ Let each of us be resolved to stick closely to the instruction we receive from God’s organization. By regular meeting attendance, Bible reading, study of Bible-based publications, prayer, and fellowship with mature Christians, we get the guidance and support we need. Jehovah wants us to be victorious, and he has confidence that we will continue to be loyal. What a privilege we have to hold high the name of Jehovah, to maintain integrity, and to make the heart of Jehovah rejoice!

17. Illustrate the wisdom of sticking closely to the instruction of Jehovah’s organization today.

18. What are you personally resolved to do?

Do You Recall?

- For what conditions and trials is Satan responsible?
- What is the most precious possession that we have?
- What is the basis of our friendship with Jehovah?
- What are some of the ways in which Jehovah supports us today?

Questions From Readers

Is there any hope of a resurrection for a baby that dies in its mother's womb?

For those who have never suffered the loss of an unborn baby in this way, it may be difficult to imagine the feelings of those who have. Some parents grieve such losses intensely. One mother lost five children before they were born. In time, she felt blessed to raise two healthy sons. Yet, she remembered each loss. To the end of her days, she knew just how old her stillborn and miscarried babies would have been had they survived. Do such Christians have a basis for hoping in a resurrection to restore what they have lost?

The simple answer to the question is that we do not know. The Bible never directly addresses the matter of a resurrection for babies who were stillborn or lost through a miscarriage. Nonetheless, God's Word does contain principles that bear on the question and that may offer a measure of comfort.

Let us consider two related questions. First, from Jehovah's viewpoint, when does the life of a human begin—at conception or at birth? Second, how does Jehovah view the unborn—as unique individuals or as mere collections of cells and tissue in a woman's womb? Bible principles give clear answers to both questions.

The Mosaic Law clearly revealed that life begins, not at birth, but much earlier. How so? It showed that killing a fetus could incur the death penalty. Note this law: "You must give soul for soul."^{*} (Ex. 21:22, 23) Thus, the unborn child in the womb is alive and is a liv-

ing soul. Understanding that timeless truth has helped millions of Christians to repudiate the practice of abortion, seeing it as a serious sin against God.

Granted, the unborn child is alive, but what value does Jehovah place on that life? The law cited above demanded that an adult be put to death for causing the death of an unborn child. Clearly, then, the life of an unborn child has great value in God's eyes. Further, numerous passages in the Scriptures reveal that Jehovah sees the unborn as distinct individuals. For example, King David was inspired to say of Jehovah: "You kept me screened off in the belly of my mother. . . . Your eyes saw even the embryo of me, and in your book all its parts were down in writing, as regards the days when they were formed." —Ps. 139:13-16; Job 31:14, 15.

Jehovah also sees that the unborn have distinct traits and may have great potential for the future. While Isaac's wife Rebekah was pregnant with twins, Jehovah uttered a prophecy about the two boys struggling in her womb, suggesting that he already saw traits in them that would have far-reaching effects.—Gen. 25:22, 23; Rom. 9:10-13.

The case of John the Baptist is an interesting one as well. The Gospel account says: "As Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the infant in her womb leaped; and Elizabeth was filled with holy spirit." (Luke 1:41) In describing this incident, the physician Luke used a Greek word that could refer either to a fetus or to a baby after its birth. He used the same word in referring to the baby Jesus lying in the manger.—Luke 2:12, 16; 18:15.

On the whole, does the Bible give us a basis for drawing a big distinction between a baby in the womb and one that has drawn its

^{*} This passage is sometimes translated in a way that implies that only the death of the mother would incur a death penalty. However, the original Hebrew text shows that the law spoke of a fatal injury to either the mother or her unborn child.

first breath? It does not seem so. And that accords with the findings of modern science. For example, researchers have learned that a baby in the womb is able to sense and respond to external stimuli. Thus, it is not surprising that an expectant mother develops such a close bond with the child growing within her.

When the baby finally arrives, the timing of birth can seem quite arbitrary. Consider this example: One mother gives birth prematurely to a living baby, who dies after a few days. Another mother carries her baby to full term, but the child dies just before birth. Is the first mother blessed with the hope that her child will be resurrected simply because of the happenstance of a premature birth, whereas the second mother has no such hope?

To summarize, then, the Bible clearly teaches that life begins at conception and that Jehovah sees the unborn child as a unique and valued individual. In the light of those Scriptural truths, some might see it as inconsistent to argue that there is no hope for a resurrection of an unborn child that dies. Indeed, they might feel that such an argument undermines our Scriptural stand against abortion, which is largely based on those very truths.

In the past, this journal has raised some practical questions that seem to cast doubt on the possibility of a resurrection for children who died before birth. For example, would God implant even a partially developed embryo in the womb of a woman in Paradise? However, further study and prayerful meditation has led the Governing Body to conclude that such considerations do not really have a bearing on the resurrection hope. Jesus said: "All things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27) Jesus' own experience demonstrated the truth of that statement; his life was transferred from heaven to the womb of a young virgin—surely an utter impossibility from a human standpoint.

Does all of this mean, then, that the Bible teaches that children who perish before birth will be resurrected? We must emphasize that the Bible does not directly answer that question, so there is no basis for humans to be dogmatic on the matter. This subject may give rise to an almost endless variety of questions. Really, though, it seems best to avoid speculation. What we know is this: The matter rests with Jehovah God, who is abundant in loving-kindness and mercy. (Ps. 86:15) Unquestionably, it is his heartfelt desire to undo death by means of the resurrection. (Job 14: 14, 15) We can be confident that he always does what is right. He will provide healing for the many wounds inflicted upon us by life in this wicked system of things as he lovingly directs his Son to "break up the works of the Devil."—1 John 3:8.

*Jehovah will provide healing for
all painful experiences*



Do You Remember?

Have you appreciated reading the recent issues of *The Watchtower*?
See if you can answer the following questions:

- **Why is it so important that we keep our Christian integrity?**

Keeping our integrity enables us to take our stand for Jehovah's sovereignty out of love and to prove that Satan is a liar. Our integrity also provides a basis on which God can judge us and is, therefore, essential to our hope for the future.—12/15, pages 4-6.

- **What are some titles that reflect Jesus' role in God's purpose?**

The only-begotten Son. The Word. The Amen. The Mediator of the new covenant. The High Priest. The promised Seed.—12/15, page 15.

- **Why is it significant that Elijah had his attendant look toward the sea while the prophet prayed for rain? (1 Ki. 18:43-45)**

Elijah showed an awareness of the water cycle. Clouds that formed over the sea would move over the land, where they could produce rain.—1/1, pages 15-16.

- **How can we increase the joy we find in our ministry?**

We can prepare our heart, focusing on how much we can help others. We can preach with a view to starting Bible studies. If we face apathy, we can adapt our approach to appeal to the interests of those in our territory.—1/15, pages 8-10.

- **Was the leprosy mentioned in the Bible the disease known today as leprosy?**

The bacterial infection called leprosy did exist in Biblical times. (Lev. 13:4, 5) The Bible also speaks of leprosy that appeared in garments and houses. That "leprosy" may have referred to a type of mold or mildew. (Lev. 13:47-52)—2/1, page 19.

- **How should Bible teachings affect a Christian's attitude and practices regarding funerals?**

Though a Christian may mourn dead loved ones, he knows that the dead are unconscious. Even if unbelievers criticize him, he avoids customs linked with the belief that the dead can influence the living. To avoid problems, some Christians put in writing their instructions as to funeral arrangements.—2/15, pages 29-31.

- **According to Psalm 1:1, what are three things we must avoid if we are to be happy?**

The verse mentions "the counsel of the wicked ones," "the way of sinners," and "the seat of ridiculers." Yes, to be happy, we need to turn away from those who ridicule or ignore God's laws. Instead, we should delight in the law of Jehovah.—3/1, page 17.

- **Are "the book of Jashar" and "the book of the Wars of Jehovah" lost books of the Bible? (Josh. 10:13; Num. 21:14)**

No. It seems that they were uninspired documents that existed in Bible times and were referred to by Bible writers.—3/15, page 32.

- **What significant change was made to a modern translation of the Bible in Latin?**

In 1979, Pope John Paul II approved the *Nova Vulgata*, a new translation in Latin. The first edition contained the divine name, lahveh, in some places. (Ex. 3:15; 6:3) However, when the second official edition was published in 1986, *Dominus* [Lord] was put in place of lahveh.—4/1, page 22.

JEHOVAH'S WISDOM OBSERVED IN CREATION

"His invisible qualities are . . . perceived by the things made."—ROM. 1:20.

THE word "wisdom" is used loosely. Some say that a person is wise if he has merely accumulated a wealth of knowledge. However, the world's so-called intellectuals offer no trustworthy guidance for finding true meaning in life. On the contrary, those who allow themselves to be influenced by such ones end up being "tossed about as by waves and carried hither and thither by every wind of teaching."—Eph. 4:14.

² How different it is with those who acquire true wisdom, the Source of which is Jehovah God! The Bible tells us that Jehovah is "wise alone." (Rom. 16:27) He knows all that there is to know about the universe, including its composition and its history. The physical laws of nature—upon which humans rely for their research—are all of Jehovah's making. Thus, he is not impressed by man-made inventions, and he is not intrigued by the so-called elevated thinking of human philosophy. "The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God."—1 Cor. 3:19.

³ The Bible tells us that Jehovah "gives wisdom" to his servants. (Prov. 2:6) Unlike human philosophies, the wisdom that comes from God is not vague. Rather, it lays emphasis on sound judgment and is based on accurate knowledge and understanding. (*Read James 3:17.*) The apostle Paul marveled at Jehovah's wisdom. He wrote: "O the depth of

God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How unsearchable his judgments are and past tracing out his ways are!" (Rom. 11:33) Because Jehovah is all-wise, we are confident that his laws guide us in the best way of living. After all, Jehovah knows more than anyone else what we need in order to be happy.—Prov. 3:5, 6.

Jesus—"A Master Worker"

⁴ Jehovah's wisdom, along with his other matchless qualities, can be observed in the things he made. (*Read Romans 1:20.*) From the largest to the smallest, Jehovah's works reveal aspects of his personality. No matter where we look—to the heavens above or to the soil beneath our feet—we find abundant evidence of an all-wise and loving Creator. We can learn much about him by considering the things that he has made.—Ps. 19:1; Isa. 40:26.

⁵ Jehovah was not alone when he "created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1) The Bible indicates that long before physical creation began, he created a spirit person by means of whom he formed "all other things." That spirit creature was God's only-begotten Son—"the firstborn of all creation"—who later lived on earth as the man Jesus. (Col. 1:15-17) Like Jehovah, Jesus possesses wisdom. In fact, in Proverbs chapter 8, he is represented as wisdom personified.

1. What effect has worldly wisdom had on many today?

2, 3. (a) Why is Jehovah "wise alone"? (b) How does godly wisdom differ from the wisdom of the world?

4. What is one way in which we can discern Jehovah's wisdom?

5, 6. (a) Besides Jehovah, who was involved in creation? (b) What will we consider, and why?

That Bible chapter also refers to Jesus as God's "master worker."—Prov. 8:12, 22-31.

⁶ Thus, the physical creation reveals the wisdom both of Jehovah and of his Master Worker, Jesus. It contains valuable lessons for us. Let us consider four examples of created things that are described at Proverbs 30:24-28 as "instinctively wise."^{*}

A Lesson in Industriousness

⁷ When we examine their design and activities, even the things that can be called "the smallest of the earth" provide lessons for us. For example, consider the instinctive wisdom of the ant.—*Read Proverbs 30:24, 25.*

⁸ Some researchers believe that for every human there are at least 200,000 ants, all of them busily toiling on and under the earth's surface. Ants are organized into colonies, and in most colonies three types of ants can be found: queens, males, and workers. Each group contributes in its own way to caring for the colony's needs. One particular ant,

^{*} Young ones in particular may enjoy looking up the footnoted references that follow and then commenting on their research when this article is discussed at the congregation *Watchtower* Study.

7, 8. What facts about the ant fascinate you?

Are you industrious like the leaf-cutting ant?

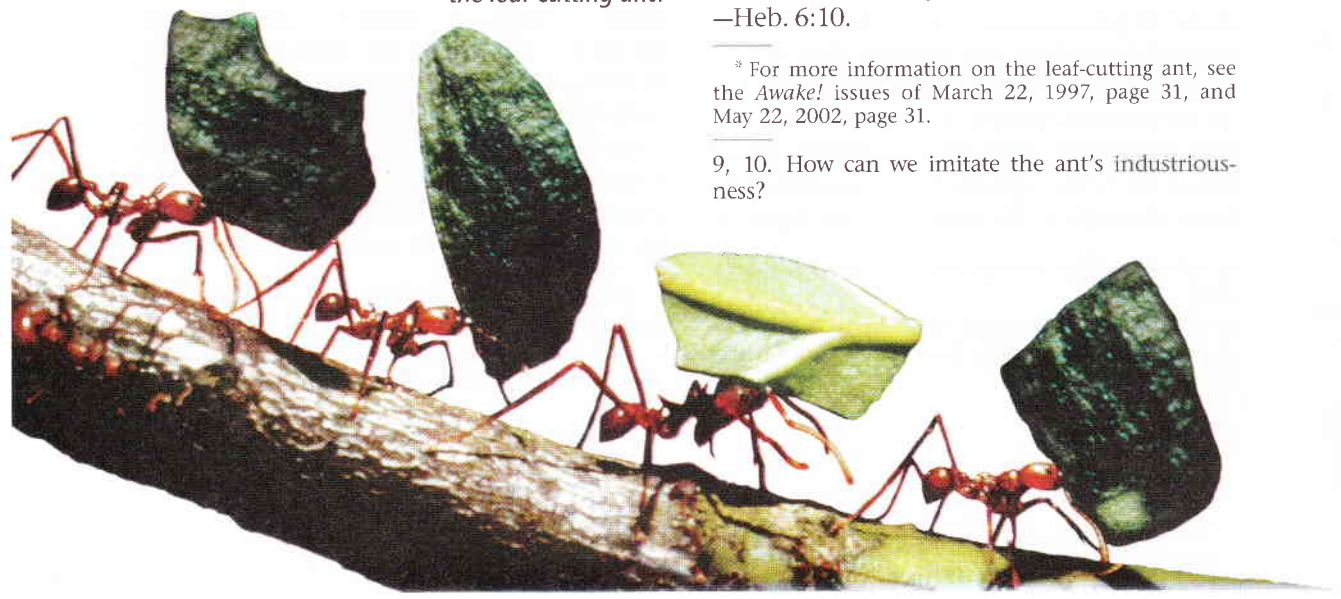
the South American leaf-cutting ant, could be called a sophisticated gardener. This little insect fertilizes, transplants, and prunes its fungus gardens in ways that maximize yield. Researchers have found that this skillful "gardener" adjusts its efforts according to the amount of food that is needed by the colony.^{*}

⁹ We can learn from the ants. They teach us that diligent effort is needed if we wish to produce good fruitage. The Bible tells us: "Go to the ant, you lazy one; see its ways and become wise. Although it has no commander, officer or ruler, it prepares its food even in the summer; it has gathered its food supplies even in the harvest." (Prov. 6:6-8) Both Jehovah and his Master Worker, Jesus, are industrious. "My Father has kept working until now," said Jesus, "and I keep working."—John 5:17.

¹⁰ As imitators of God and of Christ, we too should be industrious. No matter what our assignment in God's organization, all of us should have "plenty to do in the work of the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58) Therefore, we do well to follow Paul's admonition to the Christians in Rome: "Do not loiter at your business. Be aglow with the spirit. Slave for Jehovah." (Rom. 12:11) Our efforts in doing Jehovah's will are not in vain, for the Bible assures us: "God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name."—Heb. 6:10.

^{*} For more information on the leaf-cutting ant, see the *Awake!* issues of March 22, 1997, page 31, and May 22, 2002, page 31.

9, 10. How can we imitate the ant's industriousness?





The rock badger finds protection in a close-knit community. Do you do the same?

Protection From Spiritual Harm

¹¹ The rock badger is another comparatively small creature that can teach us important lessons. (*Read Proverbs 30:26.*) It somewhat resembles a large rabbit but has short, rounded ears and short legs. This little animal lives in rocky areas. The keen eyesight of the rock badger serves it well, and the holes and crevices in its craggy habitat provide a safe retreat from predators. The rock badger is designed to prosper in a close-knit community, which provides protection and helps it to keep warm in winter.*

¹² What can we learn from the rock badger? First, note that this animal does not leave itself vulnerable to attack. Rather, it takes advantage of its keen eyesight to see predators from afar, and it stays close to holes and crevices that can provide lifesaving shelter. Similarly, we need to have sharp spiritual

vision so that we can perceive the dangers that lurk in Satan's world. The apostle Peter admonished Christians: "Keep your senses, be watchful. Your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone." (1 Pet. 5:8) When he was on earth, Jesus remained watchful, on guard against all attempts of Satan to break His integrity. (Matt. 4:1-11) Jesus set a good example for his followers!

¹³ One way we can be watchful is by taking advantage of the spiritual protection that Jehovah makes available to us. Study of God's Word and attendance at Christian meetings should not be neglected. (Luke 4:4; Heb. 10:24, 25) Furthermore, just as the rock badger thrives in a close-knit community, we need to stay close to our fellow Christians so that we can enjoy "an interchange of encouragement" with them. (Rom. 1:12) By availing ourselves of the protection Jehovah provides, we show that we agree with the psalmist David, who wrote: "Jehovah is my crag and my stronghold and the Provider of escape for me. My God is my rock. I shall take refuge in him."—Ps. 18:2.

* For more information on the rock badger, see the *Awake!* of September 8, 1990, pages 15-16.

11. Describe some characteristics of the rock badger.

12, 13. What lessons can we learn from the rock badger?



Like locusts, Christian ministers show perseverance



Persevering Despite Opposition

¹⁴ We can also learn from the locust. A single locust, measuring only about two inches in length, may not inspire awe, but a swarm of locusts certainly does. (Read *Proverbs 30:27*.) Known for having a voracious appetite, a swarm of these relentless insects can quickly denude a field ready for harvest. The Bible compares the sound of an approaching swarm of insects, including locusts, to the rumble of chariots and to the crackling of flames consuming stubble. (Joel 2:3, 5) Men have built fires in an effort to check the advance of a locust swarm, but these are usually ineffective. Why? The bodies of the locusts that are killed extinguish the flames, after which the rest of the swarm continues on unhindered. Even without a king or a leader, a locust swarm operates like a well-organized army, overcoming virtually any obstacle.* —Joel 2:25.

¹⁵ The prophet Joel compared the activity of Jehovah's servants to the actions of lo-

* For more information on the locust, see the *Awake!* of October 22, 1976, page 11.

14. Although a single locust may not be impressive, what can be said of a locust swarm?

15, 16. How are modern-day Kingdom proclaimers like a locust swarm?

custs. He wrote: "Like powerful men they run. Like men of war they go up a wall. And they go each one in his own ways, and they do not alter their paths. And one another they do not shove. As an able-bodied man in his course, they keep going; and should some fall even among the missiles, the others do not break off course."—Joel 2:7, 8.

¹⁶ How well this prophecy describes modern-day proclaimers of God's Kingdom! No "wall" of opposition has been able to stop their preaching. Rather, they imitate Jesus, who persisted in doing God's will even though he was despised by many. (Isa. 53:3) True, some Christians have 'fallen among the mis-



Just as the gecko clings to surfaces, Christians cling to what is good

Stockbyte/Getty Images

siles' by being put to death as martyrs for their faith. Still, the preaching work has continued, and the number of Kingdom proclaimers keeps growing. In fact, persecution has often served to spread the good news to people who would not otherwise have heard the Kingdom message. (Acts 8:1, 4) In your personal ministry, have you demonstrated perseverance like that of the locust—even in the face of indifference and opposition? —Heb. 10:39.

“Cling to What Is Good”

¹⁷ The tiny gecko lizard seems to defy gravity. (*Read Proverbs 30:28.*) In fact, scientists are awed by the ability of this little creature to scurry up walls and even across smooth ceilings without falling. How does the gecko do it? The secret is not in suction cups or in some type of glue. Instead, each of the gecko's toes has a pad with ridges that contain thousands of hairlike protrusions. Each of these protrusions, in turn, has hundreds of filaments with saucer-shaped tips. The intermolecular force from all these filaments is enough to support more than the gecko's body weight—even when it is skittering upside down across a glass surface! Intrigued by the gecko's ability, researchers say that synthetic materials made to imitate the gecko's feet could be used as a powerful adhesive.*

¹⁸ What can we learn from the gecko? The Bible admonishes us: “Abhor what is wicked, cling to what is good.” (Rom. 12:9) The unwholesome influences that are prevalent in Satan's world could cause us to lose our grip on godly principles. For instance, asso-

* For more information on the gecko, see the *Awake!* of April 2008, page 26.

17. Why do the feet of a gecko adhere to smooth surfaces?

18. How can we make sure that we always “cling to what is good”?

ciation with those who do not adhere to God's laws—whether at school or at work or through some form of ungodly entertainment—might affect our determination to do what is right. Do not let that happen to you! God's Word warns: “Do not become wise in your own eyes.” (Prov. 3:7) Instead, follow the wise counsel that Moses gave to God's people in ancient times: “Jehovah your God you should fear. Him you should serve, and to him you should cling.” (Deut. 10:20) By clinging to Jehovah, we will be imitating Jesus, of whom it was said: “You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness.” —Heb. 1:9.

Lessons From Creation

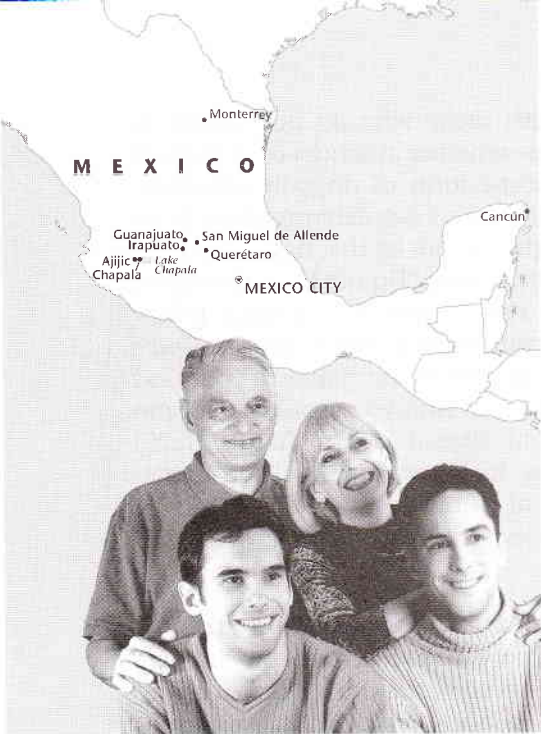
¹⁹ As we have seen, Jehovah's qualities are clearly perceived in the things he made, and his creations also provide valuable lessons for us. The more we explore Jehovah's works, the more we marvel at his wisdom. Paying attention to godly wisdom will deepen our happiness now and safeguard us in times to come. (Eccl. 7:12) Yes, we will personally experience the truthfulness of the assurance found at Proverbs 3:13, 18, which states: “Happy is the man that has found wisdom, and the man that gets discernment. It is a tree of life to those taking hold of it, and those keeping fast hold of it are to be called happy.”

19. (a) What qualities of Jehovah do *you* perceive in creation? (b) How can godly wisdom benefit us?

Do You Recall?

What practical lesson do we learn from . . .

- the ant?
- the rock badger?
- the locust?
- the gecko?



Can You Serve Where the Need for Kingdom Publishers Is Greater?

"We led a comfortable life in the United States but were concerned that the materialistic environment there could eventually have a negative influence on us and our two sons. My wife and I had formerly served as missionaries, and we wanted to enjoy that simple but happy kind of life again."

SPURRED by that desire, in 1991, Ralph and Pam decided to write to several branch offices to express their desire to serve where the need for Kingdom publishers is greater. The branch office in Mexico responded that there was an urgent need for Kingdom publishers who could preach to the English-speaking population in that country. In fact, that field, noted the branch, was "white for harvesting." (John 4:35) Before long, Ralph and Pam, with their sons, then aged 8 and 12, accepted the invitation and began to make preparations to move abroad.

A Vast Territory

Ralph recounts: "Before we left the United States, some well-meaning brothers and sisters told us: 'Moving abroad is too dangerous!' 'What if you get sick?' 'Why move to preach in an English-language territory? English-speaking people there will not be interested in the truth!' However, our minds were made up. After all, our decision to move was not an impulsive act. We had been plan-

ning it for years. We had avoided long-term debts, saved money, and had many family discussions about the difficulties we might encounter."

First, Ralph and his family visited the Mexico branch. There, the brothers showed them a map of the entire country and told the new arrivals, "This is your territory!" The family settled in San Miguel de Allende, a town with a considerable foreign population, located some 150 miles northwest of Mexico City. Three years after their arrival, an English-speaking congregation of 19 publishers was formed in that town. That was the first English-speaking congregation in Mexico—but more work was waiting.

There are an estimated one million citizens of the United States living in Mexico. Additionally, there are many Mexican professionals and students who speak English as a second language. Ralph explains: "We prayed for more workers. We always kept an extra bedroom in our home available for

brothers and sisters who came to our area to 'spy out the land,' so to speak."—Num. 13:2.

They Simplified Their Life to Expand Their Ministry

Soon more brothers and sisters who wanted to expand their ministry arrived. Among them were Bill and Kathy from the United States. They had already served for 25 years in territories where the need for publishers was great. They were thinking of learning Spanish, but their plans changed after they moved to the town of Ajijic on the shores of Lake Chapala, which is a haven for retirees from the United States. Bill explains, "In Ajijic we got ever more involved in seeking out English-speaking people who wanted to learn the truth." Within two years after arriving in that town, Bill and Kathy had the joy of seeing the formation of a congregation—the second English-language congregation in Mexico.

Ken and Joanne from Canada wanted to simplify their lives and devote more time to Kingdom activities. They too moved to Mexico. Ken relates, "It took time to get used to living in a location where you may not have access to warm water, electricity, or telephone service for days." However, sharing in the preaching work was a source of joy. Ken was soon appointed to be a ministerial servant and two years later, an elder. In the beginning, it was a challenge for their daughter Britanny to be part of a small English-language

congregation with few other young people. However, after she began sharing in Kingdom Hall building projects, she made many fine friends throughout the country.

Patrick and Roxanne from the state of Texas in the United States were excited to learn about a missionary field not too far away where people speak English. "After visiting Monterrey, a town in northeastern Mexico, we felt that Jehovah was directing us to help there," says Patrick. Within five days they were able to sell their home in Texas and to "step over into Macedonia," as it were. (Acts 16:9) Making a living in Mexico has not been easy, but in just two years, they had the joy of seeing a small group of 17 Witnesses grow into a congregation of 40 publishers.

Jeff and Deb are another couple who simplified their life to expand their ministry. They sold their spacious home in the United States and moved into a small apartment in Cancún, a city on Mexico's east coast. In the past, they were accustomed to attend assemblies in air-conditioned comfort close to home. Now they had to travel eight hours to attend the nearest assembly in English, held in an open-air facility. But they had the deep satisfaction of seeing in Cancún the formation of a congregation of some 50 publishers.

Some Mexican brothers and sisters also began to help with the preaching work in the English language. For example, when Rubén and his family heard that the first English-language congregation had been formed in

Happy Retirees Draw Attention

Beryl emigrated from Britain to Canada. There she worked as a manager for several international companies. She also became an accomplished equestrienne and was even chosen to represent Canada in the 1980 Olympics. Upon retirement to Chapala, Mexico, Beryl and her husband often ate out in local restaurants. When she noticed English-speaking retirees who appeared to be happy, she introduced herself to them and asked what

they were doing in Mexico. The happy diners almost always turned out to be Jehovah's Witnesses. Beryl and her husband thought that if happiness and a purpose in life come from knowing God, then they too wanted to know him. After attending Christian meetings for several months, Beryl agreed to study the Bible and became a Witness. For several years, Beryl was able to serve as a regular pioneer.

“It Is a Blessing to Have Them With Us”

Those who move to lands where the need for Kingdom publishers is greater are much appreciated by the local brothers. One branch office in the Caribbean wrote: “If the hundreds of foreigners who serve here were to leave, the stability of the congregations would be affected. It is a blessing to have them with us.”

God’s Word states that “the women telling the good news are a large army.” (Ps. 68:11) Thus, it is not surprising that there are many single sisters among those serving abroad. Such self-sacrificing sisters are of great help. A branch office in Eastern Europe observed: “In many of our congregations, there is a high percentage of sisters, at times up to 70 percent. Most of them are new in the truth, but single pioneer sisters who came from other lands provide invaluable assistance by training such new ones. These sisters from abroad are a true gift to us!”

How do such sisters feel about serving in foreign countries? “The challenges are many,” says Angelica, a sister in her mid-30’s who served several years abroad as a single pioneer.

“In one assignment, day after day, I trudged through muddy roads and was surrounded by depressing scenes of human suffering. But I felt satisfaction in helping people in the ministry. I was also touched by the many expressions of gratitude from local sisters who often thanked me for coming to help them. One sister told me that my example in coming all the way to her country to serve as a pioneer had moved her also to take up full-time service.”

Sue, a pioneer in her early 50’s, says: “You are definitely faced with challenges, but these cannot compare with the blessings you receive. The ministry is exciting! Since I spend much time in service with young sisters, I share with them what I have learned from the Bible and our publications on how to deal with obstacles. They often tell me that my example of coping with problems while serving for many years as a single pioneer helps them to see that they too can overcome challenges in their life. Helping these sisters gives me a deep sense of fulfillment.”

San Miguel de Allende and that all of Mexico was that congregation’s territory, they immediately decided to assist. This meant learning English, getting accustomed to a different culture, and traveling long distances—500 miles each week—to attend the meetings. Rubén relates: “We had the joy of witnessing to foreigners who have lived for years in Mexico but who heard the message of the good news in their own language for the first time. Some of them expressed their appreciation to us with tears in their eyes.” After helping the congregation in San Miguel de Allende, Rubén and his family served as pioneers in the town of Guanajuato, in central Mexico, where they helped to form an English-language congregation of more than 30 publishers. Today, they are serving in

an English-speaking group in Irapuato, a town near Guanajuato.

Reaching Those Who Are Hard to Reach

In addition to foreigners, there are many Mexicans who speak English. It is often difficult to share the Kingdom message with them because they live in affluent areas where maids answer the door. Or if the householders do come to the door, they may not want to listen to our message because they think that Jehovah’s Witnesses are a small local sect. Yet, when such householders are approached by Witnesses from abroad, some react favorably.

Consider the example of Gloria in the city of Querétaro, in central Mexico. She

explains: "I had been contacted before by Spanish-speaking Witnesses but did not listen to them. However, when my family and friends started to have problems, I became depressed and turned to God in prayer, begging him to show me a way out. Shortly thereafter, an English-speaking woman called at my door. She asked if anyone in the home spoke English. Because she was a foreigner, I was curious about her, and I told her that I did speak English. As she gave her presentation, I was thinking, 'What is this crazy American doing here in my neighborhood?' But I had asked God for a sign. So maybe this foreigner was God's answer to my prayer." Gloria accepted a Bible study and progressed very quickly to baptism, in spite of family opposition. Today, Gloria serves as a regular pioneer, and her husband and son also serve Jehovah.

Rewards for Those Who Expand Their Ministry

Serving where the need for Kingdom publishers is greater has its challenges, but the rewards are many. Ralph, mentioned at the outset, states: "We conducted Bible studies with people from Britain, China, Jamaica, Sweden, and even with royalty from Ghana. Some of these Bible students entered the full-time service themselves. Over the past years, our family has witnessed the formation of seven English congregations. Both our sons began pioneering with us, and they are now serving at Bethel in the United States."

In Mexico, there are presently 88 English-language congregations and numerous groups. What accounts for such rapid growth? Many English-speaking people in Mexico had never before been contacted by the Witnesses. Others responded favorably because they did not feel the peer pressure that could have hindered them back in their

homelands. Still others accepted the offer to study the Bible because they had retired and had time to pursue spiritual interests. In addition, more than one third of the publishers in the English-speaking congregations serve as pioneers, which contributes much to the enthusiasm and growth in those congregations.

Blessings Await You

No doubt more people around the world will respond favorably as they hear the Kingdom message preached to them in their own language. It is therefore heartwarming to note that numerous spiritually-minded brothers and sisters—young and old, single and married—are willing to move to areas where the need for Kingdom proclaimers is great. True, they may cope with hardships, but these fade away in comparison with the happiness they feel as they find honesthearted individuals who embrace Bible truths. Could you make adjustments that would enable you to move to a territory in your own land or in a foreign country where the need for Kingdom preachers is greater?* (Luke 14:28-30; 1 Cor. 16:9) If so, you can be sure that rich blessings await you.

* For more information on serving where the need is greater, see *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will*, pages 111-112.



Some have the joy of witnessing to foreigners who are hearing the good news for the first time

APPRECIATING THE GREATER MOSES

*"Jehovah God will raise up for you from among your brothers a prophet like me.
You must listen to him."*—ACTS 3:22.

TWO thousand years ago, the birth of a certain male child caused a multitude of angels in heaven to praise God in the hearing of some shepherds. (Luke 2:8-14) Thirty years later, that child, now an adult, began a ministry that lasted just three and a half years and yet changed history. The noted 19th-century historian Philip Schaff was moved to state of this young man: "Without writing a single line, he set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times." That remarkable young man was, of course, Jesus Christ.

² The apostle John wrote an account of Jesus' ministry and said in conclusion: "There are, in fact, many other things also which Jesus did, which, if ever they were written in full detail, I suppose, the world itself could not contain the scrolls written." (John 21:25) John knew that he could record only a fraction of all that Jesus said and did during those eventful three and a half years. Still, the historic events reported by John in his Gospel are of immense value.

³ Besides the four important Gospel accounts, other Bible passages provide faith-strengthening details about Jesus' life. For in-

stance, the Bible accounts of certain faithful men who lived before Jesus contain information that deepens our insight into Jesus' role in God's purpose. Let us consider some of these.

Men of God Who Prefigured the Christ

⁴ John and the other three Gospel writers point to Moses, David, and Solomon as men who foreshadowed Jesus as God's Anointed One and designated King. In what way did those ancient servants of God provide foregleams of Jesus, and what can we learn from these accounts?

⁵ In brief, the Bible tells us that Moses was a prophet, a mediator, and a deliverer. So is Jesus. David was a shepherd and a king who conquered Israel's enemies. Jesus too is a shepherd and a conquering king. (Ezek. 37:24, 25) While still faithful, Solomon was a wise ruler, and under his kingship Israel enjoyed peace. (1 Ki. 4:25, 29) Jesus too is supremely wise and is called "Prince of Peace." (Isa. 9:6) Clearly, Christ Jesus' role resembles that of those earlier men but Jesus' place in God's purpose is superlative. First, let us compare Jesus with Moses and see how such a comparison helps us to appreciate more fully Jesus' role in God's purpose.

Moses—A Forerunner of Jesus

⁶ Shortly after Pentecost 33 C.E., the apostle Peter quoted a prophecy by Moses that

1. How has Jesus Christ influenced history?
2. What did the apostle John say about Jesus and His ministry?
3. How can we deepen our insight into Jesus' role in God's purpose?

4. Who foreshadowed Jesus, and in what ways?
6. How did the apostle Peter explain the necessity of listening to Jesus?

was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Peter was standing before a crowd of worshippers in the temple. The people were “surprised out of their wits” when Peter and John healed a beggar who was lame from birth, and they all ran to investigate. Peter explained that this astonishing act was a result of Jehovah’s holy spirit operating through Jesus Christ. Then, quoting from the Hebrew Scriptures, he said: “In fact, Moses said, ‘Jehovah God will raise up for you from among your brothers a prophet like me. You must listen to him according to all the things he speaks to you.’”—Acts 3:11, 22, 23; *read Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19.*

⁷ Those words of Moses were likely familiar to Peter’s audience. As Jews, they had a high regard for Moses. (Deut. 34:10) With keen anticipation, they looked forward to the coming of a prophet greater than Moses. That prophet would prove to be not just a messiah, an anointed one of God like Moses, but *the* Messiah, “the Christ of God, the Chosen One” of Jehovah.—Luke 23:35; Heb. 11:26.

Similarities Between Jesus and Moses

⁸ In some respects, the earthly life of Jesus resembled the life of Moses. For instance, as babes, both Moses and Jesus escaped death at the hands of a tyrannical ruler. (Ex. 1:22–2:10; Matt. 2:7-14) In addition, both were ‘called out of Egypt.’ The prophet Hosea stated: “When Israel was a boy, then I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.” (Hos. 11:1) Hosea’s words pointed back to the time when the nation of Israel, under its divinely appointed leader, Moses, was led out of Egypt. (Ex. 4:22, 23; 12:29-37) However, Hosea’s words referred not only to a past event but also to a future

one. His words were a prophecy that was fulfilled when Joseph and Mary returned from Egypt with Jesus after the death of King Herod.—Matt. 2:15, 19-23.

⁹ Both Moses and Jesus performed miracles, thus demonstrating that they had Jehovah’s backing. Indeed, Moses was the first human on record to perform miracles. (Ex. 4: 1-9) For example, Moses performed miracles involving water when at his command the waters of the Nile and its reedy pools became blood, the Red Sea was parted, and water came gushing out of rock in the desert. (Ex. 7: 19-21; 14:21; 17:5-7) Jesus too performed miracles involving water. His very first miracle was that of turning water into wine at a wedding feast. (John 2:1-11) Later, he calmed the turbulent Sea of Galilee. And on one occasion, he even walked on water! (Matt. 8:23-27; 14:23-25) Some other similarities between Moses and the Greater Moses, Jesus, can be seen in the box on page 26.

Appreciate Christ as a Prophet

¹⁰ Most people think of a prophet as someone who foretells the future, but that is only part of a prophet’s responsibility. A true prophet is an inspired spokesman for Jehovah, one who proclaims “the magnificent things of God.” (Acts 2:11, 16, 17) Among other things, his prophesying could include announcing future events, revealing aspects of Jehovah’s purpose, or proclaiming God’s judgments. Moses was such a prophet. He foretold each of the Ten Plagues that befell Egypt. He introduced the Law covenant at Sinai. And he instructed the nation in God’s will. Yet, a prophet greater than Moses was to come eventually.

9. (a) What miracles did Moses and Jesus perform? (b) Give other similarities between Jesus and Moses. (See the box “Additional Ways in Which Jesus Was Like Moses,” on page 26.)

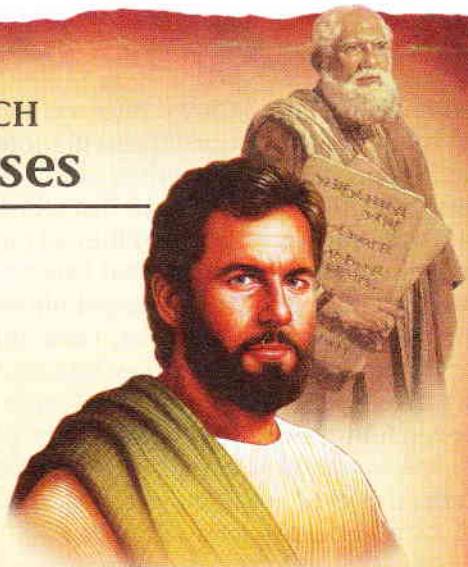
10. What is a true prophet, and why was Moses one?

7. Why could Peter’s audience understand his statements about a prophet greater than Moses?

8. What are some similarities between the life of Moses and that of Jesus?

ADDITIONAL WAYS IN WHICH Jesus Was Like Moses

- ☐ Both left behind high positions for the sake of serving Jehovah and his people.
—**2 Cor. 8:9; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 11:24-26.**
- ☐ Both served as anointed ones, or 'christs.'
—**Mark 14:61, 62; John 4:25, 26; Heb. 11:26.**
- ☐ Both came in the name of Jehovah.
—**Ex. 3:13-16; John 5:43; 17:4, 6, 26.**
- ☐ Both displayed meekness.
—**Num. 12:3; Matt. 11:28-30.**
- ☐ Both were involved in feeding multitudes.
—**Ex. 16:12; John 6:48-51.**
- ☐ Both served as judge and lawgiver.
—**Ex. 18:13; Mal. 4:4; John 5:22, 23; 15:10.**
- ☐ Both were entrusted with headship over God's house.—**Num. 12:7; Heb. 3:2-6.**
- ☐ Both are described as faithful witnesses of Jehovah.—**Heb. 11:24-29; 12:1; Rev. 1:5.**
- ☐ After the death of Moses and the man Jesus, God disposed of their bodies.
—**Deut. 34:5, 6; Luke 24:1-3; Acts 2:31; 1 Cor. 15:50; Jude 9.**



¹¹ Later, in the first century, Zechariah acted as a prophet in revealing God's purpose regarding his son, John. (Luke 1:76) That son became John the Baptizer, who announced the coming of the long-awaited prophet greater than Moses—Jesus Christ. (John 1:23-36) As a prophet, Jesus foretold many things. For example, he spoke about his own death, foretelling how he would die, where he would die, and at whose hands he would die. (Matt. 20:17-19) To the surprise of his listeners, Jesus also foretold the destruction of Jerusalem with its temple. (Mark 13:

11. How did Jesus fulfill the role of a prophet greater than Moses?

1, 2) His prophecies reach right down to our own time.—Matt. 24:3-41.

¹² In addition to being a prophet, Jesus was a preacher and a teacher. He preached the good news of God's Kingdom, and no one spoke with greater boldness than he did. (Luke 4:16-21, 43) As a teacher, he had no equal. "Never has another man spoken like this," said some who heard him. (John 7:46) Jesus was zealous in his efforts to spread the good news, and he inspired his followers with that same zeal for the Kingdom.

12. (a) How did Jesus lay the foundation for a global preaching campaign? (b) Why do we follow Jesus' example today?

Thus, he laid the foundation for a global preaching and teaching campaign that is still continuing. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 5:42) Last year, some seven million of Christ's followers spent about 1,500,000,000 hours in preaching the good news of the Kingdom and teaching interested ones Bible truths. Do you have a meaningful share in that work?

¹³ There is no question that Jehovah fulfilled the prophecy to raise up a prophet like Moses. How does that knowledge affect you? Does it give you more confidence in the fulfillment of inspired prophecies that have to do with our immediate future? Yes, meditating on the example of the Greater Moses moves us to "stay awake and keep our senses" as to what God will soon do.—1 Thess. 5:2, 6.

Value Christ as Mediator

¹⁴ Like Moses, Jesus was a mediator. A mediator acts as a bridge between two parties. Moses mediated the Law covenant between Jehovah and the Israelites. If the sons of Jacob obeyed the laws of God, they would remain God's special property, his congregation. (Ex. 19:3-8) That covenant stayed in force from 1513 B.C.E. until the first century C.E.

¹⁵ In 33 C.E., Jehovah initiated a better covenant with a new Israel, "the Israel of God," which became a worldwide congregation made up of anointed Christians. (Gal. 6:16) While the covenant mediated by Moses included laws written by God on stone, the covenant mediated by Jesus is superior. Its laws are inscribed by God on human hearts. (*Read 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:10.*) Thus, "the Israel of God" is now God's special property, 'a nation producing the fruits' of the Messianic Kingdom. (Matt. 21:43) Members

of that spiritual nation are the participants in that new covenant. Still, they are not the only ones to benefit from it. Untold multitudes, even many who at present are asleep in death, will receive everlasting blessings because of that superlative covenant.

Esteem Christ as Deliverer

¹⁶ On their last night before the Exodus, some of the offspring of Israel were in grave danger. Soon, God's angel would pass through the land of Egypt, killing all the firstborn. Jehovah told Moses that the firstborn of Israel would be saved if the Israelites took the blood of the Passover lamb and sprinkled it on the lintels and doorposts of their doorways. (Ex. 12:1-13, 21-23) So it proved to be. Later, the whole nation was in serious danger. They were trapped between the Red Sea and the pursuing Egyptian war chariots. Jehovah again provided deliverance through Moses, who miraculously parted the waters of that sea.—Ex. 14:13, 21.

¹⁷ Great as those acts of deliverance were, the deliverance Jehovah performed through Jesus is much greater. Jesus is the means by which obedient ones are delivered from slavery to sin. (Rom. 5:12, 18) And that deliverance is "an everlasting deliverance." (Heb. 9:11, 12) The name Jesus means "Jehovah Is Salvation." Jesus, as our Deliverer, or Savior,

16. (a) In what ways did Jehovah use Moses to deliver Israel? (b) According to Exodus 14:13, who is the Source of salvation?

17, 18. In what ways is Jesus a greater deliverer than Moses?

Can You Explain?

How is Jesus greater than Moses as

- a prophet?
- a mediator?
- a deliverer?

13. What will help us to "stay awake"?

14. How was Moses a mediator between the Israelites and God?

15. How is Jesus a superior mediator?

not only rescues us from our past sins but also opens the way for us to enjoy a better future. By delivering them from slavery to sin, Jesus saves his followers from the wrath of God and brings them into a loving relationship with Jehovah.—Matt. 1:21.

¹⁸ The deliverance from sin that Jesus provides will in due time include freedom from its grim effects—sickness and even death. To visualize what that will mean, consider what happened when Jesus went to the home of a certain man named Jairus, whose 12-year-old daughter had died. Jesus reassured Jairus: “Have no fear, only put forth faith, and she will be saved.” (Luke 8:41, 42, 49, 50) True to his words, the girl rose from the dead! Can you imagine the joy of her parents? Then you have an idea of the surpassing joy that will be ours when “all those in the memorial tombs will hear [Jesus’] voice and come out” in the resurrection. (John 5:28, 29) Truly, Jesus is a Savior, our Deliverer!—*Read Acts 5:31; Titus 1:4; Rev. 7:10.*

¹⁹ Knowing that we can be instrumental in helping people to benefit from Jesus’ saving acts impels us to share in the preaching and teaching work. (Isa. 61:1-3) Further, meditating on Jesus’ role as the Greater Moses deepens our confidence that he will deliver his followers when he comes to execute judgment upon the wicked.—Matt. 25:31-34, 41, 46; Rev. 7:9, 14.

²⁰ Yes, Jesus is the Greater Moses. He did many marvelous things that Moses could never have done. Jesus’ words as a prophet and his actions as a mediator affect the entire human family. As a Deliverer, Jesus brings not temporary but eternal salvation for redeemable mankind. Yet, there is more to learn about Jesus from the faithful men of old. The next article will discuss how he was the Greater David and the Greater Solomon.

19, 20. (a) How does meditating on Jesus’ role as the Greater Moses affect us? (b) What will the next article consider?

APPRECIATING JESUS —THE GREATER DAVID AND THE GREATER SOLOMON

“Look! something more than Solomon is here.”—MATT. 12:42.

HE DID not look like a king. Rather, to the prophet Samuel, he appeared to be nothing more than a young shepherd boy. Moreover, his hometown, Bethlehem, was not of great prominence. It was described as “too little to get to be among the thousands

of Judah.” (Mic. 5:2) Nevertheless, this apparently insignificant young man from a small town was about to be anointed by the prophet Samuel as the future king of Israel.

² Young David was not the first son that his father, Jesse, presented to Samuel to be anointed; neither was he the second or third. David, the last of eight boys born to Jesse, was not even present when Samuel came to

1, 2. From a human point of view, why was it surprising that Samuel was instructed to anoint David as king?

Jesse's household to anoint one of that faithful man's sons as the next king of the land. But David was Jehovah's choice, and that was what counted.—1 Sam. 16:1-10.

³ Jehovah saw what Samuel could not see. God could discern David's heart condition, and it was pleasing to him. With God, it is not the mere outward appearance that matters; it is what a person really is on the inside. (*Read 1 Samuel 16:7.*) So when Samuel learned that Jehovah had not chosen any of the seven older sons of Jesse, he asked that the youngest be brought in from the pastures. The account says: "Accordingly [Jesse] sent and had [David] come. Now he was ruddy, a young man with beautiful eyes and handsome in appearance. Then Jehovah said: 'Get up, anoint him, for this is he!' Accordingly Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the spirit of Jehovah began to be operative upon David from that day forward."—1 Sam. 16:12, 13.

David Prefigured Christ

⁴ Jesus, like David, was born in Bethlehem, some 1,100 years after David's time. In the eyes of many, Jesus too did not look like a king. That is, he was not the kind of king that many in Israel hoped for. Yet, like David, he was Jehovah's choice. He, like David, was beloved by Jehovah.* (Luke 3:22) In Jesus' case too, 'the spirit of Jehovah became operative upon him.'

* The name David probably means "Beloved." At the time of Jesus' baptism and again at his transfiguration, Jehovah spoke from heaven calling him "my Son, the beloved."—Matt. 3:17; 17:5.

3. (a) What does Jehovah view as most important when he examines an individual? (b) At the time of David's anointing, what became operative upon him?

4. 5. (a) Describe some parallels between David and Jesus. (b) Why can Jesus be called the Greater David?

⁵ The parallels between the two continue. For instance, David was betrayed by his counselor Ahithophel, and Jesus was betrayed by his apostle Judas Iscariot. (Ps. 41:9; John 13:18) Both David and Jesus had a consuming zeal for Jehovah's place of worship. (Ps. 27:4; 69:9; John 2:17) Jesus was also David's heir. Before Jesus' birth, an angel told his mother: "Jehovah God will give him the throne of David his father." (Luke 1:32; Matt. 1:1) However, because all Messianic promises are to be fulfilled in Jesus, he is far more than David. He is the Greater David, the long-hoped-for Messianic King.—John 7:42.

Follow the Shepherd-King

⁶ Jesus is also a shepherd. What are the characteristics of a good shepherd? He is someone who faithfully and courageously tends, feeds, and guards his flock. (Ps. 23:2-4) As a youth, David was a shepherd, and he took very good care of his father's sheep. He was courageous when the flock was threatened and risked his life to protect the sheep from a lion and a bear.—1 Sam. 17:34, 35.

⁷ The years David spent in fields and on hills tending sheep prepared him for the demanding duties and responsibilities of shepherding the nation of Israel.* (Ps. 78:70, 71) Jesus too has proved to be a model shepherd. He derives strength and guidance from Jehovah as he shepherds his "little flock" and the "other sheep." (Luke 12:32; John 10:16) Thus Jesus proves to be the Fine Shepherd. He knows his flock so well that he calls each sheep by name. He loves his sheep so much

* At the same time, David became like a trusting lamb. He looked to the Great Shepherd, Jehovah, for protection and guidance. "Jehovah is my Shepherd," he said with complete confidence. "I shall lack nothing." (Ps. 23:1) John the Baptizer identified Jesus as "the Lamb of God."—John 1:29.

6. In what ways was David a good shepherd?

7. (a) What prepared David for his duties as king? (b) How did Jesus prove to be the Fine Shepherd?

that while on earth he willingly gave of himself for their well-being. (John 10:3, 11, 14, 15) As the Fine Shepherd, Jesus accomplishes something that David could never do. His ransom sacrifice opened the way for mankind to be rescued from death. Nothing will stop him from shepherding his "little flock" to immortal life in heaven and leading his "other sheep" to everlasting life in a righteous new world free from wolflike predators.—*Read John 10:27-29.*

Follow the Conquering King

⁸ As king, David was a resolute warrior who protected the land of God's people, and "Jehovah kept saving David wherever he went." Under David's leadership, the nation's boundaries were extended from the river of Egypt to the river Euphrates. (2 Sam. 8:1-14) In Jehovah's strength, he became a most powerful ruler. The Bible states: "David's fame began to go out into all the lands, and Jehovah himself put the dread of him upon all the nations."—1 Chron. 14:17.

⁹ Like King David, the man Jesus was fearless. As King-Designate, he showed his authority over the demons, rescuing victims from their clutches. (Mark 5:2, 6-13; Luke 4:36) Even the archenemy, Satan the Devil, has no hold on him. With Jehovah's support, Jesus conquered the world, which lies in Satan's power.—John 14:30; 16:33; 1 John 5:19.

¹⁰ Some 60 years after Jesus' death and resurrection to heaven, the apostle John received a prophetic vision of Jesus in His role as Warrior-King in the heavens. John writes: "Look! a white horse; and the one seated upon it had a bow; and a crown was given

him, and he went forth conquering and to complete his conquest." (Rev. 6:2) The rider on the white horse is Jesus. "A crown was given him" in 1914 when he was enthroned as King in the heavenly Kingdom. After that, "he went forth conquering." Yes, like David, Jesus is a conquering king. Shortly after he was installed as King of God's Kingdom, he conquered Satan in battle and hurled him and his demons down to the earth. (Rev. 12:7-9) His victorious ride will continue until he will "complete his conquest," completely destroying Satan's wicked system.—*Read Revelation 19:11, 19-21.*

¹¹ Like David, though, Jesus is a compassionate king, and he will protect the "great crowd" through Armageddon. (Rev. 7:9, 14) Furthermore, under the rule of Jesus and his joint heirs, the resurrected 144,000, there will be "a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous." (Acts 24:15) Those who are resurrected on earth will have the prospect of living forever. What a wonderful future awaits them! May we all be determined to continue to "do what is good," so that we will be alive when the earth is filled with righteous, happy subjects of the Greater David.—Ps. 37:27-29.

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom Is Answered

¹² David's son Solomon also prefigured Jesus.* When Solomon became king, Jehovah appeared to him in a dream and said that He would give him anything he asked for. Solomon could have asked for more wealth, power, or a longer life. Instead, he unselfishly asked Jehovah: "Give me now wisdom and knowledge that I may go out before this people and that I may come in, for who could judge this great people of yours?" (2 Chron.

* Interestingly, a second name for Solomon was Jedidiah, which means "Beloved of Jah."—2 Sam. 12:24, 25.

12. For what did Solomon pray?

8. How did David prove to be a conquering king?
9. Explain how Jesus as King-Designate was a conqueror.
10, 11. What is Jesus' role as Warrior-King in the heavens?

1:7-10) Jehovah answered Solomon's prayer.—*Read 2 Chronicles 1:11, 12.*

¹³ As long as Solomon was faithful to Jehovah, his words of wisdom were unmatched among his contemporaries. Solomon spoke "three thousand proverbs." (1 Ki. 4:30, 32, 34) Many of these were written down and are still treasured by those who seek wisdom. The queen of Sheba traveled some 1,500 miles to test Solomon's wisdom with "perplexing questions." She was impressed by what Solomon said and by the prosperity of his kingdom. (1 Ki. 10:1-9) The Bible identifies the Source of Solomon's wisdom by stating: "All the people of the earth were seeking the face of Solomon to hear his wisdom that God had put in his heart."—1 Ki. 10:24.

Follow the Wise King

¹⁴ Only one human clearly surpassed Solomon in wisdom. That was Jesus Christ, who described himself as "something more than Solomon." (Matt. 12:42) Jesus spoke "sayings of everlasting life." (John 6:68) For example, the Sermon on the Mount expands on the principles of some of Solomon's proverbs. Solomon described a number of things that bring happiness to a worshipper of Jehovah. (Prov. 3:13; 8:32, 33; 14:21; 16:20) Jesus emphasized that true happiness stems from things that are related to the worship of Jehovah and the fulfillment of God's promises. He said: "Happy are those conscious of



Solomon's God-given wisdom foreshadowed the wisdom of the Greater Solomon

their spiritual need, since the kingdom of the heavens belongs to them." (Matt. 5:3) Those who apply the principles found in Jesus' teachings are drawn closer to Jehovah, "the source of life." (Ps. 36:9; Prov. 22:11; Matt. 5:8) Christ embodies "the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:24, 30) As the Messianic King, Jesus Christ has "the spirit of wisdom."—Isa. 11:2.

¹⁵ How can we, as followers of the Greater Solomon, benefit from godly wisdom? Since Jehovah's wisdom is revealed

in his Word, we must put forth the effort to find it by carefully studying the Bible, particularly the recorded words of Jesus, and by meditating on what we read. (Prov. 2:1-5) Further, we need to persevere in asking God for wisdom. God's Word assures us that our sincere prayers for help will be answered. (Jas. 1:5) With the help of the holy spirit, we will find gems of wisdom in God's Word that can help us to deal with challenges and make wise decisions. (Luke 11:13) Solomon was also called "the congregator" who "taught the people knowledge continually." (Eccl. 12:9, 10) Jesus, as Head of the Christian congregation, is also a congregator of his people. (John 10:16; Col. 1:18) Therefore, we do well to attend congregation meetings, where we are 'taught continually.'

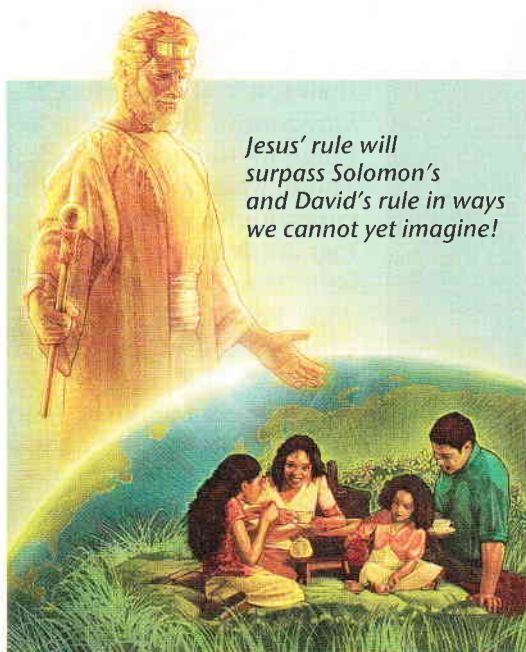
¹⁶ Solomon was a very active king. He organized a nationwide construction program, overseeing the building of palaces, roads, waterworks, storage cities, chariot cities, and cities for the horsemen. (1 Ki. 9:17-19) The entire kingdom benefited from his building

13. How was Solomon's wisdom unmatched, and what was its Source?

14. In what ways was Jesus "something more than Solomon"?

15. How can we benefit from godly wisdom?

16. What similarity is there between Solomon and Jesus?



Jesus' rule will surpass Solomon's and David's rule in ways we cannot yet imagine!

works. Jesus too is a builder. He built his congregation on the “rock-mass.” (Matt. 16:18) He will also oversee the building work to be carried out in the new world.—Isa. 65:21, 22.

Follow the King of Peace

¹⁷ The name Solomon comes from a root meaning “peace.” King Solomon ruled from Jerusalem, the name of which means “Possession of Twofold Peace.” His 40-year reign was marked by unprecedented peace in the nation of Israel. The Bible states concerning those years: “Judah and Israel continued to dwell in security, everyone under his own vine and under his own fig tree, from Dan to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon.” (1 Ki. 4:25) Still, Solomon, in all his wisdom, could not free his subjects from the shackles of sickness, sin, and death. The Greater Solomon, though, will free his subjects from all of that.—*Read Romans 8:19-21.*

17. (a) What was an outstanding characteristic of Solomon's rule? (b) What could Solomon not accomplish?

¹⁸ Even now in the Christian congregation, we have peaceful conditions. Indeed, we are enjoying a true spiritual paradise. We have peace with God and with our fellow man. Note what Isaiah prophesied about the conditions that we are experiencing today: “They will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn war anymore.” (Isa. 2:3, 4) By acting in harmony with God's spirit, we contribute to the beauty of the spiritual paradise.

¹⁹ However, the future will be even better. As obedient humans enjoy peace to an unprecedented degree under Jesus' rule, they will gradually be “set free from enslavement to corruption” until they reach human perfection. (Rom. 8:21) After they pass the final test at the end of the Thousand Year Reign, “the meek ones themselves will possess the earth, and they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.” (Ps. 37:11; Rev. 20:7-10) Truly, Christ Jesus' rule will surpass Solomon's in ways we cannot yet imagine!

²⁰ As Israel rejoiced under the oversight of Moses, David, and Solomon, we will rejoice even more under Christ's rulership. (1 Ki. 8:66) All thanks to Jehovah for providing us with his only-begotten Son—the Greater Moses, David, and Solomon!

18. In the Christian congregation, what conditions do we enjoy?

19, 20. What reasons do we have to rejoice?

Can You Explain?

- How is Jesus the Greater David?
- How is Jesus the Greater Solomon?
- What do you appreciate about the Greater David, who is also the Greater Solomon?