

JANUARY 2021

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
MARCH 1–APRIL 4, 2021

SONG 3

Our Strength, Our Hope,
Our Confidence

PREVIEW

Our yeartext for 2021 highlights the importance of trusting in Jehovah as we deal with stressful situations now and in the future. This article will discuss practical ways that we can apply the counsel found in our yeartext.

Keep Calm and Trust in Jehovah

OUR YEARTEXT FOR 2021:

“Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust.”

—ISA. 30:15.

WE ALL want to lead a calm and peaceful life. No one enjoys feeling anxious. At times, however, we may struggle with anxieties. In fact, some of Jehovah’s servants may ask the same question King David asked Jehovah: “How long will I have anxious concern, with grief in my heart each day?”—Ps. 13:2.

² Although we cannot be completely free from feelings of anxiety, we can do much to control such feelings. In this article, we will first identify some of the things that may cause us to feel anxious. Then we will discuss six practical ways that we can remain calm as we deal with our problems.

WHAT MAY CAUSE US TO FEEL ANXIOUS?

³ We may have little or no control over some things that could cause us to feel anxious. For example, we cannot regulate how much the cost of food, clothing, and shelter will rise each year; nor can we control how frequently our workmates or schoolmates will try to tempt us to be dishonest or immoral. And we cannot stop the crime that happens in our neighborhood. We face

1. Like King David, what may some of us ask?
2. What will we discuss in this article?
3. What pressures do we face, and how much control do we have over them?

these challenges because we live in a world where most people's thinking is not based on Bible principles. Satan, the god of this world, knows that some people will allow "the anxiety of this system of things" to keep them from serving Jehovah. (Matt. 13:22; 1 John 5:19) No wonder that the world is so full of stressful situations!

⁴ We might respond to intense pressures by becoming consumed with anxiety. For instance, we may worry that we will not earn enough money to care for our needs or that we will get sick and miss work or even lose our job. We may also be concerned that we will be unfaithful when tempted to break God's law. Soon Satan will cause those whom he controls to attack God's people, so we may worry about how we will react to that attack. We may wonder, 'Is it wrong for me to feel some concern about such issues?'

⁵ We know that Jesus told his followers: "Stop being anxious." (Matt. 6:25) Does this mean that he expects us to feel no anxiety whatsoever? Certainly not! After all, in the past some of Jehovah's loyal servants struggled with anxiety, but they did not lose Jehovah's approval.* (1 Ki. 19:4; Ps. 6:3) Jesus was actually reassuring us. He did not want us to become so anxious about the cares of this life that our service to God would

* Some faithful brothers and sisters suffer from an overwhelming feeling of anxiety or panic. Such a disorder is a serious health condition and should not be confused with the type of anxiety that Jesus was discussing.

4. How might we respond to intense pressures?
5. What did Jesus mean when he said: "Stop being anxious"?

be negatively affected. What, then, are ways that we can control feelings of anxiety?—See the box "How to Do It."

SIX THINGS THAT WILL HELP US KEEP CALM

⁶ **(1) *Pray often.*** Christians who are under pressure can find relief when they turn to Jehovah in earnest prayer. (1 Pet. 5:7) In answer to your prayers, you can receive "the peace of God that surpasses all [human] understanding." **(Read Philippians 4:6, 7.)** Jehovah calms our anxious thoughts by means of his powerful holy spirit.—Gal. 5:22.

⁷ When approaching Jehovah in prayer, open your heart to him. Be specific. Tell him what the problem is, and explain to him how you feel about it. If there is a possible solution, ask him for the wisdom to find it and the strength to implement it. If the answer to your problem is beyond your control, ask Jehovah to help you not to be unduly worried about it. When you are specific in your prayers, in time you will see more clearly how Jehovah has answered them. If the answer does not come immediately after you have been praying, do not give up. Jehovah wants you to be not only specific but also persistent in your prayers.—Luke 11:8-10.

⁸ As you throw your anxiety on Jehovah in prayer, be sure to include words of thanks. It is good for us to count our blessings, even when our circumstances

6. According to Philippians 4:6, 7, what can calm our anxieties?
7. What should we keep in mind when praying to God?
8. What should we include in our prayers?

are especially difficult. If at times you are unable to find the right words to express your intense emotions, remember that Jehovah answers prayers as simple as ‘Please help!’—2 Chron. 18:31; Rom. 8:26.

⁹ **(2) Rely on Jehovah’s wisdom, not your own.** Back in the eighth century B.C.E., the people of Judah felt threatened by the Assyrians. In a desperate effort to avoid coming under the Assyrian yoke, they turned to pagan Egypt. (Isa. 30:1, 2) Jehovah warned them that their wayward course would end in disaster. (Isa. 30:7, 12, 13) Through Isaiah, Jehovah told the people how they could find real security. He said: “Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust” in Jehovah.—Isa. 30:15b.

¹⁰ How might we show our trust in Jehovah? Consider some examples. Suppose you are offered a better-paying job that will require a substantial amount of your time and will interfere with your spiritual routine. Or suppose that someone in the workplace expresses a romantic interest in you, but the person is not a baptized servant of God. Or imagine that a beloved family member gives you an ultimatum: “It’s either me or your God.” In each of these cases, you will have a difficult decision to make, but in each instance, Jehovah will give you the direction you need. (Matt. 6:33; 10:37; 1 Cor. 7:39) The question is, Will you trust that direction enough to apply it?

9. How can real security be found?

10. What are some circumstances in which we can show our trust in Jehovah?

¹¹ **(3) Learn from good examples and bad ones.** The Bible contains many accounts that highlight the value of keeping calm and putting our trust in Jehovah. As you study these accounts, notice what helped God’s servants to remain calm in the face of extreme opposition. For example, when the Jewish supreme court ordered the apostles to stop preaching, they were not intimidated. Instead, they boldly declared: “We must obey God as ruler rather than men.” (Acts 5:29) Even after being flogged, the apostles did not panic. Why? Because they knew that Jehovah was on their side. He was pleased with them. Thus, they continued preaching the good news. (Acts 5:40-42) Likewise, when the disciple Stephen faced death, he remained so peaceful and serene that his face looked “like an angel’s face.” (Acts 6:12-15) Why? Because he was assured of Jehovah’s approval.

¹² The apostles had direct evidence that Jehovah was with them. He had given them the power to perform miracles. (Acts 5:12-16; 6:8) That is not the case with us today. Even so, through his Word, Jehovah lovingly assures us that when we suffer for the sake of righteousness, he is pleased with us and his spirit is with us. **(Read 1 Peter 3:14; 4:14.)** So rather than dwell on how we might react to severe persecution in the future, we need to focus on what we can do now to build our confidence in Jehovah’s ability to sustain and deliver us. Just as

11. Which Bible accounts could we study in order to keep calm in the face of opposition?

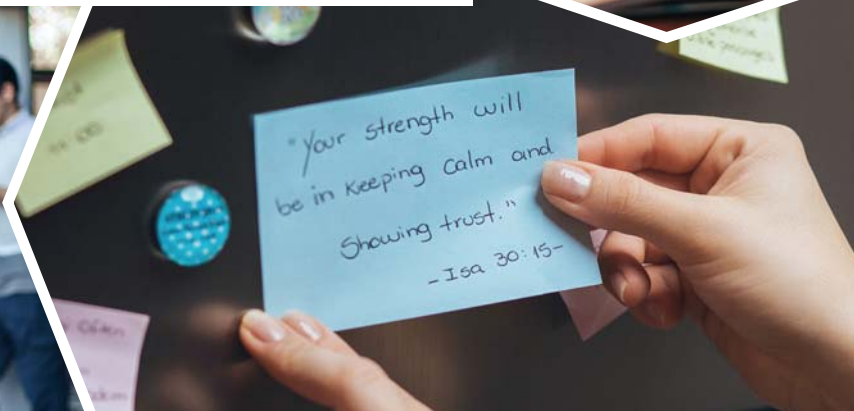
12. According to 1 Peter 3:14 and 4:14, why can we be happy when we are persecuted?



**“Your strength
will be in keeping
calm and showing
trust.” —ISA. 30:15**

HOW TO DO IT

1. Pray often
2. Rely on Jehovah’s wisdom
3. Learn from past examples
4. Memorize Bible passages
5. Associate with God’s people
6. Keep your hope strong



those early disciples did, we must trust Jesus' promise: "I will give you words and wisdom that all your opposers together will not be able to resist or dispute." We have the guarantee: "By your endurance you will preserve your lives." (Luke 21:12-19) And never forget that Jehovah keeps in his memory the smallest details about his servants who die faithful to him. With that knowledge, he will resurrect them.

¹³ We can also learn from the experiences of those who failed to keep calm and trust in Jehovah. Studying those bad examples will help us to avoid making the same mistakes they made. For instance, early in his reign, King Asa of Judah relied on Jehovah when confronted by a massive army, and Jehovah blessed him with victory. (2 Chron. 14:9-12) Later, though, when the much smaller army of King Baasha of Israel came against him, Asa paid the Syrians for military help instead of looking to Jehovah for salvation, as he had in the past. (2 Chron. 16:1-3) And near the end of his life when he developed a severe ailment, he did not rely on Jehovah to help him.—2 Chron. 16:12.

¹⁴ In the beginning, Asa looked to Jehovah when faced with problems. But later he failed to turn to his God for help, preferring to handle matters on his own. On the surface, Asa's plan to turn to the Syrians for help against Israel may have appeared to be very practical. But his

13. How can we benefit from considering the experiences of those who failed to keep calm and trust in Jehovah?

14. What can we learn from Asa's mistakes?

success was short-lived. Jehovah told him through a prophet: "Because you relied on the king of Syria and did not rely on Jehovah your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand." (2 Chron. 16:7) We must be careful not to feel so confident about handling matters on our own that we fail to look to Jehovah for guidance through his Word. Even when we are faced with an urgent situation, we should calmly rely on Jehovah, and he will help us to succeed.

¹⁵ **(4) Memorize Bible passages.** As you come across Bible passages showing that strength comes from keeping calm and trusting in Jehovah, try to commit a few key verses to memory. You may find it helpful to read them aloud or to write them down and review them often. Joshua was commanded to read the book of the Law regularly in an undertone in order to act wisely. These reminders would also help him overcome the fear that he might otherwise have felt in his circumstances. (Josh. 1:8, 9) Many expressions found in God's Word can give you peace of mind and heart in situations that would normally lead to feelings of anxiety or dread.—Ps. 27:1-3; Prov. 3:25, 26.

¹⁶ **(5) Associate with God's people.** Jehovah uses our brothers and sisters to help us to keep calm and trust in him. At our meetings, we benefit from the instruction presented from the platform, the comments made by the audi-

15. What might we do when reading the Bible?

16. How does Jehovah use the congregation to help us to keep calm and trust in him?

ence, and the upbuilding conversations we have with our brothers and sisters. (Heb. 10:24, 25) We can also be greatly encouraged when we share our feelings with trusted friends in the congregation. “A good word” from a friend can go a long way in helping to lift the weight of our anxiety.—Prov. 12:25.

¹⁷ **(6) Keep your hope strong.** Our Kingdom hope serves “as an anchor for the soul,” giving us stability despite challenging circumstances or anxious thoughts. **(Read Hebrews 6:19.)** Meditate on Jehovah’s promise of a future in which negative thoughts will be gone. (Isa. 65:17) Picture yourself in the peaceful new world, where distressing situations will no longer exist. (Mic. 4:4) You will also strengthen your hope as you share it with others. Do all you can in the preaching and discipling work. If you do, you can “have

17. According to Hebrews 6:19, how can our Kingdom hope give us stability despite challenging circumstances?

the full assurance of the hope down to the end.”—Heb. 6:11.

¹⁸ As this system of things comes to its end, we will experience more challenges that could produce anxious thoughts. Our yeartext for 2021 can help us to face those challenges and remain calm, not in our own strength, but through our trust in Jehovah. During the coming year, let us show by our actions that we have faith in Jehovah’s promise: **“Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust.”**—Isa. 30:15.

18. What challenges can we expect in the future, and how can we face them successfully?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 5: (1) Throughout the day, a sister prays intensely about her anxieties. (2) During her lunch break at work, she looks to God’s Word for wisdom. (3) She meditates on good examples and bad ones found in the Bible. (4) She puts on her refrigerator an encouraging scripture that she wants to memorize. (5) She enjoys good companionship while in the ministry. (6) She strengthens her hope by thinking about the future.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| ■ Why is it not wrong to feel some anxiety? | ■ What are six things that we can do to help us keep calm? | ■ Why is our 2021 yeartext so timely? |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|

Lessons From “the Disciple Whom Jesus Loved”

SONG 105

“God Is Love”

PREVIEW

The apostle John is believed to be “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” (John 21:7) So even as a young man, he must have had many admirable qualities. Years later, Jehovah used him to write extensively about love. This article will review some of John’s writings and will discuss what we can learn from his example.

“Let us continue loving one another, because love is from God.”—1 JOHN 4:7.

“GOD is love,” wrote the apostle John. (1 John 4:8) That simple statement reminds us of a fundamental truth: God, the Source of life, is also the Source of love. Jehovah loves us! His love makes us feel secure, happy, and satisfied.

² For Christians, showing love is not optional. It is a commandment. **(Read Matthew 22:37-40.)** When we come to know Jehovah well, we may find it easy to obey the first commandment. After all, Jehovah is perfect; he is thoughtful and gentle in the way he treats us. But we may have difficulty obeying the second commandment. Why? Because our brothers and sisters—who are among our closest neighbors—are imperfect. At times, they may say and do things that we feel are uncaring and unkind. Jehovah knew that we would face this challenge, so he inspired some of the writers of the Bible to include specific counsel on why and how we should show love to one another. One of those writers was John.—1 John 3: 11, 12.

³ In his writings, John stresses that Christians must show love. In fact, in his account of Jesus’ life, John uses the words “love” and “loved” more often than the other three Gospel writers combined. John was about

1. How does God’s love make you feel?
2. According to Matthew 22:37-40, what are the two greatest commandments, and why may we have difficulty obeying the second one?
3. What did John stress?

one hundred years old when he wrote his Gospel account and his three letters. Those inspired writings reveal that love must influence everything a Christian does. (1 John 4:10, 11) However, it took time for John to learn that lesson.

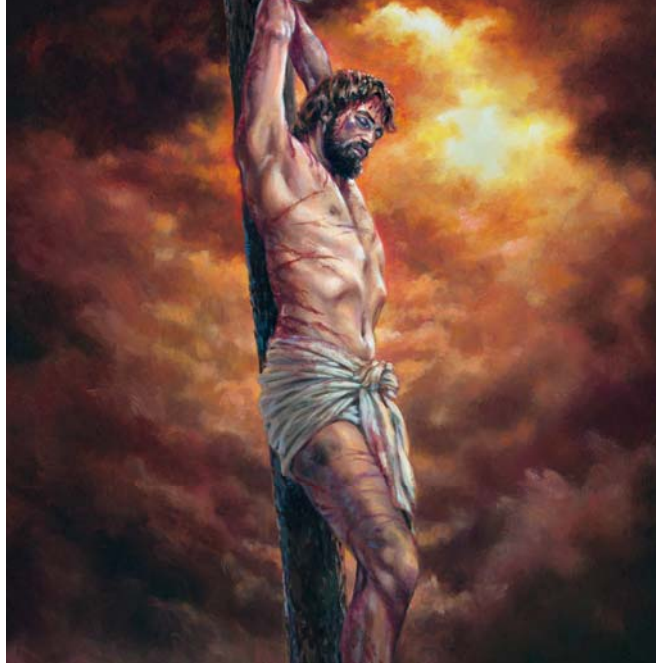
⁴ When John was a young man, he did not always show love. For example, on one occasion, Jesus and his disciples were traveling to Jerusalem through Samaria. A certain Samaritan village refused to show them hospitality. What was John's response? He asked about calling down fire from heaven and destroying all the inhabitants of the village! (Luke 9:52-56) On another occasion, John failed to show love to his fellow apostles. He and his brother James apparently coaxed their mother into asking Jesus to give them prominent positions alongside him in the Kingdom. When the other apostles found out what James and John had done, they were furious! (Matt. 20:20, 21, 24) Nevertheless, despite all of John's flaws, Jesus loved him.—John 21:7.

⁵ In this article, we will examine John's example and some of the things he wrote about love. As we do, we will learn how we can show love to our brothers and sisters. We will also learn about an important way in which a family head can prove that he loves his family.

LOVE IS EXPRESSED BY ACTIONS

⁶ We often think of love as a warm feeling expressed by kind words. But for love

4. Did John always show love to others?
5. What will we examine in this article?
6. How has Jehovah revealed his love for us?



Jehovah proved his love for us by sending his Son to earth to die for us
(See paragraphs 6-7)

to be real, it must also be backed by actions. (Compare James 2:17, 26.) For example, Jehovah loves us. (1 John 4:19) And he expresses his love through the beautiful words recorded in the Bible. (Ps. 25:10; Rom. 8:38, 39) However, we are convinced that God loves us not just because of what he says but also because of what he does. John wrote: "By this the love of God was revealed in our case, that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might gain life through him." (1 John 4:9) Jehovah allowed his beloved Son to suffer and die for us. (John 3:16) Can there be any doubt that Jehovah really loves us?

- ⁷ Jesus assured his disciples that he
7. What did Jesus do to prove his love for us?

had affection for them. (John 13:1; 15:15) He proved the depth of his love for them and for us not just by what he said but also by what he did. “No one has love greater than this,” said Jesus, “that someone should surrender his life in behalf of his friends.” (John 15:13) When we think about what Jehovah and Jesus have done for us, how should we be affected?

⁸ We prove that we love Jehovah and Jesus by obeying them. (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3) And Jesus specifically commanded us to love one another. (John 13:34, 35) We must not only express our love for our brothers and sisters in words but also show that we love them by what we do. **(Read 1 John 3:18.)** What specifically can we do to prove that we love them?

LOVE YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

⁹ John could have stayed with his father and made money working in the family fishing business. But instead he devoted the remainder of his long life to helping others learn the truth about Jehovah and Jesus. The life John chose was not an easy one. He suffered persecution, and near the end of the first century when he was an old man, he was exiled. (Acts 3:1; 4:1-3; 5:18; Rev. 1:9) Even while confined for preaching about Jesus, John proved that he was thinking of others. For example, while on the island of Patmos, he recorded the revelation that he received and had it sent to the congregations so

that they would know what “must shortly take place.” (Rev. 1:1) Then, likely after he was released from Patmos, John wrote his Gospel account of Jesus’ life and ministry. He also wrote three letters in order to encourage and strengthen his brothers and sisters. How can you imitate John’s self-sacrificing life course?

¹⁰ You can prove that you love people by what you choose to do with your life. Satan’s system would have you spend all your time and energy on yourself, trying to make money or to make a name for yourself. Instead, self-sacrificing Kingdom proclaimers all over the world spend as much time as they can preaching the good news and helping people to draw close to Jehovah. Some are even able to preach and teach full-time.

¹¹ Many loyal Christians must work at secular jobs full-time so that they can support themselves and their families. Even so, these faithful publishers support God’s organization in any way they can. For instance, some are able to provide disaster relief, others can work on construction projects, and everyone has the opportunity to donate funds to the worldwide work. They do these things because they love God and their fellow man. Each week, we prove that we love our brothers and sisters by attending congregation meetings and participating in them. Although we may be tired, we are present at those meetings. Although we may be nervous, we com-

8. What does 1 John 3:18 say we should do?

9. What did love move John to do?

10. How can you prove that you love people?

11. How do many faithful publishers prove that they love Jehovah and their brothers and sisters?



We prove our love
by what we do
for our brothers
and sisters and
for our family
(See paragraphs 11, 17)

ment. And although we all have problems of our own, we encourage others before or after the meeting. (Heb. 10:24, 25) How grateful we are for the work done by our fellow publishers!

¹² John proved his love for his brothers and sisters not only by commending them but also by imparting counsel to them. For instance, in his letters, John commended his brothers and sisters for their faith and good works, but he also gave them direct counsel about sin. (1 John 1:8–2:1, 13, 14) Similarly, we need to commend our brothers and sisters for the good things they do. But if someone is developing a bad attitude or habit, we can show love by tactfully telling him what he needs to hear. It takes courage to give counsel to a friend, but the Bible says that true friends sharpen, or correct, one another.—Prov. 27:17.

¹³ Sometimes, we prove our love for our brothers and sisters by what we do **not** do. For example, we do not get eas-

12. What is another way that John proved his love for his brothers and sisters?

13. What should we avoid doing?

ily offended by what they say. Consider an incident that happened toward the end of Jesus' life on earth. He told his disciples that to gain life they had to eat his flesh and drink his blood. (John 6: 53-57) That speech was so shocking that many of his disciples abandoned him—but not so his real friends, including John. They loyally stuck with him. They did not understand what Jesus said, and they were likely surprised by it. However, Jesus' loyal friends did not assume that what he said was wrong and become offended by it. Instead, they trusted him, knowing that he spoke the truth. (John 6:60, 66-69) How important it is that we do not become easily offended by what our friends say! Rather, we allow them the opportunity to explain misunderstandings.—Prov. 18:13; Eccl. 7:9.

¹⁴ John also urged us not to hate our brothers or sisters. If we fail to heed that counsel, we leave ourselves open to being manipulated by Satan. (1 John 2:11;

14. Why should we not allow hatred to fester in our heart?

3:15) This happened to some at the end of the first century C.E. Satan was doing all that he could to promote hatred and divide God's people. By the time John wrote his letters, men who showed the same spirit as Satan had slipped into the congregation. For instance, Diotrephes was creating serious divisions in one congregation. (3 John 9, 10) He was disrespectful to traveling representatives of the governing body. He even tried to throw out of the congregation those who were hospitable to people whom he disliked. How arrogant! Satan is still desperately trying to divide and conquer God's people today. May we never allow hatred to drive us apart.

LOVE YOUR FAMILY

¹⁵ One important way that a family head proves that he loves his family is by providing for their material needs. (1 Tim. 5:8) He must remember, however, that material things cannot satisfy his family's spiritual needs. (Matt. 5:3) Note the example that Jesus set for

15. What must a family head remember?

family heads. According to John's Gospel, while Jesus was dying on a torture stake, he was still thinking of his family. John was standing with Jesus' mother, Mary, at the location where Jesus was being executed. Despite being in severe agony, Jesus arranged for John to care for Mary. (John 19:26, 27) Jesus had siblings who would no doubt care for Mary's physical needs, but it appears that none of them had yet become his disciples. So Jesus wanted to make sure that Mary was cared for physically as well as spiritually.

¹⁶ John carried a heavy load of responsibility. As one of the apostles, he took the lead in the preaching work. He may also have been married, so he would have had to balance caring for his family's material needs with providing for their spiritual needs. (1 Cor. 9:5) What is the lesson for family heads today?

¹⁷ A brother who is a family head may have a number of weighty responsibilities.

16. What load of responsibility did John carry?

17. Why is it important for a family head to care for his family's spiritual needs?

Jesus entrusted the physical and spiritual care of his mother to John. Family heads today must care for the needs of their household (See paragraphs 15-16)



ties. For instance, he must be diligent in his secular work so that his conduct reflects well on Jehovah. (Eph. 6:5, 6; Titus 2:9, 10) And he may have responsibilities in the congregation, such as shepherding and taking the lead in the preaching work. At the same time, it is important that he regularly study the Bible with his wife and children. They will deeply appreciate his efforts to keep them physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthy.—Eph. 5:28, 29; 6:4.

“REMAIN IN MY LOVE”

¹⁸ John had a long, eventful life. He faced all types of challenges that could have weakened his faith. But he always did his best to observe Jesus’ commandments, including the order to love his brothers and sisters. As a result, John was sure that Jehovah and Jesus loved him and that they would give him the strength to overcome any

18. Of what was John sure?

trial. (John 14:15-17; 15:10; 1 John 4:16) Nothing that Satan or his system did could stop John from feeling, expressing, and showing love.

¹⁹ Like John, we live in a world dominated by Satan, the hateful god of this system. (1 John 3:1, 10) While he wants us to stop loving our brothers and sisters, he cannot make that happen unless we allow him to do so. May we be determined to love our brothers and sisters, to express that love by what we say, and to prove that love by what we do. Then we will have the satisfaction of being part of Jehovah’s family, and life will truly be worth living.—**Read 1 John 4:7.**

19. What does 1 John 4:7 encourage us to do, and why?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 11: A busy family head shares in disaster relief work, supports the worldwide work with his donations, and invites others to join him and his wife and children in family worship.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What did you learn from John’s example?
- How can we show that we love our brothers and sisters?
- How can family heads prove that they love their family?

SONG 14

Praising Earth's New King

PREVIEW

March 27, 2021, is a special day for Jehovah's Witnesses. That evening we will observe the Memorial of Christ's death. The majority of those who attend will be part of the group that Jesus called the "other sheep." What exciting truth was revealed about that group in 1935? What thrilling prospect awaits the other sheep after the great tribulation? And as observers at the Memorial, how can the other sheep praise God and Christ?

The Great Crowd of Other Sheep Praise God and Christ

"Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb."—REV. 7:10.

THE young man was 18 years old when he got baptized in 1926. His parents were Bible Students, as Jehovah's Witnesses were known at the time. They had three sons and two daughters, whom they raised to serve Jehovah God and imitate Jesus Christ. As was true of all Bible Students back then, this sincere young man partook of the bread and the wine each year at the Lord's Evening Meal. However, his entire outlook on life was changed by a history-making talk entitled "The Great Multitude." That talk was given in 1935 by J. F. Rutherford at a convention in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. What was revealed at that convention?

² In his talk, Brother Rutherford identified those who would make up the "great multitude" (*King James Version*), or "great crowd," mentioned at Revelation 7:9. Until then, this group was thought to be a secondary heavenly class that was less faithful. Brother Rutherford used the Scriptures to explain that the great crowd are not chosen to live in heaven, but they are Christ's other sheep* who will survive "the great tribulation" and live

* **EXPRESSIONS EXPLAINED:** The **other sheep** include those who have been gathered throughout the last days. They follow Christ and have the prospect of living forever on earth. The **great crowd** are members of the other sheep who are alive when Christ judges mankind during the great tribulation, and they survive the great tribulation.

1. What effect did a talk delivered at a convention in 1935 have on one young man?
2. What exciting truth was revealed in Brother Rutherford's talk?

forever on earth. (Rev. 7:14) Jesus promised: “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; those too I must bring in, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd.” (John 10:16) These sheep-like ones are loyal Witnesses of Jehovah who have the prospect of living forever in Paradise on earth. (Matt. 25:31-33, 46) Let us see how this flash of spiritual light changed the lives of many of Jehovah’s people, including that 18-year-old brother.—Ps. 97:11; Prov. 4:18.

A NEW UNDERSTANDING CHANGED THOUSANDS OF LIVES

³ A thrilling moment at that convention came when the speaker asked the audience: “Will all those who have the hope of living forever on the earth please stand?” According to an eyewitness, over half of the some 20,000 people in the audience stood. Then Brother Rutherford declared: “Behold! The great multitude!” That was followed by thunderous cheering. Those who stood realized that they were not chosen for heavenly life. They knew that they had not been anointed by God’s spirit. On the next day of the convention, 840 new Witnesses got baptized, most of whom were of the other sheep.

⁴ After that talk, the young man mentioned earlier and thousands of others rightly stopped partaking of the bread and the wine at the Lord’s Evening Meal. One brother humbly expressed the feelings of many when he said: “The Memorial of 1935 was the last time that I par-

took of the emblems. I realized that the heavenly hope had not been awakened within me by Jehovah through his holy spirit; rather, I had the hope to live on the earth and to share in the work of making it a paradise.” (Rom. 8:16, 17; 2 Cor. 1:21, 22) Since then, those of the great crowd have increased in number and have been working side by side with the anointed remnant.*

⁵ How does Jehovah view those who stopped partaking of the Memorial emblems after 1935? And what if a baptized Witness today sincerely partakes of the bread and the wine at the Lord’s Evening Meal but later realizes that he or she is not truly anointed? (1 Cor. 11:28) Some have partaken of the emblems because they misunderstood their hope. But if they honestly acknowledge their mistake, stop partaking, and continue faithfully serving Jehovah, he will surely count them among the other sheep. Even though they do not partake of the bread and the wine, they still attend the Memorial because they deeply appreciate what Jehovah and Jesus have done for them.

A UNIQUE PROSPECT

⁶ With the great tribulation just ahead, it would be encouraging for us to review what Revelation chapter 7 further says about anointed Christians and the great

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** The word “**remnant**” refers to the remaining anointed Christians who are still alive on earth and who partake of the bread and the wine at the Lord’s Evening Meal.

5. How does Jehovah view those who have stopped partaking of the Memorial emblems?

6. What has Jesus commanded the angels to do?

3-4. At the 1935 convention, what did thousands realize about their hope, and why?

crowd of other sheep. Jesus commands the angels to continue holding back the four winds of destruction. They are not to unleash those winds on the earth until all anointed Christians have been sealed, that is, finally approved by Jehovah. (Rev. 7:1-4) As a reward for their faithfulness, Christ's anointed brothers become kings and priests with him in heaven. (Rev. 20:6) All those who make up the heavenly part of God's family will be eager to see the 144,000 anointed ones receive their heavenly reward.

⁷ After telling about these 144,000 kings and priests, John sees something exciting, "a great crowd" who survive Armageddon. Unlike the first group, this second group is much larger and has no fixed number. (**Read Revelation 7:9, 10.**) They are "dressed in white robes," indicating that they have kept themselves "without spot" from Satan's world and have remained loyal to God and Christ. (Jas. 1:27) They cry out that they have been saved because of what Jehovah and Jesus, the Lamb of God, have done. All the while, they are holding palm branches, which shows that they joyfully acknowledge Jesus as Jehovah's appointed King.—Compare John 12:12, 13.

⁸ **Read Revelation 7:11, 12.** What was the reaction in heaven? John sees all of Jehovah's heavenly family filled with joy as those of the great crowd appear and praise God. Jehovah's heavenly family

7. As related at Revelation 7:9, 10, whom did John see in vision, and what were they doing? (See cover picture.)

8. What does Revelation 7:11, 12 tell us about Jehovah's heavenly family?

will be delighted to see the fulfillment of this vision when the great crowd come out of the great tribulation alive.

⁹ **Read Revelation 7:13-15.** John reports that the great crowd have "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." This signifies that they have a clean conscience and a righteous standing before Jehovah. (Isa. 1:18) They are dedicated, baptized Christians, who exercise strong faith in Jesus' sacrifice and who have a relationship with Jehovah. (John 3:36; 1 Pet. 3:21) Thus, they qualify to stand before God's throne to render him "sacred service day and night" in the earthly courtyard of his spiritual temple. Even now, they zealously perform the greater part of the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work, putting the interests of God's Kingdom ahead of their own.—Matt. 6:33; 24:14; 28:19, 20.

¹⁰ The great crowd who come out of the great tribulation are assured of God's continued care, for "the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them." The promise that the other sheep have longed to see fulfilled will be fully realized: "[God] will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore."—Rev. 21:3, 4.

¹¹ **Read Revelation 7:16, 17.** Right

9. According to Revelation 7:13-15, what are those of the great crowd doing now?

10. Of what are the great crowd assured, and what promise will they see fulfilled?

11-12. (a) As revealed at Revelation 7:16, 17, what blessings are in store for the great crowd? (b) What can the other sheep do at the Memorial, and why?

now, some of Jehovah's people are suffering physical hunger because of oppressive economic conditions or as a result of the ravages of civil unrest and war. Others are imprisoned for their faith. However, those of the great crowd are thrilled to know that on escaping the destruction of this wicked system of things, they will always have an abundance of physical and spiritual food. When destruction is unleashed on Satan's system of things, the great crowd will be spared the "scorching heat" of Jehovah's anger that he will pour out on the nations. After the great tribulation ends, Jesus will guide these earthly survivors to the "waters of [everlasting] life." Just think: The great crowd have a unique prospect. Of all the billions who have ever lived, they may never die!—John 11:26.

¹² The other sheep have a marvelous hope for which they are thankful to Jehovah and Jesus! They were not chosen for heavenly life, but they are in no way less precious, or less valuable, to

Jehovah. Members of both groups can praise God and Christ. One way they do so is by attending the Lord's Evening Meal.

GIVE YOUR WHOLEHEARTED PRAISE AT THE MEMORIAL

¹³ In recent years, approximately 1 out of every 1,000 who attend the Memorial partakes of the bread and the wine. Most congregations do not have any partakers in attendance. The vast majority who attend the Memorial have the earthly hope. Why, then, do they attend the Lord's Evening Meal? They attend for the same reason that people attend a friend's wedding. They attend because they want to show their love and support for the couple who are getting married. Thus, those of the other sheep attend the Memorial because they want to show their love and support for Christ and the anointed. The other sheep also attend to show their appreciation for the sacrifice that the Memorial commemorates, a

13-14. Why should everyone attend the Memorial of Christ's death?



Joyful members of the great crowd of other sheep coming out of the great tribulation (See paragraph 10)

The bread and the wine passed at the Memorial remind us that Jesus died in our place so that we could have life
(See paragraphs 13-15)



sacrifice that makes it possible for them to live forever on earth.

¹⁴ Another important reason why the other sheep attend the Memorial is in order to be obedient to Jesus' command. When Jesus instituted that special meal with his faithful apostles, he told them: "Keep doing this in remembrance of me." (1 Cor. 11:23-26) So they continue to attend the Lord's Evening Meal as long as some anointed ones are alive here on earth. In fact, the other sheep invite everyone to attend the Memorial with them.

¹⁵ At the Memorial, we have the opportunity to praise God and Christ in song and prayer. The talk that will be given this year is "Appreciate What God and Christ Have Done for You!" It will deepen our gratitude for Jehovah and Christ. As the emblems are being passed, those of us in attendance will be reminded of what they symbolize—Jesus' body and his blood. We will recall that Jehovah allowed his Son to die in our place so that we could have life. (Matt. 20:28) Everyone who loves our heavenly Father and his Son will want to attend the Memorial.

15. How can we personally praise God and Christ at the Memorial?

THANK JEHOVAH FOR THE HOPE HE HAS GIVEN YOU

¹⁶ The difference between the anointed and the other sheep is not their value to God. Both groups are equally precious to him. After all, he paid the same price, the life of his dear Son, to purchase both the anointed and the other sheep. The difference between the two groups is that they have different hopes. Both groups must remain loyal to God and Christ. (Ps. 31:23) And remember, God's spirit can work with equal force on all of us. This means that Jehovah supplies his holy spirit to each individual according to what is needed.

¹⁷ **Anointed Christians** are not born with the heavenly hope. It has to be implanted in their heart by God. They think about their hope, pray about it, and are eager to receive their reward in heaven. They cannot even imagine what their spiritual body will be like. (Phil. 3:20, 21; 1 John 3:2) Even so, they look forward to meeting Jehovah, Jesus, the angels, and the rest of the

16. In what ways are the anointed and the other sheep alike?

17. To what are the anointed remnant looking forward?

anointed. They long to take their place among them in the heavenly Kingdom.

¹⁸ *The other sheep* cherish a hope that comes naturally to humans, the prospect of living forever on earth. (Eccl. 3: 11) They look forward to the day when they can help turn the entire planet into a paradise. They yearn for the day when they can build their houses, plant their gardens, and raise their children in perfect health. (Isa. 65:21-23) They look forward to exploring the earth—its mountains, forests, and seas—and to studying Jehovah’s abundant creation. Above all, they are thrilled to know that their bond with Jehovah will grow ever stronger and closer.

¹⁹ Jehovah has given each of his dedicated servants a wonderful hope for the future. (Jer. 29:11) The Memorial of Christ’s death gives each of us a grand

opportunity to praise God and Christ for what they have done for us so that we can enjoy unending life. The Memorial is without question the most important occasion for true Christians to meet together. It will be held after sundown on **Saturday, March 27, 2021**. This year many will be able to attend this important occasion in relative freedom. Others will attend despite opposition. Some will face the challenge of commemorating this occasion while in prison. As Jehovah, Jesus, and the heavenly part of God’s family look on, may every congregation, group, and individual have a wonderful Memorial observance!

When the Memorial falls on a Saturday, as it does in 2021, no weekend congregation meeting will be scheduled. For this reason, no study article has been provided for next week

18. To what are the other sheep looking forward?

19. What opportunity does the Memorial give each of us, and when will the Memorial be held this year?

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What spiritual truth was revealed about the “great crowd” in 1935?
- What prospect awaits the great crowd after the great tribulation?
- How can each of us praise God and Christ at the Memorial?

SONG 109

Love Intensely
From the Heart

PREVIEW

Jesus said that his disciples would be recognized by the love they have among themselves. All of us try to live up to that requirement. We can strengthen our love for our brothers by cultivating tender affection—the kind of love that is shown by close family members. This article will help us develop and maintain tender affection for those who are related to us in the faith.

Keep Cultivating Tender Affection

“In brotherly love have tender affection for one another.”

—ROM. 12:10.

THE Bible foretold that in the last days, people would lack “natural affection.” (2 Tim. 3:1, 3) We see this prophecy being fulfilled today. For example, millions of families have been divided by divorce, leaving the parents angry with each other and the children feeling that they are unloved. Even families who stay in the same house may become virtual strangers. “Mom, dad, and the kids are all disconnected from each other and connected to a computer screen, tablet, smartphone, or video game console,” says one family counselor. “Although these families live under the same roof, they barely know each other.”

² We do not want to be molded by the world’s loveless spirit. (Rom. 12:2) Instead, we need to cultivate tender affection not only for our family members but also for those who are related to us in the faith. **(Read Romans 12:10.)** What is tender affection? It is a term that specifically describes the warm friendship between close family members. That is the kind of love we should cultivate for our spiritual family, our Christian brothers and sisters. When we show tender affection, we help maintain the unity that is a vital part of true worship.—Mic. 2:12.

³ To help us cultivate and show tender affection, let us see what we can learn from Bible examples.

1. In what ways do we see a lack of natural affection today?

2-3. (a) According to Romans 12:10, for whom should we have tender affection? (b) What will we consider in this article?

JEHOVAH—“VERY TENDER IN AFFECTION”

⁴ The Bible reveals Jehovah’s beautiful qualities. For example, it says that “God is love.” (1 John 4:8) That description alone draws us to him. But the Bible also says that Jehovah “is very tender in affection.” (**Read James 5:11.**) What a warm way of expressing the depth of feeling that Jehovah has for us!

⁵ Note that James 5:11 links Jehovah’s tender affection to another quality that draws us to him—his mercy. (Ex. 34:6) One way in which Jehovah shows us mercy is by forgiving us for the mistakes we make. (Ps. 51:1) In the Bible, mercy involves much more than forgiveness. Mercy is an intense feeling that springs from inside a person when he or she sees someone in distress and is moved to try

4. How does James 5:11 help us to appreciate the depth of Jehovah’s love?

5. How does Jehovah show mercy, and how can we imitate him?

to help the person. Jehovah describes the intense desire he has to help us as being greater than the feelings that a mother has for her child. (Isa. 49:15) When we are in distress, Jehovah’s mercy moves him to help us. (Ps. 37:39; 1 Cor. 10:13) We can show mercy to our brothers and sisters by forgiving them and not holding a grudge when they disappoint us. (Eph. 4:32) But a primary way we can show mercy is by supporting our brothers and sisters through the hardships they face. When love moves us to be merciful toward others, we imitate Jehovah, the supreme example of tender affection.—Eph. 5:1.

JONATHAN AND DAVID—“BOUND TOGETHER IN CLOSE FRIENDSHIP”

⁶ The Bible contains accounts of imperfect humans who showed tender affection. Consider the example of

6. How did Jonathan and David show tender affection for each other?



Difference in age did not hold Jonathan and David back from being bound together by tender affection
(See paragraphs 6-9)

Jonathan and David. The Bible says: “Jonathan and David became bound together in close friendship, and Jonathan began to love him as himself.” (1 Sam. 18:1) David was anointed to succeed Saul as king. After that, Saul became resentful of David and tried to kill him. But Saul’s son Jonathan did not join his father in this murderous campaign against David. Jonathan and David promised to remain friends and always to support each other. —1 Sam. 20:42.

⁷ The tender affection between Jonathan and David is all the more remarkable when we consider some factors that could have prevented them from becoming friends. For example, Jonathan was some 30 years older than David. Jonathan could have concluded that he had nothing in common with this much younger and less experienced man. Yet, Jonathan did not view or treat David as an inferior.

⁸ Jonathan could have been jealous of David. As King Saul’s son, Jonathan could have insisted that he was the rightful heir to the throne. (1 Sam. 20:31) But Jonathan was humble, and he was loyal to Jehovah. So he fully supported Jehovah’s choice of David as future king. He was also loyal to David, even when this incurred the wrath of Saul. —1 Sam. 20:32-34.

⁹ Jonathan had tender affection for David, so he did not view him as a ri-

val. Jonathan was a skilled archer and a courageous warrior. He and his father, Saul, had a reputation for being “swifter than the eagles” and “mightier than the lions.” (2 Sam. 1:22, 23) Therefore, Jonathan could have boasted about his own heroic exploits. However, Jonathan was not competitive or resentful. On the contrary, Jonathan admired David for his courage and reliance on Jehovah. In fact, it was after David killed Goliath that Jonathan began to love David as himself. How can we show such tender affection for our brothers and sisters?

HOW CAN WE SHOW TENDER AFFECTION TODAY?

¹⁰ The Bible tells us to “love one another intensely from the heart.” (1 Pet. 1:22) Jehovah sets the example for us. His love is so intense that if we are loyal to him, nothing can break that bond. (Rom. 8:38, 39) The Greek word rendered “intensely” conveys the idea of stretching outward—even straining. At times, we may need to “stretch” and “strain” in order to have tender affection for a fellow believer. When others upset us, we need to continue “putting up with one another in love, earnestly endeavoring to maintain the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:1-3) When we work to maintain the “bond of peace,” we will look beyond our brothers’ faults. We will try our best to view our brothers as Jehovah does. —1 Sam. 16:7; Ps. 130:3.

10. What does it mean to “love one another intensely from the heart”?

7. What is one factor that could have prevented Jonathan and David from becoming friends?

8. Why, do you think, was Jonathan such a good friend to David?

9. Did Jonathan view David as a rival? Explain.



Euodia and Syntyche were admonished to be of the same mind—something that may not always be easy to achieve with a fellow believer (See paragraph 11)

¹¹ It is not always easy to show tender affection for our brothers and sisters, especially when we are aware of their faults. Apparently, this was a challenge for some first-century Christians. For example, Euodia and Syntyche likely had no problem working “side by side with [Paul] for the good news.” But for some reason they had difficulty getting along with each other. So Paul urged them “to be of the same mind in the Lord.”—Phil. 4:2, 3.

¹² How can we cultivate tender affection for our brothers and sisters today? When we get to know fellow believers better, we may find it easier to understand them and to develop tender affection for them. Age and background need not be a barrier. Remember, Jonathan was about 30 years older than David; yet

11. Why might cultivating tender affection be difficult at times?

12. How can we cultivate tender affection for our brothers and sisters?

he developed a close friendship with him. Could you take an interest in someone who is older—or younger—than you? By doing so, you can show that you “have love for the whole association of brothers.”—1 Pet. 2:17.

¹³ Does having tender affection for fellow believers mean that we will feel equally close to everyone in the congregation? No, that would not be realistic. It is not necessarily wrong to be drawn more to some than to others because of having similar interests. Jesus referred to all his apostles as “friends,” but he had a special affection for John. (John 13:23; 15:15; 20:2) However, Jesus did not show favoritism to John. For instance, when John and his brother James asked for a prominent position in God’s Kingdom, Jesus told them: “To sit down at my right hand or at my left is not mine to give.” (Mark 10:35-40) In imitation of

13. Why might we not feel equally close to everyone in the congregation?

Jesus, we should not show favoritism to our close friends. (Jas. 2:3, 4) Doing so would promote a divisive spirit—something that has no place in the Christian congregation.—Jude 17-19.

¹⁴ When we show tender affection for one another, we protect the congregation from a spirit of competition. Recall that Jonathan did not try to compete with David, viewing him as a rival to the throne. All of us can imitate Jonathan's example. Do not view your fellow workers as rivals because of their abilities, "but with humility consider others superior to you." (**Read Philippians 2:3.**) Keep in mind that each person in the congregation has something to contrib-

14. According to Philippians 2:3, what will help us avoid a spirit of competition?

ute. By keeping a humble view of ourselves, we see the good in our brothers and sisters and benefit from their faithful example.—1 Cor. 12:21-25.

¹⁵ When we face unexpected trials, Jehovah comforts us through the tender affection and practical help that we receive from our brothers and sisters. Consider what happened to one family after attending the Saturday program at one of the 2019 "Love Never Fails!" International Conventions in the United States. "We were driving back to our hotel," relates Tanya, a mother of three, "when another vehicle lost control and veered into our lane and crashed into us. No one was hurt, but we got

15. What do you learn from the experience of Tanya and her family?

Younger and older elders can develop a strong bond of friendship with one another
(See paragraph 12)



out of the car and stood on the freeway, stunned. Someone on the side of the road was waving us over to the safety of his car. It was one of our brothers who had also just left the convention. And he wasn't the only one who stopped. Five delegates from Sweden also stopped. The sisters gave my daughter and me the warmest hugs, which we desperately needed! I assured them that we would be OK, but they would not leave us. They stayed with us even after the paramedics arrived, and they made sure we had everything we needed. Through every step of this ordeal, we felt Jehovah's love. This experience intensified our love for our brothers and sisters, and it deepened our love and appreciation for Jehovah." Can you recall a time when you were in need and a fellow believer showed you tender affection?

¹⁶ Consider what results when we show tender affection for one another. We comfort our brothers and sisters in their time of need. We strengthen the unity among God's people. We prove that we are Jesus' disciples, and this attracts honesthearted ones to true worship. Above all, we glorify "the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort," Jehovah. (2 Cor. 1:3) May all of us continue cultivating and showing tender affection!

16. What reasons do we have for showing tender affection for one another?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 24: A younger elder who benefits from the experience of an older elder is warmly welcomed in the older brother's home. They and their wives show gracious hospitality to one another.

CAN YOU RECALL?

- What is tender affection?
- What did you learn from the examples of tender affection showed by Jehovah as well as by Jonathan and David?
- How can we show tender affection today?

We Learned Never to Say No to Jehovah

AS TOLD BY KATHLEEN LOGAN



FOLLOWING a typhoon, the river churned with mud and boulders. We needed to reach the other side, but the raging waters had washed the bridge away. My husband, Harvey, and I, along with our Amis-language interpreter, felt scared and helpless. As the brothers on the other side watched anxiously, we began to cross. First, we drove our small car onto the back of a slightly larger truck. Then, without ropes or chains to keep the car in place, the truck slowly drove into

the torrent. The passage seemed endless; yet, we made it safely across, all the while beseeching Jehovah in prayer. That was in 1971. We were on the east coast of Taiwan, thousands of miles away from our places of origin. Let me tell you our story.

LEARNING TO LOVE JEHOVAH

Harvey was the eldest of four brothers. His family came into the truth in Midland Junction, Western Australia, during the desperate economic times of the 1930's. Harvey grew to love Jehovah and got baptized at age 14. He soon learned not to turn down theocratic assignments. As a lad, he once declined to read *The Watchtower* at the meeting, thinking he was not qualified. But the brother talking with Harvey reasoned, "When someone in Jehovah's organization asks you to do something, he thinks you *are* qualified!"—2 Cor. 3:5.

I embraced the truth in England, as did my mother and my older sister. My father accepted the truth much later, but at first he was opposed. Against his wishes, I got baptized when I was not quite ten years old. I set the goal to pioneer and then to become a missionary. However, my father would not allow me to pioneer until I turned 21. I did not intend to wait that long. So when I was just 16, with his blessing I moved



On our wedding day in 1951

to Australia to live with my oldest sister, who had migrated to that country. Finally, when I turned 18, I started pioneering.

In Australia, I met Harvey. We shared the desire to serve Jehovah as missionaries. We got married in 1951. After pioneering together for two years, we were asked to take up circuit work. Our circuit consisted of a large portion of Western Australia, so we were often driving through vast dry and remote areas.

OUR DREAM IS FULFILLED

In 1954, we were invited to attend the 25th class of Gilead. Our dream of becoming missionaries was within reach! We arrived in New York by ship and began a rigorous Bible study course. As part of the curriculum, we had to study Spanish, which was challenging for Harvey because he could not roll his *r*'s.

During the course, the instructors announced that those interested in an assignment to Japan could sign up for a Japanese-language class. We decided that we would rather let Jehovah's organization choose our assignment. Shortly afterward,

Albert Schroeder, one of the Gilead instructors, learned that we had not put our names down. He said to us: "Think about it some more." When we hesitated further, Brother Schroeder said: "The other instructors and I have signed you up. See if you can get your tongues around Japanese." Harvey easily adapted to this language.

We arrived in Japan in 1955 when there were only 500 publishers in the whole country. Harvey was 26, and I was 24. We were assigned to the port city of Kobe, where we served for four years. Then we were delighted to be invited back into the traveling work, and we served near the city of Nagoya. We loved everything about our assignment—the brothers, the cuisine, the countryside. Before long, however, we had another opportunity to avoid saying no to Jehovah.

A NEW ASSIGNMENT BRINGS NEW CHALLENGES

After three years in the traveling work, the Japan branch asked us if we would be

Gilead graduation at Yankee Stadium in 1955





Harvey and me with other missionaries
in Kobe, Japan, in 1957

willing to go to Taiwan to work among the indigenous Amis people. An apostasy had arisen there, and Taiwan needed a brother fluent in Japanese to help remedy the situation.* We loved our work in Japan, so this was a hard decision. But Harvey had learned never to turn down an assignment, so we agreed to go.

We arrived in November 1962. Taiwan had 2,271 publishers, most of them Amis. But first, we needed to learn Chinese. We had only a textbook and a teacher who did not speak English, but we learned it.

Soon after arriving in Taiwan, Harvey was assigned to be the branch servant. The branch was small, so Harvey could care for his office responsibilities and still work with the Amis brothers up to three weeks per month. He also served as district overseer from time to time, which included giving

* Although Chinese is now the official language of Taiwan, Japanese had been the official language there for many decades. Thus, Japanese was still the common language among the various ethnic groups in Taiwan.

talks at assemblies. Harvey could have given the talks in Japanese, and the Amis brothers would have understood. However, the government allowed religious meetings to be held only in Chinese. So Harvey, still struggling with the language, gave the talks in Chinese while a brother interpreted them into Amis.

Taiwan was then under martial law, so the brothers had to obtain permits to hold assemblies. Obtaining permits was not easy, and the police often delayed issuing them. If the police had not issued the permit by the week of the assembly, Harvey would just sit in the police station until they did. Since the police were embarrassed to have a foreigner waiting in their station, the tactic worked.

MY FIRST MOUNTAIN CLIMB

During the weeks we spent with the brothers, we would normally walk for an hour or more at a time, climbing mountains and wading across rivers. I remember my first mountain climb. After a quick breakfast, we caught a 5:30 a.m. bus to a distant village, crossed a wide riverbed, and labored up a mountainside. It was so steep that the feet of the brother climbing in front of me were at my eye level.

That morning, Harvey worked with some local brothers in the ministry, while I witnessed alone in a small hamlet where Japanese-speaking people lived. By about one o'clock, I was feeling faint because I had not eaten for several hours. When I finally met up with Harvey, there were no other brothers around. Harvey had bartered some magazines for three raw chicken eggs. He showed me how to eat one by making a small hole in each end and sucking. Although it did not seem very appetizing, I tried one. But who would get the third egg? I got it, since Harvey did not feel able to carry me down the mountain if I passed out from hunger.

A BATH WITH A DIFFERENCE

At one circuit assembly, I faced an unusual challenge. We were staying in a brother's home right next to a Kingdom Hall. Since the Amis consider bathing very important, the circuit overseer's wife prepared a bath for us. Harvey was busy, so he asked me to go first. The bath consisted of three receptacles: a bucket of cold water, one of hot water, and an empty basin. To my surprise, the circuit overseer's wife had placed them outside the house in direct view of the Kingdom Hall where brothers were helping with the preparations for the assembly. I asked her for a curtain of some kind. She brought me a sheet of transparent plastic! I considered retreating into the shadows behind the house, but there geese poked their heads through the fence, ready to nip anyone who got too close. I thought to myself: 'The brothers are too busy to notice that I am taking a bath. And if I don't bathe, they will be offended. Let's get on with it!' So I did.

LITERATURE FOR THE AMIS

Harvey realized that the Amis brothers were struggling to progress spiritually because many were illiterate and they had no literature. Since the Amis language had recently begun to be written using Roman characters, it seemed practical to teach the brothers to read their own language. This was a huge undertaking, but eventually the brothers were able to study by themselves. Amis literature became available in the late 1960's, and in 1968, *The Watchtower* in Amis began to be published.

However, the government restricted publications that were not in Chinese. So to avoid problems, the Amis *Watchtower* was circulated in various forms. For example, for some time, we used a dual-language Mandarin-Amis edition of *The Watchtower*. If anyone was curious, we were ostensibly teaching the local people Chinese. Since then, Jehovah's organization has supplied much Amis-language literature to help these dear people learn Bible truths.—Acts 10:34, 35.



A. Crossing a shallow river in Taiwan to go witnessing

B. Dressed in Amis ceremonial clothing

I am glad to use my
Japanese and Chinese
to give tours at Bethel



A PERIOD OF CLEANSING

During the 1960's and 1970's, many Amis brothers were not living by God's standards. Since they did not fully understand Bible principles, some were living immorally, getting drunk, or using tobacco and betel nut. Harvey visited many congregations, trying to help the brothers understand Jehovah's view on these matters. On one such trip, we had the experience mentioned at the outset.

Humble brothers were willing to make changes, but sadly, many others were not, and the number of publishers in Taiwan dropped from over 2,450 to about 900 during a period of 20 years. This was very discouraging. However, we knew that Jehovah would never bless an unclean organization. (2 Cor. 7:1) Eventually, the wrong practices were cleaned out, and with Jehovah's blessing, Taiwan now has over 11,000 publishers.

From the 1980's on, we saw the spiritual condition of the Amis congregations improve, and Harvey could spend more time among the Chinese. He was delighted to help the husbands of a number of sisters become believers. I recall that he said how happy he was when one of these men prayed to Jehovah for the first time. I too rejoice to have been able to teach many honesthearted ones to draw close to

Jehovah. I even had the joy of serving at the Taiwan branch with the son and daughter of one of my former Bible students.

A SAD LOSS

Now, though, I am without my partner. After almost 59 years of marriage, my dear Harvey died on January 1, 2010, after battling cancer. He had spent nearly six decades in full-time service! I still miss him terribly. But how happy I was to support him in the early days of the work in two fascinating countries! We learned to speak—and in Harvey's case also to write—two difficult Asian languages.

A few years later, the Governing Body decided that because of my advanced age, it would be best for me to return to Australia. My first thought was, 'I don't want to leave Taiwan.' But Harvey taught me never to say no to Jehovah's organization, so I was not about to do that. Later, I came to see the wisdom of the decision.

Today, I work in the Australasia branch during the week and with a local congregation on the weekends. At Bethel, I am glad to use my Japanese and Chinese to give tours. Yet, I earnestly await the promised day of the resurrection, knowing that Harvey, who learned never to say no to Jehovah, is now safe in His memory.—John 5:28, 29.

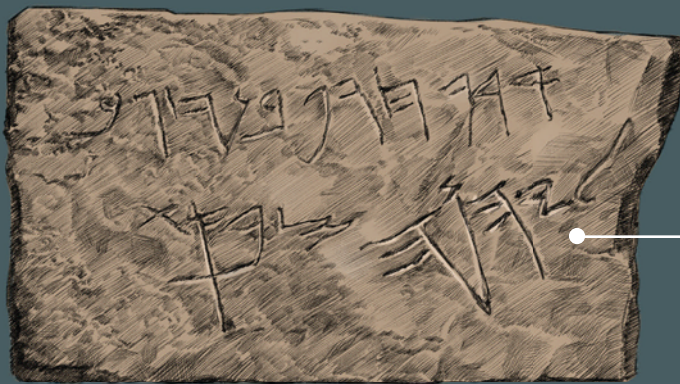
How does an ancient inscription support the Bible?

A STONE block with an inscription, dated to about 700-600 B.C.E., belongs to the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem. The stone was taken from a burial cave not far from Hebron in Israel. The inscription states: “Cursed be Hagaf son of Hagav by Yahweh Sabaot.” How does this inscription support the Bible? It shows that God’s name Jehovah, written YHWH in ancient Hebrew letters, was well-known and used in daily life during Bible times. In fact, other inscriptions from the burial caves show that those who used the caves as places to meet and hide frequently wrote God’s name, along with personal names that include forms of God’s name, on the walls.

Commenting on these inscriptions, Dr. Rachel Nabulsi of the University of Georgia said: “The repeated use of the name

YHWH is important. . . . The texts and the inscriptions show the importance of YHWH in the life of Israel and Judah.” This supports the Bible, wherein God’s name, written YHWH in Hebrew letters, appears thousands of times. Often personal names included the divine name.

The words “Yahweh Sabaot,” inscribed on the stone block, mean “Jehovah of armies.” This seems to indicate that not only the name of God but also the expression “Jehovah of armies” was commonly used in Bible times. This also supports the Bible’s use of the phrase “Jehovah of armies,” which appears 283 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, mostly in the writings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah.



Stone inscription: “Cursed be Hagaf son of Hagav by Yahweh Sabaot”

IN THIS ISSUE

Study Article 1: March 1-7 2

Keep Calm and Trust in Jehovah

Study Article 2: March 8-14 8

Lessons From “the Disciple Whom Jesus Loved”

Study Article 3: March 15-21 14

The Great Crowd of Other Sheep Praise God and Christ

Study Article 4: March 29–April 4 20

Keep Cultivating Tender Affection

LIFE STORY 26

We Learned Never to Say No to Jehovah

DID YOU KNOW? 31

How does an ancient inscription support the Bible?

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. To make a donation, please visit donate.jw.org.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) January 2021 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2020 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

FEATURED CONTENT IN
JW LIBRARY AND ON [JW.ORG](https://www.jw.org)

BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

What Does the Bible Say About Caregiving for Elderly Parents?

The Bible offers practical advice that can help caregivers.

In *JW Library*, go to PUBLICATIONS > ARTICLE SERIES > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

On [jw.org](https://www.jw.org), go to LIBRARY > ARTICLE SERIES > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

EXPERIENCES

An Expedition up the Maroni River

A group of 13 Witnesses set off to share the Bible's message of hope with isolated people in the Amazon rain forest of South America.

In *JW Library*, go to PUBLICATIONS > ARTICLE SERIES > EXPERIENCES.

On [jw.org](https://www.jw.org), go to LIBRARY > ARTICLE SERIES > EXPERIENCES OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES.

COVER PICTURE:

The great crowd dressed in white robes and with palm branches in their hands, standing before the brilliance of the throne of God and before the Lamb (See study article 3, paragraph 7)

Visit the [jw.org](https://www.jw.org)® website, or scan code



w21.01-E
200902