

The **WATCHTOWER**

MAY 1, 1968

Semimonthly

UNDERSTANDING TIME
A HELP TO TRUE
WORSHIPERS

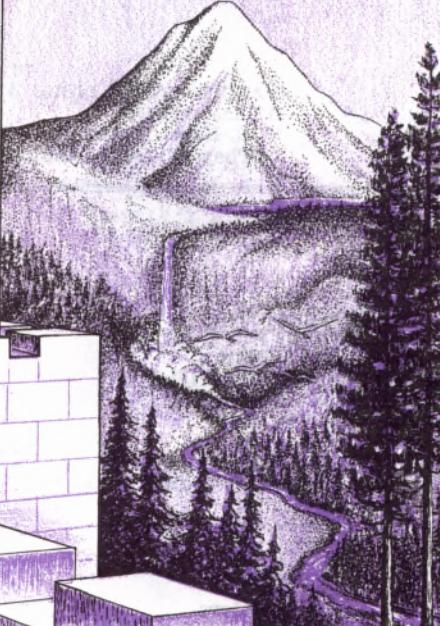
MAKING WISE USE OF
THE REMAINING TIME

WILL MANKIND EVER ENJOY
A PARADISE EARTH?

HOW DO YOU GIVE THANKS?

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Announcing
**JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM**



"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES," SAYS JEHOVAH.—Isa. 43:12

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER"

Every watchtower has its purpose. It serves as an elevated place for a wide-awake person with sharp vision. It enables him to see far ahead into the distance and tell those below for whom he is a watchman what is drawing near, whether it is a danger against which to prepare or it is something good over which to be glad with strong faith and hope.

Because of having the name "The Watchtower" this magazine justly has to render a similar useful service to the people of all nations. This is an international magazine and makes no racial distinctions, for we are all facing a common world danger; we are all hoping for a common good.

Ever since "The Watchtower" began to be published in July of 1879 it has looked ahead into the future, always striving to aid its readers to advance in knowledge and to gain a clearer picture of the glorious new order of things that is in store for righteous mankind. No, "The Watchtower" is no inspired prophet, but it follows and explains a Book of prophecy the predictions in which have proved to be unerring and unfailing till now. "The Watchtower" is therefore under safe guidance. It may be read with confidence, for its statements may be checked against that prophetic Book.

Among the many nations of today there are hundreds of differing religions. Which one does this magazine present? Not the confused religions of Christendom, but the religion of the oldest sacred Book on earth. Which Book? The Sacred Bible of the Holy Scriptures, written by inspiration in the name of the Creator of heaven and earth, the only living and true God.

The sacred, nonpolitical purpose of "The Watchtower" is accordingly to encourage and promote study of the Holy Bible and to give our many readers the needed unsectarian help to understand that Book of true religion and infallible prophecy. Thus this magazine will be helping them to prove worthy of perfect life and happiness in God's promised new order under His everlasting kingdom of righteousness.

PUBLISHED BY THE
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117 Adams Street Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, U.S.A.
N. H. KNORR, President GRANT SUITER, Secretary
"They will all be taught by Jehovah."—John 6: 45; Isaiah 54: 13

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The Bible translation used in "The Watchtower" is the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, 1961 edition. When other translations are used the following symbols will appear behind the citations:

AS - American Standard Version
 AT - An American Translation
 AV - Authorized Version (1611)
 Dy - Catholic Douay version
 JP - Jewish Publication Soc.

Le - Isaac Leeser's version
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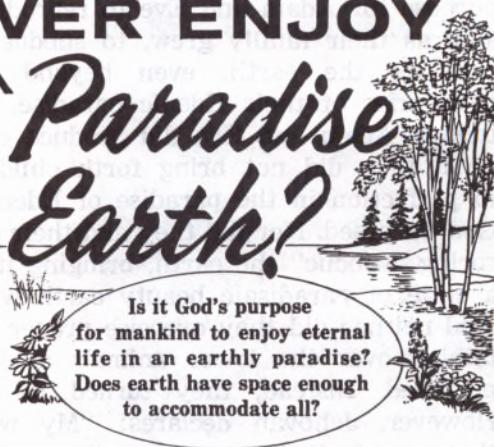
WHEN you envision a paradise, what do you see? Does your mind's eye visualize a gorgeous garden or park? Do you see multicolored flowers, shrubs, well-kept lawns, fountains and calm, clear pools? Do you also envision cascading waterfalls, rushing streams, lush green meadows fenced by towering trees, and tangy air filled with the fragrance of deep woods and the songs of birds? Would you desire to live in such a paradise, free from the worries and threats of this present system of things?

How many persons yearn for such surroundings! Really, how refreshing is the beauty and tranquillity of a garden or park like this! But to enjoy it to the fullest, one needs ideal health. Will mankind ever live in an earthly paradise, and have the health and vigor to enjoy it to the full?

If the ushering in of a paradise earth were dependent upon the efforts of men, it would never come. For with each passing year, more and more people are forced to live in ugly city slums. Others must struggle to scratch out an existence from land that is eroded and devitalized by misuse. And instead of enjoying ideal health, people grow old and sick despite the attempts of medical science to implant within them new organs, or in some other way restore health. How obvious it is that the real answer to mankind's needs is not within the power of men!

This does not mean, however, that mankind

WILL MANKIND EVER ENJOY A Paradise Earth?



Is it God's purpose
for mankind to enjoy eternal
life in an earthly paradise?
Does earth have space enough
to accommodate all?

will never enjoy a paradise earth. For although man is incapable of bringing it about, Almighty God is able to usher in the very conditions for which every normal person yearns. But is this what God purposed to do? Was this his original purpose when he created man?

God's Word the Bible reveals that Jehovah God originally created a beautiful garden or park, and that he placed the first human pair in this earthly paradise. (Gen. 2:7-9, 15-18) What a delightful home! How happy the couple could be in these surroundings, and what a delight it would be to raise their children there! But was it God's purpose that

Adam and Eve bring forth children in this beautiful paradise, called the garden of Eden?

Yes, for God's inspired Word says: "Further, God blessed them and God said to them: 'Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth.'"—Gen. 1:28.

From this it is clear that it was God's purpose for Adam and Eve to reproduce, and, as their family grew, to subdue or cultivate the earth, even beyond the boundaries of their Edenic paradise. Although Adam and Eve did produce children, they did not bring forth children in perfection in the paradise of Eden as God purposed. Nor did they and their offspring "subdue" the earth, bringing it to a state of paradisaic beauty earth wide. And neither did they exercise proper dominion over the lower animals as God purposed. Instead, they turned to sin. However, Jehovah declares: "My word that goes forth from my mouth . . . will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted, and it will have certain success in that for which I have sent it." (Isa. 55:11) So we can be confident that God's purpose for earth to be made a paradise will yet be fulfilled.

This will require that the wicked be rooted out of the earth, and that is exactly what God promises that he will do in the near future. But "the righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it." (Ps. 37:29; Prov. 2:21, 22) So there will be survivors—persons who are devoted to Jehovah God and who exercise faith in the ransom sacrifice of his Son Jesus Christ. Also, God will resurrect the dead. In his righteous new system they will

have the opportunity to prove themselves worthy of God's favor and receive eternal life.—Acts 24:15; John 5:28, 29.

CAN EARTH ACCOMMODATE THEM ALL?

However, someone might say: "Why, if the billions of dead were resurrected, there would not be room for them all! People would starve because the earth could not produce food enough to feed everyone." Is this true? How many people have lived upon the earth? How great a population is the earth capable of supporting? According to Bible chronology the first human pair were created by God less than 6,000 years ago. It took time for the human family to grow. Interestingly, the well-known scientist Sir Julian Huxley commented: "At the dawn of civilization, say 5,000 years ago, the population of the world cannot have numbered much more than 20 million."^{*} Even in the time when Christ walked the earth, it is estimated, the world population was only about 250 million, although *The World Book Encyclopedia* (1966) gives the low estimate of 133 million. It is agreed that the world population was comparatively small in early times.

In this connection, Dr. Albert L. Elder, as president of the American Chemical Society, made some interesting observations. In an address given before the 138th national meeting of that society in September 1960, he said: "It took over 5000 years of human history up to about 1820 to reach a world population of 1.1 billion. Within the following century, population doubled. Now, it stands at about 2.8 billion and could reach 3 billion early in the 1960's. Thus, in less than 50 years there has been an increase in population equivalent to that which occurred during the first 50 centuries."

* Reader's Digest, February 1959, page 17.

On the basis of such information, it is calculated that the number of persons who have ever lived on earth is not very great. For example, in May of 1966 a speaker at the 76th annual Florida State Pharmaceutical Association convention observed: "It is now estimated that 25 per cent of all the people who have ever lived are alive today."*

With the present world population being about 3.5 thousand million, this estimate would mean that there has been a total population throughout all human history of only some 14 thousand million people. But even if a more liberal estimate is made, and the 14 thousand million is doubled, still it is not an overwhelming number. The earth has over 57 million square miles of land area, and even with the huge population of 24 thousand million people, there would be more than an acre and a half of land for each person.

A principal reason why there is the problem today of producing sufficient food is that vast land areas are unsuitable for cultivation. In fact, only 7.7 percent of earth's land area is said to be under cultivation presently, and the yield of much of this land is very poor. But consider how abundantly the earth could produce under ideal conditions and with God's blessing. (Deut. 28:12; Ps. 67:6) How easily it could support a much larger population, including the resurrected dead, even though these should number as many as ten or twenty thousand million or more!

Discussing the earth's potential to support a much larger population, *Newsweek* magazine of July 23, 1962, said: "Dr. James Bonner of Caltech estimates that the world can support 50 billion people—seventeen times its present population—while another Caltech scientist, Harrison Brown, says he 'can even visualize the means for supporting 100 billion.'"

Without a doubt, the earth is capable of comfortably supporting all those whom Jehovah God mercifully resurrects into a restored earthly paradise. But when will this resurrection of the dead take place? How will the earth be brought to a state of paradisaic beauty?

PARADISE EARTH SOON TO BE ENJOYED

Bible prophecies unmistakably identify these as "the last days" of this system of things. (2 Tim. 3:1-5; Matt. 24:3-14) Soon now, at the "war of the great day of God the Almighty," commonly called Armageddon, "the wicked . . . will be cut off from the very earth." (Rev. 16:14, 16; Prov. 2:22) With the entire world of such persons removed, the meek, upright ones will remain on earth and indeed delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The Bible explains: "Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but he that does the will of God remains forever."—1 John 2:17.

These Armageddon survivors who do the will of God have a glorious future before them. To them the words of the inspired Bible psalm apply: "The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it." (Ps. 37:29) Theirs will be the glorious privilege of beautifying the earth, preparing it so that it will resemble earth wide a gorgeous garden or park. Into this earthly paradise they will also have the privilege of eventually welcoming thousands of millions of resurrected dead, including the evildoer who died alongside Jesus, and to whom he promised: "You will be with me in Paradise."—Luke 23:43.

What a marvelous future is soon to be enjoyed by mankind! The sure promise concerning all who inhabit the paradise earth is: "God himself will be with them. And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither

* Jacksonville Journal, May 18, 1966.

will mourning nor outcry nor pain be any more. The former things have passed away." (Rev. 21:3, 4) To survive Arma-

Gilead School Graduates 101 Assistant Markers

THE graduation day for the 101 students of the forty-fifth class of the missionary school of Gilead was March 10, 1968, a day they will never forget. Addressing them, as well as an audience of about 2,000 friends and relatives of the students, the vice-president of the Watch Tower Society identified the students as assistant markers.

Drawing upon the prophecy in the ninth chapter of Ezekiel, which foretold a marking of the foreheads of persons who are "sighing and groaning over all the detestable things that are being done," F. W. Franz said that the students are marked ones who would be going out to help in marking others. The mark placed on the forehead is not merely an intellectual appreciation of God's Word of truth, he observed. It is a mark of identification as a Christian. It is evidence of a Christian personality. The vice-president of the Society was only one of several who addressed the forty-fifth class of Gilead that day.

The president of the Watch Tower Society, N. H. Knorr, concluded the several talks of admonition to the students by urging them not to forget the vow they made to do God's will. "There have been persons who have left God's organization completely," he said, "who eventually forgot what they used to believe. They forgot God."

"Now that school is over," he said, "it is not the end but the beginning." He concluded by saying: "You have a marvelous privilege. You must not forget what you have learned and your vow to do God's will."

With the conclusion of President Knorr's admonition to the class, they filed up onto the stage and individually received an envelope from him that contained, in most cases, a diploma. In order to receive a diploma certain scholastic standards had to be met. The envelope also contained a picture of the forty-fifth class and a little money to help with personal expenses. As the last of the graduates headed for their seats, a thunderous applause of congratulation went up from the audience.

geddon and to enjoy these blessings, it is vital that you now learn what God's will is and do it.

A representative of the graduate body then presented to the Society's president a letter of appreciation, which he read for all to hear. In it the graduates thanked the Society for the fine training that had been given them during the past five months. They stated that they now had an appreciation and concept of Jehovah's organization that was far beyond their expectations. They also felt that the Bible had now taken on new dimensions for them. With the reading of this statement of appreciation the program for the day did not end. More was to come in the afternoon.

For the enjoyment of all present a number of graduates put on some splendid musical presentations. Among them were lively songs in Spanish by a group of graduates who had studied that language in the school.

Sandwiched among these musical presentations was a thought-provoking skit depicting how several students had handled a demonstration in the classroom showing how the entire book of First Corinthians is beneficial. After a discussion they decided to dramatize a hypothetical scene in the Corinthian congregation of the first century. This showed how Paul's letter, among other things, handled the matter of divisions in the congregation, how it counseled action against an immoral member of the congregation, and how it gave counsel to those who had unbelieving mates. Skillfully they put across the main point, that principles in the Bible are beneficial to us all.

The highlight of the afternoon's program was an impressive enactment in costume of scenes from the life of the daughter of a judge in ancient Israel, Judge Jephthah. It was an emotionally moving and faith-inspiring drama, a thoroughly delightful presentation.

With the conclusion of the drama the entire class came up on the stage and sang a touching farewell song. Then the Society's president, in his closing remarks, admonished them to "continue in this fine work." His final prayer brought this splendid graduation program of the forty-fifth class of Gilead to an end.

ADVOCATE CHRIST'S BLOOD FOR MANKIND'S SALVATION

AMONG the things included in the preaching and teaching commission of Jehovah's Christian witnesses is the advocating of Christ's blood for the salvation of mankind. As the apostle Paul expressed it: "How much more will the blood of the Christ . . . cleanse our consciences."—Heb. 9:14.*

The need for Christian witnesses to advocate Christ's blood for mankind's salvation is great indeed, for there is little faith in the world today in the saving power of Christ's blood. In fact, it is of the utmost urgency that Christians do so, for Armageddon is drawing on apace, and only those who put faith in Christ's blood can hope to be spared from destruction at that time.

Making known the truth about God's law regarding the sanctity of blood is also part of the commission of the Christian witnesses of Jehovah, for respect for that law is also essential for salvation. Yet many today, and the medical profession in particular, choose to ignore God's law in this regard. How unwise their course of action is can be seen from the results of their blood transfusions, many thousands of persons dying each year because of transfusion mishaps, while many, many more are made ill because of having diseased blood transfused into them.

By adhering to Bible principles Christians are protected from such risks. They know that the Bible is scientifically correct when it states that the life is in the blood, for the whole body is kept alive by the blood. (Lev. 17:11) Most fittingly, therefore, when the life of man is taken, God's Word speaks of it as shedding his blood, as in the case of Abel. Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, is also spoken of as being "drunk" with the blood of God's holy ones.—Gen. 4:10; Rev. 17:6; 18:24.

Jehovah God's prohibition on the use of blood goes back to the very beginning of this post-Flood world. When Noah and his family came out of the ark, Jehovah for the first time authorized man to eat the flesh of animals, which, of course, involved taking their lives. With that privilege, however, He stated a limitation: the blood was never to be eaten. On that occasion Jehovah also forbade the taking of the life of a fellow human creature;

if anyone did, his own life was to be taken. (Gen. 9:3-6) These laws applied to the entire human race.

That the prohibition on the use of blood applies also to Christians today is further made clear from the words of the early Christian governing body at Jerusalem, as found at Acts 15:19, 20, 28, 29. Plainly they commanded Christians: "Abstain . . . from what is strangled and from blood." And that this rule was binding on Gentile as well as Jewish believers is clear from the words of the disciples at Jerusalem, at Acts 21:25, where they tell of giving this prohibition to Gentile believers. And let it be noted that those Christians were commanded to *abstain* from blood. That includes any use of it whatever. God's law forbids the use of blood for any other purpose than atonement for sins: "It is the blood that makes atonement by the soul [life] in it."—Lev. 17:11.

The blood of bulls and goats, however, cleansed from sins only in a figurative way. Christ's blood and only his blood can and does in actuality cleanse from sin those exercising faith in it. He came from heaven to "bear witness to the truth," and "to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many," as "the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." Yes, as he himself said, his blood was "poured out in behalf of many for forgiveness of sins." His apostles repeatedly testified to the same fact. Truly, there is an abundance of Scriptural testimony as to the value of Christ's blood for mankind's salvation! With the utmost confidence, therefore, the Christian witnesses of Jehovah advocate this truth in their ministerial activities—John 18:37; Matt. 20:28; John 1:29; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:9; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19; 1 John 1:7.

Clearly, then, regarding the Bible's teaching on blood Jehovah's Christian witnesses have a twofold obligation. On the one hand, they are to make known to all that Jehovah forbids the misuse of blood, whether of man or of animals, however well intentioned, and by whomever it may be. And, on the other hand, they are to make clear that salvation can come only through faith in Christ's shed blood. Making known these truths is an important part of their preaching and teaching commission.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

* For details see *The Watchtower*, December 1, 1967.

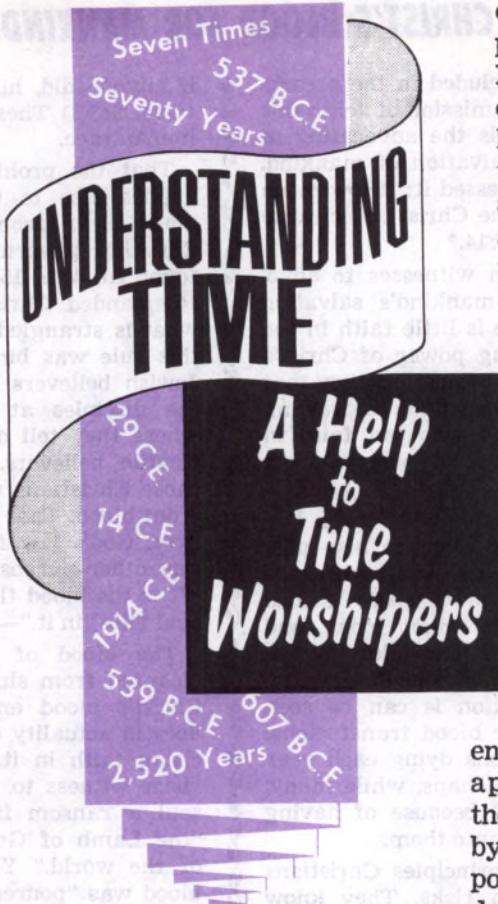
IN OUR daily lives we are often confronted with the need to know what time it is. Is it time to get up in the morning? time to go to work? time to eat? time to get ready to attend a meeting? time to go to bed? Over and over again each day most of us have some need to measure time in order to move from one feature of our daily activity into another. It is as the Bible states at Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verse 1: "For everything there is an appointed time, even a time for every affair under the heavens." If we did not make a point of being aware of time, our lives could become disorganized very quickly. We might easily waste

too much time and not spend enough time engaged in productive activity, activity that sustains our physical and spiritual lives.

² Aside from the need to regulate our lives properly, an understanding of matters involving time can be a source of great encouragement to Christians, since many of God's purposes toward earth and man involve a time factor. In connection with some of the events foretold in the Bible, Jehovah has revealed the time factor involved as a help to true worshipers. That such kind of revelation inspires true worshipers Jesus noted when he ex-

1. Why is an understanding of time helpful in our daily lives?

2. In connection with Jehovah's purposes, how is an understanding of time an encouragement?



claimed: "I publicly praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intellectual ones and have revealed them to babes."

—Matt. 11:25.

ENCOURAGED BY UNDERSTANDING

³ One example of encouragement derived from understanding the time feature concerning prophecy had to do with the time when Judah and Jerusalem lay desolate for seventy years. Due to the apostasy of the Jews they were held captive by Babylon, the world power of that time. Under the inspiration of God's holy spirit the prophet Jeremiah had foretold this seventy-year period. Concerning Judah and Jerusalem, as well as other nearby nations, Jeremiah prophesied: "All this land must become a devastated place, an object of astonishment, and these nations will have to serve the king of Babylon seventy years." (Jer. 25: 11) But in addition to this desolation Jehovah's word through Jeremiah foretold something else, a restoration would take place after the time period expired: "For this is what Jehovah has said, 'In accord with the fulfilling of seventy years at Babylon I shall turn my attention to you

3. What noteworthy features were involved in the time period concerning the desolating of Judah and Jerusalem?

people, and I will establish toward you my good word in bringing you back to this place.'”—Jer. 29:10.

* True to Jehovah's Word, Babylonian captivity came. The land of Judah lay desolate. The years passed. Eventually, sixty-eight years later, the combined armies of the Medes and Persians captured overconfident Babylon, entering the city whose gates had been carelessly left open. Almost without a fight Babylon was overthrown. Thus, the Jews inside the city were spared the devastation of a long siege. One of those Jews who had been in this long Babylonian captivity was Daniel, a faithful worshiper of God. Now he came under the rule of the Medo-Persian Empire's king over Babylon, Darius the Mede.—Dan. 5:31.

° Daniel knew of Jeremiah's prophecy. He also had an understanding of time, being able to measure and calculate it correctly. With what result? At chapter 9, verses 1 and 2, of the book of Daniel we read: “In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus of the seed of the Medes, who had been made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans; in the first year of his reigning I myself, Daniel, discerned by the books the number of the years concerning which the word of Jehovah had occurred to Jeremiah the prophet, for fulfilling the devastations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.” What an encouragement that must have been to Daniel and to the other Jewish captives, to be able to discern that their time of captivity was almost over and that the foretold time of release and restoration was near!

* Another such example of discerning a time of fulfillment regarding Jehovah's purposes and the encouragement derived involves that time period Jesus mentioned

4, 5. How did a knowledge of this time feature encourage the Jews?

6, 7. How did understanding “the appointed times of the nations” help true worshipers?

in connection with “the conclusion of the system of things.” As recorded at Luke chapter 21, verse 24, Jesus said: “And Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations, until the appointed times of the nations are fulfilled.” By having an understanding of what these “appointed times of the nations” were, and by being able to measure and calculate the length of time involved, God's servants on earth would be able to discern when God's kingdom was to be established in heaven. That marvelous event would coincide with the ending of the “appointed times of the nations,” and the beginning of the “time of the end.”—Dan. 11:27, 40; Matt. 24:3; 2 Tim. 3:1.

* That period of time proved to be 2,520 years. It began with the downfall of Jerusalem in the year 607 B.C.E. It concluded in the year 1914, and God's people on earth were able to calculate the date even before it came, although the details of just what would occur were not clear. But by being able to appreciate Jehovah's use of time features, his worshipers on earth realized that the “last days” foretold in God's Word had indeed begun. And the fact that the “time of the end” had commenced meant that the kingdom of God had been established in the heavens under Christ. All of this proved to be a great encouragement during those critical years, particularly when true worshipers were undergoing persecution. And how encouraging this is to true worshipers today, for we know that, by the autumn of 1967 C.E., fifty-three years had gone by since the “last days” began, since the “appointed times of the nations” ended! That means the end of this wicked system of things will come very shortly. As Jesus said, the end would occur in the same generation that saw the beginning of the “last days” in 1914.—Matt. 24:34.

THE RIGHT TIME

⁸ An understanding of time proves valuable in another way too. Christians need to know, not only what to do, but when to do it. God's servants surely want to do the right thing at the right time. One can take a course of action at the right time, but have it be to no avail if it is a wrong course of action. Also, it may even prove fruitless to take a certain course of action that normally could be considered right, if it is taken at the wrong time. No one could object to the correctness of a person's sleeping an average of about eight hours a day. But what if that eight hours came when he should have been working? Then, of course, it would not be correct. Setting aside time for family relaxation, recreation, can be upbuilding. But if it always fell on the evening they should be at a Christian meeting, then it would not be correct.

⁹ When the nation of Israel was led out of Egypt, Jehovah told his people they would possess the land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey. (Ex. 3:15-17) But after spying out the land, the people, with only a few exceptions, refused to go in because they were afraid of the inhabitants. They murmured and wanted to go back to Egypt. It was the right time to go into the Promised Land, particularly since they had the evidence that God was with them. But the Israelites did the wrong thing. They did not want to go in. For this, Jehovah decreed that the rebellious generation would wander for a time period of forty years in the wilderness, until, except for a few, they would die. It would be the new generation that would go into the Promised Land.—Num. 13:31-33; 14:1-4, 28-34.

¹⁰ An example of taking what normally

would be considered a right action, but at the wrong time, occurred with King Saul when he became fearful of the Philistines. First Samuel chapter 28, verse 6, shows that Saul did what on other occasions would have been considered a right thing, for it says: "Saul would inquire of Jehovah." But, his inquiring of Jehovah was at the wrong time! It came after he had broken God's commands and after Jehovah had withdrawn his spirit from Saul. (1 Sam. 16:14) He should have done such inquiring in prayer long before his heart had turned hard so as to violate God's clearly expressed commands. Because his turning to God in prayer was at the wrong time, when it was far too late, it was of no avail. As verse 6 of 1 Samuel chapter 28 adds: "Jehovah never answered him, either by dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets."

¹¹ So as God's servants, true worshipers, today study his Word of truth and understand what their heavenly Father wants them to do and when he wants them to do it, their compliance with that expressed will enables them to please Jehovah and receive his blessing. It means keeping in step with Jehovah's progressively revealed will and his progressing visible organization, cooperating with it in its activity in the remaining years before the end of this system of things comes.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TIME

¹² Since an understanding of time helps Christians in several ways, let us find out some of the things we can know about it. Several important considerations are the following: (1) How it moves; (2) how to measure it; (3) how to calculate it. But is there anything about time we do not

8. In what other way does an understanding of time prove valuable?

9. Although the time was right, what wrong course did Israel take?

10. Why were the prayers of King Saul not answered?

11. How do true worshipers please Jehovah?

12. (a) What are some things we can know about time?
(b) What is it we cannot know?

know and cannot know? Yes, we do not know where time began and where it is going throughout eternity. Only Jehovah possesses such knowledge at present, so we should not concern ourselves about it. It would be like the ant trying to understand man's beginning and God's purpose in putting humans on earth. Such knowledge is far beyond the comprehension of that small insect.

¹³ Of the things we can know about time, one is how it moves. It moves only in one direction, forward. It is like traffic on a one-way street. It moves relentlessly in that one direction and no creature can reverse the process. That is why we cannot recover the past, for we can never go backward in time so as to eliminate the present as though it had never occurred. No, time proceeds forward, and we always live in the present, not in the past. We know there is a future one minute from now or one year from now and that we will always progress from present to future, but we can never go backward.

¹⁴ Another characteristic of time is its apparent rate of flow, that is, how fast it moves from the present to the future. This rate of flow can be measured. Indeed, Jehovah knew that man would need a knowledge of how to measure time, especially since his purposes include a time factor. So he provided man with the ability to do this, to measure time, an ability beyond the lower animal creation. Jehovah also provided the means by which man could accurately measure time. Genesis 1:14 states: "And God went on to say: 'Let luminaries come to be in the expanse of the heavens to make a division between the day and the night; and they must serve as signs and for seasons and for days and years.'" So Jehovah made it possible for man to keep track of time,

for each time the earth completes a cycle around the sun, one solar year passes. During that time we go through the cycle of the seasons. And each time the earth completes one revolution on its own axis, one day passes.

¹⁵ The Bible, at Deuteronomy 5:13, 14, tells of another measurement of time: "You are to render service, and you must do all your work six days. But the seventh day is a sabbath to Jehovah your God." This established the weekly cycle made up of seven days, which cycle we still use today. However, even before that time, Noah is spoken of as using a cycle of seven days, as well as a month of thirty days.—Gen. 7:4, 11, 24; 8:4.

¹⁶ To understand the division of time called the *day* as used in the Bible, the context of the material must be determined. This is due to the fact that there are different meanings that apply to the word *day* (*yom* in Hebrew, *hēme'ra* in Greek), as it is used in the Holy Scriptures. One usage of the word is at Genesis 1:5, where it states: "And God began calling the light *Day*." The day here referred to is the daylight period itself of about twelve hours. John 20:19 refers to a second use of the word *day*, this time meaning a twenty-four-hour period: "Therefore, when it was late on that *day*, the first of the week." A third use of the word *day* has to do with a period of time contemporaneous with some outstanding person. We have an example at Isaiah 1:1, which reads: "The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz that he visioned concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the *days* of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah."

¹⁷ The word *day* can refer to a longer period of time. At 2 Peter 3:8 we are told: "One *day* is with Jehovah as a thousand

13. Which way does time move?

14, 15. What measurements of time did Jehovah provide?

16. What are three uses of the word *day* in the Bible?

17. How else is the word *day* used in the Bible?

years and a thousand years as one day." An even longer period of time than that can be embraced by the word, for Exodus 20:11 declares: "For in six days Jehovah made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and he proceeded to rest on the seventh day." This refers to the creative periods of time, each of which, judging by the seventh, appears to be 7,000 years long. However, there is an even longer period of time that can be attached to the meaning of the Bible word *day*, one that includes all of the creative days together. Genesis 2:4 states: "This is a history of the heavens and the earth in the time of their being created, in the *day* that Jehovah God made earth and heaven." So the word as used in this sense apparently covers a time period far longer than each creative day.

CALCULATING TIME PERIODS

¹⁸ After man had the knowledge of how to divide time into periods, the need for calculating it over long spans was seen, so calendars were introduced. One such calendar was the Jewish, another the Julian, introduced by Julius Caesar in the year 46 B.C.E. Still another was the Gregorian, introduced in 1582 C.E. by Pope Gregory XIII. This calendar was more accurate than the Julian and is the one now used in most countries.

¹⁹ To calculate long periods of time, certain dates called "absolute dates" are very valuable. These are dates that have been proved reliable by secular history, actual dates of events that are also recorded in the Bible. Starting from one of these specific dates we can, by using the reliable internal chronology of the Bible itself, ascertain when many other Bible events occurred.

18, 19. What aids help us to calculate time?

²⁰ For calculating Hebrew Scripture dates, the absolute date of October 5 to 6 in the year 539 B.C.E. is essential. This was the year that the Medes and Persians overthrew Babylon and it was definitely established in secular history when a record was found of King Nabonidus, the father and coregent of King Belshazzar. This remarkable clay document established that Babylon fell on October 5 to 6, in the year 539 B.C.E. according to the Gregorian calendar. From this date all the other dates in the Hebrew Scriptures can be calculated.

²¹ One of the more important calculations of a long period of time involves the previously mentioned "appointed times of the nations." According to Ezekiel's prophecy (Ezek. 21:25-27), it began when the typical kingdom of God ruling in Jerusalem was overthrown by Babylon. When did that occur? Well, secular historians agree that Babylon itself fell in 539 B.C.E. at the beginning of our month of October. Two years later, in 537 B.C.E., the Jews were repatriated to Jerusalem, ending their seventy-year period of Jerusalem's desolation. Counting backward in time seventy years from 537 B.C.E. we arrive at the date 607 B.C.E. Thus, Jerusalem was left desolate at the beginning of October 607 B.C.E. The "appointed times of the nations" began. They ended with the establishment of God's heavenly kingdom and the beginning of the "last days." This time period, as many Bible students already know, was 2,520 years long, as indicated at Daniel 4:16, 17, 31, 32 and Revelation 11:2, 3; and Ezekiel 4:6. But how is this calculated? If we simply add 1,914 years to 607 years, we are confronted with 2,521 years, not 2,520 years.

20. How are Hebrew Scripture dates calculated?

21. (a) How do we know Jerusalem fell in 607 B.C.E.? (b) What problem arises with the "appointed times of the nations"?

²² One way to calculate it correctly is as follows: Beginning with the year 607 B.C.E., on October 1, we count three more months until the end of the year. That brings us to January 1, 606 B.C.E. (the year numbers before the Common Era becoming smaller as they get closer to the time of Christ). Adding the full 606 years brings us to the end of the year 1 B.C.E., and we so far have a total of 606 years and three months.

²³ What comes next? What comes after the year 1 B.C.E.? Is it the year zero? No, for the ancient peoples, including the Greeks and Romans, had no conception of a zero. If you studied Roman numerals in school, did you learn a symbol for zero? No, because they did not use one. The zero was invented by the Hindus about 150 years after the Common Era began and was introduced by the Arabs into Europe some centuries later. So the year after 1 B.C.E. was, not zero, but 1 C.E., the first year of the Common Era. From the beginning of that year to the end of 1913 C.E. we have 1,913 full years. From January 1 to October 1 of 1914 gives us nine more months. Adding the 1,913 years and nine months to the 606 years and three months before the Common Era gives us the 2,520-year period from October 1, 607 B.C.E., to October 1, 1914 C.E. This is the period of the "times of the nations" of which Jesus spoke. That this calculation is correct is clearly corroborated by the many visible events that Jesus foretold and that have come to pass since 1914. Hence, although such calculation may be somewhat difficult, it is vital for Christians to know, as it helps to determine the time when God's kingdom was established in the heavens and when this

present wicked system of things entered its "time of the end."

²⁴ For calculating the dates for the various events of Jesus' earthly ministry, the absolute date of August 19, in the year 14 of the Common Era, is vital. On that date Augustus Caesar died and was succeeded by Tiberius Caesar as emperor of Rome. Now note what Luke chapter 3 states: "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar . . . God's declaration came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. So he came into all the country around the Jordan, preaching baptism in symbol of repentance for forgiveness of sins." The fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar ended in late August in the year 29 C.E. John, six months older than Jesus, began his preaching that spring. Six months later, or in the autumn of the year 29 C.E., Jesus was baptized and began his ministry.

²⁵ A fact of great importance to Christians is that the Bible is the *only* record that accurately lists all the periods of time back to the creation of man, and even beyond. No other document does this. That is why Christians can have such confidence in all matters of Bible prophecy that contain time features. Jehovah is the Great Timekeeper. He has a set time for every purpose. When he promises a new system of things we can rejoice in the fact that for a certainty, exactly on time, such prophecies will be fulfilled. Thus true worshipers today do not have the anxiety of worldlings, for they know that their God, Jehovah, is guiding them in paths of righteousness, and that he tells them in advance what to expect and when to expect it. As Amos 3:7 states: "The Lord Jehovah will not do a thing unless he has revealed his confidential matter to his servants the prophets."

22. How much time was there between October 607 B.C.E. and the end of 1 B.C.E.?

23. How much time was there from the beginning of the Common Era to October of 1914? What total does this give for our calculation?

24. How are the dates for the ministry of Jesus calculated?

25. Why can we rely on the time features contained in God's Word?

MAKING WISE USE *Of The Remaining Time*

MANY in this world, particularly scientists, educators and political leaders, accept the view that man has been on earth millions of years. They believe that he has arrived at his present state of development by the process of evolution, and that this process will continue into the indefinite future. Because of this they feel that man has unlimited opportunities and time to make a success of his plans. But the Christian is not fooled by this Satanic doctrine. God's chief adversary would like all persons to believe that there is no set time for anything, even God's purposes. But the Christian, having full confidence in God and his Word, knows that man does not have an indefinite future in this system of things. He realizes where we stand in the stream of time, and that God's judgments against this system of things are soon to be executed.

² With accurate knowledge of Jehovah and his purposes, the Christian rejects the speculations of men. This includes the speculations of historians who do not believe the Bible, but who attach fantastic dates to events in man's history. Concerning the unreliability of such dates the book *The Secret of the Hittites*, by C. W. Ceram, in the chapter entitled "The Science of Historical Dating," states:

1. What false belief do many have today?
- 2, 3. (a) What can be said of many of the dates secular historians give? (b) What is the safest guide in these matters?

"Anyone approaching the study of ancient history for the first time must be impressed by the positive way modern historians date events which took place thousands of years ago. In the course of further study this wonder will, if anything, increase. For as we examine the sources of ancient history we see how scanty, inaccurate, or downright false, the records were even at the time they were first written. And poor as they originally were, they are poorer still as they have come down to us: half destroyed by the tooth of time or by the carelessness and rough usage of men."

"As a matter of fact, the more we pursue our studies, the less are we impressed by the dates which initially filled us with respect. We begin to recognize the framework of chronological history for what it is—a purely hypothetical structure, and one which threatens to come apart at every joint. Crooked and tottering, it gives us a picture of a strangely arbitrary history, while at the same time our instinct tells us that the ancient civilizations must have had some sort of reasonable and organic growth. When we reach this point in our studies we begin to be doubtful of every single date!"

"To give an example of the untrustworthiness of chronology: investigators toiling for a century have had to shift the date for the unification of Egypt by King Menes, who established the first Egyptian dynasty, from 5867 B.C. to 2900 B.C. And even this latter date, which is considered the real beginning of Egyptian history, has not yet been determined with complete certainty....

"But as we go even deeper into the subject, our respect for the achievements of historical detective work returns. We learn that the scholars have been careful to distinguish between 'assured' and 'assumed' dates. And

we discover that the chronological framework of ancient history rests upon at least a few firm points. Certain key dates, around which other dates are mustered, can be determined almost without error. They are 'assured.'"

³ Hence, outside the Bible's timetable, most dates set by historians are unreliable. Only a few "assured," or absolute, dates, such as 539 B.C.E., can be accepted as certain. Christians, confident in Jehovah's Word, know that the internal evidence of the Bible is the safest guide in these matters. This helps us to determine with great accuracy where we stand in the stream of time, particularly in regard to the seventh period of time, or "day," mentioned in Genesis.—Gen. 2: 2, 3.

THE SEVENTH DAY

⁴ According to reliable Bible chronology Adam was created in the year 4026 B.C.E., likely in the autumn of the year, at the end of the sixth day of creation. Then God brought the animals to man to name. Yet, of Adam, Genesis states these words of Jehovah: "It is not good for the man to continue by himself." (Gen. 2:18) Adam would realize this lonely condition very quickly, perhaps in just a few days or a few weeks. He would realize he needed another earthling with whom he could communicate, share his experiences, and his life. Nor would his naming the animals take an unduly long time. The basic animal kinds could have been relatively quickly named, for when such basic kinds were taken into the ark in Noah's day, it did not involve millions of beasts, but perhaps only a few hundred basic kinds. Thus, Adam's naming of the animals and his realizing that he needed a counterpart would have occupied only a brief time after his creation. Since it was also Jehovah's purpose for man to multiply and

fill the earth, it is logical that he would create Eve soon after Adam, perhaps just a few weeks or months later in the same year, 4026 B.C.E. After her creation, God's rest day, the seventh period, immediately followed.

⁵ Therefore, God's seventh day and the time man has been on earth apparently run parallel. To calculate where man is in the stream of time relative to God's seventh day of 7,000 years, we need to determine how long a time has elapsed from the year of Adam and Eve's creation in 4026 B.C.E. From the autumn of that year to the autumn of 1 B.C.E., there would be 4,025 years. From the autumn of 1 B.C.E. to the autumn of 1 C.E. is one year (there was no zero year). From the autumn of 1 C.E. to the autumn of 1967 is a total of 1,966 years. Adding 4,025 and 1 and 1,966, we get 5,992 years from the autumn of 4026 B.C.E. to the autumn of 1967. Thus, eight years remain to account for a full 6,000 years of the seventh day. Eight years from the autumn of 1967 would bring us to the autumn of 1975, fully 6,000 years into God's seventh day, his rest day.

⁶ After 6,000 years of misery, toil, trouble, sickness and death under Satan's rule, mankind is indeed in dire need of relief, a rest. The seventh day of the Jewish week, the sabbath, would well picture the final 1,000-year reign of God's kingdom under Christ when mankind would be uplifted from 6,000 years of sin and death. (Rev. 20:6) Hence, when Christians note from God's timetable the approaching end of 6,000 years of human history, it fills them with anticipation. Particularly is this true because the great sign of the "last days" has been in the course of fulfillment since

5. How can we calculate where we stand in the stream of time?

6. 7. (a) To what can the 1,000-year reign of Christ be likened? Why? (b) What fills Jehovah's servants with anticipation now?

the beginning of the "time of the end" in 1914. And, as Jesus said, "this generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matt. 24:34) Some of the generation that discerned the beginning of the time of the end in 1914 will still be alive on earth to witness the end of this present wicked system of things at the battle of Armageddon.—Rev. 16:14, 16.

⁵ The immediate future is certain to be filled with climactic events, for this old system is nearing its complete end. Within a few years at most the final parts of Bible prophecy relative to these "last days" will undergo fulfillment, resulting in the liberation of surviving mankind into Christ's glorious 1,000-year reign. What difficult days, but, at the same time, what grand days are just ahead!

⁶ Does this mean that the year 1975 will bring the battle of Armageddon? No one can say with cer-

CHART OF DATES FROM MAN'S CREATION TO 7000 A.M.

DATE B.C.E.	DATE ANNO MUNDI	EVENT	REFERENCE
4026		Creation of Adam (in early autumn)	Gen. 2:7
3896	130	Birth of Seth	Gen. 5:3
3096	930	Death of Adam	Gen. 5:5
3026	1000	End of 1st 1,000-year day of man's existence	
2970	1056	Birth of Noah	Gen. 5:28, 29
2468	1558	Birth of Shem	Gen. 11:10
2370	1656	Methuselah dies in this year; floodwaters fall (in November)	Gen. 5:27; Gen. 7:6, 11
2369	1657	Flood subsides; God gives law on sanctity of blood	Gen. 9:4-6
2368	1658	Birth of Arpachshad	Gen. 11:10
c. 2239	1787	Founding of Babel; beast comes out of sea	Gen. 10:8-12;
2026	2000	End of 2d 1,000-year day of man's existence	Rev. 13
2018	2008	Birth of Abraham	Gen. 11:32; 12:4
1943	2083	Abrahamic covenant made	Gen. 12:4, 7
1918	2108	Birth of Isaac; beginning of the "about 450 years"	Gen. 21:2, 5; Acts 13:17-20
1913	2113	Isaac weaned (age 5); Ishmael (age 19) taunts Isaac; beginning of 400-year affliction	Gen. 21:8; 15:13; Acts 7:6
1858	2168	Birth of Esau and Jacob	Gen. 25:26
1737	2289	Joseph made prime minister of Egypt	Gen. 41:40, 46
1728	2298	Jacob and family move to Egypt	Gen. 47:9
a. 1600	a. 2426	Egypt prominent as First World Power	Ex. 1:8
1593	2433	Birth of Moses	Deut. 34:7
1513	2513	Passover; Israel leaves Egypt; end of 400-year affliction; Law covenant made at Sinai	Ex. 12:12, 40, 41; Gen. 15:13, 14; Ex. 24:6-8
1473	2553	Israel enters Canaan under Joshua; count for Jubilee years begins Tishri (Ethanim) 10	Josh. 5:6; Lev. 25
1467	2559	End of Joshua's war operations in Canaan; end of the "about 450 years" of Acts 13:17-20; first sabbath year for Israel begins (in fall); 350-year period of Judges begins	Josh. 11:23; 14:7, 10-15; Lev. 25:1-7
1424	2602	First Jubilee year begins Tishri (Ethanim) 10	Lev. 25:8-12
1117	2909	Saul anointed as king of Israel	1 Sam. 10:24
1077	2949	David becomes king	Acta 13:21, 22
1037	2989	Solomon succeeds David as king	1 KI. 2:11, 12
1034	2992	Construction of Solomon's temple begins in his 4th year (in spring)	1 KI. 6:1
1026	3000	End of 3d 1,000-year day of man's existence	
997	3029	Rehoboam succeeds Solomon as king; 10 tribes secede	1 KI. 11:42, 43
740	3236	Assyria, Second World Power, subjugates Israel, takes Samaria	2 KI. 17:6, 13, 18
625	3401	Nebuchadnezzar rules as king of Babylon, Third World Power	Jer. 25:1
624	3402	17th Jubilee begins	Lev. 25
617	3409	Nebuchadnezzar takes first Jewish captives to Babylon	2 KI. 24:12-18
607	3419	Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem by siege; temple razed, Jerusalem destroyed (5th month); abandoned (7th month); 70-year desolation begins; Seven Gentile Times begin to count	2 KI. 25:3-7, 8-10; Jer. 52:12-14; 2 KI. 25:25, 26
539	3487	Babylon falls to Medes and Persians; Medo-Persia becomes Fourth World Power; Darius rules	Dan. 5:30, 31
537	3489	Cyrus the Persian (in first year) decrees return of Jews	2 Chron. 36:22, 23
516	3510	Zerubbabel completes second temple	Ezra 6:14, 15
455	3571	Jerusalem's walls built by Nehemiah; 70 weeks of Dan. 9:24 begin fulfillment	Neh. 1:1; 2:1, 11; 6:15; Dan. 9:24
332	3694	Greece, Fifth World Power, rules Judea	Dan. 8:21
63	3963	Rome, Sixth World Power, rules Judea	John 19:15;
26	4000	End of 4th 1,000-year day of man's existence	Rev. 17:10
2	4024	Birth of John the Baptist and Jesus	Luke 1:60; 2:7
DATE C.E.			
29	4054	(Fall) Jesus baptized, anointed; end of 69th "week" of Dan. 9:24	Luke 3:1, 2, 23

8. Can anyone say with certainty when the battle of Armageddon will come?

CHART OF DATES FROM MAN'S CREATION TO 7000 A.M.

DATE C.E. ANNO MUNDI	DATE	EVENT	REFERENCE
33	4058	Nisan 14, Jesus sets up Lord's Supper; impaled; middle of 70th "week" of Dan. 9:24	Luke 22:20; 23:33
		Nisan 16, Jesus resurrected	Matt. 28:1-10
		Sivan 6, Pentecost; outpouring of holy spirit; Christian congregation founded; Peter uses first key	Acts 2:1-4, 14
36	4061	Peter uses 2d key; Roman centurion Cornelius anointed, baptized; end of the 70 weeks of years	Acts 10:34-48
c. 49	4074	Jerusalem council of apostles and older men decrees against blood and things strangled	Acts 15
70	4095	Jerusalem and temple destroyed by the Romans	Dan. 9:27; Luke 19:42-44
73	4098	Last Jewish fortress, Masada, falls	
c. 100	4125	John, last of the apostles, dies	
131	4156	Emperor Hadrian rebuilds Jerusalem, making it a Roman colony called Aelia Capitolina	
325	4350	Roman Emperor Constantine, Pontifex Maximus, convokes first general council of bishops at Nicaea	
378	4403	Damasus, bishop of Rome, takes over title of Pontifex Maximus	
386	4411	Augustine is converted to Roman Catholicism	
800	4825	Pope Leo III crowns King Charles (Charlemagne)	
975	5000	End of 5th 1,000-year day of man's existence	2 Thess. 2:7

1492	5517	Pope Innocent VIII dies after a blood transfusion
1530	5555	Protestant League of Schmalkald is entered into
1763	5788	Great Britain emerges as Seventh World Power
1806	5831	End of Holy Roman Empire
1879	5904	(July) First number of "Zion's Watch Tower" is published
1884	5909	Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society (now Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society of Pa.) is legally chartered
1914	5939	(October) Gentile Times end; World War I rages
1916	5941	"The Watch Tower" (Jan. 1) declares for Christian neutrality
1918	5943	First use of stored blood, by professor of medicine, University of Chicago; Watch Tower Society representatives imprisoned (June); World War I ends in November
1919	5944	(March) Watch Tower Society representatives released, exonerated the following year
1920	5945	League of Nations begins its sessions as Eighth World Power
1927	5952	"The Watchtower" (Dec. 15) declares bloodshed a reason for God's vengeance at Armageddon—Gen. 9:3, 4
1931	5956	(July 26) The name "Jehovah's witnesses" embraced
1935	5960	"Great Crowd" of Revelation 7:9-17 identified at Washington (D.C.) assembly and in "The Watchtower"
1937	5962	First blood bank on a large scale established at Cook County Hospital
1938	5963	Theocratic organization of Jehovah's Christian witnesses completed
1939	5964	(September) World War II begins; League of Nations goes into inactivity
1945	5970	"The Watchtower" (July 1) exposes blood transfusion—Ps. 16:4 (September) World War II ends; (October) United Nations Organization ratified
1957	5982	(October) Russia sends up first satellite; causes world to fear
1962	5987	(October 11) Pope John XXIII opens Vatican Council II
1963	5988	Pope John XXIII, at Council, publishes encyclical "Pacem in Terris" in which he praises United Nations Organization. June 3, he dies despite blood transfusions
1964	5989	(May) "Spy satellites" and astronauts increase world tension
1965	5990	(October 4) Pope Paul VI visits United Nations Headquarters in New York city, endorses United Nations and confers with president of U.S.A. December 8, he closes Ecumenical Council Vatican II
1966	5991	Threat of World War III grows more ominous as between "king of the north" and the "king of the south." (Dan. 11:5-7, 40) Expansion of organization of Jehovah's Christian witnesses continues, and international series of "God's Sons of Liberty" District Assemblies are scheduled to begin on June 22, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Book "Life Everlasting—in Freedom of the Sons of God" to be released Saturday, June 25, 1966
1975	6000	End of 6th 1,000-year day of man's existence (in early autumn)

2975	7000	End of 7th 1,000-year day of man's existence (in early autumn)
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tainty what any particular year will bring. Jesus said: "Concerning that day or the hour nobody knows." (Mark 13: 32) Sufficient is it for God's servants to know for a certainty that, for this system under Satan, time is running out rapidly. How foolish a person would be not to be awake and alert to the limited time remaining, to the earth-shaking events soon to take place, and to the need to work out one's salvation!

THE VALUE OF TIME

* Knowing about God's timetable, where we are in the stream of time, is one thing; using the time available is another. If an understanding of time is valuable, using it wisely is even more so. Time is considered so valuable that some say "time is money." It is precious, valuable, a prized commodity. One way to determine the value of time is the way the value of merchandise is often calculated—by the supply and demand. For instance, during the days of the

9. What is one way the value of time can be determined?

pony express in the United States, it used to cost several dollars to send a letter that now costs about six cents. Why the difference? Because in the old days there were very few pony express riders. The supply was very limited, but the demand for their service was great, so they were valuable. But today the supply of mail carriers is much greater, therefore not as costly.

¹⁰ By the standard of supply and demand, then, how should time be valued? Is the supply of time for humans in this system limited? Yes. Is the demand for more time, and for an extended lifetime, great? By all means! For imperfect humans subject to death the supply of time is very limited, but the demand for it is great. So time is extremely valuable. At best, man's life-span is about seventy or eighty years. A few live a bit longer. But it is much, much less in many places where disease, malnutrition or violence cut it short. Even for the healthy, as they get older their strength will ebb, so that they cannot do as much in a given amount of time as they used to do. Eventually, the day will come when they can do nothing at all, because death will have claimed them as victims. That is why Ecclesiastes 12:1 counsels: "Remember, now, your grand Creator in the days of your young manhood, before the calamitous days proceed to come, or the years have arrived when you will say: 'I have no delight in them.'"

¹¹ In any way that we view the matter, whether young or old, our time is precious. Particularly is this true for worshipers of Jehovah. How often we hear those busy in the ministry proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom say: "Why, there just isn't enough time in a day!" Yes, there is a great demand for

time everywhere. It is even more valuable than money, for money lost can be replaced, but time lost cannot be replaced. It is gone forever.

¹² The apostle Paul put a high value on time. When he wrote to the Christians at Ephesus he stated: "So keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise but as wise persons, buying out the opportune time for yourselves, because the days are wicked." (Eph. 5:15, 16) Paul told the Ephesians to put the more important things first in their lives, even if it cost something, even if it cost time from other pursuits. Now, if such was true in Paul's day, how much more so is it true in our day! By measuring and calculating time, we know we are living in the final years of this system of things. It is crumbling before our very eyes in one orgy of violence and crime after another. Minute by minute, day by day, year by year it moves without fail toward its catastrophic end. There is no going backward for this system. How true, then, in our day, what Paul stated at 1 Corinthians 7:29: "Moreover, this I say, brothers, the time left is reduced." It is especially reduced in our day, as we are near the end of 6,000 years of human history.

¹³ Satan the Devil also knows that the time left is very reduced. Revelation 12:12 states: "The Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of time." Satan the Devil has a real problem where time is concerned. He has very little left. What he would not give to have more time to work out his debased purposes! But he does not, and so is furious. You can be certain that he will use that remaining time to his best advantage in opposing God and his servants on earth. "And the dragon grew

10, 11. Why is time so precious in this system of things?

12. Particularly in view of what is time valuable?
13. What is Satan's condition relative to time?

wrathful at the woman, and went off to wage war with the remaining ones of her seed, who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness to Jesus."—Rev. 12:17.

USE IT WISELY

¹⁴ Ours are "critical times hard to deal with," for they are the "last days." (2 Tim. 3:1) "Wicked men and impostors will advance from bad to worse, misleading and being misled." (2 Tim. 3:13) Surely, Christians want to use their remaining time in this system of things wisely, for the right purpose, so they are not overcome by these bad times so "hard to deal with" due to Satan's schemes and assaults. But how can we do this? One way is by not wasting time on unprofitable pursuits. This we will do if, to the best of our ability and circumstances, we follow the lead of Jehovah through his visible organization on earth today. Through his visible arrangement we receive counsel on how best to use our time. Meetings are provided for receiving uplift spiritually. There is also wholesome, stimulating activity in preaching the truths we learn to others.—Matt. 24:45-47.

¹⁵ True, much of our time is consumed in preparing, going to meetings and out in the ministry. In fact, it seems as though such a schedule leaves little time for other pursuits. But do you think such is an accident? Does Jehovah not know what is best for his people in these very dark and critical days? Aside from the primary purpose of educating us in Jehovah's purposes and requirements so we can carry out his will, the consuming of our time at meetings and in the ministry means that God's servants are doing the right thing and will not be in another place doing the wrong thing! The more

time they spend working with Jehovah's visible organization, the less time they will have left to get into difficulty. Yes, the arrangements Jehovah has provided now are certainly a source of great protection. "The name of Jehovah is a strong tower. Into it the righteous runs and is given protection."—Prov. 18:10.

¹⁶ Making wise use of the remaining time does not mean we will get no rest or recreation. Such is proper, but the kind we choose and the time we devote to it should be balanced with our Christian obligations. True, we would all like more time to enjoy such things as Jehovah's creation and other forms of recreation, and to a degree we can do that now. But the real enjoyment will come in Jehovah's new system where there will be real and everlasting enjoyment of all the things Jehovah has provided and will yet provide. But when a ship is sinking, one's thoughts should be more on survival than recreation or rest. This old system is sinking into disbelief, immorality and degradation. Soon it will sink completely out of sight when it is given its deathblow by Jehovah's chief heavenly executioner, Christ Jesus. That is why the primary consideration of God-fearing persons now is doing the will of Jehovah and working for survival.

¹⁷ Those who have already separated themselves from this dying old system can be likened to those who have successfully abandoned a sinking ship and are in a lifeboat. Their thoughts should be concentrated on reaching a safe shore regardless of the effort required. Jehovah's servants have come to a place of survival, a place where they can learn of everlasting life in a righteous new system. But there are others who also want survival. They, too, need to know of Jehovah's will and promises. They need to be aided, even

14. How can we wisely use time today?

15. Why is a schedule of Christian activity a protection?

16, 17. What is the proper view of rest and recreation?

though it means sacrificing one's own time and effort from personal pursuits. Such giving of oneself is the best way to make wise use of the remaining time.

¹⁸ To use our time even more wisely, we need to become proficient in our life-saving work. We want to do more than just occupy our time with the ministry. We want to make the best use of that time we spend, and we can do that if we put our heart into what we do and endeavor to improve the quality of our service to Jehovah. At 1 Corinthians 9:26 Paul said: "The way I am directing my blows is so as not to be striking the air." Paul was not going to waste time and energy in accomplishing little or nothing. He would learn to direct his efforts skillfully to use in the best way the time he spent. We can do the same. If we do, we will be productive in the ministry, diligently working to find, feed and tenderly care for interested persons with whom we come in contact.

¹⁹ No matter what feature of our daily activity we are performing, whether it is going to Christian meetings, teaching others about God's purposes in their homes, or in our work in offices, factories, farms or homes, we will make wise use of our time if we perform that activity in a manner that will honor Jehovah. Even though we may not be in a position to be a full-time preacher, we will want to conduct ourselves as Christians, working hard to do as Paul counseled: "You should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted according to his deceptive desires; but . . . you should be made new in the force actuating your mind, and should put on the new personality which was created according to

God's will in true righteousness and loyalty."—Eph. 4:22-24.

ADVANCING IN TRUE WORSHIP

²⁰ Some, after considering the many things they could be doing to make wise use of time, will recognize that they have not honored God well in the past. Certainly before coming to an accurate knowledge of God and his Word, they did not honor Jehovah. Perhaps there was even a dishonoring. But do not waste more time dwelling on the past that is squandered. There is nothing you can do to bring it back. What you can do is to learn from the experience and determine not to repeat it.

²¹ At times individuals let their unwise past hinder them. They worry over it to the point where it interferes with the wise use of their time now and in the future. That is not appreciating to the full that Jehovah is a loving and forgiving God, and that what really counts is what we are doing today and will do tomorrow. Jehovah is merciful and forgiving if we are truly repentant and work hard to obey his commandments. "'Come, now, you people, and let us set matters straight between us,' says Jehovah. 'Though the sins of you people should prove to be as scarlet, they will be made white just like snow; though they should be red like crimson cloth, they will become even like wool. If you people show willingness and do listen, the good of the land you will eat.'" (Isa. 1:18, 19) Accept that loving-kindness, then strive to gain Jehovah's approval by advancing in true worship.

²² The love and mercy of God extend even toward those who had once been cut off from the Christian congregation. Such ones, after coming back into Jehovah's

18. How can time be used even more wisely?

19. How is time used wisely regardless of which feature of the Christian's daily activity he is performing?

20, 21. What should individuals who have not used their time wisely in the past do?

22. (a) Even to whom does Jehovah's mercy extend? (b) What appreciation should this build?

favor and demonstrating their faith and loyalty, now have the prospect of being used in positions of responsibility in the Christian congregation. Is that not a wonderful expression of Jehovah's love? If he exercises such forgiveness toward those once cut off, do you not think he will do the same for those who have not, but who have been previously unwise in the use of their time? Such marvelous attributes of Jehovah should make us love Him even more, should make us reaffirm our desire to make wise use of our time by advancing in true worship now and forever, giving the best we have. As Exodus 23:19 says: "The best of the first ripe fruits of your ground you are to bring to the house of Jehovah your God."

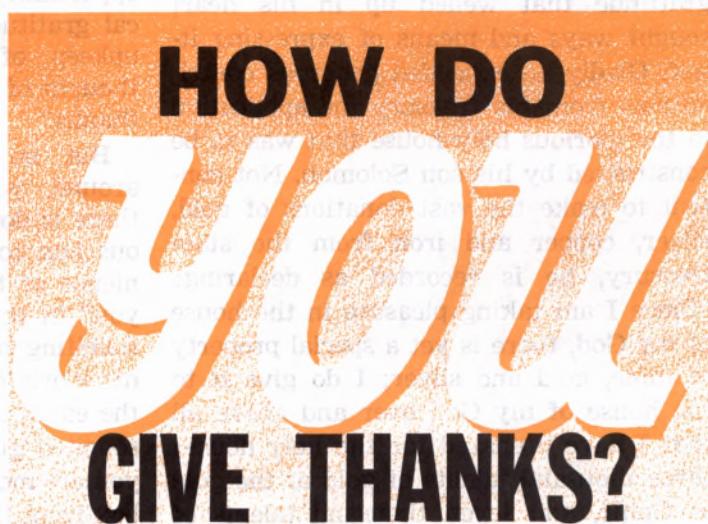
²³ Therefore, learn how to improve your worship to God, not only in quantity, but, even more important, in quality. Stretch

23. What should the Christian's outlook be?

forward to the things ahead, forgetting the bad things behind. Pursue the goal of everlasting life, when we will have endless time to enjoy what Jehovah provides for obedient mankind. Look forward to and work toward a progressively enriched and happy life of service to Jehovah. Making wise use of this present time to honor God in all we do, we will then be among those doing as Psalm 115:18 says: "We ourselves will bless Jah from now on and to time indefinite." For those who make such wise use of their time now, Psalm 37:34 holds out the promise: "Hope in Jehovah and keep his way, and he will exalt you to take possession of the earth. When the wicked ones are cut off, you will see it." With time running out for the wicked, it is truly time to be molded by God's words of truth so we can bless Jehovah daily and thus be preserved to bless him to time indefinite.

GIVING thanks to God is one of the recurring themes of the Bible. The inspired penmen often express the idea of "giving thanks" to Jehovah at the mention of his holy name. It seems like such an ordinary thing to do, to express gratitude for benefits received. But is that all there is to the matter of giving thanks?

It is what is in the heart that really counts, and the heart originates both words and deeds. It follows, then, that the "thank you" of genuine gratitude should be backed up by deeds that are in full harmony with the vocal expression. But then, what about a situation wherein some complete stran-



ger has obliged you in some manner? You thank him, but lose track of him. How can your spoken thanks be proved genuine? By seeking to do similar acts

of kindness to others in need, even though strangers to you. Genuine thanks should be accompanied by a deep desire to demonstrate gratitude in action.

DAVID A FINE EXAMPLE

Consider King David of Israel. His giving of thanks to God was not limited to the beautiful vocal expressions that abound in the Bible book of Psalms. It went much farther. David did strive, despite the influences of the fallen flesh, to deal with others in the same merciful way that God did with him. That was a fine way of expressing his gratitude too. Just as God was slow to anger and magnanimous in his dealings, David in his maturer years refused to get heated up over wrongdoers and enemies. He was truly a man 'agreeable to God's own heart.' His thanksgiving to Jehovah was from the heart.—1 Sam. 13:14.

In another practical way, too, David proved his thankfulness to be free from hypocrisy or pretense. The deeply felt gratitude that welled up in his heart sought ways and means of expressing itself. Gladly he expended generous contributions from his treasury for application to the glorious holy house that was to be constructed by his son Solomon. Not content to make the vast donations of gold, silver, copper and iron from the state treasury, he is recorded as declaring: "Since I am taking pleasure in the house of my God, there is yet a special property of mine, gold and silver; I do give it to the house of my God over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house: three thousand talents of gold of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for coating the walls of the houses."—1 Chron. 29:3, 4.

Of course, we cannot all give to the interest of true worship vast quantities of

valuable things as did David. But we can prove the genuineness of our "giving thanks" by striving to adopt toward others the same merciful attitude that Jehovah has shown toward us. Perhaps, too, we can back up our oral thanksgiving by modest contributions to the interests of the Kingdom in the measure that God has prospered us. But how? There are a number of ways this can be done, and it is not necessary to be wealthy in order to carry them out.

OTHER WAYS OF SAYING "THANK YOU"

It may be that you have attended meetings of Jehovah's witnesses at one time or another. Were you glad that there are such comfortable, clean places where people can assemble for congregation discussion of the Bible? Did you know that it was just such gladness coupled with gratitude that moved people like yourself to provide these Kingdom Halls out of their limited means? Now you and others who attend meetings in such halls have the opportunity to manifest the same practical gratitude by sharing, if you can, the upkeep of these structures. Had you thought of this as a fine way of expressing thanks?

But no collection plate was passed around, you noticed. That is true, but there is doubtless a small and inconspicuous box for contributions for the convenience of those who want to say "thank you" in this manner. There is never any soliciting of funds. Jehovah provides for his work to be accomplished throughout the earth by, among other things, the unsolicited gifts of individual worshipers. If you are moved to put a contribution in the box from time to time, it is because gratitude to God moves you, and nobody else knows either the identity of the donor or the amount donated.

At times it may happen that an appre-

ciative person may hold back from making a contribution because he feels that what he has to offer is so little. But that should not be allowed to stifle the urge to express thanks, for no amount is too small. The work of the Lord in these "last days" is supported not so much by the generosity of the wealthy as it is by the many small contributions made by those of modest means. Remember the poor widow who contributed "two small coins" of very little value? Jesus commended her self-denying, practical expression of gratitude.—Mark 12:42-44.

As you read *The Watchtower* issue by issue, its making plain so many difficult questions has probably caused you to marvel. How, you may wonder, is it possible to keep supplying these magazines? Then you learn that all this is possible because Jehovah God has his "faithful and discreet slave" class busy on earth in these days and has commissioned them to dispense this spiritual "food at the proper time" to the whole household of those who love God. (Matt. 24:45-47) How thankful to God we can be that he has made such loving provision!

That same "faithful and discreet slave" appoints mature men to care for the congregations of God's servants in 197 lands and islands of the sea. It sends out mature men as traveling representatives to aid the congregations to function in accord with God's will. It organizes on a local, regional, national and international basis assemblies for the encouragement and upbuilding of lovers of righteousness. It maintains missionaries and special pioneer ministers in many countries of the world. But how is all this activity financed? By modest contributions of grateful persons who send the tokens of their appreciation direct to the office of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in the country in which they reside. In the

United States this is at 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201.

Another way of giving deeper meaning to our thanksgiving to God is in offering ourselves for work that must be done in connection with the worldwide promotion of true worship. Jesus foretold concerning this very time in which we live that "in all the nations the good news has to be preached first" before the end of this doomed system of things comes. (Mark 13:10) Do you or can you offer yourself as one who, in appreciation, will share in that preaching service?

Then there is work to be done with the hands, cleaning and maintenance work, for upkeep of the Kingdom Halls. At assemblies there are departments to be manned by volunteers. During recent months a goodly number of Witnesses responded to an invitation to aid in construction work at one of the Watchtower Society's farms in New York state. They gladly denied themselves lucrative work elsewhere in order to do this. They know that the farm will produce much of the food for the members of the headquarters Bethel family in New York.

Young children, too, can be trained to thank their parents and Jehovah with sincerity. By example parents can teach children to be appreciative. In fact, we know of some very young children who, out of their own small allowance, insist on making their own personal contributions for advancement of the Kingdom work. We can be sure that such manifestations of sincere thanksgiving do not go unnoticed by the loving God who is the giver of every good gift and perfect present.—Jas. 1:17.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

Prayer both before and after our meals is another opportunity to express gratitude to Jehovah. But is it not obvious that

such prayer would have little meaning if there was complaint or discontent about the food served? Likewise at the spiritual meals, Bible discussions, where we partake of the wisdom from God's Word, there is need for us to give close and eager attention so that our actions may be in fullest harmony with our prayer for God's direction of the meeting. "Be persevering in prayer," urges the apostle Paul, "remaining awake in it with thanksgiving."—Col. 4:2.

So, there are various ways that are open for appreciative Christians to back up their verbal giving of thanks to Jehovah for all his kindnesses. It is evident that the one who offers oral thanks that are genuine finds himself moved to give proof of that sincerity by doing something. He does not adopt the attitude ex-

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pressed in the words: "If I had a million dollars I would make a large donation for the work of the Lord." Rather, he says: "Is there anything I can offer as a token of my heartfelt appreciation for Jehovah's loving provisions?"

God will prosper those who are thankful at heart, who back up their thanksgiving by a generous giving of themselves and their

means for good work. Note these inspired words of counsel and promise, for example: "Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. God, moreover, is able to make all his undeserved kindness abound toward you, that . . . you may have plenty for every good work." (2 Cor. 9:7, 8) It is beneficial to examine ourselves on this matter.

"Good News for All Nations" District Assembly

ASSEMBLY time is drawing near. Yes, in just a little over two months the first ones of the "Good News for All Nations" District Assemblies of Jehovah's Witnesses will begin. Everyone who is sincerely interested in God's purpose for mankind is welcome to attend.

Are you making definite arrangements to be there? Will you be on hand when the program begins on Thursday afternoon? We urge you to do so. And for Thursday evening, we especially encourage you family groups, parents along with children, all to be present. That program is being prepared with you in mind.

At each assembly there will be arrangements for baptism of those who have dedicated themselves to Jehovah. If you have in mind getting immersed at one of these assemblies, we suggest

that you talk to your congregation overseer about it now, because there are some matters that he would like to discuss with you by way of preparation.

One of the highlights of the assembly will be the public talk "Man's Rule About to Give Way to God's Rule." Yes, we are living in that thrilling time. Be sure to attend.

Assembly locations for all of the United States, Canada, Bermuda and the British Isles are listed below. Five weeks before the assembly of your choice is due to begin, you may write Watch Tower Convention at the rooming address given for that city, and the Rooming Department will gladly assist in making arrangements for your accommodations.

UNITED STATES

JULY 4-7: Corpus Christi, Tex. (Spanish only), Memorial Coliseum, 510 S. Shoreline Blvd. Rooming: 3602 Curtiss, Corpus Christi, Tex. 78405. Fort Worth, Tex., Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum (1 Amon Carter Square), 3401 W. Lancaster St. Rooming: 3312 Avenue B, Fort Worth, Tex. 76105. Lewiston, Me., Lewiston Memorial Armory, Central Ave. Rooming: RFD #4, Box 273A, Old Hotel Rd., Auburn, Me. 04210. Milwaukee, Wis. (English and Spanish), County Stadium, 201 North 46th St. Rooming: 2306 South 98th St., West Allis, Wis. 53214. Omaha, Neb., Omaha Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol Ave. Rooming: 5465 Fontenelle Blvd., Omaha, Neb. 68111. Sacramento, Calif., Grandstand, Fairgrounds, Cor. Broadway & Stockton Blvd. Rooming: 3333 I St., Sacramento, Calif. 95816. Toledo, Ohio, Sports Arena, 1 Main St. Rooming: 224 Lemoyne Rd. (At Woodville Expressway Ent.), Toledo, Ohio 43616.

JULY 11-14: Billings, Mont., Shrine Auditorium, 1125 Broadwater Ave. Rooming: 1603 St. Johns Ave., Billings, Mont. 59102. Detroit, Mich., Olympia Stadium, 5920 Grand River Ave. Rooming: 17600 Chester, Detroit, Mich. 48224. Pueblo, Col., Grandstand, Colorado State Fairgrounds, Beulah Ave. & Summit St. Rooming: 523 E. Pitkin, Pueblo, Col. 81005. Rochester, N.Y., Memorial Auditorium, 100 Exchange St. Rooming: 274 Merchants Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14609. St. Petersburg, Fla. (English and Spanish), Bayfront Center Arena, 400 1st St. S. Rooming: 1695 42nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33714. San Angelo, Tex., San Angelo Coliseum, Fairgrounds. Rooming: 1502 N. Magdalen St., San Angelo, Tex. 76901. Winston-Salem, N.C., Memorial Coliseum, 2825 Cherry-Marshall St. NW. Rooming: 1455 Bethabara Rd., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106.

JULY 18-21: Fairbanks, Alaska, Hering Auditorium, Lathrop High School, 901 Airport Way. Rooming: 345 A St., Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Minot, N.D., Municipal Auditorium, 3rd Ave. & 4th St. SW. Rooming: 2 & 52 Bypass West, Minot, N.D. 58701. Pawtucket, R.I., Narragansett Park Race Track, 49 Manton St., Route 1A. Rooming: 825 Mineral Spring Ave., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860. San Bernardino, Calif. (English and Spanish) English: Swing Auditorium, Mill & E Sts. Rooming: 7842 Grape St., Highland, Calif. 92346. Spanish: Commerical & Industrial Exhibits Building, Mill and E Sts. Rooming: 7842 Grape St., Highland, Calif. 92346. Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, Maui War Memorial Center, Wailuku. Rooming: Box 231, Kahului, Hawaii 96732. Washington, D.C. (English and Spanish) English: D.C. Stadium, 22nd & E. Capitol Sts. Rooming: 2950 Arizona Ave. NW., Washington, D.C. 20016. Spanish: National Guard Armory, 2001 E. Capitol St. Rooming: 2950 Arizona Ave. NW., Washington, D.C. 20016.

JULY 25-28: Albuquerque, N.M. (English and Spanish), Grandstand, Fairgrounds, 6721 Central Ave. NE. Rooming: 339 Pennsylvania NE., Albuquerque, N.M. 87108. Memphis, Tenn., Mid-South Coliseum, Mid-South Fairgrounds. Rooming: 3849 Elliston Rd., Memphis, Tenn. 38111. Muskegon, Mich., L. C. Walker Sports Arena, 470 W. Western Ave. Rooming: 1947 S. Getty St., Muskegon, Mich. 49442. Spokane, Wash., Spokane Coliseum, 1101 N. Howard St. Rooming: N. 2824 Lee, Spokane, Wash. 99207. Ventura, Calif., Fairgrounds Grandstand, S. Figueroa & E. Front St. Rooming: 476 Cedar St., Ventura, Calif. 93001.

AUGUST 1-4: Charleston, W. Va., Watt Powell Ball Park, 35th St. & McCorkle Ave. SE. Rooming: 812 Bigley Ave., Charleston, W. Va. 25302. Greenville, S.C., Greenville Memorial Auditorium, East North St. Rooming: 1000 Rutherford Rd., Greenville, S.C. 29609. Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, McKinley High School Auditorium, 1039 South King St. Rooming: 1228 Pensacola St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96814. Tulsa, Okla., Tulsa Assembly Center, 100 Civic Center. Rooming: 120 S. Rosedale, Tulsa, Okla. 74127.

AUGUST 8-11: Columbus, Ohio, Jet Stadium, West

Mound St. Rooming: 580 Riverview Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43202. Indianapolis, Ind., Bush Stadium, 1501 West 16th St. Rooming: 2764 East 55th Pl., Indianapolis, Ind. 46220. Inglewood, Calif., The Forum, Prairie & Manchester Blvd. Rooming: 411 Centinela Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 90302. Santa Rosa, Calif., Grandstand, Fairgrounds, Brookwood & Bennett Aves. Rooming: 1233 Rutledge Ave., Santa Rosa, Calif. 95404.

AUGUST 15-18: Bakersfield, Calif., Albert Goode Auditorium, Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P St. Rooming: 2400 South P St., Bakersfield, Calif. 93304. Burlington, Vt., Municipal Auditorium, Cor. Main & S. Union. Rooming: 1416 North Ave., Burlington, Vt. 05401. Eureka, Calif., Grandstand, Redwood Acres Fairgrounds, 3750 Harris St. Rooming: 1324 5th St., Eureka, Calif. 95501. Jacksonville, Fla., Jacksonville Coliseum, 1145 E. Adams St. Rooming: 6603 San Juan Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32211. Kaneohe, Oahu, Hawaii, Castle High School Gymnasium, 45-386 Kaneohe Bay Dr. Rooming: 1228 Pensacola St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96814. Medford, Ore., Jackson County Ball Park, South Pacific Highway. Rooming: 2402 W. Main St., Medford, Ore. 97501.

CANADA

JULY 4-7: Kitchener, Ont., Kitchener Memorial Auditorium, 400 East Ave. Rooming: 96 Dunbar Rd. S., Waterloo, Ont.

JULY 11-14: Chilliwack, B.C., Chilliwack Coliseum, South Cobould St. Rooming: 46956 Yale Rd. E., Chilliwack, B.C. Haney, B.C., Haney Centennial Civic Arena, 11943 9th Ave. Rooming: 21593 Dewdney Trunk Rd. at 5th Ave., Haney, B.C.

JULY 18-21: Victoria, B.C., Victoria Memorial Arena, 1925 Blanshard St. Rooming: 2780 Shelbourne St., Victoria, B.C.

JULY 25-28: Kamloops, B.C., Sports Centre, McArthur Island. Rooming: 260 Leigh Rd., Kamloops, B.C.

AUGUST 1-4: Glace Bay, N.S., Glace Bay Miners' Forum, Main St. Rooming: 40 McLean St., Glace Bay, N.S. Moose Jaw, Sask., Moose Jaw Civic Centre, 1200 Main St. N. Rooming: 302 Athabasca St. E., Moose Jaw, Sask.

AUGUST 8-11: Ottawa, Ont. (English, French, Italian), The Grandstand, Lansdowne Park, Bank St. Rooming: 405 Gladstone Ave., Ottawa 4, Ont. Winnipeg, Man., Winnipeg Arena, Empress St. & Wolever Ave. Rooming: 1338 Main St., Winnipeg 4, Man.

AUGUST 15-18: Calgary, Alta., Stampede Corral, Exhibition Grounds, 17th Ave. SE. & 2nd St. SE. Rooming: 804 12th Ave. SE., Calgary, Alta. Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, Moores Memorial Stadium. Rooming: 239 Pennywell Rd., St. John's, Newfoundland.

BRITISH ISLES

JUNE 27-30: Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales, Cardiff City Football Ground, Ninian Park. Rooming: Kingdom Hall, York Street, Canton, Cardiff, Glam., Wales.

JULY 11-14: Sheffield, Yorkshire, Sheffield Wednesday Football Ground, Penistone Rd., Hillsborough. Rooming: Kingdom Hall, 521 Pitsmoor Rd., Sheffield, S3 9AU, England.

JULY 18-21: Belfast, Ireland, Ulster Hall, Bedford St. Rooming: Kingdom Hall, Magdalene St., Belfast, BT7 1PU, Northern Ireland. Bolton, Lancashire, Bolton Wanderers Football Ground, Burnden Park, Manchester Rd. Rooming: Kingdom Hall, 168 Crook St., Bolton, Lancs., England.

AUGUST 1-4: Edinburgh, Scotland, Murrayfield Ice Rink, Riversdale Crescent. Rooming: Kingdom Hall, 10 Pennywell Rd., Edinburgh 4, Scotland. London (Twickenham), Rugby Union Football Ground, Whitton Rd., Twickenham, Middlesex, England. Rooming: Same address.

BERMUDA

AUGUST 1-4: Pembroke, Bermuda, B.A.A. Gymnasium, Serpentine Rd. Rooming: Box 72, Hamilton, Bermuda.

Jehovah's UNDESERVED KINDNESS PROVES SUFFICIENT

As told by
ALFRED HOPLEY

AS I stand in the beautiful branch office of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society at Mill Hill, London, England, a large map of the British Isles lies before me. From London a web of roads reaches out to towns, cities, villages and countryside, bringing back rich and happy memories of friends made, faith broadened and ministry work accomplished during a career that has thus far filled forty-nine purposeful years.

And here on the map is the small Staffordshire village where I got my start—Cannock Chase, twenty miles north of Birmingham, once a royal game preserve, but now a mining center. My father and grandfather were active supporters of the United Church, so seven of us brothers were raised in a religious atmosphere. Everything seemed to flow smoothly until that day in 1905 when the village postman stopped by and began discussing some of the church doctrines, such as "hell-fire," "trinity," and "immortal soul."

Even though only nine years old at the time, I can remember how deeply impressed I was when father agreed to accept copies of a magazine called *Zion's Watch Tower* and books entitled "Studies in the Scriptures."

That was just the start. Soon my parents left the church and began having Bible studies in the home. Traveling speakers from Birmingham and nearby Walsall would come and deliver Bible lectures from time to time. The local minister begged us to return to church, going so far as to say that he himself did not even believe much of the Bible including the story of creation. But father was adamant. He used to take me and my older brother along Sunday mornings to share in the distribution of Bible tracts. Then, when I was only ten, came the occasion when we all went to Birmingham to hear a public lecture by Charles T. Russell, president of the Watch Tower Society. Now, in contrast to our minister's attitude, we heard Pastor Russell declare that sound doctrine was vital, since true doctrine produces true worship, while false doctrine produces false worship.

RECLAIMED FROM THE PIT

Then came World War I. The head of the colliery firm where I was studying for my manager's certificate suggested that, since my brother and I were already in the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, it was really our duty to take up noncombatant duty with the Medical Corps. Alas, we had not made Bible truth our own. We had taken too much for granted. We failed to appreciate the proper neutrality of Christians, and we lacked sufficient spiritual strength to stand firm against carnal warfare.

Throughout our four years of service in France we carried the Bible and the first six volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures* with us wherever we went. Our parents kept in touch and encouraged us with information from *The Watch Tower*. Meantime, we learned about the publication of the seventh volume

of *Studies in the Scriptures*, entitled "The Finished Mystery," and of how the clergy had managed to have it banned. Then a surprising thing happened. We were taking over an ancient chateau as a field-dressing station, and as we labored to clear the basement, there among a heap of French books lay a brand-new copy of *The Finished Mystery*, still in the original waxed-paper wrapper.

Can you imagine our reactions during the ensuing weeks as we alternated between the horrors of tending for the maimed and the dying and reading this powerful exposure of Christendom and her bloodguilty clergy? My brother and I had already reached the decision to dedicate our lives to God and to the doing of his will, when suddenly the war ended. We were demobilized and back home in time to attend the Manchester convention, where we submitted to water baptism as a public testimony of our dedication. By this time our parents and three younger brothers had already become dedicated Christians.

WORTHWHILE WARFARE

What a joy to share then in the distribution of *Golden Age* magazine (now *Awake!*) Number 27! Compared with what we had been through, this was a worthwhile fight—a fight against false religion, a fight to liberate people from the influence of religious leaders who did not hesitate to foment hatred and persecution of true Christians. The psalmist so well expresses our sentiments: "Bless Jehovah, O my soul, even everything within me, his holy name. . . . Him who is forgiving all your error, who is healing all your maladies, who is reclaiming your life from the very pit, who is crowning you with loving-kindness and mercies."—Ps. 103:1-4.

For twelve years, then, I shared in

preaching to the people of Staffordshire. At first it was difficult to face the people in our own village, but with experience and relying on Jehovah for strength we overcame our timidity and had many happy experiences among our own neighbors. As powerful resolutions were adopted and published at the Bible Students' conventions during the years 1922 to 1928, it was thrilling to distribute them throughout our own district. It seemed to draw us close to the worldwide organization of Jehovah's people.

In 1925 I married a local girl, one who has certainly matched me in devotion to the interests of God's kingdom, and whose companionship has continued to be a great blessing to me. Each time there was a holiday or a strike at the pits, our first thought was to get out and use the time for preaching. Together we attended all the large conventions of Jehovah's people year after year. On one such memorable occasion, in 1931, J. F. Rutherford, the then president of the Watch Tower Society, spoke on Ezekiel's prophetic command: "Pass through the midst of the city, . . . and you must put a mark on the foreheads of the men that are sighing." (Ezek. 9:1-6) This clear, emphatic explanation of the urgency of the witness work in our day fired in us a determination to volunteer for full-time preaching service.

We quickly disposed of our little home and journeyed to our new assignment in southwest England, to what the travel posters proclaim as "glorious Devon." It is hard to realize that already over thirty-six years have passed since we took that forward step, and especially in view of the fact that there were trials and difficulties to be overcome. One of these was a constantly recurring migraine that has been with me since I contracted influenza in France. Surely only the strength that God

gives has enabled me to carry on in spite of those torturous attacks! Many a time I have meditated upon Jehovah's words of assurance to the apostle Paul: "My undeserved kindness is sufficient for you; for my power is being made perfect in weakness."—2 Cor. 12:9.

CROWNED WITH LOVING-KINDNESS

In 1934 the Watch Tower Society invited me to take over a motor caravan, a house car, for the purpose of broadcasting recorded Bible lectures by J. F. Rutherford in areas beyond reach of congregations. A tremendous amount of Bible literature was placed with persons called on following the broadcast of these lectures in their neighborhood. Four years we continued in this activity, and then I was assigned as a zone servant. This required me to travel from congregation to congregation in a circuit, spending two or three days with each group, aiding with organizational and field ministry activities. This was a real privilege, and I can truly testify that I gained more than anyone else in the 'interchange of encouragement' that resulted from thus 'inciting one another to love and fine works.'—Rom. 1:12; Heb. 10:24.

By 1939 we were up in the northern part of England serving the Liverpool area when World War II broke out, marked by a heavy bombing of that city and its vital shipping. The people were terrified and could not understand why we could go on with our preaching work as if nothing were happening. Many were bitter because of our neutral stand. Nevertheless, we had many blessings. In Liverpool my wife and I shared a home with twenty-four full-time ministers of Jehovah's witnesses, and many were the joyful experiences we heard day after day. And we had a visit by the servant then in charge of the British branch of the Watch Tower Society,

A. D. Schroeder, whose counsel to make Bible reading a daily habit in these troublous times we shall always bear in mind.

From 1942 onward we served as special pioneers, that is, proclaimers of the Kingdom message in areas where no congregation had yet been established. This very real pioneering took us first to Shropshire, then back to Liverpool, and finally across the sea to Ireland. It was thrilling to observe a strong group of Witnesses take form in Londonderry as a result of the combined efforts of a group of full-time ministers.

Then came my assignment to circuit service—spending one week with each congregation, encouraging and training the local Witnesses in the field ministry of preaching, so that all might derive greater pleasure from their work and find increased results. Opposition was frequent, but we found that the bolder we were in face of attack, the better it was for us. On one occasion two of our full-time ministers were badly beaten up by deluded people incited by religionists. The case was taken to court and six convictions obtained, thus doing much to clear up the common slander leveled against us, namely, that we were Communists. Such experiences only served to strengthen us all.

LIFETIME SATISFIED WITH GOOD

Attendance at the international conventions held in Yankee Stadium, New York city, in 1950 and then again in 1953, brought blessings I shall never fail to count. How upbuilding they were! And the wonderful humility of our brothers at the Brooklyn headquarters of the Watch Tower Society impressed us all deeply. Our confidence in Jehovah's appointment of the "faithful and discreet slave" class over the interests of his Kingdom here at the

earth was surely strengthened.—Matt. 24: 45-47.

As I look back on those years when I had plenty of energy and used it in the service of our God, it brings real satisfaction. It has been good to be able to say to any call for special service in behalf of the Kingdom interests, "Here I am! Send me." (Isa. 6:8) And I would like to say here that I truly appreciate the wonderful work being faithfully accomplished by the Lord's visible organization. The proof is abundant that there has been a second outpouring of holy spirit in these "last days," thus explaining the marvelous

results. (Joel 2:28, 29) God's truth is shining more brilliantly now than ever before, and we have greater confidence, faith, courage, vision and determination to keep on serving the Kingdom, putting its interests first in our lives.

In the summer of 1965 I had to relinquish circuit servant duties, my physical ability no longer being what it used to be. I will soon be seventy-two years of age. Despite this it is a real comfort to me to be able to continue as a special pioneer minister, doing what I am able to do, and still depending upon Jehovah's undeserved kindnesses to make up for my deficiencies.

ATHEISTS IN CHURCHES

"Lutheran Church Historian Martin Marty argues that all too many pews are filled on Sunday with practical atheists—disguised nonbelievers who behave during the rest of the week as if God did not exist." (*Time*, April 8, 1966) Such is the fruit of religious Christendom, which outwardly professes to be Christian but whose heart inwardly is far removed from true Christianity. In this respect she is like the religious leaders of the first century about whom Jesus said: "You hypocrites, Isaiah aptly prophesied about you, when he said, 'This people honors me with their lips, yet their heart is far removed from me.'"—Matt. 15:7, 8.

Do You Remember?

Have you read recent issues of *The Watchtower* carefully? If so, you should recognize these important points.

- What is 'the spirit that returns to God' when a person dies?

It is the active force of life, an impersonal force that activates both animal and human souls. It can be likened to electrical power that activates all kinds of electrical motors.

—P. 6.

- How many copies of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines have been published and distributed in the past twenty years to carry to all people the good news of God's kingdom?

More than 1,300,000,000 copies of *The Watchtower* in 74 languages, and more than 1,100,000,000 copies of *Awake!* in 26 languages. Laid end to end, they would circle the globe fourteen times.—Pp. 21, 22.

- How many hours did Jehovah's witnesses devote to preaching the Kingdom message during their 1967 service year?

183,995,180 hours. That means that, on an average, each Witness devoted 168 hours to this service during the year.—P. 27.

- Why did God warn the Israelites to have nothing to do with the pagan inhabitants of the Promised Land?

To protect them against being ensnared in false worship. Though they might begin with apparently harmless social courtesies, these could lead to their eating things sacrificed to false gods.—P. 47.

- Why are Jehovah's witnesses the target of bitter persecution in the African nation of Malawi?

It is because Jehovah's witnesses refuse to

violate their Christian neutrality and buy political membership cards in Malawi's Congress Party. As Christians, they are "no part of the world."—Pp. 72, 73.

- What are some common fallacies that parents should avoid in the training of their children?

The idea that their children are "little angels"; the Bible shows that all are born with a tendency to do what is bad. The belief that it is a kindness to give to their children all the things the parents did not have when they were young; it is wiser to give gifts in proportion to the child's ability to appreciate them and use them properly.—Pp. 80, 81.

- Upon what false assumption is the claim made that Mary is the mother of God?

It is based on the wrong assumption that Jesus is God. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Son of God, so Mary was the earthly mother of God's Son.—P. 104.

- Whom does the Assyrian king Sennacherib picture today?

Satan the Devil.—P. 141.

- The destruction of sacred pillars of false worship in Hezekiah's day fits what aspect of the work of Jehovah's witnesses today?

It fits the polemic aspect of their work of exposing the war-mongering, nationalistic,

idol-worshiping leaders of false religion as being rejected by Jehovah.—P. 151.

- Why do true Christians avoid Easter celebrations and customs?

Easter is rooted in paganism and ancient sex worship.—P. 168.

- What are two qualities that Christians must cultivate in order to avoid thinking more of themselves than necessary?

Submissiveness and humility.—P. 182.

- What is "the resurrection on the last day" of which Martha spoke at John 11:24, and when does it take place?

It is the general resurrection in which thousands of millions will be brought from their tombs to earthly life. It takes place after the battle of Armageddon.—P. 200.

- What can be done to prevent festive occasions from degrading into revelries?

Sensual dances and loud, noisy music should be avoided. A reasonable hour should be set for the festivities to end. Keep conversation upbuilding, in harmony with Bible principles.—Pp. 215, 216.

- Why is Melchizedek, the ancient king-priest of Salem, important to us today?

He is a prophetic figure of Jehovah's heavenly King and great High Priest, Jesus Christ.—Pp. 235, 240.



- When Jesus Christ was a man on earth, did he wear a beard?—K.A., U.S.A.

Biblical evidence is the most reliable testimony to be found on this question, and a recent careful review of what it says indicates that Jesus did indeed have a beard.

Jesus, born a Jew, "came to be under law" and he fulfilled the Law. (Gal. 4:4; Matt. 5:17) This was in order that he might pave the way for the abolishing of the Law and for release of the Jews from the curse of the Law, the condemnation of death that it brought against them. (Eph. 2:15; Gal. 3:13) Like all other Jews, Jesus was under obligation to keep the whole law. One of the commandments of the Law was: "You must not cut your side locks

short around, and you must not destroy the extremity of your beard." (Lev. 19:27) God doubtless gave Israel this law because among some pagans it was the practice to cut the beard in a certain fashion in worship of their gods. (Jer. 9:26; 25:23) Nevertheless, that law did not mean that a beard was not to be well kept, for in the Near East a well-groomed beard was considered a symbol of dignity and respectability.—2 Sam. 19:24.

During extreme grief, shame or humiliation, one might pluck hairs from his beard or leave the beard or the mustache untended. (Ezra 9:3) In several prophetic statements, the shaving off of the beard was used figuratively to illustrate great mourning because of calamity. (Isa. 7:20; 15:2; Jer. 48:37; Ezek. 5:1) Significantly, a prophecy concerning Jesus' suffering states: "My back I gave to the strikers, and my cheeks to those plucking off the hair." (Isa. 50:6) Hanun the king of Ammon grossly insulted the ambassadors kindly sent by David by cutting off half of their beards. Because of their great humiliation, David told these men to

dwell in Jericho until their beards grew abundantly. This act of Hanun was, of course, aimed at David as an insult, and provoked war.—2 Sam. 10:1-8; 1 Chron. 19:1-7.

Also, it was generally customary for men to wear beards, even before the law covenant was made. While the Hebrews did not make monuments with figures of themselves, many monuments and inscriptions have been found in Egypt and Mesopotamia and other Near-Eastern lands in which Assyrians, Babylonians and Canaanites are pictured with beards, and some representations dated as far back as the third millennium B.C.E. show beards of varying styles. Among the above-named peoples eunuchs were the only ones depicted as beardless. Often boys were made eunuchs so that later they could be used to care for the king's harem. (Matt. 19:12) This making eunuchs of men was not a practice in Israel, however, because the Law excluded eunuchs from the congregation of Israel. (Deut. 23:1) At the time Jesus was on earth, the Roman custom was beardlessness. Therefore, if Jesus had been beardless he might have been challenged as either a eunuch or a Roman.

Men of ancient Semitic groups, as we have seen in our consideration of ancient monuments, wore beards, even prior to the time of the Mosaic law. Since a beard grows naturally on most men, it is reasonable to conclude that their forefathers also wore beards. Consequently, it seems evident that Noah, Enoch, Seth and Seth's father Adam were likewise bearded men.

It is appropriate, however, to give consideration to arguments advanced to the effect that Jesus was beardless. This idea has been largely based on theories built up by certain archaeologists with regard to the so-called "Chalice of Antioch." This is a large silver beaker or cup within a silver framework shell of vines and figures of men. On one side of the cup is a boy, with five men facing him, and on the other side a young but more mature man, beardless, with five others facing him. All appear to be seated. The cup, supposedly found by some natives in Antioch of Syria, was acclaimed as being of the second half of the first century C.E., and therefore the earliest pictorial representation of Christ.

However, an analysis of the facts now makes it evident that the figures on the cup have been identified according to the imagination of the individuals interpreting them. The boy is con-

sidered to be Jesus at the age of twelve and the other central figure is said to be Jesus, possibly after his resurrection, or, again, it may be John the Baptist. The other ten figures have been interpreted variously to be ten of the apostles; or the apostles and evangelists; or, on one side the four evangelists with James the son of Zebedee, and on the other side Peter, Saul, James, Jude and Andrew.

There are serious objections made by many archaeologists to these identifications. Really it has been guesswork, and it is impossible to say what is represented by the figures. Some even doubt the authenticity of the cup, believing that it may be a forgery. Most, however, acknowledge it as an authentic discovery but give it a much later date, from the fourth to the sixth century. So it is very doubtful that the cup is an early representation of Christ, if, indeed, it was intended to portray Christ at all.—See *The Biblical Archaeologist*, December 1941 and February 1942.

Bearing directly on the question is the fact that the early Christian writers, Justin Martyr, Origen, Clement of Alexandria and others, clearly indicate that no satisfactory record of the physical likeness of Jesus and the apostles existed in their time. Augustine, writing about 400 C.E. (*De Trinitate*, VIII, 4), said that each man had his own idea of Christ's appearance, and the concepts were infinite.

Evidence from the Roman catacombs has been adduced to bear on the subject. In catacombs thought by some to date from the second century C.E., but by others as no earlier than the third century, pictures have been found. The unusually extensive catacomb called the Catacomb of Priscilla contains wall pictures, one of which is thought to portray the resurrection of Lazarus. It is almost obliterated and is very difficult to make out, but in the center there is a figure that has been taken to be Christ, depicted as a young beardless man. But in the catacombs apocryphal and false religious ideas are also plentifully represented. For example, in the Catacomb of Priscilla, and of about the same date, is a scene of the apocryphal Story of Susanna. A ceiling painting dated a little later contains a Madonna with child, with a star above her head. In the Crypts of Lucina a ceiling painting dated as the middle of the second century includes a little winged person, known as Erotes or Amoretti, which, on pagan tombs, represented departed souls. Therefore, it has become evident to us

that the catacomb representations of Jesus are seriously questionable as to authenticity.

It is true that, beginning with the fourth century, the majority of pictures show Christ and his apostles with beards, having emaciated, sad, weak and effeminate "monastic" countenances, usually with a pagan nimbus or halo. These are surely no true representations of the man Jesus Christ, of whom Pontius Pilate said: "Look! The man!" or of him who overthrew the tables of the money changers in the temple, and drove their cattle out, neither of the apostles, who vigorously preached God's Word until it spread over all the Roman Empire. (John 19:1, 5; 2:14-17) No, these were strong, active and happy men, servants of the happy God Jehovah. (1 Tim. 1:11; 6:14, 15; Acts 20:35) The dreary religious pictures are products of the apostasy, which by the fourth century was in full bloom, pagan Emperor Constantine making a fusion of apostate Christianity with pagan religion the State religion.

Nevertheless, as already shown, it is apparent that Jesus did wear a beard, and so artistic representations of him in future Watch Tower publications will harmonize with the Scriptural evidence to that effect.

Doubtless the early Christians followed the

custom of the time and locality in which they lived, with regard to the wearing of a beard. The Roman custom was beardlessness. Romans converted to Christianity would very likely continue in the Roman custom, while converts from the Jewish community would continue in the Jewish custom of wearing a beard.

Today Christian ministers, like the early Christians, are concerned with neatness and cleanliness, but they strive to dress inconspicuously, so that their appearance does not in any way detract from the dignity or the effectiveness of the message they bear. (2 Cor. 6:3, 4) In recent years in many lands a beard or long hair on a man attracts immediate notice and may, in the minds of the majority, classify such a person undesirably with extremists or as rebels against society. God's ministers want to avoid making any impression that would take attention away from their ministry or hinder anyone from listening to the truth. They know that people are watching true Christians very critically and that to a great extent they judge the entire congregation and the good news by the minister's appearance as a representative of the congregation.

In paradise restored on earth it would not be out of order if men returned to wearing beards, in perfect fashion, like Adam in Eden.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIELD MINISTRY

Having benefited by faith in God's provision for the salvation of mankind by means of Christ's blood, Jehovah's witnesses have the privilege to advocate this means of salvation. (Heb. 9:14) In fact, they consider it their duty to advocate Christ's blood for mankind's salvation to all to whom they have the opportunity to witness, either in their regular field ministry or incidentally at other times. As an aid toward doing this during the month of May, they will offer in their house-to-house ministry the two Bible-study aids "*Things in Which It Is Impossible for God to Lie*" and *Did Man Get Here by Evolution or by Creation?*, both for 75c.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

May 26: Understanding Time a Help to True Worshipers. Page 264. Songs to Be Used: 31, 11.

June 2: Making Wise Use of the Remaining Time. Page 270. Songs to Be Used: 55 66.