

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

AUGUST 1, 2008



ARE
BETTER
TIMES
JUST AHEAD?

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

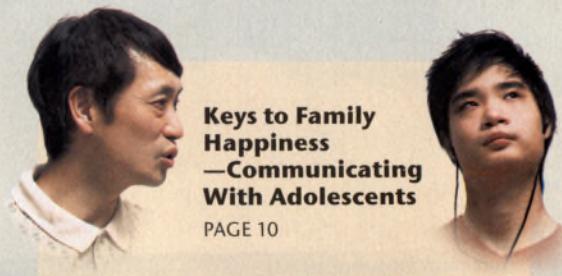
Publication of *The Watchtower* is part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References.

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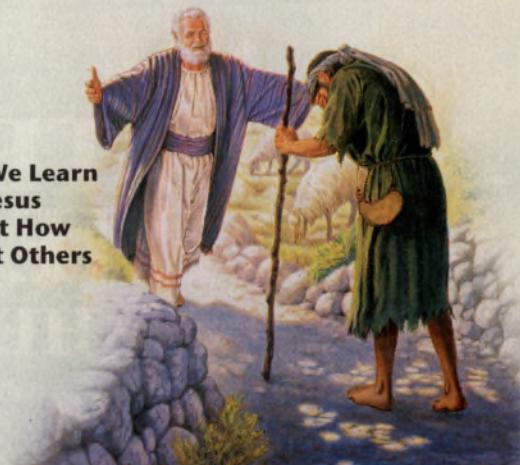
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The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) is published semimonthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; M. H. Larson, President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299.

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Semimonthly

ENGLISH

How would you answer the following multiple-choice question?

In the near future, will conditions on earth

- (a) improve?
 - (b) stay the same?
 - (c) become worse?

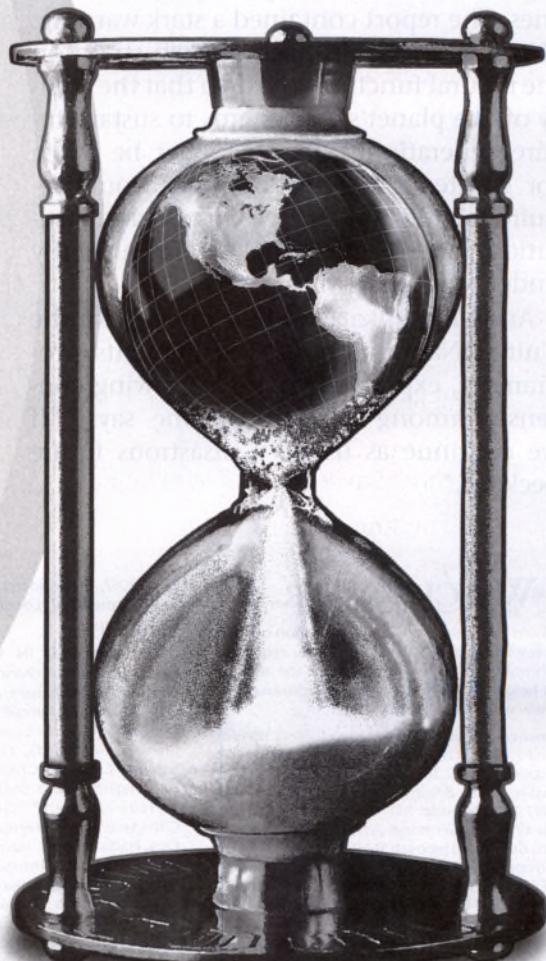
DO YOU try to maintain a positive outlook regarding the future? There are many benefits to doing so. Studies have shown that people with an optimistic outlook perform better both academically and physically. One long-term study even found that men who were optimists were far less likely to suffer from coronary heart disease than were those with a pessimistic view of life. These findings are in harmony with a statement made in the Bible centuries ago: "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."—Proverbs 17:22, *The Holy Bible—New International Version*.

However, in light of what scientific experts are forecasting about the future of planet Earth, many find it hard to remain cheerful and optimistic. Consider just some of the dire predictions that are making the news.

A Planet in Peril

In 2002 the respected Stockholm Environment Institute warned that a

IS TIME RUNNING OUT FOR PLANET EARTH?



business-as-usual approach to economic development is likely to trigger “events that could radically transform the planet’s climate and ecosystems.” The report further stated that global poverty, continued inequity, and the degradation of environmental resources could cause society to reel “from one environmental, social and security crisis to the next.”

In 2005 the United Nations released the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis Report. This was a result of a four-year global study of Earth’s environment, involving more than 1,360 experts from 95 countries. The report contained a stark warning: “Human activity is putting such strain on the natural functions of Earth that the ability of the planet’s ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted.” Averting calamity would require “significant changes in policies, institutions, and practices that are not currently under way,” states the report.

Anna Tibaijuka, executive director for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, expresses what is a growing consensus among researchers. She says: “If we continue as usual, a disastrous future beckons.”

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Bag X2067, Krugersdorp 1740. **Trinidad and Tobago, Republic of:** Lower Rapsey Street & Laxmi Lane, Curepe.

NOW PUBLISHED IN 167 LANGUAGES: Afrikaans, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Armenian (West), Aymara, Azerbaijani, Azerbaijani (Cyrillic), Baoulé, Bengali, Bicol, Bislama, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chichewa, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Chitonga, Chuukese, Ciembra, Croatian, Czech,^{**} Danish,^{**} Dutch,^{*} Efik, English^{**} (also Braille), Estonian, Ewe, Fijian, Finnish,^{*} French,^{**} Ga, Georgian, German,^{**} Gilbertese, Greek, Greenlandic, Guarani, Gujarati, Gun, Haitian Creole, Hausa, Hebrew, Hiligaynon, Hindi, Hiri Motu, Hungarian,^{**} Icelandic, Igbo, Iloko, Indonesian, Isoko, Italian,^{**} Japanese,^{**} Kannada, Kaonde, Kazakh, Kikongo, Kiluba, Kinyarwanda, Kirghiz, Kirundi, Kongo, Korean,^{**} Kosraean, Kwanyama/Ndonga, Latvian, Lingala, Lithuanian, Luganda, Lunda, Luo, Luavale, Mace-

A Reason for Optimism

Jehovah's Witnesses, who publish this magazine, also believe that dramatic, earth-changing events are near. However, they are convinced that rather than leading to a disastrous future, these events will pave the way for the most wonderful conditions the world has ever experienced. Why such optimism? Because they trust the promises made in God's Word, the Bible. Note one of these promises: “Just a little while longer, and the wicked one will be no more; and you will certainly give attention to his place, and he will not be. But the meek ones themselves will possess the earth, and they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.”—Psalm 37: 10, 11.

Is such a hope mere wishful thinking? Before answering that question, contemplate this claim: Thousands of years in advance, the Bible accurately foretold many of the major problems we now see afflicting the earth and mankind. Please read the scriptures cited in the following article, and compare what they say with what you see happening in the world. As you do so, your trust that the Bible accurately foretells future events will grow.

donian, Malagasy, Malayalam, Maltese, Marathi, Marshallese, Mauritian Creole, Maya, Mizo, Moore, Myanmar, Nepali, Niuean, Norwegian,^{*} Nyaneke, Oromo, Ossetian, Ottetela, Palauan, Pangasinan, Papiamento (Curaçao), Persian, Polish,^{**} Ponapean, Portuguese,^{**} Punjabi, Quechua (Ayacucho), Quechua (Bolivia), Quechua (Cuzco), Rarotongan, Romanian, Russian,^{**} Samar-Leyte, Samoan, Sango, Sepedi, Serbian, Sesotho, Seychelles Creole, Shona, Silozi, Sinhala, Slovak, Slovenian, Solomon Islands Pidgin, Spanish,^{**} Sranantongo, Swahili, Swedish,^{**} Tagalog, Tahitian, Tamil, Tatar, Telugu, Thai, Tigrinya, Tiv, Tok Pisin, Tongan, Tshiluba, Tsonga, Tswana, Tumbuka, Turkish, Tuvaluan, Twi, Tzotzil, Ukrainian, Umbundu, Urdu, Uruund, Uzbek, Venda, Vietnamese, Wallisian, Xhosa, Yapepe, Yoruba, Zande, Zapotec (Isthmus), Zulu

^{*} Audiocassettes also available.

^{**} CD also available.

^{**} MP3 CD-ROM also available.

THE Bible foretold that mankind would experience "critical times hard to deal with." It describes this period as "the last days." (2 Timothy 3: 1-5; 2 Peter 3:3-7) Jesus Christ spoke of this same era when answering a question posed by his disciples regarding "the conclusion of the system of things." (Matthew 24:3) Are we now living during the last days? Compare what the Bible foretold with the recent reports quoted below, and then judge for yourself.

What the Bible foretold: global conflict
—Luke 21:10; Revelation 6:4.

What recent reports say: "War-related deaths in the 20th century were more than three times greater than in all previous centuries combined, back to the birth of Christ."—Worldwatch Institute.

What the Bible foretold: food shortages and disease—Luke 21:11; Revelation 6:5-8.

What recent reports say: In 2004 an estimated 863 million people on earth were undernourished, 7 million more than in 2003.—United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Some one billion people live in slums; 2.6 billion people lack basic sanitation; 1.1 billion people are without safe drinking water.—Worldwatch Institute.

Malaria affects 500 million people; 40 million people live with HIV-AIDS; tuberculosis killed 1.6 million people in 2005.—World Health Organization.

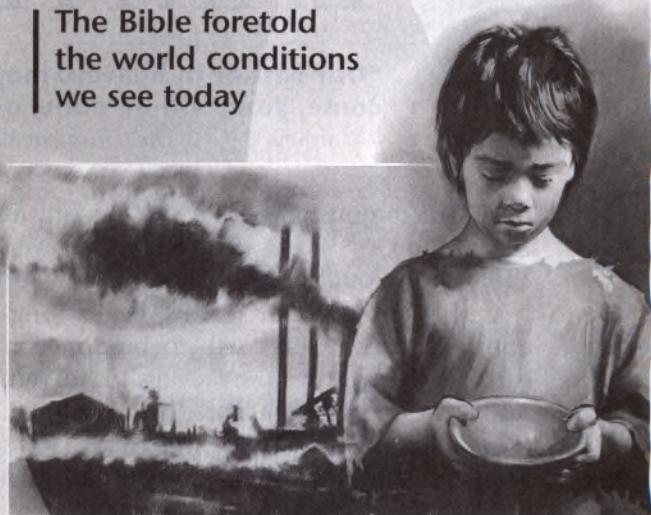
What the Bible foretold: the ruining of the earth—Revelation 11:18.

What recent reports say: "Human activities have taken the planet to the edge of a massive wave of species extinctions." "Nearly two thirds of the services provided by nature to humankind are found to be in decline worldwide."—Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

CRITICAL TIMES NOW



The Bible foretold
the world conditions
we see today



"Human-made greenhouse gases have brought the Earth's climate close to critical tipping points, with potentially dangerous consequences for the planet."—NASA, Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

What the Bible foretold: the good news of God's Kingdom preached earth wide—Matthew 24:14; Revelation 14:6, 7.

What recent reports say: During 2007, a peak of 6,957,854 Witnesses of Jehovah

spent more than 1.4 billion hours preaching the good news about God's Kingdom in 236 lands.—*2008 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*.

As noted above, the Bible foretold that amid all the bad news, there would be reason for optimism. Jesus spoke of the "good news" of God's Kingdom. What is God's Kingdom? How is it linked to mankind's hope for a better future? And how will God's Kingdom affect you?

JUST AHEAD A PARADISE EARTH!

"Our Father in heaven, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven."

—Matthew 6:9, 10, *The Jerusalem Bible*.

THIS famous prayer, known to many as the Our Father or the Lord's Prayer, holds out hope to mankind. How so?

As the Lord's Prayer reveals, God's Kingdom will cause God's will to be done on earth as surely as it now prevails in heaven. And it is God's will that Paradise be restored. (Revelation 21:1-5) What exactly is God's Kingdom, and how will it restore Paradise to the earth?

A Real Government

God's Kingdom is a real government. For any government to function, it requires rulers, laws, and subjects. Does God's Kingdom satisfy these requirements? Note the Bible's answers to the following three questions:

Who are the rulers in God's Kingdom? (Isaiah 33:22) Jehovah God has appointed his Son, Jesus Christ, to oversee the Kingdom. (Matthew 28:18) Under Jehovah's direction, Jesus has selected a limited number of individuals from "every tribe and tongue and people and nation" who will rule with him as "kings over the earth."—Revelation 5:9, 10.

What laws has God's Kingdom established for its subjects to obey? Some of the laws or commandments require positive action. Jesus identified the most important of those laws, saying: "'You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. The second, like it, is this, 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.'"—Matthew 22:37-39.

Other laws require that subjects of God's Kingdom refrain from certain actions. For example, the Bible provides this clear statement: "Don't fool yourselves! No one who is immoral or worships idols or is unfaithful in marriage or is a pervert or behaves like a homosexual will share in God's kingdom. Neither will any thief or greedy person or drunkard or anyone who curses and cheats others."—1 Corinthians 6:9, 10, *Contemporary English Version*.

Who are the subjects of God's Kingdom?

Jesus likened the subjects of God's Kingdom to sheep. He said: "They will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd." (John 10:16) To be a subject of God's Kingdom, a person must not only *say* that he follows the Fine Shepherd, Jesus, but also *do* what he commands. Jesus said: "Not everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will."—Matthew 7:21.

Therefore, those who are subjects of God's Kingdom use and honor God's name, Jehovah, just as did Jesus. (John 17:26) They obey Jesus' command to teach others about "this good news of the kingdom." (Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20) And they show genuine love for one another.—John 13:35.

Bringing "to Ruin Those Ruining the Earth"

Current world conditions signify that God's Kingdom will soon act to bring sweeping changes to the earth. How do we know that? Two thousand years ago, Jesus described a multifaceted sign that would indicate that "the kingdom of God is near." (Luke 21:31) As shown in the preceding article, the features of that sign are now clearly evident worldwide.

What comes next? Jesus answers: "Then there will be great tribulation such as has not

occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again." (Matthew 24:21) This is no man-made catastrophe. Rather, it is God acting "to bring to ruin those ruining the earth." (Revelation 11:18) Wicked people, whose selfish actions have brought the planet to the brink of ruin, "will be cut off from the very earth." But blameless ones, who serve God acceptably, "will be left over in it."—Proverbs 2:21, 22.

Jehovah God is justified in taking such drastic action. Why? Consider this illustration: Imagine you own a small apartment building. Some of the tenants are well-behaved and considerate; they pay their rent and take good care of their homes. However, other tenants are disruptive and selfish; they refuse to pay rent and badly damage the building. Despite repeated warnings, their bad conduct persists. What would you do? As

Those who say that things will stay much the same as they have always been are greatly mistaken

the owner, you would surely evict those bad tenants.

Similarly, Jehovah God, as the Creator of the earth and all that is on it, has the right to decide whom he will allow to inhabit the planet. (Revelation 4:11) Jehovah's stated purpose is to remove from this earth wicked people who ignore his will and encroach on the rights of others.—Psalm 37:9-11.

Paradise Restored

Soon, God's Kingdom in the hands of Jesus Christ will rule the earth. Jesus called this new beginning "the renewal of all things." (Matthew 19:28, *New International Version*) What will conditions be like? Note the following Bible promises:

Psalm 46:9. "*He is making wars to cease to the extremity of the earth.*"

Isaiah 35:1. “*The wilderness and the waterless region will exult, and the desert plain will be joyful and blossom as the saffron.*”

Isaiah 65:21-23. “*The work of their own hands my chosen ones will use to the full. They will not toil for nothing, nor will they bring to birth for disturbance.*”

John 5:28, 29. “*The hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear [Jesus'] voice and come out.*”

Revelation 21:4. “[God] will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore.”

Reasons to Believe

Do you believe the Bible’s promises? The Bible foretold that many would not. It states: “In the last days there will come ridiculers . . . proceeding according to their own desires and saying: ‘Where is this promised presence of his? Why, from the day our forefathers fell asleep in death, all things are continuing exactly as from creation’s beginning.’” (2 Peter

3:3, 4) But such scoffers are greatly mistaken. Consider just four reasons why you can believe what the Bible says:

(1) God has intervened in earth’s affairs in the past. The Flood of Noah’s day is an outstanding example.—2 Peter 3:5-7.

(2) God’s Word accurately predicted current global conditions.

(3) All things are *not* “continuing exactly as from creation’s beginning.” On a scale unprecedented in history, our planet suffers from social, moral, and environmental degradation.

(4) The “good news of the kingdom” is now being preached throughout the earth, signaling that “the end will come” soon.—Matthew 24:14.

Jehovah’s Witnesses invite you to study God’s Word, the Bible, with them so that you can learn more about the hope of everlasting life under the rule of God’s Kingdom. (John 17:3) Yes, a wonderful future awaits mankind. The very best of times lies just ahead! Will you be a part of this future?

Will you be a part of this future?



Can Anything "Separate Us From God's Love"?

Romans 8:38, 39

WHOMO of us does not need to be loved? Indeed, we thrive when we feel loved by family and friends. Sadly, though, human relationships can be very fragile and uncertain. Loved ones may hurt us, abandon us, or even reject us. Yet, there is someone whose love is unfailing. The love that Jehovah God has for his worshippers is beautifully described at Romans 8: 38, 39.

"I am convinced," says the apostle Paul. Convinced of what? That nothing can "separate us from God's love." Paul speaks not just for himself but also for "us"—that is, for all who serve God loyally. To emphasize his point, Paul lists a number of things that cannot prevent Jehovah's love from reaching his devoted servants.

"Neither death nor life." Jehovah's love for his people does not cease when they die. In proof of his love, God keeps such ones in his memory, and he will restore them to life in the righteous new world to come. (John 5:28, 29; Revelation 21:3, 4) Meanwhile, God's love for his loyal worshippers remains constant no matter what life in this system of things may bring them.

"Nor angels nor governments." Humans can be susceptible to the influence of powerful individuals or authorities, but not so with Jehovah. Mighty spirit creatures, such as the an-



gel who became Satan, cannot persuade God to stop loving his worshippers. (Revelation 12:10) Neither can governments, which may oppose true Christians, alter God's view of his servants.—1 Corinthians 4:13.

"Nor things now here nor things to come." God's love does not fade with time. There is nothing that can come upon his servants now or in the future that will cause God to stop loving them.

"Nor powers." Paul has referred to heavenly and earthly forces—"angels" and "governments"—but now he mentions "powers." The Greek word used here is broad in meaning. Whatever the precise meaning, one thing is certain: No power in heaven or on earth can keep Jehovah's love from reaching his people.

"Nor height nor depth." Jehovah loves his people regardless of the circumstances—high or low—in which they find themselves.

"Nor any other creation." With these all-inclusive words, Paul is saying that absolutely nothing can separate loyal worshippers from Jehovah's love.

Unlike the love of a human, which can change or fade, God's love for those who keep looking to him in faith is unalterable; it is everlasting. Knowing this surely moves us to draw closer to Jehovah and to try our best to prove our love for him.

Communicating With Adolescents

A composite image showing a man's profile on the left and a young boy's face on the right, both looking towards each other across a white space.

*"Talking to my son used to be easy,
but now that he's 16, it's difficult for me or
my husband to know what he thinks. He isolates himself
in his room and barely speaks to us!"—MIRIAM, MEXICO.*

*"At one time, my children were eager to hear whatever I had to say.
They soaked it all up! Today, as teenagers, they think that I'm
out of touch with their world."—SCOTT, AUSTRALIA.*

IF YOU are raising an adolescent, you can likely identify with the parents quoted above. In the past, conversation with your child may have flowed like a two-lane highway. Now, it seems, the road is blocked. "When he was a child, my son used to bombard me with questions," says a mother in Italy named Angela. "Now I'm the one who has to initiate conversation. If I don't, days might pass without any meaningful discussion."

Like Angela, you have perhaps found that your once expressive child has changed into a sullen adolescent. All efforts to have a conversation may elicit only terse replies. "How was your day?" you ask your son. "Fine," he brusquely answers. "What happened at school today?" you ask your daughter. "Nothing," she says with a shrug. Trying to jump-start a conversation with "why don't you talk more?" is met with stony silence.

Of course, some adolescents have no problem speaking up. What they say, though, is not what their parents want to hear. "'Leave me alone' was my daughter's frequent response when I would ask her to do some-

thing," recalls a mother in Nigeria named Edna. Ramón, in Mexico, observes something similar with his 16-year-old son. "We argue almost every day," he says. "Whenever I ask him to do something, he starts talking about ways to get out of it."

Trying to communicate with an unresponsive adolescent can test a parent's patience. The Bible acknowledges that there is "a frustrating of plans where there is no confidential talk." (Proverbs 15:22) "When I don't know what my son is thinking, I get so irritated that I want to scream," admits Anna, a single parent in Russia. Why is it that just when communication becomes so vital, young people—and their parents—seem to lose the ability to communicate?

Identifying the Roadblocks

Communication is more than just talk. Jesus said that "out of the heart's abundance [the] mouth speaks." (Luke 6:45) So through good communication, we learn from others and reveal things about ourselves. That last aspect can pose a challenge for adolescents, for upon entering puberty even the most

outgoing child can suddenly turn timid. Experts say that adolescents typically feel that they are always onstage before an imaginary audience, constantly under the glare of an unforgiving spotlight. Rather than face the spotlight, self-conscious adolescents may pull the curtain down, so to speak, and retreat into a private world that parents cannot easily enter.

Another factor that can be a roadblock to communication is an adolescent's quest for independence. There is no getting around it—your child is growing up, and part of that process involves separating from family. No, this does not mean that your adolescent is ready to leave home. In many ways he or she needs you more than ever. But the process of separation begins years before adulthood. As part of maturing, many adolescents prefer to think things out privately before revealing their thoughts to others.

Granted, adolescents may not be so private with their peers—something that a mother in Mexico named Jessica observed. "When my daughter was younger, she always came to me with her problems," she says. "Now she goes to her friends." If this is so with your adolescent, do not conclude that he or she has "fired" you as a parent. On the contrary, surveys indicate that even when adolescents say otherwise, they value the advice of their parents more than that of their friends. How, though, can you make sure that the door of communication remains open?

Keys to Success—Breaking Down Barriers

Imagine that you are driving on a long, straight highway. For many miles, you have had to make only minor adjustments to your steering. Then, suddenly, the road takes a sharp turn. To keep your car on the road, you have no choice but to adjust your steering. It is similar when your child becomes an ad-

olescent. For some years, your parenting methods have perhaps needed little adjustment. Now, though, your child's life has taken a sharp turn, and you must 'steer into the curve' by adjusting your techniques. Ask yourself the following questions.

■ **'When my son or daughter is ready to open up, am I ready to communicate?'** The Bible says: "As apples of gold in silver carvings is a word spoken at the right time for it." (Proverbs 25:11) As this scripture makes clear, timing is often the key. To illustrate: A farmer can neither rush nor postpone harvesttime. He simply must take advantage of the season when it arrives. Your adolescent may have a particular time during which he or she is more prone to talk. Seize that opportunity. "Many times, my daughter would come to my bedroom at night, sometimes for an hour," says Frances, a single mother in Australia. "I'm not a night person, so it wasn't easy, but during those late nights, we talked about everything."

TRY THIS: If your adolescent seems reluctant to talk, do something together—take a walk, go for a drive, play a game, or perform a chore around the house. Often, such informal settings help adolescents feel more inclined to open up.

■ **'Do I discern the message behind the words?'** Job 12:11 says: "Does not the ear itself test out words as the palate tastes food?" Now more than ever, you need to "test out" what your son or daughter says. Adolescents often speak in absolutes. For example, your son or daughter might say, "You *always* treat me like a child!" or "You *never* listen to me!" Rather than picking on the technical inaccuracies of "always" and "never," recognize that your child is probably not speaking in literal terms. For instance, "You always treat me like a child" could mean "I feel that you

don't trust me," and "You never listen to me" might mean "I want to tell you how I really feel." Try to discern the message *behind* the words.

TRY THIS: When your adolescent makes a strong statement, say something like this: "I can see that you're upset, and I want to hear what you have to say. Tell me why you feel that I treat you like a child." Then listen without interrupting.

■ **'Do I unwittingly hinder communication by trying to force my adolescent to talk?'**

The Bible says: "The fruit of righteousness has its seed sown under peaceful conditions for those who are making peace." (James 3: 18) By your words and demeanor, create "peaceful conditions" so that your adolescent will feel inclined to talk. Remember, you are your child's advocate. So when discussing a matter, try not to come across as a prosecuting attorney who is out to discredit a witness in court. "A wise parent does not make such remarks as, 'When will you grow up?' or, 'How many times have I told you?'" says a father in Korea named Ahn. "After making a

ASK YOURSELF . . .

- *What changes have I noted in my child since he or she became an adolescent?*
- *In what ways can I improve my communication skills?*

number of mistakes in this respect, I noticed that my boys were irritated not only at the way I talked to them but also at what I said."

TRY THIS: If your adolescent is unresponsive to questions, try a different approach. For example, instead of asking your daughter about her day, tell her how your day was and see if she responds. Or to discover your child's opinion on a matter, ask questions that shift the focus away from your child. Ask her how a friend of hers feels about the topic. Then ask what advice she would give her friend.

Communicating with adolescents is not an impossible task. Adjust your parenting methods according to the need. Talk to other parents who have had success in this regard. (Proverbs 11:14) When communicating with your son or daughter, "be swift about hearing, slow about speaking, slow about wrath." (James 1:19) Above all, never give up in your effort to raise your adolescents "in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah." —Ephesians 6:4.

Tips From Parents

"My son talks more freely when we're with others. So later, when we're alone, I'll continue the conversation with him on the topics that were discussed earlier."

—ANGELA, ITALY.

"We've found that our children often open up to us if we first praise them and tell them how much we love them."

—DONIZETE, BRAZIL.

"I spoke to adults who were raised according to Bible standards, and I asked them how they felt as teenagers and how their parents helped them. That was enlightening." —DAWN, BRITAIN.





Why Show Appreciation?

"Dear Raquel,

Thank you so much for being a source of encouragement to me. Even though you may not know it, your upbuilding nature and kind words have meant a lot."—Jennifer.

HAVE you ever received an unexpected note of gratitude? If so, such an expression no doubt warmed your heart. After all, it is natural to want to feel valued and appreciated.—Matthew 25:19-23.

Expressions of thanks tend to deepen the bonds between the giver and the recipient. Furthermore, a person who shows appreciation is following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who never failed to notice the fine works of others.—Mark 14:3-9; Luke 21:1-4.

Regrettably, personal expressions of gratitude, verbal and written, seem to be increasingly rare. The Bible warned that during “the last days,” men would be “unthankful.” (2 Timothy 3:1, 2) If we are not alert, the pervasive lack of gratitude evident today could smother any tender feelings of appreciation that may rise in us.

What practical steps can parents take to teach their children how to show appreciation? To whom should we express our gratitude? And why should we be appreciative, even if those around us are unthankful?

Within the Family Circle

Parents work hard to provide for their children. Sometimes, though, parents may feel that their efforts are unappreciated. What

can they do to remedy this situation? Three ingredients are necessary.

(1) **Example.** As with most aspects of child training, example is an effective teacher. Regarding a hardworking mother in ancient Israel, the Bible says: “Her children speak well of her.” Where did these children learn to express gratitude? The remainder of the verse provides a clue. It says: “Her husband also praises her.” (Proverbs 31:28, New Century Version) Parents who express appreciation to each other show their children that such expressions give pleasure to the recipient, improve family relationships, and are a sign of maturity.

A father named Stephen says, “I have tried to set the example for my children by thanking my wife for dinner.” What has been the result? “My two daughters have noticed this, and it has helped them to be more aware of showing gratitude,” says Stephen. If you are married, do you regularly say thank you to your mate for doing daily chores that are easily taken for granted? Do you say thank you to your children, even when they do what is expected of them?

(2) **Training.** Feelings of thankfulness are like flowers. They need to be cultivated to produce the best results. How can parents

help their children to cultivate and express appreciation? Wise King Solomon highlighted one key factor when he wrote: "The heart of the righteous one meditates so as to answer."—Proverbs 15:28.

Parents, can you train your children to think about the effort and generosity behind any gifts they receive? This type of meditation is the soil in which appreciation grows. Maria, who has raised three children, says: "It requires time to sit down with your children and explain to them what is involved when someone gives a gift—that someone thought about you personally and wanted to show how much they care about you. But I feel it's worth the effort." Such conversations help children to learn not only *what* they should say when expressing appreciation but also *why* they should say it.

Wise parents help their children to avoid feeling that all the good things they receive are somehow owed to them.* The warning found at Proverbs 29:21 about dealing with servants applies with equal force to children: "If one is pampering one's servant from youth on, in his later life he will even become a thankless one."

How can very young children be helped to show appreciation? Linda, a mother of three, says, "My husband and I encouraged our children to contribute to the thank-you notes we wrote by drawing a picture that could be included or by signing their name on the card." True, the picture may be simple and the handwriting unrefined, but the lesson children learn from this act is profound.

(3) Perseverance. All of us have an inborn tendency to be selfish, and this inclination may stifle expressions of thanks. (Genesis 8:21; Matthew 15:19) Yet, the Bible urges servants of God: "You should be made new in

* Many parents have read and discussed with their children the book *Learn From the Great Teacher*, published by Jehovah's Witnesses. Chapter 18 is entitled "Do You Remember to Say Thank You?"

the force actuating your mind, and should put on the new personality which was created according to God's will."—Ephesians 4:23, 24.

Experienced parents know, however, that helping children to "put on the new personality" is easier said than done. Stephen, mentioned above, says, "Teaching our daughters to say thank you on their own, without prompting, seemed to take a long time." But Stephen and his wife did not give up. "With much perseverance," Stephen continues, "our girls learned the lesson. Now we are proud of the way that they show gratitude to others."

What About Friends and Neighbors?

When we fail to say thank you, we may not be ungrateful, just forgetful. Is it really that important for us not only to feel appreciative but also to express our gratitude? To answer that question, consider an incident involving Jesus and some lepers.

While traveling to Jerusalem, Jesus encountered ten men who had leprosy. The Bible relates: "They raised their voices and said: 'Jesus, Instructor, have mercy on us!' And when he got sight of them he said to them: 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Then as they were going off their cleansing occurred. One of them, when he saw he was healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice. And he fell upon his face at Jesus' feet, thanking him; furthermore, he was a Samaritan."—Luke 17:11-16.

Did Jesus overlook the failure of the others to express gratitude? The account continues: "In reply Jesus said: 'The ten were cleansed, were they not? Where, then, are the other nine? Were none found that turned back to give glory to God but this man of another nation?'"—Luke 17:17, 18.

The other nine lepers were not wicked men. Earlier, they had openly expressed faith



Even young children can be trained to express appreciation

in Jesus and willingly obeyed his instructions, which involved traveling to Jerusalem to show themselves to the priests. However, although they no doubt felt deep appreciation for Jesus' kind act, they failed to express that appreciation to him. Their conduct disappointed Christ. What about us? When someone treats us well, are we quick to say thank you and, where appropriate, to show appreciation by sending a written note?

The Bible says that "love is not ill-mannered or selfish." (1 Corinthians 13:5, *Today's English Version*) Therefore, sincere expressions of appreciation are not only a sign of good manners but also an evidence of love. As the incident involving the lepers teaches us, those who wish to please Christ owe such love and appreciation to all, regardless of their nationality, race, or religion.

Ask yourself, 'When was the last time that I thanked a neighbor, a workmate, a schoolmate, a hospital-staff member, a storekeeper, or somebody else who helped me?' Why not keep a record for a day or two, marking down the number of times that you actually do say thank you or write a thank-you note? Such a record may help you see where you can improve in expressing appreciation.

Of course, the one who deserves our thanks most is Jehovah God. He is the Giver of "every good gift and every perfect present." (James 1:17) When was the last time that you sincerely expressed appreciation to God for specific things he has done for you? —1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18.

Why Show Appreciation Even Though Others Do Not?

Others may not reciprocate when we show appreciation. Why, then, should we express gratitude even though others do not? Consider just one reason.

By doing good to those who lack appreciation, we will be imitating our gracious Creator, Jehovah God. The fact that many do not appreciate the love Jehovah shows does not

Keep a record for a day or two, marking down the number of times that you actually do say thank you

stop him from doing good to them. (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9, 10) He makes "his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous." If we endeavor to show appreciation despite living in a thankless world, we will prove ourselves to be "sons of [our] Father who is in the heavens." —Matthew 5:45.

Set an example for your children in expressing appreciation



About How to Treat Others

Why be kind?

Are you kind even when people are unkind to you? If we want to imitate Jesus, we must be kind even to those who hate us. Jesus said: "If you love those loving you, of what credit is it to you? For even the sinners love those loving them. . . . To the contrary, continue to love your enemies . . . , and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind toward the unthankful and wicked."—Luke 6:32-36; 10:25-37.

Why be forgiving?

When we make mistakes, we want God to forgive us. Jesus taught that it is proper for us to pray for God's forgiveness. (Matthew 6:12) However, Jesus also said that God will forgive us only to the extent that we forgive others. He said: "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; whereas if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."—Matthew 6:14, 15.

Jesus' parable of the wasteful son teaches us the importance of kindness and forgiveness.—Luke 15:11-32



**For more information,
see chapter 14 of the book
*What Does the Bible
Really Teach?****

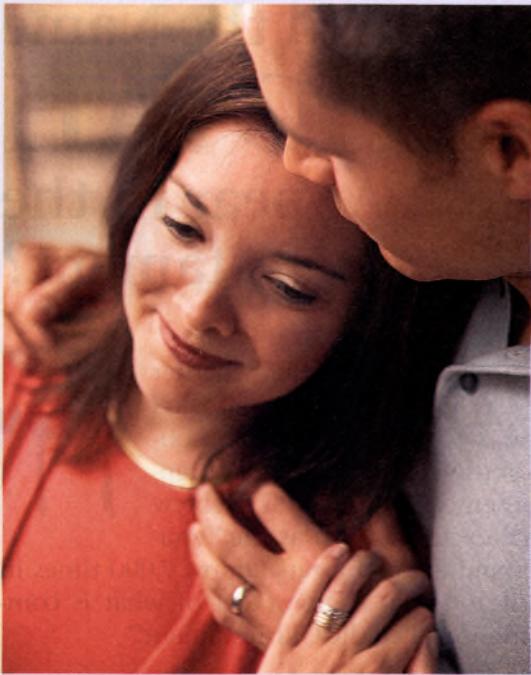
How can families be happy?

Although Jesus never married, we can learn much from him about how to make family life happy. Both by his words and by his actions, he set a pattern for us to imitate. Consider the following three points:

1. A husband must love his wife as his own body. Jesus set the example for husbands. He said to his disciples: "I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another." To what extent? "Just as I have loved you," he said. (John 13:34) Applying this principle to husbands, the Bible says: "Husbands, continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also loved the congregation and delivered up himself for it . . . In this way husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself, for no man ever hated his own flesh; but he feeds and cherishes it, as the Christ also does the congregation."—Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29.

2. Marriage mates must be faithful to each other. To have sex relations outside of marriage is a sin against God and ruins families. Jesus said: "Did you not read . . . 'For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh'? So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has yoked together let no man put apart. . . . I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits adultery."—Matthew 19:4-9.

* Published by Jehovah's Witnesses.



***Marriage mates should be faithful
to each other***

3. Children must be in subjection to their parents. Although Jesus was perfect and his parents were imperfect, as a child he obeyed them. The Bible says of Jesus when he was 12 years old: "He went down with them [his parents] and came to Nazareth, and he continued subject to them."—Luke 2:51; Ephesians 6:1-3.

Why apply these principles?

Regarding the lessons he taught his disciples, Jesus said: "If you know these things, happy you are if you do them." (John 13:17) To be true Christians, we must apply the advice Jesus gave us about how to treat others. He said: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves."—John 13:35.

Should the Name JEHOVAH Appear in the New Testament?

DOES it matter whether God's name appears in the Bible? God obviously felt so. His name, as represented by the four Hebrew characters known as the Tetragrammaton, appears almost 7,000 times in the original Hebrew text of what is commonly called the Old Testament.*

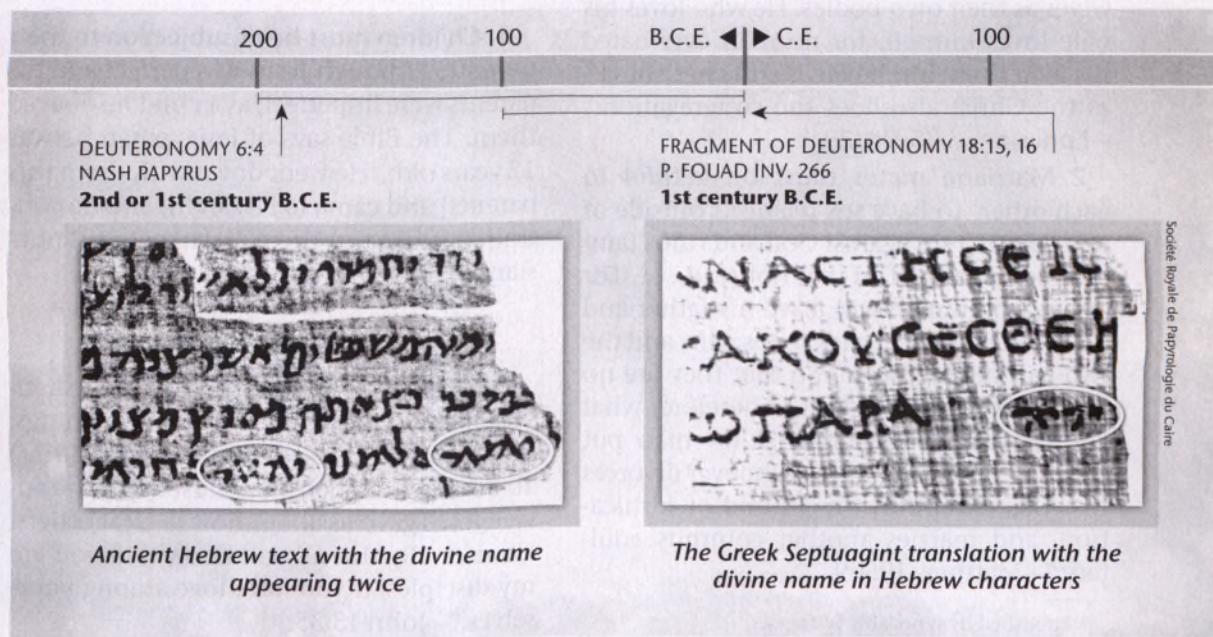
* The Tetragrammaton refers to the four letters, YHWH, that represent God's name in Hebrew. It is commonly translated as Jehovah or Yahweh in English.

יהוה

Bible scholars acknowledge that God's personal name appears in the Old Testament, or Hebrew Scriptures. However, many feel that it did not appear in the original Greek manuscripts of the so-called New Testament.

What happens, then, when a writer of the New Testament quotes passages from the Old Testament in which the Tetragrammaton appears? In these instances, most translators use the word "Lord" rather than God's personal name. The *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* does not follow this common practice. It uses the name Jehovah 237 times in the Christian Greek Scriptures, or New Testament.

What problems do Bible translators face when it comes to deciding whether to use God's name in the New Testament? What basis is there for using God's name in this part of the Holy Scriptures? And how does the use of God's name in the Bible affect you?



A Translation Problem

The manuscripts of the New Testament that we possess today are not the originals. The original manuscripts written by Matthew, John, Paul, and others were well used, and no doubt they quickly wore out. Hence, copies were made, and when those wore out, further copies were made. Of the thousands of copies of the New Testament in existence today, most were made at least two centuries after the originals were penned. It appears that by that time those copying the manuscripts either replaced the Tetragrammaton with *Ku'ri·os* or *Ky'ri·os*, the Greek word for "Lord," or copied from manuscripts where this had been done.*

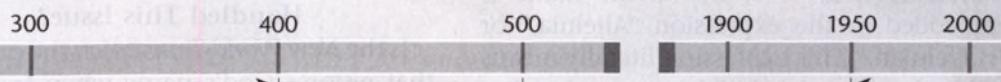
Knowing this, a translator must determine whether there is reasonable evidence that the Tetragrammaton did in fact appear in the original Greek manuscripts. Is there any

* For further information on this development, see the brochure *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, published by Jehovah's Witnesses, pages 23-27.

such proof? Consider the following arguments:

■ When Jesus quoted the Old Testament or read from it, he used the divine name. (Deuteronomy 6:13, 16; 8:3; Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 61:1, 2; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; 22:44; Luke 4:16-21) In the days of Jesus and his disciples, the Tetragrammaton appeared in copies of the Hebrew text of what is often called the Old Testament, as it still does today. However, for centuries scholars thought that the Tetragrammaton was absent from manuscripts of the Greek Septuagint translation of the Old Testament, as well as from manuscripts of the New Testament. Then in the mid-20th century, something remarkable came to the attention of scholars—some very old fragments of the Greek Septuagint version that existed in Jesus' day had been discovered. Those fragments contain the personal name of God, written in Hebrew characters.

■ Jesus used God's name and made it known to others. (John 17:6, 11, 12, 26) Jesus



DEUTERONOMY 18:15, 16
CODEX ALEXANDRINUS
5th century C.E.

ΜΗΧΟΝΤΕΜΑΦΙΚΗ ΚΛΑΝΤΕΩ
ΤΟΥ ΣΟΝΤΡΑ ΣΟΙΔΕΟΥΧΟΥ ΤΑΣ
ΕΝΙΚΣΟΒΕΕΟΥ ΠΡΟΦΙΓΗΝΗΣ
ΕΛΦΙΦΗ ΕΟΥΔΕΕΝ ΜΑΛΑΣΤ
ΙΚΕΡΩΔΕ ΕΟΥΧΥ ΓΟΥΑΚΟΥ ΕΕ
ΓΛΑΝΤΙΑ ΟΣΧΙΓΗ ΠΑΡΑΡΑ
ΤΟΥ ΣΕΝΙΧ ΗΡΗΚΤΗ ΗΜΟΡΧΗ
ΙΚΛΗ ΠΑΣΧΕΤΡΟΠΤΕΣ ΟΥΠΡΟ
ΜΟΝΑΚΟΥ ΣΑΡΤΗΝΗΚΤΩΝΗΝ

*Divine name removed and replaced by
KC and KY, abbreviated forms of the Greek
word Ky'ri-os ("Lord")*

ACTS 3:22, QUOTING DEUTERONOMY 18:15
NEW WORLD TRANSLATION
20th century C.E.

deed, must contain within itself^{b9} until the times of restoration^c of all things of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets^d of old time.^e ²² In fact, Moses said: Jehovah, God will produce for you from among your brothers a prophet like me. You must listen to him according to all the things he speaks to you.^f ²³ Indeed, any soul^g that does not listen to that Prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people.^h ²⁴ And all the prophets, in fact, from Samuelⁱ on and those in succession, just as many as have spoken, have also plainly declared these days.^j ²⁵ You are the sons^k of the

*The "New World Translation" restores
the divine name*

*The divine name as it appears in
Romans 10:13 in various translations*

דְּלֹא בָבִזְבַּח :

רַבֵּנָה מְלֵכָה דָיל בֵין רִיחָנְדִירֶסֶת
הַגָּת אֲדוֹנִי כָל צְשִׁיד אָרֶן
רְאִים בְּשִׁמְךָ :

אֲשֶׁר יְהִיבָא בְשִׁמְךָ יְהוָה יְמִיל
בְּהַיְהָתָה אֲשֶׁר בְּדָלָא הַאֲבָבָה
אַמְרִיבָה בְּזַעַפְתָּר עַלְיוֹ לֹא שָׁעָן
שְׁמֻמָּעִי בְּבָלִי-מְרַבְבַּשְׁר :

HUTTER'S HEBREW, GREEK, LATIN,
AND GERMAN BIBLE

ROTUMAN BIBLE

atako, ma ia 'es koroa pau ia na se te' ne iris 'atako ne ro'ait se ja: ¹³ ne «Le'et ma ne la he' se as 'on Jihova, ia tala a'mäür.» ¹⁴ Ma te'is, ka 'ine a ne iris la he' tanan se in na iris kota saminta

BATAK-TOBA BIBLE

manjou Iбана. ¹³ Songon na nidok ni na tarsurat i: "Manang ise na manjou **Jahowa** mangido pangurupion, malua do."

¹⁴ Alai cian dia ma hoi nasida manjou

NEW WORLD TRANSLATION

to all those calling upon him.
13 For "everyone who calls on the name of **Jehovah** will be saved." ¹⁴ However, how will they call on him in whom they

x 2Th 1:8
Heb 4:2
1Pe 4:17
y Isa 53:1
Joh 12:38
z Joh 4:42
Joh 17:20
a Ga 3:2

plainly stated: "I have come in the name of my Father." He also stressed that his works were done "in the name of [his] Father." In fact, Jesus' own name means "Jehovah Is Salvation."—John 5:43; 10:25.

■ **The divine name appears in its abbreviated form in the Greek Scriptures.** At Revelation 19:1, 3, 4, 6, the divine name is embedded in the expression "Alleluia," or "Hallelujah." This expression literally means "Praise Jah, you people!" Jah is a contraction of the name Jehovah.

■ **Early Jewish writings indicate that Jewish Christians used the divine name in their writings.** *The Tosefta*, a written collection of oral laws completed by about 300 C.E., says with regard to Christian writings that were burned on the Sabbath: "The books of the Evangelists and the books of the *minim* [thought to be Jewish Christians] they do not save from a fire. But they are allowed to burn where they are, . . . they and the references to the Divine Name which are in them." This same source quotes Rabbi Yosé the Galilean, who lived at the beginning of the second century C.E., as saying that on other days of the week "one cuts out the references to the

Divine Name which are in them [the Christian writings] and stores them away, and the rest burns." Thus, there is strong evidence that the Jews living in the second century C.E. believed that Christians used Jehovah's name in their writings.

How Have Translators Handled This Issue?

Is the *New World Translation* the only Bible that restores God's name when translating the Greek Scriptures? No. Based upon the above evidence, many Bible translators have felt that the divine name should be restored when they translate the New Testament.

For example, many African, American, Asian, and Pacific-island language versions of the New Testament use the divine name liberally. (See chart on page 21.) Some of these translations have appeared recently, such as the Rotuman Bible (1999), which uses the name Jihova 51 times in 48 verses of the New Testament, and the Batak-Toba version (1989) from Indonesia, which uses the name Jahowa 110 times in the New Testament. The divine name has appeared, too, in French, German, and Spanish translations. For in-

stance, Pablo Besson translated the New Testament into Spanish in the early 20th century. His translation uses Jehová at Jude 14, and nearly 100 footnotes suggest the divine name as a likely rendering.

Below are some examples of English translations that have used God's name in the New Testament:

A Literal Translation of the New Testament . . . From the Text of the Vatican Manuscript, by Herman Heinfetter (1863)

The Emphatic Diaglott, by Benjamin Wilson (1864)

The Epistles of Paul in Modern English, by George Barker Stevens (1898)

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, by W. G. Rutherford (1900)

The Christian's Bible—New Testament, by George N. LeFevre (1928)

The New Testament Letters, by J.W.C. Wand, Bishop of London (1946)

Recently, the 2004 edition of the popular *New Living Translation* made this comment in its preface under the heading "The Rendering of Divine Names": "We have generally rendered the tetragrammaton (YHWH) consistently as 'the LORD,' utilizing a form with small capitals that is common among English translations. This will distinguish it from the name 'adonai, which we render 'Lord.'" Then when commenting on the New Testament, it says: "The Greek word *kurios* is consistently translated 'Lord,' except that it is translated 'LORD' wherever the New

LIST OF 99 LANGUAGES THAT USE A VERNACULAR FORM OF THE TETRAGRAMMATON IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

CHIHOWA: Choctaw

IÁHVE: Portuguese

IEHOUA: Mer

IEHOVA: Gilbertese; Hawaiian; Hiri Motu; Kerewo; Kiwai; Marquesas; Motu; Panaieti (Misima); Rarotongan; Tahitian; Toaripi

IEHOVAN: Saibai

IEOVA: Kuanua; Wedau

IHOVA: Aneityum

IHVH: French

IOVA: Malekula (Kuliviu); Malekula (Pangkumu); Malekula (Uripiv)

JAHOWA: Batak-Toba

JAHUÈ: Chacobo

JAKWE: (Ki)Sukuma

JAHVE: Hungarian

JEHOBA: Kipsigis; Mentawai

JEHOFA: Tswana

JEHOVA: Croatian; German; Kélé (Gabon); Lele (Manus Island); Nandi; Nauruan; Ndau; Nukuoro

JEHOVÁ: Spanish

JEHÓVA: Fang; Tsimihety

JEHOVAH: Dutch; Efik; English; Kalenjin; Malagasy; Narrinyeri; Ojibwa

JEVOA: Kusaie (Kosraean)

JIHOVA: Naga (Angami); Naga (Konyak); Naga (Lotha); Naga (Mao); Naga (Ntenyi); Naga (Sangtam); Rotuman

JIOUA: Mortlock

JIOVA: Fijian

SIHOVA: Tongan

UYEHOVA: Zulu

YAHOWA: Thai

YAHVE: Ila

YAVE: Kongo

YAWE: Bobangi; Bolia; Dholuo; Lingala; Mongo (Lolo); (Lo)Ngandu; (Lo)Ntumba; (Ke)Sengele

YEHÓA: Awabakal

YEHOFA: Southern Sotho

YEHOVA: Chokwe; Chuana (Tlapi); (Ki)Kalanga; Logo; Luba; Lugbara; (Chi)Luimbi; (Chi)Lunda (Ndembu); (Chi)Luvale; Santo (Hog Harbor); Tiv; Umbundu; (Isi)Xhosa

YEHOVAH: Bube; Mohawk; Ngunu (Efate); Ngunu (Tonga)

YEHOWA: Ga; Laotian; (Ki)Songe; Tshiluba

YEKOVA: Zande

YEABA: Kuba (Inkongo)

YEHOWA: Korean

YHWH: Hebrew

YOWO: Lomwe

ZAHOVA: Chin (Haka-Lai)

Testament text explicitly quotes from the Old Testament, and the text there has it in small capitals." (Italics ours.) The translators of this Bible therefore acknowledge that the Tetragrammaton (YHWH) should be represented in these New Testament quotes.

Interestingly, under the heading "Tetragrammaton in the New Testament," *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* makes this comment: "There is some evidence that the Tetragrammaton, the Divine Name, Yahweh, appeared in some or all of the O[ld] T[estament] quotations in the N[new] T[estament] when the NT documents were first penned." And scholar George Howard says: "Since the Tetragram was still written in the copies of the Greek Bible [the *Septuagint*] which made up the Scriptures of the early church, it is reasonable to believe that the N[new] T[estament] writers, when quoting from Scripture, preserved the Tetragram within the biblical text."

Two Compelling Reasons

Clearly, then, the *New World Translation* was not the first Bible to contain the divine name in the New Testament. Like a judge who is called upon to decide a court case for which there are no living eyewitnesses, the New World Bible Translation Committee carefully weighed all the relevant evidence. Based on the facts, they decided to include Jehovah's name in their translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures. Note two compelling reasons why they did so.

(1) The translators believed that since the Christian Greek Scriptures were an inspired addition to the sacred Hebrew Scriptures, the sudden disappearance of Jehovah's name from the text seemed inconsistent.

Why is that a reasonable conclusion? About the middle of the first century C.E., the disciple James said to the elders in Jerusalem: "Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to

the nations to take out of them a people for his name." (Acts 15:14) Does it sound logical to you that James would make such a statement if nobody in the first century knew or used God's name?

(2) When copies of the *Septuagint* were discovered that used the divine name rather than *Ky'ri-os* (Lord), it became evident to the translators that in Jesus' day copies of the earlier Scriptures in Greek—and of course those in Hebrew—did contain the divine name.

Apparently, the God-dishonoring tradition of removing the divine name from Greek manuscripts developed only later. What do you think? Would Jesus and his apostles have promoted such a tradition?
—Matthew 15:6-9.

Call "on the Name of Jehovah"

Really, the Scriptures themselves act as a conclusive "eyewitness" statement that early Christians did in fact use Jehovah's name in their writings, especially when they quoted passages from the Old Testament that contain that name. Without a doubt, then, the *New World Translation* has a clear basis for restoring the divine name, Jehovah, in the Christian Greek Scriptures.

How does this information affect you? Quoting the Hebrew Scriptures, the apostle Paul reminded the Christians in Rome: "Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved." Then he asked: "How will they call on him in whom they have not put faith? How, in turn, will they put faith in him of whom they have not heard?" (Romans 10:13, 14; Joel 2:32) Bible translations that use God's name when appropriate help you to draw close to God. (James 4:8) Really, what an honor it is for us to be allowed to know and to call upon God's personal name, Jehovah.



Hiram Bingham II ▶



A TRANSLATOR WHO RESPECTED GOD'S NAME

In November 1857, Hiram Bingham II, a 26-year-old missionary, arrived with his wife in the Gilbert Islands (now called Kiribati). The missionary ship on which they had traveled was sponsored by meager donations from American Sunday School children. It had been named the *Morning Star* by its sponsors to reflect their belief in the coming Millennium.

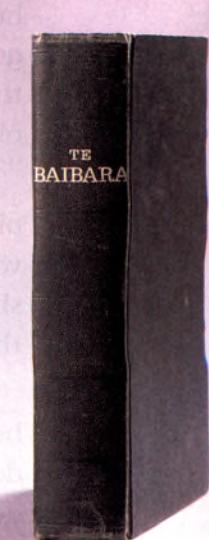
"Physically, Bingham was not strong," states Barrie Macdonald in his book *Cinderellas of the Empire*. "He suffered from frequent bowel ailments, and from chronic throat trouble which affected his ability to speak in public; his eyesight was so weak that he could only spend two or three hours a day reading."

However, Bingham set his mind to learning the Gilbertese language. This was not an easy task. He started by pointing at objects and asking their names. When he had collected a list of some two thousand words, he paid one of his converts a dollar for every one hundred new words he could add to the list.

Bingham's perseverance paid off. By the time he had to leave the Gilbert Islands in

1865 because of his deteriorating health, he not only had given the Gilbertese language a written form but had also translated the books of Matthew and John into Gilbertese. When he returned to the islands in 1873, he brought with him the completed translation of the New Testament in Gilbertese. He persevered for a further 17 years and by 1890 completed the translation of the entire Gilbertese Bible.

Bingham's translation of the Bible is in use in Kiribati to this day. Those reading it will notice that he used Jehovah's name (Iehova in Gilbertese) thousands of times in the Old Testament as well as over 50 times in the New Testament. Truly, Hiram Bingham was a translator who respected God's name!



BINGHAM'S GILBERTSE BIBLE

Samuel Stuck to What Was Right

DO YOU ever see others do bad things?—* Samuel did. He lived where you would not expect such things to happen. That was at God's tabernacle, or place of worship, in the city of Shiloh. Let's see how, over 3,000 years ago, the tabernacle came to be Samuel's home.

Before Samuel was born, his mother, Hannah, wanted very much to have a baby. During a visit to the tabernacle, Hannah prayed to God about it. She was praying so fervently that her lips were quivering. This made the high priest, Eli, think that she was drunk. But when he learned that instead she was very distressed, Eli blessed her, saying: "May the God of Israel grant your petition."—1 Samuel 1:17.

Later, Samuel was born, and Hannah was so happy that she told her husband, Elkanah: 'As soon as I stop nursing Samuel, I'm going to take him to the tabernacle for him to serve God there.' And that's what she did! By then, Samuel may have been four or five years old.

Eli had grown old, and his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were not worshiping Jehovah in the right way. They were even having immoral relations with women who visited the tabernacle! What do you think their father should have done?—Yes, he should have disciplined them and not allowed them to do those bad things.

Young Samuel was growing up there, and he likely knew about the bad behavior of the sons of Eli. Did Samuel follow their bad example?—No, he kept doing what was right, just as his parents had taught him to do. It is no wonder, however, that Jehovah was angry with Eli. He even sent a prophet to



* If you are reading with children, the dash provides a reminder to stop and direct the question to them.



tell Eli about how He would punish Eli's family, especially his bad sons.
—1 Samuel 2:22-36.

Samuel continued serving with Eli at the tabernacle. Then, one night when Samuel was sleeping, a voice called his name. So Samuel ran to Eli, but Eli said that he had not called him. The same thing happened again. Well, after the same thing happened the third time, Eli

told Samuel to say: "Speak, Jehovah, for your servant is listening." When Samuel said that, Jehovah spoke to him. Do you know what Jehovah told Samuel?—

God repeated to Samuel His purpose to punish Eli's family. The next morning Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what Jehovah had said. But Eli pleaded with Samuel: "Do not, please, hide it from me." So, finally, Samuel told Eli everything Jehovah had said He would do—just as His prophet had earlier related to Eli. Eli's reply was: "What is good in his [Jehovah's] eyes let him do." Eventually, Hophni and Phinehas were killed, and Eli died too.—1 Samuel 3:1-18.

In the meantime, "Samuel continued growing up, and Jehovah himself proved to be with him." By then, Samuel was probably a teenager, an important time in the lives of young ones. Do you think it was easy for Samuel to continue doing what was right even when others were not?—Although it was not easy, Samuel served Jehovah faithfully for the rest of his life.—1 Samuel 3:19-21.

What about you? Will you be like Samuel as you grow up? Will you stick to what is right? Will you continue to hold fast to the teachings of the Bible and to what your parents have taught you? If you do, you will make both Jehovah and your parents happy.

Questions:

- How did Samuel come to serve at Jehovah's tabernacle?
- What challenges did Samuel face there?
- What example did Samuel provide for young ones?

Did You Know?

What language did Jesus speak?

Scholars disagree as to what language Jesus spoke. However, as a man on earth, it appears that Jesus could well have used a form of Hebrew and a dialect of Aramaic. When Jesus came to Nazareth in Galilee and entered the synagogue there, he read from the prophecy of Isaiah, evidently as written in Hebrew. Nothing is said about Jesus' translating this passage into Aramaic.—Luke 4:16-21.

Concerning languages used in Palestine when Jesus Christ was on earth, Professor G. Ernest Wright states: "Greek and Aramaic were evidently the common tongues . . . Roman soldiers and officials might be heard conversing in Latin, while orthodox Jews may well have spoken a late variety of Hebrew with one another." No wonder the sign that Pilate had posted on Jesus' torture stake was written in three languages—Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.—John 19:20.

Alan Millard in his book *Discoveries From the Time of Jesus* says: "In the course of their daily duties the Roman governors certainly spoke Greek, and Jesus may have answered Pilate's questions at his trial in Greek." Although the Bible does not indicate whether this was the

case, it is interesting to note that there is no mention of an interpreter being used for this conversation.—John 18:28-40.

According to Professor Wright, "we have no certain way of knowing whether [Jesus] could speak Greek or Latin, but in his teaching ministry he regularly used either Aramaic or the highly Aramaized popular Hebrew."—*Biblical Archaeology*, 1962, page 243.

How large were the temple stones in Jerusalem?

When talking to Jesus about the temple in Jerusalem, the disciples said: "Teacher, see! what sort of stones and what sort of buildings!" (Mark 13:1) Just how large were some of those stones?

By the time that Jesus was on earth, King Herod had doubled the size of the Tem-

ple Mount as compared to that of Solomon's time. It was the largest man-made platform in the ancient world, measuring about 1,575 feet by 910 feet. Some of the building stones, or ashlars, reportedly were 35 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 10 feet high. A few weighed more than 50 tons each. One even weighed close to 400 tons and was "unequaled in size anywhere in the ancient world," according to one scholar.

In reply to his disciples' statement, Jesus said: "Do you behold these great buildings? By no means will a stone be left here upon a stone and not be thrown down." (Mark 13:2) Many of these huge stones can still be seen lying where they landed after being pried loose and pushed down by Roman soldiers in 70 C.E.

TEMPLE STONES THROWN DOWN OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE MOUNT, JERUSALEM





The Bible Changes Lives

What could move a member of a Mexican youth gang called the Junior Satans to change and become an honest, hardworking citizen? Why would a successful Japanese businesswoman stop pursuing wealth as her main goal in life, and how does she feel about the changes she has made? What would motivate a Russian weapons dealer to renounce his lucrative but illegal trade? Consider what these individuals have to say.



I participated in Catholic ceremonies to ease my conscience



PROFILE

NAME: **ADRIAN PEREZ**

AGE: **30**

COUNTRY: **MEXICO**

HISTORY: **GANG MEMBER**

MY PAST: When I was about 13 years of age, my family moved to Ecatepec de Morelos, Mexico State. At the time, the area was plagued by juvenile delinquency, vandalism, and drug addiction. I soon began abusing alcohol, vandalizing property, and engaging in immorality.

Later, we moved back to San Vicente, the town where I was born. However, drug addiction had become a big problem there. It was common to see youths lying dead in the

streets. I joined a gang called the Junior Satans. We stole and used drugs, mainly sniffing thinner or glue. Often, I did not remember how I got home, and sometimes I would just lie unconscious in the street. Some of my friends ended up in prison for theft and murder.

In spite of everything, I believed in God. To salve my conscience, I would participate in religious ceremonies, such as the performing of the stations of the cross during Holy Week. Afterward, though, all of us, including the man who played the part of Christ, celebrated our participation in the event by getting drunk.

HOW THE BIBLE CHANGED MY LIFE: In my late teens, I started studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses. I was aware that my life had no real purpose and that if I continued in my course, things would not go well for me. What impressed me was the thought recorded at Galatians 6:8: "He who is sowing with a view to his flesh will reap corruption from his flesh, but he who is sowing with a view to the spirit will reap everlasting life from the spirit." This scripture made me realize that if I wanted things to go well for me, I would have to sow with a view to the future.

As I studied the Bible, I began to appreciate that Jehovah is a living God who is personally interested in me, and that he is willing to pardon the sins that I committed in the past. I learned firsthand that he listens to and answers prayers.

It was not easy to make changes in my lifestyle. Leaving the gang was difficult. Some territories were marked, and I could not pass through them, although I no longer belonged to the gang. At times, I had to hide

from my former friends because they would seek me out and try to drag me back into my old habits.

By contrast, when I started attending meetings with the Witnesses at the Kingdom Hall, I found the congregation to be warm and loving. I was impressed that these people had genuine conviction and lived in harmony with what they taught. It was an entirely different environment from what I was used to.

HOW I HAVE BENEFITED: I have been baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses for ten years now. I try hard to apply Bible teachings in my life. As a result, I am gaining the respect of my family. Now they know me as an industrious worker, and I have even been able to help them out financially. My mother started studying the Bible and has now become one of Jehovah's Witnesses. My father is also making changes in his lifestyle. Most of my family are not Jehovah's Witnesses, but after observing what happened with me, they acknowledge that the Bible can help a person to improve his life.



I was financially successful but very unhappy



PROFILE

NAME: YAYOI NAGATANI

AGE: 50

COUNTRY: JAPAN

HISTORY: SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSWOMAN

MY PAST: I grew up in a small country town full of friendly people. My father owned a big store in town that employed ten workers. Our home was next to the

store, so even though Father and Mother were busy, I never felt lonely.

I am the oldest of three girls, and from an early age, I was

trained to take over the family business. I married young. My husband quit his job at the bank and came to help in the family business. We had three children in quick succession. My mother looked after the children as she performed the household chores, while I worked from morning till night at the store. Even so, we still had some free time to spend together as a family.

Then the shopping district was hit by an economic decline, and our business started to suffer. In response, we decided to open a home-improvement store next to a main highway. On the day before the ceremony to start the construction, my father, who was president of our company, collapsed with a sudden brain disorder. He was left with severe speech loss, so the responsibility for the new store fell upon me. My husband remained at the old store. Our life became very busy.

Our new store was a big success. I was proud of my achievements and gave up hours of sleep to work. Although I loved my children, all I had on my mind was work. I hardly had time to talk to my husband, and when we did talk, we argued a lot. To cope with the stress, I started going out almost every night to drink with my friends and business associates. All I did was work, drink, and sleep. I was financially successful but was increasingly unhappy and couldn't understand why.

HOW THE BIBLE CHANGED MY LIFE: When I started studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses, three Bible passages had a profound effect on me. I wept when I understood the meaning of Matthew 5:3: "Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need, since the kingdom of the heavens belongs to them." This verse explained why I felt empty even though I was financially successful and

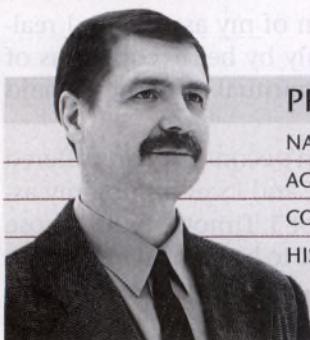
had the admiration of my associates. I realized that it was only by being conscious of and satisfying my spiritual need that I could be truly happy.

At the time, Japan's economy had suffered a severe downturn, and I saw among my associates the truth of 1 Timothy 6:9: "Those who are determined to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and many senseless and hurtful desires, which plunge men into destruction and ruin." I felt that Jesus' words recorded at Matthew 6:24, "you cannot slave for God and for Riches," applied to me personally, so I decided to make some changes in my life.

I realized that I had been neglecting my parents, my husband, and my children. It also became apparent that I had developed some unpleasant personality traits. I had become arrogant. I had little patience with people. And I got angry easily. At first, I thought it would be impossible for me to change and become a Christian. However, I really loved my children and noticed that as I applied the Bible's counsel when dealing with my family, my children responded very well. I spent more time with them and took them with me to Christian meetings.

HOW I HAVE BENEFITED: Knowing the purpose of life and being able to serve God, living a life that is pleasing to him, has given me real joy and satisfaction. I no longer sacrifice my family for work, so I have been able to regain the self-respect that I lost.

Seeing how my personality changed for the better as I applied Bible principles moved my mother to study the Bible and become a Christian. Happily, neither my father nor my husband has opposed our decisions. My relationship with my children has become much closer, and I now enjoy a genuinely happy family life.



PROFILE

NAME: MIKHAIL ZUYEV

AGE: 51

COUNTRY: RUSSIA

HISTORY: ILLEGAL ARMS DEALER

MY PAST: My hometown, Krasnogorsk, is surrounded by rich greenery. The Moscow River runs to the south. To the west and north, the suburbs almost become buried in the forest.

When I was young, I loved fistfighting and playing with weapons. I spent a lot of time in physical training. I also made illegal firearms, ammunition, and knives. In time, I made this my business. I was well-organized and very successful at selling my products to criminals.

HOW THE BIBLE CHANGED MY LIFE: In the early 1990's, I met Jehovah's Witnesses, but at first I didn't trust them. They asked too many questions for my liking.

One day, one of them read to me Romans 14:12: "Each of us will render an account for himself to God." I wondered what I would say to God. This scripture moved me to learn what God required of me.

I worked hard at applying the Bible's counsel recorded at Colossians 3:5-10: "Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite, hurtful desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of those things the wrath of God is coming. . . . Put them all away from you, wrath, anger, badness, abusive speech, and obscene talk out of your mouth. Do not be

lying to one another. Strip off the old personality with its practices, and clothe yourselves with the new personality."

I found it very difficult to make such changes. My former "business associates" kept offering me money for weapons, and I found it hard to restrain myself when people insulted me. Even so, I destroyed my large and valuable arsenal. As I learned of the love that God and Christ have shown for me, I was moved to love them. I persevered in my personal Bible study, attended meetings with the local congregation, and prayed for God's help.

HOW I HAVE BENEFITED: Little by little, with much struggling and with the help of my Christian brothers, I have developed a better personality. Understanding that Jehovah God cares for each of us, even for people who have died, thrills me. (Acts 24:15) I value the sincerity and openness that I observe among Jehovah's Witnesses. And I appreciate the genuine interest that they have shown in me and their loyalty to God.

At first, some of my family and friends opposed my new faith. But then they consoled themselves with the thought that it was better for me to be involved with religion than with organized crime. I am happy that my life no longer is dedicated to selling weapons of war but is devoted to helping others learn about the God of peace.

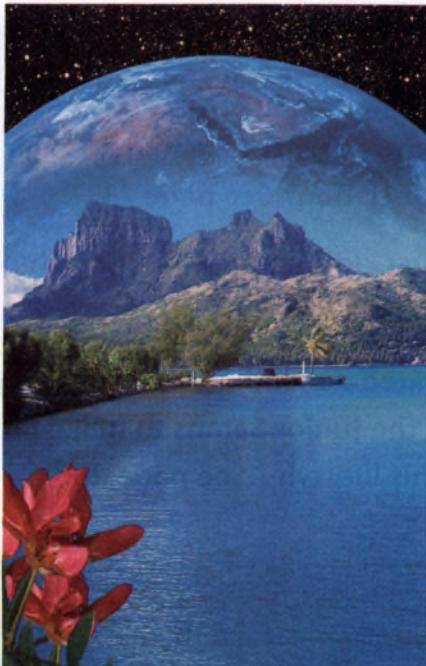
Our Readers Ask

WILL THE EARTH SURVIVE?

Our planet Earth will not be destroyed by any cataclysm. Why can we be sure of that? Because God promises that the earth "will not be made to totter to time indefinite, or forever." (Psalm 104:5) Although "generations come and generations go," states the Bible, "the earth remains forever."—Ecclesiastes 1:4, *New International Version*.

At Psalm 104:5, the permanence of the earth is emphasized by two words used in the original Hebrew of that text—'oh·lam' for "time indefinite" and 'adh for "forever." 'Oh·lam' may be translated "many years" or "perpetual." According to Harkavy's *Students' Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*, 'adh means "duration, everlastingness, eternity, for ever." These two Hebrew words show the durability of the earth to be doubly certain. Consider three further Bible-based reasons to believe that the earth will remain forever.

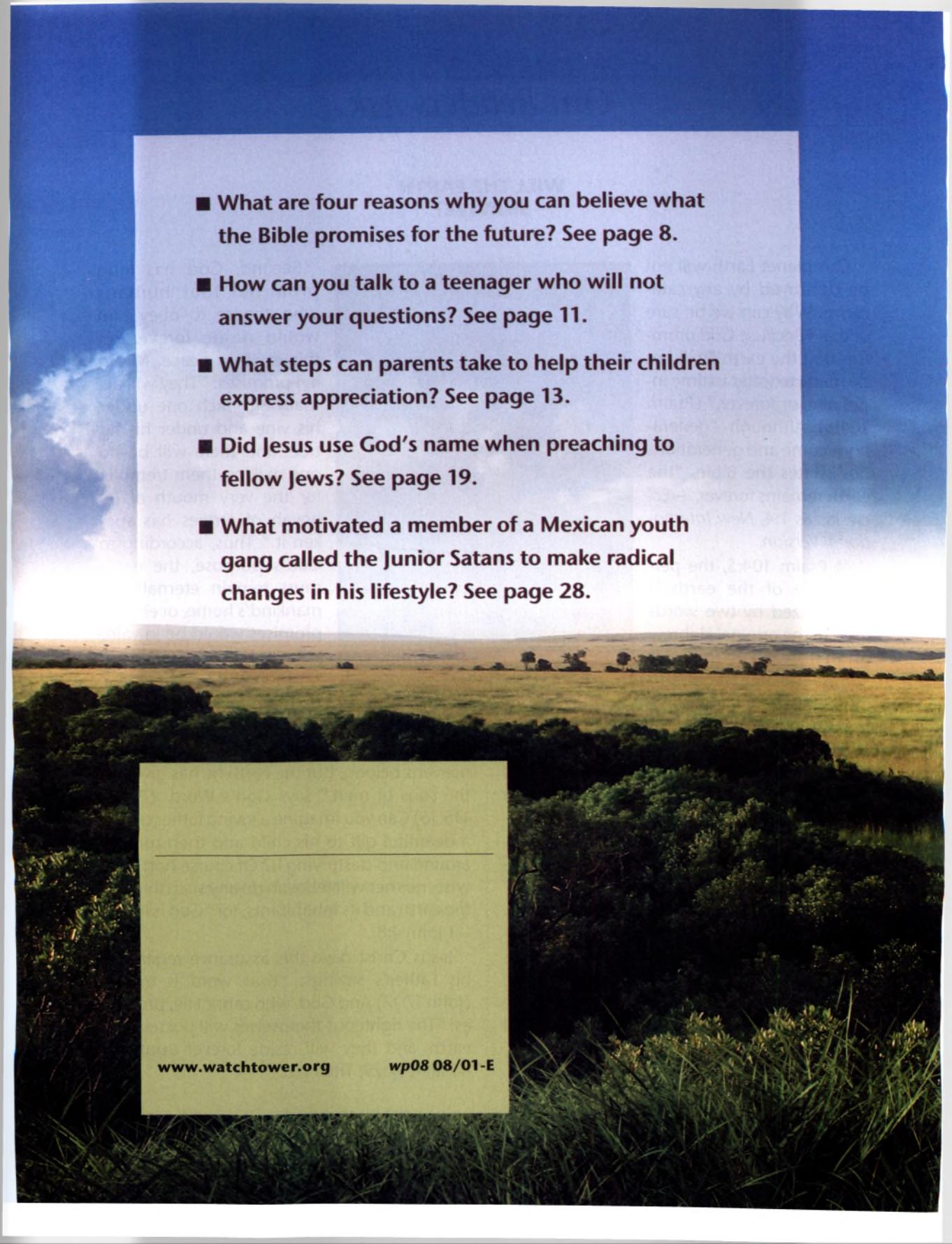
First, God made the earth to be inhabited by humans—to be a lush, global paradise of delight, not a wasteland. Isaiah 45:18 describes Jehovah as "the Creator of the heavens, He the true God, the Former of the earth and the Maker of it, He the One who firmly established it, who did not create it simply for nothing, who formed it even to be inhabited."



Second, God has long promised that humans who choose to obey him would reside forever on this earth in peace. Micah 4:4 promises: "They will actually sit, each one under his vine and under his fig tree, and there will be no one making them tremble; for the very mouth of Jehovah of armies has spoken it." Thus, according to God's purpose, the earth must remain eternally as mankind's home, or else his promises would be in vain.
—Psalm 119:90; Isaiah 55:11; 1 John 2:17.

Third, God has entrusted man with the care of this earth. "As regards the heavens, to Jehovah the heavens belong, but the earth he has given to the sons of men," says God's Word. (Psalm 115:16) Can you imagine a loving father giving a beautiful gift to his child and then turning around and destroying it? Of course not! Likewise, neither will Jehovah do any such thing to the earth and its inhabitants, for "God is love."
—1 John 4:8.

Jesus Christ gave this assurance regarding his Father's sayings: "Your word is truth." (John 17:17) And God, who cannot lie, promises: "The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it."
—Psalm 37:29; Titus 1:2.

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- What are four reasons why you can believe what the Bible promises for the future? See page 8.
 - How can you talk to a teenager who will not answer your questions? See page 11.
 - What steps can parents take to help their children express appreciation? See page 13.
 - Did Jesus use God's name when preaching to fellow Jews? See page 19.
 - What motivated a member of a Mexican youth gang called the Junior Satans to make radical changes in his lifestyle? See page 28.