

- Song 16 and Prayer

- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

### TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- “A Symbolic Drama’ With Meaning for Us”:  
(10 min.)

4:24-31

The apostle Paul used this “symbolic drama” to illustrate the superiority of the new covenant over the Law covenant. Under the loving supervision of Christ and his fellow heirs, all humankind has the prospect of freedom from sin, imperfection, sorrow, and death.—Isa 25:8, 9.

[Box on page 2]

#### HAGAR—THE SLAVE GIRL

Literal Israel under the Law covenant, with Jerusalem as its capital

#### SARAH—THE FREE WOMAN

Jerusalem above, the heavenly part of God's organization

#### HAGAR'S “CHILDREN”

The Jewish people (bound to Jehovah by the Law covenant) persecuted and rejected Jesus

#### SARAH'S “CHILDREN”

Christ and the 144,000 spirit-anointed Christians

#### ENSLAVEMENT TO THE LAW COVENANT

The Law reminded natural Israelites that they were slaves to sin

#### THE NEW COVENANT OFFERS FREEDOM

Faith in the value of Christ's sacrifice led to freedom from the Law's condemnation

- (Galatians 4:24-31) These things may be taken as a symbolic drama; for these women mean two covenants, the one from Mount Si'nai, which bears children for slavery and which is Ha'gar. 25 Now Ha'gar means Si'nai, a mountain in Arabia, and she corresponds with the Jerusalem today, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written: “Be glad, you barren woman who does not give birth; break into joyful shouting, you woman who does not have birth pains; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than those of her who has the husband.” 28 Now you, brothers, are children of the promise the same as Isaac was. 29 But just as then the one born through natural descent began persecuting the one born through spirit, so also now. 30 Nevertheless, what does the scripture say? “Drive out the servant girl and her son, for the son of the servant girl will by no means be an heir with the son of the free woman.” 31 So, brothers, we are children, not of a servant girl, but of the free woman.

- (Isaiah 25:8, 9) He will swallow up death forever, And the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces. The reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, For Jehovah himself has spoken it. 9 In that day they will say: “Look! This is our God! We have hoped in him, And he will save us. This is Jehovah! We have hoped in him. Let us be joyful and rejoice in the salvation by him.”

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**Ga 4:24, 25—Hagar represented literal Israel under the Law covenant (it-1 1018 ¶2)**

**(Galatians 4:24, 25) 24 These things may be taken as a symbolic drama; for these women mean two covenants, the one from Mount Si'nai, which bears children for slavery and which is Ha'gar. 25 Now Ha'gar means Si'nai, a mountain in Arabia, and she corresponds with the Jerusalem today, for she is in slavery with her children.**

\*\*\* it-1 p. 1018 Hagar \*\*\*

According to the apostle Paul, Hagar figured in a symbolic drama in which she represented the nation of fleshly Israel, bound to Jehovah by the Law covenant inaugurated at Mount Sinai, which covenant brought forth "children for slavery." Because of the sinful condition of the people, the nation was unable to keep the terms of that covenant. Under it the Israelites did not become a free people but were condemned as sinners worthy of death; hence, they were slaves. (Joh 8:34; Ro 8:1-3) Jerusalem of Paul's day corresponded to Hagar, for Jerusalem the capital, representing the organization of natural Israel, found herself in slavery with her children. Spirit-begotten Christians, though, are children of the "Jerusalem above," God's symbolic woman. This Jerusalem, like Sarah the freewoman, has never been in slavery. But just as Isaac was persecuted by Ishmael, so also the children of the "Jerusalem above," who have been set free by the Son, experienced persecution at the hands of the children of enslaved Jerusalem. However, Hagar and her son were driven out, representing Jehovah's casting off natural Israel as a nation.—Ga 4:21-31; see also Joh 8:31-40.

- (John 8:34) Jesus answered them: "Most truly I say to you, every doer of sin is a slave of sin.
- (Romans 8:1-3) Therefore, those in union with Christ Jesus have no condemnation. 2 For the law of the spirit that gives life in union with Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 What the Law was incapable of doing because it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, condemning sin in the flesh,
- (Galatians 4:21-31) Tell me, you who want to be under law, Do you not hear the Law? 22 For example, it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the servant girl and one by the free woman; 23 but the one by the servant girl was actually born through natural descent and the other by the free woman through a promise. 24 These things may be taken as a symbolic drama; for these women mean two covenants, the one from Mount Si'nai, which bears children for slavery and which is Ha'gar. 25 Now Ha'gar means Si'nai, a mountain in Arabia, and she corresponds with the Jerusalem today, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written: "Be glad, you barren woman who does not give birth; break into joyful shouting, you woman who does not have birth pains; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than those of her who has the husband." 28 Now you, brothers, are children of the promise the same as Isaac was. 29 But just as then the one born through natural descent began persecuting the one born through spirit, so also now. 30 Nevertheless, what does the scripture say? "Drive out the servant girl and her son, for the son of the servant girl will by no means be an

heir with the son of the free woman.”  
31 So, brothers, we are children, not of a servant girl, but of the free woman.

- (John 8:31-40) Then Jesus went on to say to the Jews who had believed him: “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They replied to him: “We are Abraham’s offspring and never have been slaves to anyone. How is it you say, ‘You will become free?’” 34 Jesus answered them: “Most truly I say to you, every doer of sin is a slave of sin. 35 Moreover, the slave does not remain in the household forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be truly free. 37 I know that you are Abraham’s offspring. But you are seeking to kill me, because my word makes no progress among you. 38 I speak the things I have seen while with my Father, but you do the things you have heard from your father.” 39 In answer they said to him: “Our father is Abraham.” Jesus said to them: “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. 40 But now you are seeking to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.

**Ga 4:26, 27—Sarah represented “the Jerusalem above,” the heavenly part of Jehovah’s organization (w14 10/15 10 ¶11)**

**(Galatians 4:26, 27) 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written: “Be glad, you barren woman who does not give birth; break into joyful shouting, you woman who does not have birth pains; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than those of her who has the husband.”**

\*\*\* w14 10/15 p. 10 par. 11 Have Unshakable Faith in the Kingdom \*\*\*

11 While the Abrahamic covenant had a literal fulfillment for the descendants of Abraham when they inherited the Promised Land, the Scriptures show that the terms of that covenant also have a spiritual fulfillment. (Gal. 4:22-25) In this greater fulfillment, as the apostle Paul explained under inspiration, the primary part of the offspring of Abraham is Christ and the secondary part refers to the 144,000 spirit-anointed Christians. (Gal. 3:16, 29; Rev. 5:9, 10; 14:1, 4) The woman producing the offspring is none other than “the Jerusalem above”—the heavenly part of God’s organization, made up of loyal spirit creatures. (Gal. 4:26, 31) As the Abrahamic covenant promised, the offspring of the woman would bring blessings to mankind.

#### Paragraph 11

- (Galatians 4:22-25) For example, it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the servant girl and one by the free woman; 23 but the one by the servant girl was actually born through natural descent and the other by the free woman through a promise. 24 These things may be taken as a symbolic drama; for these women mean two covenants, the one from Mount Si’nai, which bears children for slavery and which is Ha’gar. 25 Now Ha’gar means Si’nai, a mountain in Arabia, and she corresponds with the Jerusalem today, for she is in slavery with her children.
- (Galatians 3:16) Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “and to your descendants,” in the sense of many. Rather, it says, “and to your offspring,” in the sense of one, who is Christ.
- (Galatians 3:29) Moreover, if you belong to Christ, you are really Abraham’s offspring, heirs with reference to a promise.

- (Revelation 5:9, 10) And they sing a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, for you were slaughtered and with your blood you bought people for God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 and you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth.”
- (Revelation 14:1) Then I saw, and look! the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who have his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads.
- (Revelation 14:4) These are the ones who did not defile themselves with women; in fact, they are virgins. These are the ones who keep following the Lamb no matter where he goes. These were bought from among mankind as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb,
- (Galatians 4:26) But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.
- (Galatians 4:31) So, brothers, we are children, not of a servant girl, but of the free woman.

**Ga 4:28-31—Blessings to obedient mankind come through the “children” of the Jerusalem above**

**(Galatians 4:28-31) 28 Now you, brothers, are children of the promise the same as Isaac was. 29 But just as then the one born through natural descent began persecuting the one born through spirit, so also now. 30 Nevertheless, what does the scripture say? “Drive out the servant girl and her son, for the son of the servant girl will by no means be an heir with the son of the free woman.” 31 So, brothers, we are children, not of a servant girl, but of the free woman.**



### **Digging for Spiritual Gems:**

**Ga 4:6—What is the meaning of the Hebrew or the Aramaic word abba? (w09 4/1 13)**

**(Galatians 4:6) 6 Now because you are sons, God has sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, and it cries out: “Abba, Father!”**

\*\*\* w09 4/1 p. 13 Did You Know? \*\*\*

Why did Jesus in prayer address Jehovah as “Abba, Father”?

The Aramaic word ‘ab·ba’ can mean either “the father” or “O Father.” On each of the three occasions that the expression appears in the Scriptures, it is part of a prayer and is used

with reference to the heavenly Father, Jehovah. What significance does the word carry?

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia states: "In the colloquial speech of Jesus' time, 'abbā' was primarily used as a term of informal intimacy and respect by children of their fathers." It was an endearing form of address and among the first words that a child learned. Jesus used the expression in a particularly fervent appeal to his Father. In the garden of Gethsemane, just hours before his death, Jesus in prayer addressed Jehovah with the words "Abba, Father."—Mark 14:36.

"'Abbā' as a form of address to God is extremely uncommon in Jewish literature of the Greco-Roman period, doubtless because it would have appeared irreverent to address God with this familiar term," continues the above-mentioned reference work. However, "Jesus' . . . use of this term in prayer is an indirect attestation of His extraordinary claim to intimacy with God." The other two Scriptural occurrences of "Abba"—both in the writings of the apostle Paul—indicate that first-century Christians also used it in their prayers.—Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6.

- (Mark 14:36) And he said: "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you; remove this cup from me. Yet, not what I want, but what you want."
- (Romans 8:15) For you did not receive a spirit of slavery causing fear again, but you received a spirit of adoption as sons, by which spirit we cry out: "Abba, Father!"
- (Galatians 4:6) Now because you are sons, God has sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, and it cries out: "Abba, Father!"

**Ga 6:17—In what possible ways did the apostle Paul bear "the brand marks of a slave of Jesus"? (w10 11/1 15)**

**(Galatians 6:17) 17 From now on let no one make trouble for me, for I am bearing on my body the brand marks of a slave of Jesus.**

\*\*\* w10 11/1 p. 15 Did You Know? \*\*\*

Did You Know?

To what was the apostle Paul referring when he said that he bore on his body "the brand marks of a slave of Jesus"?—Galatians 6:17.

▪ Paul's words could have suggested a number of possible meanings in the minds of his first-century audience. For instance, a red-hot iron was used in ancient times to identify prisoners of war, robbers of temples, and fugitive slaves. When used on humans in this way, the brand mark was considered dishonorable.

However, brand marks were not always viewed negatively. Many ancient peoples used them to denote membership of a specific tribe or of a particular religion. According to the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, for example, "the Syrians consecrated themselves to the gods Hadad and Atargatis by signs branded on the wrist or neck . . . An ivy leaf was branded on the devotee of Dionysus."

Many modern-day commentators assume that Paul was referring to scars received in different episodes of physical abuse during his Christian missionary activity. (2 Corinthians 11:23-27) Perhaps, though, Paul meant that his way of life—not any literal marks—identified him as a Christian.

- (Galatians 6:17) From now on let no one make trouble for me, for I am bearing on my body the brand marks of a slave of Jesus.
- (2 Corinthians 11:23-27) Are they ministers of Christ? I reply like a madman, I am more outstandingly one: I

have done more work, been imprisoned more often, suffered countless beatings, and experienced many near-deaths. 24 Five times I received 40 strokes less one from the Jews, 25 three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I experienced shipwreck, a night and a day I have spent in the open sea; 26 in journeys often, in dangers from rivers, in dangers from robbers, in dangers from my own people, in dangers from the nations, in dangers in the city, in dangers in the wilderness, in dangers at sea, in dangers among false brothers, 27 in labor and toil, in sleepless nights often, in hunger and thirst, frequently without food, in cold and lacking clothing.

**What has this week's Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?**

**What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week's Bible reading?**

### **Bible Reading: ) Ga 4:1-20**

(4 min. or less) •

(Galatians 4:1-20) 4 Now I say that as long as the heir is a young child, he is no different from a slave, although he is the lord of all things, 2 but he is under supervisors and stewards until the day set ahead of time by his father. 3 Likewise, we too, when we were children, were enslaved by the elementary things of the world. 4 But when the full limit of the time arrived, God sent his Son, who was born of a woman and who was under law, 5 that he might release by purchase those under law, so that we might receive the adoption as sons.

6 Now because you are sons, God has sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, and it cries out: "Abba, Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then you are also an heir through God.

8 Nevertheless, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those who are not really gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God or, rather, have come to be known by God, how is it that you are turning back again to the weak and beggarly elementary things and want to slave for them over again? 10 You are scrupulously observing days and months and seasons and years. 11 I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

12 Brothers, I beg you, become as I am, because I also used to be as you are. You did me no wrong. 13 But you know that it was because of a physical illness that I had my first opportunity to declare the good news to you. 14 And though my physical condition was a trial for you, you did not treat me with contempt or disgust; but you received me like an angel of God, like Christ Jesus. 15 Where is that happiness you had? For I bear you witness that, if it had been possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. 16 So, then, have I become your enemy because I tell you the truth? 17 They are zealous to win you over, but not for a good purpose; they want to alienate you from me, so

that you may be eager to follow them. 18 However, it is always fine for someone to seek zealously after you for a good purpose and not just when I am present with you, 19 my little children, for whom I am again experiencing birth pains until Christ is formed in you. 20 I wish I could be present with you just now and speak in a different way, because I am perplexed over you.

### APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video Scripture Application Made Clear, and then discuss study 6 of the Teaching brochure.**

**Talk: (5 min. or less) w12 3/15 30-31—Theme: Why Should Christians Vigorously Shun Pornography? (th study 13)**

\*\*\* w12 3/15 pp. 30-31 Questions From Readers \*\*\*

#### Questions From Readers

Could a Christian's practice of viewing pornography become so bad that it results in his being expelled from the Christian congregation?

▪ Yes, it could. That underscores why it is vital to shun vigorously all pornography—both written material and images—in magazines, in films, in videos, and on the Internet.

Pornography is found everywhere around the globe. The Internet makes pornographic material more available than ever and has increased the number affected by this terrible plague. Some, young and old, have accidentally come across pornographic Web sites. Others have deliberately gone to them, feeling less inhibited because they can read or view pornography in secret—at home or at the office. Why should this seriously concern Christians?

We find a fundamental reason in Jesus' warning: "Everyone that keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matt. 5:28) Of course, normal sexual relations are proper and a source of pleasure between marriage mates. (Prov. 5:15-19; 1 Cor. 7:2-5) But that is not the focus of pornography. Rather, it features illicit sex that stimulates the sort of immoral thoughts that Jesus warned against. Plainly, reading or viewing pornography goes directly contrary to the divine direction: "Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite, hurtful desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."—Col. 3:5.

What if a Christian did view pornography on an occasion or two? His case might, in a sense, be likened to the dangerous situation in which the psalmist Asaph once found himself: "As for me, my feet had almost turned aside, my steps had nearly been made to slip." How could the Christian have a clean conscience and be at peace with God if he was gazing at pornographic images of naked men or women or of a couple engaging in fornication? Nor was Asaph at peace: "I came to be plagued all day long, and my correction is every morning."—Ps. 73:2, 14.

A Christian caught up in that badness should wake up and face his need for spiritual help. That help is available in the congregation: "Even though a man takes some false step before he is aware of it, you who have spiritual qualifications try to readjust such a man in a spirit of mildness, as you each keep an eye on yourself." (Gal. 6:1) A Christian elder or two could give him the help he needs, including 'prayers of faith that can make the indisposed one well, and his sin can be forgiven.' (Jas. 5:13-15) Those who have sought help to remove the stain of pornography have seen that drawing near to God has been good for them, as it was for Asaph.—Ps. 73:28.

However, the apostle Paul said that some who sinned did not repent "over their uncleanness and fornication and loose conduct." (2 Cor. 12:21) Regarding the Greek term there rendered "uncleanness," Professor Marvin R. Vincent wrote that it has "the sense of impurity on the side of sordidness." It is a sad fact that some pornography is much worse than scenes of nakedness or of a man and woman engaging in fornication. There is sordid, abhorrent pornography involving homosexuality (sex between those of the same gender), group sex, bestiality, child pornography, gang rape, the brutalizing of women, bondage, or sadistic torture. Some in Paul's day who were "in darkness mentally" came to be "past all moral sense [and] gave themselves over to loose conduct to work uncleanness of every sort with greediness."—Eph. 4:18, 19.

Paul also mentioned "uncleanness" at Galatians 5:19. A British scholar noted that it "may here [signify] more especially all unnatural lusts." What Christian would deny that the above-mentioned abhorrent, sexually degrading forms of pornography are "unnatural lusts" and are sordid? Paul concluded at Galatians 5:19-21 that "those who practice" such uncleanness "will not inherit God's kingdom." Consequently, if someone developed an entrenched practice of viewing abhorrent, sexually degrading pornography,

perhaps over a considerable period of time, and would not repent and turn around, he could not remain in the Christian congregation. He would have to be disfellowshipped in order to preserve the cleanness and spirit of the congregation.—1 Cor. 5:5, 11.

It is good to know that some who fell into viewing abhorrent forms of pornography went to the elders and received the spiritual help needed to make drastic changes. Jesus appealed to Christians in ancient Sardis: "Strengthen the things remaining that were ready to die, . . . continue mindful of how you have received and how you heard, and go on keeping it, and repent. Certainly unless you wake up, . . . you will not know at all at what hour I shall come upon you." (Rev. 3:2, 3) It is possible to repent and be snatched out of the fire, as it were.—Jude 22, 23.

How much better, though, it is for each of us to be firmly resolved not to come anywhere near that dangerous position. Yes, we should be absolutely determined to avoid all forms of pornography!

- (Matthew 5:28) But I say to you that everyone who keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- (Proverbs 5:15-19) Drink water from your own cistern And flowing water from your own well. 16 Should your springs be dispersed outside, Your streams of water in the public squares? 17 Let them be for you alone, And not for strangers with you. 18 May your own fountain be blessed, And may you rejoice with the wife of your youth, 19 A loving doe, a graceful mountain goat. Let her breasts satisfy you at all times. May you be captivated by her love constantly.
- (1 Corinthians 7:2-5) but because of the prevalence of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife and each



woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband give to his wife her due, and let the wife also do likewise to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but her husband does; likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but his wife does. 5 Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent for an appointed time, so that you may devote time to prayer and may come together again, in order that Satan may not keep tempting you for your lack of self-control.

- (Colossians 3:5) Deadened, therefore, your body members that are on the earth as respects sexual immorality, uncleanness, uncontrolled sexual passion, hurtful desire, and greediness, which is idolatry.
- (Psalm 73:2) As for me, my feet had almost strayed; My steps had nearly slipped.
- (Psalm 73:14) And I was troubled all day long; Every morning I was chastised.
- (Galatians 6:1) Brothers, even if a man takes a false step before he is aware of it, you who have spiritual qualifications try to readjust such a man in a spirit of mildness. But keep an eye on yourself, for fear you too may be tempted.
- (James 5:13-15) Is there anyone suffering hardship among you? Let him carry on prayer. Is there anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the elders of the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, applying oil to him in the name of Jehovah. 15 And the prayer of faith will make the sick one well, and Jehovah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

- (Psalm 73:28) But as for me, drawing near to God is good for me. I have made the Sovereign Lord Jehovah my refuge, To declare all your works.
- (2 Corinthians 12:21) Perhaps when I come again, my God might humiliate me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who previously sinned but have not repented of their uncleanness and sexual immorality and brazen conduct that they have practiced.
- (Ephesians 4:18, 19) They are in darkness mentally and alienated from the life that belongs to God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the insensitivity of their hearts. 19 Having gone past all moral sense, they gave themselves over to brazen conduct to practice every sort of uncleanness with greediness.
- (Galatians 5:19) Now the works of the flesh are plainly seen, and they are sexual immorality, uncleanness, brazen conduct,
- (Galatians 5:19-21) Now the works of the flesh are plainly seen, and they are sexual immorality, uncleanness, brazen conduct, 20 idolatry, spiritism, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, dissensions, divisions, sects, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and things like these. I am forewarning you about these things, the same way I already warned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's Kingdom.
- (1 Corinthians 5:5) you must hand such a man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.
- (1 Corinthians 5:11) But now I am writing you to stop keeping company with anyone called a brother who is

sexually immoral or a greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man.

- (Revelation 3:2, 3) Become watchful, and strengthen the things remaining that were ready to die, for I have not found your works fully performed before my God. 3 Therefore, continue mindful of how you have received and how you heard, and go on keeping it, and repent. Certainly unless you wake up, I will come as a thief, and you will not know at all at what hour I will come upon you.
- (Jude 22, 23) Also, continue showing mercy to some who have doubts; 23 save them by snatching them out of the fire. But continue showing mercy to others, doing so with fear, while you hate even the garment that has been stained by the flesh.

- **Organizational Accomplishments: (7 min.)** Play the **Organizational Accomplishments** video for June.

### LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 110

**Local Needs: (8 min.)**

**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)****Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**

ly chap. 69

## CHAPTER 69

Their Father—Abraham or the Devil?

(John 8:37-59) I know that you are Abraham's offspring. But you are seeking to kill me, because my word makes no progress among you. 38 I speak the things I have seen while with my Father, but you do the things you have heard from your father." 39 In answer they said to him: "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them: "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. 40 But now you are seeking to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You are doing the works of your father." They said to him: "We were not born from immorality; we have one Father, God." 42 Jesus said to them: "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I have not come of my own initiative, but that One sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? Because you cannot listen to my word. 44 You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a murderer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie. 45 Because I, on the other hand, tell you the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Who of you convicts me of sin? If I speak truth, why is it that you do not believe me? 47 The one who is from God listens to the sayings of God. This is why you do not listen, because you are not from God." 48 In answer the Jews said to him: "Are we not right in saying, 'You are a Sa-mar'i-tan and have a demon'?" 49 Jesus answered: "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. 50 But I am not seeking glory for myself; there is One who is seeking and

judging. 51 Most truly I say to you, if anyone observes my word, he will never see death at all." 52 The Jews said to him: "Now we do know that you have a demon. Abraham died, also the prophets, but you say, 'If anyone observes my word, he will never taste death at all.' 53 You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died, are you? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?" 54 Jesus answered: "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, the one who you say is your God. 55 Yet you have not known him, but I know him. And if I said I do not know him, I would be like you, a liar. But I do know him and am observing his word. 56 Abraham your father rejoiced greatly at the prospect of seeing my day, and he saw it and rejoiced." 57 Then the Jews said to him: "You are not yet 50 years old, and still you have seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to you, before Abraham came into existence, I have been." 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid and went out of the temple.

Paragraph 1 on Page 164

(John 8:33) They replied to him: "We are Abraham's offspring and never have been slaves to anyone. How is it you say, 'You will become free'?"

(John 8:37, 38) I know that you are Abraham's offspring. But you are seeking to kill me, because my word makes no progress among you. 38 I speak the things I have seen while with my Father, but you do the things you have heard from your father."

Paragraph 2 on Page 164

(John 8:39) In answer they said to him: "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them: "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham.

(Isaiah 41:8) "But you, O Israel, are my servant, You, O Jacob, whom I have chosen, The offspring of Abraham my friend,

Paragraph 3 on Page 164

(John 8:39-41) In answer they said to him: "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them: "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. 40 But now you are seeking to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You are doing the works of your father." They said to him: "We were not born from immorality; we have one Father, God."

Paragraph 4 on Page 164

(John 8:41-43) You are doing the works of your father." They said to him: "We were not born from immorality; we have one Father, God." 42 Jesus said to them: "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I have not come of my own initiative, but that One sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? Because you cannot listen to my word."

Paragraph 5 on Page 164

(John 8:44) You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a murderer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie.

(John 8:47) The one who is from God listens to the sayings of God. This is why you do not listen, because you are not from God."

Paragraph 6 on Page 164

(John 8:48-51) In answer the Jews said to him: "Are we not right in saying, 'You are a Sa-mar'i-tan and have a demon'?" 49 Jesus answered: "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. 50 But I am not seeking glory for myself; there is One who is seeking and judging. 51 Most truly I say to you, if anyone observes my word, he will never see death at all."

(Revelation 21:8) But as for the cowards and those without faith and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers and the sexually immoral and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will

be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This means the second death."

Paragraph 7 on Page 164

(John 8:52, 53) The Jews said to him: "Now we do know that you have a demon. Abraham died, also the prophets, but you say, 'If anyone observes my word, he will never taste death at all.' 53 You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died, are you? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?"

Paragraph 8 on Page 164

(John 8:54, 55) Jesus answered: "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, the one who you say is your God. 55 Yet you have not known him, but I know him. And if I said I do not know him, I would be like you, a liar. But I do know him and am observing his word."

Paragraph 1 on Page 165

(John 8:56-58) Abraham your father rejoiced greatly at the prospect of seeing my day, and he saw it and rejoiced." 57 Then the Jews said to him: "You are not yet 50 years old, and still you have seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to you, before Abraham came into existence, I have been."

◇ How does Jesus show that his Father is different from the father of his enemies?

◇ Why is it unfitting for the Jews to insist that Abraham is their father?

◇ In what way will Jesus' followers "never see death at all"?

\* Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)

• Song 40 and Prayer