

- Song 26 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- “Two Witnesses’ Are Killed and Brought Back to Life”: (10 min.)

11:3-11

- “Two witnesses”: The small group of anointed brothers who were taking the lead when God’s Kingdom was established in 1914

- Killed: After preaching for three and a half years “in sackcloth,” they were “killed” when they were imprisoned and forced into inactivity

- Returned to life: At the end of the symbolic three and a half days, they returned to life when they were released from prison and resumed taking the lead in the preaching work

- (Revelation 11:3-11) 3 I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth.” 4 These are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two lampstands and are standing before the Lord of the earth.

5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and consumes their enemies. If anyone should want to harm them, this is how he must be killed. 6 These have the authority to shut up the sky so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every sort of plague as often as they wish.

7 When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them. 8 And their corpses will be on the main street of the great city that is in a spiritual sense called Sod’om and Egypt, where their Lord was also executed on the

stake. 9 And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb. 10 And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and celebrate, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth.

11 After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them.

[Timeline on page 3]

PROPHETIC TIME LINE

Revelation 11:1, 2 links these events to the inspection and cleansing of the spiritual temple described at Malachi 3:1-3.

1914

1919

CLEANSING OF TEMPLE (Mal 3:1-3)

3 1/2 YEARS (42 months) or 1,260 DAYS (Re 11:3)

3 1/2 DAYS (Re 11:9)

- (Revelation 11:1, 2) And a reed like a rod was given to me as he said: “Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of God and the altar and those worshipping in it. 2 But as for the courtyard that is outside the temple sanctuary, leave it out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months.
- (Malachi 3:1-3) “Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will clear up a way before me. And suddenly the true Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple; and the messenger of the

covenant will come, in whom you take delight. Look! He will certainly come,” says Jehovah of armies. 2 “But who will endure the day of his coming, and who will be able to stand when he appears? For he will be like the fire of a refiner and like the lye of laundrymen. 3 And he will sit as a refiner and cleanser of silver and will cleanse the sons of Le’vi; and he will clarify them like gold and like silver, and they will certainly become to Jehovah people presenting a gift offering in righteousness.

- (Malachi 3:1-3) “Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will clear up a way before me. And suddenly the true Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant will come, in whom you take delight. Look! He will certainly come,” says Jehovah of armies. 2 “But who will endure the day of his coming, and who will be able to stand when he appears? For he will be like the fire of a refiner and like the lye of laundrymen. 3 And he will sit as a refiner and cleanser of silver and will cleanse the sons of Le’vi; and he will clarify them like gold and like silver, and they will certainly become to Jehovah people presenting a gift offering in righteousness.
- (Revelation 11:3) I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth.”
- (Revelation 11:9) And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb.

Re 11:3—“Two witnesses” prophesy for 1,260 days (w14 11/15 30)

(Revelation 11:3) ...I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth.”

*** w14 11/15 p. 30 Questions From Readers

Who are the two witnesses mentioned in Revelation chapter 11?

- Revelation 11:3 speaks of two witnesses who would prophesy for 1,260 days. The account then says that the wild beast would “conquer them and kill them.” But after “three and a half days,” these two witnesses would be brought back to life, much to the amazement of all onlookers.—Rev. 11:7, 11.

Who are these two witnesses? The details of the account help us to identify them. First, we are told that they “are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two lampstands.” (Rev. 11:4) This reminds us of the lampstand and two olive trees described in the prophecy of Zechariah. Those olive trees were said to picture “the two anointed ones,” that is, Governor Zerubbabel and High Priest Joshua, “standing alongside the Lord of the whole earth.” (Zech. 4:1-3, 14) Second, the two witnesses are described as performing signs similar to those performed by Moses and Elijah.—Compare Revelation 11:5, 6 with Numbers 16:1-7, 28-35 and 1 Kings 17:1; 18:41-45.

What is the common denominator that links these references? In each case, the account refers to God’s anointed ones who took the lead during a difficult time of testing. So in the fulfillment of Revelation chapter 11, the anointed brothers who took the lead at the time of the establishment of God’s Kingdom in heaven in 1914 preached “in sackcloth” for three and a half years.

At the end of their preaching in sackcloth, these anointed ones were symbolically killed when they were thrown into prison for a comparatively shorter period of time, a symbolic three and a half days. In the eyes of the enemies of God's people, their work had been killed, causing those opponents much joy.—Rev. 11:8-10.

However, true to the words of the prophecy, at the end of the three and a half days, the two witnesses were brought back to life. Not only were these anointed ones released from prison but those who remained faithful received a special appointment from God through their Lord, Jesus Christ. In 1919 they were among those who were appointed to serve as a "faithful and discreet slave" to care for the spiritual needs of God's people during the last days.—Matt. 24:45-47; Rev. 11:11, 12.

Interestingly, Revelation 11:1, 2 links these events to a time when the spiritual temple would be measured, or evaluated. Malachi chapter 3 mentions a similar inspection of the spiritual temple, followed by a time of cleansing. (Mal. 3:1-4) How long did this inspection and cleansing work take? It extended from 1914 to the early part of 1919. This period of time includes both the 1,260 days (42 months) and the symbolic three and a half days referred to in Revelation chapter 11.

How happy we are that Jehovah arranged for this spiritual refining work to cleanse a special people for fine works! (Titus 2:14) Additionally, we appreciate the example set by the faithful anointed ones who took the lead during that time of testing and thereby served as the symbolic two witnesses.

- (Revelation 11:1-19) And a reed like a rod was given to me as he said: "Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of God and the altar and those worshipping in it. 2 But as for the courtyard that is outside the temple

sanctuary, leave it out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months. 3 I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth." 4 These are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two lampstands and are standing before the Lord of the earth. 5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and consumes their enemies. If anyone should want to harm them, this is how he must be killed. 6 These have the authority to shut up the sky so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every sort of plague as often as they wish. 7 When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them. 8 And their corpses will be on the main street of the great city that is in a spiritual sense called Sod'om and Egypt, where their Lord was also executed on the stake. 9 And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb. 10 And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and celebrate, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth. 11 After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven say to them: "Come up here." And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and 7,000 persons were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became

frightened and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past. Look! The third woe is coming quickly. 15 The seventh angel blew his trumpet. And there were loud voices in heaven, saying: "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will rule as king forever and ever." 16 And the 24 elders who were seated before God on their thrones fell upon their faces and worshipped God, 17 saying: "We thank you, Jehovah God, the Almighty, the one who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun ruling as king. 18 But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time came for the dead to be judged and to reward your slaves the prophets and the holy ones and those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those ruining the earth." 19 And the temple sanctuary of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen in his temple sanctuary. And there were flashes of lightning and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail.

- (Revelation 11:3) I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth."
- (Revelation 11:7) When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them.
- (Revelation 11:11) After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them.
- (Revelation 11:4) These are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two

lampstands and are standing before the Lord of the earth.

- (Zechariah 4:1-3) The angel who had been speaking with me came back and woke me up, as when waking someone from sleep. 2 Then he said to me: "What do you see?" So I said: "I see, and look! a lampstand entirely of gold, with a bowl on top of it. There are seven lamps on it, yes, seven, and the lamps, which are at the top of it, have seven pipes. 3 And next to it are two olive trees, one on the right of the bowl and one on the left."
- (Zechariah 4:14) He said: "These are the two anointed ones who are standing alongside the Lord of the whole earth."
- (Revelation 11:5, 6) If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and consumes their enemies. If anyone should want to harm them, this is how he must be killed. 6 These have the authority to shut up the sky so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every sort of plague as often as they wish.
- (Numbers 16:1-7) Then Kor'ah the son of Iz'har, the son of Ko'hath, the son of Le'vi, got up together with Da'than and A·bi'ram the sons of E·li'ab, and On the son of Pe'leth, of the sons of Reu'ben. 2 They rose up against Moses along with 250 Israelite men, chieftains of the assembly, chosen ones of the congregation, prominent men. 3 So they gathered together against Moses and Aaron and said to them: "We have had enough of you! The whole assembly is holy, all of them, and Jehovah is in their midst. Why, then, should you exalt yourselves above the congregation of Jehovah?" 4 When Moses heard this, he at once fell facedown. 5 Then he said to Kor'ah and to all his supporters: "In the

morning Jehovah will make known who belongs to him and who is holy and who should approach him, and whomever he may choose will approach him. 6 Do this: Take fire holders, Kor'ah and all your supporters, 7 and put fire in them and place incense on them before Jehovah tomorrow, and the man whom Jehovah will choose, he is the holy one. You sons of Le'vi have gone far enough!"

- (Numbers 16:28-35) Then Moses said: "By this you will know that Jehovah has sent me to do all these things, that it is not of my own heart: 29 If these people die a natural death as all men do and if their punishment is the same as that of all mankind, then Jehovah has not sent me. 30 But if Jehovah does something extraordinary with them and the ground opens and swallows them and everything that belongs to them and they go down alive into the Grave, you will certainly know that these men have treated Jehovah disrespectfully." 31 As soon as he finished speaking all these words, the ground beneath them split apart. 32 And the earth opened and swallowed them up, along with their households and everyone who belonged to Kor'ah and all their goods. 33 So they and all who belonged to them went down alive into the Grave, and the earth covered them over, so that they perished from the midst of the congregation. 34 All the Israelites who were around them fled at their screaming, for they said: "We are afraid that the earth may swallow us up!" 35 Then a fire came out from Jehovah and consumed the 250 men offering the incense.
- (1 Kings 17:1) Now E-li'jah the Tish'bite, an inhabitant of Gil'e-ad, said to A'hab: "As surely as Jehovah the God of Israel whom I serve is living, during these

years there will be no dew or rain except by my word!"

- (1 Kings 18:41-45) E-li'jah now said to A'hab: "Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy downpour." 42 So A'hab went up to eat and drink, while E-li'jah went up to the top of Car'mel and crouched on the ground, keeping his face between his knees. 43 Then he said to his attendant: "Go up, please, and look toward the sea." So he went up and looked and said: "There is nothing at all." Seven times E-li'jah said, "Go back." 44 The seventh time his attendant said: "Look! There is a small cloud like a man's hand ascending out of the sea." He now said: "Go, say to A'hab, 'Hitch up the chariot! Go down so that the downpour may not detain you!'" 45 Meanwhile, the sky grew dark with clouds, the wind blew, and a heavy downpour fell; and A'hab kept riding and made his way to Jez're-el.
- (Revelation 11:1-19) And a reed like a rod was given to me as he said: "Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of God and the altar and those worshipping in it. 2 But as for the courtyard that is outside the temple sanctuary, leave it out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months. 3 I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth." 4 These are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two lampstands and are standing before the Lord of the earth. 5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and consumes their enemies. If anyone should want to harm them, this is how he must be killed. 6 These have the authority to shut up the sky so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood

and to strike the earth with every sort of plague as often as they wish. 7 When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them. 8 And their corpses will be on the main street of the great city that is in a spiritual sense called Sod'om and Egypt, where their Lord was also executed on the stake. 9 And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb. 10 And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and celebrate, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth. 11 After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven say to them: "Come up here." And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and 7,000 persons were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became frightened and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past. Look! The third woe is coming quickly. 15 The seventh angel blew his trumpet. And there were loud voices in heaven, saying: "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will rule as king forever and ever." 16 And the 24 elders who were seated before God on their thrones fell upon their faces and worshipped God, 17 saying: "We thank you, Jehovah God, the Almighty, the one who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun ruling as king. 18 But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time came for

the dead to be judged and to reward your slaves the prophets and the holy ones and those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those ruining the earth." 19 And the temple sanctuary of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen in his temple sanctuary. And there were flashes of lightning and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail.

- (Revelation 11:8-10) And their corpses will be on the main street of the great city that is in a spiritual sense called Sod'om and Egypt, where their Lord was also executed on the stake. 9 And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb. 10 And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and celebrate, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth.
- (Matthew 24:45-47) "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Happy is that slave if his master on coming finds him doing so! 47 Truly I say to you, he will appoint him over all his belongings.
- (Revelation 11:11, 12) After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven say to them: "Come up here." And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies saw them.
- (Revelation 11:1, 2) And a reed like a rod was given to me as he said: "Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of

God and the altar and those worshipping in it. 2 But as for the courtyard that is outside the temple sanctuary, leave it out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months.

- (Malachi 3:1-18) "Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will clear up a way before me. And suddenly the true Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant will come, in whom you take delight. Look! He will certainly come," says Jehovah of armies. 2 "But who will endure the day of his coming, and who will be able to stand when he appears? For he will be like the fire of a refiner and like the lye of laundrymen. 3 And he will sit as a refiner and cleanser of silver and will cleanse the sons of Le'vi; and he will clarify them like gold and like silver, and they will certainly become to Jehovah people presenting a gift offering in righteousness. 4 And the gift offering of Judah and of Jerusalem will actually be pleasing to Jehovah, as in the days of long ago and as in the years of antiquity. 5 "I will come near to you for judgment, and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who take false oaths, against those who defraud the hired worker, the widow, and the fatherless child, and against those who refuse to help the foreigner. These have not feared me," says Jehovah of armies. 6 "For I am Jehovah; I do not change. And you are sons of Jacob; you have not yet come to your finish. 7 From the days of your forefathers you have turned aside from my regulations and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says Jehovah of armies. But you say: "How are we supposed to return?" 8 "Will a mere human rob God? But you are robbing me." And you say: "How have we robbed you?" "In the

tithes and in the contributions. 9 You are certainly cursed, for you are robbing me—yes, the entire nation is doing so. 10 Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house; and test me out, please, in this regard," Jehovah of armies says, "to see whether I will not open to you the floodgates of the heavens and pour out on you a blessing until there is nothing lacking." 11 "And I will rebuke the devouring one for you, and it will not ruin the fruit of your land, nor will the vine in your field be fruitless," says Jehovah of armies. 12 "All the nations will have to declare you happy, for you will become a land of delight," says Jehovah of armies. 13 "Your words against me have been strong," says Jehovah. And you say: "How have we spoken against you among ourselves?" 14 "You say, 'It is of no value to serve God. How have we benefited by keeping our obligations to him and by walking somberly before Jehovah of armies?' 15 Now we consider presumptuous people happy. Also, those who practice wickedness are successful. They dare to put God to the test and get away with it." 16 At that time those who fear Jehovah spoke with one another, each one with his companion, and Jehovah kept paying attention and listening. And a book of remembrance was written before him for those fearing Jehovah and for those meditating on his name. 17 "And they will be mine," says Jehovah of armies, "in the day when I produce a special property. I will show them compassion, just as a man shows compassion to his son who serves him. 18 And you will again see the distinction between a righteous person and a wicked person, between one serving God and one not serving him."

- (Malachi 3:1-4) "Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will clear up a way before me. And suddenly the true Lord,

whom you are seeking, will come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant will come, in whom you take delight. Look! He will certainly come,” says Jehovah of armies. 2 “But who will endure the day of his coming, and who will be able to stand when he appears? For he will be like the fire of a refiner and like the lye of laundrymen. 3 And he will sit as a refiner and cleanser of silver and will cleanse the sons of Le'vi; and he will clarify them like gold and like silver, and they will certainly become to Jehovah people presenting a gift offering in righteousness. 4 And the gift offering of Judah and of Jerusalem will actually be pleasing to Jehovah, as in the days of long ago and as in the years of antiquity.

- (Revelation 11:1-19) And a reed like a rod was given to me as he said: “Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of God and the altar and those worshipping in it. 2 But as for the courtyard that is outside the temple sanctuary, leave it out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months. 3 I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth.” 4 These are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two lampstands and are standing before the Lord of the earth. 5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and consumes their enemies. If anyone should want to harm them, this is how he must be killed. 6 These have the authority to shut up the sky so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every sort of plague as often as they wish. 7 When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer

them and kill them. 8 And their corpses will be on the main street of the great city that is in a spiritual sense called Sod'om and Egypt, where their Lord was also executed on the stake. 9 And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb. 10 And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and celebrate, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth. 11 After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven say to them: “Come up here.” And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and 7,000 persons were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became frightened and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past. Look! The third woe is coming quickly. 15 The seventh angel blew his trumpet. And there were loud voices in heaven, saying: “The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will rule as king forever and ever.” 16 And the 24 elders who were seated before God on their thrones fell upon their faces and worshipped God, 17 saying: “We thank you, Jehovah God, the Almighty, the one who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun ruling as king. 18 But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time came for the dead to be judged and to reward your slaves the prophets and the holy ones and those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those ruining the earth.” 19 And the

temple sanctuary of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen in his temple sanctuary. And there were flashes of lightning and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail.

- (Titus 2:14) who gave himself for us to set us free from every sort of lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people who are his own special possession, zealous for fine works.

Re 11:7—They are killed by “the wild beast”

(Revelation 11:7) 7 When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them.

Re 11:11—The “two witnesses” are brought back to life after “the three and a half days”

(Revelation 11:11) 11 After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Re 10:9, 10—How was the message given to John both “bitter” and “sweet”? (it-2 880-881)

(Revelation 10:9, 10) 9 I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me: “Take it and eat it up, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet like honey.” 10 I took the little scroll out of the hand of the angel and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet like honey, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

*** it-2 pp. 880-881 Scroll, Roll ***

Symbolic Use. There are several instances of symbolic use of the word “scroll” in the Bible. Ezekiel and Zechariah each saw a scroll with writing on both sides. Since only one side of a scroll was commonly used, writing on both sides may refer to the weightiness, extent, and seriousness of the judgments written in these scrolls. (Eze

2:9–3:3; Zec 5:1-4) In the vision of Revelation, the one on the throne held in his right hand a scroll having seven seals, preventing detection of what was written until God's Lamb opened them. (Re 5:1, 12; 6:1, 12-14) Later in the vision John himself was presented a scroll and was commanded to eat it. It tasted sweet to John but made his belly bitter. Since the scroll was open and not sealed, it was something that was to be understood. It was "sweet" to John to get the message contained therein but apparently had bitter things for him to prophesy, as he was told to do. (Re 10:1-11) Ezekiel had a similar experience with the scroll presented to him in which there were "dirges and moaning and wailing."—Eze 2:10.

- (Ezekiel 2:9-3:3) When I looked, I saw a hand stretched out to me, and in it I saw a written scroll. 10 When he spread it out before me, it had writing on both front and back. Dirges and mourning and wailing were written on it.
- 3 Then he said to me: "Son of man, eat what is before you. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and he made me eat this scroll. 3 He went on to say to me: "Son of man, eat this scroll that I am giving you, and fill your stomach with it." So I began to eat it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth.
- (Zechariah 5:1-4) Again I looked up, and I saw a flying scroll. 2 He asked me: "What do you see?" I replied: "I see a flying scroll, which is 20 cubits long and 10 cubits wide." 3 Then he said to me: "This is the curse that is going out over the face of all the earth, because everyone who steals, as written on its one side, has gone unpunished; and everyone who makes a sworn oath, as written on its

other side, has gone unpunished. 4 'I have sent it out,' declares Jehovah of armies, 'and it will enter into the house of the thief and into the house of the one who makes a false oath in my name; and it will remain inside that house and consume it and its timbers and its stones.'"

- (Revelation 5:1) And I saw in the right hand of the One seated on the throne a scroll written on both sides, sealed tight with seven seals.
- (Revelation 5:12) and they were saying with a loud voice: "The Lamb who was slaughtered is worthy to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing."
- (Revelation 6:1) And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder: "Come!"
- (Revelation 6:12-14) And I saw when he opened the sixth seal, and a great earthquake occurred; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the entire moon became as blood, 13 and the stars of heaven fell to the earth as when a fig tree shaken by a high wind drops its unripe figs. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and every island was removed from its place.
- (Revelation 10:1-11) And I saw another strong angel descending from heaven, arrayed with a cloud, and a rainbow was on his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs were like pillars of fire, 2 and he had in his hand a little scroll that had been unrolled. And he set his right foot on the sea, but his left one on

the earth, 3 and he cried out with a loud voice just as when a lion roars. And when he cried out, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. 4 Now when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, but I heard a voice out of heaven say: "Seal up the things the seven thunders spoke, and do not write them down." 5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the earth raised his right hand to heaven, 6 and he swore by the One who lives forever and ever, who created the heaven and the things in it and the earth and the things in it and the sea and the things in it: "There will be no delay any longer. 7 But in the days when the seventh angel is about to blow his trumpet, the sacred secret that God declared as good news to his own slaves the prophets is indeed brought to a finish." 8 And I heard the voice out of heaven speaking again with me and saying: "Go, take the opened scroll that is in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the earth." 9 I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me: "Take it and eat it up, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet like honey." 10 I took the little scroll out of the hand of the angel and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet like honey, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. 11 And they said to me: "You must prophesy again about peoples and nations and tongues and many kings."

- (Ezekiel 2:10) When he spread it out before me, it had writing on both front and back. Dirges and mourning and wailing were written on it.

Re 12:1-5—How were these verses fulfilled? (it-2 187 ¶7-9)

(Revelation 12:1-5) 12 Then a great sign was seen in heaven: A woman was arrayed with the sun, and the moon was beneath her feet, and on her head was a crown of 12 stars, 2 and she was pregnant. And she was crying out in her pains and in her agony to give birth.

3 Another sign was seen in heaven. Look! A great fiery-colored dragon, with seven heads and ten horns and on its heads seven diadems; 4 and its tail drags a third of the stars of heaven, and it hurled them down to the earth. And the dragon kept standing before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth, it might devour her child.

5 And she gave birth to a son, a male, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away to God and to his throne.

*** it-2 p. 187 Labor Pains ***

In the apostle John's vision in Revelation he saw a heavenly woman crying out "in her pains and in her agony to give birth." The child born was "a son, a male, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod." In spite of the dragon's efforts to devour it, "her child was caught away to God and to his throne." (Re 12:1, 2, 4-6) The son's being caught away by God would denote God's acceptance of the child as his own, even as it was customary in ancient times to present a newborn child before its father for acceptance. (See BIRTH.) It would follow that the "woman" is God's "wife," the "Jerusalem above," the "mother" of Christ and his spiritual brothers.—Ga 4:26; Heb 2:11, 12, 17.

God's heavenly "woman" would, of course, be perfect, and the birth would be without literal pain. The labor pains would, therefore, symbolically indicate that the "woman" would realize that the birth was at hand; she would be in expectation of it shortly.—Re 12:2.

Who would this "son, a male," be? He was to "shepherd all the nations with an iron rod." This was foretold of God's Messianic King, at Psalm 2:6-9. But John saw this vision long after Christ's birth on earth and his death and resurrection. The vision would therefore appear to refer to the birth of the Messianic Kingdom in the hands of God's Son Jesus Christ, who, on being raised from the dead, "sat down at the right hand of God, from then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet."—Heb 10:12, 13; Ps 110:1; Re 12:10.

- (Revelation 12:1, 2) Then a great sign was seen in heaven: A woman was arrayed with the sun, and the moon was beneath her feet, and on her head was a crown of 12 stars, 2 and she was pregnant. And she was crying out in her pains and in her agony to give birth.
- (Revelation 12:4-6) and its tail drags a third of the stars of heaven, and it hurled them down to the earth. And the dragon kept standing before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth, it might devour her child. 5 And she gave birth to a son, a male, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away to God and to his throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God and where they would feed her for 1,260 days.
- (Galatians 4:26) But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.
- (Hebrews 2:11, 12) For both the one who is sanctifying and those who are

being sanctified all stem from one, and for this reason he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 as he says: "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you with song."

- (Hebrews 2:17) Consequently, he had to become like his "brothers" in all respects, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, in order to offer a propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the people.
- (Revelation 12:2) and she was pregnant. And she was crying out in her pains and in her agony to give birth.
- (Psalm 2:6-9) Saying: "I myself have installed my king On Zion, my holy mountain." 7 Let me proclaim the decree of Jehovah; He said to me: "You are my son; Today I have become your father. 8 Ask of me, and I will give nations as your inheritance And the ends of the earth as your possession. 9 You will break them with an iron scepter, And you will smash them like a piece of pottery."
- (Hebrews 10:12, 13) But this man offered one sacrifice for sins for all time and sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from then on waiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet.
- (Psalm 110:1) Jehovah declared to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand Until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet."
- (Revelation 12:10) I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God!

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:) Re 10:1-11 (th study 10)
(4 min. or less) •

(Revelation 10:1-11) 10 And I saw another strong angel descending from heaven, arrayed with a cloud, and a rainbow was on his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs were like pillars of fire, 2 and he had in his hand a little scroll that had been unrolled. And he set his right foot on the sea, but his left one on the earth, 3 and he cried out with a loud voice just as when a lion roars. And when he cried out, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.

4 Now when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, but I heard a voice out of heaven say: "Seal up the things the seven thunders spoke, and do not write them down."

5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the earth raised his right hand to heaven, 6 and he swore by the One who lives forever and ever, who created the heaven and the things in it and the earth and the things in it and the sea and the things in it: "There will be no delay any longer. 7 But in the days when the seventh angel is about to blow his trumpet, the sacred secret that God declared as good news to his own slaves the prophets is indeed brought to a finish."

8 And I heard the voice out of heaven speaking again with me and saying: "Go, take the opened scroll that is in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the earth."

9 I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me: "Take it and eat it up, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet like honey." 10 I took the little scroll out of the hand of the angel and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet like honey, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. 11 And they said to me: "You must prophesy again about peoples and nations and tongues and many kings."

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video: (4 min.) Play and discuss the video**

- **Initial Call: (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (th study 6)**

●○○ INITIAL CALL

Question: Where can we find solid advice on how to live a happy life?

Scripture: Ps 1:1, 2

Link: What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?

- (Psalm 1:1, 2) 1 Happy is the man who does not walk according to the advice of the wicked And does not stand on the path of sinners And does not sit in the seat of scoffers. 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah, And he reads His law in an undertone day and night.

- **Initial Call: (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation in an informal setting appropriate to your territory. (th study 3)**

●○○ INITIAL CALL

Question: Where can we find solid advice on how to live a happy life?

Scripture: Ps 1:1, 2

Link: What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?

- (Psalm 1:1, 2) 1 Happy is the man who does not walk according to the advice of the wicked And does not stand on the path of sinners And does not sit in the seat of scoffers. 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah, And he reads His law in an undertone day and night.

- **Initial Call: (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer a publication from our Teaching Toolbox. (th study 9)**

●○○ INITIAL CALL

Question: Where can we find solid advice on how to live a happy life?

Scripture: Ps 1:1, 2

Link: What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?

- (Psalm 1:1, 2) 1 Happy is the man who does not walk according to the advice of the wicked And does not stand on the path of sinners And does not sit in the seat of scoffers. 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah, And he reads His law in an undertone day and night.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 148

- **“The Earth ‘Swallowed Up the River’”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video Korean Brothers Released From Prison.**

At various times throughout history, secular authorities have helped Jehovah’s people. (Ezr 6:1-12; Es 8:10-13) Even in modern times, we have seen “the earth”—elements of this system that are more reasonable—swallow up “the river” of persecution instigated by “the dragon,” Satan the Devil. (Re 12:16) Jehovah, the “God

who saves,” may at times move human rulers to provide relief for his people.—Ps 68:20; Pr 21:1.

What, though, if you are imprisoned because of your faith? Never doubt that Jehovah is watching over you. (Ge 39:21-23; Ps 105:17-20) Be assured that your faith will be rewarded and that your integrity encourages your brothers worldwide.—Php 1:12-14; Re 2:10.

WATCH THE VIDEO KOREAN BROTHERS RELEASED FROM PRISON, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Why were thousands of our brothers imprisoned in South Korea over the years?

- What court rulings led to the early release of some of our brothers?

- How can we help our brothers around the world who are currently imprisoned because of their faith?

- How should we use any freedom we currently enjoy?

- Who is ultimately responsible for any court victories we obtain?

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- (Ezra 6:1-12) It was then that King Da·ri'us issued an order, and they made an investigation in the archives where the treasures were deposited in Babylon. 2 And a scroll was found in the citadel at Ec·bat'a·na, in the province of Me'di·a, and the following memorandum was written on it: 3 “In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus issued an order concerning the house of God in Jerusalem: ‘Let the house be rebuilt as the place where they are to offer sacrifices, and its foundations are to be set in place; its height is to be 60 cubits, its width 60 cubits, 4 with three layers of large stones rolled into place and one layer of timbers; and let the expense be paid from the king’s house. 5 Also, let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God that Neb·u·chad·nez'zar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon be returned, so that they may be put in their place in the temple in Jerusalem and be deposited in the house of God.’ 6 “So now Tat'te·nai the governor of the region Beyond the River, She'thar-boz'e·nai, and your colleagues, the lesser governors of the region Beyond the River—stay away from there. 7 Do not interfere with the work on that house of God. The governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews will rebuild that house of God in its former place. 8 Furthermore, I am issuing an order as to what you are to do for these elders of the Jews for rebuilding that house of God: From the royal treasury, from the tax collected in the region Beyond the River, the expenses are to be promptly given to these men to continue without interruption. 9 And whatever is needed—young bulls as well as rams and lambs for the burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, just as the priests who are in Jerusalem say—is to be given them continually day by day without fail, 10 so

that they may continually present offerings that please the God of the heavens and pray for the life of the king and his sons. 11 I have also issued an order that if anyone violates this decree, a timber will be pulled out of his house and he will be lifted up and fastened to it, and his house will be turned into a public latrine for this offense. 12 And may the God who has caused his name to reside there overthrow any king and people who lift a hand to violate this order and destroy that house of God, which is in Jerusalem. I, Da-ri'us, issue this order. Let it be done promptly."

- (Esther 8:10-13) He wrote it in the name of King A·has·u·e'rus and sealed it with the king's signet ring and sent the written documents by the hand of couriers on horses; they rode on swift post-horses, bred for royal service. 11 In these documents the king granted permission to the Jews in all the different cities to gather together and defend their lives and to annihilate, kill, and destroy any forces of any people or province that might attack them, including women and children, and to seize their possessions. 12 This was to occur on the same day in all the provinces of King A·has·u·e'rus, on the 13th day of the 12th month, that is, the month of A'dar. 13 The text of the document was to be issued as law throughout all the provinces. It was to be proclaimed to all the peoples, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to take vengeance on their enemies.
- (Revelation 12:16) But the earth came to the woman's help, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon spewed out from its mouth.
- (Psalm 68:20) The true God is for us a God who saves; And Jehovah the

Sovereign Lord provides escape from death.

- (Proverbs 21:1) A king's heart is like streams of water in Jehovah's hand. He directs it wherever He pleases.
- (Genesis 39:21-23) But Jehovah continued with Joseph and kept showing loyal love to him and granting him favor in the eyes of the chief officer of the prison. 22 So the chief officer of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners in the prison, and everything that they were doing there, he was the one having it done. 23 The chief officer of the prison was looking after absolutely nothing that was in Joseph's care, for Jehovah was with Joseph and Jehovah made whatever he did successful.
- (Psalm 105:17-20) He sent ahead of them a man Who was sold to be a slave, Joseph. 18 With fetters they bound his feet, His neck was put in irons; 19 Until the time that his word proved true, The saying of Jehovah is what refined him. 20 The king sent to release him, The ruler of the peoples set him free.
- (Philippians 1:12-14) Now I want you to know, brothers, that my situation has actually turned out for the advancement of the good news, 13 so that my prison bonds for the sake of Christ have become public knowledge among all the Prae·to'ri·an Guard and all the rest. 14 Now most of the brothers in the Lord have gained confidence because of my prison bonds, and they are showing all the more courage to speak the word of God fearlessly.
- (Revelation 2:10) Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer. Look! The Devil will keep on throwing some of you into prison so that you may be fully put to the test, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Prove yourself faithful even to death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

1st John chap. 94

(Luke 18:1-14) Then he went on to tell them an illustration about the need for them always to pray and not to give up, 2 saying: "In a certain city there was a judge who had no fear of God and no respect for man. 3 There was also a widow in that city who kept going to him and saying, 'See that I get justice from my legal opponent.' 4 Well, for a while he was unwilling, but afterward he said to himself, 'Although I do not fear God or respect any man, 5 because this widow keeps making me trouble, I will see that she gets justice so that she will not keep coming and wearing me out with her demand.'" 6 Then the Lord said: "Hear what the judge, although unrighteous, said! 7 Certainly, then, will not God cause justice to be done for his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night, while he is patient toward them? 8 I tell you, he will cause justice to be done to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man arrives, will he really find this faith on the earth?" 9 He also told this illustration to some who trusted in their own righteousness and who considered others as nothing: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and began to pray these things to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like everyone else—extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give the tenth of all things I acquire.' 13 But the tax collector, standing at a distance, was not willing even to raise his eyes heavenward but kept beating his chest, saying, 'O God, be gracious to me, a sinner.' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home and was proved more righteous than that Pharisee. Because everyone who exalts himself will be humiliated, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Paragraph 1 on Page 220

(Luke 11:5-13) Then he said to them: "Suppose one of you has a friend and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, 6 because one of my friends has just come to me on a journey and I have nothing to offer him.' 7 But that one replies from inside: 'Stop bothering me. The door is already locked, and my young children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even if he will not get up and give him anything because of being his friend, certainly because of his bold persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. 9 So I say to you, keep on asking, and it will be given you; keep on seeking, and you will find; keep on knocking, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone asking receives, and everyone seeking finds, and to everyone knocking, it will be opened. 11 Indeed, which father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will hand him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he also asks for an egg, will hand him a scorpion? 13 Therefore, if you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those asking him!"

Paragraph 2 on Page 220

(Luke 18:2-5) saying: "In a certain city there was a judge who had no fear of God and no respect for man. 3 There was also a widow in that city who kept going to him and saying, 'See that I get justice from my legal opponent.' 4 Well, for a while he was unwilling, but afterward he said to himself, 'Although I do not fear God or respect any man, 5 because this widow keeps making me trouble, I will see that she gets justice so that she will not keep coming and wearing me out with her demand.'" 6 Then the Lord said: "Hear what the judge, although unrighteous, said! 7 Certainly, then, will not God cause justice to be done for his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night, while he is patient toward them?"

Paragraph 3 on Page 220

(Luke 18:6, 7) Then the Lord said: "Hear what the judge, although unrighteous, said! 7 Certainly, then, will not God cause justice to be done for his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night, while he is patient toward them?"

Paragraph 4 on Page 220

(Luke 18:8) I tell you, he will cause justice to be done to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man arrives, will he really find this faith on the earth?"

Paragraph 6 on Page 220

(Luke 18:8) I tell you, he will cause justice to be done to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man arrives, will he really find this faith on the earth?"

Paragraph 8 on Page 220

(Luke 18:10-12) "Two men went up into the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and began to pray these things to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like everyone else—extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give the tenth of all things I acquire.'

Paragraph 1 on Page 221

(Luke 11:42) But woe to you Pharisees, because you give the tenth of the mint and of the rue and of every other garden herb, but you disregard the justice and the love of God! These things you were under obligation to do, but not to disregard those other things.

(John 7:49) But this crowd who do not know the Law are accursed people."

Paragraph 2 on Page 221

(Luke 18:13, 14) But the tax collector, standing at a distance, was not willing even to raise his eyes heavenward but kept beating his chest, saying, 'O God, be gracious to me, a sinner.' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home and was proved more righteous than that Pharisee. Because everyone who exalts himself will be humiliated, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

◇ Jesus makes what point in his illustration of the unrighteous judge who grants the widow's request?

◇ What faith will Jesus look for when he arrives?

◇ ◇ Jesus' followers need to avoid what attitude common among the Pharisees?

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

- Song 47 and Prayer