

- Song 84 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

### TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- “Give Jehovah Your Best”: (10 min.)



5:5-7, 11

Poverty denied no one in Israel the privilege of making peace with Jehovah. Even the poorest Israelites could give Jehovah an acceptable offering, as long as it was their best. They could offer flour, but Jehovah still expected it to be “fine,” the kind used for honored guests. (Ge 18:6) Today, Jehovah accepts our best “sacrifice of praise,” regardless of how much our personal circumstances may limit what we can give.—Heb 13:15.



How can this encourage you if you cannot do all that you did before, perhaps because of declining health or stamina?

- (Leviticus 5:5-7) “If he becomes guilty as respects one of these things, then he must confess in what way he has sinned. 6 He will also bring his guilt offering to Jehovah for the sin that he committed, namely, a female from the flock, either a female lamb or a young female goat, for a sin offering. Then the

priest will make atonement for him for his sin. 7 “If, though, he cannot afford a sheep, he must bring to Jehovah two turtledoves or two young pigeons as his guilt offering for the sin, one for a sin offering and one for a burnt offering.

- (Leviticus 5:11) “Now if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he must bring as his offering for his sin a tenth of an e'phah of fine flour for a sin offering. He should not add oil to it or place frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering.
- (Genesis 18:6) So Abraham hurried to the tent to Sarah and said: “Quick! Get three measures of fine flour, knead the dough, and make loaves of bread.”
- (Hebrews 13:15) Through him let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that make public declaration to his name.

---



---



---



---



---

**Le 5:5, 6—Those who committed certain sins were to offer a guilt offering—a lamb or a goat (it-2 527 ¶9)**

**(Leviticus 5:5, 6) 5 “If he becomes guilty as respects one of these things, then he must confess in what way he has sinned. 6 He will also bring his guilt offering to Jehovah for the sin that he committed, namely, a female from the flock, either a female lamb or a young female goat, for a sin offering. Then the priest will make atonement for him for his sin.**

\*\*\* it-2 p. 527 Offerings \*\*\*

Guilt offerings. Guilt offerings were also offerings because of sin, for guilt of any sort

involves sin. They were for special sins by which a person had contracted guilt, and they differed slightly from other sin offerings in that they appear to have been to satisfy or restore a right. Either a right of Jehovah or a right of his holy nation had been violated. The guilt offering was to satisfy Jehovah on the right that had been violated, or to restore or recover certain covenant rights for the repentant wrongdoer and to get relief from the penalty for his sin.—Compare Isa 53:10.

- (Isaiah 53:10) But it was Jehovah's will to crush him, and he let him become sick. If you will present his life as a guilt offering, He will see his offspring, he will prolong his days, And through him the delight of Jehovah will have success.

**Le 5:7—Those who were too poor to offer a lamb or goat could offer two turtledoves or two pigeons (w09 6/1 26 ¶3)**

**(Leviticus 5:7) 7 “If, though, he cannot afford a sheep, he must bring to Jehovah two turtledoves or two young pigeons as his guilt offering for the sin, one for a sin offering and one for a burnt offering.**

\*\*\* w09 6/1 p. 26 par. 3 He Is Considerate of Our Limitations \*\*\*

Reflecting Jehovah's tender consideration, the Law said: “If, though, he cannot afford enough for a sheep, then he must bring as his guilt offering for the sin that he has committed two turtledoves or two young pigeons to Jehovah.” (Verse 7) The phrase “if . . . he cannot afford” may also be rendered “if . . . his hand cannot reach.” If an Israelite was too poor to afford a sheep, then God was pleased to accept something that was within the offerer's reach—two turtledoves or two pigeons.

**Le 5:11—Those who were too poor to offer turtledoves or pigeons could offer a tenth of an ephah of fine flour (w09 6/1 26 ¶4)**

**(Leviticus 5:11) 11 “Now if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he must bring as his offering for his sin a tenth of an e'phah of fine flour for a sin offering. He should not add oil to it or place frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering.**

\*\*\* w09 6/1 p. 26 par. 4 He Is Considerate of Our Limitations \*\*\*

What if the individual did not have the means even for the two birds? “Then he must bring as his offering for the sin he has committed the tenth of an ephah [eight or nine cups] of fine flour for a sin offering,” the Law stated. (Verse 11) For the very poor, Jehovah chose to make an exception and allow a sin offering without blood. In Israel, poverty denied no one the blessing of atonement or the privilege of making peace with God.

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

**Le 5:1—How does this verse apply to Christians? (w16.02 30 ¶14)**

**(Leviticus 5:1) 5 “If someone sins because he has heard a public call to testify and he is a witness or has seen or learned about it and he does not report it, then he will answer for his error.**

\*\*\* w16 February p. 30 par. 14 Learn From Jehovah's Loyal Servants \*\*\*

14 Kindness can help you to deal with a conflict of loyalties. For example, you may have definite knowledge that a certain fellow believer is guilty of serious misconduct. You may feel loyal to him, especially if he is a close friend or a relative. But if you were to cover up the wrongdoing, you would be disloyal to God. Of course, your loyalty to Jehovah should

come first. So like Nathan, be kind yet firm. Urge your friend or relative to seek the help of the elders. If he or she does not do so within a reasonable period of time, loyalty to God should move you to report the matter to the elders. In doing this, you are being loyal to Jehovah and kind to your friend or relative, for Christian elders will try to readjust such an individual with mildness.—Read Leviticus 5:1; Galatians 6:1.

- (Leviticus 5:1) “If someone sins because he has heard a public call to testify and he is a witness or has seen or learned about it and he does not report it, then he will answer for his error.
- (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.

**Le 5:15, 16—How might someone have ‘behaved unfaithfully by unintentionally sinning against the holy things of Jehovah’? (it-1 1130 ¶2)**

**(Leviticus 5:15, 16) 15 “If someone behaves unfaithfully by unintentionally sinning against the holy things of Jehovah, he is to bring to Jehovah a sound ram from the flock as a guilt offering; its value in silver shekels is set according to the standard shekel of the holy place. 16 And he will make compensation for the sin he has committed against the holy place and he will also add a fifth of its value. He will give it to the priest, so that the priest may make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and it will be forgiven him.**

\*\*\* it-1 p. 1130 Holiness \*\*\*

Animals and Produce. The firstborn males of cattle, sheep, and goats were counted as holy to Jehovah and were not to be redeemed. They were to be sacrificed, and a portion went to the sanctified priests. (Nu 18:17-19) The firstfruits and the tithe were holy, as were all sacrifices and all gifts sanctified to the service of the sanctuary. (Ex 28:38) All things holy to Jehovah were sacred and could not be considered lightly or used in a common, or profane, way. An example is the law regarding the tithe. If a man set aside the portion to be tithed, say, of his wheat crop, and then he or one of his household unintentionally took some of it for home use, such as cooking, the man was guilty of violating God’s law respecting holy things. The Law required that he make compensation to the sanctuary of an equal amount plus 20 percent, besides offering up a sound ram of the flock as a sacrifice. Thus, great respect was engendered for the holy things belonging to Jehovah.—Le 5:14-16.

- (Numbers 18:17-19) Only the firstborn bull or firstborn male lamb or firstborn goat you should not redeem. They are something holy. You should sprinkle their blood on the altar, and their fat you should make smoke as an offering made by fire for a pleasing aroma to Jehovah. 18 And their flesh should become yours. Like the breast of the wave offering and like the right leg, it should become yours. 19 All the holy contributions that the Israelites will contribute to Jehovah, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you as a permanent allowance. It is a lasting covenant of salt before Jehovah for you and your offspring with you.”
- (Exodus 28:38) It will be on Aaron’s forehead, and Aaron will bear responsibility when someone commits an error against the holy things, which the Israelites sanctify when they offer

them as holy gifts. It must always remain on his forehead, so that they may gain approval before Jehovah.

- (Leviticus 5:14-16) Jehovah continued to speak to Moses, saying: 15 “If someone behaves unfaithfully by unintentionally sinning against the holy things of Jehovah, he is to bring to Jehovah a sound ram from the flock as a guilt offering; its value in silver shekels is set according to the standard shekel of the holy place. 16 And he will make compensation for the sin he has committed against the holy place and he will also add a fifth of its value. He will give it to the priest, so that the priest may make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and it will be forgiven him.

**What spiritual gems from this week's Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah God, the field ministry, or something else?**

**Bible Reading: ) (4 min. or less) • ) Le 4:27–5:4 (th study 5)**

(Leviticus 4:27-5:4) 27 “If any one of the people of the land sins unintentionally and becomes guilty by doing one of the things that Jehovah commands should not be done, 28 or if he becomes aware of a sin that he has committed, then he should bring a sound young female goat as his offering for the sin he has committed. 29 He will lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter the sin offering in the same place as the burnt offering. 30 The priest will take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and he will pour all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar. 31 He will remove all its fat, just as the fat is removed from the communion sacrifice, and the priest will make it smoke on the altar as a pleasing aroma to Jehovah; and the priest will make atonement for him, and it will be forgiven him. 32 “But if he offers a lamb as his sin offering, he should bring a sound female lamb. 33 He will lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it as a sin offering in the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered. 34 The priest will take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and he will pour all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar. 35 He will remove all its fat the same way that the fat of the young ram of the communion sacrifice is removed, and the priest will make them smoke on the altar on top of Jehovah's offerings made by fire; and the priest will make atonement for him for the sin that he has committed, and it will be forgiven him.

5 “If someone sins because he has heard a public call to testify and he is a witness or has seen or learned about it and he does not report it, then he will answer for his error. 2 “Or when a person touches anything unclean, whether the dead body of an unclean wild animal, an unclean domestic animal, or an unclean swarming creature, he is unclean and has become guilty even if he does not realize it. 3 Or in case someone without being aware of it

touches human uncleanness—anything unclean that may make him unclean—and he comes to know it, then he becomes guilty. 4 “Or if someone rashly swears to do something—whether it is to do good or to do evil, no matter what it may be—and he was unaware of it, but then he realizes that he has sworn rashly, he becomes guilty.

### APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call: (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation, but use Isaiah 9:6, 7. (th study 12)**

#### ●○ INITIAL CALL

Question: What is God’s Kingdom?

Scripture: Mt 6:9, 10 or Isa 9:6, 7

Link: What will God’s Kingdom accomplish?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- wp20.2 4, 6

(Matthew 6:9, 10) 9 “You must pray, then, this way: “Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. 10 Let your Kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also on earth.

(Isaiah 9:6, 7) 6 For a child has been born to us, A son has been given to us; And the rulership will rest on his shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 To the increase of his rulership And to peace, there will be no end, On the throne of David and on his kingdom In order to establish it firmly and to sustain it Through justice and righteousness, From now on and forever. The zeal of Jehovah of armies will do this.

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

- **Return Visit: (4 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation, but use Psalm 72:16. (th study 4)**

\*\*\* mwb20 November p. 1 Sample Conversations \*\*\*

#### ○● RETURN VISIT

Question: What will God’s Kingdom accomplish?

Scripture: Mt 14:19, 20 or Ps 72:16

Link: When will God’s Kingdom rule the earth?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- bhs 35 ¶19

(Matthew 14:19, 20) 19 And he instructed the crowds to recline on the grass. Then he took the five loaves and two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said a blessing, and after breaking the loaves, he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 So they all ate and were satisfied, and they took up the leftover fragments, 12 baskets full.

(Psalm 72:16) 16 There will be an abundance of grain on the earth; On the top of the mountains it will overflow. His fruit will flourish as in Leb'a-non, And in the cities people will blossom like the vegetation of the earth.



**• Bible Study: (5 min. or less) lvs 209 ¶22-23 (th study 19)**

\*\*\* lvs chap. 15 p. 209 Enjoy Your Work \*\*\*

**THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK WE CAN DO**

22, 23. (a) What is the most important work we can have as Christians? (b) What will help us to enjoy our work?

22 The most important work we have is serving Jehovah and preaching the good news to others. (Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20) Like Jesus, we want to do all we can in this work. Some have moved to serve where there is a greater need for preachers. Others are learning a foreign language so that they can preach to people who speak that language. Talk with those who have done these things, and ask them about it. They will tell you that their lives have become happier and more meaningful.—Read Proverbs 10:22.

23 Today, many of us have to spend long hours at a job or even at several jobs simply to provide for our family's basic needs. Jehovah knows this, and he appreciates everything we do to care for our family. So let us all continue to imitate Jehovah and Jesus by working hard, no matter what kind of work we do. And may we remember that our most important work is serving Jehovah and preaching the good news of God's Kingdom. This will bring us true joy.

- (Matthew 24:14) And this good news of the Kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.
- (Matthew 28:19, 20) Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

- (Proverbs 10:22) It is the blessing of Jehovah that makes one rich, And He adds no pain with it.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

Song 81

**• Pioneering Together for 60 Years—Only With Jehovah's Help: (15 min.)**

Play the video. Then ask the following questions: What privileges and joys have Takako and Hisako enjoyed in their assignment? What health challenges has Takako faced, and what has helped her? What has brought them real joy and contentment? How does their experience illustrate the thoughts expressed in the following scriptures: Proverbs 25:11; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Hebrews 6:10?

What privileges and joys have Takako and Hisako enjoyed in their assignment?

---

---

---

---

---

---

What health challenges has Takako faced, and what has helped her?

---

---

---

---

---

---

What has brought them real joy and contentment?

---

---

---

---

---

---

How does their experience illustrate the thoughts expressed in the following scriptures:

Proverbs 25:11;

---

---

---

---

---

Ecclesiastes 12:1;

---

---

---

---

---

Hebrews 6:10?

---

---

---

---

---

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

**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min. or less)**  
 rr "A Letter From the Governing Body" and  
 "Explanation of Special Features"•

(Isaiah 60:22) The little one will become a thousand And the small one a mighty nation. I myself, Jehovah, will speed it up in its own time."

(Zechariah 8:23) "This is what Jehovah of armies says, 'In those days ten men out of all the languages of the nations will take hold, yes, they will take firm hold of the robe of a Jew, saying: "We want to go with you, for we have heard that God is with you people.'"

(Proverbs 4:18) But the path of the righteous is like the bright morning light That grows brighter and brighter until full daylight.

(John 10:16) "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; those too I must bring in, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd.

(Romans 5:18) So, then, as through one trespass the result to men of all sorts was condemnation, so too through one act of justification the result to men of all sorts is their being declared righteous for life.

(James 2:23) and the scripture was fulfilled that says: "Abraham put faith in Jehovah, and it was counted to him as righteousness," and he came to be called Jehovah's friend.

(Matthew 24:21) for then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again.

(Matthew 25:31, 32) "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit down on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

(Ezekiel 38:1-23) The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: 2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Ma'gog, the head chieftain of Me'shech and Tu'bal, and prophesy against him. 3 Say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: "Here I am against you, O Gog, head chieftain of Me'shech and Tu'bal. 4 I will turn you around and put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in splendor, a vast assembly with large shields and bucklers, all of them wielding swords; 5 Persia, E·thi·o·pi·a, and Put are with them, all of them with buckler and helmet; 6 Go'mer and all its troops, the house of To·gar'mah from the remotest parts of the north, along with all its troops—many peoples are with you. 7 ""Be ready, prepare yourselves, you with all your armies that are assembled with you, and you will be their commander. 8 ""You will be given attention after many days.

In the final part of the years you will invade the land whose people have been restored from the ravages of the sword, collected together out of many peoples onto the mountains of Israel, which had long been lying devastated. The inhabitants of this land were restored from the peoples, and all of them dwell in security. 9 You will come against them like a storm, and you will cover the land like clouds, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.” 10 “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘In that day thoughts will come into your heart, and you will devise an evil plan. 11 You will say: “I will invade the land of unprotected settlements. I will come against those living in security, without disturbance, all of them living in settlements unprotected by walls, bars, or gates.” 12 It will be to take much spoil and plunder, to attack the devastated places that are now inhabited and a people regathered from the nations, who are accumulating wealth and property, those who are living in the center of the earth. 13 “She’ba and De’dan, the merchants of Tar’shish and all its warriors will say to you: “Are you invading to get much spoil and plunder? Have you assembled your armies to carry off silver and gold, to take wealth and property, to seize a very great spoil?” 14 “So prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “On that day when my people Israel are dwelling in security, will you not know it? 15 You will come from your place, from the remotest parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly, a vast army. 16 Like clouds covering the land, you will come against my people Israel. In the final part of the days I will bring you against my land so that the nations may know me when I sanctify myself through you before their eyes, O Gog.” 17 “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘Are you not the same one I spoke about in the former days through my servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for many years that you would be brought against them?’ 18 “On that day, the day when Gog invades the land of Israel,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘my

great rage will flare up. 19 In my zeal, in the fire of my fury, I will speak; and in that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. 20 Because of me the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the wild beasts of the field, all the reptiles that creep on the ground, and all humans on the surface of the earth will tremble, and the mountains will be thrown down, and the cliffs will fall, and every wall will collapse to the ground.’ 21 “I will call for a sword against him on all my mountains,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. ‘Every man’s sword will be against his own brother. 22 I will bring my judgment against him with pestilence and bloodshed; and I will rain down a torrential downpour and hailstones and fire and sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many peoples with him. 23 And I will certainly magnify myself and sanctify myself and make myself known before the eyes of many nations; and they will have to know that I am Jehovah.’

(Ezekiel 39:1-29) “And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and tell him, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I am against you, Gog, head chieftain of Me’shech and Tu’bal. 2 I will turn you around and lead you and make you come up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you in upon the mountains of Israel. 3 I will knock your bow out of your left hand and make your arrows fall from your right hand. 4 On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the peoples who will be with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of birds of prey and the wild beasts of the field.” 5 “You will fall on the open field, for I myself have spoken,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. 6 “And I will send fire against Ma’gog and against those who are inhabiting the islands in security, and they will have to know that I am Jehovah. 7 I will make my holy name known among my people Israel, and I will not allow my holy name to be profaned any longer; and the nations will have to know that I am Jehovah, the Holy One in Israel.’ 8 “Yes, this is coming, and it will be done,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. ‘This is the day I have spoken about. 9 The inhabitants of the cities of Israel will go out and



make fires with the weapons—the bucklers and shields, the bows and arrows, the war clubs and lances. And they will use them to light fires for seven years. 10 They will not need to take wood from the field or gather firewood from the forests because they will use the weapons to light fires.’ “They will take spoil from those who despoiled them and plunder from those who had been plundering them,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. 11 “On that day I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east of the sea, and it will block the path of those passing through. That is where they will bury Gog and all his hordes, and they will call it the Valley of Hamon-Gog. 12 The house of Israel will spend seven months burying them in order to cleanse the land. 13 All the people of the land will work at burying them, and this will bring them fame in the day that I glorify myself,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. 14 “Men will be assigned to pass through the land constantly and bury the bodies left remaining on the surface of the earth, in order to cleanse it. They will continue the search for seven months. 15 When those who pass through the land see a human bone, they will set up a marker beside it. Then those assigned to do the burying will bury it in the Valley of Hamon-Gog. 16 And there will also be a city there named Ha-mo'nah. And they will cleanse the land.’ 17 “As for you, son of man, this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘Say to every sort of bird and to all the wild beasts of the field, “Gather yourselves together and come. Gather all around my sacrifice that I am preparing for you, a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. You will eat flesh and drink blood. 18 You will eat the flesh of mighty ones and drink the blood of the chieftains of the earth—the rams, lambs, goats, and bulls—all the fattened animals of Ba'shan. 19 You will gorge yourselves on fat and drink blood until you are drunk from the sacrifice that I prepare for you.”’ 20 “At my table you will be filled up with horses and charioteers, mighty ones and all sorts of warriors,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. 21 “I will display my glory

among the nations, and all the nations will see the judgment that I have executed and the power that I have demonstrated among them. 22 From that day on the house of Israel will have to know that I am Jehovah their God. 23 And the nations will have to know that the house of Israel went into exile because of their own error, because they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. 24 I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their transgressions, and I hid my face from them.’ 25 “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘I will restore the captives of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will zealously defend my holy name. 26 After they have been humiliated for all their unfaithfulness toward me, they will dwell securely on their land, with no one to make them afraid. 27 When I bring them back from the peoples and collect them together from the lands of their enemies, I will also sanctify myself among them before the eyes of many nations.’ 28 “They will have to know that I am Jehovah their God when I send them into exile among the nations and then gather them back to their land, not leaving any of them behind. 29 I will not hide my face from them any longer, for I will pour out my spirit on the house of Israel,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.”

(Ezekiel 9:1-11) He then called out in my ears with a loud voice, saying: “Summon those who will bring punishment on the city, each one with his weapon for destruction in his hand!” 2 I saw six men coming from the direction of the upper gate that faces north, each with his weapon for smashing in his hand; and there was one man among them clothed in linen, with a secretary's inkhorn at his waist, and they came in and stood beside the copper altar. 3 Then the glory of the God of Israel rose from where it had rested above the cherubs and moved to the threshold of the doorway of the house, and he began calling out to the man who was clothed in linen, at whose waist was the secretary's inkhorn. 4 Jehovah said to him: “Go through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on

the foreheads of the men who are sighing and groaning over all the detestable things that are being done in the city.” 5 And to the others he said in my hearing: “Go through the city after him and strike. Do not let your eye feel sorry, and do not feel any compassion. 6 Old man, young man, virgin, little child, and women you should kill off completely. But do not go near to any man on whom there is the mark. You should start from my sanctuary.” So they started with the elders who were in front of the house. 7 Then he said to them: “Defile the house and fill the courtyards with the slain. Go!” So they went out and struck down people in the city. 8 While they were striking them down, I alone was left, and I fell facedown and cried out: “Alas, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah! Are you going to destroy all the remaining ones of Israel while you pour out your rage on Jerusalem?” 9 So he said to me: “The error of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great. The land is filled with bloodshed, and the city is full of corruption. For they say, ‘Jehovah has left the land, and Jehovah is not seeing.’ 10 But as for me, my eye will not feel sorry; nor will I show compassion. The consequences of their way I will bring down on their own head.” 11 Then I saw the man clothed in linen with the inkhorn at his waist bringing back word, saying: “I have done just as you have commanded me.”

(Ezekiel 37:1-28) The hand of Jehovah was upon me, and by his spirit Jehovah took me and set me down in the middle of the valley plain, and it was full of bones. 2 He had me pass all around them, and I saw that there were very many bones lying in the valley plain, and they were very dry. 3 He asked me: “Son of man, can these bones come to life?” To that I said: “Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you are the one who knows.” 4 So he said to me: “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, ‘You dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah: 5 “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says to these bones: “I will cause breath to enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will put sinews and flesh on you, and I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will

come to life; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.”” 7 Then I prophesied just as I had been commanded. As soon as I prophesied, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones began to come together, bone to bone. 8 Then I saw sinews and flesh come on them, and skin covered over them. But there was still no breath in them. 9 He then said to me: “Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “From the four winds come in, O wind, and blow upon these people who were killed, so that they may come to life.”” 10 So I prophesied just as he commanded me, and breath came into them, and they began to live and to stand on their feet, an extremely large army. 11 Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Here they are saying, ‘Our bones are dry, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’ 12 So prophecy and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people, and bring you to the land of Israel. 13 And you will have to know that I am Jehovah when I open your graves and when I raise you up out of your graves, O my people.”’ 14 ‘I will put my spirit in you and you will come to life, and I will settle you on your land; and you will have to know that I myself, Jehovah, have spoken and I have done it,’ declares Jehovah.” 15 The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: 16 “And you, son of man, take a stick and write on it, ‘For Judah and for the people of Israel who are with him.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of E’phra-im, and all the house of Israel who are with him.’ 17 Then bring them close to each other so that they become just one stick in your hand. 18 When your people say to you, ‘Will you not tell us what these things mean?’ 19 tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of E’phra-im, and the tribes of Israel who are with him, and I will join them to the stick of Judah; and I will make them one stick, and they will become one in my hand.”’ 20 The sticks that

you write on should be in your hand for them to see. 21 “Then tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will take the Israelites from among the nations where they have gone, and I will collect them together from every direction and bring them to their land. 22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will rule over all of them, and they will no longer be two nations; nor will they be divided any longer into two kingdoms. 23 They will no longer defile themselves with their disgusting idols and their detestable practices and all their transgressions. I will save them from all their unfaithfulness by which they have sinned, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I myself will be their God. 24 ““My servant David will be their king, and they will all have one shepherd. They will walk in my judicial decisions and carefully observe my statutes. 25 They will dwell on the land that I gave to my servant, to Jacob, where your forefathers lived, and they will dwell on it forever, they and their children and their children’s children; and David my servant will be their chieftain forever. 26 ““And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an eternal covenant with them. I will establish them and make them many and place my sanctuary among them forever. 27 My tent will be with them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. 28 And the nations will have to know that I, Jehovah, am sanctifying Israel when my sanctuary is in their midst forever.””

(Ezekiel 36:23) ‘I will certainly sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the nations, which you profaned among them; and the nations will have to know that I am Jehovah,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘when I am sanctified among you before their eyes.

(Ezekiel 38:23) And I will certainly magnify myself and sanctify myself and make myself known before the eyes of many nations; and they will have to know that I am Jehovah.’

(Ezekiel 40:4) The man said to me: “Son of man, look closely, listen carefully, and pay

attention to everything I show you, for that is why you were brought here. Tell the house of Israel everything that you see.”

### Explanation of Special Features

### TEACHING BOXES

Teaching boxes in this publication are labeled with a chapter number and a sequential letter. For example, the three boxes in Chapter 10 are labeled 10A, 10B, and 10C. In electronic formats, readers have the option to browse all the boxes at once in the “Teaching Boxes” section. Some additional features of this publication are available in electronic formats only.

### TIME LINES

Many teaching boxes contain time lines. Folds, as shown in the example, indicate that a span of time has been compressed to fit within the artwork. (For an example, see box 8B.) In some cases, these folds indicate an unknown length of time.—See box 9E.

Abbreviations used in this publication:

B.C.E.—before the Common Era

C.E.—Common Era

c.—circa (about)

[Time line on page 5]

607 B.C.E.

1914 C.E.

Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)

• Song 13 and Prayer