

- Song 134 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

### TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

**"Imitate How Jehovah Exercises Authority":**  
(10 min.)

**Jehovah has supreme authority (1Ki 22:19; it-2 21)**

(1 Kings 22:19) Mi-cai'ah then said: "Therefore, hear the word of Jehovah: I saw Jehovah sitting on his throne and all the army of the heavens standing by him, to his right and to his left.

\*\*\* it-2 p. 21 Jehovah of Armies \*\*\*

When Joshua saw an angelic visitor near Jericho and asked him if he was for Israel or for the enemy side, the reply was, "No, but I—as prince of the army of Jehovah I have now come." (Jos 5:13-15) The prophet Micaiah told Kings Ahab and Jehoshaphat, "I certainly see Jehovah sitting upon his throne and all the army of the heavens standing by him, to his right and to his left," clearly referring to Jehovah's spirit sons. (1Ki 22:19-21) The use of the plural form in "Jehovah of armies" is appropriate, inasmuch as the angelic forces are described not only in divisions of cherubs, seraphs, and angels (Isa 6:2, 3; Ge 3:24; Re 5:11) but also as forming organized groups, so that Jesus Christ could speak of having "more than twelve legions of angels" available at his call. (Mt 26:53) In Hezekiah's plea to Jehovah for help he called him "Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, sitting upon the cherubs," evidently alluding to the ark of the covenant and the cherub figures on its cover, symbolizing Jehovah's heavenly throne. (Isa 37:16; compare 1Sa 4:4; 2Sa 6:2.) Elisha's fearful servant was reassured by a miraculous vision in which he saw the mountains around the besieged city of Elisha's residence "full of horses and war chariots of fire," part of Jehovah's angelic hosts.—2Ki 6:15-17.

- (Joshua 5:13-15) When Joshua was near Jer'i-cho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a

drawn sword in his hand. Joshua walked up to him and asked: "Are you on our side or on the side of our adversaries?" 14 To this he said: "No, but I have come as prince of Jehovah's army." With that Joshua fell with his face to the ground and prostrated himself and said to him: "What does my lord have to say to his servant?" 15 The prince of Jehovah's army replied to Joshua: "Remove your sandals from your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy." At once Joshua did so.

- (1 Kings 22:19-21) Mi-cai'ah then said: "Therefore, hear the word of Jehovah: I saw Jehovah sitting on his throne and all the army of the heavens standing by him, to his right and to his left. 20 Jehovah then said, 'Who will fool A'hab, so that he will go up and fall at Ra'moth-gil'e-ad?' And one was saying one thing while another said something else. 21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before Jehovah and said, 'I will fool him.' Jehovah asked him, 'How will you do it?'"
- (Isaiah 6:2, 3) Seraphs were standing above him; each had six wings. Each covered his face with two and covered his feet with two, and each of them would fly about with two. 3 And one called to the other: "Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah of armies. The whole earth is filled with his glory."
- (Genesis 3:24) So he drove the man out, and he posted at the east of the garden of E'den the cherubs and the flaming blade of a sword that was turning continuously to guard the way to the tree of life.
- (Revelation 5:11) And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders, and the number of them was

myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

- (Matthew 26:53) Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father to supply me at this moment more than 12 legions of angels?
- (Isaiah 37:16) "O Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, sitting enthroned above the cherubs, you alone are the true God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth.
- (1 Samuel 4:4) So the people sent men to Shi'loh, and they carried from there the ark of the covenant of Jehovah of armies, who sits enthroned above the cherubs. The two sons of E'li, Hoph'ni and Phin'e-has, were also there with the ark of the covenant of the true God.
- (2 Samuel 6:2) Then David and all the men with him set out for Ba'al-e-ju'dah to bring up from there the Ark of the true God, before which people call on the name of Jehovah of armies, who sits enthroned above the cherubs.
- (2 Kings 6:15-17) When the attendant of the man of the true God rose early and went outside, he saw that an army with horses and war chariots was surrounding the city. At once the attendant said to him: "Alas, my master! What are we to do?" 16 But he said: "Do not be afraid! For there are more who are with us than those who are with them." 17 Then E-li'sha began to pray and say: "O Jehovah, open his eyes, please, that he may see." Immediately Jehovah opened the attendant's eyes and he saw, and look! the mountainous region was full of horses and war chariots of fire all around E-li'sha.

**Jehovah honors those subject to him (1Ki 22:20-22; w21.02 4 ¶9)**

**(1 Kings 22:20-22)** Jehovah then said, 'Who will fool A'hab, so that he will go up and fall at Ra'moth-gil'e-ad?' And one was saying one thing while another said something else. <sup>21</sup> Then a spirit came forward and stood before Jehovah and said, 'I will fool him.' Jehovah asked him, 'How will you do it?' <sup>22</sup> He replied, 'I will go out and become a deceptive spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' So he said, 'You will fool him, and what is more, you will be successful. Go out and do that.'

\*\*\* w21 February p. 4 par. 9 "The Head of Every Man Is the Christ" \*\*\*

9 Humility. Jehovah is the wisest Person in existence; yet, he listens to the opinions of his servants. (Gen. 18:23, 24, 32) He has allowed those under his authority to offer suggestions. (1 Ki. 22:19-22) Jehovah is perfect, but he does not, at present, expect perfection from us. Instead, he helps imperfect humans who serve him to succeed. (Ps. 113:6, 7) In fact, the Bible even describes Jehovah as a "helper." (Ps. 27:9; Heb. 13:6) King David acknowledged that he could accomplish the great work he was given to do only because of Jehovah's humility.—2 Sam. 22:36.

- (Genesis 18:23, 24) Then Abraham approached and said: "Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there are 50 righteous men within the city. Will you, then, sweep them away and not pardon the place for the sake of the 50 righteous who are inside it?"
- (Genesis 18:32) Finally he said: "Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me speak just once more: Suppose only ten are found there." He answered: "I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten."

- (1 Kings 22:19-22) Mi-cai'ah then said: "Therefore, hear the word of Jehovah: I saw Jehovah sitting on his throne and all the army of the heavens standing by him, to his right and to his left. 20 Jehovah then said, 'Who will fool A'hab, so that he will go up and fall at Ra'moth-gil'e-ad?' And one was saying one thing while another said something else. 21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before Jehovah and said, 'I will fool him.' Jehovah asked him, 'How will you do it?' 22 He replied, 'I will go out and become a deceptive spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' So he said, 'You will fool him, and what is more, you will be successful. Go out and do that.'
- (Psalm 113:6, 7) He stoops down to look on heaven and earth, 7 Raising the lowly from the dust. He lifts up the poor from the ash heap
- (Psalm 27:9) Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in your anger. You are my helper; Do not forsake me or leave me, my God of salvation.
- (Hebrews 13:6) So that we may be of good courage and say: "Jehovah is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"
- (2 Samuel 22:36) You give me your shield of salvation, And your humility makes me great.

**Jehovah blessed the work of an angel (1Ki 22:23; *it-2* 245)**

**(1 Kings 22:23)** And now Jehovah has put a deceptive spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, but Jehovah has declared calamity for you."

\*\*\* *it-2* p. 245 Lie \*\*\*

Jehovah God allows "an operation of error" to go to persons who prefer falsehood "that they may get to believing the lie" rather than the good news about Jesus Christ. (2Th 2:9-12) This principle is illustrated by what happened centuries earlier in the case of Israelite King Ahab. Lying prophets assured Ahab of success in war against Ramoth-gilead, while Jehovah's prophet Micaiah foretold disaster. As revealed in vision to Micaiah, Jehovah allowed a spirit creature to become "a deceptive spirit" in the mouth of Ahab's prophets. That is to say, this spirit creature exercised his power upon them so that they spoke, not truth, but what they themselves wanted to say and what Ahab wanted to hear from them. Though forewarned, Ahab preferred to be fooled by their lies and paid for it with his life.—1Ki 22:1-38; 2Ch 18.

- (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12) But the lawless one's presence is by the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and wonders 10 and every unrighteous deception for those who are perishing, as a retribution because they did not accept the love of the truth in order that they might be saved. 11 That is why God lets a deceptive influence mislead them so that they may come to believe the lie, 12 in order that they all may be judged because they did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness.
- (1 Kings 22:1-38) omitted due to length
- (2 Chronicles 18:1-34) omitted due to length

Especially must elders and family heads try to imitate the way that Jehovah wields authority. (Eph 6:4; 1Pe 3:7; 5:2, 3) When they do so, those under their authority will be happy and content.

- **(Ephesians 6:4)** And fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on

bringing them up in the discipline and admonition of Jehovah.

- **(1 Peter 3:7)** You husbands, in the same way, continue dwelling with them according to knowledge. Assign them honor as to a weaker vessel, the feminine one, since they are also heirs with you of the undeserved favor of life, in order for your prayers not to be hindered.
- **(1 Peter 5:2, 3)** Shepherd the flock of God under your care, serving as overseers, not under compulsion, but willingly before God; not for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not lording it over those who are God's inheritance, but becoming examples to the flock.

### Spiritual Gems:

**1Ki 21:27-29—How do we know that Ahab's actions did not indicate true repentance? (w21.10 3 ¶4-6)**

(1 Kings 21:27-29) 27 As soon as A'hab heard these words, he ripped his garments apart and put sackcloth on his body; and he went on a fast and kept lying down in sackcloth and walking despondently. 28 Jehovah's word then came to E-li'jah the Tish'bite: 29 "Have you seen how A'hab has humbled himself on my account? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the calamity during his lifetime. I will bring the calamity upon his house in the days of his son."

\*\*\* w21 October p. 3 pars. 4-6 What Is True Repentance? \*\*\*

4 Finally, Jehovah's patience came to an end. He sent Elijah to pronounce sentence on Ahab and Jezebel. Their entire family line was to be

wiped out. Elijah's words hit Ahab hard! Surprisingly, that arrogant man "humbled himself."—1 Ki. 21:19-29.

5 Although Ahab humbled himself on that occasion, his conduct afterward showed that he was not truly repentant. He did not try to remove Baal worship from his kingdom. And he did not promote the worship of Jehovah. Ahab showed his lack of repentance in other ways as well.

6 Later, when Ahab invited good King Jehoshaphat of Judah to join him in the war against the Syrians, Jehoshaphat suggested that they first consult a prophet of Jehovah. Initially, Ahab rejected the idea, saying: "There is still one more man through whom we can inquire of Jehovah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies good things concerning me, only bad." Even so, they consulted the prophet Micaiah. Sure enough, the man of God foretold bad news for Ahab! Rather than repentantly seek Jehovah's forgiveness, wicked Ahab had the prophet thrown into prison. (1 Ki. 22:7-9, 23, 27) Although the king managed to imprison Jehovah's prophet, he could not prevent the prophecy from coming true. In the battle that followed, Ahab was killed.—1 Ki. 22:34-38.

- (1 Kings 21:19-29) omitted due to length
- (1 Kings 22:7-9) Je-hosh'a·phat then said: "Is there not here a prophet of Jehovah? Let us also inquire through him." 8 At that the king of Israel said to Je-hosh'a·phat: "There is still one more man through whom we can inquire of Jehovah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies good things concerning me, only bad. He is Mi-cai'ah the son of Im'lah." However, Je-hosh'a·phat said: "The king should not say such a thing." 9 So the king of Israel called a court official and said: "Bring Mi-cai'ah the son of Im'lah quickly."
- (1 Kings 22:23) And now Jehovah has put a deceptive spirit in the mouth of all

these prophets of yours, but Jehovah has declared calamity for you.”

- (1 Kings 22:27) Tell them, ‘This is what the king says: “Put this fellow in the prison and feed him with a reduced allowance of bread and water until I return in peace.”’”
- (1 Kings 22:34-38) But one man shot his bow at random, and he struck the king of Israel between the joints of his coat of mail. So the king said to his charioteer: “Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I have been badly wounded.” 35 The fighting raged throughout that day, and the king had to be propped up in the chariot, facing the Syrians. The blood of the wound poured out into the interior of the war chariot, and he died in the evening. 36 Around sunset a cry passed through the camp, saying: “Everyone to his city! Everyone to his land!” 37 Thus the king died, and he was brought to Sa-mar'i-a; they buried the king in Sa-mar'i-a. 38 When they washed off the war chariot by the pool of Sa-mar'i-a, the dogs licked up his blood and the prostitutes bathed there, according to the word that Jehovah had spoken.

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

**Bible Reading: ) (4 min.)**  
**1Ki 22:24-38 (th study 2)**

(1 Kings 22:24-38) 24 Zed-e-ki'ah the son of Che-na'a-nah now approached and struck Mi-cai'ah on the cheek and said: “Which way

did the spirit of Jehovah pass from me to speak with you?” 25 Mi-cai'ah replied: “Look! You will see which way on the day when you will enter the innermost room to hide.” 26 Then the king of Israel said: “Take Mi-cai'ah and turn him over to A'mon the chief of the city and to Jo'ash the king's son. 27 Tell them, ‘This is what the king says: “Put this fellow in the prison and feed him with a reduced allowance of bread and water until I return in peace.”’” 28 But Mi-cai'ah said: “If you do return in peace, Jehovah has not spoken with me.” Then he added: “Take note, all you peoples.” 29 So the king of Israel and Je-hosh'a-phat the king of Judah went up to Ra'moth-gil'e-ad. 30 The king of Israel now said to Je-hosh'a-phat: “I will disguise myself and will go into the battle, but you should put on your royal attire.” So the king of Israel disguised himself and entered the battle. 31 Now the king of Syria had ordered his 32 chariot commanders: “Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel.” 32 And as soon as the chariot commanders saw Je-hosh'a-phat, they said to themselves: “Surely it is the king of Israel.” So they turned to fight against him; and Je-hosh'a-phat began to cry for help. 33 When the chariot commanders saw that it was not the king of Israel, they immediately turned back from following him. 34 But one man shot his bow at random, and he struck the king of Israel between the joints of his coat of mail. So the king said to his charioteer: “Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I have been badly wounded.” 35 The fighting raged throughout that day, and the king had to be propped up in the chariot, facing the Syrians. The blood of the wound poured out into the interior of the war chariot, and he died in the evening. 36 Around sunset a cry passed through the camp, saying: “Everyone to his city! Everyone to his land!” 37 Thus the king died, and he was brought to Sa-mar'i-a; they buried the king in Sa-mar'i-a. 38 When they washed off the war chariot by the pool of Sa-mar'i-a, the dogs licked up his blood and the prostitutes bathed there, according to the word that Jehovah had spoken.

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

**Initial Call: (3 min.)** Begin with the sample conversation topic. Offer a Bible study, using the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure. (*th study 4*)

**Initial Call**

**Question:** Where can we find practical advice for daily living?

**Scripture:** 2Ti 3:16, 17

**Link:** Why can you trust the Bible?

- (2 Timothy 3:16, 17) All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.

**Return Visit: (4 min.)** Begin with the sample conversation topic. Offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and start a Bible study in lesson 01. (*th study 6*)

**Return Visit**

**Question:** Why can you trust the Bible?

**Scripture:** Job 26:7

**Link:** What are some questions that the Bible answers?

- (Job 26:7) He stretches out the northern sky over empty space, Suspending the earth upon nothing:

**Talk: (5 min.)** w15 3/15 9-11 ¶10-12—**Theme: What Do We Learn From Naboth's Integrity?** (*th study 14*)

\*\*\* w15 3/15 pp. 9-11 pars. 10-12 "This Is the Way You Approved" \*\*\*

10 As we might expect, over the years Jehovah has helped "the faithful and discreet slave" to become steadily more discreet.

Discretion has led to greater caution when it comes to calling a Bible account a prophetic drama unless there is a clear Scriptural basis for doing so. Additionally, it has been found that some of the older explanations about types and antitypes are unduly difficult for many to grasp. The details of such teachings—who pictures whom and why—can be hard to keep straight, to remember, and to apply. Of even greater concern, though, is that the moral and practical lessons of the Bible accounts under examination may be obscured or lost in all the scrutiny of possible antitypical fulfillments. Thus, we find that our literature today focuses more on the simple, practical lessons about faith, endurance, godly devotion, and other vital qualities that we learn about from Bible accounts.

11 How, then, do we now understand the account about Naboth? In much clearer, simpler terms. That righteous man died, not because he was a prophetic type of Jesus or of the anointed, but because he was an integrity keeper. He held to Jehovah's Law in the face of horrific abuse of power. (Num. 36:7; 1 Ki. 21:3) His example thus speaks to us because any one of us may face persecution for similar reasons. (Read 2 Timothy 3:12.) People of all backgrounds can readily understand, remember, and apply such a faith-strengthening lesson.

12 Should we conclude that Bible narratives have only a practical application and no other meaning? No. Today our publications are more likely to teach that one thing reminds us of or serves to illustrate another. They are less likely to present many Bible accounts in a rigid framework of prophetic types and antitypes. For example, we can rightly say that Naboth's integrity in the face of persecution and death reminds us of the integrity of Christ and his anointed. However, we can also be reminded of the faithful stand of many of the Lord's "other sheep." Such a clear and simple comparison has the hallmark of divine teaching.



- (Numbers 36:7) No inheritance of the Israelites should circulate from tribe to tribe, for the Israelites should hold on to the inheritance of the tribe of their forefathers.
- (1 Kings 21:3) But Na'both said to A'hab: "It is unthinkable, from Jehovah's standpoint, for me to give you the inheritance of my forefathers."
- (2 Timothy 3:12) In fact, all those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted.

What lessons does this experience teach us?

**Local Needs: (5 min.)**

## LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 116

**"Love Is Patient and Kind": (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then ask the audience: How did Alexandru show patience and kindness as a family head? Why did Dorina eventually respond favorably? What lessons does this experience teach us?**

How did Alexandru show patience and kindness as a family head?

Why did Dorina eventually respond favorably?

**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)****Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)***Iff lesson 23*

(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."

(Mark 1:9, 10) In the course of those days, Jesus came from Naz'a·reth of Gal'i·lee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. 10 And immediately on coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens being parted and, like a dove, the spirit coming down upon him.

(Matthew 16:24) Then Jesus said to his disciples: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and keep following me.

(Hebrews 11:6) Moreover, without faith it is impossible to please God well, for whoever approaches God must believe that he is and that he becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him.

(2 Timothy 4:2) Preach the word; be at it urgently in favorable times and difficult times; reprove, reprimand, exhort, with all patience and art of teaching.

(1 John 5:3) For this is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments; and yet his commandments are not burdensome,

(Colossians 1:9, 10) That is also why from the day we heard of it, we have never stopped praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the accurate knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual comprehension, 10 so as to walk worthily of Jehovah in order to please him fully as you go on bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the accurate knowledge of God;

(Matthew 3:13-17) Then Jesus came from Gal'i·lee to the Jordan to John, in order to be baptized by him. 14 But the latter tried to prevent him, saying: "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you, and are you coming to me?" 15 Jesus replied to him:

"Let it be this time, for in that way it is suitable for us to carry out all that is righteous." Then he quit preventing him. 16 After being baptized, Jesus immediately came up from the water; and look! the heavens were opened up, and he saw God's spirit descending like a dove and coming upon him. 17 Look! Also, a voice from the heavens said: "This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved."

(Luke 3:21-23) Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus too was baptized. As he was praying, the heaven was opened up, 22 and the holy spirit in bodily form like a dove came down upon him, and a voice came out of heaven: "You are my Son, the beloved; I have approved you." 23 When Jesus began his work, he was about 30 years old, being the son, as the opinion was, of Joseph, son of He'li,

(John 6:38) for I have come down from heaven to do, not my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

(John 17:3) This means everlasting life, their coming to know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

(James 1:5) So if any one of you is lacking in wisdom, let him keep asking God, for he gives generously to all and without reproaching, and it will be given him.

(Psalm 25:14) Close friendship with Jehovah belongs to those who fear him, And he makes his covenant known to them.

(1 Peter 2:17) Honor men of all sorts, have love for the whole association of brothers, be in fear of God, honor the king.

(Acts 19:1-5) In the course of events, while A·pol'los was in Corinth, Paul went through the inland regions and came down to Eph'e-sus. There he found some disciples 2 and said to them: "Did you receive holy spirit when you became believers?" They replied to him: "Why, we have never heard that there is a holy spirit." 3 So he said: "In what, then, were you baptized?" They said: "In John's baptism." 4 Paul said: "John baptized with the baptism in symbol of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they got baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

• Concluding Comments (3 min.) • Song 50 and Prayer