

- Song 41 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Prayer Moved Jehovah to Intervene”: (10 min.)

Jehovah told Hezekiah that he would not recover from his sickness (2Ki 20:1; ip-1 394 ¶23)

(2 Kings 20:1) In those days Hez·e·ki'ah became sick and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah the son of A'moz came and said to him, “This is what Jehovah says: ‘Give instructions to your household, for you will die; you will not recover.’”

*** ip-1 chap. 29 p. 394 par. 23 A King's Faith Is Rewarded ***

23 About the time that Sennacherib first comes up against Judah, Hezekiah falls gravely ill. Isaiah tells him that he is going to die. (Isaiah 38:1) The 39-year-old king is devastated. His concern is not only for his own well-being but also for the future of the people. Jerusalem and Judah are in danger of being invaded by the Assyrians. If Hezekiah dies, who will lead the fight? At that time, Hezekiah has no son to assume the rulership. In fervent prayer Hezekiah begs Jehovah to show him mercy.—Isaiah 38:2, 3.

- (Isaiah 38:1) In those days Hez·e·ki'ah became sick and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah the son of A'moz came and said to him, “This is what Jehovah says: ‘Give instructions to your household, for you will die; you will not recover.’”
- (Isaiah 38:2, 3) At that Hez·e·ki'ah turned his face to the wall and began to pray to Jehovah: 3 “I beg you, O Jehovah, remember, please, how I have walked before you faithfully and with a complete heart, and I have done what was good in your eyes.” And Hez·e·ki'ah began to weep profusely.

Faithful Hezekiah supplicated Jehovah (2Ki 20:2, 3; w17.03 21 ¶16)

(2 Kings 20:2, 3) At that he turned his face to the wall and began to pray to Jehovah: 3 “I beg you, O Jehovah, remember, please, how I have walked before you faithfully and with a complete heart, and I have done what was good in your eyes.” And Hez·e·ki'ah began to weep profusely.

*** w17 March p. 21 par. 16 Serve Jehovah With a Complete Heart! ***

16 Hezekiah later became sick to the point of dying. He begged Jehovah to remember how he had walked before Him. (Read 2 Kings 20:1-3.) We know from the Scriptures that we are not living at a time when we can look to God for miraculous healings or an extension of our life. Still, as did Hezekiah, each of us can say to Jehovah in prayer: “I have walked before you faithfully and with a complete heart.” Do you believe that Jehovah is capable and willing to sustain you even on a sickbed?—Ps. 41:3.

- (2 Kings 20:1-3) In those days Hez·e·ki'ah became sick and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah the son of A'moz came and said to him, “This is what Jehovah says: ‘Give instructions to your household, for you will die; you will not recover.’” 2 At that he turned his face to the wall and began to pray to Jehovah: 3 “I beg you, O Jehovah, remember, please, how I have walked before you faithfully and with a complete heart, and I have done what was good in your eyes.” And Hez·e·ki'ah began to weep profusely.
- (Psalm 41:3) Jehovah will sustain him on his sickbed; During his sickness you will completely change his bed.

Hezekiah's prayers moved Jehovah to intervene (2Ki 20:4-6; g01 7/22 13 ¶4)

(2 Kings 20:4-6) Isaiah had not yet gone out to the middle courtyard when Jehovah's word came to him, saying: ⁵“Go back and say to Hez·e·ki'ah, the leader of my people, ‘This is what Jehovah the God of David your forefather says: “I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears. Here I am healing you. On the third day you will go up to the house of Jehovah. ⁶ I will add 15 years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city out of the hand of the king of As·syr'i-a, and I will defend this city for my own sake and for the sake of David my servant.””

*** g01 7/22 p. 13 How Can Prayer Help Me?

In Bible times some men of faith did have direct—even miraculous—answers to their prayers. When King Hezekiah, for example, learned that he had a terminal illness, he supplicated God for deliverance. God responded: “I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears. Here I am healing you.” (2 Kings 20:1-6) Other God-fearing men and women similarly experienced God's intervention.—1 Samuel 1:1-20; Daniel 10:2-12; Acts 4:24-31; 10:1-7.

- (2 Kings 20:1-6) In those days Hez·e·ki'ah became sick and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah the son of A'moz came and said to him, “This is what Jehovah says: ‘Give instructions to your household, for you will die; you will not recover.’” ² At that he turned his face to the wall and began to pray to Jehovah: ³ “I beg you, O Jehovah, remember, please, how I have walked before you faithfully and with a complete heart, and I have done what was good in your eyes.” And Hez·e·ki'ah began to weep profusely. ⁴ Isaiah had

not yet gone out to the middle courtyard when Jehovah's word came to him, saying: ⁵ “Go back and say to Hez·e·ki'ah, the leader of my people, ‘This is what Jehovah the God of David your forefather says: “I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears. Here I am healing you. On the third day you will go up to the house of Jehovah. ⁶ I will add 15 years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city out of the hand of the king of As·syr'i-a, and I will defend this city for my own sake and for the sake of David my servant.””

- (1 Samuel 1:1-20) omitted due to length
- (Daniel 10:2-12) In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three full weeks. ³ I ate no rich food, and no meat or wine entered my mouth, and I did not put any oil on myself for three full weeks. ⁴ On the 24th day of the first month, while I was on the bank of the great river, the Ti'gris, ⁵ I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen, and around his waist was a belt of gold from U'phaz. ⁶ His body was like chrys'o·lite, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like fiery torches, his arms and his feet looked like burnished copper, and the sound of his words was like the sound of a multitude. ⁷ Only I, Daniel, saw the vision; the men with me did not see the vision. However, a great trembling seized them, and they ran away and hid. ⁸ Then I was left by myself, and when I saw this great vision, there was no power left in me and my dignified appearance left me and I lost all strength. ⁹ Then I heard the sound of him speaking; but when I heard him speaking, I fell fast asleep with my face to the ground. ¹⁰ But then a hand touched me, and it stirred me to get up on my hands and knees. ¹¹ Then he said to me: “O Daniel, you very precious man, give attention to the words that I am about to speak to you. Now stand up

in your place, for I have been sent to you.” When he said this to me, I stood up, trembling. 12 He then said to me: “Do not be afraid, O Daniel. Your words have been heard from the first day that you gave your heart to understanding and to humbling yourself before your God, and I have come because of your words.

- (Acts 4:24-31) On hearing this, they raised their voices with one accord to God and said: “Sovereign Lord, you are the One who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things in them, 25 and who said through holy spirit by the mouth of our forefather David, your servant: ‘Why did nations become agitated and peoples meditate on empty things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers gathered together as one against Jehovah and against his anointed one.’ 27 For truly both Herod and Pontius Pilate with men of the nations and with peoples of Israel were gathered together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, 28 to do what your hand and counsel had determined beforehand to occur. 29 And now, Jehovah, give attention to their threats, and grant to your slaves to keep speaking your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand for healing and while signs and wonders occur through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had made supplication, the place where they were gathered together was shaken, and they were one and all filled with the holy spirit and were speaking the word of God with boldness.
- (Acts 10:1-7) Now there was a man in Caes·a·re’a named Cornelius, an army officer in what was called the Italian unit. 2 He was a devout man who feared God together with all his household, and he made many gifts of mercy to the people

and made supplication to God continually. 3 About the ninth hour of the day, he saw plainly in a vision an angel of God come in to him and say: “Cornelius!” 4 Cornelius stared at him, terrified, and asked: “What is it, Lord?” He said to him: “Your prayers and gifts of mercy have ascended as a remembrance before God. 5 So now send men to Jop’pa and summon a man named Simon who is called Peter. 6 This man is staying as a guest with Simon, a tanner who has a house by the sea.” 7 As soon as the angel who spoke to him left, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who were his attendants,

Our prayers may move Jehovah to do what he might not have done otherwise. How does this account motivate you to persist in prayer?

Spiritual Gems:

2Ki 21:13—In what sense would Jehovah use a leveling tool to measure Jerusalem? (it-2 240 ¶1)

(2 Kings 21:13) And I will stretch out on Jerusalem the measuring line applied to Sa·mar’i·a and use the leveling tool applied to the house of A’hab, and I will wipe Jerusalem clean, just as one wipes a bowl clean, wiping it and turning it upside down.

*** it-2 p. 240 Leveling Instrument ***

A leveling instrument may be used to construct a building properly or to test its fitness for preservation. Jehovah foretold that he would apply to wayward Jerusalem “the measuring line applied to Samaria and also the leveling

instrument applied to the house of Ahab.” God had measured and found Samaria and the house of King Ahab to be morally bad or crooked, resulting in their destruction. Likewise, God would judge Jerusalem and its rulers, exposing their wickedness and bringing about the destruction of that city. These events actually occurred in 607 B.C.E. (2Ki 21:10-13; 10:11) Through Isaiah the various wicked braggarts and rulers of the people in Jerusalem were apprised of their coming calamity and of Jehovah’s declaration: “I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the leveling instrument.” The standards of true justice and genuine righteousness would reveal who were really God’s servants and who were not, resulting in either preservation or destruction.—Isa 28:14-19.

- (2 Kings 21:10-13) Jehovah kept speaking through his servants the prophets, saying: 11 “Ma·nas’sseh the king of Judah has done all these detestable things; he has acted more wickedly than all the Am’or·ites before him, and he has made Judah sin with his disgusting idols. 12 Therefore this is what Jehovah the God of Israel says: ‘Here I am bringing such a disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that it will make both ears of anyone who hears about it tingle. 13 And I will stretch out on Jerusalem the measuring line applied to Sa·mar’i·a and use the leveling tool applied to the house of A’hab, and I will wipe Jerusalem clean, just as one wipes a bowl clean, wiping it and turning it upside down.
- (2 Kings 10:11) Moreover, Je’hu struck down all who were left of the house of A’hab in Jez’re·el, as well as all his distinguished men, his acquaintances, and his priests, until he had left him no survivor.
- (Isaiah 28:14-19) So hear the word of Jehovah, you boasters, You rulers of this people in Jerusalem, 15 For you

men say: “We have made a covenant with Death, And with the Grave we have made an agreement. When the raging flash flood passes through, It will not reach us, For we have made a lie our refuge And we have hidden ourselves in falsehood.” 16 Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Here I am laying as a foundation in Zion a tested stone, The precious cornerstone of a sure foundation. No one exercising faith will panic. 17 And I will make justice the measuring line And righteousness the leveling tool. The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will flood out the hiding place. 18 Your covenant with Death will be dissolved, And your agreement with the Grave will not stand. When the raging flash flood passes through, You will be crushed by it. 19 As often as it passes through, It will sweep you away; For it will pass through morning after morning, During the day and during the night. Only terror will make them understand what was heard.”

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.)
2Ki 21:1-15 (th study 10)

(2 Kings 21:1-15) Ma·nas’sseh was 12 years old when he became king, and he reigned for 55 years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Heph’zi·bah. ² He did what was bad in Jehovah’s eyes, following the detestable practices of the nations that Jehovah had driven out from before the people of Israel. ³ He rebuilt the high places that his father Hez·e·ki’ah had destroyed, and he set up altars

to Ba'al and made a sacred pole, just as A'hab the king of Israel had done. And he bowed down to all the army of the heavens and served them. ⁴ He also built altars in the house of Jehovah, about which Jehovah had said: "In Jerusalem, I will put my name." ⁵ And he built altars to all the army of the heavens in two courtyards of the house of Jehovah. ⁶ And he made his own son pass through the fire; he practiced magic, looked for omens, and appointed spirit mediums and fortune-tellers. He did on a grand scale what was bad in Jehovah's eyes, to offend him. ⁷ He put the carved image of the sacred pole that he made into the house about which Jehovah had said to David and to his son Sol'o-mon: "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will permanently put my name. ⁸ And I will never again make the feet of Israel wander from the land that I gave to their forefathers, provided they carefully observe all that I have commanded them, the entire Law that my servant Moses ordered them to follow." ⁹ But they did not obey, and Ma·nas'sseh kept leading them astray, causing them to do greater evil than the nations that Jehovah had annihilated from before the Israelites. ¹⁰ Jehovah kept speaking through his servants the prophets, saying: ¹¹ "Ma·nas'sseh the king of Judah has done all these detestable things; he has acted more wickedly than all the Am'or-ites before him, and he has made Judah sin with his disgusting idols. ¹² Therefore this is what Jehovah the God of Israel says: 'Here I am bringing such a disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that it will make both ears of anyone who hears about it tingle. ¹³ And I will stretch out on Jerusalem the measuring line applied to Sa·mar'i·a and use the leveling tool applied to the house of A'hab, and I will wipe Jerusalem clean, just as one wipes a bowl clean, wiping it and turning it upside down. ¹⁴ I will forsake the remnant of my inheritance and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they will become plunder and spoil to all their enemies, ¹⁵ because they did what was bad in my eyes and were

continually offending me from the day that their forefathers came out of Egypt to this day.'"

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call: (3 min.) Begin with the sample conversation topic. Respond to a common objection. (th study 4)

Initial Call

Question: Is an end to violence and war realistic?

Scripture: Ps 37:10, 11

- (Psalm 37:10, 11) Just a little while longer, and the wicked will be no more; You will look at where they were, And they will not be there. 11 But the meek will possess the earth, And they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.

Link: What Bible promise gives us hope?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- T-31; T-34

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation topic. Tell the person about our website, and leave a jw.org contact card. (th study 6)

Return visit

Question: What Bible promise gives us hope?

Scripture: Re 21:3, 4

- **(Revelation 21:3, 4)** With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: "Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. ⁴ And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no

more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

Link: How can we understand the Bible?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- Iffi lesson 02 point 2; g22.1 15

Bible Study: (5 min.) Iffi lesson 08 point 6 (th study 19)

6. What Jehovah does for his friends

Jehovah helps his friends cope with problems. Play the VIDEO, and then discuss the question that follows.

VIDEO: Jehovah Has Done So Much for Me (3:20)

- How has Jehovah helped the woman in the video to deal with her negative thinking and emotions?

Read Isaiah 41:10, 13, and then discuss these questions:

- (Isaiah 41:10) Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be anxious, for I am your God. I will fortify you, yes, I will

help you, I will really hold on to you with my right hand of righteousness.’

- (Isaiah 41:13) For I, Jehovah your God, am grasping your right hand, The One saying to you, ‘Do not be afraid. I will help you.’

- What does Jehovah promise to do for all of his friends?

- Do you think Jehovah would make a good Friend? Why?

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 47

“Our Prayers Are Precious to Jehovah”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *I Am Devoted to Prayer*.

Acceptable prayers are like the sweet-smelling incense that was regularly burned before Jehovah at the temple. (Ps 141:2) When we express to our heavenly Father our love and appreciation for him, tell him our concerns and desires, and ask for his direction, we show that we value our friendship with him. Of course, Jehovah views brief public prayers at our meetings as an important part of our worship. However, how it must bring Jehovah pleasure when in our personal prayers we open our hearts and talk to him for extended periods of time!—Pr 15:8.

WATCH THE VIDEO I AM DEVOTED TO PRAYER, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What privileges has Brother Johnson enjoyed?

- How has Brother Johnson relied on Jehovah in prayer?

- What lessons did you learn from Brother Johnson's experiences?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 32 points 5-6 and summary, review, and goal

(Luke 21:9-11) Furthermore, when you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified. For these things must take place first, but the end will not occur immediately.” 10 Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in one place after another food shortages and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and from heaven great signs.

(2 Timothy 3:1-5) But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, 3 having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, 4 betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, 5 having an appearance of godliness but proving false to its power; and from these turn away.

(Matthew 24:3) While he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?”

(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.

(Hebrews 10:24, 25) And let us consider one another so as to incite to love and fine works, 25 not forsaking our meeting together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as you see the day drawing near.

- Concluding Comments (3 min.)
- Song 142 and Prayer