

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

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“King Solomon Makes an Unwise Decision”: (10 min.)

[Play the video *Introduction to 2 Chronicles*.]

Solomon accumulated horses and chariots from Egypt (De 17:15, 16; 2Ch 1:14, 17)

(Deuteronomy 17:15, 16) in that case, you should without fail appoint a king whom Jehovah your God chooses. You should appoint a king from among your brothers. You are forbidden to appoint over yourself a foreigner who is not your brother. ¹⁶ However, he should not acquire many horses for himself or make the people go back to Egypt in order to obtain more horses, since Jehovah told you, ‘You must never go back again by this way.’

(2 Chronicles 1:14) Sol'o-mon kept accumulating chariots and horses; he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem.

(2 Chronicles 1:17) Each chariot imported from Egypt cost 600 silver pieces, and a horse cost 150; in turn, they would export them to all the kings of the Hit'tites and the kings of Syria.

People and cities were needed to accommodate Solomon's new military divisions (2Ch 1:14; it-1 174 ¶5; 427)

(2 Chronicles 1:14) Sol'o-mon kept accumulating chariots and horses; he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem.

*** it-1 p. 174 Army ***

With the rule of Solomon a new chapter was written in the annals of Israel's army. His reign was comparatively peaceful, yet he multiplied horses and chariots. (See CHARIOT.) For the most part these horses were purchased and imported from Egypt. Whole cities had to be built throughout the territory to accommodate these new military divisions. (1Ki 4:26; 9:19; 10:26, 29; 2Ch 1:14-17) However, Jehovah never blessed this innovation of Solomon, and with his death and the dividing of the kingdom came the decline in Israel's army. As Isaiah later wrote: “Woe to those going down to Egypt for assistance, those who rely on mere horses, and who put their trust in war chariots, because they are numerous, and in steeds, because they are very mighty, but who have not looked to the Holy One of Israel and have not searched for Jehovah himself.”—Isa 31:1.

*** it-1 p. 427 Chariot ***

In Israel no sizable national chariot force developed until the time of Solomon. This was due in large measure to God's warning that the king was not to multiply horses, as if the nation's security depended on them. This restriction limited the use of chariots, since horses were used to power such vehicles. (De 17:16) When Samuel warned of the burden that human kings would inflict on the people, he told them: “Your sons he will take and put them as his in his chariots.” (1Sa 8:11) Absalom and Adonijah, in attempting to usurp the kingship, each had a chariot made for himself, with 50 men to run before it. (2Sa 15:1; 1Ki 1:5) When David defeated the king of

Zobah, he preserved 100 chariot horses.—2Sa 8:3, 4; 10:18.

King Solomon, in building up the army of Israel, expanded the number of chariots to 1,400. (1Ki 10:26, 29; 2Ch 1:14, 17) In addition to Jerusalem, other towns known as chariot cities had special facilities for taking care of all this mechanized war equipment.—1Ki 9:19, 22; 2Ch 8:6, 9; 9:25.

- **(1 Kings 4:26)** And Sol'o-mon had 4,000 stalls of horses for his chariots and 12,000 horses.
- **(1 Kings 9:19)** as well as all of Sol'o-mon's storage cities, the chariot cities, the cities for the horsemen, and whatever Sol'o-mon desired to build in Jerusalem, in Leb'a-non, and in all the land of his dominion.
- **(1 Kings 10:26)** And Sol'o-mon kept accumulating chariots and horses; he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem.
- **(1 Kings 10:29)** Each chariot imported from Egypt cost 600 silver pieces, and a horse cost 150; in turn, they would export them to all the kings of the Hit'tites and the kings of Syria.
- **(2 Chronicles 1:14-17)** Sol'o-mon kept accumulating chariots and horses; he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem. ¹⁵ The king made the silver and the gold in Jerusalem as plentiful as the stones, and cedarwood as plentiful as the sycamore trees in the She-phe'lah. ¹⁶ The horses of Sol'o-mon had been imported from Egypt, and the company of the king's merchants would obtain the horses in droves for one price. ¹⁷ Each chariot imported from Egypt cost 600 silver pieces, and a

horse cost 150; in turn, they would export them to all the kings of the Hit'tites and the kings of Syria.

- **(Isaiah 31:1)** Woe to those who go down to Egypt for assistance, Who rely on horses, Who trust in war chariots because they are numerous, And in warhorses because they are mighty. But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, And they do not search for Jehovah.
- **(Deuteronomy 17:16)** However, he should not acquire many horses for himself or make the people go back to Egypt in order to obtain more horses, since Jehovah told you, 'You must never go back again by this way.'
- **(1 Samuel 8:11)** He said: "This is what the king who rules over you will have the right to demand: He will take your sons and put them in his chariots and make them his horsemen, and some will have to run before his chariots.
- **(2 Samuel 15:1)** After all these things, Ab'sa-lom acquired for himself a chariot and horses and 50 men to run before him.
- **(1 Kings 1:5)** Meanwhile, Ad-o-ni'jah the son of Hag'gith was exalting himself, saying: "I am going to be king!" He had a chariot made for himself with horsemen and 50 men to run before him.
- **(2 Samuel 8:3, 4)** David defeated Had-ad-e'zer the son of Re'hob the king of Zo'bah as he was on his way to restore his authority at the Eu-phra'tes River. ⁴ David captured 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers from him. Then David hamstrung all but 100 of the chariot horses.
- **(2 Samuel 10:18)** But the Syrians fled from Israel; and David killed 700

charioteers and 40,000 horsemen of the Syrians, and he struck down Sho'bach the chief of their army, who died there.

- **(1 Kings 10:26)** And Sol'o·mon kept accumulating chariots and horses; he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem.
- **(1 Kings 10:29)** Each chariot imported from Egypt cost 600 silver pieces, and a horse cost 150; in turn, they would export them to all the kings of the Hit'tites and the kings of Syria.
- **(2 Chronicles 1:14)** Sol'o·mon kept accumulating chariots and horses; he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem.
- **(2 Chronicles 1:17)** Each chariot imported from Egypt cost 600 silver pieces, and a horse cost 150; in turn, they would export them to all the kings of the Hit'tites and the kings of Syria.
- **(1 Kings 9:19)** as well as all of Sol'o·mon's storage cities, the chariot cities, the cities for the horsemen, and whatever Sol'o·mon desired to build in Jerusalem, in Leb'a·non, and in all the land of his dominion.
- **(1 Kings 9:22)** But Sol'o·mon did not make any of the Israelites slaves, for they were his warriors, servants, princes, adjutants, and the chiefs of his charioteers and horsemen.
- **(2 Chronicles 8:6)** and Ba'al·ath as well as all of Sol'o·mon's storage cities, all the chariot cities, the cities for the horsemen, and whatever Sol'o·mon desired to build in Jerusalem, in Leb'a·non, and in all the land of his dominion.

- **(2 Chronicles 8:9)** But Sol'o·mon did not make any of the Israelites slaves for his work, for they were his warriors, the chiefs of his adjutants, and the chiefs of his charioteers and horsemen.
- **(2 Chronicles 9:25)** And Sol'o·mon had 4,000 stalls for his horses and chariots and 12,000 horses, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem.

Although the people prospered during a good part of Solomon's reign, they revolted under King Rehoboam because he kept his father's heavy burdens and added to them. (2Ch 10:3, 4, 14, 16) Our decisions always have consequences.—Ga 6:7.

- **(2 Chronicles 10:3, 4)** Then they sent for him, and Jer·o·bo'am and all Israel came to Re·ho·bo'am and said: ⁴ "Your father made our yoke harsh. But if you make the harsh service of your father easier and you lighten the heavy yoke he put on us, we will serve you."
- **(2 Chronicles 10:14)** He spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying: "I will make your yoke heavier, and I will add to it. My father punished you with whips, but I will do so with scourges."
- **(2 Chronicles 10:16)** As for all Israel, because the king refused to listen to them, the people replied to the king: "What share do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jes'se. Each one to your gods, O Israel! Now look after your own house, O David." With that all Israel returned to their homes.
- **(Galatians 6:7)** Do not be misled: God is not one to be mocked. For whatever a person is sowing, this he will also reap;

Spiritual Gems:

2Ch 1:11, 12—What does this account teach us about our personal prayers? (w05 12/1 19 ¶6)

(2 Chronicles 1:11, 12) Then God said to Sol'o-mon: "Because this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches, and honor or for the death of those hating you, nor have you asked for a long life, but you have asked for wisdom and knowledge to judge my people over whom I have made you king, ¹² wisdom and knowledge will be given you; but I will also give you wealth and riches and honor such as no kings before you have had and none after you will have."

*** w05 12/1 p. 19 par. 6 Highlights From the Book of Second Chronicles ***

Lessons for Us:

1:11, 12. Solomon's request showed Jehovah that gaining wisdom and knowledge was close to the king's heart. Our prayers to God indeed reveal what is close to our heart. We are wise to analyze their content.

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.)

2Ch 4:7-22

(2 Chronicles 4:7-22) ⁷ He then made ten lampstands of gold, as specified, and put them in the temple, five on the right and five on the left. ⁸ He also made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the right and five on the left; and he made 100 golden bowls. ⁹ Then he made the courtyard of the priests and the great court and the doors for the court, and he overlaid their doors with copper. ¹⁰ And he placed the Sea on the right side, toward the southeast. ¹¹ Hi'ram also made the cans, the shovels, and the bowls. So Hi'ram finished the work that he did for King Sol'o-mon on the house of the true God: ¹² the two pillars and the bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the two pillars; the two networks to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the pillars; ¹³ the 400 pomegranates for the two networks, two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on the pillars; ¹⁴ the ten carriages and the ten basins on the carriages; ¹⁵ the Sea and the 12 bulls beneath it; ¹⁶ and the cans, the shovels, the forks, and all their utensils Hi'ram-a'biv made of polished copper for King Sol'o-mon for the house of Jehovah. ¹⁷ The king cast them in the district of the Jordan in the thick clay between Suc'oth and Zer'e-dah. ¹⁸ Sol'o-mon made all these utensils in great quantities; the weight of the copper was not ascertained. ¹⁹ Sol'o-mon made all the utensils for the house of the true God: the altar of gold; the tables with the showbread on them; ²⁰ the lampstands and their lamps of pure gold, to burn before the innermost room according to the requirements; ²¹ and the blossoms, the lamps, and the snuffers, of gold, the purest gold; ²² the extinguishers, the bowls, the cups, and the fire holders, of pure gold; and the entrance of the house, its inner doors for the Most Holy, and the doors of the house of the temple, of gold.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Memorial Invitation: (3 min.) Invite a workmate, a schoolmate, or a relative. (*th* study 2)

Return Visit: (4 min.) Make a return visit on someone who accepted the Memorial invitation and showed interest. Explain our free Bible course, and offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure. Introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video *What Happens at a Bible Study?* (*th* study 17)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 09 point 5 (*th* study 9)

5. Our prayers should come from the heart

Some people have been taught to repeat certain prayers word for word. But is that how God wants us to pray to him? **Read Matthew 6:7**, and then discuss this question:

- **(Matthew 6:7)** ⁷ When praying, do not say the same things over and over again as the people of the nations do, for they imagine they will get a hearing for their use of many words.

- How can you avoid saying “the same things over and over again” in your prayers?

Each day, you might think of one specific blessing in your life and then thank Jehovah for that blessing. Do this every day for a week, and you will have prayed about seven different topics without repeating yourself.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 19

Will You Be Prepared for the Most Important Day of the Year?: (15 min.) Talk and video. To be handled by the service overseer. Report on the local progress of the Memorial campaign. Interview those who have had good experiences. Refer to the Memorial Bible reading schedule on pages 8 and 9, and encourage all to prepare their heart. (Ezr 7:10) Discuss how we can warmly welcome our guests on the night of the Memorial. (Ro 15:7; *mwb16.032*) Play the video *How to Make Memorial Bread*.

(Ezra 7:10) Ez'ra had prepared his heart to consult the Law of Jehovah and to practice it, and to teach its regulations and judgments in Israel.

*** *mwb16* March p. 2 Welcome Our Guests ***

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Welcome Our Guests

On March 23, some 12 million or more visitors are expected to attend the Memorial as our guests. What an outstanding witness they will receive as the speaker discusses Jehovah's gift of the ransom and some of the future blessings that will result to mankind! (Isa 11:6-9; 35:5, 6; 65:21-23; Joh 3:16) However, the speaker is not the only one who will give a witness on this special occasion. All of us can have a share by warmly welcoming our guests. (Ro 15:7) Here are some suggestions.

- Instead of going to your seat and waiting for the program to begin, welcome visitors and inactive ones with a warm smile and a friendly greeting
- While giving special attention to acquaintances that you personally invited, be alert for others who may be there as a result of the invitation campaign. Invite new ones to sit with you. Share your Bible and songbook with them

- After the talk, make yourself available to answer questions. If time is limited because your congregation must leave to make room for another congregation, make arrangements to visit the person within a few days. If you do not have his or her contact information, you might say: "I'd like to hear what you thought of the program. Is there a way that I can contact you?"

- (Isaiah 11:6-9) The wolf will reside for a while with the lamb, And with the young goat the leopard will lie down, And the calf and the lion and the fattened animal will all be together; And a little boy will lead them. 7 The cow and the bear will feed together, And their young will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the bull. 8 The nursing child will play over the lair of a cobra, And a weaned child will put his hand over the den of a poisonous snake. 9 They will not cause any harm Or any ruin in all my holy mountain, Because the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah As the waters cover the sea.
- (Isaiah 35:5, 6) At that time the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. 6 At that time the lame will leap like the deer, And the tongue of the speechless will shout for joy. For waters will burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert plain.
- (Isaiah 65:21-23) They will build houses and live in them, And they will plant vineyards and eat their fruitage. 22 They will not build for someone else to inhabit, Nor will they plant for others to eat. For the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, And the work of their hands my chosen ones will enjoy to the full. 23 They will not toil for nothing, Nor will they bear children for distress, Because they are the offspring made up of those blessed by Jehovah, And their descendants with them.

Joseph's care, and he gave no thought to anything except the food he was eating. Moreover, Joseph grew to be well-built and handsome. 7 Now after these things, the wife of his master began to cast her eyes on Joseph and say: "Lie down with me." 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife: "Here my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has entrusted everything he has into my care. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I am, and he has not withheld from me anything at all except you, because you are his wife. So how could I commit this great badness and actually sin against God?" 10 So day after day she spoke to Joseph, but he never consented to lie with her or to remain with her. 11 But on one of the days when he went into the house to do his work, none of the household servants were in the house. 12 Then she grabbed hold of him by his garment and said: "Lie down with me!" But he left his garment in her hand and fled outside.

(Genesis 39:9) There is no one greater in this house than I am, and he has not withheld from me anything at all except you, because you are his wife. So how could I commit this great badness and actually sin against God?"

(1 Corinthians 6:18) Flee from sexual immorality! Every other sin that a man may commit is outside his body, but whoever practices sexual immorality is sinning against his own body.

(Philippians 4:8) Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are of serious concern, whatever things are righteous, whatever things are chaste, whatever things are lovable, whatever things are well-spoken-of, whatever things are virtuous, and whatever things are praiseworthy, continue considering these things.

- Concluding Comments (3 min.)
- Song 135 and Prayer

March 20-26, 2023
Our Christian Life and Ministry MEETING WORKBOOK and CBS
Assigned chapters: 2 CHRONICLES 1-4

2023 Memorial Bible Reading Schedule

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

SUNRISE
SUNSET (Nisan 8 begins)
□ John 11:55–12:1

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

SUNRISE
SUNSET (Nisan 9 begins)
□ Matthew 26:6-13
□ Mark 14:3-9
□ John 12:2-11
Jesus—The Way, chap. 101

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

SUNRISE
□ Matthew 21:1-11, 14-17
□ Mark 11:1-11
□ Luke 19:29-44
□ John 12:12-19
Jesus—The Way, chap. 102
SUNSET (Nisan 10 begins)

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

SUNRISE
□ Matthew 21:12, 13, 18, 19
□ Mark 11:12-19
□ Luke 19:45-48
□ John 12:20-50
Jesus—The Way, chaps. 103-104
SUNSET (Nisan 11 begins)

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

SUNRISE
□ Matthew 21:19–25:46
□ Mark 11:20–13:37
□ Luke 20:1–21:38
Jesus—The Way, chaps. 105-114
SUNSET (Nisan 12 begins)

MONDAY, APRIL 3

SUNRISE
□ Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16
□ Mark 14:1, 2, 10, 11
□ Luke 22:1-6
Jesus—The Way, chap. 115
SUNSET (Nisan 13 begins)

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

MEMORIAL (AFTER SUNSET)
SUNRISE
□ Matthew 26:17-19
□ Mark 14:12-16
□ Luke 22:7-13
SUNSET (Nisan 14 begins)
□ Matthew 26:20-75
□ Mark 14:17-72
□ Luke 22:14-65
□ John 13:1–18:27
Jesus—The Way, chaps. 116-126

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

SUNRISE
□ Matthew 27:1-61
□ Mark 15:1-47
□ Luke 22:66–23:56
□ John 18:28–19:42
Jesus—The Way, chaps. 127-133
SUNSET (Nisan 15 begins)

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

SUNRISE
□ Matthew 27:62-66
SUNSET (Nisan 16 begins)
□ Mark 16:1

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

SUNRISE
□ Matthew 28:1-15
□ Mark 16:2-8
□ Luke 24:1-49
□ John 20:1-25
Jesus—The Way, chaps. 134-135
SUNSET (Nisan 17 begins)