

- Song 148 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**



• **“Stand Firm and See the Salvation of Jehovah”:** (10 min.)

14:13, 14, 21, 22, 26-28

Jehovah is a caring and considerate Savior. How did he show personal consideration for the Israelites during the Exodus from Egypt?

- He organized them.—Ex 13:18
  - (Exodus 13:18) So God made the people go around by the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. But it was in battle formation that the Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt.
- He provided guidance and protection.—Ex 14:19, 20
  - (Exodus 14:19, 20) Then the angel of the true God who was going ahead of the camp of Israel departed and went to their rear, and the pillar of cloud that was in front of them moved to the rear and stood behind them. <sup>20</sup> So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. On the one side, it was a dark cloud. On the other side, it was lighting up the night. So the one camp did not come near the other camp all night long

• He delivered all of his people, both young and old alike.—Ex 14:29, 30

- (Exodus 14:29, 30) But the Israelites walked on dry ground in the midst of the seabed, and the waters formed a wall on their right hand and on their left. <sup>30</sup> Thus Jehovah saved Israel on that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

What confidence can you have as the great tribulation approaches?—Isa 30:15

- (Isaiah 30:15) For this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, says: “By returning to me and resting, you will be saved; Your strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust.” But you were unwilling.

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**Ex 14:13, 14—Moses expressed faith that Jehovah would deliver Israel (w13 2/1 4)**

**(Exodus 14:13, 14) Then Moses said to the people: “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and see the salvation of Jehovah that he will perform for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never ever see again. 14 Jehovah himself will fight for you, and you will keep silent.”**

\*\*\* w13 2/1 p. 4 Moses—A Man of Faith \*\*\*  
 Moses may have had little idea that God was about to part the Red Sea, thereby opening up an escape route for the Israelites. However, Moses was confident that God would do something to protect His people. And Moses wanted his fellow Israelites to have that same

conviction. We read: “Moses said to the people: ‘Do not be afraid. Stand firm and see the salvation of Jehovah, which he will perform for you today.’” (Exodus 14:13) Did Moses succeed in fortifying the faith of his fellow Israelites? Indeed, for the Bible says regarding not just Moses but all the Israelites: “By faith they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land.” (Hebrews 11:29) Moses’ faith benefited not only himself but everyone who learned from it.

- (Exodus 14:13) Then Moses said to the people: “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and see the salvation of Jehovah that he will perform for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never ever see again.
- (Hebrews 11:29) By faith they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted it, they were swallowed up.

**Ex 14:21, 22—Jehovah provided a miraculous deliverance (w18.09 26 ¶13)**

**(Exodus 14:21, 22) Moses now stretched out his hand over the sea; and Jehovah drove the sea back with a strong east wind all night long, turning the sea basin into dry ground, and the waters divided. 22 So the Israelites went through the midst of the sea on dry ground, while the waters formed a wall on their right hand and on their left.**

\*\*\* w18 September p. 26 par. 13 Almighty yet Considerate \*\*\*

13 Read Exodus 14:19-22. Picture yourself there, trapped between Pharaoh’s forces and the Red Sea. Then God acts. The pillar of cloud moves to the rear of the camp, blocking the Egyptians and keeping them in darkness. Your vast camp, however, is bathed in miraculous light! Then you see Moses stretch out his hand over the sea, and a strong east wind opens a wide path to the other side. In an

orderly manner, you, your family, and your domestic animals walk out onto the seabed with the rest of the people. Immediately, you notice something odd. The seabed is not miry or frozen; it is dry and quite firm, making it easy to walk. As a result, even the slowest ones cross safely to the other side.

- (Exodus 14:19-22) Then the angel of the true God who was going ahead of the camp of Israel departed and went to their rear, and the pillar of cloud that was in front of them moved to the rear and stood behind them. 20 So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. On the one side, it was a dark cloud. On the other side, it was lighting up the night. So the one camp did not come near the other camp all night long. 21 Moses now stretched out his hand over the sea; and Jehovah drove the sea back with a strong east wind all night long, turning the sea basin into dry ground, and the waters divided. 22 So the Israelites went through the midst of the sea on dry ground, while the waters formed a wall on their right hand and on their left.

**Ex 14:26-28—Jehovah destroyed Pharaoh and his army (w09 3/15 7 ¶2-3)**

**(Exodus 14:26-28) Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, their war chariots, and their cavalymen.” 27 Moses at once stretched out his hand over the sea, and as morning approached, the sea returned to its normal condition. As the Egyptians fled from it, Jehovah shook the Egyptians off into the midst of the sea. 28 The returning waters covered the war chariots and the cavalymen and all of Pharaoh’s army who had gone into the sea after them. Not so much as one among them was allowed to survive.**

\*\*\* w09 3/15 p. 7 You Must Not Forget Jehovah \*\*\*

While the Egyptians struggled with their crippled war vehicles, all Israel reached the eastern shore. Moses now stretched out his hand over the Red Sea. At that, Jehovah made the walls of water forming the corridor collapse. Millions of tons of water roared in upon Pharaoh and his warriors, drowning them. None of those enemies survived. Israel was free!—Ex. 14:26-28; Ps. 136:13-15.

News of this event left surrounding nations with an enduring sense of dread. (Ex. 15:14-16) Forty years later, Rahab of Jericho told two Israelite men: “The fright of you has fallen upon us, . . . for we have heard how Jehovah dried up the waters of the Red Sea from before you when you came out of Egypt.” (Josh. 2:9, 10) Not even those pagan nations had forgotten how Jehovah delivered his people. Clearly, Israel had even more reasons to remember him.

- (Exodus 14:26-28) Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, their war chariots, and their cavalymen.” 27 Moses at once stretched out his hand over the sea, and as morning approached, the sea returned to its normal condition. As the Egyptians fled from it, Jehovah shook the Egyptians off into the midst of the sea. 28 The returning waters covered the war chariots and the cavalymen and all of Phar'aoh's army who had gone into the sea after them. Not so much as one among them was allowed to survive.
- (Psalm 136:13-15) He split the Red Sea in two, For his loyal love endures forever. 14 He caused Israel to pass through the middle of it, For his loyal love endures forever. 15 He shook off Phar'aoh and his army into the Red Sea, For his loyal love endures forever.

- (Exodus 15:14-16) Peoples must hear; they will shudder; Anguish will seize the inhabitants of Phi-lis'ti-a. 15 At that time the sheikhs of E'dom will be terrified, And trembling will take hold of the mighty rulers of Mo'ab. All the inhabitants of Ca'naan will be disheartened. 16 Fear and dread will fall upon them. Because of the greatness of your arm they will be as motionless as a stone Until your people pass by, O Jehovah, Until the people whom you produced pass by.

- (Joshua 2:9, 10) She said to the men: “I do know that Jehovah will give you the land and that the fear of you has fallen upon us. All the inhabitants of the land are disheartened because of you, 10 for we heard how Jehovah dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you left Egypt and what you did to the two kings of the Am'or-ites, Si'hon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction on the other side of the Jordan

### Digging for Spiritual Gems:

**Ex 13:17—How did Jehovah show consideration for the Israelites when leading them out of Egypt? (*it-1 1117*)**

**(Exodus 13:17) 17 Now when Phar'aoh sent the people away, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Phi-lis'tines, although it was near. For God said: “The people may change their minds when they are confronted by war and will return to Egypt.”**

From ancient times highways and roads, including several important trade routes, linked cities and kingdoms in the area of Palestine. (Nu 20:17-19; 21:21, 22; 22:5, 21-23; Jos 2:22; Jg 21:19; 1Sa 6:9, 12; 13:17, 18; see KING'S ROAD.) What is considered to have been the principal route led from Egypt to the Philistine cities of Gaza and Ashkelon and gradually bent

northeastward in the direction of Megiddo. It continued to Hazor, N of the Sea of Galilee, and then led to Damascus. This route via Philistia was the shortest from Egypt to the Promised Land. But Jehovah kindly led the Israelites by another way so that they would not get disheartened by a Philistine attack.—Ex 13:17.

- (Numbers 20:17-19) Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through any field or vineyard, and we will not drink the water of any well. We will march on the King's Road without turning to the right or the left until we pass through your territory." 18 However, E'dom said to him: "You may not pass through our territory. If you do, I will come out with the sword to meet you." 19 In turn the Israelites said to him: "By the highway we will go up, and if we and our livestock drink your water, we will pay for it. We want nothing more than to pass through on foot."
- (Numbers 21:21, 22) Israel now sent messengers to Si'hon, the king of the Am'or-ites, saying: 22 "Let us pass through your land. We will not turn aside into a field or a vineyard. We will not drink water from any well. We will march on the King's Road until we pass through your territory."
- (Numbers 22:5) He sent messengers to Ba'laam the son of Be'or at Pe'thor, which is by the River in his native land. He summoned him, saying: "Look! A people has come out of Egypt. Look! They have covered the face of the earth, and they are dwelling right in front of me."
- (Numbers 22:21-23) So Ba'laam got up in the morning and saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Mo'ab. 22 But God's anger blazed

because he was going, and Jehovah's angel stationed himself in the road to resist him. Now Ba'laam was riding on his donkey, and two of his attendants were with him. 23 And when the donkey saw Jehovah's angel standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it tried to turn off the road into the field. But Ba'laam began to beat the donkey to make it return to the road.

- (Joshua 2:22) So they left and went to the mountainous region and stayed there for three days, until the pursuers returned. The pursuers had been looking for them on every road but did not find them.
- (Judges 21:19) Then they said: "Look! There is a festival of Jehovah from year to year in Shi'loh, which is north of Beth'el and east of the highway that goes up from Beth'el to She'chem and south of Le·bo'nah."
- (1 Samuel 6:9) and watch: If it goes up the road to Beth-she'mesh, to its own territory, then he is the one who has done this great evil to us. But if not, we will know that it was not his hand that struck us; it happened to us by coincidence."
- (1 Samuel 6:12) And the cows went straight ahead on the road to Beth-she'mesh. They stayed on the one highway, mooing as they went; they did not turn either to the right or to the left. All the while the lords of the Phi-lis'tines were walking behind them as far as the boundary of Beth-she'mesh.
- (1 Samuel 13:17, 18) And the raiding parties would go out from the camp of the Phi-lis'tines in three bands. One band would turn toward the road to Oph'rah, to the land of Shu'al; 18 another band would turn

toward the road of Beth-ho'ron; and the third band would turn toward the road leading to the boundary that overlooks the valley of Ze·bo'im, toward the wilderness.

- (Exodus 13:17) Now when Phar'aoh sent the people away, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Phi·lis'tines, although it was near. For God said: "The people may change their minds when they are confronted by war and will return to Egypt."

**Ex 14:2—Where was the Red Sea possibly parted to allow Israel to cross over? (*it-1* 782 ¶2-3)**

**(Exodus 14:1, 2) . . . : 2 "Tell the Israelites that they should turn back and encamp before Pi·ha·hi'roth, between Mig'dol and the sea, within view of Ba'al·ze'phon. You are to encamp facing it by the sea.**

\*\*\* it-1 p. 782 Exodus \*\*\*

Where was the Red Sea parted to allow Israel to cross over?

It should be noted that, after reaching the second stage of their journey, Etham "at the edge of the wilderness," God ordered Moses to "turn back and encamp before Pihahiroth . . . by the sea." This maneuver would cause Pharaoh to believe the Israelites were "wandering in confusion." (Ex 13:20; 14:1-3) Scholars favoring the el Haj route as the likely one point out that the Hebrew verb for "turn back" is emphatic and does not mean merely to "divert" or "turn aside," but has more the sense of returning or at least of a marked detour. They suggest that, upon reaching a point N of the head of the Gulf of Suez, the Israelites reversed their line of march and went around to the E side of Jebel 'Ataqah, a mountain range bordering the W side of the

Gulf. A large host, such as the Israelites were, would find no effective way for swift exit from such a position if pursued from the N, and hence they would be bottled up with the sea blocking their way.

Jewish tradition of the first century C.E. conveys such a picture. (See PIHAHIROTH.) But, more importantly, such a situation fits the general picture portrayed in the Bible itself, whereas the popular views of many scholars do not. (Ex 14:9-16) It seems evident that the crossing must have been far enough from the head of the Gulf (or western arm of the Red Sea) that Pharaoh's forces would not have been able simply to circle the end of the Gulf and easily come upon the Israelites on the other side.—Ex 14:22, 23.

- (Exodus 13:20) They departed from Suc'coth and encamped at E'tham, at the edge of the wilderness.
- (Exodus 14:1-3) Jehovah now said to Moses: 2 "Tell the Israelites that they should turn back and encamp before Pi·ha·hi'roth, between Mig'dol and the sea, within view of Ba'al·ze'phon. You are to encamp facing it by the sea. 3 Then Phar'aoh will say about the Israelites, 'They are wandering in confusion in the land. The wilderness has closed in on them.'
- (Exodus 14:9-16) The Egyptians chased after them, and all the chariot horses of Phar'aoh and his cavalrymen and his army were catching up with them while they were camping by the sea, by Pi·ha·hi'roth, facing Ba'al·ze'phon. 10 When Phar'aoh got closer, the Israelites raised their eyes and saw the Egyptians pursuing them. The Israelites became terrified and began to cry out to Jehovah. 11 They said to Moses: "Is it because there are no burial places in Egypt that you have brought us here to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us by leading us out of Egypt?"

12 Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt when we said, 'Let us alone, so that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." 13 Then Moses said to the people: "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and see the salvation of Jehovah that he will perform for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never ever see again. 14 Jehovah himself will fight for you, and you will keep silent." 15 Jehovah now said to Moses: "Why do you keep crying out to me? Tell the Israelites that they should break camp. 16 As for you, lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, so that the Israelites may go through the midst of the sea on dry ground.

- (Exodus 14:22, 23) So the Israelites went through the midst of the sea on dry ground, while the waters formed a wall on their right hand and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Phar'ao'h's horses, his war chariots, and his cavalymen began going after them into the midst of the sea.

**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) •**

) Ex 13:1-20 (*th study 5*)

(Exodus 13:1-20) 13 Jehovah spoke further to Moses, saying: 2 "Sanctify to me every firstborn male among the Israelites. The first male to be born, of both human and animal, belongs to me." 3 Then Moses said to the people: "Remember this day on which you went out of Egypt, from the house of slavery, because with a mighty hand Jehovah brought you out of here. So nothing leavened may be eaten. 4 You are going out on this day, in the month of A'bib. 5 When Jehovah has brought you into the land of the Ca'naan-ites, the Hit'tites, the Am'or-ites, the Hi'vites, and the Jeb'u-sites, which he swore to your forefathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, then you must keep this observance in this month. 6 Seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day, there will be a festival to Jehovah. 7 Unleavened bread is to be eaten for the seven days; and nothing leavened is to be found with you, and no sourdough is to be found with you within all your territory. 8 And you must tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what Jehovah did for me when I came out of Egypt.' 9 And this will serve for you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial on your forehead, so that Jehovah's law may be in your mouth, for with a mighty hand Jehovah brought you out of Egypt. 10 You must keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year. 11 "When Jehovah brings you into the land of the Ca'naan-ites, which he has sworn to you and to your forefathers to give to you, 12 you must devote to Jehovah every firstborn male, as well as every male firstling of the livestock that you acquire. The males belong to Jehovah. 13 Every firstling donkey you are to redeem with a sheep, and if you do not redeem it, then you must break its neck. And every firstborn male of your sons you are to redeem. 14 "In case your son should ask you later on, 'What does this mean?' then you should say to him, 'With a mighty hand Jehovah brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. 15 When Phar'ao'h stubbornly refused to send

us away, Jehovah killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of man to the firstborn of beast. That is why I am sacrificing to Jehovah all the firstborn males, and I redeem every firstborn of my sons.' 16 This must serve as a sign on your hand and as a headband on your forehead, for with a mighty hand Jehovah brought us out of Egypt." 17 Now when Phar'aoh sent the people away, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Phi-lis'tines, although it was near. For God said: "The people may change their minds when they are confronted by war and will return to Egypt." 18 So God made the people go around by the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. But it was in battle formation that the Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt. 19 Moses also took Joseph's bones with him, because Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear: "God will not fail to turn his attention to you, and you must take my bones up out of here with you." 20 They departed from Suc'coth and encamped at E'tham, at the edge of the wilderness.

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

• **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Effective Conclusion*, and then discuss study 20 of the *Teaching* brochure.**

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• **Talk: (5 min. or less) w07 12/15 18-20 ¶13-16—Theme: What Can We Learn From Israel's Salvation at the Red Sea? (th study 13)**

\*\*\* w07 12/15 pp. 18-20 "Stand Firm and See the Salvation of Jehovah" \*\*\*

Learn From Israel's Salvation

13 What effect did this miraculous deliverance have on the survivors? Why, Moses and the sons of Israel spontaneously burst into song, praising Jehovah! They sang: "Let me sing to Jehovah, for he has become highly exalted. . . . Jehovah will rule as king to time indefinite, even forever." (Exodus 15:1, 18) Yes, their first thought was to exalt God. In that situation, Jehovah's sovereignty had been demonstrated.

14 What instruction, comfort, and hope do we gain from these thrilling events? Surely we can see that Jehovah is ready for any trial that his people have to go through. He is equal to any situation that may confront them. The Red Sea was no barrier to Israel when Jehovah caused that strong east wind to blow. And he was able to cause that same Red Sea to become a watery grave for Pharaoh's armies. Contemplating this, we can echo the words of the psalmist who said: "Jehovah is on my side; I shall not fear. What can earthling man do to me?" (Psalm 118:6) We can also find comfort in Paul's words recorded at Romans 8:31: "If God is for us, who will be against us?" What confidence these inspired sayings give us! They quiet any fears and doubts that we may have and fill us with hope. How appropriate, then, is our yeartext for 2008: "Stand firm and see the salvation of Jehovah"!—Exodus 14:13.

15 What else can we learn from Israel's Exodus from Egypt? That we must obey Jehovah no matter what he asks us to do. The Israelites were obedient in carrying out the detailed preparations for the Passover. They obediently stayed indoors during the night of

Nisan 14. When they finally left Egypt, they had to go “in battle formation.” (Exodus 13:18) Today, it is so important that we follow the guidance that comes to us through “the faithful and discreet slave”! (Matthew 24:45) We have to listen very carefully to God’s word behind us, saying: “‘This is the way. Walk in it, you people,’ in case you people should go to the right or in case you should go to the left.” (Isaiah 30:21) As we get nearer to the outbreak of the great tribulation, we may well receive some detailed instructions. Our safe journey through those troublesome days will depend on our keeping in step with other loyal servants of Jehovah.

16 Remember, too, that Jehovah diverted the Israelites into a position where they appeared to be trapped between the mountains on the one side and the Red Sea on the other. It just did not seem to be the right move. But Jehovah had everything in hand, and all worked out to his praise and to the salvation of his people. Today, we may not clearly see why some organizational matters are handled in a certain way, but we have every reason to trust in Jehovah’s guidance through his faithful channel of communication. At times, our enemies may seem to be getting the upper hand. From our limited perspective, we may not be able to see the whole picture. Still, Jehovah is capable of maneuvering matters at the right moment, just as he did back there for the sons of Israel.—Proverbs 3:5.

- (Exodus 15:1) At that time Moses and the Israelites sang this song to Jehovah: “Let me sing to Jehovah, for he has become highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.
- (Exodus 15:18) Jehovah will rule as king forever and ever.
- (Psalm 118:6) Jehovah is on my side; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

- (Romans 8:31) What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who will be against us?
- (Exodus 14:13) Then Moses said to the people: “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and see the salvation of Jehovah that he will perform for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never ever see again.
- (Exodus 13:18) So God made the people go around by the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. But it was in battle formation that the Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt.
- (Matthew 24:45) “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time?
- (Isaiah 30:21) And your own ears will hear a word behind you saying, “This is the way. Walk in it,” in case you should go to the right or in case you should go to the left.
- (Proverbs 3:5) Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, And do not rely on your own understanding.

### LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

#### Song 127

• **“Stand Firm as the End Approaches”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Future Events That Will Require Courage—Excerpt.***

\*\*\* mwb20 August p. 3 Stand Firm as the End Approaches \*\*\*

WHY IMPORTANT: Awe-inspiring events will soon test our courage and trust in Jehovah as never before. The great tribulation will begin with the destruction of false religion. (Mt 24:21; Re 17:16, 17) During that tumultuous time, we may well deliver a hard-hitting judgment message. (Re 16:21) We will face an attack by

Gog of Magog. (Eze 38:10-12, 14-16) In response, Jehovah will bring “the war of the great day of God the Almighty.” (Re 16:14, 16) To strengthen our courage for these future events, we need to stand firm during current tests of faith.

HOW TO DO IT:

- Courageously uphold Jehovah’s high moral standards.—Isa 5:20
- Continue worshipping with fellow Christians.—Heb 10:24, 25
- Readily obey direction from Jehovah’s organization.—Heb 13:17
- Meditate on how Jehovah saved his people in the past.—2Pe 2:9
- Pray to Jehovah, and trust in him.—Ps 112:7, 8

WATCH THE DRAMATIZATION FUTURE EVENTS THAT WILL REQUIRE COURAGE—EXCERPT, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



• What test of obedience did publishers face when the congregation they attended was merged with other congregations?

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• How are courage and obedience linked?

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• Why will courage be needed when Armageddon comes?

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• What Bible account can help us to strengthen our faith in Jehovah’s saving power?—2Ch 20:1-24

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- (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.
- (Revelation 17:16, 17) And the ten horns that you saw and the wild beast, these will hate the prostitute and will make her devastated and naked, and they will eat up her flesh and completely burn her with fire. 17 For God put it into their hearts to carry out his thought, yes, to carry out their one thought by giving their kingdom to the wild beast, until the words of God will have been accomplished.
- (Revelation 16:21) Then great hailstones, each about the weight of a talent, fell from heaven on the people, and the people blasphemed God because of the plague of hail, for the plague was unusually great.
- (Ezekiel 38:10-12) “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.

- (Ezekiel 38:14-16) “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.”’
- (Revelation 16:14) They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and they perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty.
- (Revelation 16:16) And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Armageddon.
- (Isaiah 5:20) Woe to those who say that good is bad and bad is good, Those who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, Those who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
- (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.

- (Hebrews 13:17) Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over you as those who will render an account, so that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for this would be damaging to you.
- (2 Peter 2:9) So, then, Jehovah knows how to rescue people of godly devotion out of trial, but to reserve unrighteous people to be destroyed on the day of judgment,
- (Psalm 112:7, 8) He will not fear bad news. His heart is steadfast, trusting in Jehovah. 8 His heart is unshakable; he is not afraid; In the end he will look in triumph on his adversaries.
- (2 Chronicles 20:1-24) Afterward the Mo'ab-ites and the Am'mon-ites, together with some of the Am'mon-im, came to wage war against Je·hosh'a·phat. 2 So Je·hosh'a·phat was told: "A large crowd has come against you from the region of the sea, from E'dom, and there they are in Haz'a·zon-ta'mar, that is, En-ged'i." 3 At that Je·hosh'a·phat became afraid, and he resolved to search for Jehovah. So he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. 4 The people of Judah then gathered together to inquire of Jehovah; they came from all the cities of Judah to consult Jehovah. 5 Then Je·hosh'a·phat stood up in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of Jehovah before the new courtyard, 6 and he said: "O Jehovah the God of our forefathers, are you not God in the heavens; do you not have dominion over all the kingdoms of the nations? In your hand are power and might, and no one can stand

against you. 7 O our God, did you not drive away the inhabitants of this land from before your people Israel and then give it as a lasting possession to the offspring of your friend Abraham? 8 And they settled in it, and they built for you there a sanctuary for your name, saying, 9 'If disaster should come on us, whether by sword, adverse judgment, pestilence, or famine, let us stand before this house and before you (for your name is in this house) and call to you for help out of our distress, and may you hear and save us.' 10 Now here are the men of Am'mon, Mo'ab, and the mountainous region of Se'ir, whom you did not allow Israel to invade when they came out of the land of Egypt. They turned away from them and did not annihilate them. 11 Now they are repaying us by coming in to drive us out from your possession that you gave us as an inheritance. 12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless before this large crowd that is coming against us; and we do not know what we should do, but our eyes are toward you." 13 Meanwhile, all those of Judah were standing before Jehovah, along with their little ones, their wives, and their children. 14 Then in the middle of the congregation, the spirit of Jehovah came upon Ja·ha·zi'el son of Zech·a·ri'ah son of Be·nai'ah son of Je·i'el son of Mat·ta·ni'ah the Levite of the sons of A'saph. 15 He said: "Pay attention, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Je·hosh'a·phat! Here is what Jehovah says to you, 'Do not be afraid or be terrified because of this large crowd, for the battle is not yours but God's. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will be coming up by the pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley before the wilderness of Je·ru'el. 17 You will not need to fight this battle. Take your position, stand still, and see the

salvation of Jehovah in your behalf. O Judah and Jerusalem, do not be afraid or be terrified. Tomorrow go out against them, and Jehovah will be with you.”

18 At once Je-hosh'a-phat bowed low with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before Jehovah to worship Jehovah. 19 Then the Levites who were descendants of the Ko'hath-ites and the Kor'ah-ites rose up to praise Jehovah the God of Israel with a very loud voice. 20 They rose up early the next morning and went out to the wilderness of Te-ko'a. As they went out, Je-hosh'a-phat stood up and said: “Listen to me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem! Put faith in Jehovah your God so that you may be able to stand firm. Put faith in his prophets, and you will be successful.” 21 After he consulted with the people, he appointed men to sing to Jehovah and to offer praise in holy adornment as they went out ahead of the armed men, saying: “Give thanks to Jehovah, for his loyal love endures forever.” 22 When they began joyfully singing praises, Jehovah set an ambush against the men of Am'mon, Mo'ab, and the mountainous region of Se'ir who were invading Judah, and they struck each other down. 23 And the Am'mon-ites and the Mo'ab-ites turned against the inhabitants of the mountainous region of Se'ir to destroy and annihilate them; and when they finished with the inhabitants of Se'ir, they helped to destroy one another. 24 But when Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness and looked toward the crowd, there they saw their carcasses fallen to the ground; there were no survivors.

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

jy chap. 126

## CHAPTER 126

## Denials at the House of Caiaphas

(Matthew 26:69-75) Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant girl came up to him and said: “You too were with Jesus the Gal-i-le'an!” 70 But he denied it before them all, saying: “I do not know what you are talking about.” 71 When he went out to the gatehouse, another girl noticed him and said to those there: “This man was with Jesus the Naz-a-rene'.” 72 Again he denied it, with an oath: “I do not know the man!” 73 After a little while, those standing around came up and said to Peter: “Certainly you are also one of them, for in fact, your dialect gives you away.” 74 Then he started to curse and swear: “I do not know the man!” And immediately a rooster crowed. 75 And Peter called to mind what Jesus had said, namely: “Before a rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

(Mark 14:66-72) Now while Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. 67 On seeing Peter warming himself, she looked straight at him and said: “You too were with the Naz-a-rene', this Jesus.” 68 But he denied it, saying: “Neither do I know him nor do I understand what you are talking about,” and he went outside to the entryway. 69 There the servant girl saw him and again began to say to those standing by: “This is one of them.” 70 Again he was denying it. And after a little while, those standing by again began saying to Peter: “Certainly you are one of them, for you are, in fact, a Gal-i-le'an.” 71 But he started to curse and swear: “I do not know this man of whom you speak!” 72 Immediately a rooster crowed a second time, and Peter recalled what Jesus had said to him: “Before a rooster crows twice, you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and began to weep.

(Luke 22:54-62) Then they arrested him and led him off, and they brought him into the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance. 55 When they lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter was sitting among them. 56 But a servant girl, seeing him sitting in the light of the fire, looked closely at him and said: "This man was also with him." 57 But he denied it, saying: "I do not know him, woman." 58 After a short time another person saw him and said: "You too are one of them." But Peter said: "Man, I am not." 59 And after about an hour had passed, another man began insisting strongly: "Certainly this man was also with him, for he is, in fact, a Gal·i·le'an!" 60 But Peter said: "Man, I do not know what you are saying." And instantly, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. 61 At this the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter recalled the statement of the Lord when he had said to him: "Before a rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." 62 And he went outside and wept bitterly.

(John 18:15-18) Now Simon Peter, as well as another disciple, was following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, and he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, 16 but Peter was standing outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. 17 The servant girl who was the doorkeeper then said to Peter: "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said: "I am not." 18 Now the slaves and the officers were standing around a charcoal fire they had made, because it was cold and they were warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

(John 18:25-27) Now Simon Peter was standing there warming himself. Then they said to him: "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said: "I am not." 26 One of the slaves of the high priest, who was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said: "I saw you in the garden with him,

did I not?" 27 However, Peter denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

Paragraph 1 on Page 288

(John 18:15) Now Simon Peter, as well as another disciple, was following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, and he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,

(John 19:35) And the one who has seen it has given this witness, and his witness is true, and he knows that what he says is true, so that you also may believe.

(John 21:24) This is the disciple who gives this witness about these things and who wrote these things, and we know that his witness is true.

Paragraph 3 on Page 288

(Matthew 26:58) But Peter kept following him from a good distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and after going inside, he sat with the house attendants to see the outcome.

(John 18:17) The servant girl who was the doorkeeper then said to Peter: "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said: "I am not."

(Matthew 26:69) Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant girl came up to him and said: "You too were with Jesus the Gal·i·le'an!"

(Matthew 26:71-73) When he went out to the gatehouse, another girl noticed him and said to those there: "This man was with Jesus the Naz·a·rene'." 72 Again he denied it, with an oath: "I do not know the man!" 73 After a little while, those standing around came up and said to Peter: "Certainly you are also one of them, for in fact, your dialect gives you away."

(Mark 14:70) Again he was denying it. And after a little while, those standing by again began saying to Peter: "Certainly you are one of them, for you are, in fact, a Gal·i·le'an."

Paragraph 4 on Page 288

(Mark 14:67, 68) On seeing Peter warming himself, she looked straight at him and said: "You too were with the Naz-a-rene', this Jesus." 68 But he denied it, saying: "Neither do I know him nor do I understand what you are talking about," and he went outside to the entryway.

(Matthew 26:74) Then he started to curse and swear: "I do not know the man!" And immediately a rooster crowed.

Paragraph 6 on Page 288

(John 13:38) Jesus answered: "Will you surrender your life in my behalf? Most truly I say to you, a rooster will by no means crow until you have disowned me three times."

(John 18:26, 27) One of the slaves of the high priest, who was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said: "I saw you in the garden with him, did I not?" 27 However, Peter denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

Paragraph 7 on Page 288

(Luke 22:61, 62) At this the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter recalled the statement of the Lord when he had said to him: "Before a rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." 62 And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Paragraph 8 on Page 288

(John 6:68) Simon Peter answered him: "Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life.

◇How do Peter and John gain entrance to the courtyard at Caiaphas' house?

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◇While Peter and John are in the courtyard, what is going on in the house?

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◇What does it mean that Peter curses and swears?

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◇ Peter's experience contains what serious lesson?

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• Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)

• Song 128 and Prayer