

# References for *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook*

## MARCH 6-12

### TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | 1 CHRONICLES 23-26

#### **"Temple Worship Becomes Highly Organized"**

**it-2 241**

#### **Levites**

The work of the Levites was highly organized under David, who appointed supervisors, officers, judges, gatekeepers, and treasurers, as well as a vast number to assist the priests in the temple, the courtyards, and the dining rooms in connection with the offerings, sacrifices, purification work, weighing, measuring, and various guard duties. Levite musicians were organized into 24 groups, similar to the priestly divisions, and served in rotation. Duties were determined by casting lots. In the case of the groups of gatekeepers, the particular gate assignment was chosen in the same way.—1Ch 23, 25, 26; 2Ch 35: 3-5, 10.

**it-2 686**

#### **Priest**

In the temple service the priests were organized under various officers. Lots were drawn in assigning certain services. Each of the 24 divisions served one week at a time, being on assigned duty twice a year. Evidently the entire priesthood served at festival seasons when thousands of sacrifices were offered by the people, as they did at the temple dedication. (1Ch 24:1-18, 31; 2Ch 5:11; compare 2Ch 29:31-35; 30:23-25; 35:10-19.) A priest might serve at other times as long as he did not interfere with the allotted services of the priests on assigned duty. According to rabbinic tradi-

tions, in the time of Jesus' earthly life, the priests were numerous, so that the service of the week was subdivided among the various families making up the division, each family serving one or more days according to their number.

**it-2 451-452**

#### **Music**

In conjunction with the preparations for Jehovah's temple, David set aside 4,000 Levites for musical service. (1Ch 23:4, 5) Of these, 288 were "trained in song to Jehovah, all experts." (1Ch 25:7) The whole arrangement was under the direction of three accomplished musicians, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun (apparently also named Ethan). Since each of these men was a descendant of one of Levi's three sons, Gershon, Kohath, and Merari, respectively, the three chief Levite families were thus represented in the temple music organization. (1Ch 6:16, 31-33, 39-44; 25:1-6) The sons of these three men totaled 24, all of whom were among the aforementioned 288 skilled musicians. Each son was appointed by lot to be the head of one division of musicians. Under his direction were 11 more "experts," selected from his own sons as well as other Levites. In this manner the 288  $([1 + 11] \times 24 = 288)$  expert Levite musicians, like the priests, were separated into 24 courses. If all the remaining 3,712 'learners' were thus divided, it would average about 155 more men to each of the 24 divisions, meaning there were about 13 Levites in various stages of musical education and training to each expert. (1Ch 25:1-31) Since the trumpeters were priests, they would be in addition to the Levite musicians.—2Ch 5:12; compare Nu 10:8.

**In the Temple.** Shortly before his death, King David thoroughly organized the Levites and temple workers, including the gatekeepers, of whom there were 4,000. In their divisions they would come in for seven days at a time. They were responsible to guard Jehovah's house and see that the doors were opened and closed at the proper times. (1Ch 9:23-27; 23:1-6) Besides guard duty, some took care of the contributions brought in by the people for use at the temple. (2Ki 12:9; 22:4) At a later time, when Jehoiada the high priest anointed Jehoash as king, special guards were assigned to the gates of the temple to protect young Jehoash from the usurper, Queen Athaliah. (2Ki 11:4-8) When King Josiah destroyed idolatrous worship, the doorkeepers assisted in removing from the temple the utensils that had been used in the worship of Baal. These were then burned up outside the city.—2Ki 23:4.

## Spiritual Gems

### w22.03 22 ¶10

#### True Worship Will Add to Your Happiness

<sup>10</sup> ***We worship Jehovah when we join in song.*** (Ps. 28:7) The Israelites considered singing to be an important part of their worship. King David assigned 288 Levites to be singers at the temple. (1 Chron. 25:1, 6-8) Today, we can express our love for God when we sing songs of praise. The quality of our voice is not the most important thing. Consider this comparison: When we speak, “we all stumble many times,” but that does not prevent us from speaking in the congregation and in the ministry. (Jas. 3:2) Similarly, we should not allow concerns about the imperfections of our singing voice to prevent us from singing praises to Jehovah.

## TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | 1 CHRONICLES 27-29

### “A Father's Loving Admonition to His Son”

#### w05 2/15 19 ¶9

#### Safeguarding Our Christian Identity

<sup>9</sup> ***Prove Bible truth to yourself.*** Our sense of identity as servants of Jehovah can weaken if it is not solidly based on knowledge of the Scriptures. (Philippians 1:9, 10) Every Christian—young or old—needs to prove to his own satisfaction that what he believes is indeed the truth as found in the Bible. Paul urged fellow believers: “Make sure of all things; hold fast to what is fine.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21) Young Christians who belong to God-fearing families must realize that they cannot live off the faith of their parents. Solomon's own father, David, exhorted him to “*know* the God of your father and serve him with a complete heart.” (1 Chronicles 28:9) It would not be enough for young Solomon to watch how his own father built faith in Jehovah. He had to get to know Jehovah for himself, and he did. He beseeched God: “Give me now wisdom and knowledge that I may go out before this people and that I may come in.”—2 Chronicles 1:10.

#### w12 4/15 16 ¶13

#### Maintain a Complete Heart Toward Jehovah

<sup>13</sup> The lesson is obvious. It is commendable if we share regularly in such wholesome and satisfying activities as attending congregation meetings and participating in field service. But serving Jehovah with a complete heart involves more. (2 Chron. 25:1, 2, 27) If deep down in his heart a

Christian continues to love “the things behind”—that is, certain aspects of the world’s way of life—he is in danger of losing his good standing with God. (Luke 17:32) Only if we truly “abhor what is wicked [and] cling to what is good” will we be “well fitted for the kingdom of God.” (Rom. 12:9; Luke 9:62) All of us, therefore, need to make sure that nothing in Satan’s world, no matter how useful or pleasant it may seem to be, holds us back from being wholehearted in caring for Kingdom interests.—2 Cor. 11:14; **read *Philippians 3:13, 14*.**

#### **w17.09 32 ¶20-21**

#### **“Be Courageous . . . and Go to Work”**

<sup>20</sup> King David reminded Solomon that Jehovah would be with him until the work of building the temple was finished. (1 Chron. 28:20) With his father’s words impressed on his mind and heart, Solomon did not allow his youth and inexperience to become an obstacle. He showed great courage, went to work, and with Jehovah’s help completed the magnificent temple in seven and a half years.

<sup>21</sup> As Jehovah helped Solomon, he can help us to be courageous and to accomplish our work, both in our family and in the congregation. (Isa. 41:10, 13) When we show courage in our worship of Jehovah, we can be confident of his blessing now and in the future. Therefore, “be courageous . . . and go to work.”

#### **Spiritual Gems**

#### **w17.03 29 ¶6-7**

#### **Being a Friend When Friendship Is in Danger**

David had other associates who loyally stood by him in difficult times. One such associate was Hushai, whom the Bible refers to as “David’s friend.” (2 Sam. 16:16; 1 Chron. 27:33)

He may have been a court official who was a personal friend and companion to the king, one who at times carried out confidential orders.

When David’s son Absalom usurped the throne, many Israelites took Absalom’s side, but not Hushai. While David was fleeing, Hushai went to him. David felt deeply hurt because of being betrayed by his own son and by some whom he had trusted. However, Hushai remained loyal, as one who was willing to risk his life and accomplish a mission that would thwart the conspiracy. Hushai did not simply do so out of a sense of duty as a court official. He proved to be a loyal friend.—2 Sam. 15:13-17, 32-37; 16:15-17:16.

## **MARCH 20-26**

### **TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD | 2 CHRONICLES 1-4**

#### **“King Solomon Makes an Unwise Decision”**

#### **it-1 174 ¶5**

#### **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 CHAR-  
IOT.) 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-1 427**

#### **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.

#### **Spiritual Gems**

### **w05 12/1 19 ¶16**

#### **Highlights From the Book of Second Chronicles**

**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.

## **MARCH 27–APRIL 2**

### **TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD | 2 CHRONICLES 5-7**

#### **“My Heart Will Always Be There”**

### **w02 11/15 5 ¶1**

#### **Do Not Give Up Meeting Together**

Later, when David was king in Jerusalem, he expressed a strong desire to build a permanent house to Jehovah’s glory. Since David had been a man of war, however, Jehovah told him: “You will not build a house to my name.” Instead, He chose David’s son Solomon to build the temple. (1 Chronicles 22:6-10) Solomon inaugurated the temple in 1026 B.C.E., after a construction period lasting seven and a half years. Jehovah approved of this building, saying: “I have sanctified this house that you have built by putting my name there to time indefinite; and my eyes and my heart will certainly prove to be there always.” (1 Kings 9:3) As long as the Israelites remained faithful, Jehovah would direct his favor toward that house. However, if they turned aside from what was right, Jehovah would remove his favor from that place, and ‘the house itself would become heaps of ruins.’—1 Kings 9:4-9; 2 Chronicles 7:16, 19, 20.

### **it-2 1077-1078**

#### **Temple**

**History.** This temple existed until 607 B.C.E., when it was destroyed by the Babylonian army under King Nebuchadnezzar. (2Ki 25:9; 2Ch 36:19; Jer 52:13) Because of the falling away of Israel to false religion, God permitted the nations to harass Judah and Jerusalem, at times stripping the temple of its treasures. The temple also suffered periods of neglect. King Shi-

shak of Egypt robbed it of its treasures (993 B.C.E.) in the days of Rehoboam the son of Solomon, only about 33 years after its inauguration. (1Ki 14:25, 26; 2Ch 12:9) King Asa (977-937 B.C.E.) had respect for Jehovah's house, but to protect Jerusalem he foolishly bribed King Ben-hadad I of Syria, with silver and gold from the treasures of the temple, to break his covenant with Baasha king of Israel.—1Ki 15:18, 19; 2Ch 15:17, 18; 16:2, 3.

## **Spiritual Gems**

**w10 12/1 11 ¶7**

### **He Knows “the Heart of the Sons of Man-kind”**

We can draw comfort from Solomon's prayer. Fellow humans may not fully understand our inner feelings—our “own plague” and our “own pain.” (Proverbs 14:10) But Jehovah knows our heart, and he deeply cares about us. Pouring out our heart to him in prayer can make our burdens easier to bear. “Throw all your anxiety upon him,” says the Bible, “because he cares for you.”—1 Peter 5:7.

## **APRIL 10-16**

### **TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | 2 CHRONICLES 8-9**

#### **“She Valued Wisdom”**

**w99 11/1 20 ¶4**

#### **When Generosity Abounds**

Of course, the queen of Sheba also made a big sacrifice in time and effort to visit Solomon. Apparently Sheba was in the area of the present-day Republic of Yemen; so the queen and her camel train traveled well over 1,000 miles [1,600 km] to Jerusalem. As Jesus said, “she came from the ends of the earth.” Why did the queen of Sheba go to so

much trouble? She came primarily “to hear the wisdom of Solomon.”—Luke 11:31.

**w99 7/1 30 ¶4-5**

#### **A Visit That Was Richly Rewarded**

In any event, the queen arrived in Jerusalem “with a very impressive train, camels carrying balsam oil and very much gold and precious stones.” (1 Kings 10:2a) Some say that the “impressive train” included an armed escort. This would be understandable, considering that the queen was a powerful dignitary and was traveling with tens of millions of dollars' worth of valuables.

Note, however, that the queen heard of Solomon's fame “in connection with the name of Jehovah.” So this was not just a business trip. Evidently, the queen came primarily to hear Solomon's wisdom—perhaps even to learn something about his God, Jehovah. Since she likely descended from Shem or Ham, who were worshipers of Jehovah, she may have been curious about the religion of her ancestors.

**w99 7/1 30-31**

#### **A Visit That Was Richly Rewarded**

The queen of Sheba was so impressed with Solomon's wisdom and the prosperity of his kingdom that there was “no more spirit in her.” (1 Kings 10:4, 5) Some take this phrase to mean that the queen was left “breathless.” One scholar even suggests that she fainted! Be that as it may, the queen was amazed at what she had seen and heard. She pronounced Solomon's servants happy for being able to hear this king's wisdom, and she blessed Jehovah for putting Solomon on the throne. Then she gave the king costly gifts, the gold alone totaling, by modern values, some \$40,000,000. Solomon too presented gifts, giving the queen “all her delight for which she asked.”—1 Kings 10:6-13.

## **it-2 990-991**

### **Solomon**

After the queen also observed the splendor of the temple and of Solomon's house, his table and drinking service along with the attire of his waiters, and the regular burnt sacrifices at the temple, "there proved to be no more spirit in her," so she exclaimed, "Look! I had not been told the half. You have surpassed in wisdom and prosperity the things heard to which I listened." Then she proceeded to pronounce happy the servants who served such a king. By all this she was led to give praise to Jehovah, to bless Jehovah God, who expressed his love to Israel by appointing Solomon as king to render judicial decision and righteousness.—1Ki 10:4-9; 2Ch 9:3-8.

### **Spiritual Gems**

#### **it-2 1097**

##### **Throne**

The only throne of a ruler of Israel described in detail is the one Solomon made. (1Ki 10:18-20; 2Ch 9:17-19) It appears to have been located in "the Porch of the Throne," one of the buildings that stood on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. (1Ki 7:7) It was 'a great ivory throne overlaid with refined gold with a round canopy behind it and armrests.' Although ivory could have been the basic material in this royal chair, the construction technique generally followed at the temple would seem to indicate that it was made of wood, overlaid with refined gold and richly ornamented with inlaid panels of ivory. To the observer, such a throne would appear to be made entirely of ivory and gold. After mentioning six steps leading to the throne, the record continues: "Two lions were standing beside the armrests. And there were twelve lions standing

there upon the six steps, on this side and on that side." (2Ch 9:17-19) The symbolism of the lion denoting ruling authority is appropriate. (Ge 49:9, 10; Re 5:5) The 12 lions appear to have corresponded to the 12 tribes of Israel, possibly symbolizing their subjection to and support of the ruler on this throne. Attached in some way to the throne was a footstool of gold. By its description this ivory-and-gold throne—in its lofty, canopied position with the majestic lions in front—transcends any throne of that time period, whether discovered by archaeologists, depicted on the monuments, or described in the inscriptions. As the chronicler truthfully observed: "No other kingdom had any made just like it."—2Ch 9:19.

## **APRIL 17-23**

### **TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD | 2 CHRONICLES 10-12**

#### **"Benefit From Wise Advice"**

##### **w18.06 13 ¶13**

##### **He Could Have Had God's Favor**

Rehoboam may have felt trapped! If he met the people's demands, he, his family, and those of his court might have to cut back on some luxuries and make fewer demands on the people. On the other hand, if he refused, the people might rebel. What would he do? The new king first consulted with the older men who had been counselors to Solomon. However, then Rehoboam sought advice from younger men, those of his own age. Following their advice, Rehoboam decided to treat the people harshly. He answered: "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 Chron. 10: 6-14.

## **w01 9/1 28-29**

### **How You Can Make Good Decisions**

Jehovah also provides mature ones in the congregation with whom we can discuss our decisions. (Ephesians 4:11, 12) In consulting others, though, we should not follow the course of those who approach one person after another until they finally find someone who says what they want to hear. Then they follow his advice. We should also remember the warning example of Rehoboam. When he was faced with a serious decision, he received excellent advice from the older men who had served with his father. However, rather than follow their counsel, he consulted the young men who grew up with him. Following their advice, he made a very bad decision and as a result lost a large part of his kingdom.—1 Kings 12:1-17.

When seeking counsel, do so from those who are experienced in life and have a good knowledge of the Scriptures and a reverent regard for right principles. (Proverbs 1:5; 11:14; 13:20) When possible, take time to meditate on the principles involved and on all the information you have gathered. As you come to see things in the light of Jehovah's Word, the right decision will likely become more evident.—Philippians 4:6, 7.

### **it-2 768 ¶1**

#### **Rehoboam**

This arrogant, high-handed attitude adopted by Rehoboam completely alienated the majority of the people. The only tribes continuing to support the house of David were Judah and Benjamin, while the priests and Levites of both kingdoms, as well as isolated individuals of the ten tribes, also gave support.—1Ki 12:16, 17; 2Ch 10:16, 17; 11:13, 14, 16.

## **Spiritual Gems**

### **it-1 966-967**

#### **Goat-shaped Demon**

Joshua's words at Joshua 24:14 show that the Israelites had been affected to some extent by the false worship of Egypt during their sojourn there, while Ezekiel indicates that such pagan practices continued to plague them long afterward. (Eze 23:8, 21) For this reason some scholars consider that the divine decree issued in the wilderness to prevent the Israelites from making "sacrifices to the goat-shaped demons" (Le 17:1-7) and Jeroboam's establishing priests "for the high places and for the goat-shaped demons and for the calves that he had made" (2Ch 11:15) indicate there was some form of goat worship among the Israelites such as was prominent in Egypt, particularly in Lower Egypt. Herodotus (II, 46) claims that from such Egyptian worship the Greeks derived their belief in Pan and also in the satyrs, woodland gods of a lustful nature, who were eventually depicted as having horns, a goat's tail, and goat's legs. Some suggest that such half-animal form of these pagan gods is the source of the practice of picturing Satan with tail, horns, and cloven feet, a custom prevalent among professed Christians in the Dark Ages.

Just what such "hairy ones" (*se'i-rim'*) actually were, however, is not stated. While some consider them to be literal goats or idols in the form of goats, this does not necessarily seem to be indicated; nor do other scriptures provide evidence of that nature. The term used may simply indicate that *in the minds of those worshipping them* such false gods were conceived of as being goatlike in shape or hairy in appearance. Or, the use of "goats" in these references may be merely a means of expressing contempt for all

idolatrous objects in general, even as the word for idols in numerous texts is drawn from a term originally meaning “dung pellets,” not denoting, however, that the idols were literally made of dung.—Le 26:30; De 29:17.

## **APRIL 24-30**

### **TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD | 2 CHRONICLES 13-16**

#### **“Rely On Jehovah—When?”**

##### **w21.03 5 ¶12**

#### **Young Men—How Can You Gain the Trust of Others?**

<sup>12</sup> As a young man, King Asa was humble and courageous. For example, when he succeeded his father, Abijah, he launched a campaign against idolatry. He also “told Judah to search for Jehovah the God of their forefathers and to observe the Law and the commandment.” (2 Chron. 14:1-7) And when Zerah the Ethiopian invaded Judah with 1,000,000 soldiers, Asa wisely turned to Jehovah for help, saying: “O Jehovah, it does not matter to you whether those you help are many or have no power. Help us, O Jehovah our God, for we are relying on you.” This beautiful expression shows how much confidence Asa had in Jehovah’s ability to save him and his people. Asa trusted in his heavenly Father, and “Jehovah defeated the Ethiopians.”—2 Chron. 14:8-12.

##### **w21.03 5 ¶13**

#### **Young Men—How Can You Gain the Trust of Others?**

<sup>13</sup> You would no doubt agree that facing an army of 1,000,000 soldiers was a huge challenge, and it was one that Asa met successfully. Sadly, however, when a less daunting challenge presented itself, Asa did

not consult Jehovah. On being threatened by wicked King Baasha of Israel, Asa turned to the king of Syria for help. That decision led to disaster! Through his prophet Hanani, Jehovah told Asa: “Because you relied on the king of Syria and did not rely on Jehovah your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand.” In fact, from then on, Asa was constantly at war. (2 Chron. 16: 7, 9; 1 Ki. 15:32) What is the lesson?

##### **w21.03 6 ¶14**

#### **Young Men—How Can You Gain the Trust of Others?**

<sup>14</sup> Remain humble and continue to rely on Jehovah. When you got baptized, you showed great faith and trust in Jehovah. And Jehovah happily entrusted you with the privilege of becoming a member of his family. The key now is to continue to rely on Jehovah. It may seem that it is easy to rely on Jehovah when you must make life-altering decisions, but what about at other times? How important it is that you trust in Jehovah when making decisions, including those regarding entertainment, secular work, and life goals! Do not rely on your own wisdom. Instead, look for Bible principles that apply to your circumstances, and then act in harmony with that direction. (Prov. 3:5, 6) If you do so, you will make Jehovah happy and you will earn the respect of those in your congregation.—**Read 1 Timothy 4:12.**

#### **Spiritual Gems**

##### **w17.03 19 ¶7**

#### **Serve Jehovah With a Complete Heart!**

<sup>7</sup> Each of us can examine his heart to see if it is fully devoted to God. Ask yourself, ‘Am I determined to please Jehovah, to defend true worship, and to protect his people from any corrupting influence?’ Think how much courage Asa had to muster to stand



up to Maacah, who was “queen mother” in the land! You probably do not know anyone who acts just like her, but there may be a situation in which you can imitate Asa’s zeal. For example, what if a member of your family or a close friend sins, is unrepentant, and has to be disfellowshipped? Would you take decisive action by ceasing to associate with that person? What would your heart move you to do?